3. *Italy*

(a) *Past trends*

The total fertility rate in Italy increased from 2.3 in 1950-1960 to 2.5 in 1960-1970 and has been declining ever since. It has been below replacement level since 1975, and in 1995-2000 it was estimated at 1.20 children per woman, one of the lowest in the world. Since 1950, mortality has declined consistently, resulting in an increase in life expectancy for both sexes from 66.0 years in 1950-1955 to 77.2 years in 1990-1995. Despite an estimated net annual immigration of 70,000 in 1995-2000, the population of Italy declined during 1995-2000. Among the consequences of these demographic changes was the more than doubling of the proportion of the population aged 65 or older, from 8.3 per cent of the population in 1950 to 16.8 per cent in 1995.

As a result of these changes, the potential support ratio for Italy declined from 7.9 persons aged 15-64 for each person aged 65 or older in 1950 to 4.1 in 1995.

(b) *Scenario I*

This scenario, which is the medium variant of the United Nations *1998 Revision*, assumes that there will be 660,000 net immigrants between 1995 and 2020, after which there will be no more migration to Italy. Under this scenario, the population of Italy would decline by 28 per cent, from 57.3 million in 1995 to 41.2 million in 2050 (The results of the 1998 United Nations projections are shown in the annex tables). The population aged 15-64 would decline by 44 per cent over the same period, while the population over 65 years old would increase by 49 per cent, from 9.6 million to 14.4 million. Persons aged 65 or older would constitute more than one third of the population of Italy by 2050. As a result, the potential support ratio would decrease by 63 per cent, from 4.1 in 1995 to 1.5 in 2050.

(c) *Scenario II*

Scenario II, which is the medium variant with zero migration, assumes that fertility and mortality will change according to the medium variant projections of the United Nations *1998 Revision*, but that there will be no migration into Italy will occur after 1995. The results are very similar to those in Scenario I. Italy's population in 2050 would be 40.7 million, only 475,000 persons less than under Scenario I. There would be 21.6 million and 14.2 million persons aged 15-64 and 65 or older, respectively, in 2050. As in Scenario I, the potential support ratio would decrease by 63 per cent from 4.1 in 1995 to 1.5 in 2050.

(d) *Scenario III*

It is assumed, for Scenario III, that between 1995 and 2050 the total population of Italy will remain constant at its 1995 size of 57.3 million persons. A total of 12.9 million net migrants between 1995 and 2050 would be required to attain this goal. The annual net immigration would increase steadily from 75,000 in 1995-2000 to 318,000 in 2045-2050. Under this scenario, by 2050 a total of 16.6 million persons, or about 29 per cent of the population, would be post-1995 immigrants or their descendants.

(e) *Scenario IV*

This scenario assumes that Italy's population aged 15-64 would remain constant at its 1995 level of 39.2 million, stopping the decline in the size of this age group. To achieve this objective, 19.6 million immigrants would be needed between 1995 and 2050. The average annual number of migrants would

vary, reaching a peak of 613,000 persons per year between 2025 and 2030 and then declining to 173,000 per year in 2045-2050. Under this scenario, the population of Italy would grow by 16 per cent from 57.3 million in 1995 to 66.4 million in 2050. By the year 2050, 39 per cent of the population would be post-1995 migrants or their descendants. The potential support ratio would decrease from 4.1 in 1995 to 2.2 in 2050.

(f) *Scenario V*

Scenario V does not allow the potential support ratio to decrease below the value of 3.0. In order to achieve this, no immigrants would be needed until 2010, and 34.9 million immigrants would be needed between 2010 and 2040, an average of 1.2 million per year during that period. By 2050, out of a total population of 87.3 million, 46.6 million, or 53 percent, would be post-1995 immigrants or their descendants.

(g) *Scenario VI*

Scenario VI keeps the potential support ratio at its 1995 level of 4.08. A total of 120 million immigrants between 1995 and 2050 would be required to maintain this constant ratio, yielding an overall average of 2.2 million immigrants per year. The resultant population of Italy in 2050 under this scenario would be 194 million, more than three times the size of the Italian population in 1995. Of this population, 153 million, or 79 per cent, would be post-1995 immigrants or their descendants.

(h) *Additional considerations*

In 1995-2000, Italy's population growth rate was estimated at –0.01 per cent. This decline in population was expected despite a net immigration of 70,000 persons per year. The number of foreign-born in Italy has almost doubled, from 821,000 in 1965 (1.6 per cent of the total population) to 1.5 million in 1995 (2.7 per cent of the population). According to Scenario III, to keep Italy's population from declining from its 1995 size, annual migration flows would have to be, on average, more than three times as large between 1995 and 2050 as they were between 1990 and 1995. To keep the population of working-age from declining would require more than five times the 1990-1995 annual level of migration. In addition, for scenarios III and IV, the proportion of Italy's population in 2050 that would be made up of post-1995 immigrants or their descendants, 29 per cent and 39 per cent respectively, is more than 10 times the proportion of the foreign-born population in 1995. Figure 13 shows, for scenarios I, II, III and IV, the population of Italy in 2050, indicating the share that comprises post-1995 migrants and their descendants.

The demographic changes are even greater in scenario VI. This scenario requires more than twice as many immigrants between 1995 and 2050 as the total 1995 population of the country. Moreover, nearly four fifths of the resulting 2050 population of 194 million would be made up of post-1995 immigrants or their descendants.

In the absence of migration, the figures show that it would be necessary to increase working age to 74.7 years to obtain a potential support ratio of 3.0 in 2050. To maintain in 2050 the 1995 ratio of 4.1 persons in working-age for each older person past working-age would require increasing the upper limit of the working-age span to 77 years by 2050. Increasing the activity rates of the population, if it were possible, would only be a partial palliative to the decline in support ratio due to ageing. If the activity rates of all men and women aged 25 to 64 were to increase to 100 per cent by 2050, this would make up for only 30 per cent of the loss in the active support ratio resulting from the ageing of the population.

TABLE 20. POPULATION INDICATORS FOR ITALY BY PERIOD FOR EACH SCENARIO

Scenario	*I*	*II*	*III*	*IV*	*V*	*VI **
Period	*Medium variant*	*Medium variant with zero migration*	*Constant total population*	*Constant age group 15-64*	*Ratio 15-64/65+ not less than 3.0*	*Constant ratio 15-64/65 years or older*
			A. Average annual number of migrants (thousands)			
1995-2000	70	0	75	203	0	*1 261*
2000-2025	12	0	214	315	499	*1 310*
2025-2050	0	0	289	428	905	*3 225*
2000-2050	6	0	251	372	702	*2 268*
1995-2050	12	0	235	357	638	*2 176*
			B. Total number of migrants (thousands)			
1995-2000	350	0	375	1 015	0	*6 305*
2000-2025	310	0	5 340	7 887	12 465	*32 759*
2025-2050	0	0	7 229	10 709	22 623	*80 622*
2000-2050	310	0	12 569	18 596	35 088	*113 381*
1995-2050	660	0	12 944	19 610	35 088	*119 684*
			C. Total population (thousands)			
1950	47 104	-	-	-	-	-
1975	55 441	-	-	-	-	-
1995	57 338	-	-	-	-	-
2000	57 298	56 950	57 338	58 000	56 950	*63 477*
2025	51 270	50 679	57 338	61 064	64 383	*96 664*
2050	41 197	40 722	57 338	66 395	87 345	*193 518*
			D. Age group 0-14 (thousands)			
1950	12 397	-	-	-	-	-
1975	13 436	-	-	-	-	-
1995	8 483	-	-	-	-	-
2000	8 165	8 116	8 214	8 380	8 116	*9 760*
2025	5 871	5 802	7 246	8 013	9 181	*15 280*
2050	4 945	4 888	8 124	9 717	13 913	*35 615*
			E. Age group 15-64 (thousands)			
1950	30 817	-	-	-	-	-
1975	35 326	-	-	-	-	-
1995	39 234	-	-	-	-	-
2000	38 721	38 486	38 762	39 234	38 486	*43 139*
2025	32 026	31 659	36 506	39 234	41 401	*65 358*
2050	21 875	21 623	32 985	39 234	55 074	*126 808*
			F. Age group 65+ (thousands)			
1950	3 890	-	-	-	-	-
1975	6 678	-	-	-	-	-
1995	9 621	-	-	-	-	-
2000	10 412	10 349	10 362	10 386	10 349	*10 578*
2025	13 373	13 218	13 586	13 817	13 800	*16 026*
2050	14 377	14 211	16 230	17 444	18 358	*31 094*
			G. Potential support ratio 15-65/65+			
1950	7.92	-	-	-	-	-
1975	5.29	-	-	-	-	-
1995	4.08	-	-	-	-	-
2000	3.72	3.72	3.74	3.78	3.72	*4.08*
2025	2.39	2.40	2.69	2.84	3.00	*4.08*
2050	1.52	1.52	2.03	2.25	3.00	*4.08*

** Scenario VI is considered to be demographically unrealistic.*

Figure 12. Age-sex structures by scenario for 2000, 2025 and 2050
(*Population in millions*)

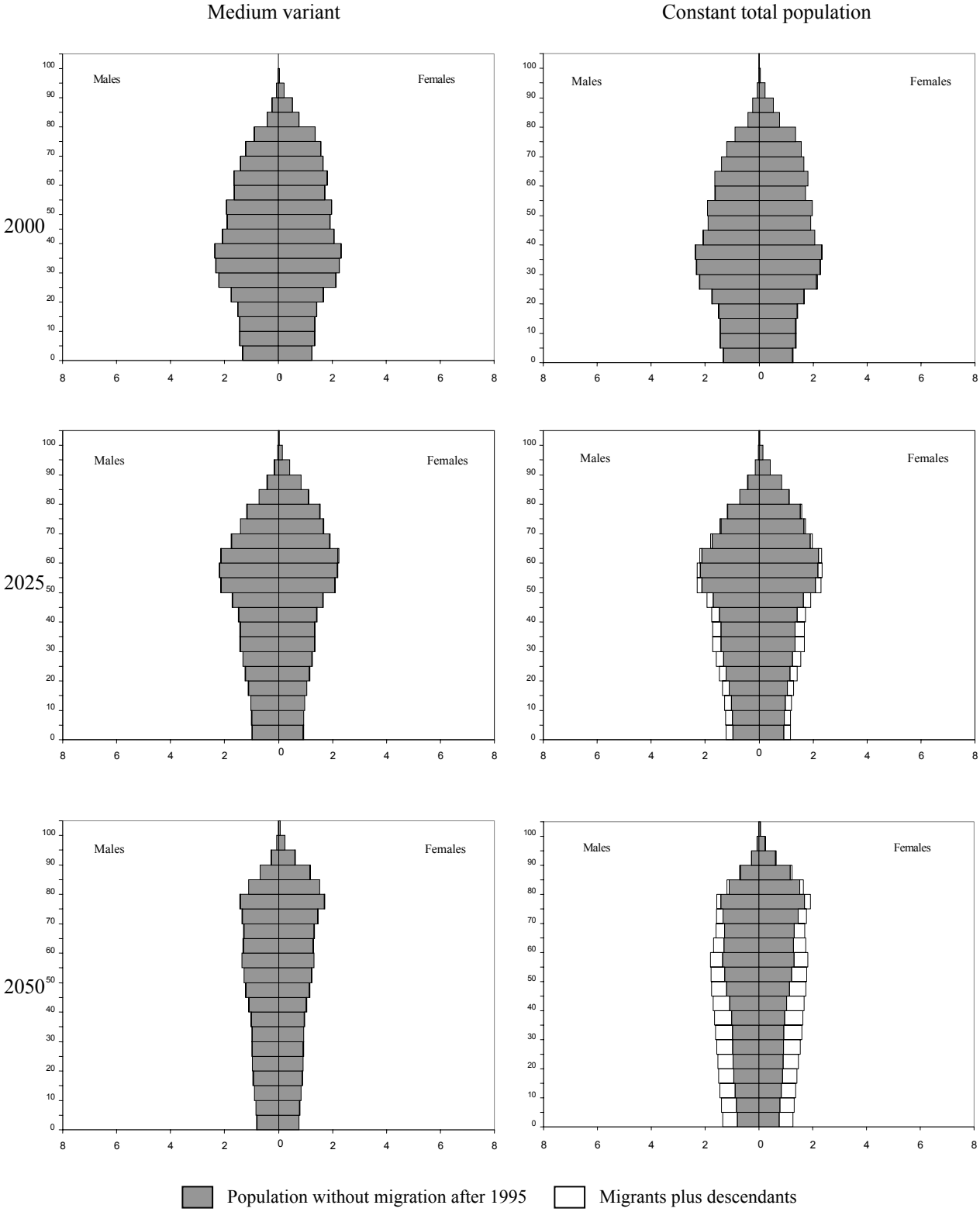

Figure 12 (continued)

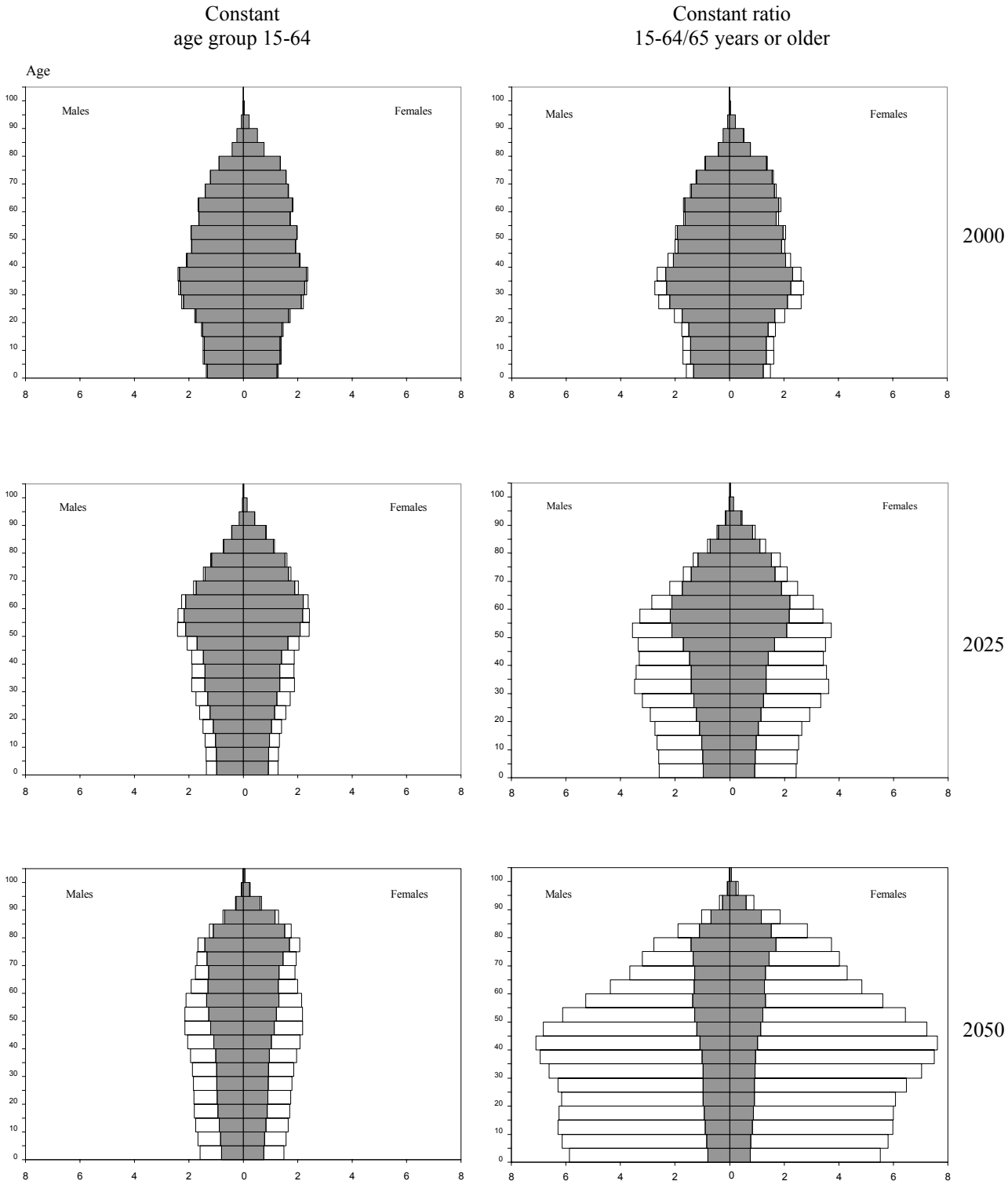

Figure 13. Population of Italy in 2050, indicating those who are post-1995 migrants and their descendants, by scenario