The household structure: recent international evolution

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Abstract

This paper analyses the recent international evolution of the household structure. Why do humans live in families? Most households are formed between two specific individuals for reasons of love, companionship, and procreation, and purely biological motives come into play when males and females only care about their genetic fitness, that is, the survival and propagation of their own genes. Becker (1976) provides a new reason for forming households: the efficiency gains from trade that a man and a woman can realize by marrying. The gains to marriage arise from gender specialization in home and market activities and there may be economies from joint consumption. Our results first indicate an increment in ageing populations, plus a declining trend in the youth population. Secondly, increases in the number of childless couples and, third, the same will happen to single-parent households, in which there appears to be an upward trend. Finally, we will see how certain policies have influenced and affected household structures and financial conditions and outcomes.

Keywords: Household structure, Recent Evolution

JEL Classification: D12, D13

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1. Introduction

This paper analyses the recent international evolution of the household structure, that is to say, why do humans live in families? The fact that only 3 percent of avian and mammal species are known to be familial (Emlen 1995) suggests that the emergence of the family cannot be taken for granted, even among humans. Something special must be behind it. Most households are formed between two specific individuals for reasons of love, companionship, and procreation, and purely biological motives come into play when males and females only care about their genetic fitness, that is, the survival and propagation of their own genes.

The fact that Gary Becker received the 1992 Nobel Prize in Economics for his contributions to the economics of the household is sufficient evidence that its importance is recognized by the economics profession. Becker (1976) put the household on the economics profession agenda by identifying three foundational assumptions of the economic approach to the household as "maximizing behaviour, market equilibrium, and stable preferences". Becker's focus, as well as that of subsequent studies, provides a new reason for forming households: the efficiency gains from trade that a man and a woman can realize by marrying, compared to remaining single, taking into account that marriage is broadly defined to include both formal unions and cohabitation.

The gains to marriage arise from gender specialization in home and market activities. In other words, gains arise from replacing individual constraints with less restrictive joint constraints, applying to households formed between any two individuals. There may be economies from joint consumption, because many items of household expenditure have the characteristics of a public good; that is, consumption per head does not decline proportionately with the number of consumers. The most obvious of these is a house, but appliances, furniture, and so on are also factors. We can also focus on the allocative efficiency gains from the formation of a household arising from the division of labour and household production between household members.

In theoretical terms, the study of individual decisions is carried out by the unitary approach applied to a demand analysis, assuming that we do not distinguish between the individual agent and the collective agent (household). This unitary approach allows us to specify observable demand systems, which have provided a wealth of empirical results around the world (see, for example, for the case of Spain, Molina, 1994, for food; Molina, 1997, for transport goods; Molina, 1999, for leisure; Molina, 2002, for all consumer goods, and Molina et al. 2015, 2016, for cultural goods). This unitary approach constitutes the foundation of the

subsequent household approach that has emerged during recent decades, despite methodological or empirical drawbacks (Molina, 2011). In methodological terms, the traditional assumption that subjective preferences are individual does not fit the normal structure of a household formed by a group of individuals with different preferences and, consequently, the unitary approach has given way in the literature to a new general strategy, the household approach, concerned with analyzing matters related to intra-family negotiations. In accordance with this household approach, the presence of individuals with different preferences is represented by the existence of at least two individual functions of utility, one for each spouse (some recent examples of both theoretical and empirical applications of the household approach are Andaluz and Molina, 2007; Garcia et al., 2007; Molina and Montuenga, 2009; Garcia et al., 2010, 2011; Molina, 2011; Giménez et al., 2012; Andaluz et al., 2013; Gimenez and Molina, 2013; Molina, 2013, 2015; Molina et al., 2013; Bellido et al., 2016; Giménez and Molina, 2016; Andaluz et al., 2017; Campaña et al., 2015 and 2017).[1]

In sum, given that the household is one of the most important socio-economic institutions in our society, the nature of the links between family members varies dramatically across nationalities, raising the question, do countries with a culture fostering strong family ties tend to have different economic outcomes than more individualistic societies?

2. Recent international evolution

In order to provide empirical evidence, we begin by describing the differences that appear in the average size of households across different OECD countries. For this purpose, we analyze the data contained in Chart 1. Within this Chart, when we consider all households, we find that the mean average number of individuals per household is 4 in Mexico, compared to Sweden, where we find only 1.8 individuals.

When examining single-parent households with children, differences are not so dramatic (almost all of the OECD countries are between 2.5 and 3), although we can find an exception such as Costa Rica, where the mean average of individuals per single-parent household approaches 3.5. Regarding couple-households with children, the situation across countries is more or less constant with 3.5- 4 individuals per household (as expected) (in this case, Israel is an outlier, with close to 5 individuals.

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[1] The inter-generational approach of the household behavior has been analyzed, for example, in Molina et al. (2011) for the case of well-being, in Giménez and Molina (2013) for education, in Giménez et al. (2014) and in Giménez et al. (2015) for housework time, in Andaluz et al (2007) and Molina (2014) for the case of altruism.

(Chart 1 about here)

Apart from different family sizes across OECD countries, it is also important to describe the different family types. In Table 1, we can see that couple household is the most common family type (couples can be married or cohabiting). Latvia shows the lowest value of couples, with 39%, in contrast to Israel with almost 67%, Spain with 60%, Portugal 64%, and Greece and Mexico at around 59%.

Couples in our analysis are classified, as in the OECD report, with or without children, with less than 50% of couples with children. In Israel, around 70% of couples have children, and in Iceland that figure is 60%. The countries in which couples without children are most common are: Japan, Finland, Greece, Switzerland, Cyprus, and the Netherlands.

When we look at other family structures, we find that there are more single mothers with children than there are single fathers. This is important in cases such as Costa Rica, where around 10% of family structures are single-mother households.

(Table 1 about here)

Once we have a clear overview of the size and type of families, it is also relevant to mention the changes that have occurred during the recent decades. Even without analyzing the data, there has been a large decrease in fertility, which has led to decreases in household size. This is largely due to the fact that more women are entering the labor market, but also because both men and women want to develop their careers before setting up a family. As a consequence of this professional development, the age at which mothers decide to have children has risen, which means that once the mother has a first child, the probability of having more clearly decreases in comparison with previous generations, where they had the first child at a younger age.

To explain these recent changes in more detail, we refer to more precise data. First, looking at European countries in Figure 1, we can see that the average household size has decreased from 2.8 members in 2006 to 2.3 members in 2016. The only European country increasing household size has been Croatia. We consider that Figure 1 adds information to Chart 1, because in this case we are able to see the evolution by comparing years 2006 and 2016.

(Figure 1 about here)

In terms of household size, we focus on the children in the families of OECD countries shown in Table 2. Households with no children are more than 50% of the households in

almost every country, except for Costa Rica and Mexico, which maintain this percentage below 50% (30.29% in Costa Rica and almost 44% in Mexico). Unfortunately, we do not have precise numbers of this factor for Chile, Turkey, Switzerland, Canada, Korea, and Israel. Costa Rica keeps constant the number of households with 1, 2, and 3 children (around 20% for each), while in Mexico it is more common for families to be limited to 1 or 2 children.

We note that in Germany and Finland the percentage of households without children is very high, being around 78% in both countries. As we saw in Figure 1, and in Chart 1, Germany, Denmark, Finland, and Sweden are the European countries with the lowest average family size.

(Table 2 about here)

It is useful to point out that more and more women want to work and enter the labour market. As we can see in Box 1, changes in Female Labour Force Participation Rates for the 24-25 age group are still increasing in certain countries, and we provide this age information because it is the age a which more women start to develop their careers, once they have finished theirs degrees, especially in advanced economies, and the beginning of their 30s, when they have established a stable position is when they want to start a family (as we will explain later).

(Box 1 about here)

We note the increase in the age at which individuals tend to get married. This is a recent trend that each year appears to increase; in Chart 2, it is easily seen that, from 1990 on, the age at first marriage has risen in all countries, with no exceptions. The age at which mothers decide to have children has also risen, as we can see in Figure 3. There has been a decline in fertility rates for the under-30s and an increase for the over-30s since 2008, with women deciding not to raise children until they have developed their careers.

(Chart 2 about here)

(Figure 3 about here)

Moreover, there has been a steady decline in the number of individuals entering marriage, between 1970 and 2015, as we can see in Chart 3. The only outliers we find are Sweden, Latvia, and Lithuania, as in these countries there were fewer married individuals in 1970 than in 2015. The United States stands out because it had the largest number of marriages in 1970, while the greatest decline over the period in question is in Portugal

(Chart 3 about here)

Putting these facts together - the decrease in marriages, more women entering the labour market, the establishment of professional development as a first priority, for both men and women - leads to an increase in the age at which individuals marry, we conclude that these could be the main causes of a shrinkage in the family size and also in the fertility rate.

In Chart 4 we can see that the fertility rate has suffered a significant drop, when we compare 1970 with 2015, in every country, but specially so in countries such as Mexico, China, Korea, Brazil, South Africa, India, Peru, Indonesia, and Saudi Arabia. Large differences can also be found in these countries when we compare years 1995 and 2015 (except for China, in which the fertility rate changes little between those years, and Israel where the fertility rate in 2015 is somewhat higher than in 1995. The only countries in which the fertility rate has increased, although with a very small variation between 1995 and 2015, are Spain, Italy, Germany, Bulgaria, Latvia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Russia, and France. Even so, all of them are below the replacement population rate. Sweden and Denmark have shown no evolution in fertility rates, and the levels in the years 1970, 1995, and 2015 are almost equal.

(Chart 4 about here)

One recent element is that divorces are increasing year after year in almost every country. Chart 5 shows that the only countries where the divorce rate has declined are New Zealand (where the decrease has been gradual from 1990 to 2015), Sweden, Finland, Austria, and Slovenia. Finland (the country with the second-highest rate of divorce because of the very large increase between 1985 and 1995), Slovenia, and Austria have decreased their divorce rates between 1995 and 2005, in contrast to Sweden, the country whose divorce rate declined between 2005 and 2015. In contrast, we note that important increments can be seen in Spain, Germany, and the UK. Gradual increases took place in Japan and Mexico. The highest divorce rate is found in Switzerland, reaching almost 20%, with half of this being produced during the years from 1995 to 2005. The lowest divorce rate is in Korea, close to 4%, where no important changes occurred between 1985 and 2015.

 (Chart 5 about here)

As a general consequence, the world will experience a decrease in the youth population. Figure 4 provides an overview of this trend.

(Figure 4 about here)

Concerning the financial situation of households, we notethat Sweden, which is the European economy with the lowest household average size is also the one with the highest percentage of families that are Very good (as shown in Figure 2), followed by Germany

and the Netherlands, whose average family size are among the smallest. In contrast, Portugal, which is above the average for household members (2.5>2.3) has no families that are in a Very good financial situation, and is the country with the highest percentage of families in a very bad financial situation, together with Cyprus.

(Figure 1 and Figure 2 about here)

Finally, some predictions made by OECD countries regarding the evolution of households have attracted our attention. These are important in terms of policy, and for decision-making in areas such as the safety of children, standards of living, schooling, levels of education, housing, and elder care. For this reason, one-third of OECD countries have established such policies for 2025-2030. We would like to compare the various predictions, but we must bear in mind that comparisons between countries are complicated by different dates, time horizons, and methodologies. Even so, the trend in every country seems to follow similar patterns and leads to the same conclusions, which are as follows.

The first projection is an increment in ageing populations, plus a declining trend in the youth population. This is in line with the data shown in Figure 4 from the OECD, in which there appears a decrease in the youth population by 2060 in all countries, with no exceptions, with the largest decreases in Mexico, Turkey, Colombia, Costa Rica, Argentina… It seems as if all the countries were trying to achieve the same percentage of youth population. Could it be that convergence exists in the population structure of every country? If these predictions are correct, by 2060, the OECD countries will have a youth population between 15% and 20%, except for South Africa (above 20%) and Poland and Korea (below 15%).

The second projection is about increases in the number of childless couples, as is expected from the analyzed data. Australia, Korea, New Zealand, Switzerland, and the US show the highest increments, with projected increases of 70%, while Germany projects the lowest increase, 14%. For Japan, predictions are different; couples without children are expected to decrease.

The third projection is that the same will happen to single-parent households, in which there appears to be an upward trend; increases are expected to reach values between 22% and 29% of all family households in countries such as Australia, Japan, and New Zealand. The main reason underlying this prediction is that children of parents who have been divorced have a greater probability of living with a single parent than in a family that has been reconstituted. Germany, again, is the exception in which single-parent households are expected to decrease by 16% in 2025.

3. Discussion

The data can be used in an analysis of individual social situations, as well as outcomes, trends and possible divergence or convergence among countries. Moreover, it is possible to assess how certain policies have influenced and affected household structures and financial conditions and outcomes. As Society at a Glance has shown, it is possible to determine "self-sufficiency", "equity", "health status" and "social cohesion" within households, with special emphasis on social progress and well-being.

Models explaining household behaviour can be used not only for academic purposes, but they can also be of importance for Government in order to make policy in areas such as childcare, education (schooling, training...), housing, fertility (encouraging paternity), equality, and elder care, as we have explained.

In the context of companies, household economic data and models can allow businesses to better understand the client base in order to better satisfy customers' needs and wants. When establishing a business, consideration can be given to expected trends, such as greater focus on the elderly, rather than a younger demographic, or identifying targets such as single-parent households.

In the framework of finance, we can easily identify models that explain household behaviour in terms of pension liabilities and occupational pension schemes, providing great utility for insurance and pension firms, as well as the National Insurance Fund (NIF).

As we have seen, countries such as Mexico, Costa Rica, and Israel usually have more individuals within households, unlike Germany, Sweden, Norway, etc., in which the average number per household is closer to two. The data gathered in this paper lead us to a series of questions: Do countries with a culture fostering strong family ties tend to have different economic outcomes than more individualistic societies? Could developing countries have specific household characteristics? What impact does the type and size of a household have on human capital? Could the size and type of family structure be associated with certain stages in the development process?

David Hulme, professor of Development Studies at Manchester University, has specialized in studying the average family size in Bangladesh, and has shown that during the last 20 years the average family size has decreased, together with girls entering school due to program implementations, such as giving cereals to families who enroll their daughters in

school, and a delay in the age at which people marry has been accompanied by an increase in economic growth.

It is clear that an understanding of how households work is necessary for understanding an economy as a whole. The economist James Tobin points out that the aggregation of magnitudes can be explained without paying attention to the component parts, but more and more economists confirm that it is indispensable to take into account different or heterogeneous behaviours and the internal structure within the economy, such us households. That is to say, when we refer to households, we are referring to one of the most important elements within the social pyramid that, in the end is built up from the aggregated savings, investment, and consumption. All these economic variables help us to understand how the whole economy works: cycles, trends, periods of crisis, and so on.

To this, we add up the importance of not generalizing, and remark that the 2017 Nobel price has been awarded to Richard H. for spelling out that the assumption: "everyone is rational and selfish" is relaxed. And that after receiving the award, he affirmed that there is a huge importance in stressing that economic agents are human and that economic models must take this into account. With all this, we want to highlight that for explaining how things work in economics it will be necessary to bear in mind all the different individual (in which we include the different types of household) that form the economic system, and not only making generalizations or general assumptions.

Therefore, behind the functioning of the whole economy, it is important to notice that we have the aggregation of all individual agents like households. Inside every trend, every cycle... there are millions of points making up the different fluctuations that the economy suffers. It may be time to focus on all this individual behaviours to start understanding better what the differences between the economies of different countries are. Part of these differences will probably depend on the different household behaviours adopted in every country.

Finally, we note certain limitations when analyzing the data. Since we are comparing a large number of different countries, the statistical procedures used to collect the data in every part of the world are far from uniform. For example, countries such as Japan and United States consider Couples only as those who are married and not those who cohabit, and children in Japan and United States are defined as individuals whounder the age of 18. These, and other factors, could lead to some underestimations (or overestimations), depending on the restrictions set by every country when defining the variables under examination.

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Chart 1. Average size of households by household type, 2015.
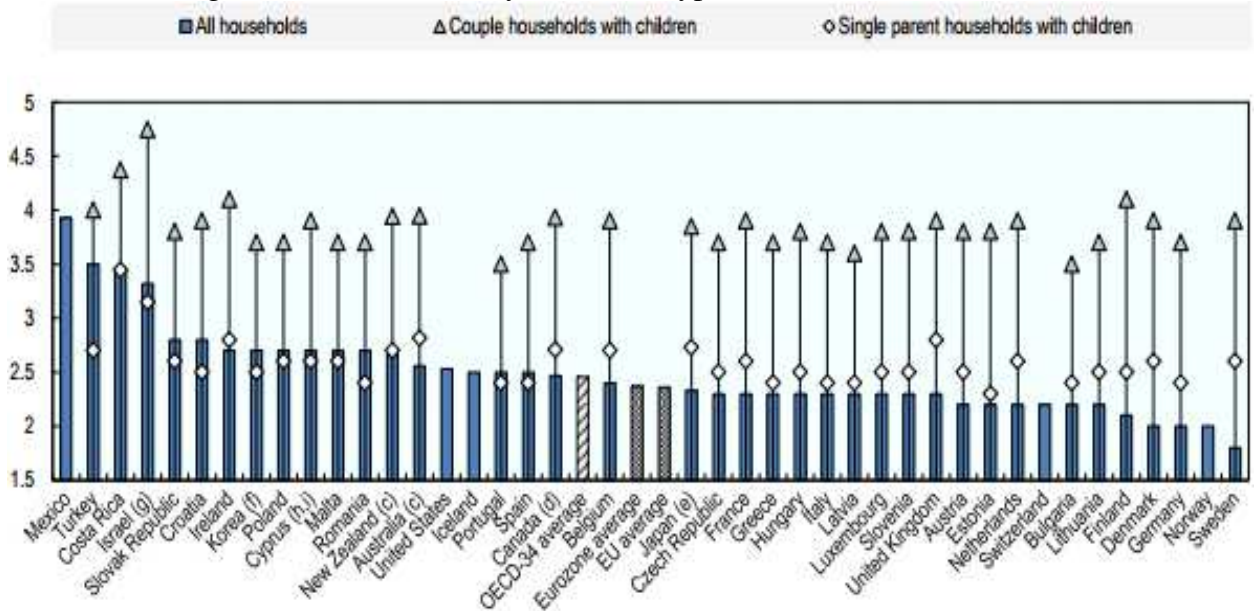
Source : OECD Family Database

http://www.oecd.org/els/family/SF_1_1_Family_size_and_composition.pdf
Countries are ranked in descending order according to the mean average number of individuals per household in all households a) Data for Korea and Mexico refer to 2010, for Australia, Canada and Costa Rica to 2011, for New Zealand to 2013, for Switzerland to 2014, and for the United States to 2016 b) 'Couple households with children' refer to households with two partnered adults (either married or in a civil or registered partnership, or cohabiting) and at least one child. 'Single parent households with children' are households with a single adult and at least one child. People living in all other types of households, including households with several unrelated cohabiting members and households shared by two or more family units, are not covered in these two categories. 'Children' in this instance are generally defined as dependent resident children under 25, and include both biological children and step- or adopted children, though exact definitions vary across countries. c) For Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, 'children' are defined as someone of any age who lives with their parent(s) and as long as they do not have a partner or children of their own living in the same household. d) For Canada, data refer to individuals in 'census families' only. For more detail on census families see the Statistics Canada website (http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/concepts/definitions/c-fam) e) For Japan, data on 'couple households with children' refer to married couple households with children, only. 'Children' refers to unmarried children under age 20. f) For Korea, 'children' are defined as all unmarried children regardless of age g) The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law. h) Footnote for Turkey: The information in this document with reference to « Cyprus » relates to the southern part of the Island. There is no single authority representing both Turkish and Greek Cypriots on the Island. Turkey recognizes the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Until a lasting and equitable solution is found within the context of United Nations, Turkey shall preserve its position concerning the "Cyprus issue"; i) Footnote for all the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Commission: The Republic of Cyprus is recognized by all members of the United Nations with the exception of Turkey. The information in this document relates to the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.
Sources: for Australia, 2011 Census of Population and Housing; for Canada, 2011 Census of Canada; for Costa Rica, OECD Questionnaire to national authorities; for European countries, Eurostat based on the European Union Labour Force Survey (unless otherwise stated); for Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, Eurostat based on the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions Survey (EU SILC); for Israel, Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics based on the Israeli Labour Force Survey; for Japan, 2015 Population Census; for Korea, OECD Family Database on Korea; for Mexico, Censo de Población y Vivienda 2010; for New Zealand, 2013 Census of Population and Dwellings; for the United States, U.S. Census Bureau based on the U.S. Current Population Survey

Table 1. Types of household, 2011. Distribution (%) of households by household type.

|	Couple households:			Single parent households:			Single person households	Other household types
	Total	With children	Without children	Total	Single mother households	Single father households		
Australia (c)	56.95	31.03	25.92	10.45	..	-	23.90	8.70
Austria	50.11	23.14	26.98	6.62	5.71	0.91	36.29	6.98
Belgium	53.19	24.80	28.39	7.72	6.33	1.39	34.06	5.03
Canada (d)	56.01	26.46	29.54	10.33	..	-	27.58	6.09
Chile	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-
Czech Republic	47.92	22.19	25.73	8.32	6.81	1.51	32.53	11.23
Denmark	50.13	22.22	27.91	6.23	5.19	1.04	37.48	6.16
Estonia	43.68	21.02	22.66	8.55	7.79	0.76	39.94	7.83
Finland	49.43	20.50	28.93	5.54	0.00	5.54	41.01	4.03
France	54.12	25.63	28.49	7.28	6.10	1.18	33.79	4.81
Germany	51.71	20.57	31.15	5.49	4.72	0.77	37.27	5.52
Greece	58.46	27.87	30.59	4.23	3.55	0.68	25.68	11.63
Hungary	50.78	24.52	26.26	8.26	7.22	1.04	32.06	8.88
Iceland	48.36	29.61	18.75	9.03	7.98	1.06	31.13	4.61
Ireland	57.18	32.70	24.47	8.82	7.81	1.01	23.68	10.32
Israel (e,k)	66.60	44.90	21.70	5.70	..	-	27.80	
Italy	54.92	27.09	27.83	5.39	4.47	0.92	31.08	8.61
Japan (f)	46.77	16.62	30.15	2.63	2.36	0.27	34.45	16.16
Korea (g)	52.40	36.99	15.41	9.20	7.19	2.01	23.90	14.50
Latvia	39.38	19.89	19.49	11.50	9.97	1.53	34.42	14.71
Luxembourg	49.98	27.11	22.86	5.87	4.99	0.88	33.34	10.82
Mexico (h)	58.58	49.96	8.61	10.26	..	-	7.56	23.60
Netherlands	56.36	25.73	30.63	5.55	4.65	0.90	36.38	1.71
New Zealand (c)	57.05	28.93	28.13	11.23	..	-	23.54	8.18
Norway	48.50	25.35	23.15	7.25	5.63	1.61	39.58	4.68
Poland	52.58	28.90	23.69	7.73	6.74	0.99	24.04	15.65
Portugal	63.56	31.29	32.28	6.10	5.35	0.75	21.44	8.90
Slovak Republic	41.47	23.17	18.31	6.48	5.48	1.01	25.33	26.71
Slovenia	45.37	23.16	22.21	7.95	6.72	1.23	32.76	13.93
Spain	60.27	30.38	29.89	5.92	4.56	1.36	23.19	10.62
Sweden	52.14	24.27	27.87	6.62	5.07	1.56	36.22	5.02
Switzerland	55.58	24.97	30.61	4.40	3.76	0.64	36.98	3.04
Turkey	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-
United Kingdom	50.76	22.39	28.38	8.54	7.54	1.00	30.58	10.12
United States (i)	48.42	20.21	28.21	9.56	7.17	2.39	26.74	15.29
OECD-32 average (j)	51.94	-	..	7.47	..	-	30.56	9.81
Costa Rica	52.44	38.15	14.29	10.55	9.49	1.06	11.27	25.74
Bulgaria	52.25	23.67	28.59	4.69	3.71	0.99	30.79	12.27
Croatia	56.30	29.80	26.50	4.94	4.12	0.82	24.56	14.19
Cyprus (l,m)	65.36	34.61	30.75	4.78	4.29	0.49	20.76	9.10
Lithuania	49.47	26.04	23.43	9.64	8.30	1.34	31.67	9.21
Malta	61.98	33.33	28.65	6.16	5.28	0.88	22.64	9.21
Romania	54.51	27.02	27.49	5.67	4.27	1.40	25.98	13.84
EU average	52.62	25.82	26.80	6.81	5.60	1.21	30.68	9.89
Eurozone average	52.95	26.21	26.74	6.82	5.58	1.24	30.77	9.46

Source : OECD Family Database

Data for Korea and the United States refer to 2010, for New Zealand to 2013, and for Japan to 2015 b) 'Children' in this instance are generally defined as resident children under 25, and include both biological children and step- or adopted children, with any resident children over aged 25 or over treated as a non-dependent 'adult' child, though exact definitions do vary across countries. 'Couple households' are households with two adults in a couple (either married or in a civil or registered partnership, or cohabiting), with 'couple households with children' defined as those that contain two adults in a couple and at least one child (under age 25), and 'couple households without children' those that contain two adults in a couple and either no children (under age 25) or 'adult' children (age 25 or over) only. Generally, as of the 2011 round of the population and housing census, 'couples' include adults in same-sex as well as opposite-sex relationships. 'Single parent households' are households with a single adult and at least one child (under age 25). 'Single person' households are households with a single person living alone. 'Other household types' covers all other types of households, including households with several unrelated cohabiting members and households shared by two or more family units. Households with three-generations living in the same household are included in this category. c) For Australia and New Zealand, 'children' are defined as someone of any age who lives with their parent(s) and as long as they do not have a partner or children of their own living in the same household. d) For Canada, 'single parent households' covers all single-parent households regardless of age of children. However, the definition of 'children' used for 'couple households with/without children' continues to conform with that given in note b) above (i.e. for 'couple households', 'children' are defined as resident children under 25) e) For Israel, no distinction between 'single person households' and 'other' household types. f) For Japan, 'couple households' refers to married couple households. 'Children' refers to unmarried children under age 20. g) For Korea, 'children' refers to all unmarried children of any age. h) For Mexico, 'children' refers to children of any age. i) For the United States, 'children' refer to 'own children' (that is, children of the 'head of household') under age 18, only. 'Couple households' refer to households where the head of household is part of an (opposite-sex) married couple only (i.e. unmarried couples, plus also same-sex married-couples, are excluded), and 'couple households with children' refer to married couple households where the couple has at least one own child under age 18. 'Single parent households' refer to households where the head of household has at least one own child under age 18 but no spouse present. In both cases the household may or may not contain other adults. j) The OECD-32 average excludes Israel k)

Sources: for Australia, 2011 Census of Population and Housing; for Canada, 2011 Census of Canada; for Costa Rica, OECD Questionnaire to national authorities; for European countries, European Union 2011 Population and Housing Census; for Israel, Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics based on the Israeli Labour Force Survey; for Japan, 2015 Population Census; for Korea, OECD Family Database on Korea;); for Mexico, Censo de Población y Vivienda 2010 ; for New Zealand, 2013 Census of Population and Dwellings; for the United States, U.S. Census Bureau.
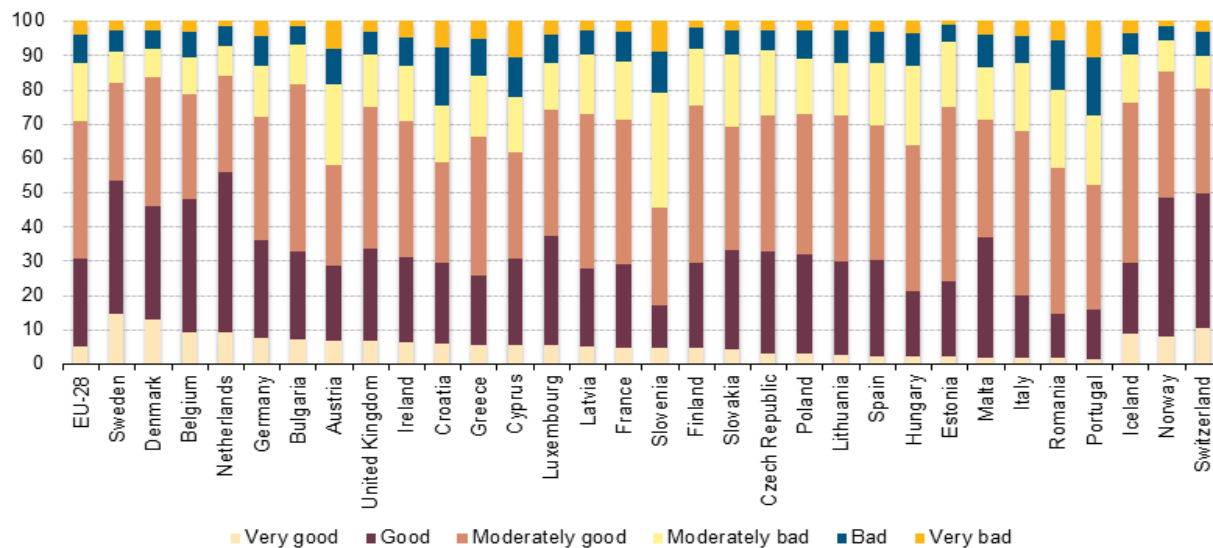
Figure 1. Average household size, 2006 and 2016 (average number of individuals in private households)
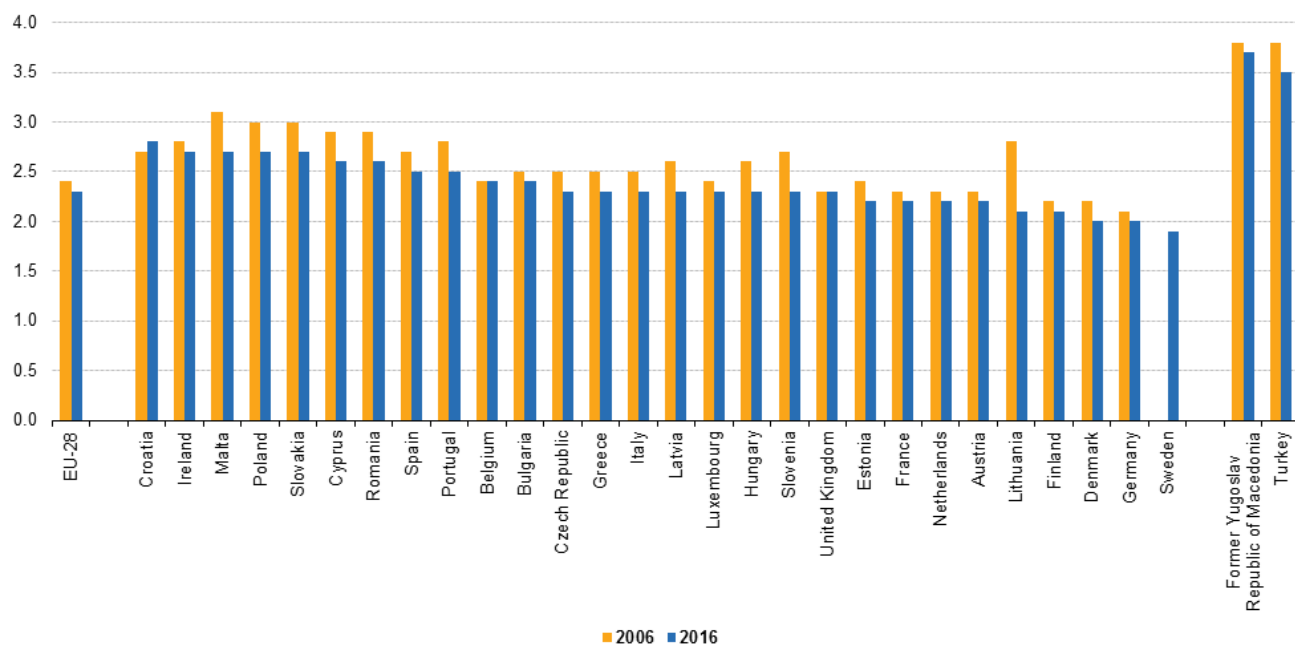
Source:Eurostat

Figure 2. Financial situation of the household, 2011 (% of specified population).

Source : Eurostat

Table 2. **Household by number of children, 2015.**

Distribution of households by number of children, and proportion of households with at least one child under age six

	Proportion of households with:				Proportion (%) of households with children under 6
	0 children	1 child	2 children	3 or more children	
Australia	..	–	–	–	–
Austria	74.07	12.81	9.72	3.39	9.98
Belgium	67.43	13.85	12.72	6.01	12.78
Canada	..	–	–	–	..
Chile	..	–	–	–	–
Czech Republic	68.37	14.75	14.10	2.78	13.20
Denmark	70.55	12.43	12.32	4.69	11.39
Estonia	68.77	16.18	10.99	4.06	13.66
Finland	77.61	9.34	8.74	4.32	9.56
France	68.36	13.36	12.65	5.63	12.66
Germany	78.17	11.32	8.04	2.47	8.23
Greece	73.42	12.69	11.06	2.82	8.06
Hungary	70.78	14.74	10.23	4.25	10.66
Iceland	..	–	–	–	..
Ireland	58.47	14.78	15.61	11.14	18.66
Israel	..	–	–	–	–
Italy	69.94	15.45	12.17	2.43	10.26
Japan (c)	76.96	10.90	9.49	2.66	8.66
Korea	..	–	–	–	–
Latvia	68.50	18.07	10.69	2.74	12.97
Luxembourg	66.13	14.54	14.75	4.58	11.79
Mexico (d)	41.32	23.75	20.53	14.38	–
Netherlands	71.23	11.24	12.74	4.78	10.50
New Zealand (e)	66.99	13.32	12.81	6.88	–
Norway (f)	71.64	12.68	11.08	4.60	–
Poland	61.61	18.47	15.16	4.76	15.02
Portugal	63.80	21.39	12.66	2.15	11.59
Slovak Republic	62.81	17.27	15.23	4.69	13.68
Slovenia	69.80	14.05	12.81	3.34	11.57
Spain	66.02	17.64	13.53	2.81	12.43
Sweden	78.37	8.47	9.89	3.27	9.36
Switzerland	..	–	–	–	–
Turkey	45.69	20.79	19.73	13.79	25.38
United Kingdom	68.45	13.77	12.62	5.15	14.95
United States (f)	66.61	14.15	12.00	7.24	–
OECD-32 average	67.57	14.72	12.65	5.07	..
Costa Rica	30.29	23.08	24.61	22.02	26.30
Bulgaria	74.72	14.85	9.05	1.38	8.09
Croatia	64.93	15.32	14.43	5.33	11.67
Cyprus (q,h)	61.10	16.48	15.90	6.48	14.38
Lithuania	69.97	16.57	10.48	2.99	11.10
Malta	63.05	18.04	14.54	4.30	13.42
Romania	65.12	18.56	12.63	3.69	10.71
EU average	68.63	14.87	12.34	4.16	11.87
Eurozone average	68.35	15.00	12.37	4.27	11.96

Data for Mexico and the United States to 2010, for Norway to 2011, and for New Zealand to 2013 b) 'Children' in this instance are generally defined here as dependent resident children under 25, and include both biological children and step- or adopted children or any other children in the household, though exact definitions vary across countries. c) For Japan, 'children' refers to all unmarried children aged under 18, only. d) For Mexico, 'children' refers to children aged under 15, only e) For New Zealand, 'children' refers to dependent children aged under 18 and not employed full-time f) For Norway and the United States, 'children' refers to all individuals aged under 18, only

Sources: for European countries, Eurostat based on the European Union Labour Force Survey (unless otherwise stated); for Japan, Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions 2015 (Households by number of children) and 2015 Population Census (Households with children under age 6); for Mexico, Censo de Población y Vivienda 2010 ; for New Zealand, 2013 Census of Population and Dwellings; for Norway, Statistics Norway; for the United States, U.S. Census Bureau
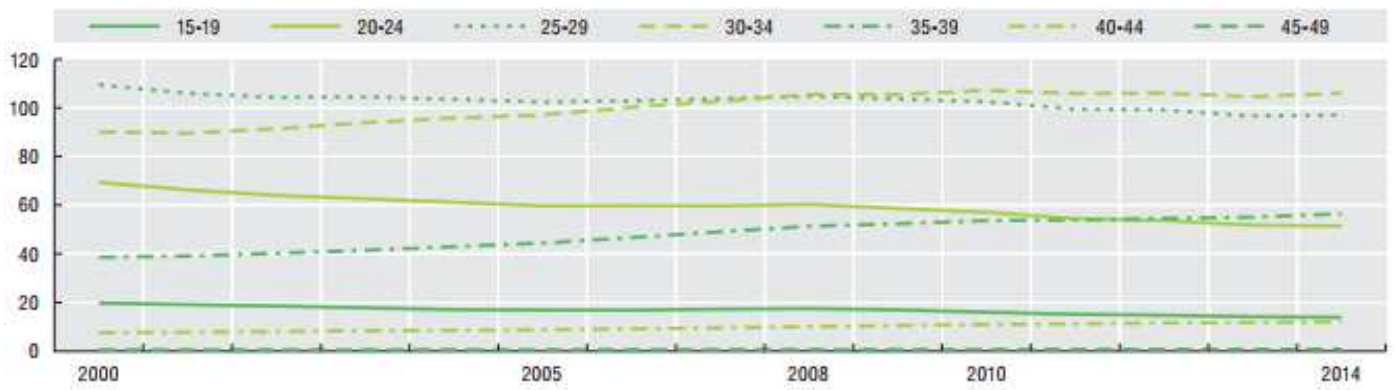
Box 1. Changes in Labour Force Participation Rates for the 24-25 age group by gender, Select Advanced Economies. (Percentage points)
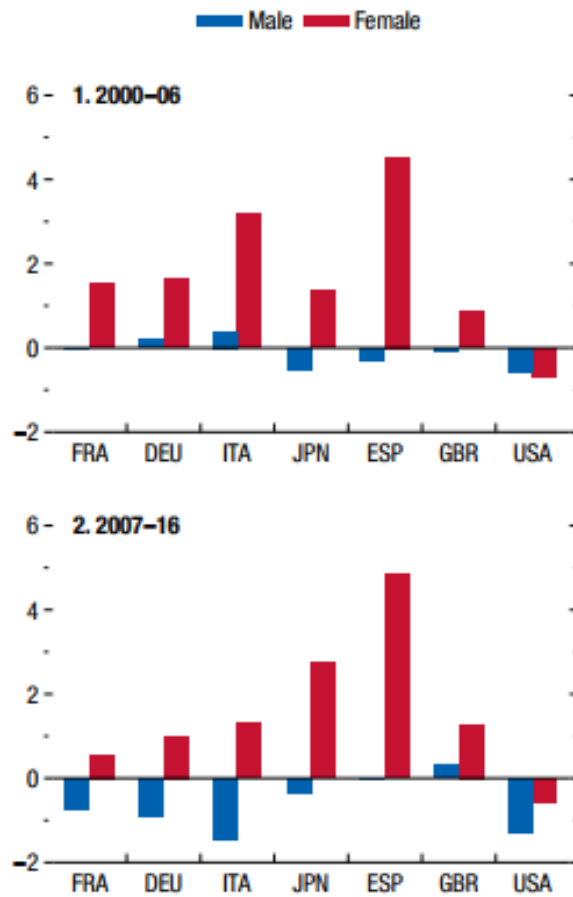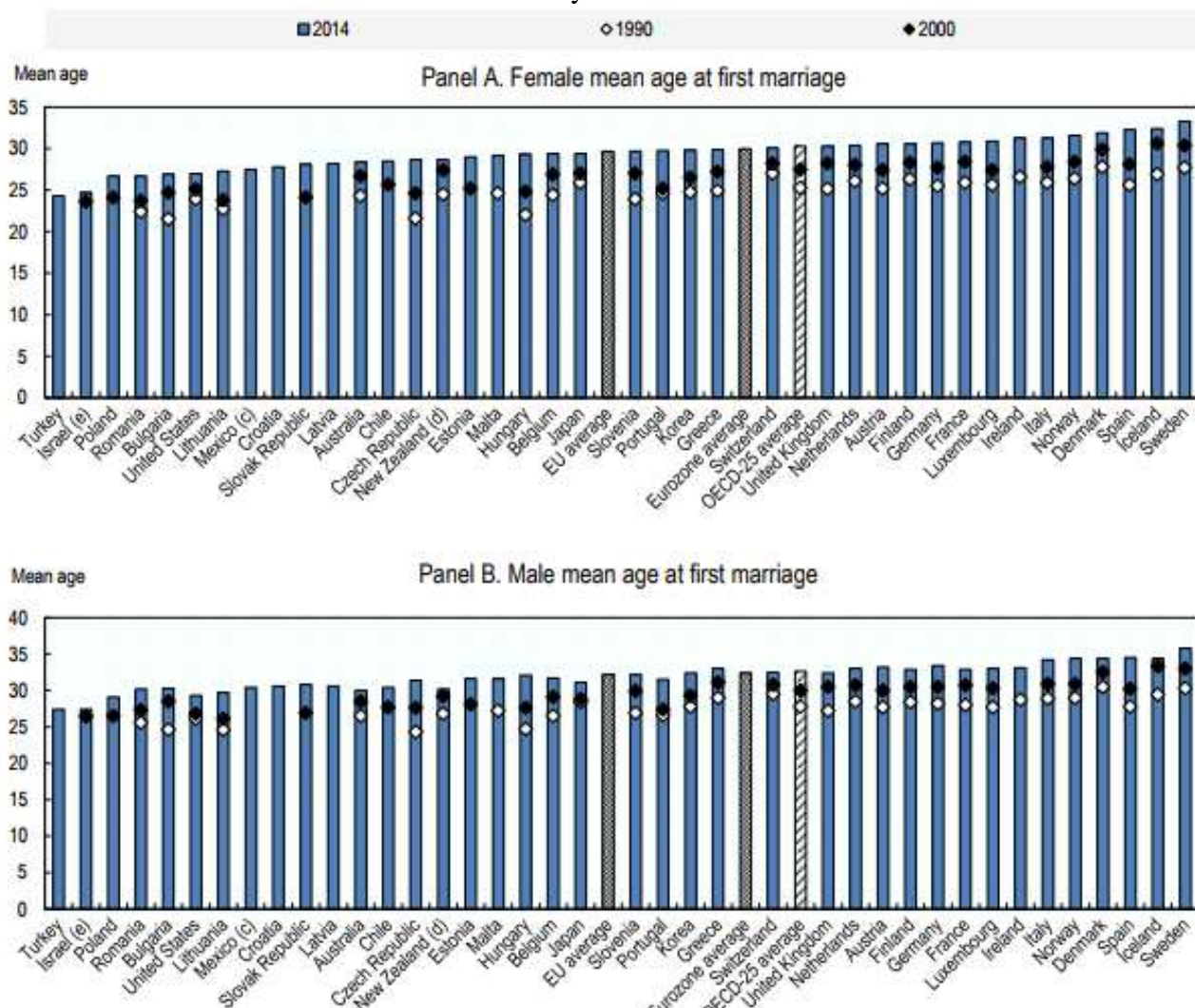

Source : International Monetary Fund

Note: Labels in the figure use International Organization for Standardization (ISO) country codes

Figure 3. Decline in fertility rates for under 30s and increase for over 30s

Source: OECD , Society at a Glance

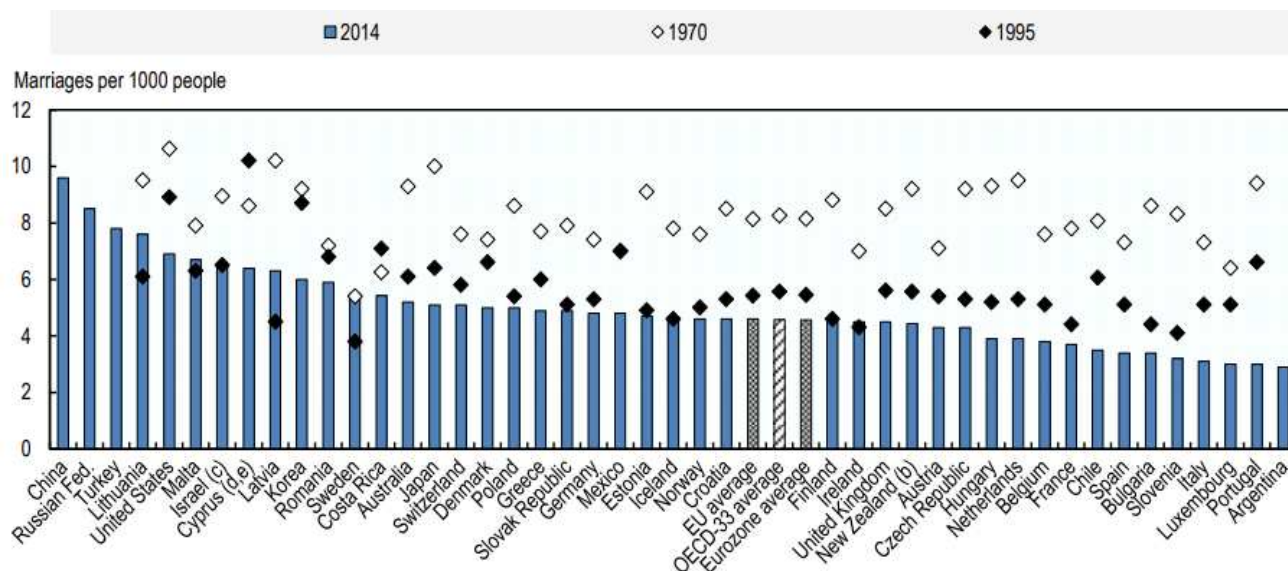**Chart 2.** Mean age at first marriage by gender, 1990, 2000 and 2014 or the latest available year.

Source : OECD Family Database

Data for Iceland and the United Kingdom refer to 2011, for Belgium, France, Ireland, Israel, China and the Russian Federation to 2012, and for Austria, Chile, and Cyprus to 2013 b) Data for New Zealand include civil unions. c) The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law. d) Footnote for Turkey: The information in this document with reference to « Cyprus » relates to the southern part of the Island. There is no single authority representing both Turkish and Greek Cypriot people on the Island. Turkey recognizes the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Until a lasting and equitable solution is found within the context of United Nations, Turkey shall preserve its position concerning the "Cyprus issue"; e) Footnote for all the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Commission: The Republic of Cyprus is recognized by all members of the United Nations with the exception of Turkey. The information in this document relates to the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Sources: for European countries, Eurostat Demographic Statistics; for Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics; for Costa Rica, INEC; for Chile, INE; for Israel, CBS; for Japan, Statistics Japan; for Korea, Korean Statistical Information Service; for Mexico, INEGI; for New Zealand, Statistics New Zealand; for the United States, Centers for Disease Prevention and Control; for all countries United Nations World Marriage Data 2008; Demographic Yearbook

Chart 3. Crude marriage rate, 1970,1995 and 2014 or latest available year.
Marriages per 1000 people

Source : OECD Family Database

 Data for Iceland and the United Kingdom refer to 2011, for Belgium, France, Ireland, Israel, China and the Russian Federation to 2012, and for Austria, Chile, and Cyprus to 2013 b) Data for New Zealand include civil unions. c) The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law. d) Footnote for Turkey: The information in this document with reference to « Cyprus » relates to the southern part of the Island. There is no single authority representing both Turkish and Greek Cypriots on the Island. Turkey recognizes the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Until a lasting and equitable solution is found within the context of United Nations, Turkey shall preserve its position concerning the "Cyprus issue"; e) Footnote by all the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Commission: The Republic of Cyprus is recognized by all members of the United Nations with the exception of Turkey. The information in this document relates to the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.
Sources: for European countries, Eurostat Demographic Statistics; for Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics; for Costa Rica, INEC; for Chile, INE; for Israel, CBS; for Japan, Statistics Japan; for Korea, Korean Statistical Information Service; for Mexico, INEGI; for New Zealand, Statistics New Zealand; for the United States, Centers for Disease Prevention and Control; for all countries, United Nations World Marriage Data 2008; for all countries, United Nations Demographic Yearbook

Chart 4. Total fertility rate, 1970, 1995 and 2015.

Average number of children born per woman over a lifetime, given current age-specific

fertility rates and assuming no female mortality during reproductive years
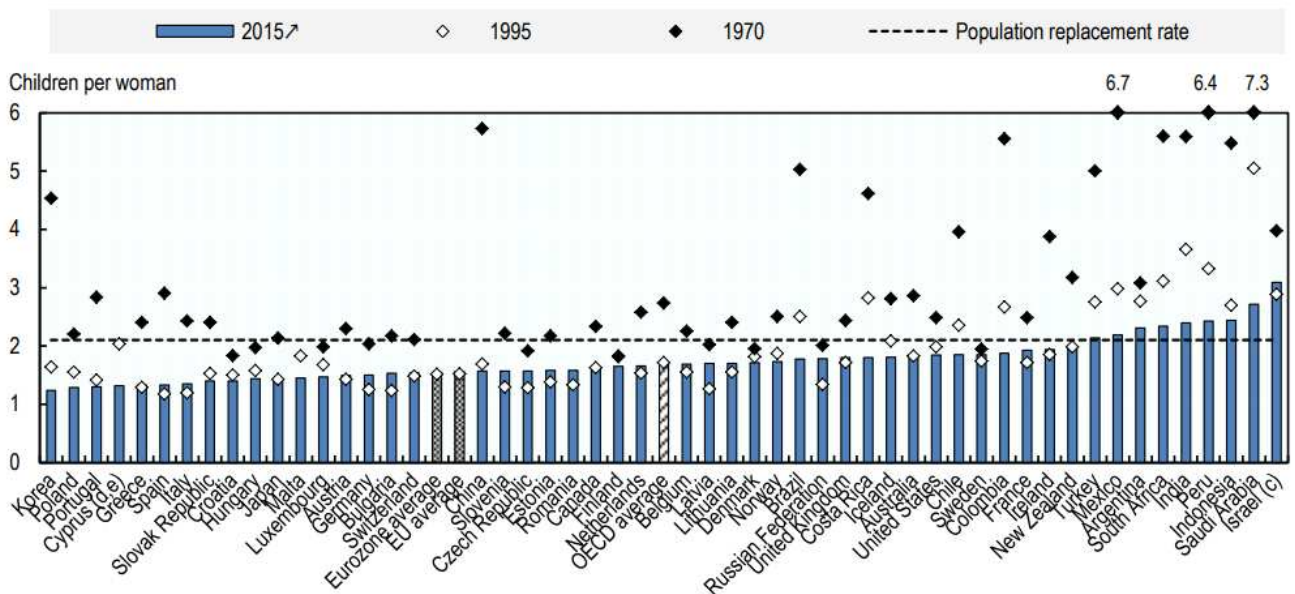
Source: OECD Family Database

Data for Canada refer to 2013, and for Chile to 2014 b) The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law. c) Footnote for Turkey: The information in this document with reference to « Cyprus » relates to the southern part of the Island. There is no single authority representing both Turkish and Greek Cypriots on the Island. Turkey recognizes the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Until a lasting and equitable solution is found within the context of United Nations, Turkey shall preserve its position concerning the "Cyprus issue"; d) Footnote by all the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Commission: The Republic of Cyprus is recognized by all members of the United Nations with the exception of Turkey. The information in this document relates to the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Sources: for Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Peru, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and South Africa, World Bank World Development Indicators; for Australia, Australia Bureau of Statistics; for Austria, Statistics Austria; for Belgium, Bureau fédéral du Plan; for Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Romania, the Slovak Republic and the United Kingdom, Eurostat Population Statistics; for Canada, Statistics Canada; for Chile, Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas; for the Czech Republic, Czech Statistical Office; for Denmark, Statistics Denmark; for Estonia, Statistics Estonia; for Finland, Statistics Finland; for France, INSEE; for Germany, Destatis; for Hungary, Hungarian Central Statistical Office; for Iceland, Statistics Iceland; for Ireland, Irish Central Statistics Office; for Israel, Central Bureau of Statistics; for Italy, ISTAT; for Japan, Ministry of Health and Welfare; for Korea, KOSIS; for Mexico, Consejo Nacional de Población; for the Netherlands, Statistics Netherlands; for New Zealand, Statistics New Zealand; for Norway, Statistics Norway; for Poland, Polish Central Statistical Office; for Portugal, INE; for the Russian Federation, Institute of Demography at the National Research University 'Higher School of Economics'; for Slovenia, Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia; for Spain, INE; for Sweden, Statistics Sweden; for Switzerland, Swiss Statistics; for Turkey, TurkStat; for the United States, Department of Health and Human Services.

**Chart 5.** Proportion of parents (16+) who are separated or divorced, various years.
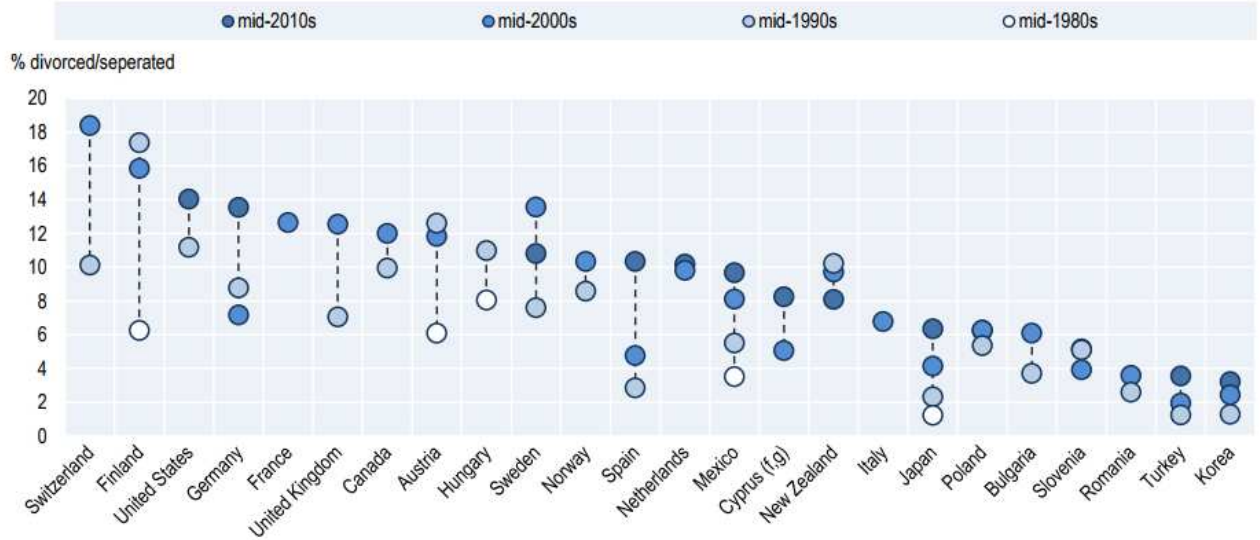
Source : OECD Family Database

'Parents' are those who report at least one child when asked the question 'Have you had any children?'. Those who report that they have not had any children are classified as 'not a parent'. b) Data for Japan refer to 1981, for Hungary to 1982, for Austria, Finland and Mexico to 1990 c) Data for Spain refer to 1995, for Austria, Bulgaria, Korea, Mexico, Norway, Sweden and Turkey to 1996, for Hungary and New Zealand to 1998, for Germany, Poland, Romania and the United States to 1999, and for Canada, Finland and Japan to 2000 d) Data for Korea refer to 2001, for New Zealand to 2004, for Finland, Italy, Mexico, Romania and Slovenia to 2005, for Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom to 2006, and for Spain, Switzerland and Turkey to 2007 e) Data for Japan and Korea refer to 2010, Chile, Cyprus, Estonia, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United States to 2011, for Australia, Mexico, the Netherlands and Poland to 2012, and for Germany to 2013.

Source: World Values Survey, various waves.

Figure 4. Decline of the share of youth in total population in most countries.

Number of young individuals (15-29) in total population, percentages, in 1970, 2015 and 2060
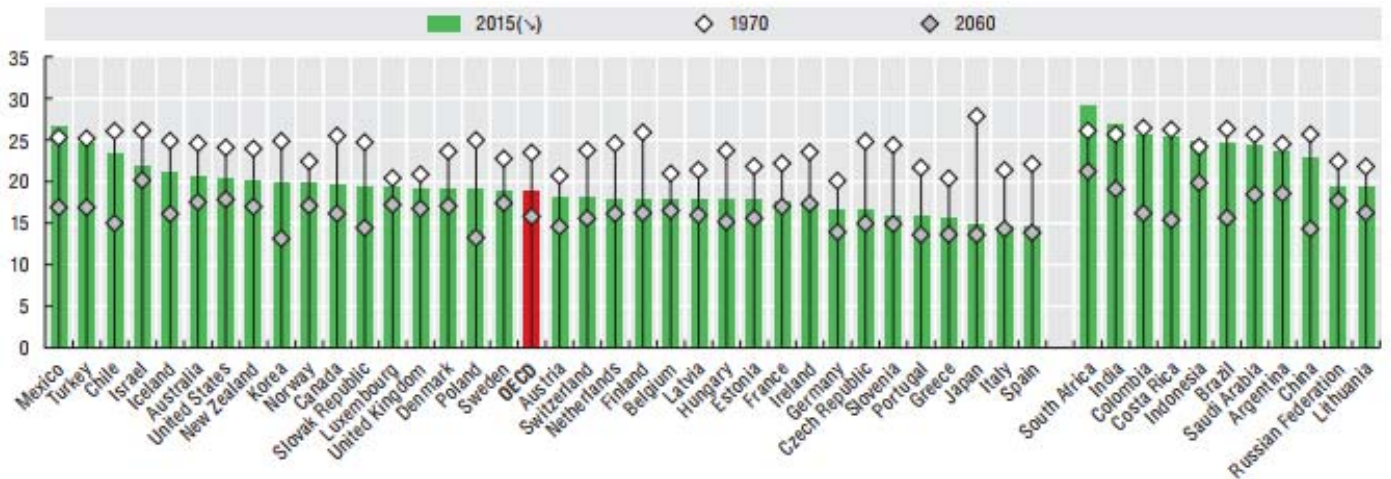
Source OECD, Society at a glance. Calculations from United Nations, World
Populations Prospects – 2015 Revisions.