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established fact that a least-squares regression is an unbiased estimate of the dependent variable. For example, it gives unbiased estimates of expected prices associated with given, or assumed, values of marketings, consumer income, etc. Usually this is what the practical economist and statistician wants.

But these are minor differences of opinion. Shepherd's fifth edition—like the previous four editions—is a good, well-written, interesting book on a difficult, but important, subject.

Frederick V. Waugh

Human Resources of Central America, Panama and Mexico, 1950-1980, in Relation to Some Aspects of Economic Development

By Louis J. Ducoff. United Nations, Economic Commission for Latin America, New York. 155 pages. 1960. \$2.00.

THE AUTHOR STATES: "The major purpose of this study is to make a broad comparative survey of current and future trends in population, labor force and related socioeconomic conditions, as an aid to the programming of economic development in the countries of the region, and the implementation of Central American economic integration policy."

The report consists of 6 chapters including text, 87 tables, 19 maps and figures plus a statistical appendix of 51 tables. The recent demographic situation is inventoried in terms of population density and composition and such items as social and cultural characteristics, education, and marital status. The distribution and growth rates of both rural and urban population are reviewed. The major determinants of future population trends, birth and death rates, are reviewed, and deficiencies in the basic data concerning these two factors are noted.

Low, medium, and high rates of population increase are assumed for projection purposes. For each rate, projections are made for each country by 5-year periods up to 1980, and are broken down by sex by age groups. Rural and urban projected populations are broken down by age groups but only for the medium rate.

Projections are made to give an indication of the probable labor force under certain conditions.

Country projections (medium rate) by 5-year intervals to 1980 are made of the economically active labor force by agricultural and nonagricultural activities by sex. The projected labor force (medium and high rates) is also classified by sex by age groups. The 1950 labor force is broken down by sex within industry groups. Labor force participation rates are given by age and sex for 1950 and 1980. Replacement rates and ratios are presented by provinces and departments to show the excess male labor supply in the 1950-60 decade and to point out the urgency for creating job opportunities in the present and following decades.

Using the "medium" assumption of population increase as a base, rates of growth in real national product required to maintain levels of living by 1980 are projected.

Future school age population is projected and the attending needs in the way of nutrition, recreation, housing, and health and educational facilities are mentioned.

The land requirements for a rapidly increasing farm labor supply are pointed out and attention is called to the fact that a large percentage of the present farmland is in relatively few hands. A brief reference to the land situation barely touches on one of the major problems of economic development, land reform. In addition to this problem many others related to economic development will come to the reader's mind. The author has adhered closely to his stated objective and left related problems to the specialists and planners.

The author has accomplished a formidable task in bringing together demographic data for the area and presenting it in forms useful in economic planning. In common with many other types of data for underdeveloped countries, the basic demographic data have shortcomings, and these are acknowledged by the author. They detract from some of the analyses made, but the procedures demonstrated represent useful tools.

Granted that many of the projections are based on arbitrary assumptions, they do provide some valuable guidelines on future population trends. These may be used for points of departure by planners who may wish to refine and revise specific data for their own particular area of interest. They provide a valuable base which may be updated with 1960 census data and other material. Students and planners interested in Central America will find in this thought-provoking report both

profitable reading and a valuable reference. It should be useful for orientation purposes in an area that continues to experience a population explosion in a period when great efforts are being made to improve health, education, and economic opportunities.

James L. Paschal