

# Demography

Commentary for teachers

## 1 Overview

### 1.1 Topic and contents

This unit deals with demography, population trends and the impact of demographic ageing on funding the old age and survivors' insurance (AHV/AVS). Using an Excel simulation, students learn how migration, life expectancy and the average number of children per woman affect population development and the old-age dependency ratio.

### 1.2 Didactic format

Simulation: The main focus of the unit is an Excel simulation. A first worksheet introduces the basic principles necessary to understand the concept of the simulation. A second worksheet covers the simulation and topics that arise in more depth. A computer with internet access is required for each group, as well as one projector.

### 1.3 Time required

Two to three lessons, depending on the degree of detail with which the topic is addressed.

### 1.4 Suitable subjects

The unit is suitable for use in the following subjects: Economics, humanities, geography.

### 1.5 Level

Easy to advanced. The simulation can be used in a range of contexts. The degree to which the topic is developed after the simulation can be adapted to suit the level of the class.

### 1.6 Documentation

Besides this commentary for teachers, the unit comprises the following teaching material:

-  'Demography' presentation (36 slides)
-  Short presentation for worksheets 1 and 2 (9 slides)
-  Excel simulation
-  Worksheet 1 on the introduction to the topic
-  Worksheet 2 on the Excel simulation
-  Sample answers

## 2 Notes regarding this unit

### 2.1 General

We recommend addressing the topic of old-age pensions before starting this unit.

The **comprehensive 'Demography' presentation** is a resource for teachers wishing to deal with the topic in more depth. In some tasks, the suggested solution includes teacher notes with useful additional information from the Swiss Federal Statistical Office.

### 2.2 Link to the curriculum

This unit is particularly suitable for the following topics and/or to promote these skills:

- Social policy, welfare state, social equilibrium
- Population development
- Migration
- Interpreting charts (skill)

## 3 Possible lesson plan

### Stage 1: Engage with the material

Students complete **worksheet 1** as an introduction to the topic. They learn about the concepts required for the simulation such as trends in life expectancy, birth rates and migration.

### Stage 2: Practise and apply

Students work independently to complete the **Excel simulation** (explanations are given in the simulation itself) and further their understanding of demographic trends and scenarios using **worksheet 2**.

## 4 References to other teaching material

In this section, the German, French and Italian versions of the commentary for teachers provide references to textbooks used in Swiss upper secondary schools in the respective language regions. They also list other recommended resources from the same language regions. Please refer to the corresponding language versions. As for all iconomix units, there are also links available for this subject on the respective unit webpages.