

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

Summary and general conclusions: Childbearing Trends and Policies in Europe

Tomas Frejka
Tomáš Sobotka
Jan M. Hoem
Laurent Toulemon

VOLUME 19 - ARTICLE 2
PAGES 5 - 14

Date Received: 6 Jun 2008
Date Published: 1 Jul 2008

<http://www.demographic-research.org/volumes/vol19/2/>

- ▶ [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

European fertility early in the 21st century was at its lowest level since the Second World War. This study explores contemporary childbearing trends and policies in Europe, and gives detailed attention to the past two or three decades. We felt motivated to undertake this project because in many European countries, as well as for the European Union as a whole, the overall fertility level and its consequences are of grave concern and draw attention on the political stage. Our account focuses somewhat more on the previously state socialist countries of Central and Eastern Europe, where available knowledge about the impact on childbearing of the momentous political and economic transition that started in 1989 remains relatively scarce. As family formation and childbearing behaviour are inherent components of societal life, they were influenced and modified by the various political, economic, and social changes that took place in Europe during the past 60 years. There were also profound changes in norms, values, beliefs, and attitudes regarding family and childbearing, and these exerted additional effects on fertility and family trends. To identify such effects, this study pays much attention to the influence of social and family policies on fertility, to the influence of political and economic changes on fertility and family trends, and to the diverse ways changes in values, norms, and attitudes relate to the transformation in family-related behaviour in Europe. In the present chapter, we outline main issues discussed in the subsequent overview chapters, and summarise the main findings of the entire study.

Author's affiliation

[Tomas Frejka](#)
Independent researcher, International
[Tomáš Sobotka](#)
Vienna Institute of Demography, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria
[Jan M. Hoem](#)
Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany
[Laurent Toulemon](#)
Institut national d'études démographiques, France

Keywords

[childbearing](#), [Europe](#)

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)

3000

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

-  [19-16] France: High and stable fertility
-  [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
-  [19-10] Overview Chapter 8: The impact of public policies on European fertility
-  [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
-  [19-3] Overview Chapter 1: Fertility in Europe: Diverse, delayed and below replacement
-  [19-1] Preface: Childbearing Trends and Policies in Europe
-  [18-21] Marriage formation as a process intermediary between migration and childbearing
-  [18-15] The reporting of statistical significance in scientific journals: A reflexion
-  [17-14] Generations and Gender Survey (GGG): Towards a Better Understanding of Relationships and Processes in the Life Course
-  [16-11] Cohort birth order, parity progression ratio and parity distribution trends in developed countries
-  [15-17] Anticipatory analysis and its alternatives in life-course research: Part 2: Marriage and first birth
-  [15-16] Anticipatory analysis and its alternatives in life-course research: Part 1: Education and first childbearing
-  [15-6] First birth trends in developed countries: Persisting parenthood postponement
-  [14-16] Educational attainment and ultimate fertility among Swedish women born in 1955-59
-  [14-15] Education and childlessness: The relationship between educational field, educational level, and childlessness among Swedish women born in 1955-59
-  [14-4] Social differentials in speed-premium effects in childbearing in Sweden
-  [13-22] Why does Sweden have such high fertility?
-  [11-15] Childbearing patterns for Swedish mothers of twins, 1961-1999
-  [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*)

-  [19-28] 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)

 [19-24] Russian Federation: From the first to second demographic transition (Europe, childbearing)

 [19-23] Romania: Childbearing metamorphosis within a changing context (Europe, childbearing)

[[Back to previous page](#)]