# *Demographic implications of recent shifts in China's fertility policy*

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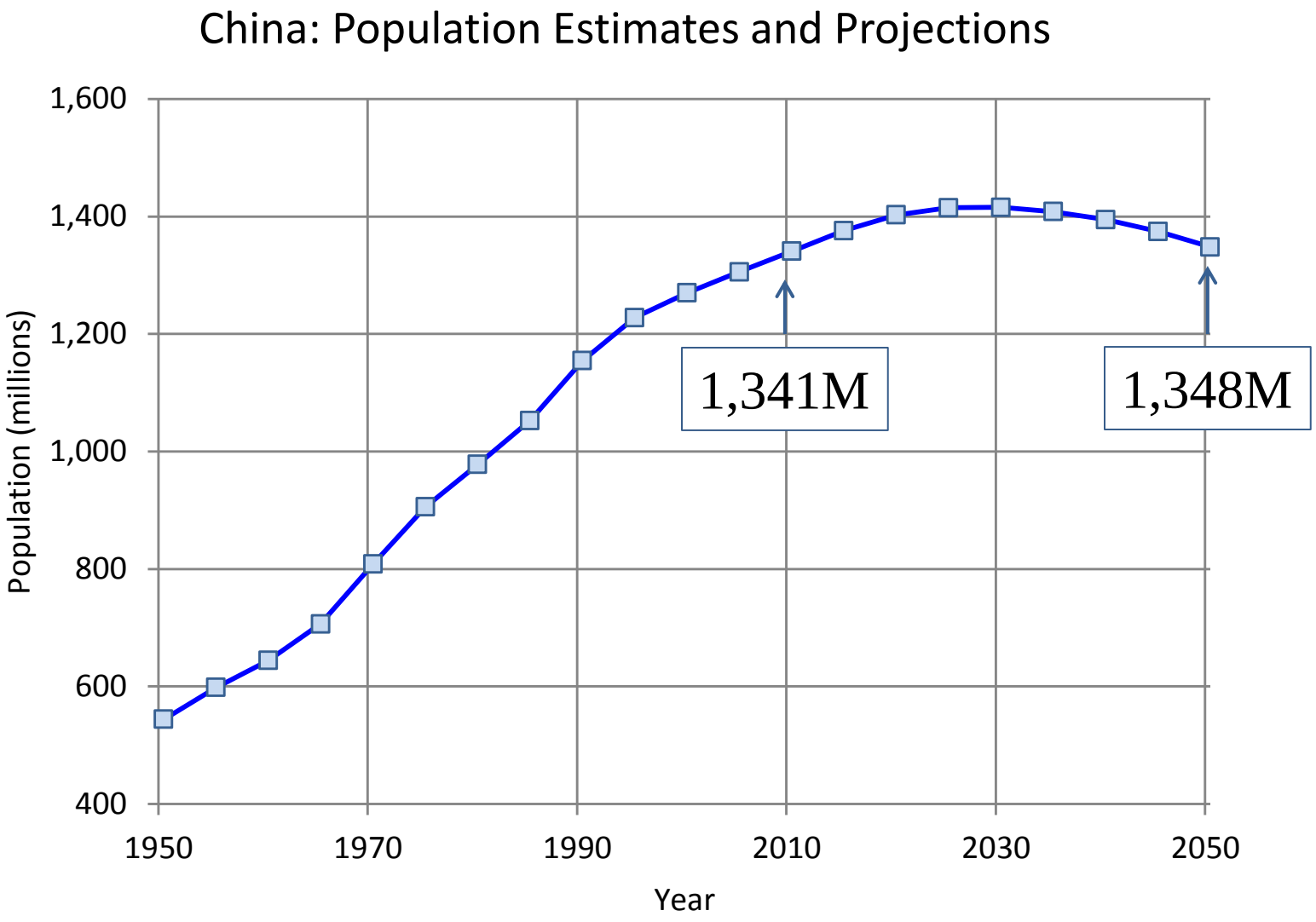
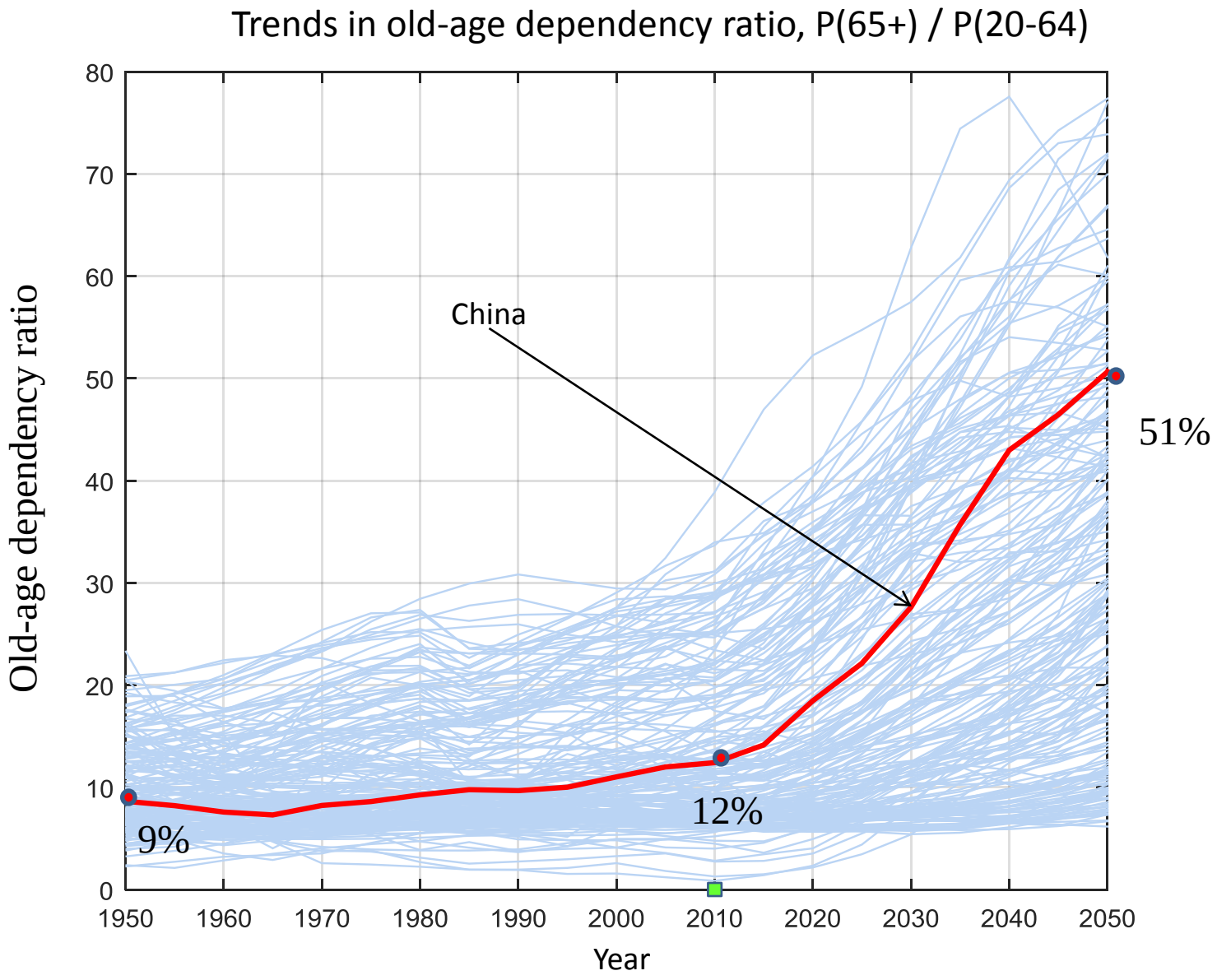



Source: Medium projection variant, the 2015 Revision of World Population Prospects

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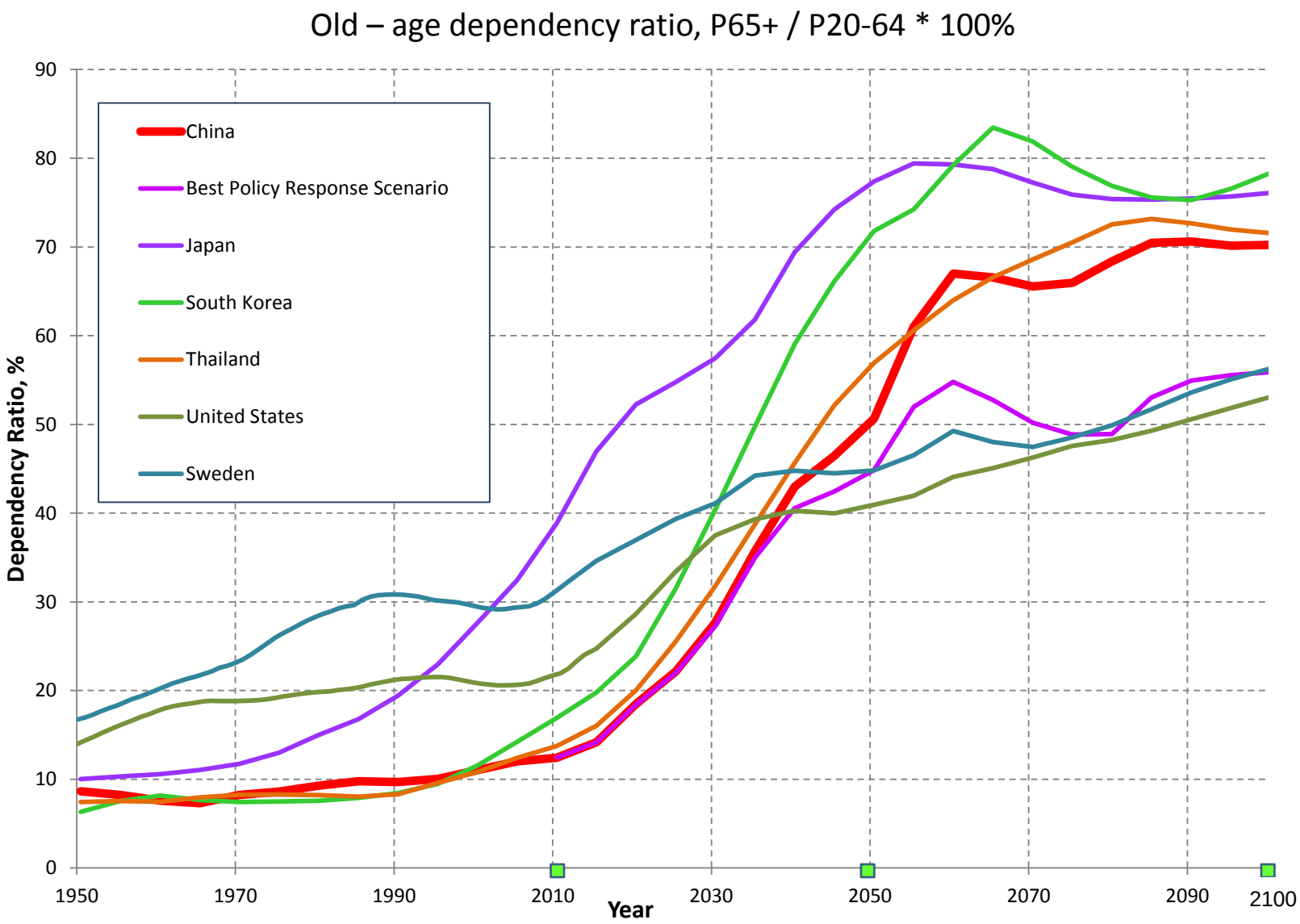
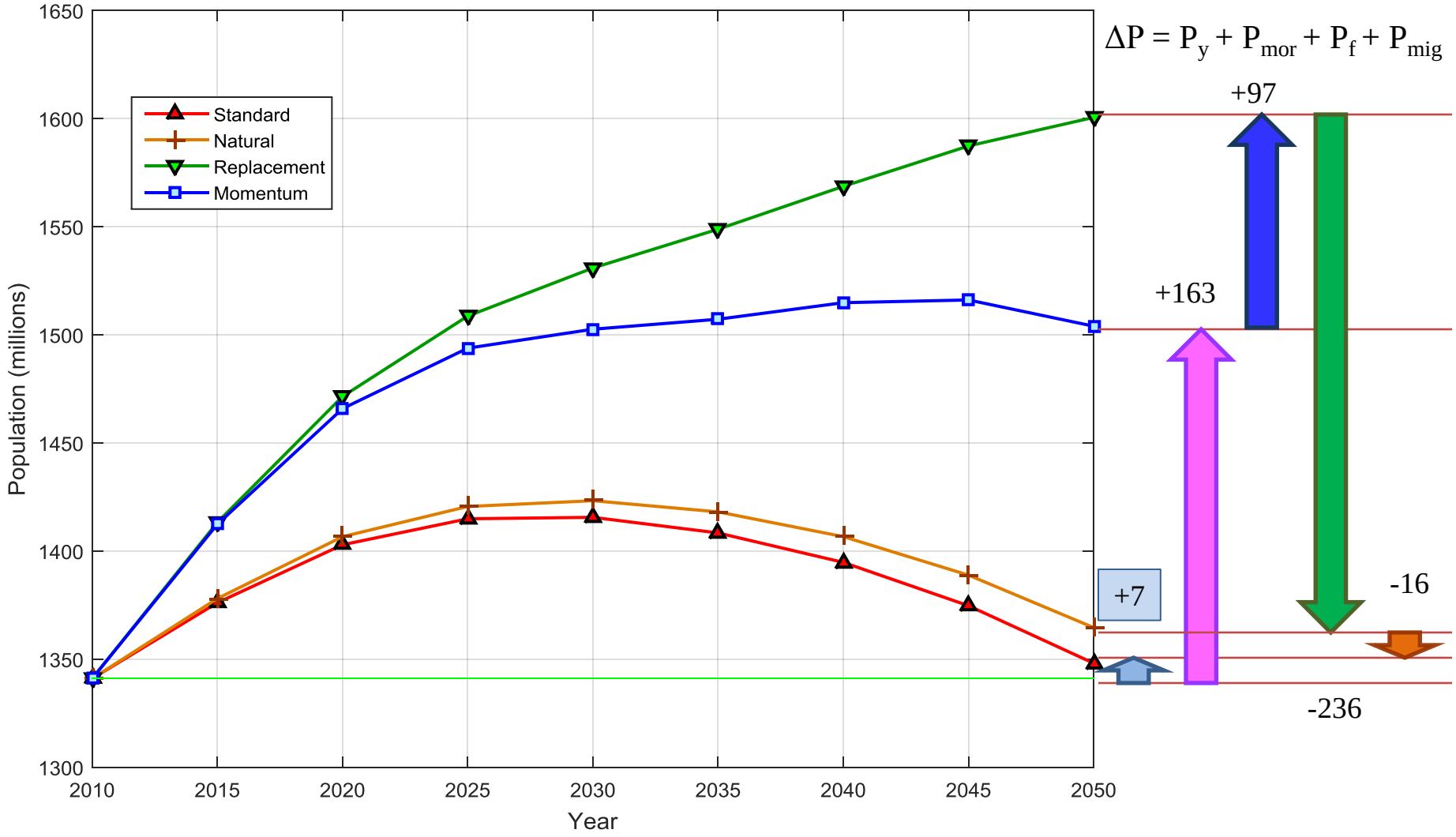
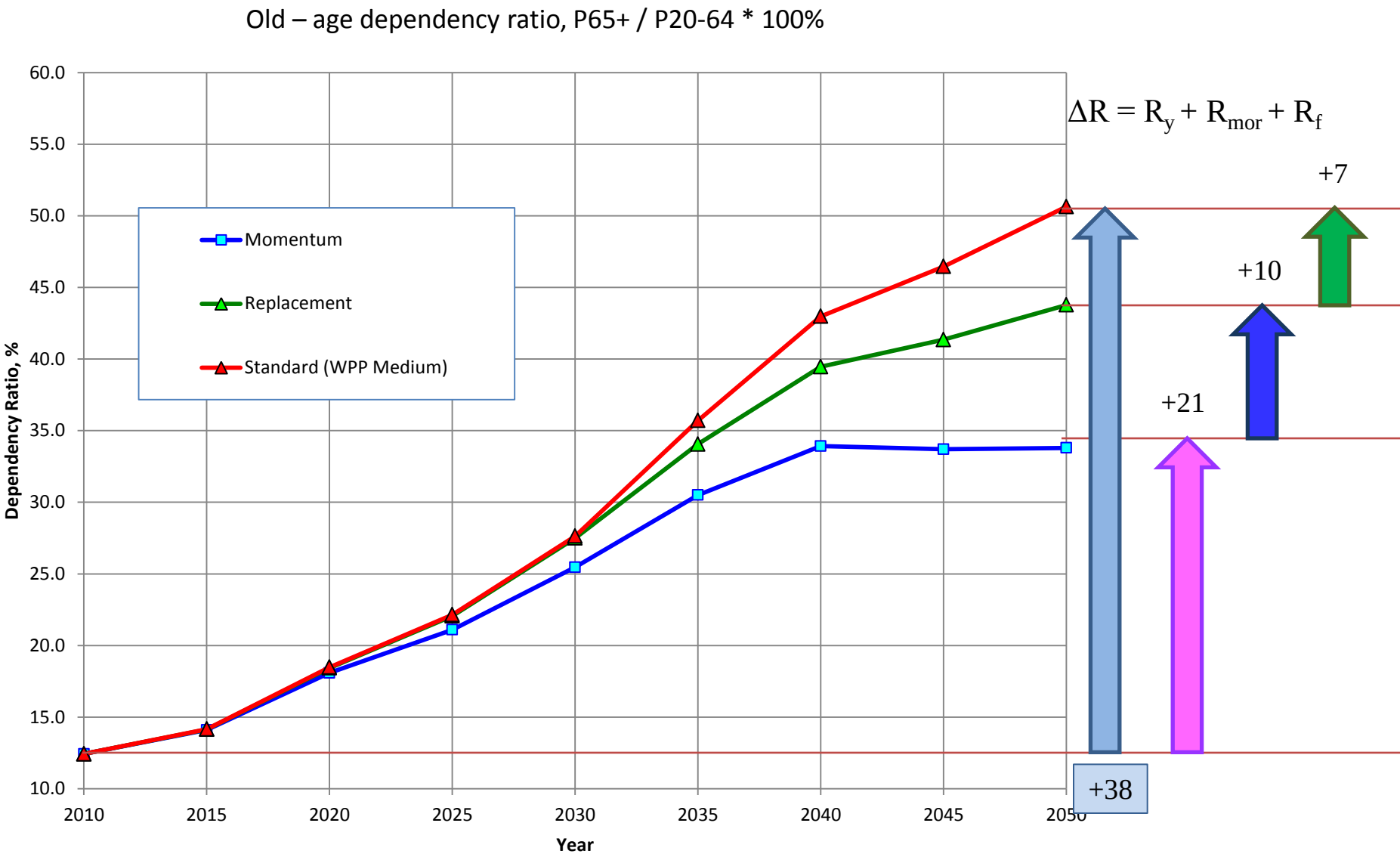

Old – age dependency ratio, P65+ / P20-64 * 100%
Dependency Ratio, %
Year
China
Best Policy Response Scenario
Japan
South Korea
Thailand
United States
Sweden
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
1950
1970
1990
2010
2030
2050
2070
2090
2100

What demographic components are mainly responsible for China’s total population change and increase in the old-age dependency ratio?

# China: Total population




Methodology: Andreev, K., Kantorová, V., Bongaarts, J. Demographic Components of Future Population Growth. Technical Paper no. 2013/3, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, New York, 2013

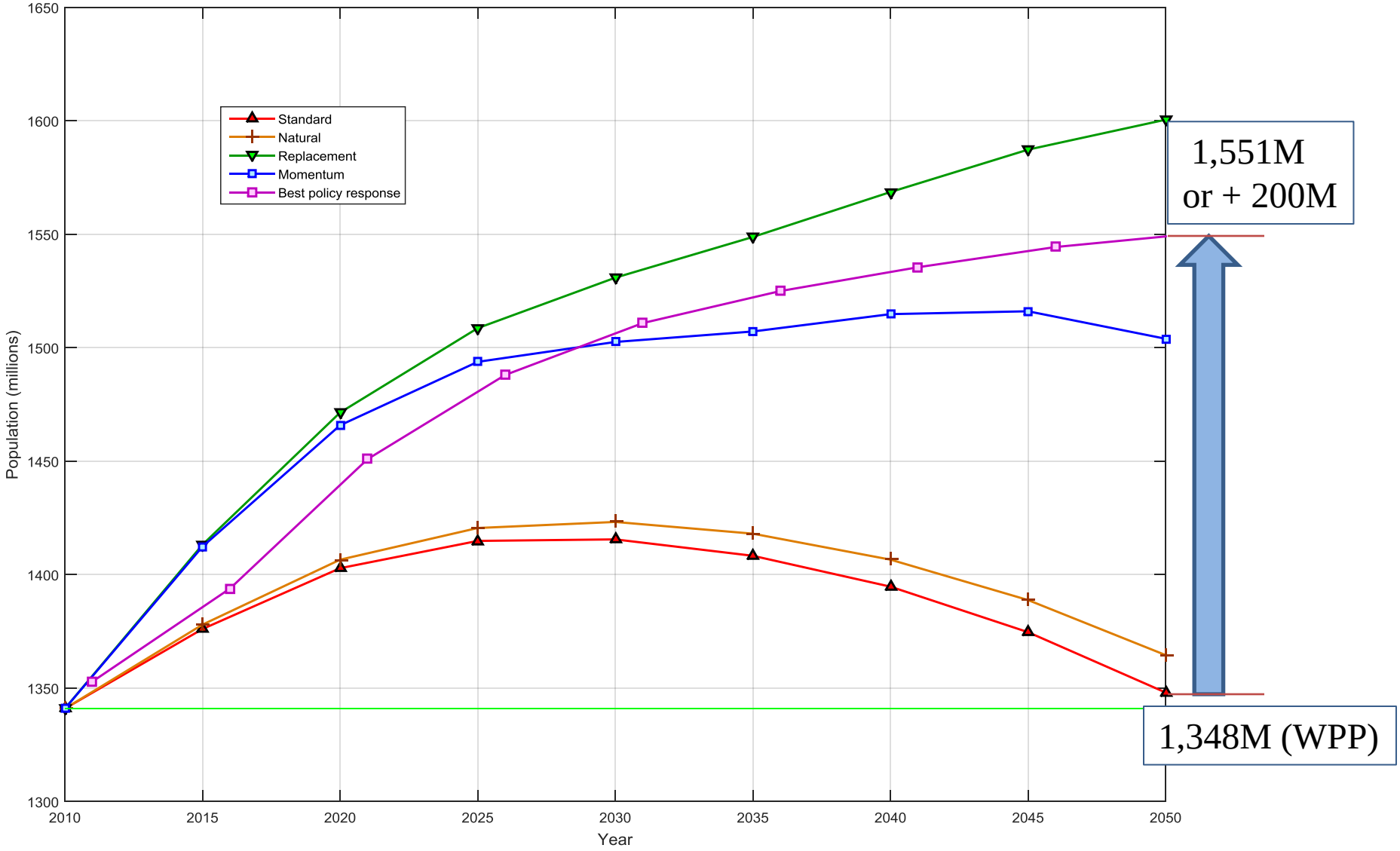

Old – age dependency ratio, P65+ / P20-64 * 100%
ΔR = R_y + R_mor + R_f
+7
+10
+21
+38
Momentum
Replacement
Standard (WPP Medium)
Dependency Ratio, %
Year
60.0
55.0
50.0
45.0
40.0
35.0
30.0
25.0
20.0
15.0
10.0
2010
2015
2020
2025
2030
2035
2040
2045
2050

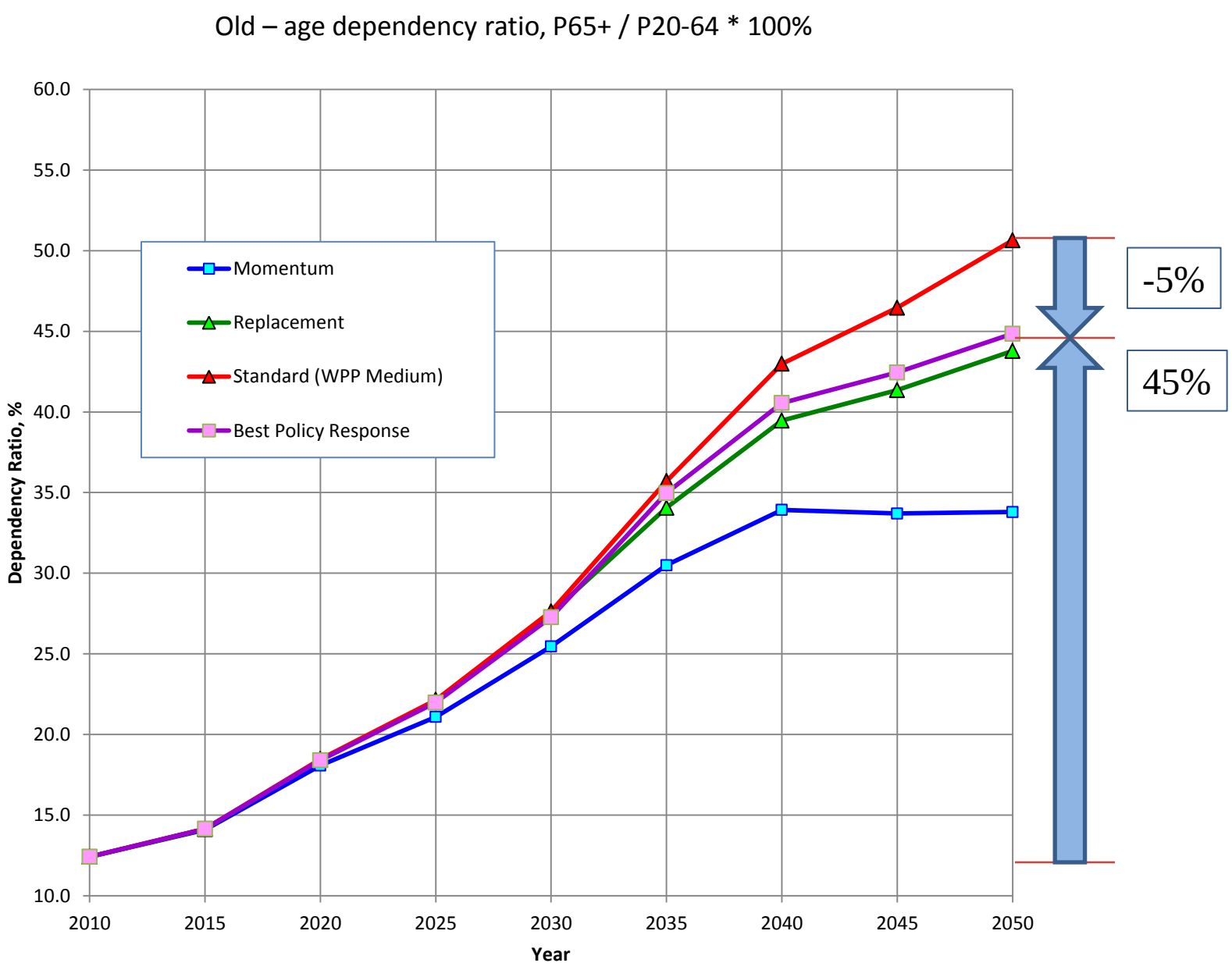
# How responsive are total population and the old-age dependency ratio to changes in fertility?

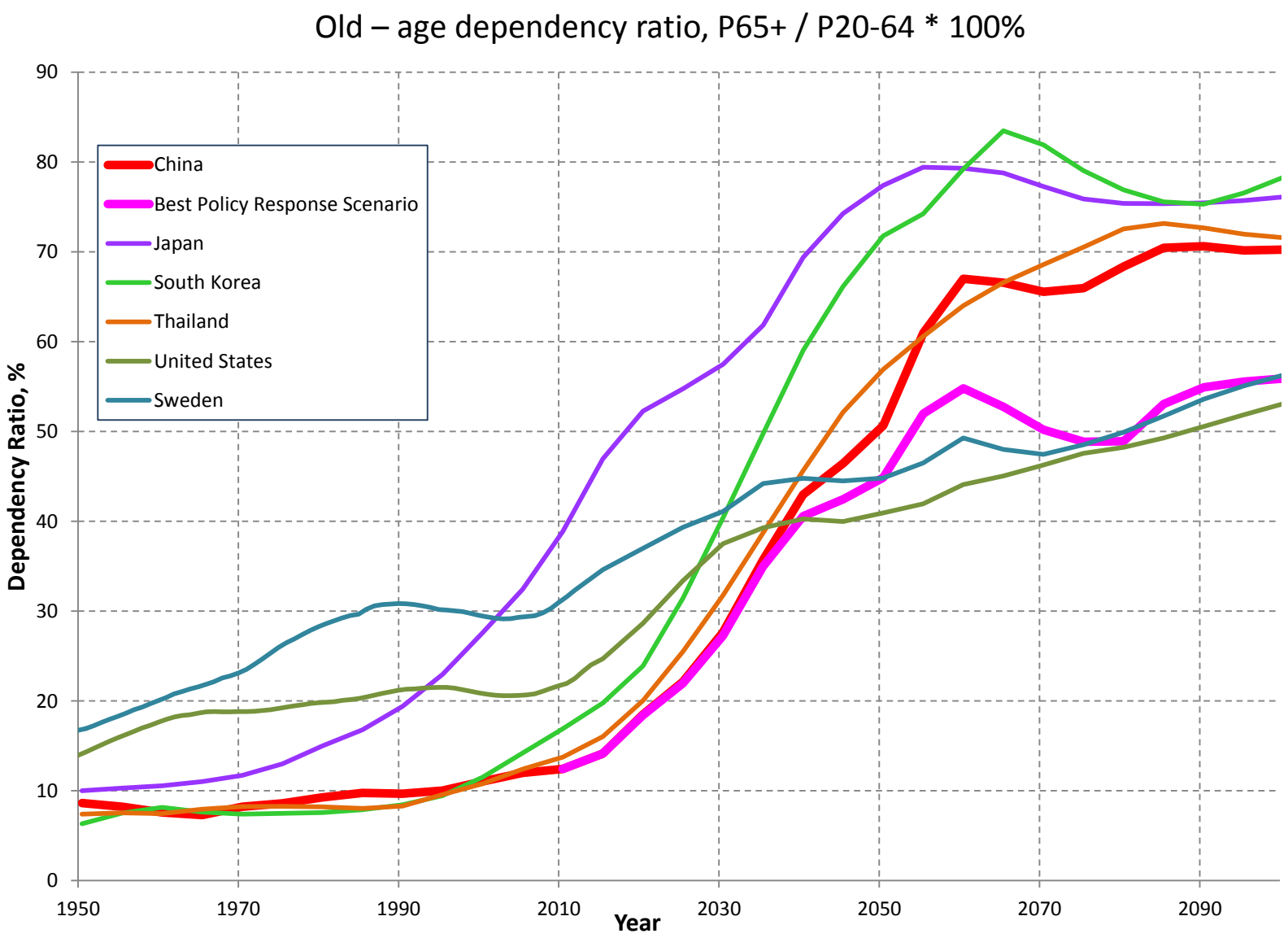
- "Best policy response" scenario assumes:
  - Fertility estimates from 2000 adjusted upwards
  - Replacement-level fertility from 2015

- "Best policy response" scenario produces:
  - Upper bound of total population projection
  - Lower bound of old-age dependency ratio

# China: Projection of Total Population including the Best Policy Response Scenario




Old – age dependency ratio, P65+ / P20-64 * 100%
Momentum
Replacement
Standard (WPP Medium)
Best Policy Response
Dependency Ratio, %
Year
60.0
55.0
50.0
45.0
40.0
35.0
30.0
25.0
20.0
15.0
10.0
2010
2015
2020
2025
2030
2035
2040
2045
2050
-5%
45%


Old – age dependency ratio, P65+ / P20-64 * 100%
Dependency Ratio, %
Year
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
1950
1970
1990
2010
2030
2050
2070
2090
China
Best Policy Response Scenario
Japan
South Korea
Thailand
United States
Sweden

# Conclusions

- China has begun a rapid acceleration in population ageing: over next 40 years the old-age dependency ratio (OADR) projected to increase from 12% to 50%.

- Population momentum (+21%) and mortality decline (+10%) are the largest two factors responsible for increases in OADR.

- Fertility below replacement accounts only for 7% of this increase.

# Conclusions (continued)

- Total population of China is affected more than old-age dependency ratio by possible future increases in fertility.

- Under a “best policy response” scenario:
  - total population will increase reaching 1.55 billion people by 2050 (or by about 15% of the 2010 population) – an upper bound of scenarios of future population change.

  - old-age dependency ratio will decline by about 5%, from 55% to 45% -- likely the largest decline in OADR that could take place (alternative scenarios will produce smaller declines in OADR).