

Journal Contents

SEARCH

Current Volume

Volumes

Articles

Special Collections

General Information

About the Journal

Information for Authors

Copyright Information

Register for e-mail alerts

Submit a Paper

Overview Chapter 1: Fertility in Europe Diverse, delayed and below replacement

Tomas Frejka
Tomáš Sobotka

VOLUME 19 - ARTICLE 3

PAGES 15 - 46

Date Received: 23 Apr 2007

Date Published: 1 Jul 2008

<http://www.demographic-research.org/volumes/vol19/3/>

- ▶ [Bookmark this page](#)
- ▶ [Send this article to a friend](#)



Click the icon to view and/or download the PDF file.

Once you are in the PDF file, use your browser back button to return to this page.

Abstract

Early in the 21st century, three-quarters of Europe's population lived in countries with fertility considerably below replacement. This general conclusion is arrived at irrespective of whether period or cohort fertility measures are used. In Western and Northern Europe, fertility quantum was slightly below replacement. In Southern, Central and Eastern Europe, fertility quantum as measured by the period total fertility rate (TFR) and its tempo-adjusted version was markedly below replacement; in many countries it was around 1.5, and in some populations it was as low as 1.3 to 1.4 births per woman. Throughout Europe, a historic transformation of childbearing patterns characterised by a pronounced delay of entry into parenthood has been taking place. This secular trend towards later childbearing has greatly contributed to the decline and fluctuations in period fertility rates. Delayed births were being recuperated, especially among childless women, but the extent of recuperation differs by country and region. All in all, despite a recent upward trend in the period TFR, European fertility early in the 21st century was at its lowest point since the Second World War.

Author's affiliation

[Tomas Frejka](#)

Independent researcher, International

[Tomáš Sobotka](#)

Vienna Institute of Demography, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria

Keywords

childbearing, Europe, fertility

Related links



You will find all publications in this Special Collection "Childbearing Trends and Policies in Europe" at <http://www.demographic-research.org/special/7/>

Word count (Main text)

7337












Other Articles by the same author/authors (in *Demographic Research*)








[19-14] [Czech Republic: A rapid transformation of fertility and family behaviour after the collapse of state socialism](#)



[19-12] [Austria: Persistent low fertility since the mid-1980s](#)

-  [19-9] Overview Chapter 7: The rising importance of migrants for childbearing in Europe
-  [19-8] Overview Chapter 6: The diverse faces of the Second Demographic Transition in Europe
-  [19-7] Overview Chapter 5: Determinants of family formation and childbearing during the societal transition in Central and Eastern Europe
-  [19-6] Overview Chapter 4: Changing family and partnership behaviour: Common trends and persistent diversity across Europe
-  [19-5] Overview Chapter 3: Birth regulation in Europe: Completing the contraceptive revolution
-  [19-4] Overview Chapter 2: Parity distribution and completed family size in Europe: Incipient decline of the two-child family model
-  [19-2] Summary and general conclusions: Childbearing Trends and Policies in Europe
-  [16-11] Cohort birth order, parity progression ratio and parity distribution trends in developed countries
-  [15-6] First birth trends in developed countries: Persisting parenthood postponement
-  [8-6] Tempo-quantum and period-cohort interplay in fertility changes in Europe: Evidence from the Czech Republic, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden
-  [5-5] Cohort Reproductive Patterns in the Nordic Countries

Most recent Similar Articles (in *Demographic Research*)

-  [19-29] Ukraine: On the border between old and new in uncertain times (fertility, childbearing)
-  [19-28] Sweden: Combining childbearing and gender equality (Europe, childbearing)
-  [19-27] Spain: Short on children and short on family policies (Europe, childbearing)
-  [19-26] Slovenia: Generous family policy without evidence of any fertility impact (Europe, childbearing)
-  [19-25] Slovakia: Fertility between tradition and modernity (fertility, childbearing)

[[Back to previous page](#)]