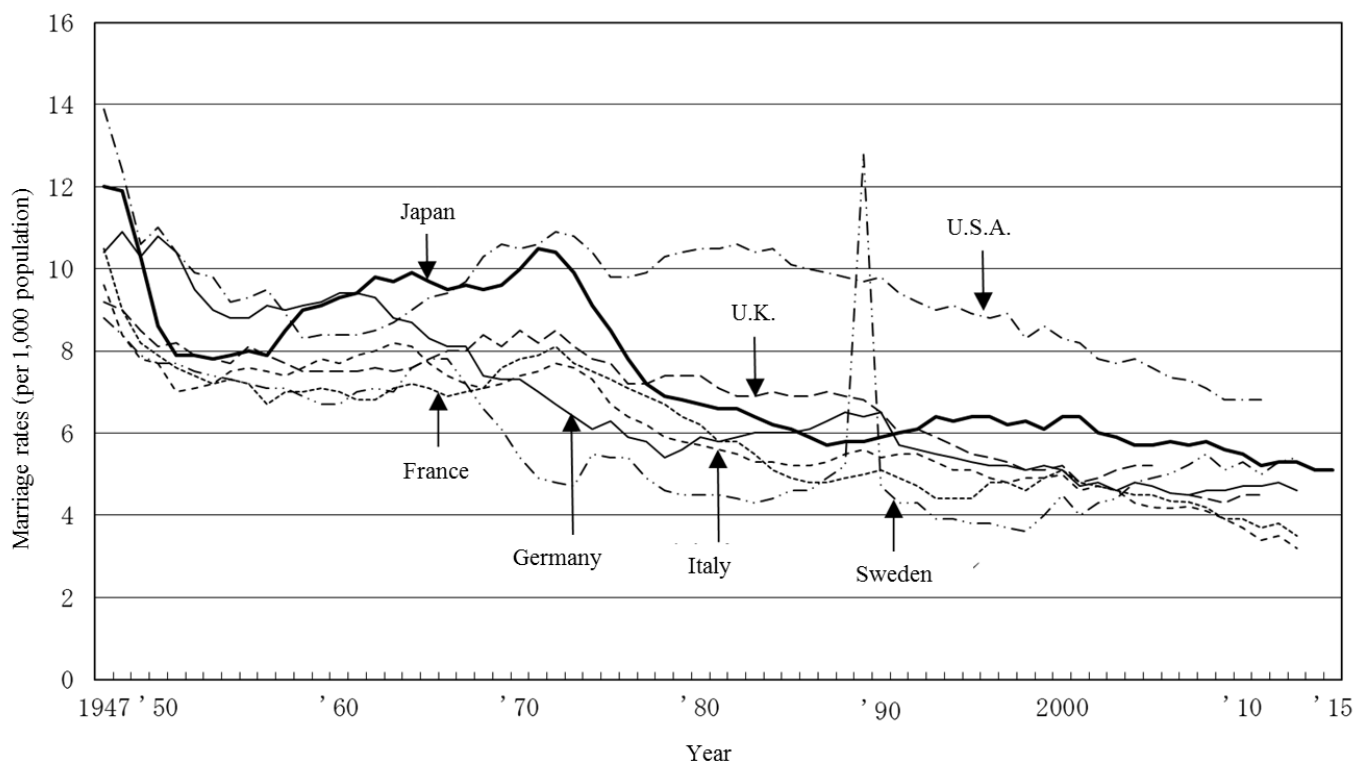


5 International comparisons

To overview the annual trends of marriage rates in Japan and Western countries, the marriage rate in Japan was relatively high compared to Western countries in 1947 but fell sharply in the early 1950s to a similar level to those in France, Sweden, and the UK. The rate in Japan turned to an increasing trend in 1957 and peaked in 1971 before another sharp drop. It has stayed high compared to France, Germany, and the UK in recent years. (Figure 9, Table 17) When comparing marriage rates, it should be noted that the ratio of illegitimate children to total births is high in European countries. (See the Reference table.)

Figure 9 Annual trend of marriage rates in Japan and major Western countries (per 1,000 population) between 1947 and 2015



Note: Data of Germany until 1986 is that of the former West Germany.
 The peak of Swedish data in 1989 is considered to have emerged because of rushing marriages triggered by a change in the pension system.
 Data of the UK until 1970 is that of England and Wales.
 Source: UN "Demographic Yearbook"
 U.S. Department of Health and Human services "National Vital Statistics Reports"

Table 17 Marriage rates (per 1,000 population) in major countries, latest available data

Country	Year of the latest data	Marriage rate
Japan	2015	5.1
U.S.A.	2011	6.8
Republic Korea	2015	5.9
Singapore	2015	7.3
France	2014	3.7
Germany	2014	4.8
Italy	2014	3.1
Sweden	2014	5.5
U.K.	2011	4.5

Source: UN "Demographic Yearbook 2015"

<Reference>
 International comparison of the ratio of births outside of marriage to all births

Country	Year of the latest data	Percentages
Japan	2015	2.3
U.S.A.	2014	40.2
France	2012	56.7
Germany	2014	35.0
Italy	2014	28.8
Sweden	2014	54.6
U.K.	2012	47.6

Source: Eurostat "Population and Social Conditions"

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

"National Vital Statistics Reports"