

26th International Population Conference

Theme 17. Policies

Population ageing and demographic policies in Russian megapolis (the case of Saint-Petersburg)

Gaiane Safarova

Saint-Petersburg Institute for Economics and Mathematics,
Russian Academy of Sciences
Tchaikovsky str. 1, 191187 Saint-Petersburg, Russia
Tel: (7 812) 272 20 45
Tel/Fax: (7 812) 273 79 53
e-mail: safarova@emi.nw.ru

**Marrakech, Morocco
September 27 – October 2, 2009**

Introduction

Ageing characterises demographic dynamics of all developed societies. At the same time, in Russia big cities have been main engines of demographic development. Saint-Petersburg with its about 4.5 mln population is the second largest city in Russia and in several aspects plays the leading role in the country.

The city is important not only because of its great size (and therefore its potential to affect the areas immediately surrounding it as well as those further away) but also because it has been at the forefront of many of the demographic changes that have taken place in Russia. Besides, the city currently has one of the lowest fertility rates in the Russian Federation and will be significantly affected by the ageing of its population in the immediate future. It should be mentioned that throughout its history since its foundation in 1703, the city has acted as a barometer for the population changes taking place in Russian society more generally, thus it offers a unique vantage point for understanding the process of demographic ageing in contemporary Russia.

The paper aims at studying dynamics of ageing process in Saint-Petersburg since 1989 and examining national and Saint-Petersburg concepts of demographic development from the point of view of meeting needs of the elderly. Several ageing characteristics will be computed for Saint-Petersburg, and they will be compared with those for Russia as a whole.

The paper will be based on censuses and data of Petrostat on vital events.

Results of the study may contribute to the better understanding of regularities of ageing development not only in Saint-Petersburg but in Russia as a whole. They would enable enhancing management and planning of social and health services.

In the paper it is supposed to focus on the following topics. Ageing is one of the consequences of demographic transition, i.e. the manifestation of age structure changes in the course of demographic transition. Thus special attention will be paid to age structure changes starting with changes in proportions of the aggregated age groups (children, working age population and the elderly)

To characterize the situation with ageing in Saint-Petersburg a number of ageing characteristics of different types (proportions, age-related indicators) are supposed to be considered including proportions of the elderly (e.g. 60+, 65+, 80+) in the total population, ageing index, dependency ratios, life expectancies at older ages, median age. It is of great importance to analyze age composition of elderly population and its changes. The internal structure of the group of the elderly to some extent determines the need for care and support in daily living. Effective social policies must take account of heterogeneity of ageing process, thus gender disparities will be considered.

Ageing characteristics of Saint-Petersburg population

Fig. 1 represents population pyramids of Saint-Petersburg and Russia in the year 2006, showing that in Russia the percentage of children (age groups 0 – 14 years old) is higher and that of the elderly (60+) is lower than in Saint-Petersburg making ageing issues particularly important for the city.

Fig. 2 shows changes in the age composition of Saint-Petersburg in 1989 – 2007 demonstrating the progress of ageing process.

In the paper a thorough consideration of ageing indicators will be given, here in Tab. 1 values of some ageing characteristics for Russia and Saint-Petersburg are given only for the last years.

Table 1. Ageing indicators for Saint-Petersburg and Russia, 2006 and 2007

Year	Saint-Petersburg		Russia
	2006	2007	2006
Proportion of 60+	19.8	20.2	18.6
Proportion of 65+	15.3	16.2	15.7
Proportion of 80+	3.1	3.2	2.4
Ageing index	174	178	94
Old age dependency. ratio	28.8	29.6	29.1
Parent support ratio	6.0	6.1	5.3

Fig. 3 shows dynamics of dependency ratios. It is clearly seen that in the considered period old-age dependency ratios has been stable. Fig 4 where proportions of the elderly among men and women are given witnesses to significant gender differences in ageing characteristics.

Special consideration will be given to age-related characteristics of ageing process, e.g. life expectancy at older ages (see Tab.2).

Table 2. Life expectancy at older ages, Saint-Petersburg and Russia, 2000 - 2005

Year	males			females		
	Life expectancy at the age of					
	60	65	80	60	65	80
Saint-Petersburg						
2000	13.7	11.6	6.4	18.2	14.6	6.5
2001	13.7	11.6	6.4	18.2	14.6	6.5
2002	13.8	11.6	6.6	18.3	14.7	6.6
2003	13.7	11.5	6.5	18.5	15.0	6.9
2004	14.8	12.5	7.0	19.9	16.1	7.0
2005	15.0	12.8	6.9	20.1	16.3	7.1
Russia						

2000	13.3	11.1	6.1	18.5	15.0	6.9
2001	13.2	11.0	6.1	18.6	15.0	6.9
2002	12.8	10.7	5.4	18.5	14.9	6.3
2003	12.8	10.7	5.5	18.5	14.9	6.4
2004	13.2	11.0	5.7	18.9	15.3	6.5
2005	13.2	11.0	5.8	19.0	15.4	6.6

Ageing policies

In Russia the issues associated with ageing were insufficiently focused. Thus, in the previous Concept of demographic development of the Russian Federation (RF) for the period up to 2015, approved by the resolution of the government of the Russian Federation of 24.09.2001 N 1270-p, ageing matters were not even allocated into a separate section. This led to the limited opportunities of elaborating adequate economic, medical and social measures to solve tasks related to ageing. The Concept of demographic policy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025, approved by the Order of the President of the Russian Federation N 1351 of 09.10.2007 includes “adoption of special programmes for health maintenance and expanding healthy period of life for older people, development of gerontological service”. On the basis of this concept the Concept of demographic development of Saint-Petersburg for the period up to 2015 was adopted. In this Concept. “adjusting the economy and social infrastructure of Saint-Petersburg to the process of population ageing ” is determined as one of the four directions for demographic development of Saint-Petersburg.

Fig. 1. Population pyramids, RF and Saint-Petersburg, 2006 (%)

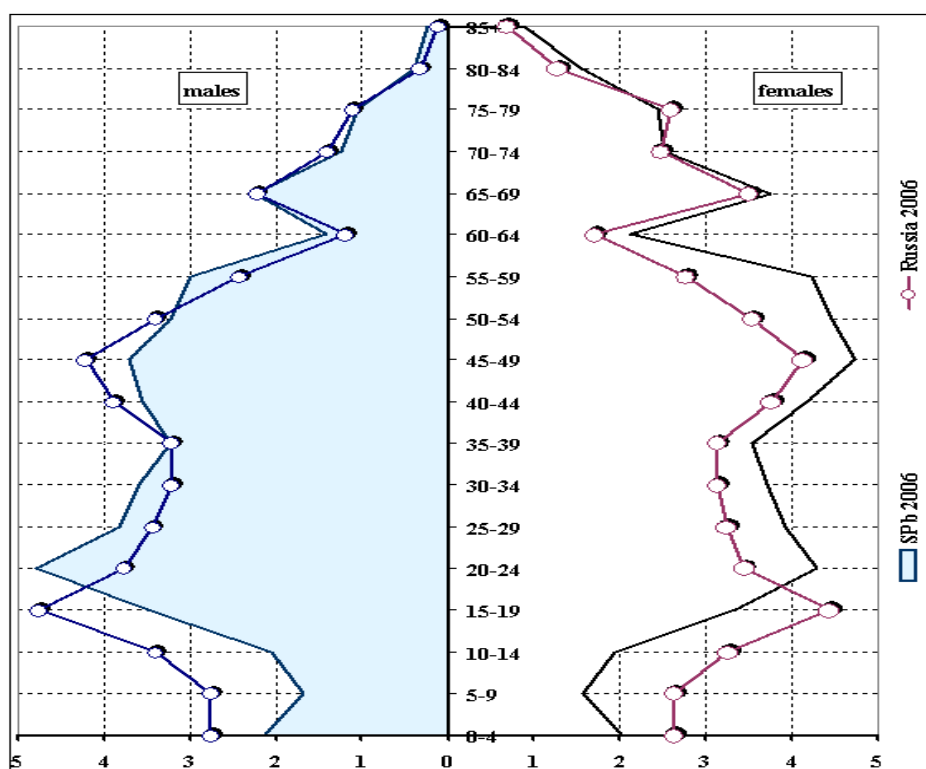


Fig.2. Changes in proportions of broad age groups, Saint-Petersburg, 1989-2007 (% relative to the year 1989)

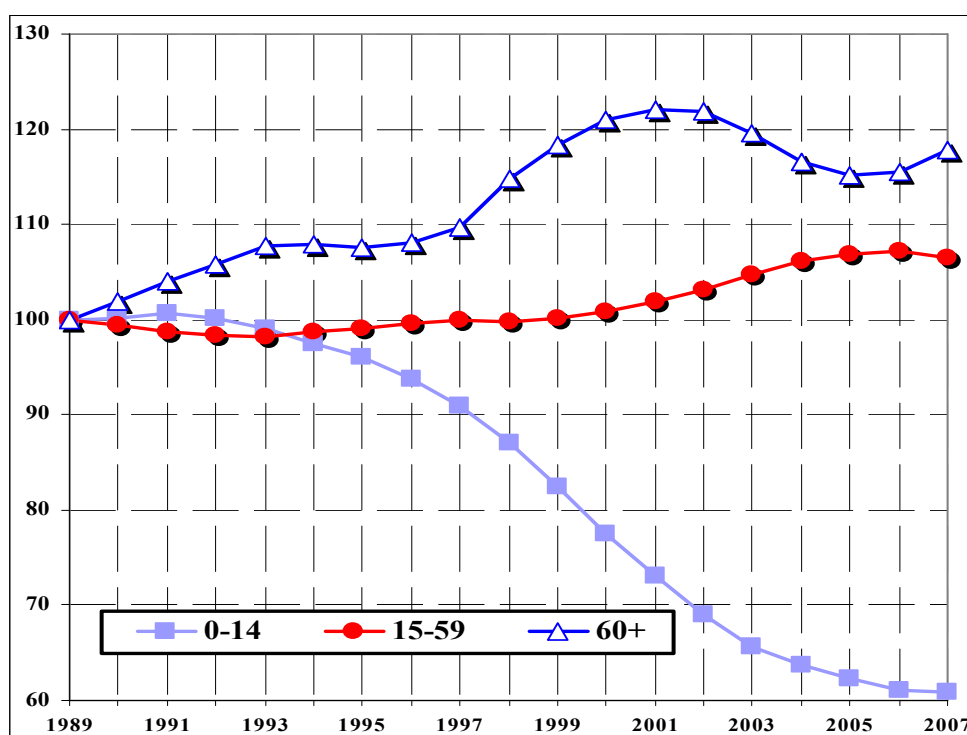


Fig. 4. Proportions of population 60+ and 80+ for males and females, Saint-Petersburg, 1989-2007 (%)

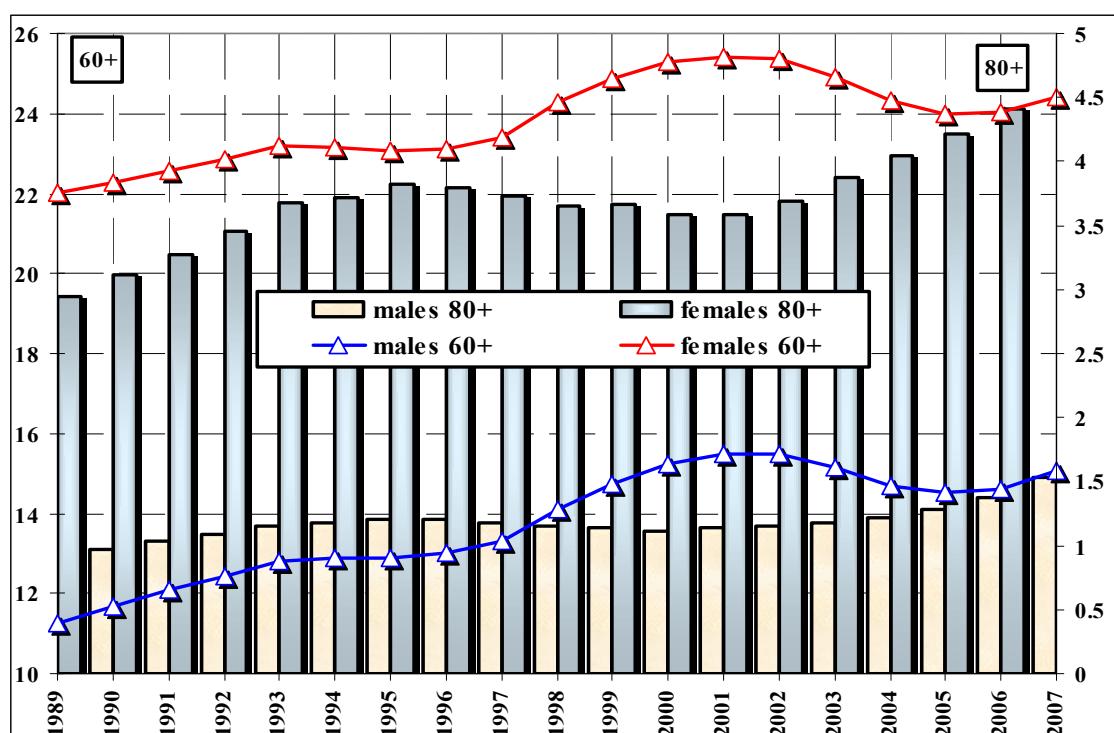


Fig. 3. Dependency ratios (DR): young age DR, old-age DR, total DR, Saint-Petersburg, 1989 - 2007

