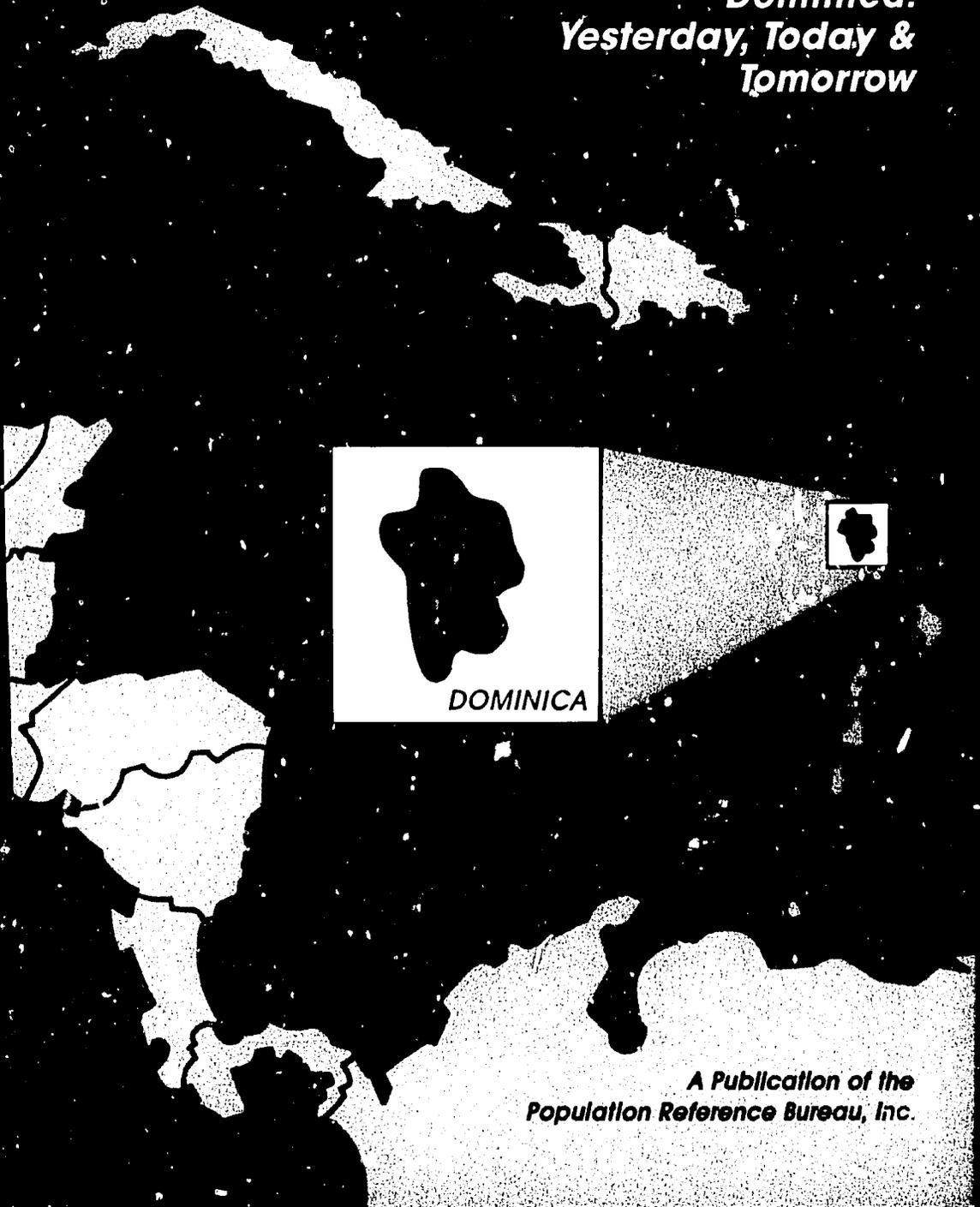


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**PRB OCCASIONAL SERIES:
THE CARIBBEAN**

***Dominica:
Yesterday, Today &
Tomorrow***



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Dominica: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

**by Leon F. Bouvier
March 1984**

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Dominica Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

Dominica Yesterday

Somewhat over 22,000 people were enumerated when the first census following emancipation was taken in Dominica. The year was 1844. The next count was taken in 1871 and then every 10 years until 1921 (see Table 1).

Between 1844 and 1871, the population of Dominica increased to 27,178—a gain of 4,978, which was less than 0.8 percent per year. It can be assumed that natural increase was minimal. Both crude birth rates and crude death rates were undoubtedly extremely high, resulting in little population growth. It is difficult to estimate levels of migration in the mid-nineteenth century, except to conclude that they probably were not substantial.

The six decennial censuses taken between 1871 and 1921 allow for a more detailed examination of the population changes on the island as the country entered the twentieth century. In 1921, the census counted 37,059 Dominicans, about 10,000 more than in 1871. This again reflected a very low average annual rate of growth—0.7 percent.

Mortality must have declined somewhat in this period, however, while fertility per-

haps remained high. This was a common pattern of changing demographic behaviour in developing countries, particularly in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As a result, natural increase was probably greater than had previously been the case.

Emigration, on the other hand, undoubtedly increased. Demands for foreign labour were being made, particularly in Panama, where the canal was under construction. The larger islands, too, very likely seemed attractive to Dominicans seeking employment. Crude birth rates probably averaged 45 per 1,000 population, while death rates hovered around 30 per 1,000 early in the twentieth century. If approximately correct, this would mean a net emigration of some 7 per 1,000.

No censuses were taken between 1921 and 1946, although in 1931 the population of Dominica was estimated to be 39,500. By the time of the 1946 count, the nation had grown to 47,630. Over that 25-year period (1921–46), the population had increased by 10,565—an average annual rate of 1 percent. More reliable vital statistics are available for that period than for earlier years, which yields a more accurate description of what transpired demographically over this quarter of a century.

While the population grew by 10,565, there were 16,202 more births than deaths over the period. If these statistics are relatively accurate and if the censuses of 1921 and 1946 were comparable as to universality, this would indicate net emigration of 5,637 persons over the 25 years.

Crude birth rates fell from 37.6 per 1,000 population in 1921–25 to 33.1 in 1941–45. This translates into about five births per woman. Over the same period, crude death rates fell from 23.4 to 18.9 per 1,000. Actually the death rates were even lower in the 1930s—as low as 15.4.

**Table 1: Population of
Dominica, 1844–1921**

Year	Number
1844	22,200
1871	27,178
1881	28,211
1891	26,841
1901	28,894
1911	33,863
1921	37,059

Given this information, growth through natural increase was in the range of about 1.5 percent per year, but the actual rate of population growth was considerably lower because of emigration.

Through the first half of the twentieth century, both fertility and mortality fell substantially and net emigration increased. The changes in fertility and emigration may have been related. As men left their homes in search of work, either in the United Kingdom or in neighbouring islands like Guadeloupe and Martinique, women were left behind. This interruption of marital relationships undoubtedly contributed to the smaller family size in this period.

It should be realized that the actual number of people emigrating at one time or another was considerably greater than the 5,637 mentioned earlier. This is a net figure and some people might have immigrated to Dominica, although fewer than those who departed. Additionally, many Dominican men were temporary migrants—people who left, often for two, three, or more years, but who eventually returned.

The quality of demographic data kept improving after the 1946 census, although the next official count did not take place until 1960. Caribbean demographers George Roberts and Jack Harewood have used both censuses to develop population and vital statistics estimates for each year between 1946 and 1960 for all members of the Caribbean British Commonwealth.* Their study serves as the prime source of figures in this report for those years.

The early post-World War II period shows the annual rate of population growth in Dominica averaged about 1.6 percent—much higher than had been observed previously (see Appendix Table A). Between 1946 and 1960, the population grew from 47,630 to 59,920.

*G.H. Roberts and Jack Harewood, *Estimates of Intercensal Population by Age and Sex and Revised Vital Rates for British Caribbean Countries, 1946-1960* (University of West Indies, 1964).

The crude birth rate actually rose from 36.2 in 1946 to 46.9 in 1960, while the crude death rate fell from 20.9 to 14.9. As a result, the rate of natural increase went up dramatically, from 1.5 to 3.2 percent. It is quite rare in a developing country for the crude birth rate to go up while the crude death rate goes down, yet this is what occurred in Dominica as women gave birth to more children—probably averaging five or six—while mortality, particularly infant mortality, fell.

For the entire 14-year period of 1946-60, a total of 30,720 births and 12,260 deaths were recorded. This natural increase of 18,460 was offset in part by net emigration of 6,190. In sum, population increased quite rapidly despite a high level of emigration because fertility rose while mortality was falling.

Between 1960 and 1970, the island's population grew by nearly another 10,000, and the number of Dominicans reached 69,549. The average annual rate of growth for that decade was once again a high 1.5 percent. Fertility levels continued to be high—the overall average crude birth rate being about 42 per 1,000. Mortality levels fell substantially by 1970; the crude death rate was 10.0 per 1,000.

As a result, natural increase—already high in the 1950s—increased in the 1960s and it was only because of massive emigration that the annual rate of growth stayed as low as 1.5 percent. In round numbers, natural increase amounted to 20,000 (26,000 births and 6,000 deaths), with a net emigration of about 10,000 over the decade.

Movements out of Dominica since 1946 were toward the neighbouring islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique as well as toward the larger islands and the metropolitan countries—the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States. Migration to the United Kingdom almost came to a halt with the passage of the Commonwealth Immigration Act of 1962. Thereafter the United States became increasingly attractive, as did Canada. Indeed, during the 1960s, some 10 percent of the people leaving Dominica headed for the United

Table 2: Permanent Dominican-Born Immigrants Admitted to the United States, 1960–79

Year	Number
1960–64	423
1965–69	837
1970–74	1,144
1975–79	2,827

States, according to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (see Table 2).

Between 1844 and 1970, Dominica's population more than tripled, in large part due to levels of fertility that remained high throughout the period. Indeed, were it not for substantial emigration, particularly during the postwar years, Dominica's population would have easily surpassed the 100,000 mark by 1970.

Dominica Today

Among the English-speaking East Caribbean nations, Dominica was the only one to hold a census in 1981. All the others—save Antigua and Barbuda, which had no decennial enumeration whatsoever—had their censuses in April 1980. To facilitate the development of ten-year estimates and projections and to allow for more realistic comparisons with other nations, the population of Dominica as of April 7, 1980, must be estimated through the process of reverse projections.*

*The reverse projection method "survives" the population by age and sex backward in five-year intervals. By using appropriate survival rates, a population—males aged 45–49 in 1980, for example—can be restored to the number who would have been 40–44 in 1975 and 35–39 in 1970. Assuming relatively complete censuses in both 1970 and 1980, any dif-

The 1981 census enumerated 73,795 Dominicans; for the purposes of this report the 1980 population is estimated to have been 73,337. The level of growth, subdued during the 1970s, compared with earlier decades, and thus the population change between 1970 and 1980 was small. The remainder of this section will concentrate on the changes between the 1970 census and the 1980 estimates—ten-year interval.

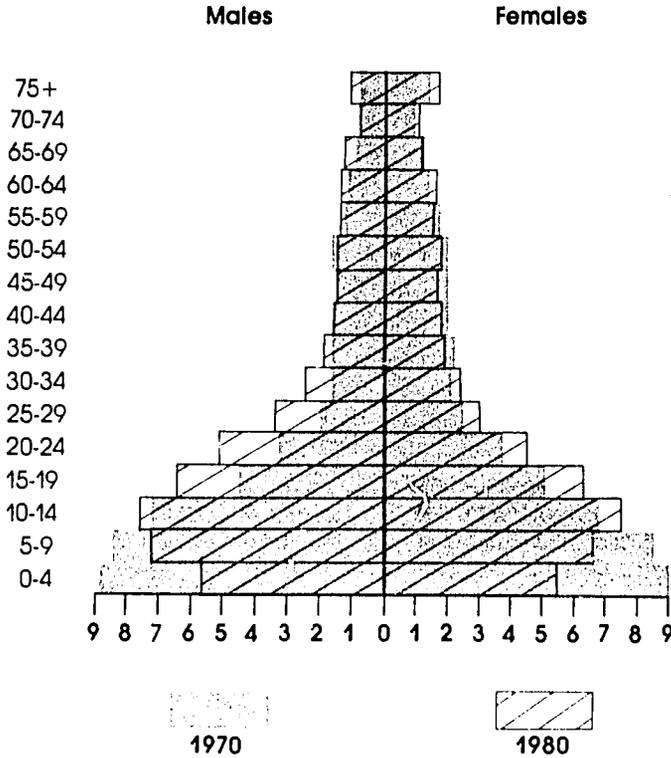
Dominica's population increased by 3,788 over the decade, for an average annual rate of growth of 0.5 percent—markedly lower than that observed during the 1950s and 1960s. A major contributor was the drop in fertility. From a crude birth rate of 39.0 per 1,000 in 1970, the rate gradually fell to 25.1 in 1975 and to 21.0 in 1979. The rates for 1980 as well as 1981 were slightly higher: 24.8 and 27.0, respectively.

For this report the total fertility rate in 1980 (that is, the average number of live births per woman) is estimated to have been about 3.4. Over the most recent ten-year period for which statistics are available (1972–81), a total of 18,956 births were registered—substantially fewer than the 26,000 estimated for the 1960–69 period.

The 1970s saw the increasing acceptance of family planning on the part of Dominican couples and this undoubtedly contributed to the lower fertility. However, the particularly low crude birth rate of 21.0 noted for 1979 warrants an explanation. That year, marked by a disastrous hurricane, hundreds of women moved to Guadeloupe, where many births to Dominicans took place. Thus this out-migration had the effect of dampening the fertility rate in Dominica.

ferences in the age-sex distribution in 1970 between the restored and the actual enumerated population must be accounted for by either immigration or emigration. This yields only a rough estimate of the level of net migration over a decade; nonetheless it is the best available short of actual data on migration itself.

Figure 1: Age-Sex Distribution of Dominica, 1970 and 1980



Mortality also fell during the 1970s. However, with the crude death rate already a low 10.0 in 1970, further declines were necessarily minimal. By 1980 the rate had fallen to about 6 per 1,000 and life expectancy approximated 65 years. Such a rate is remarkably low—much lower in fact than most developing nations. However, it reflects the young age composition of Dominica as much as it does its improving life expectancy.

Infant mortality rates fell particularly sharply, from 119.6 per 1,000 births in the 1950s to 67.3 in the 1960s and to 27.0 in 1977. Thus, overall, there has been great success in extending life in Dominica over the past ten years.

Emigration continued at a high level throughout the 1970s—perhaps at close to

900 per year. Indeed, some 4,000 Dominicans entered the United States during this decade. Interestingly, more women than men left the island. This is reflected in the census enumerations of 1970 and 1981. In the former year, the sex ratio was 90.1—that is, there were 90 males for every 100 females, reflecting the long-term out-migration of males over many years. By 1981, the sex ratio was 99.2. The male population increased by 3,500 over the 11 years while the female population did not grow. The reason is clear: many more women emigrated, particularly after the 1979 hurricane.

The recent decline in fertility and the changes in migration patterns have contributed to significant upheavals in the age composition of the Dominican population (see Figure 1). Its median age went

from 15.4 to about 18.5 in just ten years. Although still a young population, an increase of 3 years in median age in one decade is substantial and can be attributed primarily to the rapid fall in the number of births.

In 1970, about half the Dominicans were under the age of 15; at the other extreme of the age spectrum, 5.9 percent were aged 65 or older. The dependency ratio (the number of persons of dependent age—under 15 or 65 or older—per 100 persons between 15 and 64) was a high 122. There were 20 percent more “dependent” than “active” persons.

By 1980, the age composition picture had changed considerably. Only 40 percent of the population were under 15 while 7.2 percent were 65 or older. The resulting dependency ratio was far more favourable—89 persons of dependent age per 100 of active age. This is still relatively high and reflects the fact that many persons of active age have emigrated.

A close examination of Figure 1 should cause a little wariness of these statistics. The population under 5 in 1980 amounted to 8,177, or 1,927 fewer than the 5–9 year olds. Although fertility has been falling, such a difference seems to reflect the aforementioned tendency of Dominican women to migrate to the neighbouring French islands after the disastrous 1979 hurricane and to give birth in those countries. The figures here have not been adjusted but the reader should be aware of this possibly misleading statistic.

Changes in age distribution occasionally disturb social institutions such as schools. In Dominica, however, the falling fertility of the 1970s has contributed to a stability in school enrollment. There has been but scant change in the school-age population (5–14) between 1970 and 1980.

As Dominica moves through the 1980s, its numbers approximate 75,000. Fertility has fallen considerably and the island has low mortality but emigration continues to be high. Dominica continues to have a young population. Clearly it is at a demographic crossroads. Population cannot in-

crease much more but barriers may well be erected by receiving nations, thereby limiting emigration as a means of population control. The implications of such a development will be discussed in the next section.

Dominica Tomorrow

In making national plans for the future, possible changes in the population size and composition of the nation must be taken into consideration. Perhaps the following population projections for Dominica will contribute to the development of better informed social and economic planning. These are projections—not predictions—of the demographic future of the nation. This report does not attempt to predict the number and age distribution of Dominicans in any future year. Rather, it selects what appear to be reasonable or interesting alternative patterns of demographic behaviour and projects what the future size and composition of the nation would be under various combinations of such patterns.

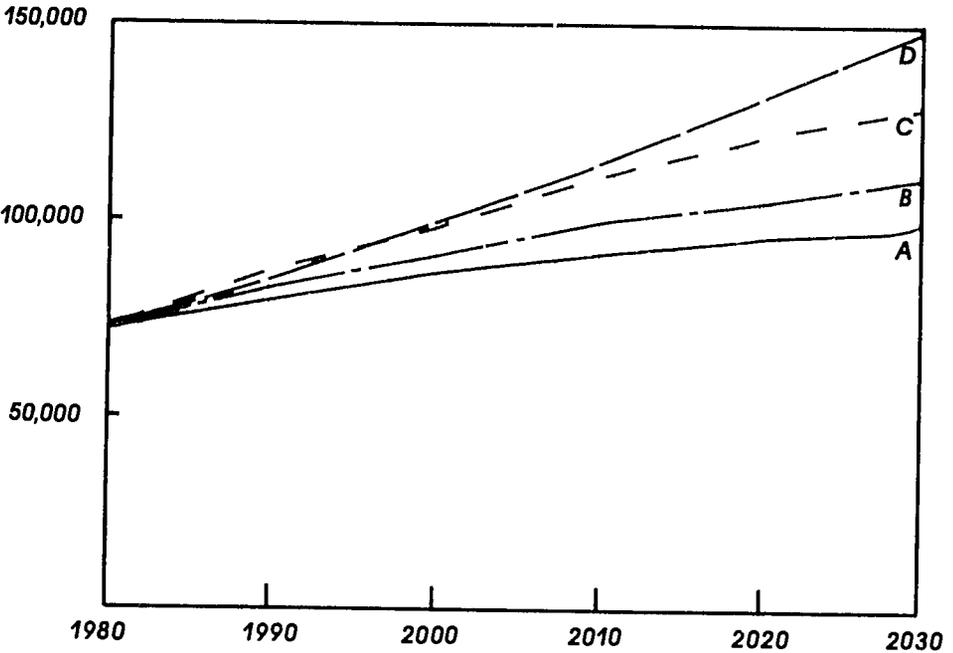
Demographic Assumptions: Three different postulates of fertility behaviour are used. One assumes that the current total fertility rate of 3.4 will remain the same for the next 50 years. The second supposes a decline in fertility to 2.6 live births per woman on average by 1990, after which the rate would remain constant. The third postulates a decline in the total fertility rate to 2.1 by 1990, with no change thereafter. Such a drop is highly unrealistic but is included for illustrative purposes as it is the level needed to achieve zero population growth in the absence of migration.

Only one set of mortality assumptions is used. Life expectancy is projected to increase from 68 years at birth to 74 years by 2010 for females and from 64 years to 66 for males.

Three alternative migration patterns are postulated. The estimated current level of net emigration of 800 per year could remain constant in future years. A second pattern might be that net emigration

Figure 2: Population of Dominica, 1980–2030

Population



A: TFR of 3.4, net emigration of 800
 B: TFR of 2.6, net emigration of 400

C: TFR of 2.1, net migration of zero
 D: TFR of 3.4, net emigration of 400

drops to 400 per year beginning in 1980. Finally, for illustrative purposes, an assumption of no migration is also considered.

Based on these alternative postulates about demographic behaviour, four different future population scenarios have been prepared for Dominica (see Figure 2; for supporting data, see Appendix Table B):

Scenario A—current fertility (3.4) and current net emigration (800 per year)

Scenario B—declining fertility (2.6) and declining net emigration (400 per year)

Scenario C—replacement-level fertility (2.1) and net migration of zero

Scenario D—current fertility (3.4) and declining net emigration (400 per year).

Numerous other combinations of future patterns of fertility, mortality, and migration are of course possible. These four have been selected to illustrate the wide range of possibilities that exist.

Population Projections: Currently fertility in Dominica is fairly low. The crude birth rate is about 27 per 1,000 and the total fertility rate is 3.4. Similarly, net emigration is high. If the assumed 800 per year is approximately accurate, this yields a rate of 11 per 1,000—high by any standard. Finally, life expectancy is already quite high but should nonetheless improve somewhat in future years.

A continuation of such a demographic situation (Scenario A) would result in relatively small growth in future years. By the turn of the century Dominica's population would reach 86,000, about 13,000 more than in 1980. This would reflect an annual rate of growth of 0.9 percent. Thirty years later, in 2030, the population would peak at about 97,000 and would remain fairly constant thereafter. At that time the crude birth rate would be 20.0; the crude death, 12.7; and the net emigration rate, 8.3.

Insofar as size is concerned Scenario A, a continuation of current demographic behaviour, is encouraging. Dominica's carrying capacity is of course limited, but an eventual no-growth population of between 100,000 and 110,000 would appear to be quite reasonable. Any further growth beyond that level would seem to be unwise.

However, fertility must remain at its present fairly low level for such a goal to be attained with the continued high level of net emigration assumed. Is it realistic to make such an assumption about future patterns of migration? What would occur if the emigration level was reduced by half, for example? Such a development is not that remote a possibility. The United States and Canada may well reduce legal migration in future years; Guadeloupe and Martinique may well establish stronger regulations as may other Caribbean nations that themselves begin to worry about growth.

A brief examination of Scenario D (current fertility and half the current net emigration) illustrates the possibility of such a situation. By the year 2000 the population of Dominica would have reached 99,000; by 2030, it would be close to 150,000. Even at that time, the overall rate of growth would still be 1.2 percent—a clearly impossible situation.

Obviously any decline in net emigration would necessitate parallel declines in fertility to compensate for the increase in numbers. Scenario B offers one possible direction to follow. With a total fertility rate of 2.6 and net emigration limited to 400

per year, Dominica's population would still grow. By the turn of the century it would have passed the 90,000 mark and by 2030, the 110,000 mark. At that time its crude birth rate would be 16.7; its crude death rate, 11.9; and its net emigration rate, 3.6. Thereafter very little growth would occur. Indeed its population would peak at 112,000 in 2040. This, then, appears to be a reasonable alternative path to follow should levels of net emigration be reduced in future years.

Demographers have long discussed the built-in momentum for growth in any society's population. Scenario C has been prepared to illustrate this important demographic fact. Here it is assumed that the level of fertility falls to 2.1 live births per woman by 1990 and that net migration equals zero from now on. A total fertility rate of 2.1 is the level needed to replace the population in the long run in the absence of migration. Interestingly, under Scenario C the population would grow more rapidly than it would under either A or B. The 100,000 mark would be attained shortly after 2000 and by 2030, the population would reach 129,000. All further growth would cease some ten years later at 132,000, at about double the current size.

How can a population continue growing—almost doubling its numbers—when its fertility is at the so-called replacement level? Recall that Dominica has a very young population. Without the continued historical emigration of many young people, the large number of youth become a large number of adults. Even if they limit themselves to 2.1 live births per woman, so many women are in their reproductive years that the number of births keeps increasing although the birth rate is falling. It is only in the next generation and the one after it that the young adult group becomes small enough in size not to have as many children. On average it takes some 60–70 years for a nation to attain zero population growth, without migration, after its fertility first reaches replacement level.

Scenarios C and D are both unrealistic. However, they serve to point out the enor-

Table 3: Percent Distribution of Population by Age-Group in Dominica, 1980–2030

Scenario	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Scenario A						
Under 15	41	32	34	29	27	27
15–64	53	61	59	64	64	60
65 or older	6	7	7	7	9	13
Scenario B						
Under 15	41	32	30	27	24	23
15–64	53	62	64	67	68	65
65 or older	6	6	6	6	8	12
Scenario C						
Under 15	41	32	28	25	23	21
15–64	53	62	67	70	71	68
65 or older	6	6	5	5	6	11
Scenario D						
Under 15	41	33	35	32	31	31
15–64	53	61	59	63	63	60
65 or older	6	6	6	5	6	9

mous long-run impact of change in fertility or migration behaviour. It is thus important that policymakers be aware of this built-in momentum and take it into consideration in their planning.

As far as population size is concerned, Dominica appears to be in a fairly fortunate position as it approaches the turn of the century. This is in large part due to its recent decline in fertility and its continued high level of net emigration. But any increase in fertility—however slight—or any decline in net emigration could lead to serious population problems in the not-too-distant future. It is thus suggested that both fertility and migration be measured as accurately as possible and monitored closely to detect any changes in either or both.

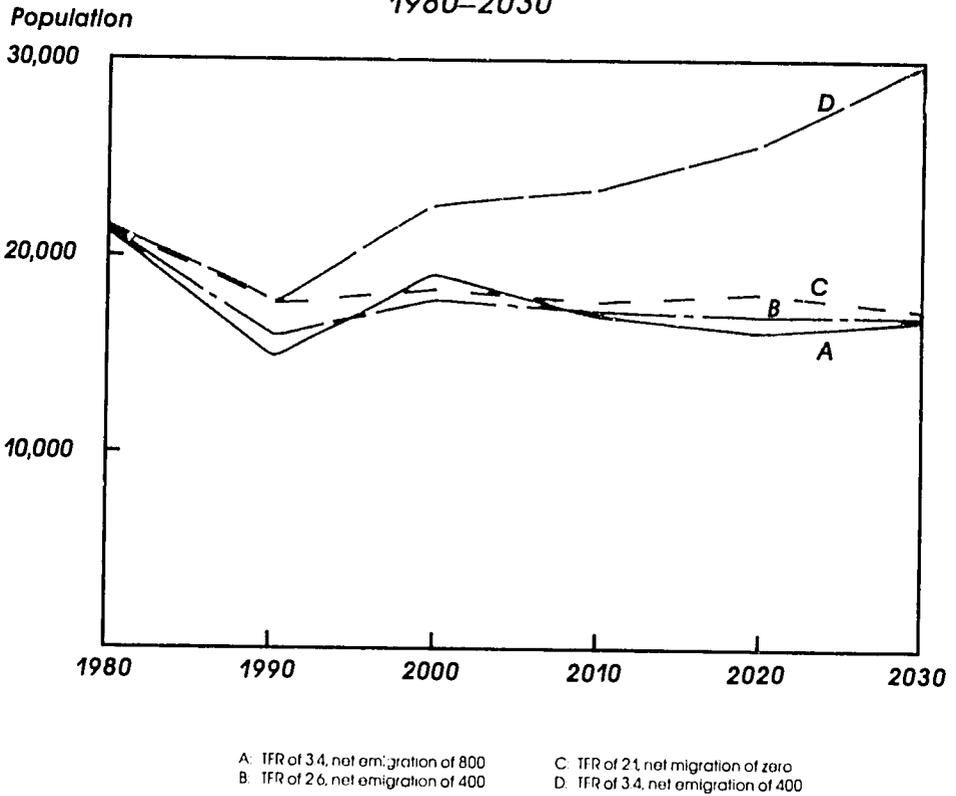
As noted earlier, changes in demographic behaviour affect not only population size but also population composition, particularly age distribution. In the short run, changes in age distribution may be even more important than variations in population size. Furthermore, past variations in fertility, mortality, and migration will

affect the age distribution for many years to come.

Irrespective of scenario, the population of Dominica will age in future years. That is to say, the proportion of youth will decline while that of the elderly will grow (see Table 3). For example, under a continuation of current demographic behaviour (Scenario A) the proportion under age 15 will fall from 41 percent today to 34 percent in 2000 and to 27 percent in 2030. Under B, that proportion would drop even more dramatically, to 23 percent in 2030. On the other hand, the proportion of the population who are elderly—those 65 or older—would grow from being 6 percent of the population today to between 9 and 13 percent within 50 years under any of these four scenarios.

Together, then, changes in demographic behaviour, whether in the recent past, the present, or the future, are going to have a significant effect on the age composition of the Dominican population for many years to come. But proportional variations are far less important than numerical variations. The percent of youth

Figure 3: School-Age Population (5–14) in Dominica, 1980–2030



may fall but that does not necessarily mean that the number of youth will also decline. Similarly, while the percent elderly will rise, it does not indicate how many elderly persons there will be in the year 2030. A closer look at these various sectors of the population can give policymakers further guidance.

School Enrollment: The population between the ages of 5 and 14 serves as a surrogate for school enrollment, as most children in that age-group attend school, together with some proportion of older children. In 1980, the school-age population totaled 21,163. Except under Scenario D, that number would not be reached again over the next 50 years. (See Figure 3; for supporting data, see Appendix Table C.) By the year 2000 school enrollments would vary between 18,000 and

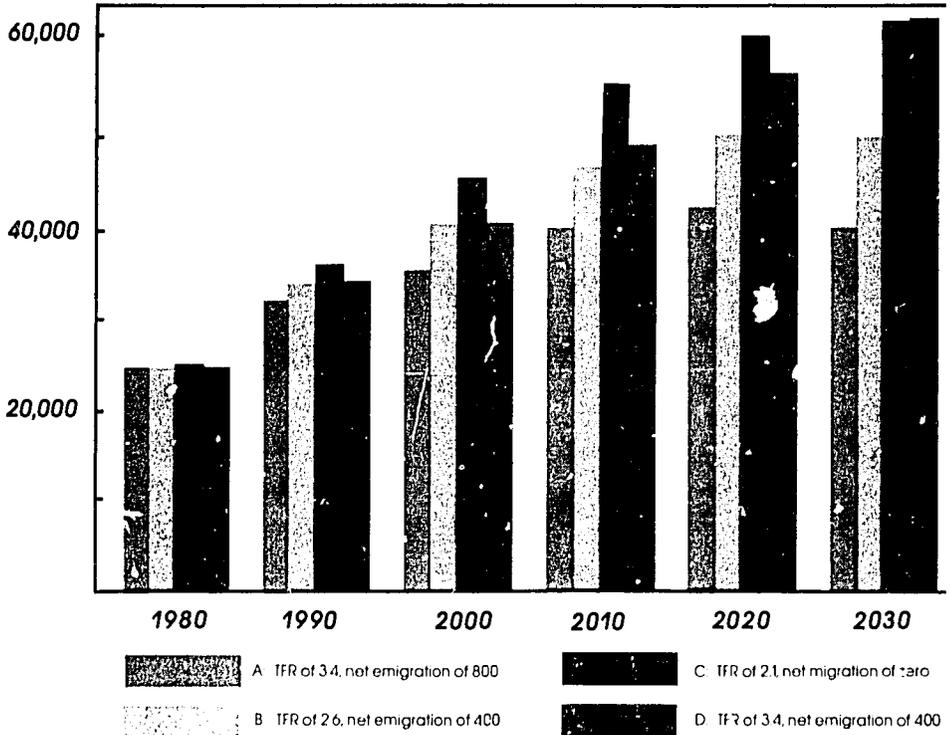
19,000 and in 2030, between 17,000 and 18,000.

To be sure, this would occur only under the assumptions governing Scenarios A, B, and C. Furthermore, it should be pointed out that under both net emigration assumptions (800 net per year and 400) a not insignificant number of children are expected to leave the country, probably with their parents. This last assumption may be somewhat overstated. But even if the emigration of children is reduced, it seems reasonable to conclude that total school enrollments in Dominica should remain quite stable for the foreseeable future.

Such stability could allow for both qualitative improvements in the lower levels and increases in the enrollments among adolescents.

Figure 4: Labour Force in Dominica, 1980–2030

Labour Force



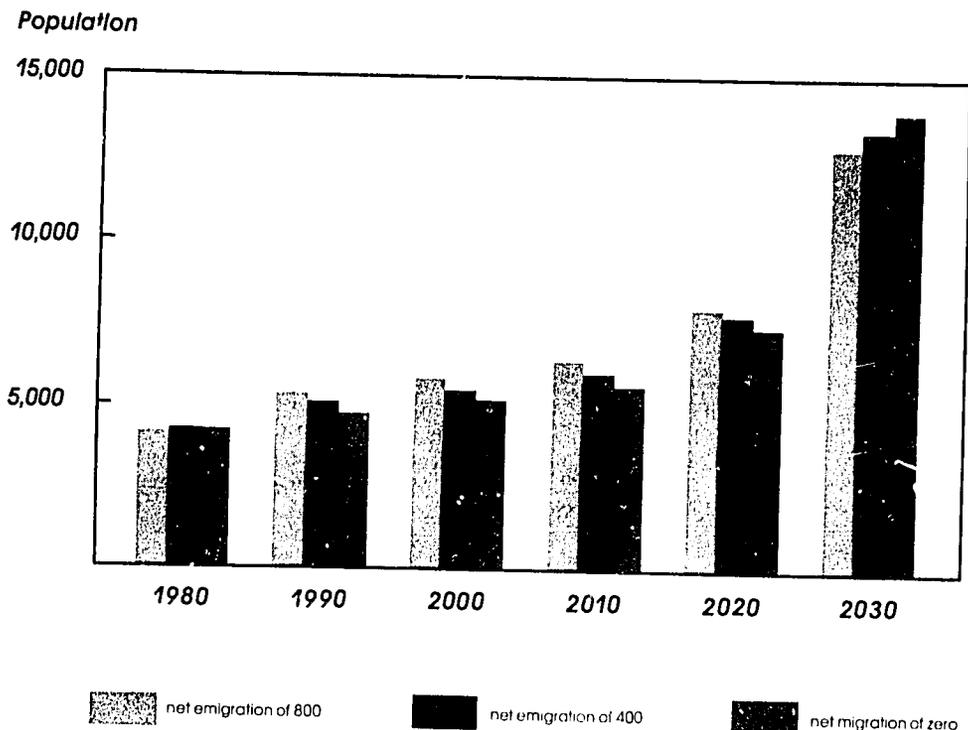
Labour Force: As is true in all other East Caribbean nations, the short-term prospects for employment are far from encouraging. Based on labour force participation rates prepared by the International Labour Office for the Leeward Islands, the total number of people working or looking for work in Dominica amounted to 25,136 in 1980. Given an estimated unemployment rate of about 15 percent, this means that 3,770 people were out of work but nonetheless in the labour force.

Under all the scenarios put forth in this report, the number of Dominicans in the labour force will increase substantially over at least the next two decades. (See Figure 4; for supporting data, see Appendix Table D.) In 1990 that number would reach 32,903 under Scenario A and 34,694 under Scenario B, the two most

likely future patterns of demographic behaviour. By the turn of the century another 3,500–6,000 would be added, resulting a labour force of 36,447 under Scenario A and 41,157 under B. This is considerably larger than the 25,136 people in the labour force in 1980. If unemployment remains at its current level of about 15 percent, it means that in 1990 some 5,000 persons would be unable to locate jobs; by 2000 that number could grow to 6,000.

Only well into the twenty-first century would the labour force tend to level off (except under Scenario D) and employment conditions improve somewhat. Such improvements would reflect the lower fertility of the last two decades of the twentieth century. Similarly, the awesome projections for the immediate future reflect the higher fertility of earlier years.

Figure 5: Elderly Population (65 or Older) in Dominica, 1980–2030



Despite continued emigration the number of persons entering the labour force will continue to grow for some time to come simply because the number of births was greater in the 1960s than in the 1970s and 1980s. Thus it is important to bear in mind that for the next 20 years these labour force projections are quite reliable. The people who will be looking for jobs in 1990 and 1995 are already born; only changes in migration can significantly affect how many job-seekers there will be in those years.

The Elderly: Most developing nations are so concerned with either excessive population growth or with problems associated with youth or the economy that little attention is given to the problems associated with a growing elderly population. Yet in many such countries, the cohorts

born before 1960 (whose fertility was high and whose death rates were falling) are large and, despite some reductions through mortality and emigration, will remain large when they become elderly sometime after 2020. This is as true in Dominica as it is in all the other East Caribbean nations.

Furthermore, in Dominica and elsewhere the situation is aggravated by the fact that while net emigration is assumed to continue, this does not mean that the elderly are leaving. Indeed, the opposite is true. The elderly (and near-elderly) tend to return to their homeland after having been away, sometimes for many decades. Thus, the higher net emigration was and is now, the larger the potential number of middle-age and elderly returnees.

In 1980 there were an estimated 4,200 persons 65 or older. Under three of the postulated demographic patterns, that number will increase by some 20 to 25 percent by 1990, when there will be over 5,000 elderly Dominicans. (See Figure 5; for supporting data, see Appendix Table E.) Scenario C is an exception as no migration is assumed. The number of elderly will continue to rise for the foreseeable future, to between 5,500 and 5,900 in 2000, and in 2030 Dominica's population will include some 13,000 elderly, three times as many as presently in the population.

As mentioned earlier, the proportion of the total population 65 or older will grow over the next 50 years from 6 to 13 percent. It is the translation of these rates into real numbers that is most meaningful for decision-making in the development of policy, however. The needs of the elderly are vastly different from those of the young. Health care can be quite expensive; dependency problems grow. Although the issue will not face Dominica for another 30–40 years, it may be appropriate to begin preparing now, for this situation will undoubtedly occur—the elderly of 2020 and 2030 are already born.

Conclusion: Dominica is in a favourable position demographically speaking as it faces the twenty-first century. However, this healthy status is tentative at best. Only if fertility does not rise and only if net emigration remains at its current high level can the nation be assured of a slow rate of growth, culminating in a zero-growth situation early in the next century. Any decrease in net emigration would have to be offset by substantial declines in fertility if the same end result of no growth is to be achieved.

Aside from sheer size, the nation's policymakers have to face a demographically founded problem soon in the large number of additions to the labour force. And within 30–40 years the size of the elderly population could become a significant issue.

In sum, every aspect of the Dominican population—its size as well as its composition; its fertility, mortality, and migration—must be continuously closely monitored and must be considered in governmental policymaking.

Appendices

Table A: Population and Crude Birth and Death Rates in Dominica, 1946–70

Year	Population	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Rate of Natural Increase
	(number)	(per 1,000 population)		(percent)
1946	47,630	36.2	20.9	1.5
1950	51,850*	35.9	18.4	1.8
1955	57,410*	44.8	15.3	3.0
1960	59,920	46.9	14.9	3.2
1970	69,549	39.0	10.0	2.9

*End of Year Estimates

Table B: Current and Projected Population of Dominica, 1980–2030

Scenario	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
A	72,311	78,899	86,387	91,165	94,485	96,767
B	72,311	82,521	91,710	100,129	104,792	110,980
C	72,311	86,682	98,431	110,794	121,242	128,789
D	72,311	83,880	98,937	114,032	131,143	149,622

A: TFR of 3.4, net emigration of 800

B: TFR of 2.6, net emigration of 400

C: TFR of 2.1, net migration of zero

D: TFR of 3.4, net migration of 400

Table C: Current and Projected School-Age Population (5–14) in Dominica, 1980–2030

Scenario	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
A	21,163	14,882	19,005	17,407	16,437	16,956
B	21,163	16,276	18,234	17,580	17,116	16,981
C	21,163	17,665	18,532	18,177	18,401	18,077
D	21,163	16,276	22,506	23,562	25,482	29,597

**Table D: Current and Projected Labour Force in
Dominica, 1980–2030**

Scenario	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
A	25,136	32,903	36,447	40,455	43,394	40,657
B	25,136	34,694	41,157	47,360	50,551	50,200
C	25,136	36,485	45,872	54,889	59,745	61,137
D	25,136	34,696	41,169	49,251	56,857	62,054

**Table E: Current and Projected Elderly Population
(65 or Older) in Dominica, 1980–2030**

Scenario	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
A	4,253	5,291	5,891	6,461	8,184	12,920
B and D	4,253	5,082	5,500	6,020	7,935	13,475
C	4,253	4,873	5,108	5,577	7,689	14,028

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