

References

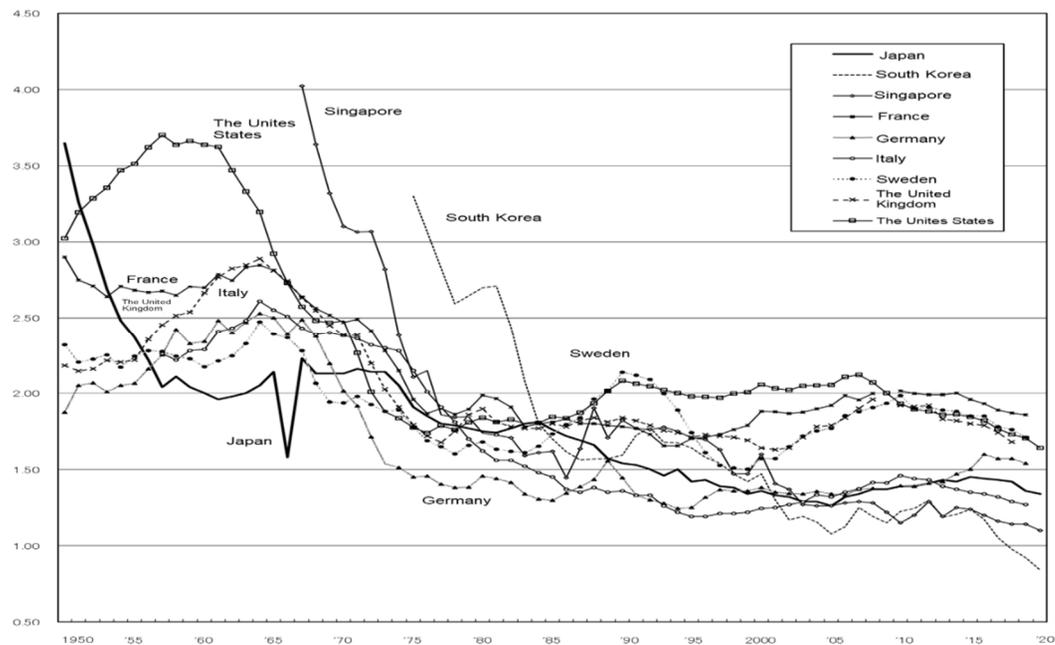
International comparisons

The review of trends in total fertility rates for South Korea, Singapore, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States indicates that the five countries in Europe exhibited a downward trend from the second half of the 1960s to the first half of the 1970s. Then, after having gone through some fluctuations, the rates of France, Sweden and the United Kingdom started rising in 2000 and grew until around 2010, before turning downward thereafter. Meanwhile, after Germany and Italy recovered from low fertility rates, around 1.20, Germany has remained roughly at the 1.50 level, whereas Italy is once again on the decline.

In the United States, following a sharp decline from the 1960s through the first half of the 1970s, its total fertility rate fluctuated around 1.80. Although the rate once recovered to the 2.00 level in the 1990s, it has been decreasing since 2007.

On the other hand, in South Korea and Singapore, after witnessing a precipitous drop in their total fertility rates from the high levels of 3 to 4, the rates have stayed at levels close to 1, despite the existence of time differences. (Figure 16 Statistics Table 10)

Figure 16 International comparison of total fertility rates, 1950 - 2020



- Notes: 1) The figure for Japan in 2020 is a preliminary figure, and the figures for South Korea and the United States in 2020 and that for France in 2019 are provisional figures.
 2) The figures for Germany in 1990 and before represent the data of former West Germany.
 3) The figures for the United Kingdom in 1981 and before represent the data of England and Wales.

Sources: Taken from materials of the relevant countries

Based on the U.N. Demographic Yearbook 2019 and the Eurostat Statistics Database

Table 10 International comparison of total fertility rates for the latest years

Country	Latest year	Total fertility rate
Japan	2020	1.34
South Korea 1)	2020	* 0.84
Singapore 1)	2020	1.10
France 2)	2019	* 1.86
Germany 2)	2019	1.54
Italy 2)	2019	1.27
Sweden 2)	2019	1.71
The United Kingdom 2)	2018	1.68
The Unites States 1)	2020	* 1.64

Note: The figure for Japan is a preliminary figure. The figures with "*" are provisional figures.

Sources: 1) Taken from materials of the relevant countries

2) Based on the Eurostat Statistics Database

The international comparison of live birth rates by mothers' age groups (per 1,000 females) shows that the rates for mothers' age groups "ages 25 - 29" and "ages 30 - 34" are highest, with the peak of the rates observed in "ages 30 - 34" (Table 11).

Table 11 International comparison of live birth rates by age group of mother (per 1,000 females) for the latest years

Country	Latest year	Total	15-19 years	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Japan	2019	35.7	2.8	24.9	77.2	98.5	55.8	11.7	0.3
South Korea 1)	2018	26.4	1.0	8.1	39.9	89.5	45.9	6.4	0.2
Singapore 1)	2019	39.1	2.5	13.4	64.9	108.1	59.6	11.4	0.5
France 1)	2018	51.6	4.6	40.2	107.0	126.9	68.8	18.0	1.2
Germany 1)	2018	46.2	7.4	35.8	84.3	109.8	63.3	13.5	0.6
Italy 1)	2018	34.8	4.1	25.0	62.0	89.2	59.7	15.7	1.4
Sweden 1)	2018	53.1	4.3	39.6	104.9	124.9	66.9	14.2	1.0
The United Kingdom 1)	2018	49.3	11.8	49.5	89.6	106.5	63.6	14.5	1.0
The Unites States 2)	2019	58.3	16.7	66.6	93.7	98.3	52.8	12.0	0.9

Sources: 1) Based on the U.N. Demographic Yearbook 2019

2) Based on the National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 70, No. 2, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Through international comparison of the rates of illegitimate births among all live births in the selected countries, it is clarified that those rates are high in many of the countries. In particular, more than half of all live births are illegitimate births in France and Sweden (Table 12).

Table 12 International comparison of the proportions of illegitimate births in all live births in the latest years

Country	Latest year	Percentage (%)
Japan	2019	2.3
France 1)	2019	61.0
Germany 1)	2019	33.3
Italy 1)	2019	35.4
Sweden 1)	2019	54.5
The United Kingdom 1)	2017	48.2
The Unites States 2)	2019	40.0

Sources: 1) Based on the Eurostat Statistics Database

2) Based on the National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 70, No. 2, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services