

4 International comparisons

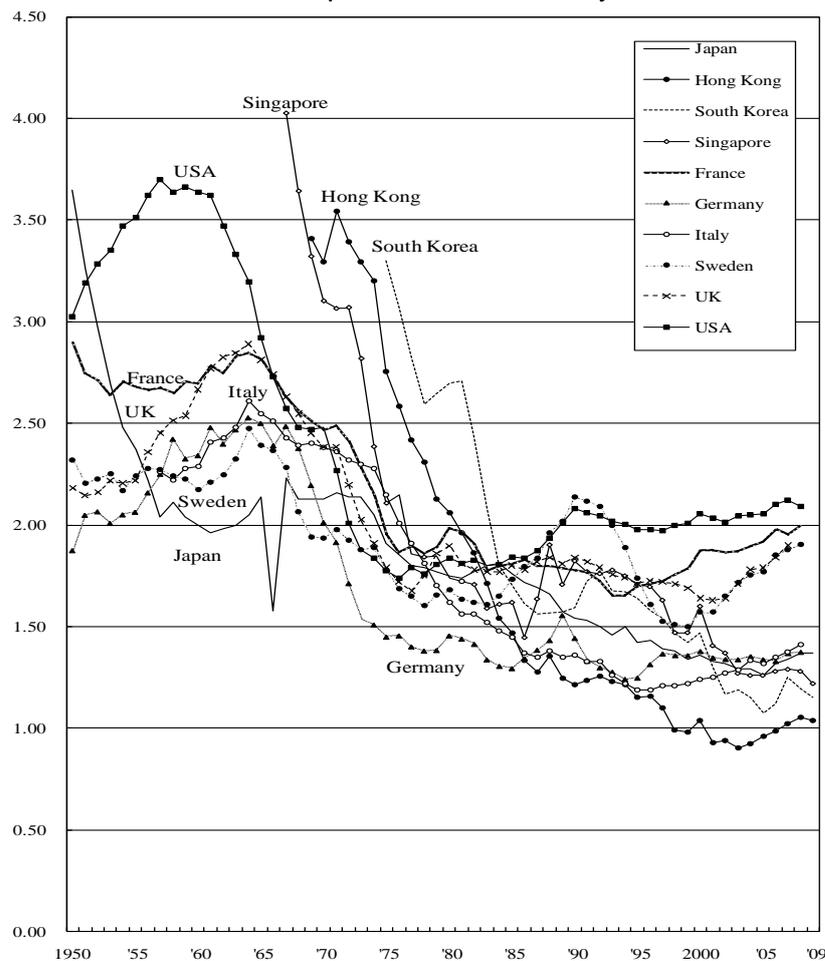
In these years, the total fertility rates in the four Asian countries are lower than those in the six Western countries.

Reviewing the trends in total fertility rates for Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States, we can see that the five countries in Europe exhibited a downward trend from the second half of the 1960s to the first half of the 1970s. Since then, the rates have been almost flat in France, Italy and the United Kingdom, with some increases and decreases, while in Sweden, the rate recovered to 2.14 in 1990, and then declined again. But since 2000 the rate in Sweden that been somewhat on the recover. Meanwhile, the rates have been flat in Germany in recent years.

In the United States, following a sharp decline from the 1960s through the first half of the 1970s, the total fertility rate fluctuated around 1.80. The rate recovered to the 2.00 level in the 1990s, and has since remained there.

On the other hand, in Hong Kong, South Korea and Singapore, after witnessing a precipitous drop in their total fertility rates from the high levels of 3 and 4, the rates have moved at a level below 2 points, despite the existence of time differences depending upon the country or region. (Figure 19, Table 10)

Figure 1. International comparison of total fertility rates, 1950 - 2009



Notes:

- 1) The figures for Germany in 1990 and before represent the data of former Western Germany.
- 2) The figures for UK in 1981 and before represent the data of England and Wales.

Sources:

Based on the U.N. Demographic Yearbook 2008

Taken from materials from the relevant countries and regions

Table 1. The latest years of total fertility rates by international comparison

Country/region	Latest year	Total fertility rates
Japan	2009	1.37
Hong Kong	2009	1) 1.04
South Korea	2009	1) 1.15
Singapore	2009	1) 1.22
France	2008	2) 2.00
Germany	2008	2) 1.38
Italy	2008	2) 1.41
Russia	2008	2) 1.49
Sweden	2008	2) 1.91
UK	2007	2) 1.90
USA	2008	1) 2.09

Sources:

1) Taken from materials from relevant countries and regions.

2) Based on the U. N. Demographic Yearbook 2008.

Looking at the international comparison of live birth rates by mothers' age group (per 1,000 females), in many countries, the rate is highest for mothers of "ages 25 - 29" and "ages 30 - 34", with a peak in "ages 30 - 34". (Table 11)

Table 2. The latest years of live birth rates by age of mother (per 1,000 females) by international comparison

Country	Latest year	Total	15-19 years	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Japan	2009	40.3	5.0	36.1	86.6	94.5	44.6	7.3	0.2
South Korea 1)	2008	34.4	1.7	18.2	85.7	101.7	26.6	3.2	0.2
Singapore 1)	2008	39.8	6.2	30.7	84.5	103.2	46.5	7.3	0.2
France 1)	2008	55.2	10.2	60.3	133.8	123.7	56.3	11.5	0.6
Germany 1)	2008	35.8	9.8	42.1	82.3	89.9	42.4	7.7	0.3
Italy 1)	2005	39.1	6.8	32.9	72.2	88.1	50.0	10.4	0.4
Russia 1)	2008	44.6	30.5	89.8	91.0	60.4	25.9	4.6	0.2
Sweden 1)	2008	52.6	5.9	51.1	114.6	132.3	63.8	12.1	0.6
UK 1)	2004	49.8	26.7	71.5	97.6	97.5	48.5	9.8	0.5
USA 2)	2007	69.5	42.5	106.3	117.5	99.9	47.5	9.5	0.6

Sources:

1) Based on the U. N. Demographic Yearbook 2008.

2) Based on the National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 58, No. 24, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Comparing the rates of illegitimate births among all live births internationally, they are high in many countries. In particular, more than half of all live births are illegitimate births in France and Sweden. (Table 12)

Table 3. The latest years of percent distribution as a share of illegitimate births in all live births by international comparison

Country	Latest year	Percentage (%)
Japan	2009	2.1
France	2008	1) 52.6
Germany	2008	1) 32.1
Italy	2008	1) 17.7
Sweden	2008	1) 54.7
UK	2008	1) 45.4
USA	2007	2) 39.7

Sources:

1) Based on the Eurostat Statistics Database.

2) Based on the National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 58, No. 24, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.