

European ageing in the long term perspective

Zdenek Tomes
Masaryk University Brno
tomes@econ.muni.cz

OBJECTIVE

- An analysis of long term ageing of population
- Population ageing → shifts in the age structure of a population toward people of older ages.
- Focus on long-term development of the age structures (1850-2050)

DATA

- Time period: 1850-2050
- Data: 1850-1950: Social and economic implications of population ageing. UN (1956)

1950-2000: UN data database online

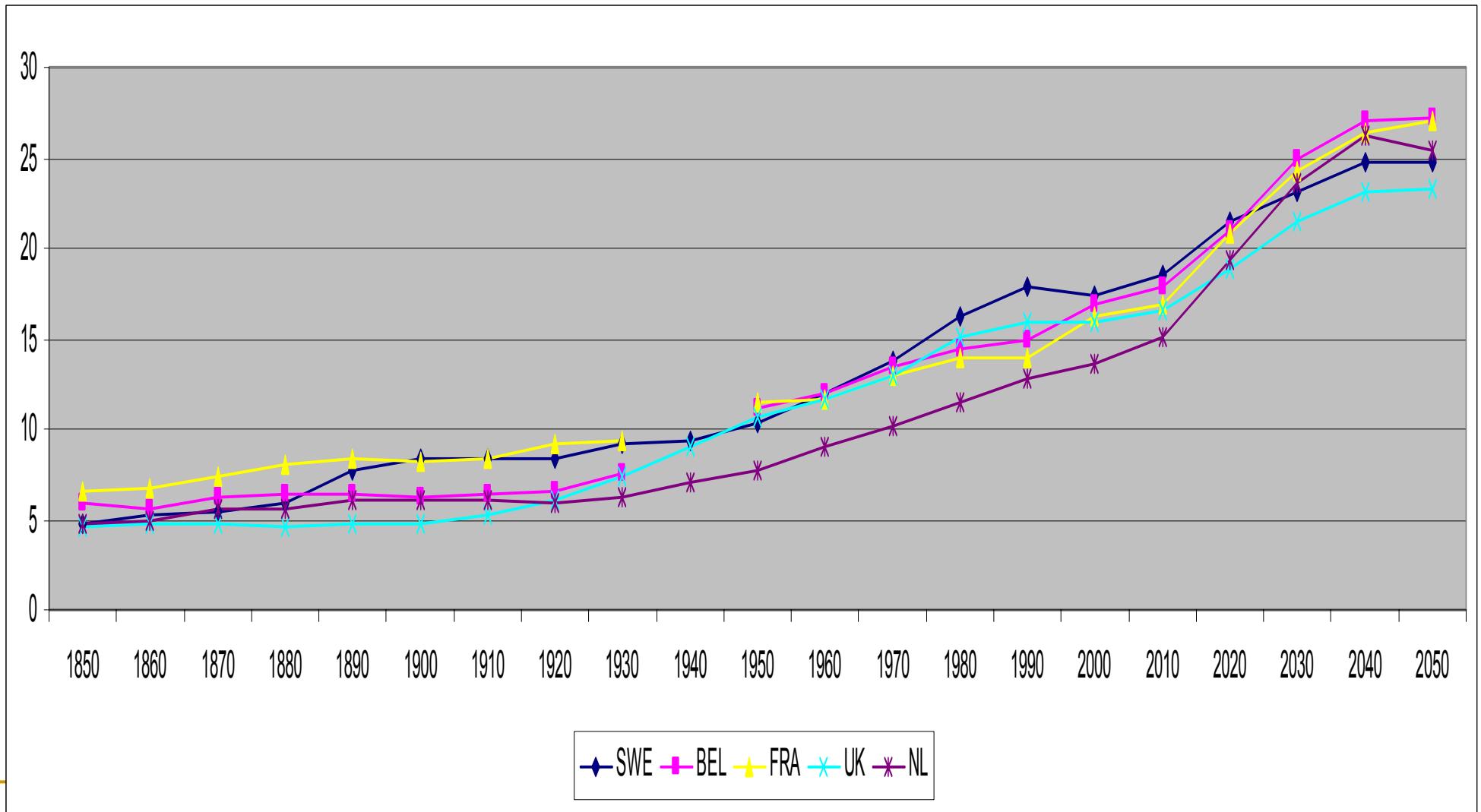
2000-2050: UN prognosis, medium variant

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm>

- 5 countries with available age structure data series: (Sweden, Belgium, France, United Kingdom, Netherlands)

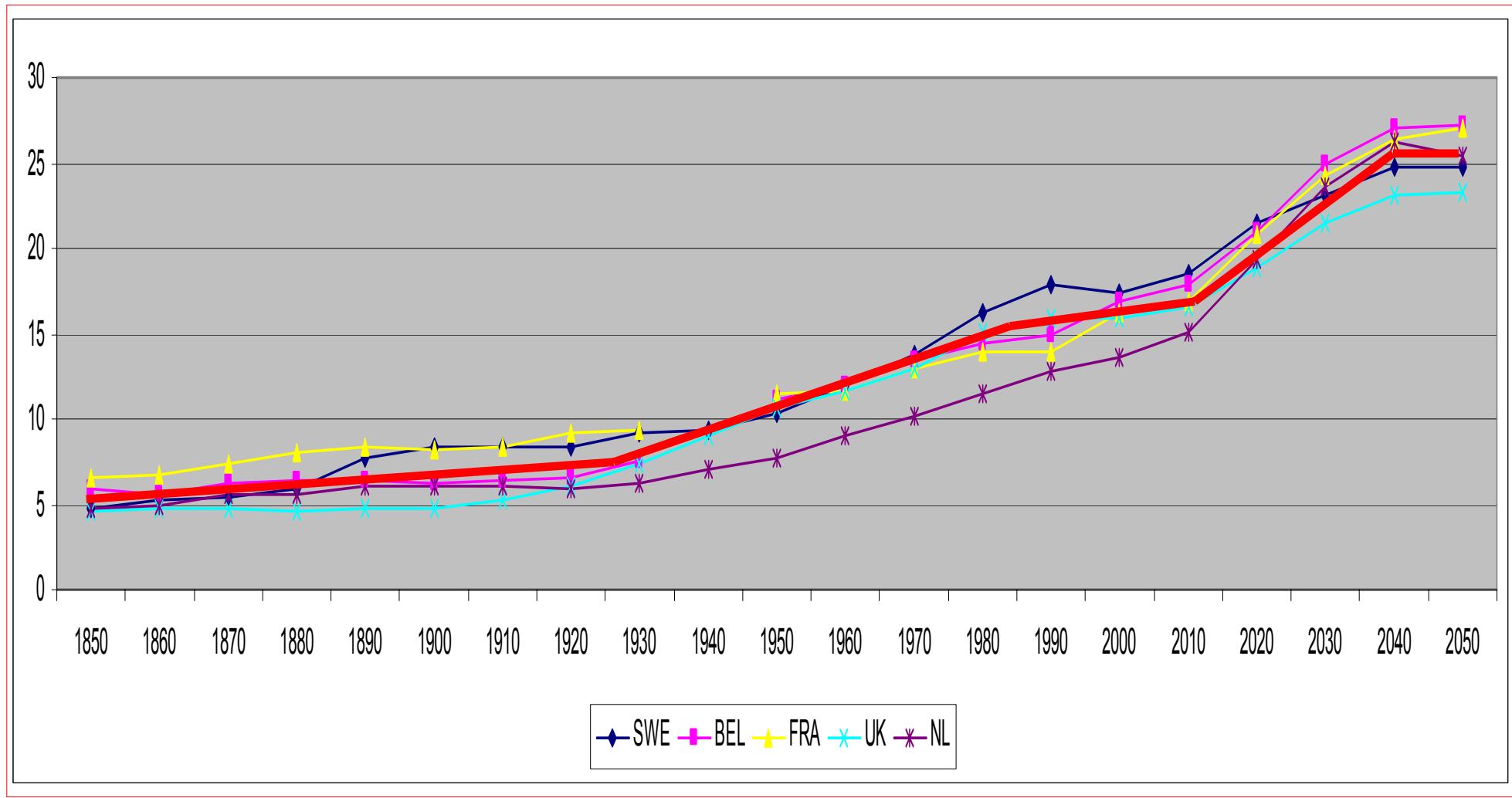
Irregular growth

(% share of age group 65+ in population)



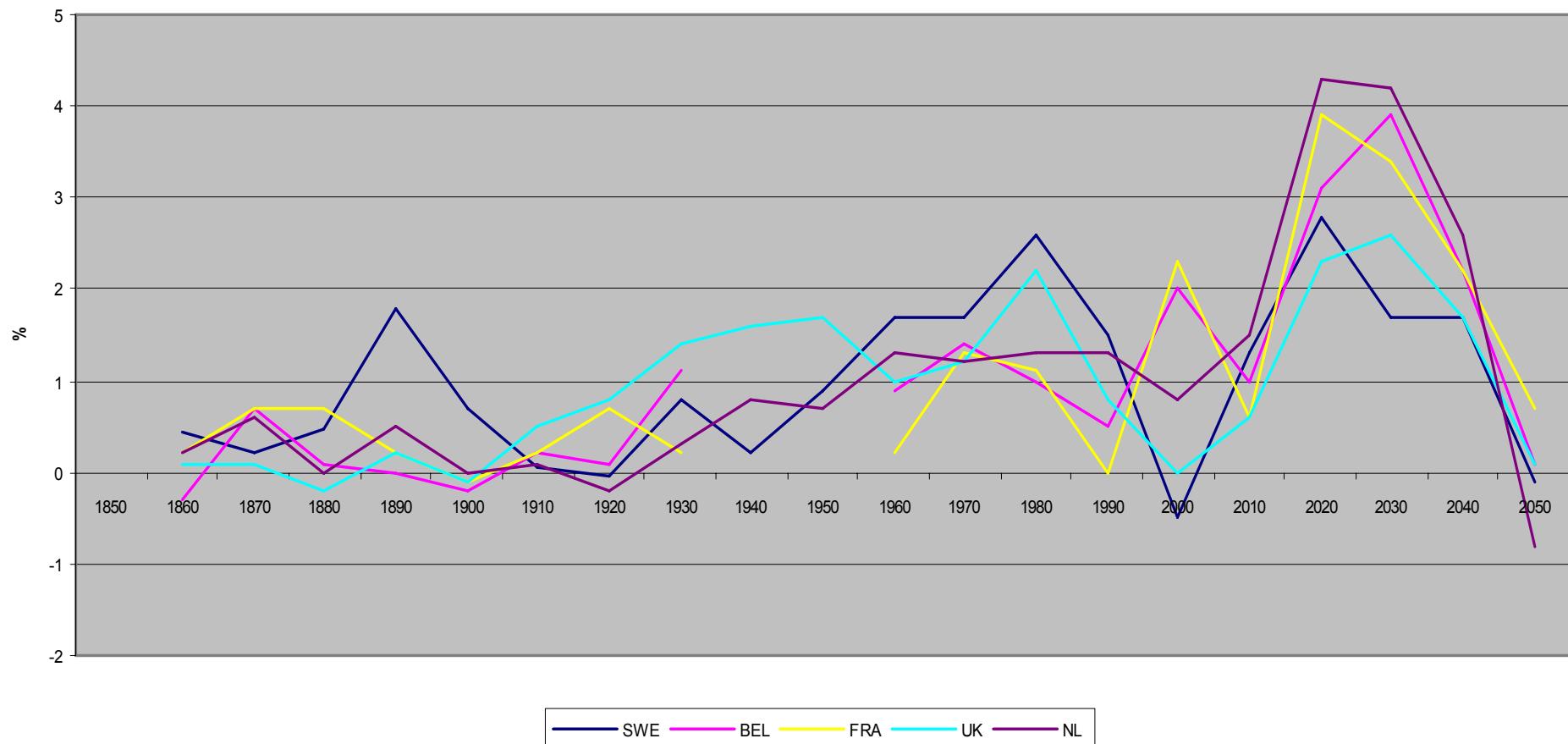
Stairs pattern → stagnation and growth periods

(% share of age group 65+ in population)



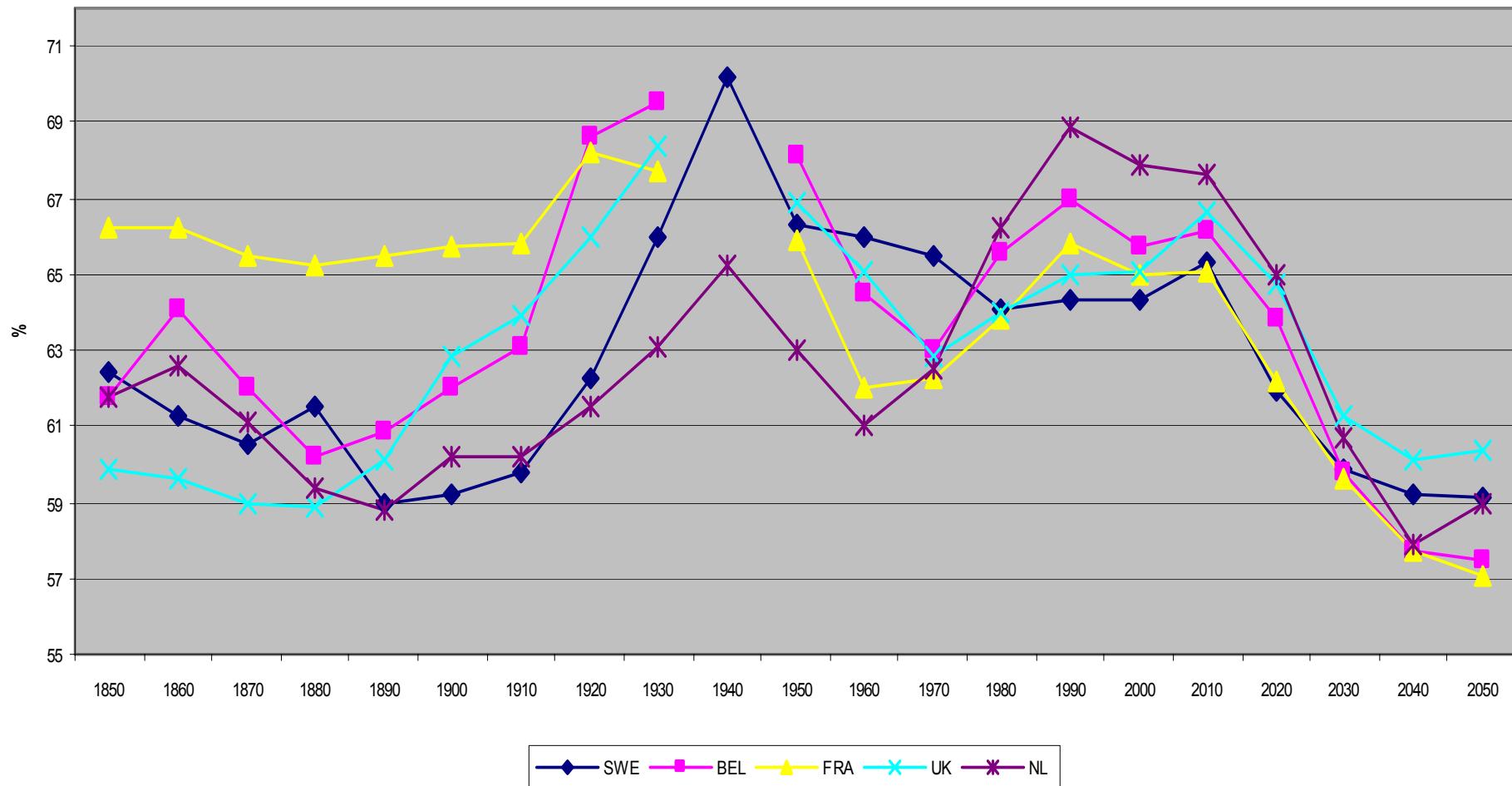
Population ageing dynamics

(% change; 65+/population; 10 years changes)



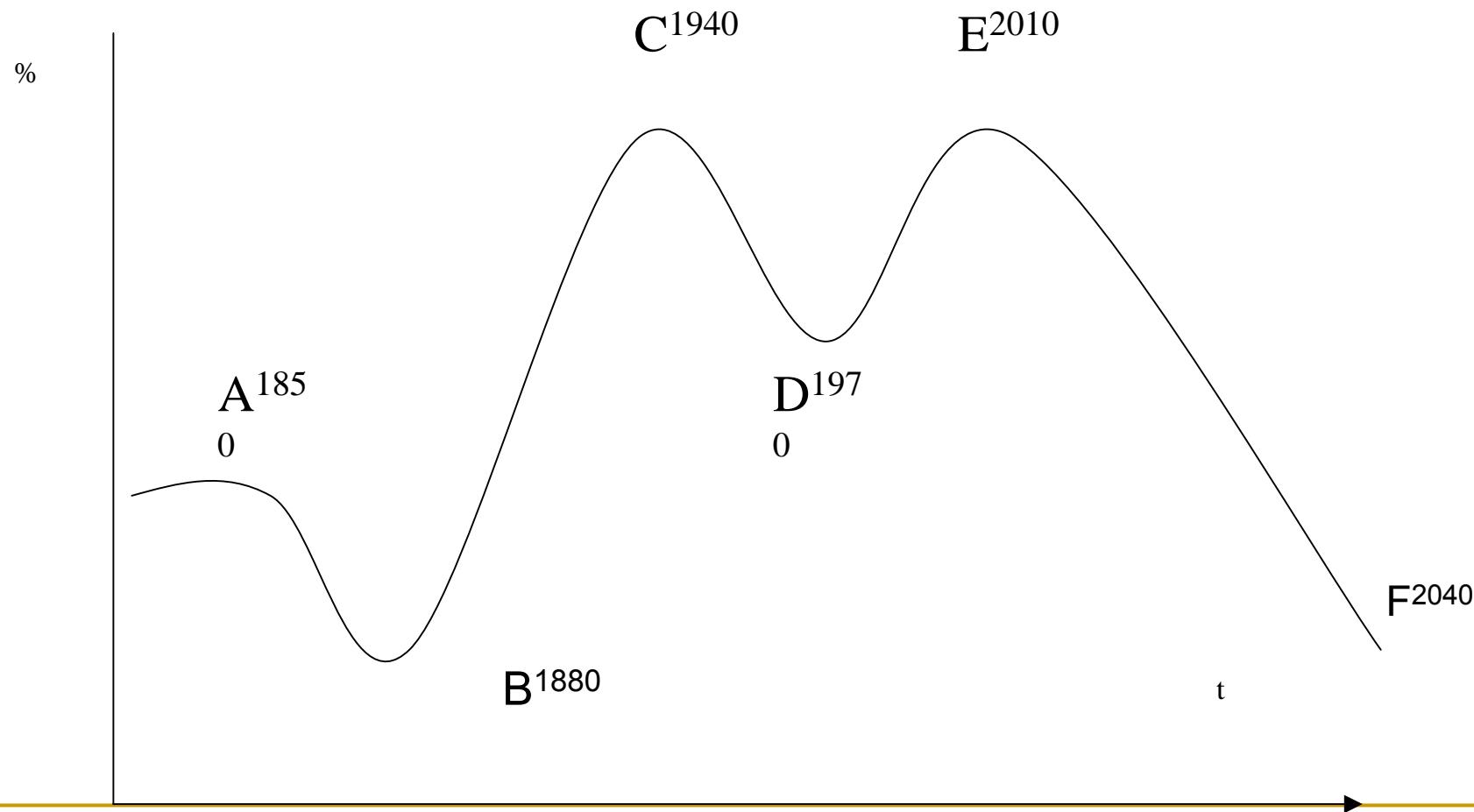
Age group 15-64 → ups and downs

(% share of 15- 64 in population)



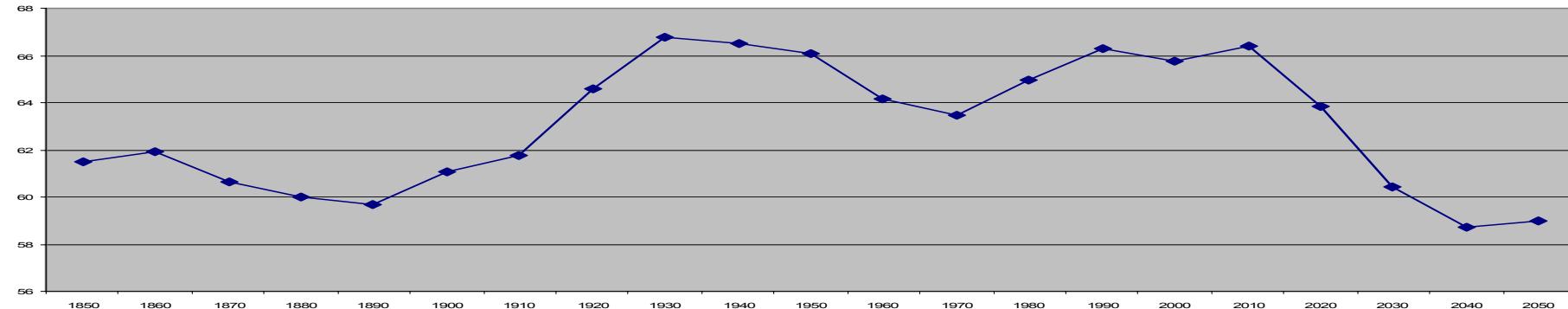
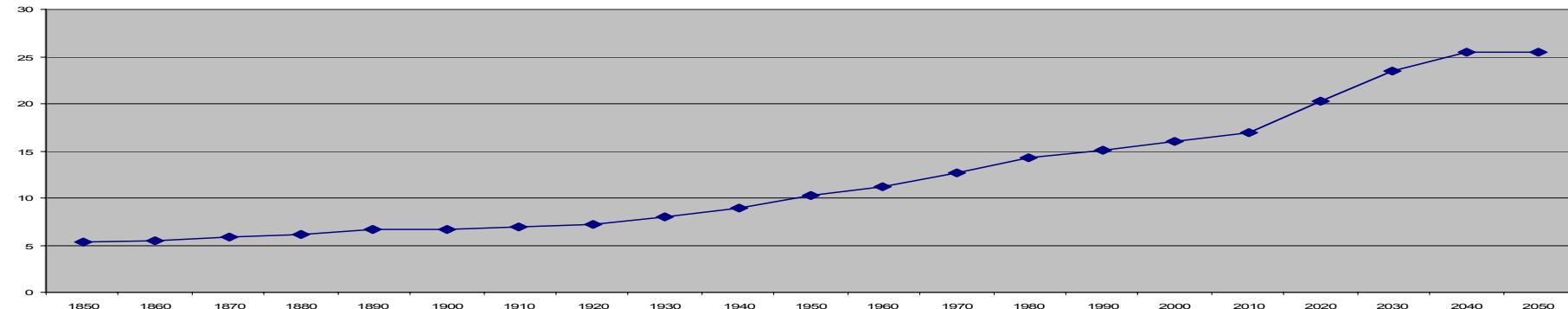
CAMEL structure

(model oscillation of % share of 15- 64 in population)



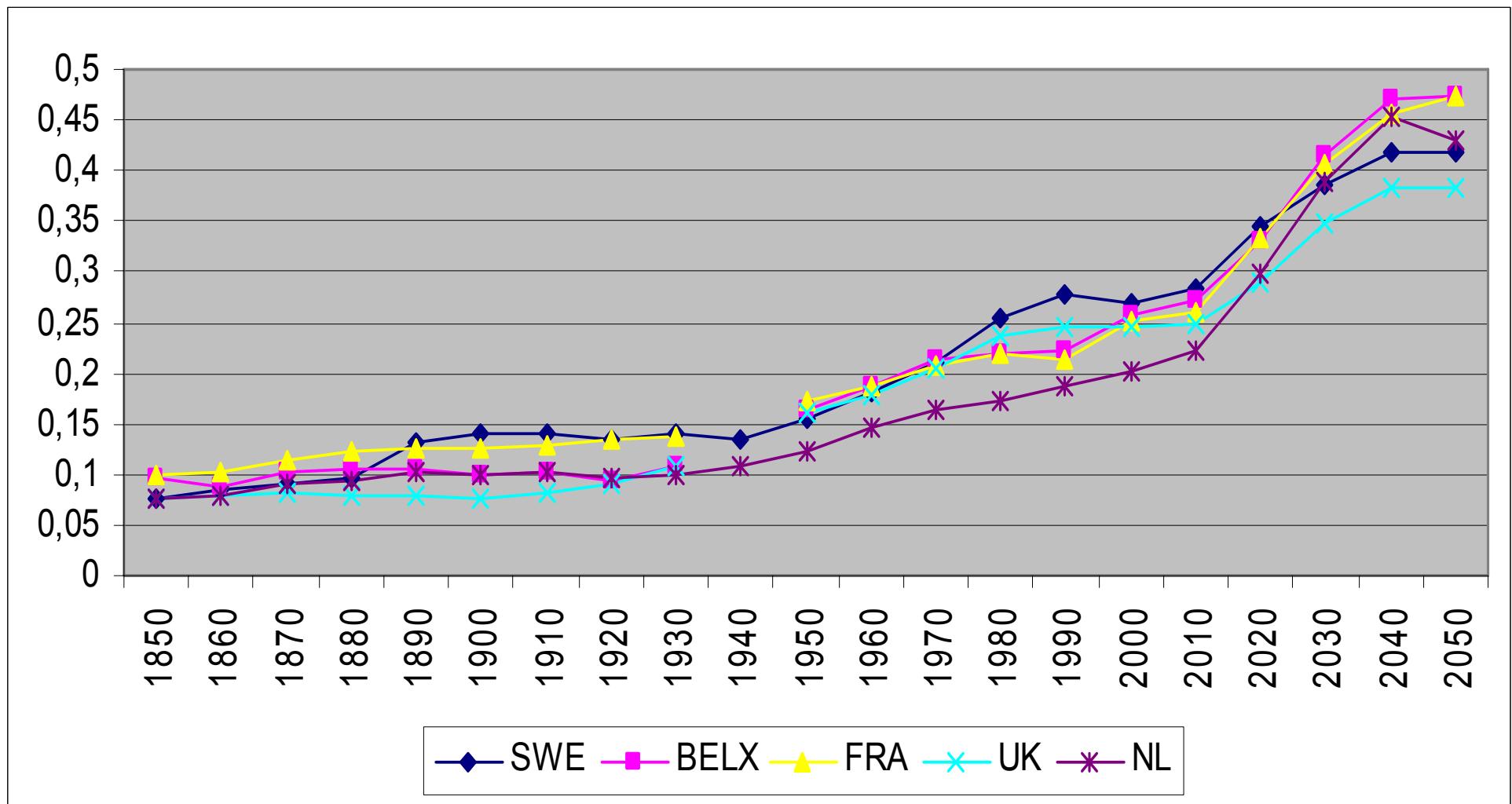
Stairs/Camel=Old Age Dependency Ratio)

(% share of 65+ and 15- 64 in population; 5 countries average)



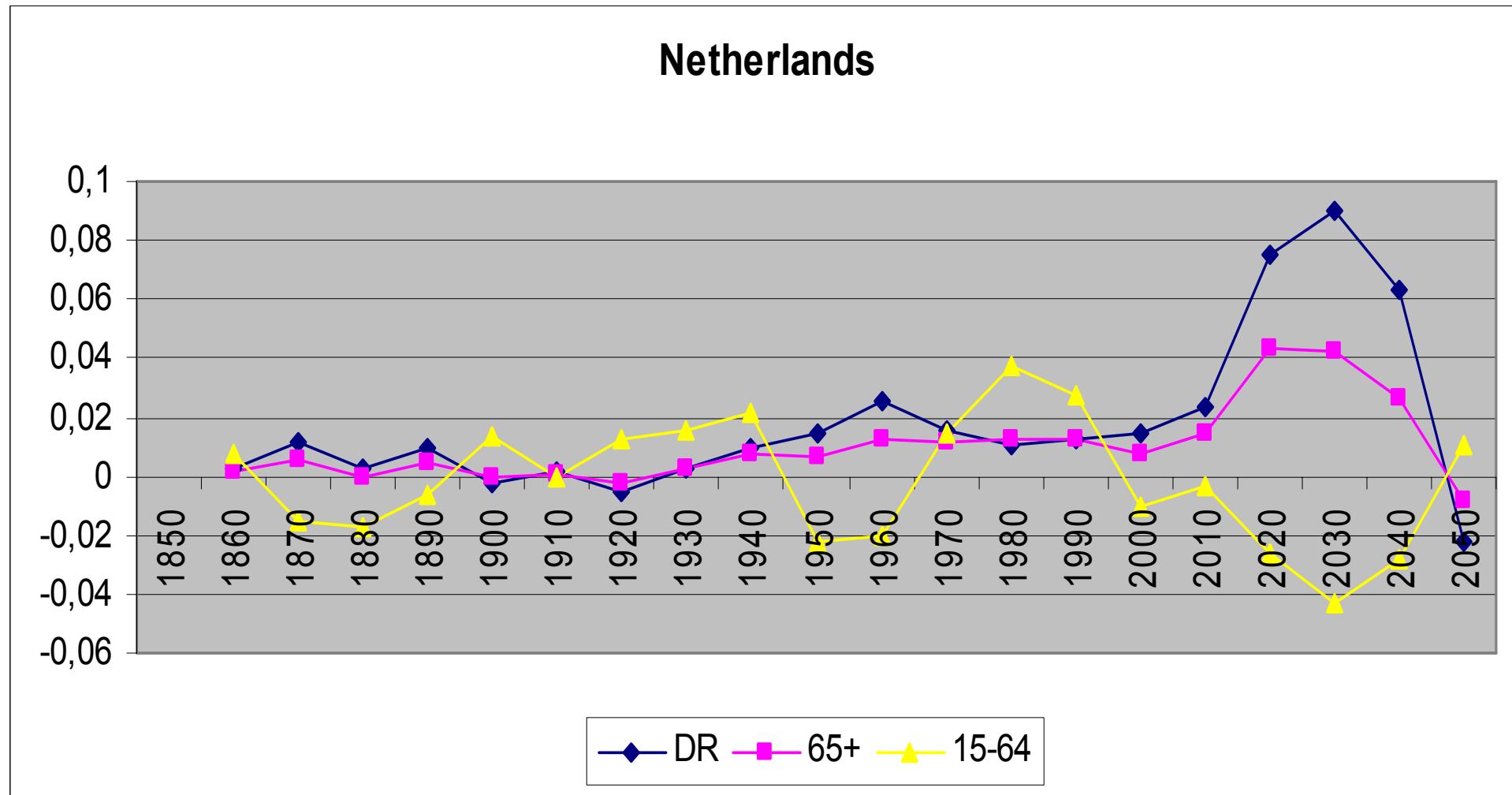
Old age Dependency Ratio – Stairs again?

(% share of 65+/15-64)



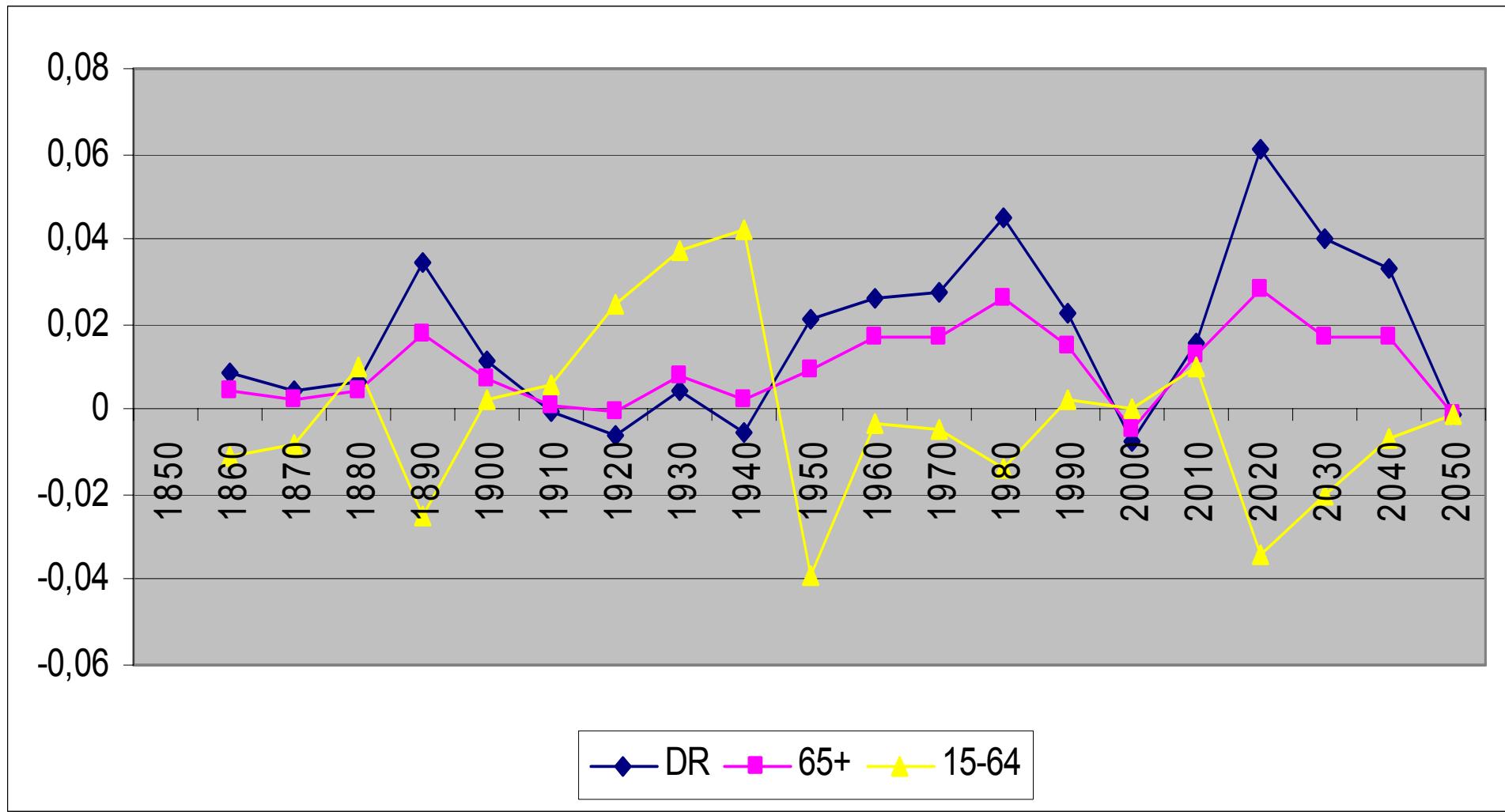
Netherlands

(% changes of old age dependency ratio; 65+/population and 15-64/population)



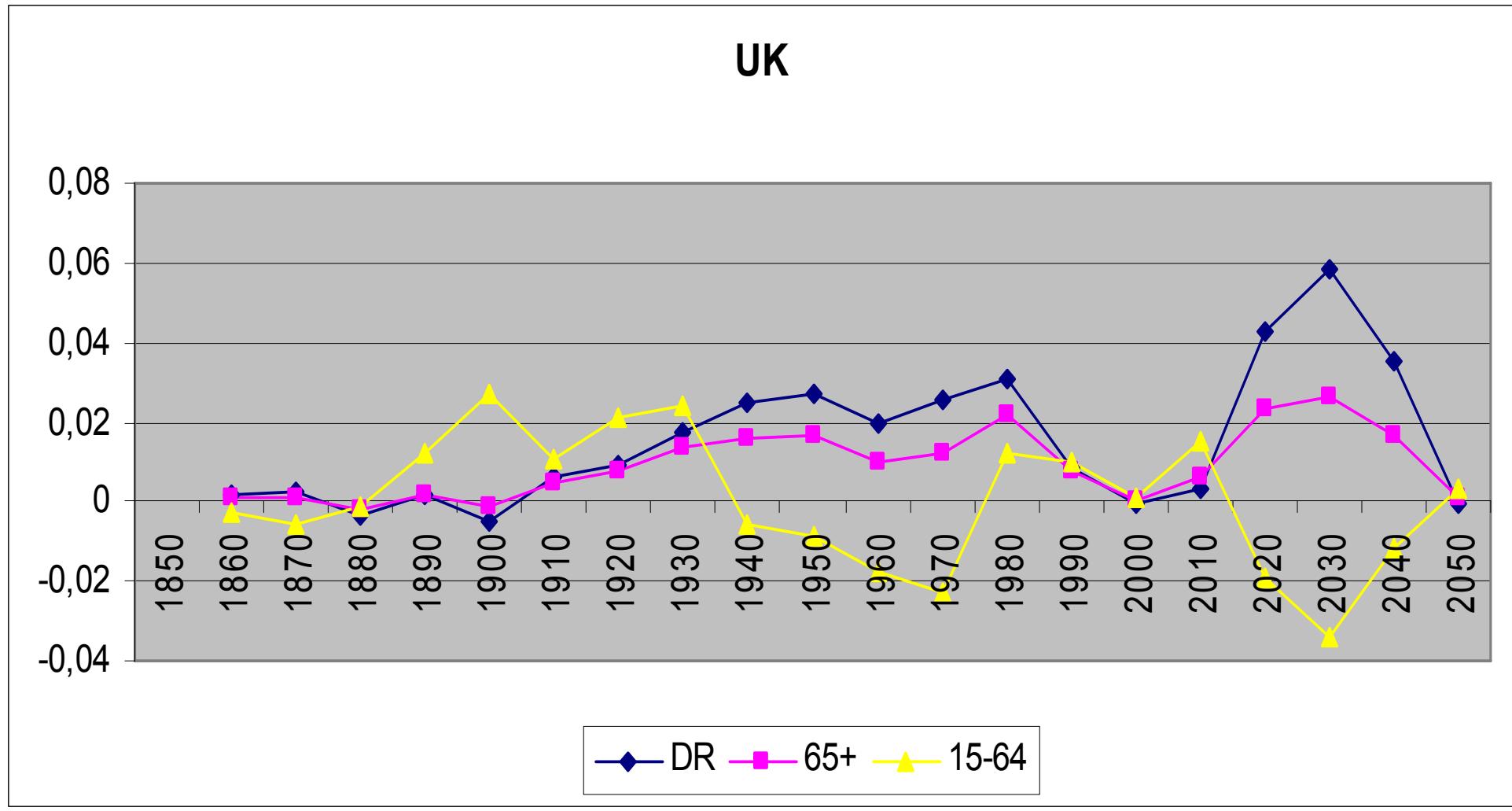
Sweden

(% changes of old age dependency ratio; 65+/population and 15-64/population)



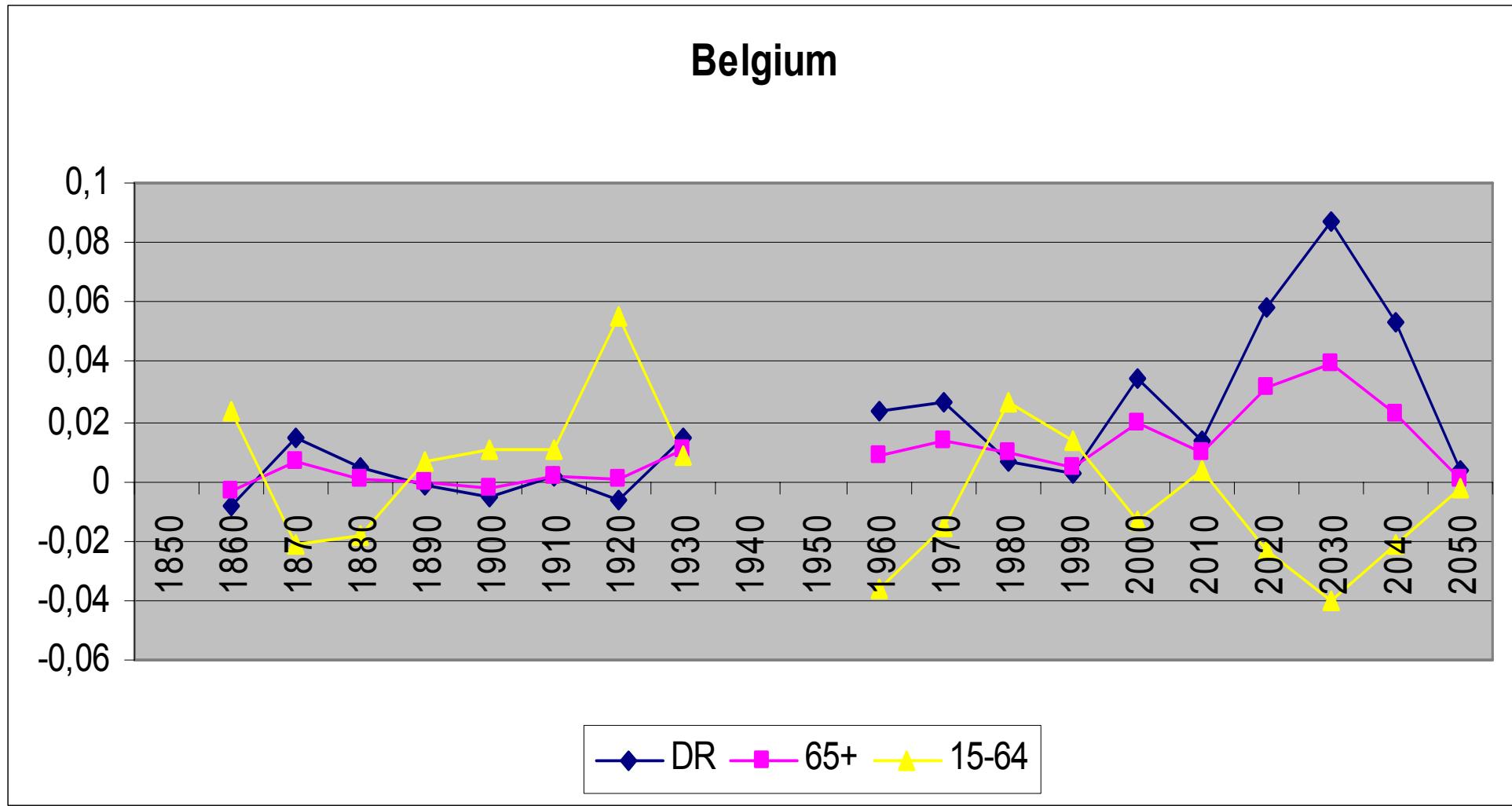
UK

(% changes of old age dependency ratio; 65+/population and 15-64/population)



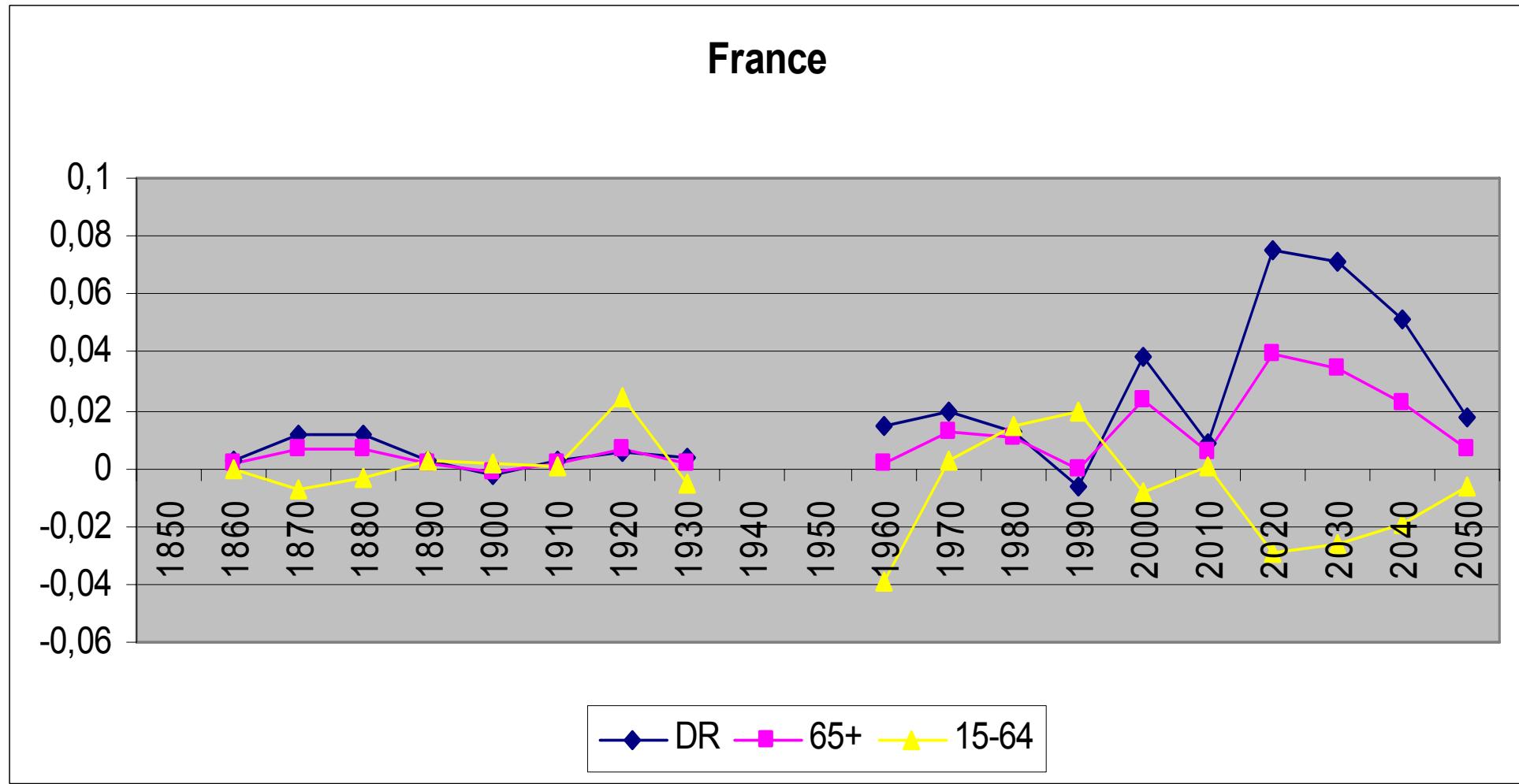
Belgium

(% changes of old age dependency ratio; 65+/population and 15-64/population)



France

(% changes of old age dependency ratio; 65+/population and 15-64/population)



Conclusions

There are significant oscillations in historical development of age groups around growing trend (65+) and neutral trend (15-64).

Populations are ageing irregularly, with changing periods of high and low speed of ageing.

