

SURVEY OF HISTORICAL DATABASES WITH LONGITUDINAL MICRO-DATA

For more information about this questionnaire or questions about entering specific information, please mail George Alter (alter@indiana.edu) and/or Kees Mandemakers (kma@iisg.nl).

1/ Identifying information

Name of database:	Historical Database of the Liège Region
Location:	Indiana University & University of Geneva
Web-address:	Planned July 2006
Name contact person:	George Alter & Michel Oris
Email-address contact person:	alter@indiana.edu & Michel.Oris@histec.unige.ch
Postal Address:	George Alter Population Institute 408 North Indiana Indiana University Bloomington, IN 47408 USA Department of Economic History Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences University of Genève 40 boulevard du Pont d'Arve Ch-1211 Genève 4 Switzerland
Tel. number:	1-812-855-5631

2/ Main objective and scope of the database:

Historical demography of the Liège region including studies of fertility, mortality, marriage and migration. Areas of special interest have been effects of early life conditions on adult mortality and the transition to low fertility.

3/ Sources: Please enter Yes or No and the time period for the main sources included in the database

Yes /no	Start year	End year	Type of source	Comments
N			Baptisms	

N			Marriages from church registers	
N			Burials	
N			Population registers (continuous) maintained by a church	
Y	1806	1900	Civil birth certificates	
Y	1806	1900	Civil marriage certificates	
Y	1806	1900	Civil death certificates	
Y	1846	1900	Civil population registers	
N			Census	
Y	1806	1846	Nominative lists	Availability varies among communities
Y			Other: Tax registers	Availability varies among communities
Y			Other: Cadastre	Availability varies among communities
Y			Other: Military conscription lists	These lists include almost all males at age 19 or 20 with occupations and heights.
Y/N			Other:	

4/ How was the sample (or samples) defined?

We include all persons in most of the communities in the database. The database for Verviers consists of all persons whose surname begins with "B" and anyone living in the household of a person in the sample.

5/ Units of observation:

Please enter Y or N for each unit that can be followed over time

		Comments:
Y	Individuals	The Verviers sample only follows individuals.
Y	Married couples	This is possible but linkage is by individual.
N	Families	This is possible but linkage is by individual.
N	Households	This is possible but linkage is by individual.

N	Farms	
Y/N	Other:	
Y/N	Other:	
Y/N	Other:	

6/ Describe the geographic area under observation

All data is collected by commune (an administrative unit) in the Province of Liège. Data has been collected on the communes of Bettincourt, Clermont, Charneux, Huy, Limbourg, Neufchateau, Polleur, Sart, Seraing, Tilleur, and Verviers. Samples differ in time period covered, and linkage over time is not complete in some samples.

7/ Is information available about related individuals who are not in the sample?

Examples:

Marriage registers often include occupations of parents.
A population register sample may include everyone in the household of an individual in the sample.

In Verviers, where we have taken a letter sample, we include all persons in the household of a person in the sample. Other samples are complete within geographic areas.

Some samples include vital registers (marriages, deaths) with information on parents, who may have been deceased at the time the information was recorded.

8/ What events can be identified? Do events have dates?

Y/N	Event	Are these events dated? Y/N/P(= partial dates, e.g. year only)	
Y	Birth	Y	Comment:
Y	Marriage	Y	Comment:
Y	Death	Y	Comment:
Y	Migration	Y	Comment:
Y	Other: Change of address	P	Comment:
Y/N	Other:	Y/N/P	Comment:
Y/N	Other:	Y/N/P	Comment:

9/ These questions describe the way observation is censored.

A) How do individuals enter observation?

Observation begins in three ways:

1. a record in a nominative list, usually derived from a census.
2. birth
3. migration into the commune

B) How do individuals leave observation?

1. death
2. out-migration
3. censored by the end of the last population register in a series

C) Are some entry or exit dates unknown?

Yes. About 10 to 30 percent of life histories end without an explicit date of exit. We can usually verify that out-migration occurred by checking the next population register.

D) Are some entries or exits interval censored (i.e. the exact date is unknown, but it can be located between two known dates)?

Yes. When an exit date is not available, we can identify the interval in which the exit occurred, because of regular censuses.

10/ Residence and Household (Y/N/Partly)

Y	Can observations be linked to residential locations?
P	Are the dates and locations of movements within the observation area recorded?
Y	Are all individuals who lived in the households of members of the sample recorded?

11/ Kinship relations

A) How is kinship recorded in the sources?

Most of our population registers do not record kinship, but they often provide useful information. For example, widows are often listed with both maiden name and surname of deceased spouse. We can determine kinship from birth, death, and marriage records.

B) How deep (number of generations) is the available kinship information?

This varies by duration of the population registers. In Sart, where the population registers begin in 1812 and end in 1899, we have 259 pairs of a child with a great-great-grandparent, and 20 pairs of a child with a great-great-great-grandparent.

12/ Linkage

Which sources and units of observation have been linked?		
	Y/N/Partly	Comments:
Births/Baptisms	P	
Marriages	P	
Deaths/Burials	P	
Population registers	Y	
Census	N	
Nominative lists	Y	
Other: Tax lists	P	
Other: Military conscription lists	P	
Other:	Y/N/P	
Other:	Y/N/P	

How is linkage represented in the database? For example, do all occurrences of an individual include a universal identification number? Are records linked to each other but not to a universal ID?

We link the records from population registers by linking each record to the next (in time) record for the same person. Thus, each linked record has a record ID and the ID of the next record, if it has been linked. We consider the first ID in a sequence to be a universal identification number for a person. Other types of records (births, deaths, marriages, taxes, etc.) are linked to an ID in a population register.

13 / What data structures have been added to the information in the sources?

		Comments:
Y	Date of entry and date of exit by individual	
Y	Events by individual	
Y	Time constant information (date of birth, sex, etc.) by individual	
Y	Husband-Wife pairs	
Y	Mother-child and Father-child pairs	
Y/N	Other:	

14/ What reference/coding systems have been linked to the data?	
N	Occupational titles (like HISCO):
P	Locations (including geo-referenced systems): We have a list of locations in Belgium with XY coordinates.
N	Other (religion, civil status etc.):
Y/N	Other:
Y/N	Other:
Y/N	Other:
15/ Have you developed any software for analysis or data extracting? Please describe the capabilities and outputs of these programs.	
None of our software is designed for use by others.	