SCAG’s New Population Projection and Migration: What Are the Big Changes?

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SCAG Region

- 6 counties and 191 cities covering over 38,000 square miles (98,000 km²)
- Nearly 19 million people in 2015 – one of the most racially and ethnically diverse regions in the US.
- $1,005 billion of GRP and 8 million jobs - 16th largest economy in the World.
- Nation’s global gateway for trade
Questions

- How did this region grow compared to California and US historically? How will this region grow compared to California and US in the future?
3,530 people lived in the SCAG region in 1850. The region grew to nearly 8 million in 1960, and grew to around 19 million in 2015. In 2035, the region’s population will exceed 21 million. Nearly 3 million people will be added to the Region from 2014-2035.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1850</th>
<th>1910</th>
<th>1960</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2035</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCAG Region</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>7,824</td>
<td>14,641</td>
<td>18,052</td>
<td>18,729</td>
<td>21,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>2,378</td>
<td>15,717</td>
<td>29,760</td>
<td>37,254</td>
<td>38,803</td>
<td>45,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>23,192</td>
<td>92,228</td>
<td>179,323</td>
<td>248,710</td>
<td>308,746</td>
<td>318,857</td>
<td>370,338</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual Average Growth Rate of Population: 1850-2035

Over the last 160 years (1850-2010), the regional growth went through 4 periods: (1) very rapid growth, (2) rapid growth, (3) average growth, (4) slow growth, using statewide growth as a reference. The new projection shows a “slower” growth than 4th period (1990-2010) with an annual average growth rate of less than 1% in the future.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCAG Region</td>
<td>310.8%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions

- What is the regional population trend? What is the new regional population projection? What is the role of migration in the new regional population projection?
Since adding 3 million people to the SCAG region in the 1980s, the Region gradually experienced the relatively slow growth. Low population change is closely linked with economic recession. The new projection maintains the slower growth pattern.

Source: CA DOF, SCAG

Net migration made a significant contribution to population growth from 1975-1990, while it played a little role in population growth since 1990. This pattern continues in the new population projection. Net migration accounts for 4% of the additional 2.7 million people from 2015-2035.

Source: CA DOF, SCAG
Net immigration has leveled off since 1990. The immigration hit the lowest level during 2010-2014. Although immigration is expected to be back to the higher, but moderate level, more SCAG residents move out of the region than people moving from other regions in US from 2015-2035.
The shape of the population pyramid gradually evolves over time based on fertility, mortality, and migration trends. The new projection reflects lower fertility and mortality rates in 2035. The proportion of older people (age 65+) significantly increases, while the proportion of younger people declines.
With an increasing proportion of older people (age 65+), the old-age dependency ratio (age 65+/age 16-64), measuring the number of older people as a share of those of working age, increases from 16.5% in 2010 to 28.4% in 2035.
The SCAG region is one of the most ethnically diverse regions in the nation. Hispanic population will become the majority in the region in 2035. Asian population will show the fastest growth among racial/ethnic groups. The proportion of White and Black populations will continue to decline.
Questions

- What are the big changes in 2016 population projection, when compared with 2008 population projection?
  - What is the newly projected population for 2035?
  - How much does migration account for the population growth differential (2015-2035)?
  - How about demographic characteristics?
The new population projection for year 2035 is 21.5 million, which is 2.6 million (11%) lower than that of Proj08.
2035 Median Age, SCAG Region:
Proj08 vs. Proj16

Source: SCAG
2035 Population by Race/Ethnicity, SCAG Region: Proj08 vs. Proj16

Source: SCAG
The growth differential for 2015-2035 between Proj08 and Proj16 is 890,000, which means 25% reduction of population growth for 2015-2035 from Proj08.
Components of Population Growth 2015-2035, SCAG Region: Proj08 vs. Proj16

The new projection is lower, mainly due to births and immigration. Immigration accounted for 71% of the growth differentials of 890,000.

Unit: Thousands. Source: SCAG
Components of Population Growth 2015-2035, SCAG Region: Proj08 vs. Proj16

Source: SCAG
Contribution of Net Migration to the Reduction of Population Growth (2015-2035) from Proj08

Net migration accounts for 44% of the growth differentials of 890,000.

Source: SCAG
Regional employment is a driving force of regional population growth. Employment is linked to population through migration, in particular, domestic migration.

The new employment projection for 2035 was reduced from the 2008 employment projection by 739,000 (7.2%).

The great recession generated a shock for births and migration. After the great recession, net migration showed a reversal, while births continued to decline, from 2010-2014.

The new population projection will be lower, mainly due to births and immigration, along with lower employment projection.
What are the Big Changes after the Great Recession?

- The SCAG region will grow at a “slower pace”. This seems normal from the long term and national/state perspectives.
- The Region will add nearly 3 million people by 2035. Natural increase and immigration will be the major components of population growth.
- When compared with 2008 population projection, the new 2016 population projection has the following demographic characteristics:
  - The projected population size is smaller
  - The proportion of the older population is higher.
  - The proportion of children is lower.
  - The number of new immigrants is smaller.
  - The racial and ethnic change is slower.
Thank You!

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