

NOVEMBER 2000

No. 13

THE NEW FACE OF THE REGION'S CITIES

- 1 The New Face of the Region's Cities
- 1 Indigenous and Afro-american People Live in Poverty
- 2 **OPINION**
Development Financing in the New International Context
- 4 **HIGHLIGHTS**
The Impact of Economic Reforms in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 5 **INDICATORS**
- 7 The Demographic Opportunity
- 8 **RECENT TITLES**
- 8 **CALENDAR**

This publication is also available in Spanish and on the Internet: www.eclac.cl or www.eclac.org



United Nations

ECLAC

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean is the developing world's most urbanized region: 380 million people live in cities and 127 million in rural areas, with urbanization levels reaching 75% in 2000. Cities today suffer enormous lags in infrastructure, institutions, and productive base, as well as severe inequality in the distribution of goods and services among residents. The "urbanization of poverty" is a phenomenon specific to the region, given that most of the poor in Asia and Africa still live in the countryside.

The main challenges for improving the environmental quality of urban areas include expanding access to drinking

water, improving hygienic measures for lower income sectors, overcoming environmental pollution and congestion, and reducing settlements' vulnerability to natural disasters.

In the year 2000, there are 52 cities with populations of over one million inhabitants in Latin America and the Caribbean. Some of the largest cities (five million or more) are considered "global cities" today, given their population size and their economic importance. There has been a tendency in recent years for these large cities to form the vertebra of ever larger territories that draw in other extended urban centres.

The demography of towns

(from 50,000 to 1 million inhabitants) has also shown outstanding dynamism. Compared to large cities these towns, in many cases, show the greatest potential for sustainable urban development.

These concepts are included in *From Rapid Urbanization to the Consolidation of Human Settlement in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Territorial Perspective*, which ECLAC presented to the **Regional Conference for Habitat** in October, in Santiago, Chile.

This document recognizes advances in areas such as political stability, citizen participation, gender equality, and improved justice, but points out that trends have not

(continued on page 3 ➡)

INDIGENOUS AND AFRO-AMERICAN PEOPLE LIVE IN POVERTY

To be indigenous or Afro-american in Latin America or the Caribbean is synonymous with being poor.

The 10% of the region's population that is of Indigenous origin, and another 30% of African origin -including black and mixed race people- continue to be treated like minorities, even when they are actually majorities in their own countries.

Today, however, these groups are presenting their demands with strength and visibility, both within their own countries and at international forums. Some indigenous groups demand territorial autonomy and greater authority over the management of their own resources, while the ghost of separatism has begun to haunt some countries.

"Poverty, stigmatisation and exclusion have become structural" for indigenous and Afro-americans, according to the recent study, *Ethnicity, "Race" and Equity in Latin America and the Caribbean (Etnicidad, "raza" y equidad en América Latina y el Caribe)*, by ECLAC consultants Alvaro Bello and Marta Rangel. The authors demonstrate that the majority of these groups live in poverty, with no access to educational systems that take into consideration their particular cultural, linguistic and religious needs. In many cases, they have lost their main means of subsistence, usually land and natural resources. For decades they have been emigrating to large urban centres, where

(continued on page 6 ➡)

DEVELOPMENT FINANCING IN THE NEW INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

JOSÉ ANTONIO OCAMPO

Renewed access to external financing facilitated economic management in Latin America and the Caribbean during the 1990s, but created new sources of external vulnerability for the region's economies. Access to world capital markets, however, has been uneven: the region's least developed countries have had very limited access to private credit, depending on multilateral loans and official assistance for development.

With few exceptions, during the 1990s countries did not achieve the saving and investment levels necessary to sustain high rates of economic growth. Moreover, the persistence of pro-cyclic macroeconomic policies and weak regulatory and supervisory frameworks for domestic financial systems were reflected in unusually frequent domestic financial crises.

In its report, *Growth with Stability*, ECLAC suggests the need to advance in strengthening the world financial system's ability to foresee and manage crises, along with designing more preventive domestic macroeconomic policies, in improving countries access to world financial markets; and in raising domestic saving and using it to finance investment.

To reduce financial volatility at the international level, it is necessary to advance toward providing three "global public goods": greater coherence in the macroeconomic policies of the world's main economies, the development of financial institutions that prevent the build-up of excessive financial risk, and the ability to respond opportunely when a crisis threatens international financial stability. This last point should be associated with better emergency financing mechanisms to face crises, and with tools that make it easier to renegotiate debt in

critical situations. These intervention mechanisms should also have regional dimensions, in the form of better coordinated macroeconomic policies among our countries, mutual watchdog rules and systems for domestic financial systems, and regional reserve funds for dealing with crises.

Receiving countries are responsible for taking measures to avoid situations where economic booms associated with large capital inflows lead to crises. These measures should aim to prevent public and private agents from accumulating unsustainable debt loads and should also avoid major price imbalances, particularly in the exchange rate. The effectiveness of


"To reduce financial volatility... advances must be made in terms of three 'global public goods'..."

monetary and credit control measures during booms will be greater if they are accompanied by prudent regulations on capital inflows and on financial systems, and an explicit "liabilities policy", aimed at improving the temporary profile of public and private debt, both domestic and foreign. The build-up of reserves or access to contingency lines with private bodies can also play a complementary "self-insurance" role.

Stronger access to world financial resources requires recovering official development assistance levels. Multilateral, regional and subregional development banks play a key role in financing less developed countries, and provide counter-cyclic financing, helping

to soften external shocks and showing undisputed advantages in terms of maturities and costs over private financing. These bodies also provide financing for a wide range of social priority areas and are developing instruments to make private investment easier.

To accelerate economic growth to desirable levels of about 6% per year, investment rates must rise between four and six points in relation to growth averages during the 1990s. To avoid additional vulnerabilities that would require more external financing, higher investment must come from a similar increase in domestic saving. Achieving these goals requires simultaneous efforts to raise companies' profit retention, the guarantee of a structural balance of public finances; and the development of forced savings instruments (especially for pension purposes) or mechanisms to encourage family saving for specific goals (housing and education, in particular).

Along with the necessary increase in domestic saving, the region must also concentrate on perfecting the channel of resource flows to finance investment. Given that the market undersupplies areas of high social priority (micro, small and medium firms; social housing; sustainable development; productive reconversion; and technological innovation), development banking can play an important role. To avoid the mistakes of the past in this area however, it is necessary to maximize the transparency of fiscal costs of related subsidies, and make developing banks operate as second floor banks, as an effective way of privatizing portfolio risks and loan recovery. 

The author is ECLAC's Executive Secretary.

been positive in the areas of poverty, inequity, segregation and urban violence.

During the 1990s, urban population growth rates slowed, reflecting slower growth of the general population due to demographic transition, and the fact that fewer people were migrating to the city from the countryside.

The occupation of interior, less densely populated areas, such as the basins of the Amazon and Orinoco rivers, continued to follow a sometimes aggressive pattern in recent years, stimulated by the attraction of renewable and non-renewable resources. “These migratory movements have often run out of control”, **ECLAC** warns and, as a result, have seriously damaged ecosystems and original populations.

Bi-national Spaces

Several border areas have become genuine bi-national zones, within the framework of the consolidation of agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement (**NAFTA**) or the Common Market of the South (**MERCOSUR**), with economic complementation stimulating intense mobility among different countries’ work forces. Successful examples of these kinds of areas include the Paraguayan region of Alto Paraná, on the border with Brazil, and the Mexican federation of Baja California, comprised of a series of very dynamic cities located along the border, which are structurally linked to the United States.

Another change has come in the area of migration from the countryside to the city, which is no longer the dominant form of population displacement. Nowadays, the most common trend is interurban movement between different states, cities and countries. Violent situations, like those suffered by Colombia or Guatemala, generate the displacement of large groups of rural or semi-rural inhabitants. Unofficial figures estimate there are about one million displaced people in Colombia.

A negative feature of today’s cities in Latin America and the Caribbean is segregation. High income groups isolate themselves in self-sufficient neighbourhoods with costly homes, services and work places. At the same time, poor households occupy fringe areas or sectors at risk, in flimsy housing lacking even the most basic services. There, “deteriorating physical conditions are compounded by the inadequacy of social services offered by poorly financed municipalities”, states **ECLAC**. The traditional mechanisms for integration have been weakened, among them public education, public health care systems and central areas for recreation and culture.

Informal housing has increased in some South American cities. In Lima, over 40% of the population now lives in illegal settlements, while in Quito this number has reached 50%. In Venezuela, 48% of the constructed area in Maracaibo consists of illegally located buildings. In Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte, 20% of the population lives in *favelas* (urban slums), while this figure has reached 22% in Sao Paulo and 46% in Recife. In the Caribbean, by contrast, homeowners account for a high 60% to 80% of the population.

As a result of structural changes in Latin America and the Caribbean, new housing policies more reliant on the private sector have arisen or become more common. Today, financing is based on three pillars: state subsidy, prior saving, and mortgages. Chile, Colombia and Costa Rica are successful examples of social housing policies based on subsidizing demand with a market orientation.

The prior savings component has become more valued and the amount of non-payment, which remains high in some countries, is expected to fall. Mortgages are more commonly granted on the basis of market criteria. Countries, however, find two main obstacles: the lack of medium- and long-term funds, and insufficiently developed financial markets.

On the other hand, programs focus almost exclusively on new-home buying, leaving out the possibility for improvement of existing housing. This is inappropriate for both less urbanized countries, where the quality deficit tends to affect most housing, and those where the massive housing projects built in recent decades now suffer from obsolescence or deterioration, thus requiring maintenance programs.



Source: **ECLAC**, Population Division - Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE), population projections. For the Caribbean, United Nations, *Population Growth, Structure and Distribution. The concise Report (ST/ESA/SER.A/181)*, New York, 1999. United Nations publication, Sales No. E99.XIII.15.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

This document (LC/G.2116), as well as other publications related to the Conference, are available on **ECLAC**’s website, www.eclac.cl or www.eclac.org, or through the Distribution Unit.

THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC REFORMS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

BARBARA STALLINGS AND WILSON PERES

In the last 10 to 15 years, structural reforms in the region have brought about the most significant economic transformation since World War II. An increasing number of countries have moved from closed, State-dominated economies to economies that are more market oriented and more open to the rest of the world. Complementary policies have accorded a new priority to macroeconomic stability, especially lower rates of inflation, and to increasing expenditure in the social area. Policymakers expected that these changes would speed up economic growth and increase productivity gains, and create more jobs and greater equality at the same time.

Have those expectations been fulfilled? It is impossible to make more than a preliminary analysis at this point, since in many cases the reforms are less than a decade old. However, governments must decide whether the new policies are moving in the right direction and, even if they are, whether they require mid-course corrections. Any conclusions that can be drawn will be relevant beyond the boundaries of the region; since Latin America has had a headstart, many other governments are interested in learning from its successes and failures.

We recently published *Growth, Employment, and Equity: The Impact of the Economic Reforms in Latin*

America and the Caribbean, which reports on the most ambitious study to date on the impact of these reforms. It was a joint venture between ECLAC and research centers in the nine countries that were studied: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico and Peru. In addition to this new synthesis volume, four topical volumes (on investment, technical change, employment and equity), and nine country volumes will be published this year.

Our research showed that by the end of the 1990s, regional economies had generally recovered what they had lost during the 1980s in terms of investment and productivity levels. The new investments were more efficient than the ones they replaced, but they were highly concentrated in a few sectors, which face falling terms of trade and are technologically mature. Moreover, the expected rates of return on these investments are likely to be lower than before the reforms were introduced, due to greater competition and less State support.

Given these factors, a significant increase in growth rates in the coming years cannot be taken for granted. Lacking strong growth, unemployment rates are likely to remain high, which will exacerbate social problems and

Relationship between Reforms and Outcomes in the 1990s

Country	Reforms	Investment a/	Productivity b/	Growth c/	Employment d/	Equity e/
Argentina	Aggressive	=	+	+	-	-
Bolivia	Aggressive	+	-	+	+	-
Brazil	Cautious	-	-	-	-	=
Chile	Aggressive	+	+	+	+	+
Colombia	Cautious	+	-	-	-	-
Costa Rica	Cautious	+	-	-	+	+
Jamaica	Cautious	n.a.	n.a.	-	=	n.a.
Mexico	Cautious	=	-	-	+	-
Peru	Aggressive	=	+	+	-	(+)

a/ Investment: + means that a country had a higher investment coefficient in the 1990s than in the base period (1950–80); - means that it had a lower coefficient; = means there was little change.

b/ Productivity: + means that growth of total factor productivity was higher in the 1990s than in the base period (1950–80); - means that it was lower; = means there was little change.

c/ Growth: + means that a country grew faster in the 1990s than in the base period (1950–80); - means that it grew more slowly.

d/ Employment: + means that the country ranked high on the labor market index; - means that it ranked low; = means that there was little change.

e/ Equity: + means that primary income distribution in the latest available year was more equal than the pre-reform period; - means that it was less equal; = means that there was little change.

INDICATORS

hinder attempts to lower the very high inequality that characterizes Latin America. External vulnerability, which has probably risen because of increased globalization together with trade and financial liberalization, makes solutions more complex. This outlook justifies the need for policies to improve expected outcomes.

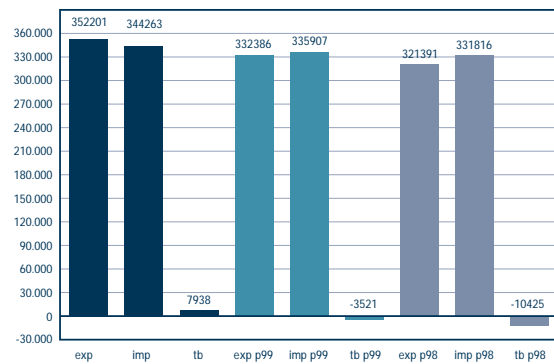
A first principle in establishing a policy agenda for the future -one that was frequently violated during the first round of reforms- is to avoid across-the-board policy recommendations. Latin American and Caribbean countries are currently in very diverse situations regarding the progress of the reforms themselves and other structural and policy variables. Another principle -also frequently violated in the first round- is to obtain the necessary information and to engage in the appropriate cost-benefit analysis before making irreversible policy decisions. Many of the theoretical propositions underlying the first round of reforms were based on models of economies different from those that exist in Latin America. It is not surprising, therefore, that many of the predictions turned out to be erroneous.

In retrospect, these changes have led to significant accomplishments but much remains to be done. One influential set of proposals calls for a deepening of first-generation reforms complemented by a second generation of reforms, particularly in the field of education. Our view is that the vast majority of benefits that can be obtained from first-generation reforms have already materialized. Except in those countries where reform came late, deepening those same reforms will only lead to decreasing returns. In the case of large, federal countries, however, first-generation reforms may still have a role to play at the State or local levels.

We agree with the growing consensus that another round of reforms is needed, but we suggest broadening the agenda to include: the need to engage in competitive policies and investment promotion to increase growth, to undertake a major offensive in the social area and to maintain and improve macroeconomic stability. To accomplish these goals, changes are also needed in two cross-cutting areas: better relations between the public and private sectors and policies to deal with external vulnerability. We believe that there is increasing support for such policies in most governments of the region. But only when they are actually implemented can Latin America reap the full benefits of the policies that have already been put in place through considerable sacrifice. ⚖️

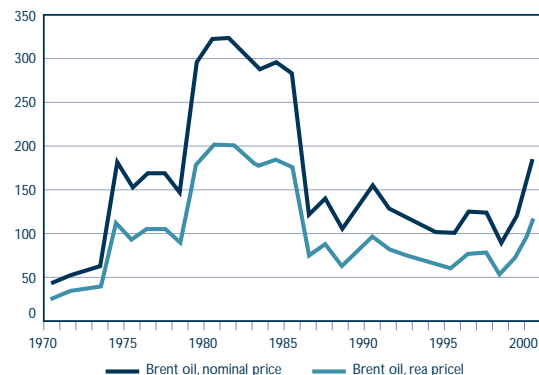
The authors are Director of ECLAC's Economic Development Division, and Chief of its Industrial and Technological Development Unit, respectively.

Latin America: Exports, imports and the trade balance for the year 2000 under different oil price projections



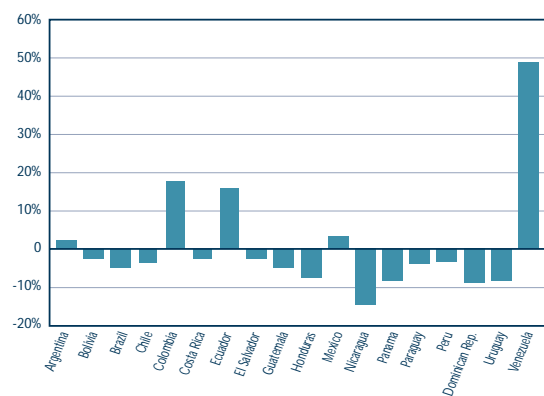
Source: ECLAC, Statistics and Economic Projections Division.
Note: Projected trade volumes for the year 2000 as calculated on the basis of the average price of oil projected for the year 2000, the average oil prices recorded in 1999 (exp p99, imp p99 and tb p99) and the average prices for 1998 (exp p98, imp p98 and tb p98).

Nominal and real price indices for Brent oil (Base: 1970-2000 average = 100)



Source: ECLAC, Statistics and Economic Projections Division.
Note: Real values were calculated by deflating the oil price index by the price index for the industrialized countries' exports of manufactures.

Impact on the merchandise trade balance of the increase in oil prices in the year 2000, as a percentage of 1999 exports



Source: ECLAC, Statistics and Economic Projections Division.
Note: An increase of 57% on the average price of reference oil in 2000 with respect to 1998 has been estimated.

they have access to unstable, poorly paid, low quality jobs.

According to the authors, ethnic and racial discrimination is part of the heritage of Luso-Brazilian and Spanish-American “colonialism”, which has generated a concrete form of “internal colonialism” that contradicts the myth of real integration. In fact, integration of indigenous and African-american people has been “symbolic and discursive in nature, while in practice it has been denied.”

New Scenario for Cultural Diversity

In spite of this, the current situation of indigenous people cannot be compared to what it was decades ago, when most lived in rural areas and the State treated them as poor campesinos. This changed dramatically during the 1980s and 1990s. Although indigenous areas and territories -ancestral lands- still exist, migration to the city created new areas where large groups of people of indigenous and campesino origin now live alongside the descendants of previous migrations. Something similar has occurred with Afro-americans, although perhaps with more strength as they held no claim to large tracts of land.

The notion of belonging to a community and adapting to the changes brought by modernity has proven to be dynamic. Migration is no longer synonymous with cultural uprooting or identity loss, say the authors, who add that “the urban space has become a new stage for the unfolding of Latin America’s cultural diversity.”

Bogotá, Lima, Mexico City and Santiago all have large indigenous neighbourhoods, which have given shelter to wave after wave of new migrants who create formal and informal networks, neighbourhood, cultural, political and productive organizations, all based on a shared identity. In Chile, over 70% of the indigenous population (about 700,000 people) live in urban areas. Not only have social, community and blood ties remained, but they seem to have


reproduced and grown stronger to the point where they have created “indigenous social capital” of enormous value.

Education is a major factor in inequality and exclusion. Problems of access and coverage are combined with those of educational “displacement”, although there have been some advances in this area, given that the cultural assimilation approach that prevailed for years has now been abandoned. Today, in Bolivia, Chile, Guatemala and other countries, people are beginning to respect cultural differences and bilingualism, and they are learning to value differences within their societies, although much remains to be done.

Ethnic discrimination is a major cause of unequal access to health care, a situation further worsened by the evident deterioration in natural resources, and ancestral lands that have been lost or reduced. In several countries, major development projects often have negative consequences for native populations. Clear cutting of native forests, oil extraction, or dam building have had a devastating impact on indigenous peoples and their environment.

In contrast, at the hemispheric level, there have been advances in the recognition of indigenous ancestral rights over territories, the environment, and the possession, administration and use of resources. In Bolivia, Brazil and Ecuador this recognition has been enshrined in their Constitutions. Many international and multilateral organizations are dealing with discrimination and exclusion stemming from race and ethnicity, although to date, many declarations remain just that, with no real impact on indigenous peoples’ lives.

The study concludes that globalization, universal acceptance of human rights and the emergence of identities have raised doubts about the logic of the traditional nation-State. The ideas of homogeneity and “national unity” are giving way to heterogeneity and acceptance of differences. Awareness has grown that to overcome poverty, States can no longer

look solely to their traditional strategies, but rather they must reformulate their historical relationship with indigenous peoples. 

Latin America and the Caribbean: Estimates of black and mestizo population by country, 1998

Country	Year	Black of %	Mestizo (%)	Population 1998	Black and Mestizo Population
Antigua and Barbuda	1970	81.4	8.6	67 000	60 300
Netherlands Antilles				213 000	
Argentina				36 125 000	a/
Bahamas				300 000	
Barbados	1980	91.9	2.6	268 000	253 260
Belize	1991	6.6	43.7	230 000	115 690
Bolivia				7 957 000	a/
Brazil	1995	4.9	40.1	166 296 000	74 833 200
Chile				14 822 000	a/
Colombia	1991	5.0	71.0	40 804 000	31 011 040
Costa Rica				3 840 000	a/
Cuba	1981	12.0	21.8	11 116 000	3 757 208
Dominica	1981	91.2	6.0	71 000	69 012
Dominican Republic	1991	110	73.0	8 232 000	6 914 880
Ecuador				12 175 000	a/
El Salvador				6 031 000	a/
Grenada	1980	82.2	13.3	93 000	88 815
Guadeloupe				443 000	
Guatemala				10 802 000	a/
Guyana	1980	30.5	11.0	856 000	355 240
Haiti	1999	95.0		8 056 000	7 653 200
Honduras				6 148 000	a/
Jamaica	1970	90.9	5.8	2 539 000	2 455 213
Mexico				95 830 000	a/
Nicaragua				4 807 000	a/
Panama				2 767 000	a/
Paraguay				5 223 000	a/
Peru				24 801 000	a/
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1980	94.3	3.3	41 000	40 016
Saint Lucia	1980	86.8	9.3	148 000	142 228
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	1980	82.0	13.9	115 000	110 285
Suriname		b/ 15.0		416 000	62 400
Trinidad and Tabago	1980	40.8	16.3	1 284 000	733 164
Uruguay				3 289 000	a/
Venezuela	1991	10.0	65.0	23 242 000	17 431 500
TOTAL				499 447 000	146 086 651

Sources: For the percentages of black and mestizo population: United States Bureau of the Census, International Database (www.census.gov), except Brazil (www.ibge.gov), Haiti (www.odci.gov), Colombia, Dominican Republic and Venezuela (Larousse Moderno, 1991). For the population figures: ECLAC, Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 1997 (LC/G.1987-P), Santiago, Chile, 1998. United Nations publication, Sales No. E/S.98.II.G.1.

a/ The census does not survey racial origin (African).

b/ Price, 1995.

Produced by ECLAC Information Services

■ EDITOR: Laura López, assisted by Pilar Bascañán, Lucía Contesse and Lake Sagaris
■ GRAPHIC PRODUCTION: Alvaro Muñoz

■ ADDRESS: Av. Dag Hammarskjöld s/n, Vitacura, Santiago, Chile.
■ TELEPHONE: (562) 210-2380 or (562) 210-2000.
■ FAX: (562) 228-1947. ■ WEBSITE: www.eclac.cl or www.eclac.org
■ E-MAIL: dpsantiago@eclac.cl

The symbols used in this newsletter represent the various indigenous cultures of the Americas and some of the milestones in the region’s history. The symbols are engraved on the outside of the conference rooms at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile.



Stele of St. Augustine



Demographic Explosion



The Constitution



Union of Races



Nahua glyphs



THE DEMOGRAPHIC OPPORTUNITY

Which countries in the region are considered “young”, and which are “old”? Which among them are set on course to receive a “demographic bonus”, as their percentage of children decreases and their percentage of older persons increases?

In a new study, *El Envejecimiento de la población latinoamericana: ¿hacia una relación de dependencia favorable?*, (*The Ageing of the Latin American Population: Towards a Favourable Dependency Ratio?*) Juan Chackiel, Chief of the Demography Section of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE), examines both the problems of and the potential for development presented by the region’s ageing populations.

The study defines ageing from both the individual and the social perspective, distinguishing between senior citizens who remain active and capable of participating fully in society, and those suffering from the limitations that come with advanced age. “Ageing” in this context refers to a shift in the distribution of age groups within the general population with the percentage of children dropping, while the percentage of those over age sixty rises.

The author identifies different stages in the population ageing process, according to the share of those 60 years old and over in the total population, focusing on Brazil, Chile, Guatemala and Uruguay, compared to France, Japan and Latin America as a whole. The four Latin American countries represent the four typical phases of population ageing, with Guatemala still in the early phases (just 5% of the population is over 60), and Uruguay (17%) showing indicators very close to those of developed countries, represented by France and Japan, where seniors already represent about one-fifth of the population.


Demographic “Bonus”

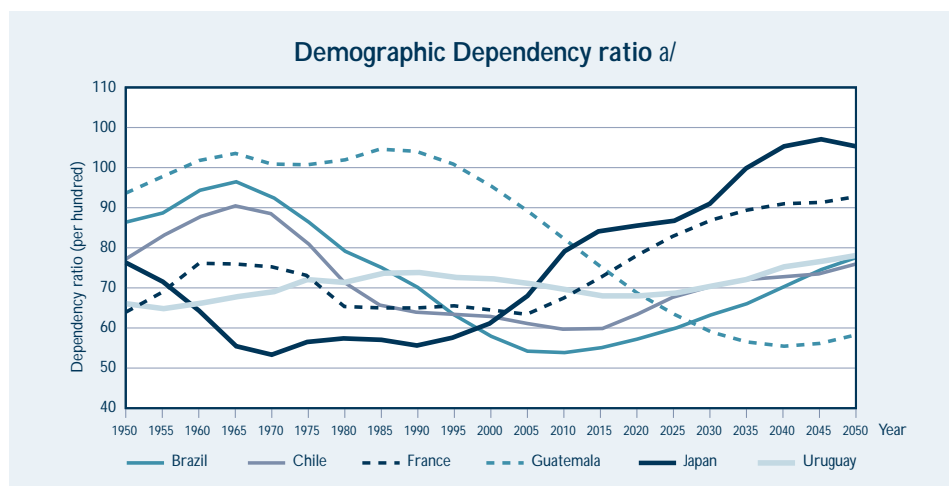
By projecting population pyramids for the next fifty years, a “demographic bonus” should favour Chile and Brazil from 2000 to 2020, reaching other countries, like Guatemala, much later (around 2030). The bonus is based on estimates of demographic dependency ratios, which indicate that the total share of the population (children and seniors) dependent on those in economically active

ages, will drop significantly as a result of falling fertility. This could free up resources currently used for infant-maternity programs, to be applied to development projects or social services for older persons.

This “bonus” could be further enhanced as more women move into the workforce, a trend also associated with falling fertility. However, other factors could reduce its impact. In Uruguay, for example, emigration patterns have offset the favourable impact of lower fertility rates by keeping the dependency ratio higher. Another key factor will be the labour market’s ability to absorb new labour, particularly given that population trends among the poor lag behind those for society in general. Societies will have to apply measures to redistribute income, if resources freed up are to benefit those most in need.

“It is difficult to establish if the saving derived from the stabilisation of the number of children will be enough to cover the costs implied by growth in the population of advanced age and the additional investment needed to improve the quality of human resources”, Chackiel notes, because so many factors influence these costs.

Ageing has not yet become an explosive issue in the region, but it is a well established trend that will pose a major challenge as countries must invest additional resources to deal with this population shift. At best, many of these countries should be able to take advantage of the “demographic opportunity” offered by falling demographic dependence ratios. 



Source: CELADE (1998); Demographic Bulletin No. 62.

a/ Defined by the percentage of minors below 15 years of age, plus the percentage of those over 60 years old, over the population of those 15-59 years old.

This study is available in Spanish through ECLAC’s Population and Development Series, (LC/L. 1411-P). It is also part of a volume that includes documents presented in Sept. 1999 at the **Latin American and Caribbean Symposium on Older Persons** (LC/L. 1399-P).



1 La CEPAL en sus 50 años, Notas de un Seminario Conmemorativo. (LC/G.2103-P, Spanish, US\$15). This volume is the result of a Seminar examining five decades of ECLAC studies, which reflect major developments in economic policy within the region. [www](http://www.eclac.org)

2 Estrategias de capacitación y aprendizaje de las firmas: reflexión sobre

empresas innovadoras en Argentina, Brasil y México, by Marta Novick. (LC/R. 2000, Spanish). The document looks at the intersection between companies' competitive edge and their training programs, in three of the region's countries.

3 Boletín demográfico/ Demographic Bulletin. (LC/G. 2099-P, Spanish and English, US\$6). This bulletin provides population tables for Latin America as a whole and 20 individual countries. [www](http://www.eclac.org)



4 Perfil de déficit y políticas de vivienda de interés social: Situación de algunos países de la región en los noventa, by Raquel Szalachman. Financiamiento del Desarrollo Series No. 103. (LC/L. 1417-P, Spanish, US\$10). The result of a ECLAC/Government of Holland project, this paper summarizes housing study findings in Bolivia, Colombia, Chile and Uruguay, establishing income-associated indicators based on new concepts and information. [www](http://www.eclac.org)

5 Trayectorias tecnológicas en empresas maquiladoras asiáticas y americanas en México, by Jorge Alonso, Jorge Carrillo and Oscar Contreras. Desarrollo Productivo Series No. 72. (LC/L. 1323-P, Spanish, US\$10). Social problem or development opportunity? This study examines Mexico's

much-debated maquiladora industry, examining ownership and the transfer of technology, and new styles of organization, as it searches for ways to reduce negative impacts and improve the positive ones. [www](http://www.eclac.org)

6 ¿Qué es el capital social comunitario?, by John Durston. Políticas Sociales Series No. 38. (LC/L. 1400-P, Spanish, US\$10). Building on definitions and development of the key concept of social capital among individuals, Durston asks if collective social capital also exists and if so, whether it can be deliberately built, possibly through State-community cooperation. [www](http://www.eclac.org)

To order:
Distribution Unit, ECLAC
Casilla 179-D,
Santiago, Chile
Fax: (56-2) 210 - 2069
e-mail: publications@eclac.cl
[www](http://www.eclac.org) : available at websites
www.eclac.cl or www.eclac.org

MONTH	EVENT	PLACE
NOVEMBER		
2 - 3	International Seminar – Social Integration, Cultural Change and Quality of Life. Challenges for the New Century, Population Division, CELADE/ECLAC/ Senior Citizens' Program Network - Chile	ECLAC Headquarters Santiago, Chile
3 November 1 December	First International Course – Public Policies for Sustainable Development, IDB/World Bank/United Nations Environmental Program UNEP/ECLAC/ILPES	ECLAC
6	Official visit by the President of Ecuador, Gustavo Noboa	ECLAC
6 - 8	Review of the New Urban Transport Strategy – Latin American Consultation Workshop, ECLAC/Public Works and Transportation Ministry of Chile/World Bank	ECLAC
6 - 10	Latin American Program on Civil Registrars and Vital Statistics, ECLAC/Statistics Division of the United Nations' Economic and Social Affairs Department	ECLAC
8 - 10	Meeting of the project "Institutionalization of Gender Perspective Within ECLAC and the Region's Sectorial Ministries," ECLAC/GTZ	ECLAC
9 - 10	Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Development Financing, ECLAC	Bogotá, Colombia
16 - 17	Seminar – Basic Planning Functions, ECLAC/ILPES/Ministry of the Economy and Planning of the Republic of Cuba	Havana, Cuba
DECEMBER		
5 - 7	Regional Conference for the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and other Related Forms of Intolerance, ECLAC/United Nations High Commission for Human Rights /Government of Chile	Santiago, Chile
(date to be announced)	Presentation of the "Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2000"	ECLAC

