

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Evaluating the Nonlinear Population-Economic Growth Nexus in MENA Countries

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ABSTRACT

The relation between population growth and economic growth is a complex one, and the historical quantitative evidence is ambiguous. This study contributes to the population-economic growth literature by interrogating whether the relationship is monotonic or if a turning point exists. Using panel data on a sample of 19 MENA countries from 1965 to 2018 and deploying the PSCE and FGLS techniques, the results reveal inter alia: (1) A U-shaped relation exists; (2) Unemployment and financial development are negative predictors of economic growth; and (3) Trade and inflation rate are positive predictors. Policy recommendations are discussed.

KEYWORDS

Economic growth; Population growth; MENA; Nonlinear

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