



Federal Ministry for
Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth



Families in Germany - Facts and Figures

Families in Germany – Facts and Figures

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Contents

FOREWORD	3
INTRODUCTION	4
1 FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD TYPES IN GERMANY	5
1.1 Size and Structure of Households	5
1.2 Selected Household and Family Types in Germany	6
<i>Overview: Families with children</i>	7
<i>Lone Parents</i>	8
<i>Stepfamilies</i>	9
<i>Non-married partnerships</i>	10
<i>One-person households</i>	12
1.3 The European Perspective: Family Living Arrangements in Europe	13
<i>Size and Structure of Households in the EU</i>	13
<i>Selected Household Types in the EU</i>	15
2 FAMILY FOUNDATION AND DEVELOPMENT	17
2.1 Marriages	17
<i>Development of marriage figures and age at first marriage</i>	17
<i>Frequency of first marriages and those remaining unmarried</i>	18
<i>Remarriages</i>	18
2.2 Births and number of children	19
<i>The overall decline in the birth rate in Germany</i>	19
<i>Final number of children and childlessness</i>	19
<i>Average age on transition to parenthood</i>	20
2.3 Divorces	21
2.4 Widowhood	22
2.5 The European Perspective: births and marriages	23
<i>Number of children and childlessness</i>	23
<i>Marriages and divorces</i>	25
3 DEMOGRAPHIC AGEING OF THE POPULATION	26
3.1 The 10. Coordinated Population Projection until the year 2050	26
<i>Assumptions for the individual components of the projections</i>	26
<i>Results for size of population and age structure up to 2050</i>	28
3.2 The European Perspective: the ageing of the population	30
<i>Changes in population size</i>	30
<i>Changes in the age structure of the population</i>	31
4 FAMILY, EMPLOYMENT AND CHILD CARE	33
4.1 Labour force participation by women	33
<i>Extent of labour force participation</i>	33
<i>Full and part-time employment of women</i>	34
4.2 Child Care in Day Facilities	36
<i>Infrastructure of Child Day-Care Facilities</i>	36
<i>Children in day-care facilities</i>	37
4.3 The European Perspective: Employment of Women and Child Care	38
<i>Employment rates for women in the European Union</i>	38
<i>Full and part-time employment of women in the European Union</i>	39
<i>Work patterns of couples in the European Union</i>	40
<i>Employment of women, fertility and child care in the European Union</i>	41
5 THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE FAMILY	44
5.1 Use of time in the family and family division of labour	44
<i>Child care and upbringing in the family</i>	44
<i>Care services performed by the family</i>	45
5.2 The European Perspective: Child care and care services in families	46
6 THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF FAMILIES	47
6.1 Income	47
<i>Income level of various household types</i>	47
<i>Poverty and Receipt of Welfare Assistance</i>	49
6.2 Financial Assets	50
6.3 Cost of living expenditure of families and their children	51
6.4 Housing Situation	53
6.5 The European Perspective: income situation, home ownership rate	54
GLOSSARY	58
LINKS	61

Foreword

Good, reliable data are an indispensable basis for political action and objective debate, both in the national and international context. Responsible advocates and actors in the public sphere depend on the support of sound figures, accurately reflecting reality. This is particularly relevant in those socio-political areas at the heart of current debate and which call for far-reaching decisions. Developments such as changing family structures, the growing number of families of different ethnic origins and current demographic processes all have fundamental impact on social security systems. Developments in this area are not limited to the national context; they are global phenomena.



We are living in an era of internationalisation and globalisation and the mobility this entails leads to different forms of living together. Yet there is a constant factor in the midst of all upheaval and innovation and that is the family. The family today has many more facets than in previous times; in addition to the married couple family with children, there are a large number of non-married families, lone parents and families made up of several households. But the changes in external form do not alter the fact that the family is still the core element of society. The family is and remains the basic model for community spirit in action, meaning that only a nation which is family-friendly is a nation with a future. For this reason, acceptance of the family is an essential political credo – in Germany and throughout the world.

The need to foster the family links us all. But to achieve this, we also need good arguments. And these rely on quality data. That is why this report is based solely on data from official statistics or from data sets financed from public funds. The independent and representative nature of these data is guaranteed by law and is the result of sound and reliable research.

I hope that this condensed overview of families in Germany and Europe will help promote international debate on this topic, whilst also conveying important facts from Germany to the international community.

I should like to thank all users of this data report for making an active contribution to the international process of understanding on family and demographic processes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renate Schmidt". The script is cursive and fluid.

Renate Schmidt

Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Introduction

The change in private living arrangements and the development of marriage and the family are being debated throughout Europe. Are we becoming a society of singles? Is the 'normal family' dying out? Is solidarity within the family crumbling and are we on the way to a nation of 'life-segment partners' and only children? Discussion of these and related topics is on-going in Germany as in the other nations of Europe. The media in particular raise many such questions and ready answers are often found, with reference to the results of surveys and statistics claimed as revealing a clear trend. On looking closer, we often find statements with a speculative slant and a tenuous empirical basis. This publication is therefore intended to provide the public with comprehensive, basic information on the structures of households and families, the changes they have undergone in the last two or three decades and the economic situation of families as recorded in official statistics on households, population and income. Where there were gaps in official family statistics, an attempt was made to remedy this by providing supplementary information from central representative social report surveys. The aim was to depict a broad spectrum of family-related themes using data from official and semi-official statistics and to use the explanatory texts to take a brief look "behind the figures". This data brochure concentrates mainly on naming and describing the phenomena. It aims to offer a factual grounding for exploratory discussion on causes, background, interrelation and consequences of the issues and developments observed. In so doing, an attempt was made to show trends taking place in Germany in the European context, so forming a link between the German perspective and both the common ground and the peculiarities of trends in other states of the European Union.

This brochure is a short version of the German language publication "Die Familie im Spiegel der amtlichen Statistik" concentrating on key aspects of developments in the family, with selected results from the various chapters of the full version. The translation was made by Wendy Marth (Bonn).

Both "Families in Germany – Facts and Figures" and the publication "Die Familie im Spiegel der amtlichen Statistik" are part of the Federal Government's public relations work. They are available free of charge and are not intended for sale.

Available from: The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth – BMFSFJ, Publications Office, 53107 Bonn, Tel: 0180-532 93 29, Email: broschuerenstelle@bmfsfj.bund.de; Internet: www.bmfsfj.de.

1 Family and Household Types in Germany

1.1 Size and Structure of Households

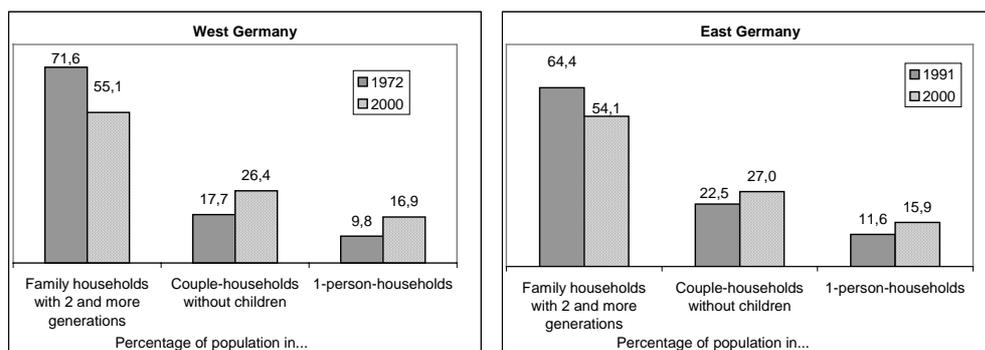
The average **household size** in Germany has been declining for decades. It has fallen by one quarter since the 1950's. In West Germany in 1955 there were still 3.0 persons per household, in 1972 2.7, and in the year 2000 only 2.2 persons per household. In East Germany the size of household has declined since 1991 from 2.3 to 2.2 persons per household.

Two-thirds of all homes in Germany are **one-generation households**, i.e. one-person or couple households without children. One in three is a multi-generation household.

In 2000, two generations were living in 12.6 million households, that is a proportion of 33 per cent of all households. **Multi-generation households** in Germany are made up almost exclusively of two-generation households, that is of families with parents and children. Only 0.3 million households (0.8% of all households) house 3 or more generations. Grandparents, parents and children living under one roof are thus a dwindling minority of all households.

Households in Germany have been decreasing in size for decades. One-generation families live in two thirds of all households.

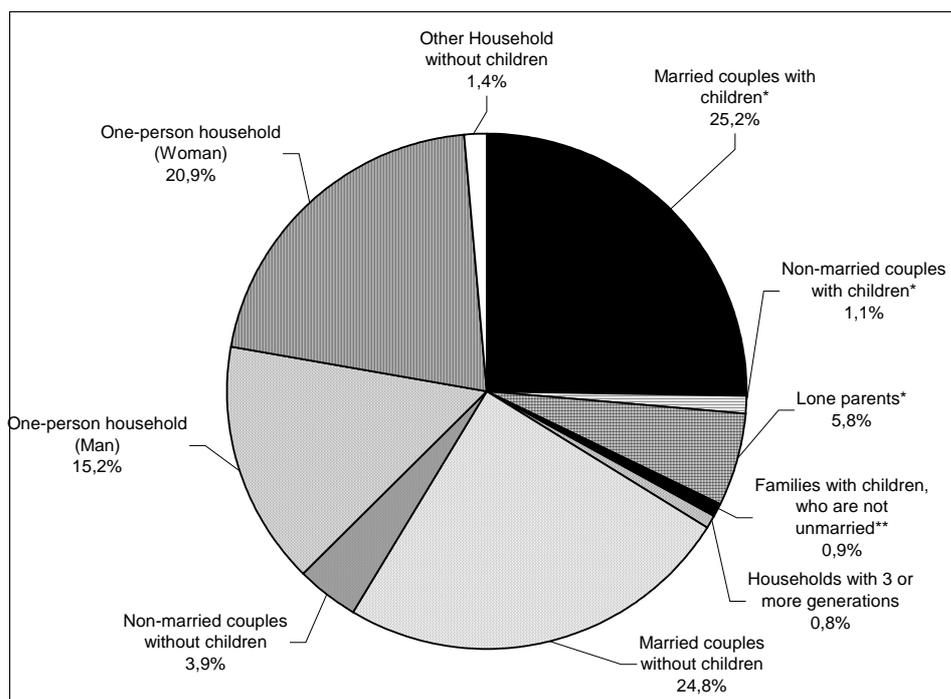
Figure 1 Population in selected household types, 1972, 1991 and 2000



Data: Federal Statistics Office, micro census: own calculations

One quarter of all private households (or three quarters of all two- and multi-generation households) consist of married couples with children, 6 per cent lone parents and 1 per cent of non-married couples with children. The proportion of all households of married couples with children has declined sharply over the past decades. In 1972 this was still 39 per cent in the former FRG. In contrast, the number of one-person households in particular has increased. There are numerous reasons for this trend. They range from changes which the population ageing process has brought about in the composition of the various age groups, the declining birth-rate over the past decades, to the strong prevalence of non-married living arrangements.

Figure 2 Private Households according to type of household 2000



Data: Federal Statistics Office, micro census; own calculations

*) 2-generation households with unmarried children only

***) 2-generation households in which at least one child is married, divorced or widowed

1.2 Selected Household and Family Types in Germany

In what **type of household** does the German population live?

Just under one third of the population in Germany is made up of adults, with children in the home, one quarter of the population consists of children living in their parental home. 29 per cent of the population live as mother or father in a family household with children, of these 3 per cent as lone parents and 2 per cent as cohabiting couples. 26 per cent of the population are unmarried children in the parental home. A large population group is that of married couples without children in the household. These are on the one hand married couples who have not (yet) started a family, on the other hand marriages of longer standing where the children have left home. 18 per cent of the population lives in a one-person household. But this figure covers various living arrangements – ranging from those who really do live alone, stable partnerships without a mutual home, to those with a daily intensive inclusion in family networks but with a separate home. A proportion of some 4 per cent of the population is made up of cohabiting couples without children. Young adults are well represented amongst this group.

➔ Overview: Families with children

In the year 2000, over half of the population in Germany lived in **family households with children** (54%), 41 percent in a household with children under the age of 18.

Table 1 Population living together with children, 1972 and 2000

Population	West Germany				East Germany		Germany	
	1972		2000		2000		2000	
	1.000	%	1.000	%	1.000	%	1.000	%
Population at family residence ¹⁾ including: in families with children not married ²⁾	60.960	100,0	66.381	100,0	15.077	100,0	81.458	100,0
- overall								
(without age limits)	41.739	68,5	35.901	54,1	8.040	53,3	43.941	53,9
(with children under 18 years)	33.517	55,0	27.501	41,4	5.832	38,7	33.332	40,9

Data: Federal Statistics Office, Micro Census; own calculations

1) Size derived from the population in private households, where persons with several domiciles are only counted at the location of their main residence.

2) Couples, non-married partnerships, lone parents and their unmarried children living in the household (including stepchildren, adopted and foster children).

The share of the population living in family households with children has been declining for decades in Germany. In 1972 this was just under 69 per cent of the population in West Germany who lived in homes with children. By 2000, this proportion had fallen by over 14 percentage points. A similar development can be observed in Eastern Germany, where the proportion of the population living in households with children is 53 per cent, i.e. 5 percentage points less than in 1996.

The reasons for the decline in the proportion of the population living in households with children in almost all European countries are diverse. They range from the general decline in the birth rate following the boom of the 1950's and 1960's, the long biographic postponement of parenthood, growing childlessness, rising divorce rates, higher life expectancy, an ageing society and migration influences, right through to shifts in economic and residential structures, educational and vocational training and the general increase in prosperity. The 'post-parental' phase after the last child has left home has extended considerably. In addition, there is today a phase usually lasting several years and made up of various non-family living arrangements occurring between leaving the parental home and starting a family. The number of those remaining childless is rising, and the higher divorce rate is also contributing to an increase in the number of middle-aged adults with no children in the household.

The proportion of married people with children in the household has declined over the past decades in favour of other living arrangements with partners and/or children and those living alone. Nevertheless the great majority of all children in Germany grow up in a married couple environment.

Although the proportion of children living in this type of family in West Germany has declined over the period 1972 to 2000 by some 10 percentage points, the "normal family" is still the predominant family environment for growing children. In 2000, 84 per cent of all children under 18 lived together with married parents. In the states of East Germany, only two out of three minors (69%) live together with married parents. The percentage of these children dropped by 12 percentage points in the years after 1991.

17 per cent of families with children are **lone parent families** and a further 8 per cent of the families consist of **unmarried couples cohabiting** (see table 2). The proportion of families with 2 and more children is higher amongst the married-couple families than for other family types.

Every second inhabitant in Germany lives in a household with children. But the share of this living arrangement in the population is on the decline.

Table 2 Families with children under 18 according to family type and number of children who are minors, 2003

Family type	Total		Of which with ... minor children ³⁾		
	1.000	%	1	2	3 and more
Married couples	6.873	75,4	46,5	40,2	13,2
Cohabiting couples ¹⁾	693	7,6	70,4	24,7	4,9
Lone parents ²⁾	1.544	16,9	67,3	25,7	7,0
Together	9.110	100,0	51,9	36,6	11,5

Data: Federal Statistic Office – Micro Census – Population at Family Residence

1) 2 people neither married nor related to each other of different sex with unmarried children but without further people in the household (including couples where both partners have their own children in the household)

2) without partners in the household

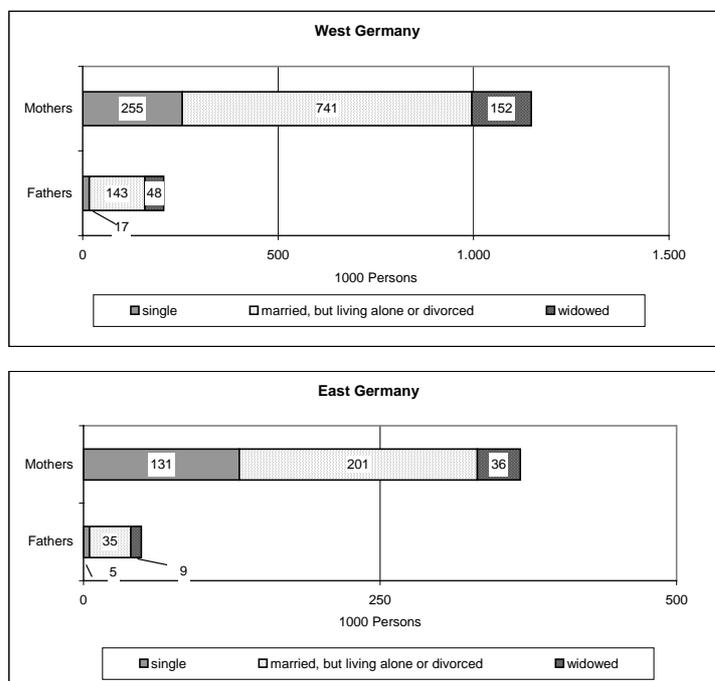
3) unmarried children living in the parental household aged under 18

➔ Lone Parents

Lone parenthood has become a widespread living arrangement in Germany over the past decades. In Germany in 2000, there were 1.77 million one-parent families in the narrower sense (i.e. lone parents with children under 27 and without any further persons in the household). Of these 86 per cent were lone mothers and 14 per cent lone fathers. The majority of lone parents are thus **mother-and-child families**. The lone parent living arrangement appears to be widespread in the states of Eastern Germany. With reference to Stegmann(1997), Schneider et al¹ estimate that 45 per cent of women born between 1953 and 1972 were, or still are, lone parents at least once. In **the former FRG** this proportion is only around 20%.

Some 1.8 million lone parents live in Germany, of which 86 per cent are lone mothers.

Figure 3 Lone parents according to marital status, 2000



Data: Federal Statistics Office, Micro Census, own calculations

The **reasons for lone parenthood** have changed over recent decades. In the past it was often widowhood or single parenthood which caused women in particular to become lone

¹ Schneider, N.F., Krüger, D. et al (2001). Alleinerziehen. Vielfalt und Dynamik einer Lebensform. Weinheim und München: Juventa.

parents; today it is mainly divorce which precedes this living arrangement. The great majority of lone parents (63%) are divorced, about one quarter (23%) of all lone parents are unmarried. The predominance of lone parents who are divorced is more marked in the former FRG than in the states of Eastern Germany. In the West almost two thirds (65%) of all lone parents are divorced, in the East only 56 percent. Here single mothers are more widespread. 36 per cent of lone mothers in the Eastern states are unmarried, as opposed to 22 percent in the former FRG. The explanation for this is inter alia greater reluctance to marry in the Eastern states and also a less pronounced normative effect of marriage as an institution. The comparative reluctance to marry in spite of parenthood is also favoured by certain economics factors such as transfer benefits, tax privileges, and easier access to child-care institutions.

One-parent families are generally one-child families. Two out of three lone parents with children under 27 (63%) – still - have only one child in the household.

→ Stepfamilies

Stepfamilies are not a new phenomenon in the development of the family. There were always children who did not grow up with their biological parents. Stepfamilies in the past were often formed after widowhood and remarriage of the surviving parent; today they are more often the result of a reconstituted partnership with children following a divorce or separation after cohabitation.

A study by the Deutsches Jugendinstitut (German Youth Institute)² commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth arrived at the following estimates of the **occurrence of stepfamilies** in Germany based on projected data from the Family Survey:

Of the approximately 9.5 million families with children under 18 in Germany, 658.000 are stepfamilies in the narrower sense, i.e. they are families where the step-parent lives with the biological parent and the child in one household. This is about 7 per cent of all families with children under 18.

Two thirds of these stepfamilies are married couple families with children, one third are couples who are cohabiting.

Seen from a different angle, some 6 per cent of all marriages with children under 18 in Germany are stepfamilies. This proportion is distinctly higher in Eastern Germany (10%) than in West Germany (5%). This means that some 45 per cent of cohabiting partnerships with children are stepfamilies (West Germany: just under 50%, Eastern Germany: 40%).

One in two “married stepfamilies” is a “complex stepfamily”, in which there are mutual biological children in addition to the stepchildren.

In 1999, some 850.000 children lived in these stepfamilies. That is 6 per cent of all children under 18 living in families in 1999 (in couple families or with lone parents).

Some 7 per cent of all families with children under 18 are stepfamilies.

² Cf. Bien, W., Hartl, A., Teubner, M. (2002). Stieffamilien in Deutschland. Eltern und Kinder zwischen Normalität und Konflikt. (Stepfamilies in Germany. Parents and Children between Normality and Conflict). Opladen: Leske & Budrich

→ Non-married partnerships

The number of non-married partnerships has risen steeply over the past decades. In the former FRG, it has increased almost twelve-fold since 1972, the year when this living arrangement was first recorded in official statistics.

In the year 2000 in Germany there were some 2.1 million unmarried couples living together, of these 30 per cent with children.

Living together without a marriage licence is especially widespread amongst **young, mainly childless couples**. Few couples today wait until after they have married before starting a common household. The vast majority of couples have a phase of cohabitation. According to the micro census, in the year 2000, 17 per cent of those aged between 25 and 29 and 13 per cent of those between 30 and 34 lived in a non-married partnership. This living arrangement is most common in these age groups.

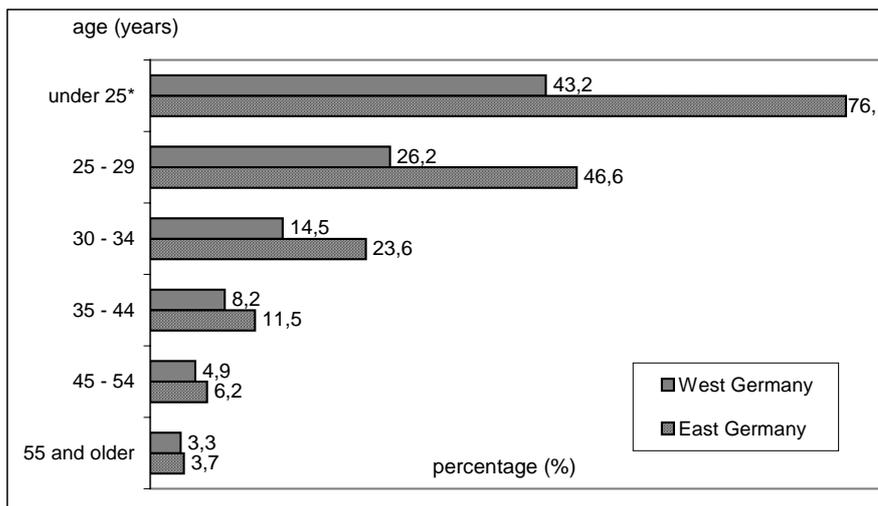
There are considerable differences in the prevalence of non-married partnerships between the **former FRG and the states of Eastern Germany**. In the states of Eastern Germany, one quarter of those aged between 25 and 29 lived in a non-married partnership in the year 2000 and nearly one fifth of those between 30 and 34. The figures for the former FRG were lower: 15 per cent for the 25 to 29 year olds, 11 per cent for the 25 to 29 year olds.

Couple structures are correspondingly different in the states of Eastern Germany. In all age groups, the proportion of unmarried couples living in one household is higher than in the former FRG. The difference is particularly marked amongst young adults and thus in the main phase for starting a family.

Three quarters (76%) of all East German couples where the female partner is under 25, for instance, cohabit. The West Germany equivalent is 43 per cent. One half (47%) of East German couples where the female partner is aged between 25 and 29 live in a cohabitation relationship, just one quarter (26%) of West German couples in the same age group.

Nearly 30 per cent of unmarried couples cohabiting live in households with children.

Figure 4 Proportion of non-married partnerships* of all couples living in one household according to the age of the woman, 2000

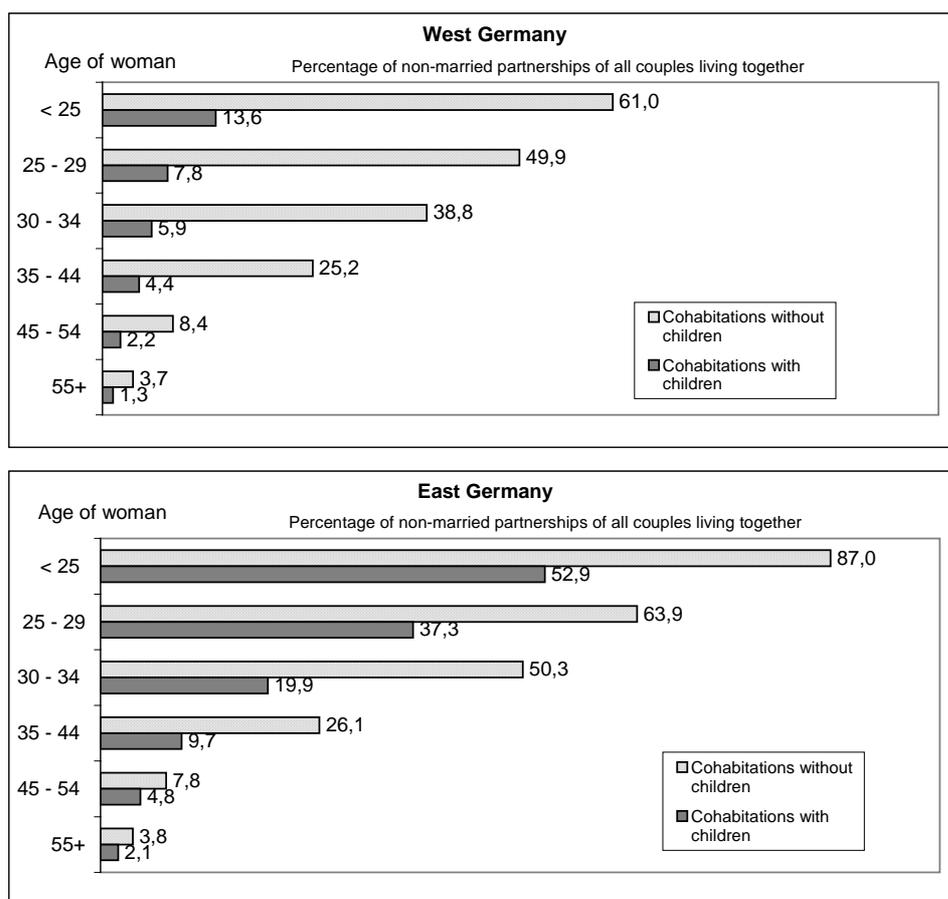


Data: Federal Statistics Office, micro census: own calculations

* - women aged between 18 and 24 in non-married partnerships and married women between 15 and 24

East German couples are less likely to combine starting a family with getting married. They have longer periods of cohabitation which is not necessarily ended by the birth of one or more children. West German couples, on the other hand, are more likely to marry, at the latest after the birth of a child. Non-married partnerships in West Germany are basically a living arrangement for couples without children, in East Germany more frequently with children too.

Figure 5 Proportion of non-married partnerships ¹⁾ without and with children ²⁾ of all couples living in one household without and with children according to the age of the woman ³⁾, 2000



Data: Federal Statistics Office, Micro Census; own calculations

1) Two people neither related nor married to each other of different sex with or without unmarried children

2) unmarried children of one or both partners in the household, including step, adopted and foster children

3) Age "under 25": women between 18 -24 in non-married partnerships and married women from 15 -24.

About one in four non-married partnerships in the year 2000 in West Germany (23%) lived together in a household with one or more **children**. In East Germany this applied to nearly every second non-married partnership (49%). For Germany as a whole, the proportion of non-married partnerships with children is 30 per cent.

Or seen from a different angle: only 4 per cent of West Germany couples living with children and 13 per cent of those without children are not married to each other. In East Germany 13 per cent of couples without children and of those couples with children live in a non-married partnership.

Non-married partnerships are not only a typical living arrangement for the initial phase of a couple relationship; they are clearly becoming a more widespread living arrangement after the breakdown of a marriage. In 2000, for instance, one quarter (24%) of the non-married partnerships without children included at least one of the partners who was divorced. The same applied to almost one half (47%) of the non-married partnerships with children.

Same sex partnerships

In the year 2000 in Germany there were at least 47.000 partners of the same sex living together.³

³ Cf. Family Research Office of the State Statistical Office Baden-Württemberg (2002) . Press Statement. 011/2002 of 9 January 2002

These consisted of those couples who openly described themselves as such in the micro census survey. It can be assumed that the actual figure is higher. Of these 47000 same sex partnerships, 59 per cent are male couples and 41 per cent female. There are children in one of eight same sex partnerships, in one in three at least one partner had been formerly married. The average age of the partners in same sex relationships living in one household is in the late thirties. This makes them generally somewhat older than heterosexual partners cohabiting, but much younger than married couples.

➔ **One-person households**

About one household in three in Germany (36%) in the year 2000 was a one-person household. That means 13.8 million households, where 17 per cent of the population live. 58 per cent of the one-person households are female households, 42 per cent male.

The number and proportion of one-person households in Germany has increased sharply over the past decades. In the year 2000 11.3 million households of this type were counted in the former FRG, compared with 6 million households in 1972. That is an increase of 5.3 million or 89 per cent. The proportion of one-person households of all West German households grew over this period from 26 to 37 per cent.

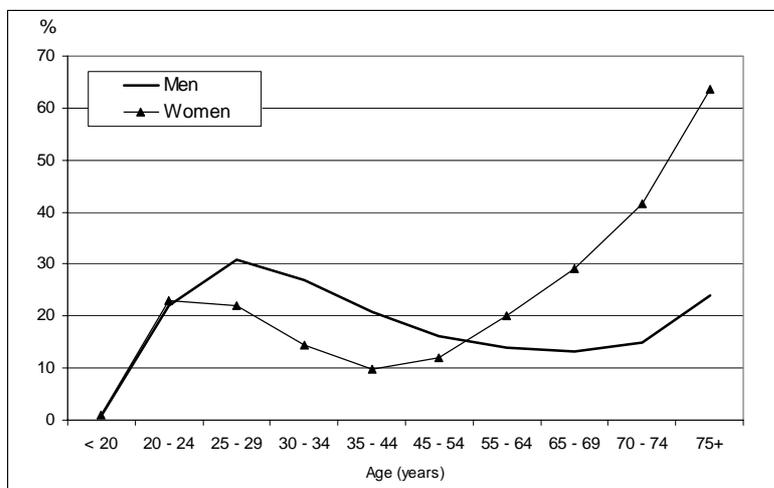
The main factors in this increase are: the ageing of society combined with higher life expectancy for women, the time lapse between leaving the parental home and entering a stable partnership, the declining stability of couple relationships, the increase in the number of those remaining without a partner (particularly men), the immigration of individuals without a partner and the increase in the number of couples with separate households.

In addition to this, the ratio between female and male one-person households has shifted. In 1972 there were still many more female one-person households, in West Germany 71 per cent. This included numerous older women living alone whose number was disproportionately larger than men of the same age because of the Second World War. In 2000, women accounted for only 42 per cent of the one-person households in West Germany. The main reasons for this shift in the ratio of male and female one-person households are the demographic decrease in the number of very old widows, a disproportionate increase in the number of middle-aged men living alone, and in gender-differentiated migration flow into Germany which contributed to a surplus of younger and middle-aged men.

The proportion of one-person households varies greatly according to **age and sex** (see figure 6). Older women in particular often live in a one-person household because of bereavement. One half of all women living alone (46%) are widows over 55.

One third of all households in Germany are one-person households. 17 per cent of the population live in these households.

Figure 6 Age-specific frequency of women and men living alone 2003 (as a percentage of all women/men of the same age in private households)



Data: Federal Statistics Office, Micro Census; own calculations

Younger and middle aged men more commonly live in one-person households than women. When they grow older, a growing proportion of women live alone – mainly because of widowhood. This applies to two-thirds of all women over 75. Over the past three decades the greatest increase in those living alone has taken place amongst young adult men (mid-twenties to mid-thirties), women over thirty and very old women aged over 75. Of all middle aged adults, the increase mostly applies to men.

The sharp rise in the number of very old women living alone is on the one hand due to increased life expectancy in comparison to men, on the other hand to the influence of demographic developments on the generations affected by the last war. As these grew older, the proportion of women aged between 55 and 70 living alone correspondingly declined.

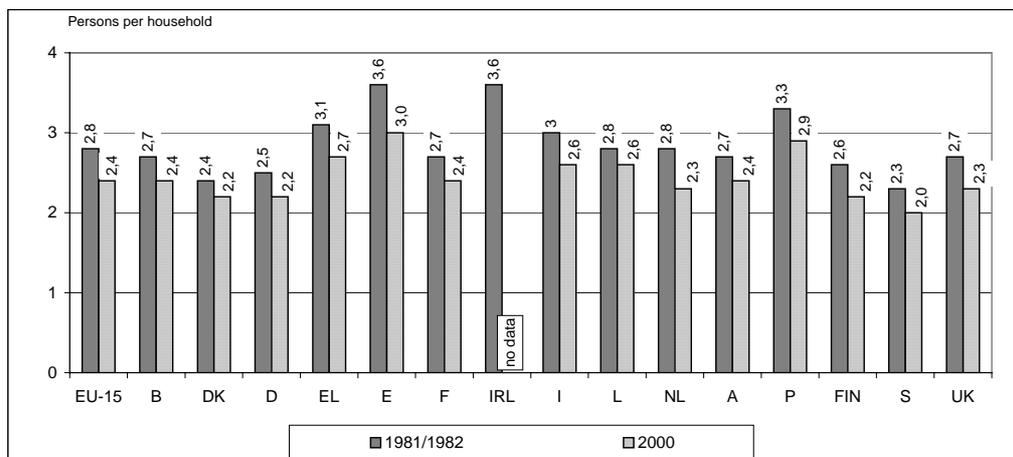
Whereas men living alone are mainly unmarried and are young or middle aged adults, two thirds of the women living alone are in a post-marital phase as either widows or divorcees and the majority are aged over 65.

1.3 The European Perspective: Family Living Arrangements in Europe

➔ Size and Structure of Households in the EU

Whilst the number of households in the countries of the EU is growing, their average size is decreasing. Thus the average household size dropped from 2.8 persons per household in 1981 to 2.4 in the year 1999. In 1999, the range of average household size was between 2.0 and 3.1 persons per household.

Figure 7 Development of average household size in the countries of the EU between 1981/82 and 2000⁴



Source: European Commission: Description of the Social Situation in Europe 2001, Luxembourg 2001 for 1981/82 and Eurostat Yearbook 2002 for 2000.

There are great differences between the various regions of the European Union. In the southern member states, larger and more complex households with several generations living together are more common, whereas the tendency for an increasing number of people to live alone is very pronounced in the northern member states. Few people live in households in Germany in comparison to other EU states.

Germany, together with Denmark, Finland and Sweden, is in the quartile of countries with the smallest average households.

German households are small by European comparison.

⁴ The abbreviations for the countries in the tables and figures represent: EU15-15 EU states, B-Belgium, DK-Denmark, D-Germany, EL-Greece, E-Spain, F-France, IRL-Ireland, I-Italy, L-Luxembourg, NL-Netherlands, A-Austria, P-Portugal, FIN-Finland, S-Sweden, UK-United Kingdom

The European Commission lists the growing number of older people, the declining birth rate and the increased divorce rate as the main factors in the trend leading to more one-person and lone parent households and to fewer families with two children and more.⁵

In 1999, for instance, almost 12 per cent of the EU population lived alone in a household compared with nearly 10 per cent in 1988 and a mere 8 per cent in 1981. Extrapolations show that the ageing factor alone will cause the proportion of people living alone to rise to 13 per cent by 2010; the figure will be 17 per cent if a scenario of increased "individualisation" is assumed.

Table 3 shows the household constellations in which the population of the various EU states lives.

Table 3 Proportion of Persons living in private households according to household type, 1999

	1 adult without children*	2 adults without children*	3 or more adults without children*	1 adult with child/children*	2 adults with child/children*	3 or more adults with child/children*	
B	12	23	11	5	42	8	
DK	17	28	8	3	36	7	
D	16	29	10	4	34	7	
EL	8	21	18	2	38	13	
E	5	16	22	2	34	21	
F	13	25	8	5	43	7	
IRL	7	14	14	4	43	18	
I	9	18	21	2	37	13	
L	10	20	12	4	43	12	
NL	14	29	9	3	35	9	
A	12	22	15	3	33	14	
P	5	16	18	2	39	20	
FIN	16	26	6	6	41	4	
UK	13	27	12	8	33	8	
EU-15	12	24	14	4	36	11	

Source: European Commission: Description of the Social Situation in Europe 2001, Luxembourg 2001

*children entitled to maintenance, ie. all children up to age of 15 plus all persons up to age of 16 who are not active and live with at least one parent.

Sweden – no information

Germany, in comparison to other EU states, has a relatively high proportion of the total population who are adults living alone. The average proportion for the EU is 12 per cent, Germany with 16 per cent is in the quartile of countries with the highest proportion of one-person households.

Germany is the EU country with the lowest proportion of the population living in households with (maintenance-entitled) children of all EU states. According to Eurostat data, 45 per cent of the population live in households with children. Only Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom have similarly low rates (under 50%).

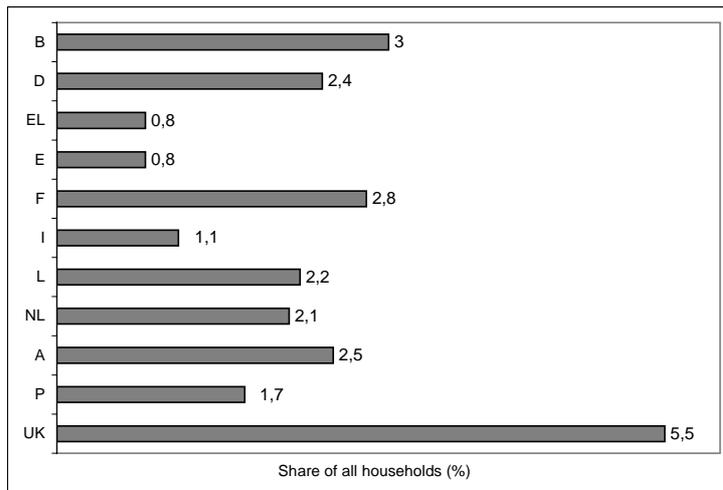
Germany is amongst those EU states with the highest share of people living alone and the lowest proportion of households with children.

⁵ Cf. European Commission, Eurostat (2001) Description of the Social Situation in Europe 2001, Luxembourg.

Lone Parents

The proportion of all households in the European Union which are **lone parent households** is between one and five per cent. The figure varies greatly between the various EU states. The southern EU states such as Greece, Spain, Portugal and Italy have low proportions of lone parent households. Much higher are the proportions of this household type in the United Kingdom⁶. Germany is in the middle of the scale for this household type.

Figure 8 Proportion of all households which are lone parent households* in the EU countries, 2000



Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, 2000
 * households consisting of one adult with child/children
 no data for Denmark, Ireland, Finland, Sweden

One- Person Households

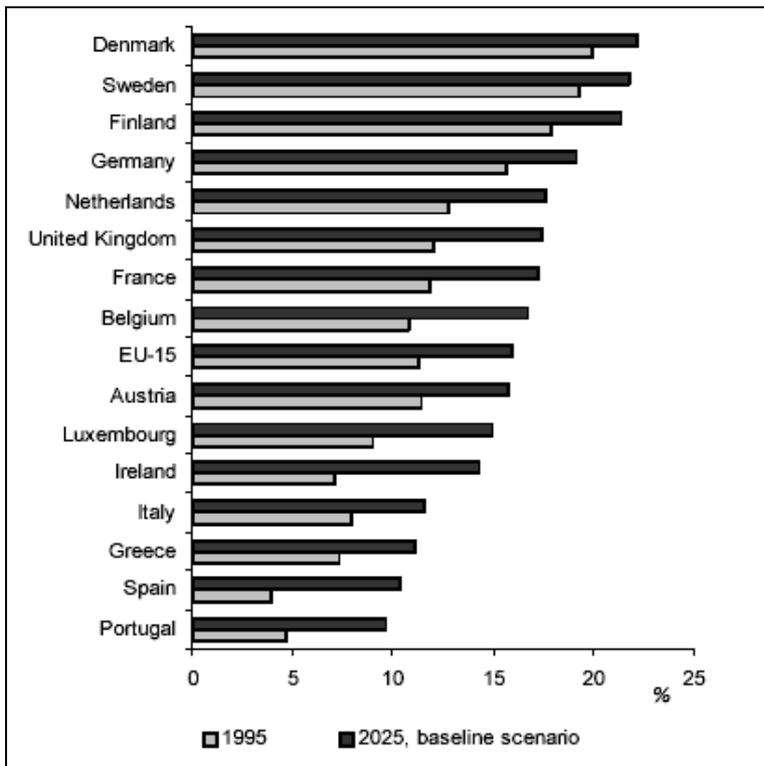
One reason for the overall increase in the number of households in the EU-15 is the strong increase in one-person households. In 1960 there were 13 million one-person households in the EU representing 15% of all private households. By 1980 the number had more than doubled at 27.5 million. In 1995 the EU-15 had 41.9 million one-person households or 28% of all households. An EU estimate anticipates a figure between 51 and 71 million one-person households for 2025. The proportion of one-person households would then be between 28 and 41 percent. More women than men live alone in all member states. Women live longer and usually marry older men, increasing the likelihood that they will survive their husbands. In most of the member states, however, the number of men living alone is higher amongst the younger age groups.

Germany, together with the northern European states Denmark, Sweden and Finland, is amongst the countries with the highest proportion of one-person households in 1995 and for which this is also forecast for 2020.

The number of one-person households increased sharply in the past and will continue to grow in the future.

⁶ There is no information on the proportion of one-person households in Finland, but figures for the proportion of the population who are lone parents indicate that above-average rates exist here too.

Figure 9 Proportion of person in the EU living alone 1995 and 2020 (forecast)



Source: Eurostat (2003): Trends in Households in the European Union 1995-2025, Statistics in Focus, Theme 3-24/2003.

2 Family Foundation and Development

2.1 Marriages

→ Development of marriage figures and age at first marriage

Trends in marriages have been marked by the following characteristics since the mid-1970's, some of which have become more pronounced in recent years:

- the (renewed) rise in age at marriage,
- the increased number of those remaining unmarried, above all West German men,
- the growing number of divorces amongst married couples,
- more foreign and bi-national bridal couples,
- the sharp decline in marriages after 1989 in East Germany, combined with an abrupt rise in the age on marriage
- and the increase in the number of East German bridal couples with children born outside marriage which took place during the GDR era and continued after reunification.

The number of marriages in Germany has been decreasing for decades. The age at marriage is increasing.

Table 4 Marriage indicators 1950 – 2000

Year	Marriages overall	where the bride and groom:			total first marriage rate ¹⁾		average age on first marriage	
		where both unmarried	where both German	already had children of their own	Men	Women	Men	Women
		abs.	%		per 100 unmarried		years	
West Germany								
1950	535 708	73,9 ²⁾	95,4	.	135	112	28,1	25,4
1960	521 445	83,4	96	.	106	106	25,9	23,7
1970	444 510	80	92,6	3,3	90	97	25,6	23
1980	362 408	74,3	90,2	3,6	64	66	26,1	23,4
1990	414 475	70,6	88,8	5,4	60	64	28,4	25,9
1999	370 171	63,9	82,5	11,1	57	64	31,1	28,4
2000	359 837	63,6	81,2	11,4	.	.	31,3	28,5
Former GDR/East Germany and East Berlin								
1950	214 744	62,5	.	.	.	.	26,1	24
1960	167 583	77,7	.	.	103	105	23,9	22,5
1970	130 723	74	.	9,7 ³⁾	101	98	24	21,9
1980	134 195	72,1	.	13,6	79	81	23,9	21,8
1989	130 989	61,5	.	26,9	68	76	25,8	23,7
1991	50 529	57	95,3	26,5	27	31	26,6	24,5
1993	49 252	59,7	92,9	26,9	29	34	27,6	25,5
1995	54 184	60,5	91,9	25,1	33	40	28,5	26,4
1997	53 380	61,2	89,3	24,7	33	41	29,3	27
1999	60 503	58,7	91,5	27,3	40	48	30,3	27,7
2000	58 713	59,4	90,9	27,6	.	.	30,7	28
Germany								
1991	454 291	68,4	88,7	8,1	.	.	28,5	26,1
1995	430 534	66,7	84,6	9,6	.	.	29,7	27,3
1999	430 674	63,2	83,7	13,4	54	61	31	28,3
2000	418 550	63,1	82,5	13,7	.	.	31,2	28,4

Sources: Federal Statistics Office – marriage statistics; Statistisches Bundesamt (1995) Im Blickpunkt: Familien heute, Stuttgart. Dorbritz, J.; Gärtner K. (1995), Bericht 1995 über die demographische Lage in Deutschland, in: Zeitschrift für Bevölkerungswissenschaft, Jg. 19, H.4/1993-94.

1) Sum of age-specific marriage rates for unmarried men/women aged 15 to 49; it indicates what percentage of the unmarried would marry, assuming that current age-specific behaviour continued to apply; in times when there is a substantial marriage 'backlog' and a rapidly decreasing marrying age (as for instance in the 1950's), this synthetic index of the first marriage inclination can reach values of over 100;

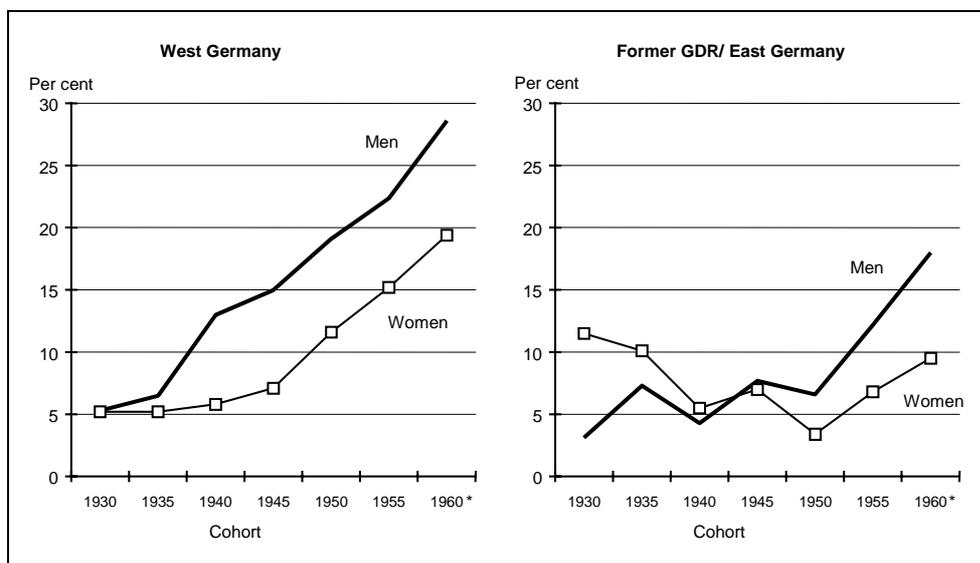
2) 1951; 3) 1971; . = information not available

→ Frequency of first marriages and those remaining unmarried

Of those marrying in the year 2000, unmarried men were aged on the average 30.7 (East) or 31.3 (West), women on the average 2.7 years younger. At the start of the year 2000, 18 per cent of men and 11 percent of women aged between 40 and 44 were **unmarried**. The unmarried quota for this age group has thus risen by 6 per cent (men) or 7 percent (women) since 1991 alone. In the former FRG, it is estimated that three out of ten of the men born in 1960 and two out of ten women born in the same year will not marry. In the states of East Germany, this will be some 18 per cent of men and 10 per cent of women. The drop in **first marriages** will be only partially compensated by the increase in couples cohabiting. The number of middle aged people living alone who are without a partner and unmarried is rising steadily, particularly amongst males. This, combined with the increased divorce rate, will reduce the support potential of partnerships in decades to come.

Not only are people marrying later, the proportion of those who will never marry is also rising.

Figure 10 Proportion of never-married men and women born between 1930 and 1960



Data: Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung:
*partly estimated

→ Remarriages

Fewer and fewer marriages are pure first marriages, i.e. marriages between two people who have never been married. The growing number of divorcees is increasing the proportion of second marriages in marriage statistics, although less people are marrying again following divorce or widowhood.

In 2000 only 64 per cent of West German and 59 per cent of East German marriages were first marriages for man and woman. Four decades earlier, it was still 83 and 78 per cent. The increase in the number of divorcees in the population has led to a corresponding rise in marriages between people who are no longer unmarried. In this process, **remarriage after divorce** has supplanted **remarriage after widowhood**. 95 per cent of the newly founded remarriages of women in 1999 were marriages after a previous divorce. In 1960 this figure was just 67 per cent.

Yet the likelihood of divorcees marrying again has fallen. According to estimates of the Federal Institute for Population Research, some 61 per cent of women and 55 per cent of men marry again after divorce, in West Germany more, in East Germany less.

In one third of all marriages one or both partners are either divorced or widowed

2.2 Births and number of children

→ The overall decline in the birth rate in Germany

Apart from short interruptions (e.g. between 1975 and 1980 in the former GDR) and the 'echo effect' of the West German baby boom at the end of the 1950s and early 1960s, as those born in the boom years attained parenthood age, the birth rate in Germany has been falling since the mid-1960s. The number of births in East Germany sank dramatically in the first years following reunification. The ensuing slight increase could not compensate for this abrupt fall.

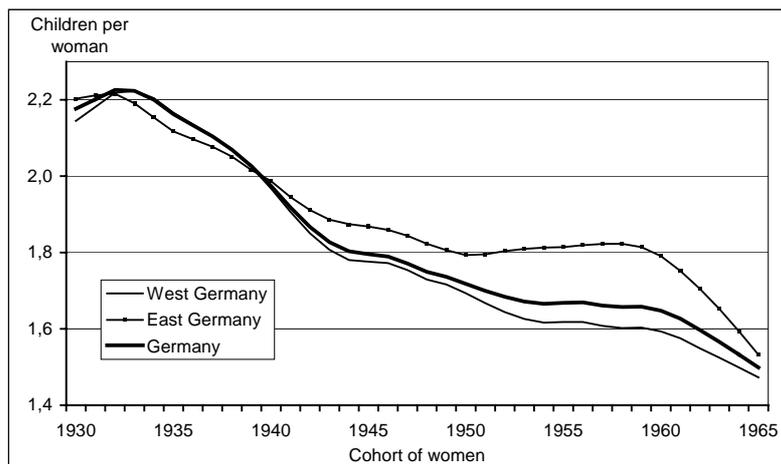
In the year 2000 the total fertility rate was around 1.36 children per woman. There are still marked differences between East and West Germany: in the former FRG the total fertility rate reached 1.41 in 2000, only 1.21 in the states of Eastern Germany.

→ Final number of children and childlessness

The long term decline in fertility is more aptly demonstrated by the development of **average numbers of children in consecutive generations** than in the cross-sectional measurement of the total fertility rate. In so doing we have to rely on estimates, since the number of children born to date to one person is not recorded in official statistics in Germany. On an average, women born in the early 1930s had 2.2 children, those born in 1960 only 1.65. It is expected that women born in 1965 will have an average of only 1.5 children. For the generation of the children to be equal in size on reaching adulthood to the generation of their parents, the parent generation would need to have an average of 2.1 children. Yet this average number of children was not even attained by those born in the second half of the 1930s – and levels for the younger generations will fall increasingly short of that mark. The fertility figures so far available for the youngest cohorts reveal a further drop. Thus women born in 1969 in the former FRG have an average of 0.87 children per woman by the age of 30, a number which is 22 per cent lower than women of this age born in 1960.

The average number of children per woman has been falling for several decades.

Figure 11 Average final number of children of women* born between 1930 and 1965.



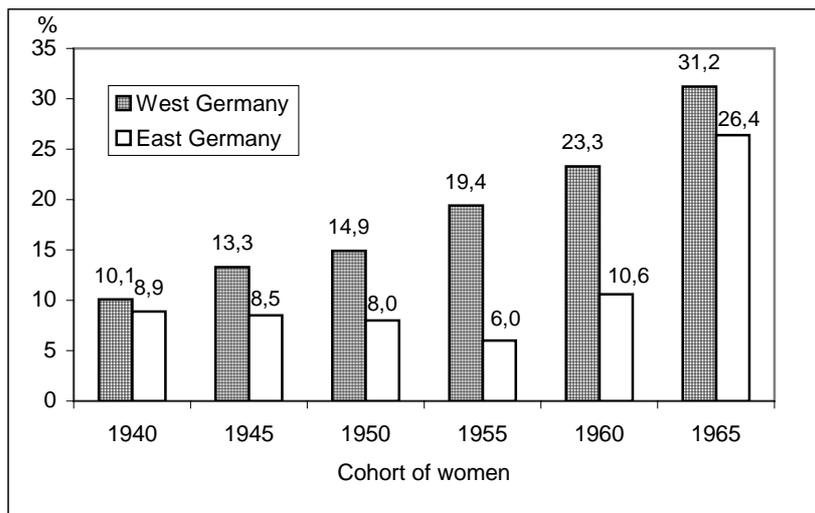
Data: Federal Institute for Population Research

*) Calculations on the basis of age-specific births for the cohorts, partly estimated in the case of younger cohorts.

The decline in average final numbers of children conceals varying generative behaviour patterns. What is particularly striking is the number of those who **remain childless**. In contrast, those who so far decided to have a family in West Germany in particular show a slightly increased tendency to have two or more children. This produced a degree of polarisation of generative behaviour between permanent childlessness and families with at least two children. Meanwhile there are increasing signs that, while childlessness continues to increase, the proportion of one-child families is growing as the proportion of families with two or more children stagnates.

The proportion of those remaining childless has risen steeply, and is 30 per cent of women born in 1965.

Figure 12 Estimated proportion of women remaining childless of those born between 1940 and 1965



Source: Federal Institute for Population Research: own calculations

The proportion of final childlessness is particularly high amongst the highly qualified in West Germany. Here 44 per cent of women with a university degree aged between 35 and 39 have no children in the household.

A 2004 study of childlessness amongst men⁷ comes to the conclusion that from the year 2001 on, 17 per cent of the West German men aged over 46 will have no children. This was 11 per cent of the East German men of the same age group. This ratio is also reflected in the number of childless women (16% West, 8% East)⁸.

➔ Average age on transition to parenthood

The **commencement of parenthood** has been postponed by several years in the past two decades.

Whereas West German women in the year 1980 were on an average 25.2 at the birth of the first child of their marriage, this had risen to 29 years old by the year 2000. In East Germany too starting a family is postponed to a later age, a trend which became more pronounced following reunification. In 1980 the mothers of the first-born children of a marriage were on an average 22.7, i.e. 2.5 years younger than their counterparts in the West. In 2000, this age difference for an average age of 28 was just 1 year. The age at which unmarried women give birth has also increased.

The average age for the birth of a first child in a marriage in Germany is 29, for outside marriage births 27.5.

⁷ Schmitt, Christian (2004): Kinderlose Männer in Deutschland – eine sozialstrukturelle Bestimmung auf Basis des Sozioökonomischen Panels (SOEP). Short expertise, DIW-Materialien Nr. 34, Berlin.
⁸ These values are not comparable with the figures on childlessness of women in fig. 12, since different methodical approaches were used for the data. Where the cohort approach in Fig 12 analyses the number of children for differing female cohorts for one year in each case at the end of the fertile phase, Schmitt looks at a cross-section of respondents for the year 2001 and so includes the total of several cohorts in the examination.

The mothers of children born outside marriage in the former FRG in the year 2000 were on an average 28 years old (1980: 23.5), in the states of Eastern Germany 26.5 years old (1980: 22.1).

Table 5 Average age of women at the birth of their first child, 1960-2000

	Calendar year						
	1960	1970	1980	1989	1991	1996	2000
	Average age (in years)						
Germany:							
- married women, first child of marriage ¹⁾	26,9	28,3	29,0
- women who have a child when unmarried	.	.	.	.	25,4	27,0	27,5
Former FRG:							
- married women, first child of marriage ¹⁾	25,0	24,3	25,2	26,8	27,1	28,4	29,0
- women who have a child when unmarried	23,9	23,4	23,5	25,1	26,4	27,5	28,0
Former GDR/Eastern states and East Berlin							
-married women, first child of marriage ¹⁾	.	23,9	22,7	23,8	24,9	27,3	28,4
- women who have a child when unmarried	23,0	23,1	22,1	23,7	23,7	25,8	26,5
- All women, woman's first child	.	21,9	22,1	22,9	.	.	.

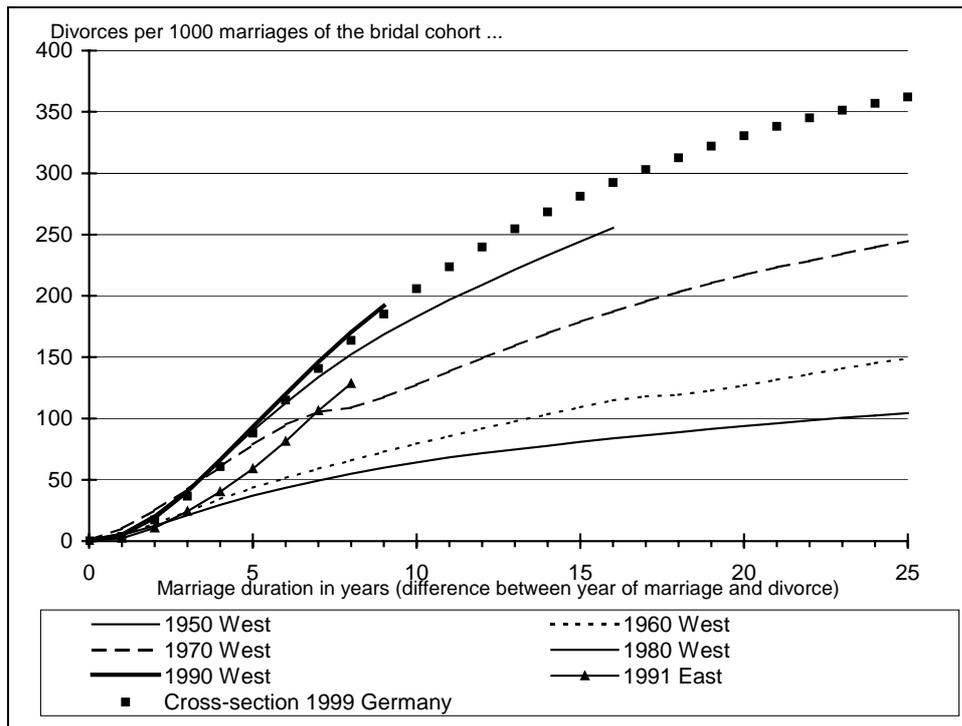
Sources: Federal Statistics Office – Statistics of Births; Federal Institute for Population Research
 Dorbritz, J.; Gärtner, K. (1995): Die demographische Bedeutung des Familienstandes, Stuttgart.
 1) Not including couples whose first mutual child was born outside marriage.

2.3 Divorces

There has been a substantial increase in the number of divorces since the mid-1960's. One marriage in four ends in divorce before 15 years of marriage have elapsed. The divorce rate is also increasing in the case of couples who have been married longer. On the basis of the divorce rates according to duration of marriage for 2000, it can be expected that 37 per cent of marriages will end with divorce (consolidated divorce rate).

Over one third of all marriages are dissolved.

Figure 13 Duration-specific divorce rate for selected bridal cohorts



Source: Federal Statistics Office – Statistic on Marriages and Court Dissolutions of Marriages; Emmerling, D.(2001): Ehescheidungen 1999. in: Wirtschaft und Statistik; own calculations

Just under one half (49%) of marriages dissolved in 2000 has one or more minor children at the time of divorce. The proportion of couples divorcing when the parents have minor children has declined over the past five years, in the states of East Germany in particular. In 1995, 71 per cent of all dissolved marriages there were with children under 18, in the year 2000 only 58 per cent.

It can be anticipated that around one fifth of the children born to married couples in the 1990's (including those born outside marriage) will experience the divorce of their parents in the course of the first two decades of their life.

2.4 Widowhood

Although marriages are less and less frequently ended by death and increasingly by divorce, the annual number of widowhoods is double that of divorces. In the year 2000, there were some 340.000 widowhoods. That is 64 per cent of all marriage dissolutions for this year and 41 per cent of all deaths.

Widowhood is predominantly experienced by women. In the year 2000, 71 per cent of those widowed were female.

Using the figure for annual new applications for a surviving dependant's pension as a guideline, women are widowed at an average age of 67 and men are aged 68 on an average when their wife dies. In the former FRG, the age on application for a widow's pension has increased by around eight years since 1960. There was a similarly sharp rise in the application age of women for this pension in East Germany in the course of the 1990's. This is due not only to mortality developments, but also to adjustments in the pension system and changes in the age structure of married couples resulting from the sharp decline in marriages after reunification.

In 7 out of 10 deaths amongst married couples, the woman is the surviving partner.

2.5 The European Perspective: births and marriages

→ Number of children and childlessness

Germany is one of the countries in the European Union with the lowest birth rate and the highest proportion of those remaining childless.

The low number of children reveals itself both in the yearly total fertility rate and in the number of children for the birth cohorts with – to a great extent – the fertility phase completed.

For the total fertility rate for the year 2001, Germany with 1.29 children per woman, is - together with Austria and Greece - third from last after Spain (1.25) and Italy (1.24).

In EU comparison, Germany is noteworthy for its low birth rate and high proportion of those remaining childless.

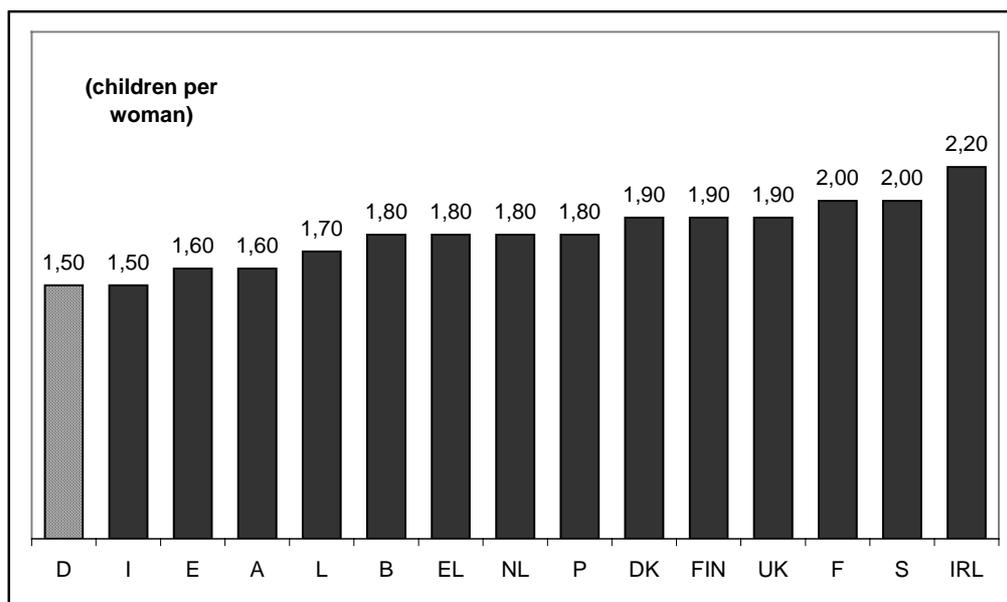
Table 6 *Indicators for the Births Development in the EU*

Country	Total fertility rate 2001 (per woman)	Proportion of births outside marriage (in %)	Average child bearing age 1999 (in years)
EU-15	1,47	28	–
Belgium	1,65	22	–
Denmark	1,74	45	29,6
Germany	1,29	23	28,7
Greece	1,29	4	28,9
Spain	1,25	17	30,7
France	1,90	43	29,4
Ireland	1,98	32	30,5
Italy	1,24	10	–
Luxembourg	1,70	22	29,4
Netherlands	1,69	22	30,3
Austria	1,29	31	28,1
Portugal	1,42	22	28,6
Finland	1,73	39	29,6
Sweden	1,57	55	29,8
United Kingdom	1,63	40	28,4

Source: Eurostat Yearbook 2003

The average final number of children of 1.5 children per woman for women born in Germany in 1964 is the EU minimum, shared only with Italy. In the statistics on childlessness amongst women born in 1955, West Germany leads the EU with 22 per cent in an Eurostat estimate, followed by Finland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Figure 14 Estimated final number of children for women born in 1964 in European countries



Source: Eurostat Year Book 2003

The comparatively high number of children for French and Swedish women and the higher fertility of East German women (mainly because of less childlessness) for this cohort shows that high female labour force participation is quite compatible with a higher average number of children. The decisive factor is how well family and job can be combined.

Table 7 Proportion of childless women in the EU according to birth cohorts, 1930-1963

	Cohort									
	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950	1955	1960	1961	1962	1963
B	:	9	9	9	10	11	:	:	:	:
DK	:	:	10	8	10	13	12	12	12	12
D ¹⁾	:	9	11	13	15	22	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	8	6	10	11	11	15	16	16
F	12	10	8	7	7	8	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	4	5	6	9	13	15	:	:	:
I	:	13	13	10	11	11	15	16	18	19
L	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	:	12	12	12	15	17	18	19	19	19
A	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	4	4	6	5	9	7	7	8	8	9
FIN	:	:	14	14	16	18	18	18	19	21
S	:	:	13	12	13	13	14	15	15	15
UK ²⁾	13	11	11	10	14	17	:	:	:	:

Source: Eurostat, European Social Statistics Population, 2001

1) former GDR not included

2) Scotland and Northern Ireland not included

→ Marriages and divorces

There are countries in which men and women are more likely to marry and to marry younger, but there are also countries in the EU in which people remain unmarried longer and more often. Germany is around the average with a figure of 58 (per 100) in figures published by the European Council for recorded consolidated **first marriages** for women in Germany (cf. Table 8). Portugal and Denmark in particular have a much higher first marriage figure; France, Italy, Spain and Finland are a little higher than Germany. Belgium and Greece are at the end of the scale.

Germany is currently around average in the field in the EU for frequency of marriage and age on first marriage.

Table 8 *Marriages and Divorces per 1000 in the population*

	Marriages per 1000 people			Divorces per 1000 people		
	1960	1980	2001	1960	1980	2000
EU-15	7,9	6,3	:	:	:	1,9*
B	7,2	6,7	4,1*	0,5	1,5	2,6
DK	7,8	5,2	6,6	1,5	2,7	2,7
D	9,5	6,3	4,7*	1,0	1,8	2,4
EL	7,0	6,5	5,4*	0,3	0,7	0,9*
E	7,7	5,9	5,2*	0,0	0,0	1,0*
F	7,0	6,2	5,1*	0,7	1,5	:
IRL	5,5	6,4	5,0*	:	:	:
I	7,7	5,7	:	0,0	0,2	0,7
L	7,1	5,9	4,5*	0,5	1,6	2,3
NL	7,8	6,4	5,1*	0,5	1,8	2,2
A	8,3	6,2	4,2*	1,1	1,8	2,4
P	7,8	7,4	5,7*	0,1	0,6	1,9
FIN	7,4	6,2	4,8	0,8	2,0	2,7
S	6,7	4,5	4,0	1,2	2,4	2,4
UK	7,5	7,4	:	0,5	2,8	2,6*

Source: Eurostat Yearbook 2003

* provisional figure

In Germany there is a comparatively high proportion of **remarriages** in the yearly numbers of marriages. In 1999, for instance, only 74 per cent of brides were single. This figure was only lower in the EU in Denmark and Great Britain, whilst in southern Europe and Ireland, over 90 per cent of weddings are between single people.

Related to **divorces** the discrepancies between the countries of the EU are higher than in the case of frequency of marriage. The scale for the total divorce rate for 1999 ranges from 10 (Italy) and 16 (Greece) to 51 (Finland) and 53 per 100 marriages (Sweden).

The average duration of marriage until divorce varies less. In most EU countries, marriages dissolved in 1999 had an average duration of 11 to 13 years. In Germany the average was 12 years. An exception is Italy, with an average length of 16 years for dissolved marriages. Marriages also last a little longer in France. But here too differences between the countries in the composition of marriages according to duration of marriage and age can also be a factor.

Germany is also average in the field of frequency of divorce within the EU.

3 Demographic Ageing of the Population

The process of population ageing is marked by a shift in the age structures in the population – the proportion of younger people falls in relation to the proportion of older people.

This demographic ageing is a two-part process – the population ages as it were from the bottom up (by a sustained low birth rate and growing childlessness) and from above (by the growing life expectancy of older people). A third factor is the influence of migration processes on population trends.

3.1 The 10. Coordinated Population Projection until the year 2050

The 10. Coordinated Population Projection on which the following statements on future population developments are based, was presented by the Federal Statistics Office in 2003. It is calculated from the base population of 31.12.2001 and aims to quantify the changes in size and age structure of the population up to 2050 on the basis of current realistic assumptions.⁹

➔ Assumptions for the individual components of the projections

The assumptions for the projections involve three demographic complexes: the development of birth rates, the development of life expectancy and (external) migration.

For the purposes of the projection, different variants of the individual components were established and combined to make a total of nine different scenarios (cf. Table 9). In the following, the results of Scenario 5 are presented, a scenario with mean values in the development of life expectancy and external migration balances.

Table 9 Assumptions of the 10. Coordinated Population Projection 2003

Birth rates	former FRG: birth rate (1.4 children per woman) is sustained
	Eastern states alignment to level of former FRG up to 2010
Life expectancy	
new births	Variante 1: male: 78,9 years(2050) female: 85,7 years (2050) Variante 2: male: 81,1 years (2050) female: 86,6 years (2050) Variante 3: male: 82,6 years (2050) female: 88,1 years(2050)
60 year olds	Variante 1: male: further 22,0 years(2050) female: further 27,7 years (2050) Variante 2: male: further 23,7 years (2050) female: further 28,2 years (2050) Variante 3: male: further 24,9 years (2050) female : further 29,4 years(2050)
Migration	
Germans	860.000 Pers. immigration by 2050
Foreigners	Variante 1: Net immigration 100.000 Pers./year Variante 2: Net immigration 200.000 Pers./year Variante 3: Net immigration 200.000 Pers./year by 2010 Net immigration 300.000 Pers./year from 2011

Source: Federal Statistics Office 2003. 10. Koordinierte Bevölkerungsvorausberechnung

⁹ Cf. Statistisches Bundesamt (Federal Statistics Office) (2003): Bevölkerung Deutschlands bis 2050. 10. Koordinierte Bevölkerungsvorausberechnung.(The Population of Germany to 2050. 10. Coordinated Population Projection). Press version. Wiesbaden.

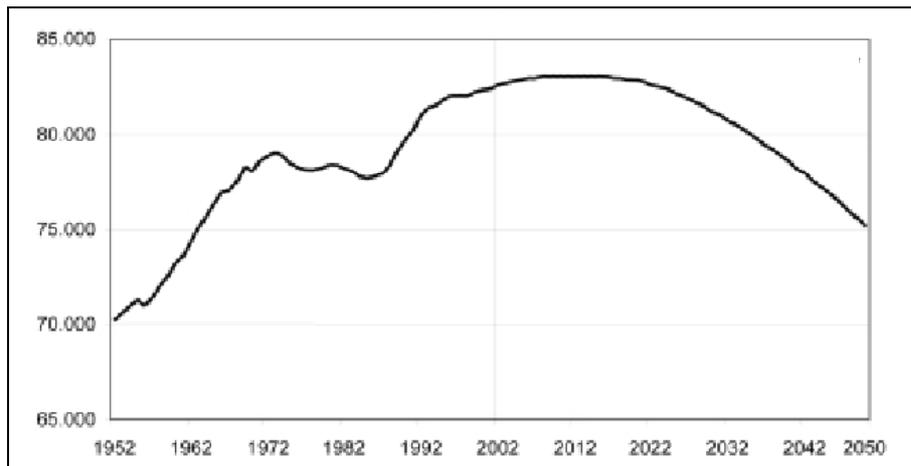
→ Results for size of population and age structure up to 2050

Size of Population¹⁰

According to the mean variant scenario of the projection, the population in Germany will stagnate at 83.1 million from the year 2010 and then fall to 75.1 million in the year 2050. The population decline from 2010 to 2050 will amount to 7.9 million people. This corresponds to the population of the state of Lower Saxony.

The mean scenario of the Population Projection forecasts around 75 million people in Germany by the year 2050.

Figure 15 The population of Germany 1952 to 2050, in 1000



Source: Hoffmann, Menning (2004), see footnote 10.

Main age groups in the population

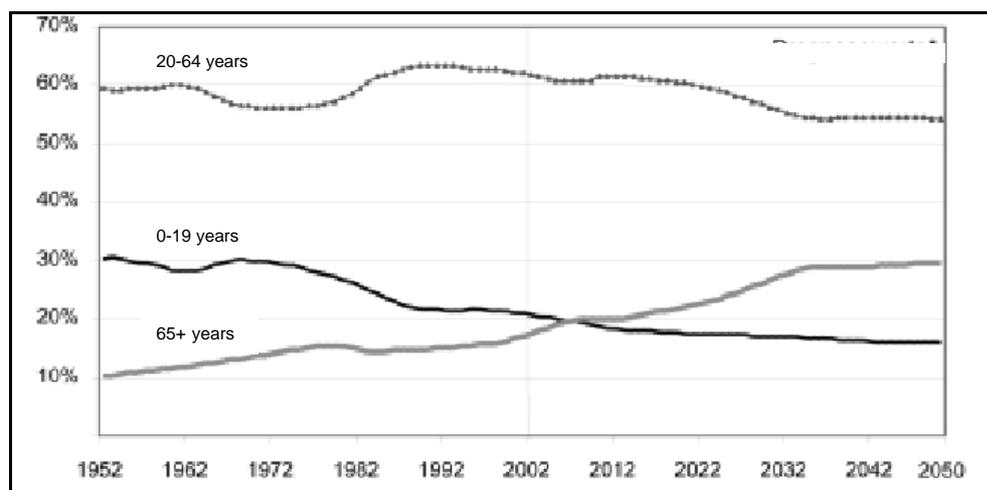
The shift in the age structure of the population will have far graver consequences than the fall in the population figures. The proportion of children and young people in Germany will drop by just under 5 percent by 2050. This means that only 16 percent of people living in Germany will be under 20 years old. In 1952, it was 30 per cent. The proportion of those aged over 65 rose since the early 1950's by over 7 percentage points. Here an accelerated increase of 12 percentage points can be expected by 2050. In 1952 only 10 per cent of the population was aged 65 and over; in 2050 this will be 30 per cent.

The population ratio of those aged between 20 and 64 hovered around 60 per cent in its development to date. In the longer term (from around 2020) it will drop below this rate.

According to this scenario, the ratio of young people under 20 will fall by 2050 by 5 percentage points, and that of older people over 65 will rise by 12 percentage points.

¹⁰ This and the following sections refer to data from official statistics for the period 1950 to the present day and add the estimated values up to 2050. Up to 1990, the data for the FRG and the GDR are combined. Cf. Hoffmann, Menning (2004): *Wie alt ist Deutschland?* (How old is Germany?) in: *Informationsdienst altersfragen* (Information Service on Age), Deutsches Zentrum für Altersfragen, No. 01/2004, Berlin.

Figure 16 The Population of Germany 1952 – 2050 according to age groups, proportions of the total population



Source: Hoffmann, Menning (2004): See footnote 10.

Age groups for economic activity

The working-age population (defined here as those between 20 and 64 years of age) was on the whole subject to only moderate fluctuations during the reference period. This is, however, a very broadly defined population age group, which is more effectively looked at in sub-groups. This reveals that in the past decades there has been a shift in the structures of the working-age population in favour of older groups and away from younger age groups. This process will continue in future. In the early 1990's just under 25 per cent of the population were aged between 20 and 34, but in 2002 only 19 per cent. In 2050, only 17 per cent can be expected in this age group. On the other hand, the proportion of older members of the labour force at the end of the 1970s was at a minimum of 15 percent. In 2002, the ratio was already up to 19 percent and 22 per cent can be expected at the end of the reference period.

In the economically active population too, younger age groups will decline in relation to older people.

Old Age Dependency Ratio

The old age dependency ratio represents the numerical ratio of the elderly population to the population of economically active ages. This index has risen continuously throughout the entire period, with the exception of the 1980's. In 1952 there were still 17 people aged over 65 to 100 economically active people, in 2002 this had risen to 28 older people. In the coming decades this ratio will continue to increase and by 2050 there will be a ratio of 100 economically active people to 55 of pension age. At the start of the reference period, the old age dependency ratio for men and women was equal, but since then there has been a divergent development. Since the 1960's and continuing into the future, the dependency ratio for women is higher than for men. This indicates that the female age structures in the population have shifted more strongly in favour of older people than is the case for men.

3.2 The European Perspective: the ageing of the population

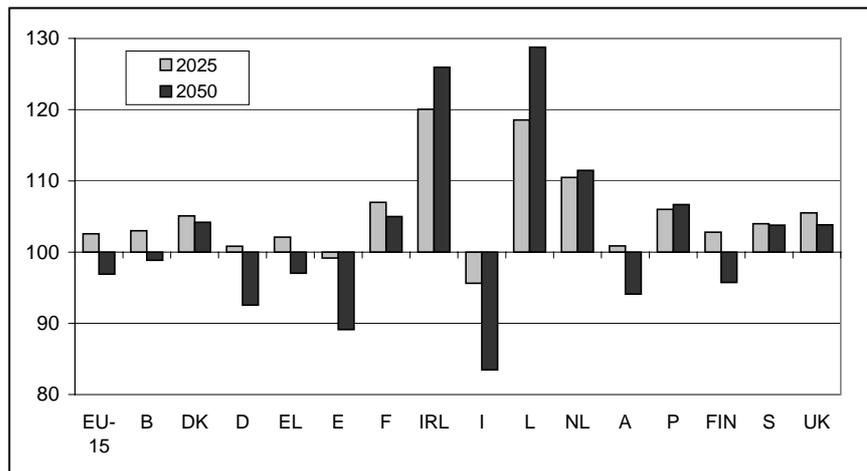
The latest projections by national statistics offices indicate that population trends in the European Union will reveal the following characteristics during the next twenty years¹¹:

1. The population of the EU will initially continue to rise and then stagnate from about 2015 on.
2. The proportion of the younger generation in the total population is expected to stagnate. Currently 23 percent of the population in the EU is under the age of 20. This figure will fall to around 21 per cent and thereafter will probably remain unchanged.
3. The number of the working-age population will decline on an EU scale. After 2005, the first baby-boomers of the post-war era will reach 60. At the same time, the less numerous cohorts of the 1980s and 1990s will reach an economically active age. The structure of the working-age population will also alter. Currently around 47 per cent of the labour force is over 40. In 2015 this will be around 55 per cent.
4. The number of older people will continue to increase. The proportion of people over 60 of the total EU population will rise from the present 22 per cent to around 27 per cent in 2020, that of the very old (80 and over) from 4 to 6 per cent.

➔ Changes in population size

As shown in figure 17, trends in the populations of the individual EU states will differ over the next years and decades. According to Eurostat, a notable decline in the population in the period up to 2050 can be expected in Italy alone. In many EU states, the population will even increase. However, this trend will be reversed by 2050. A number of EU states including Germany will then have to adapt to a shrinking population.

Figure 17 Index of expected trends in population size from 2000 to 2025 and 2050 (in percent, 2000 = 100)



Source: Eurostat Year Book 2003

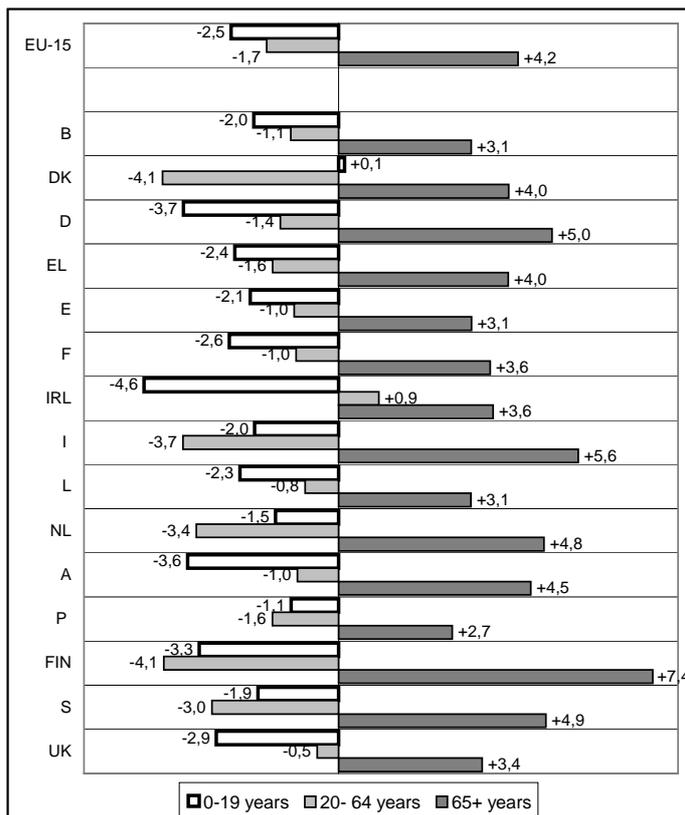
¹¹ Cf. Eurostat (2001) European Social Statistics Population, Theme Group 3, Population and Social Conditions, Luxembourg

→ Changes in the age structure of the population

According to Eurostat figures, the number of people aged under 20 in the EU has fallen in the period 1960 to 2000 from 100 to 86 million, whereas the number of older people over 60 has risen in the same period from 49 to 81 million.

Expressed in different figures, the ratio of younger people in the population dropped in this period from 32 to 23 per cent while the ratio of older people rose from 16 to 22 per cent.

Figure 18 Changes in the proportions of main age groups in EU countries from 2000 to 2020



Source: Eurostat (2001): European Social Statistics, Population
The data are taken from national projections made between 1992 and 2001.

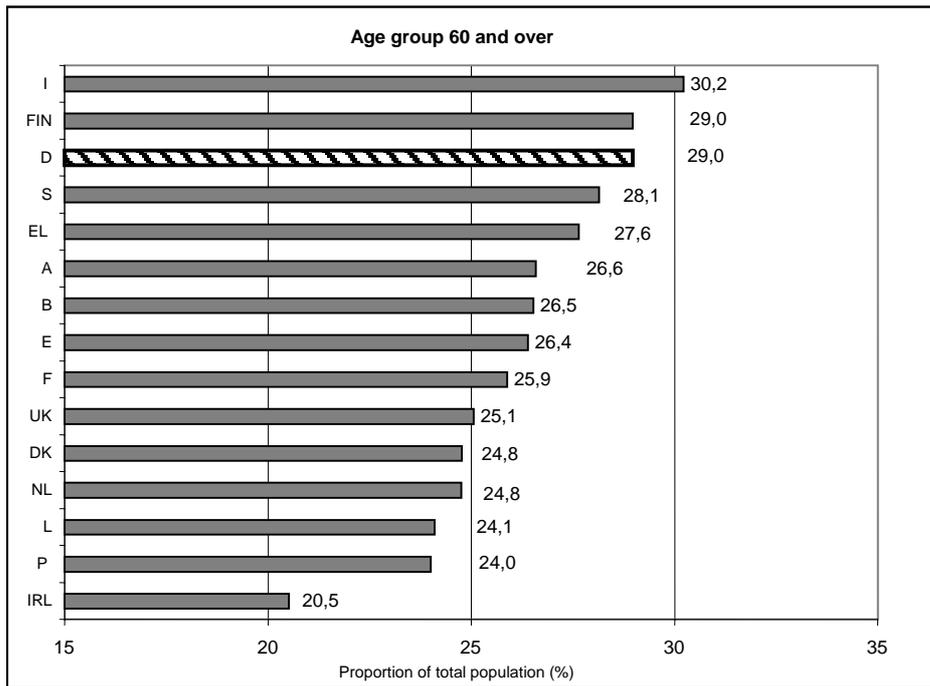
This process of the ageing of the population will be accelerated in the next decades when the baby-boom post-war cohorts reach pension age.

The biggest change within the next 20 years will be in the proportion of **those over 60**. In Finland (increase of over 9 percentage points!), the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Sweden and Austria in particular, the increase in the number of older people will have a considerable influence on the structure of the population.

By 2020, at least one in four of the inhabitants of nearly all EU states will be over 60, although there are marked differences between the individual countries. In Ireland with 20 percent, a comparatively small proportion of the population will be 60 and over, in Germany, Finland and Italy this will be 29 to 30 per cent.

In 2020, Germany (together with Finland) can be expected to have the second-highest ratio in the EU of 60 years olds and older people (29%).

Figure 19 Proportion of those aged 60 and over of the total population of the EU 2020.



Data: Eurostat, European Social Statistics 2001, own calculations
 I=Italy, FIN=Finland, D=Germany, S=Sweden, EL=Greece, A=Austria, B=Belgium, E=Spain,
 F=France, UK=United Kingdom, DK=Denmark, NL=Netherlands, L=Luxembourg, P=Portugal,
 IRL=Ireland

4 Family, Employment and Child Care

4.1 Labour force participation by women

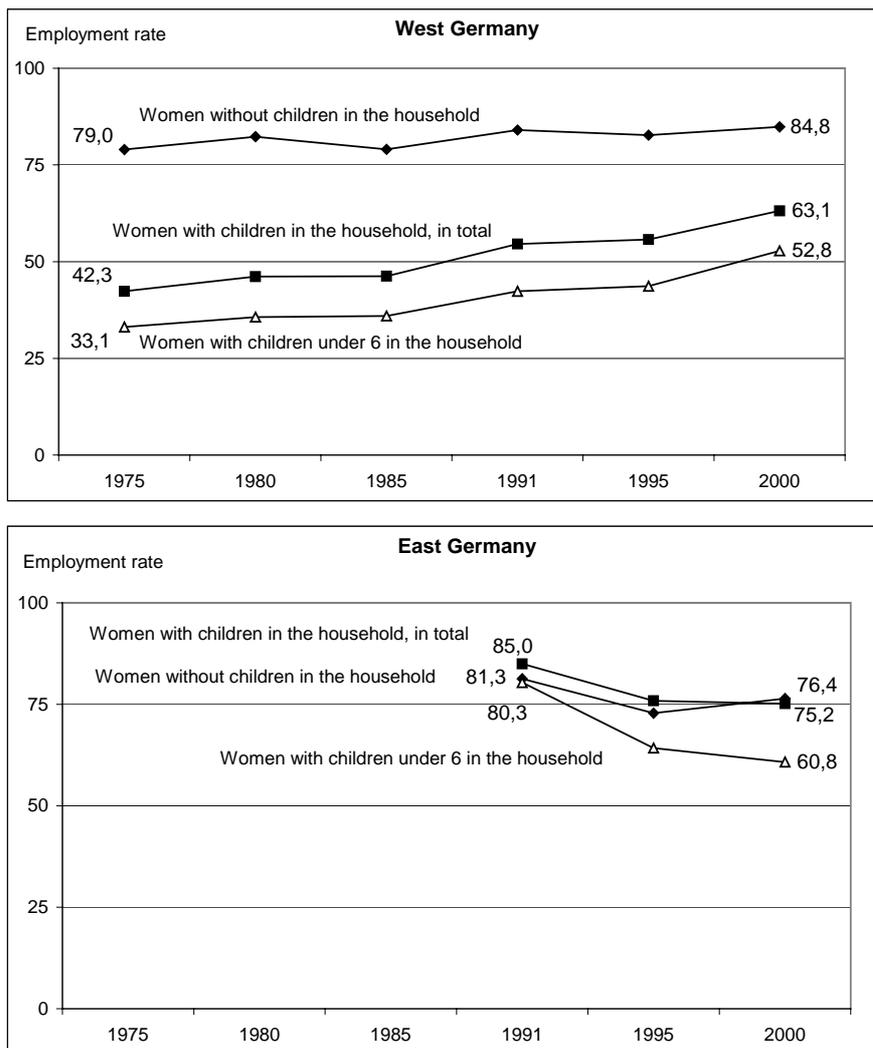
→ Extent of labour force participation

Over the past decades, there has been a distinct change in the labour force patterns of women with children in Germany. In **West Germany**, the **proportion of working mothers** rose steadily, particularly in the case of women whose children had reached school age. There is a growing tendency for the non-working phase to be confined to the time when children do not yet go to school.

In **East Germany**, nine out of ten mothers went out to work in the period before reunification, most of these full-time. The majority of women returned to work one year after the birth of a child at the latest. Following reunification, there was a distinct drop in the proportion of working women with and without children in the first half of the 1990's in the new East German states. Subsequently the employment rate of women between 25 and 45, with or without children, stabilised at around 75 per cent. Only in the case of mothers with children under 6 did the employment rate drop somewhat in the new East German states in the second half of the 1990's, but in the year 2000 it was still above the West German rate.

The employment rate of West German mothers rose continuously over the past decades. The employment rate for East German women with children in the household has declined since 1991, but is still higher than in West Germany.

Figure 20 Employment rate for women aged 25 – under 45, 2000



Source: Federal Statistics Office, micro census, own calculations

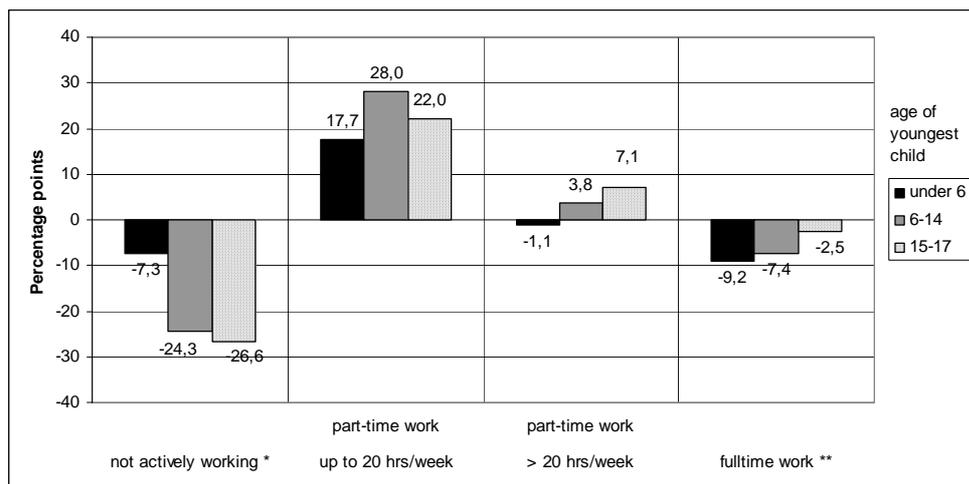
For mothers with children under 3 in particular, the standard practice of German and European statistics is to include people who have a formal employment status in the number of those gainfully employed, although they were on leave on the reference date, meaning they were not actually then in active employment.

For this reason all mothers (and fathers) are included in the working population when they are on parental leave and are currently not employed. If those temporarily on leave are not included, the resultant figure is that of the **quota of those in active gainful employment**. It is then revealed that not 48 per cent (employment rate) but only 31 per cent of mothers with children under 3 are in active gainful employment (West 29%, East 40%). In the case of women without children or with a youngest child aged three or over, there is hardly any difference between the employment rate and the quota of those in actively working.

→ Full and part-time employment of women

In the year 2003, 11 per cent of all women in Germany with children under 3, 13 per cent of those with a youngest child aged between 3 and 5, 20 percent of women with a youngest children aged between 6 and 14 and 31 per cent of women with children in the household aged over 15 were **working full time** with a normal working week of 36 hours and more.

Figure 21 *Changes in the proportion of mothers with minor children working part-time, full time and not working in West Germany according to age of the youngest child, 2003 in comparison to 1972 (in percentage points)*



The increase in labour force participation for women with children in West Germany is largely due to a rise in part-time work.

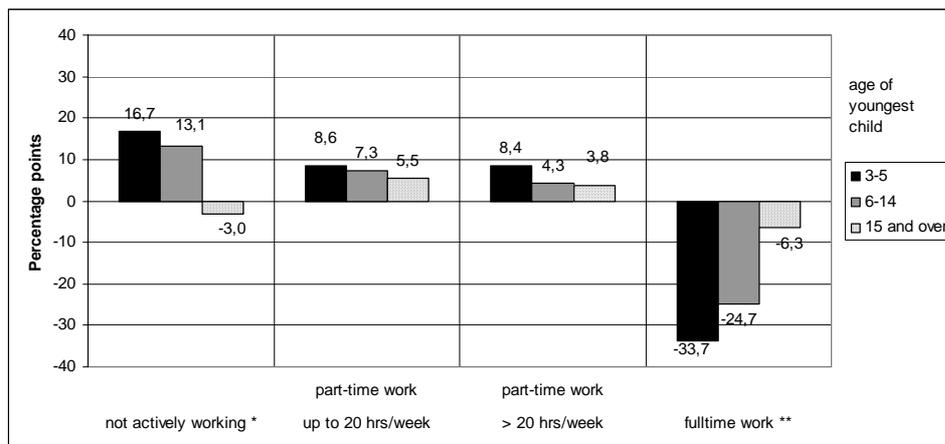
Source: Federal Statistics Office, micro census; Population at Family Residence (1972: Pop. In private households), own calculations

* not actively working in the year 2000 incl. women on temporary leave

** 2003: 36 and more hours per week; 1972 40 and more hours per week

Figure 21 clearly shows that the increasing labour force participation of mothers in the former FRG between 1972 and 2003 was reached by way of an increase in part-time work. The sharp drop in non-working mothers in the former FRG is offset by an equally steep rise in the number of mothers engaged in part-time activity of less than 20 hours per week. The proportion of full-time working women with children in the household (i.e. children in all age groups) has not increased since 1972. On the contrary, it has declined, most sharply in the case of mothers with children under 6.

Figure 22 Changes in the proportion of mothers working part-time, full time and not working in the new East German states according to age of the youngest child, 2003 in comparison to 1991 (in percentage points)



Source: Federal Statistics Office, micro census; Population at family residence, own calculations

*) 2003: incl. those temporarily on leave. Since temporary leave intervals were not yet recorded separately in 1991 and most working mothers take parental leave after the birth of their child, a graph of the changed labour force participation for mothers with children under 3 is not included.

**) 36 and more hours per week employment

Figure 22 shows that full time gainful employment for mothers in the new East German states declined sharply between 1991 and 2003. The greater part of this decline was due on balance to an increase in the number of mothers not actively working. Mothers with youngest children aged between 3 and 5 were most strongly affected by this.

The developments in full and part-time employment suggest that, on the one hand, an improvement in child-care facilities could lead to better utilisation of the employment potential of women with children; on the other hand, part-time work is frequently the preferred form of work for mothers. This theory is confirmed by a study by the Institut für Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung (Institute for Labour Market and Occupational Research)¹² showing that about two thirds of all women with children up to primary school age would prefer a working arrangement in which one partner in the family works full time and the other part time.

Another study done in 2002¹³ focussed on the connection between the type of child care and the labour market reaction of mothers. A result of this survey shows that both East and West German women have a considerable employment potential which could be used if women had better opportunities to combine career and the family. Improved compatibility could be achieved both by increasing the availability of child-care facilities and by a change in employment conditions (opportunities for part-time work).

¹² Cf. Engelbrech, G., Jungkunst, M. (2001): Labour market participation of women – How to combine career and children?, IAB-Kurzbericht No. 7 of 12.04.2001.

¹³ Cf. Büchel, F., Spieß, C.K. (2002): Type of child care and labour market reactions by mothers in West and East Germany, published by Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Schriftenreihe of Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Volume 220.

4.2 Child Care in Day Facilities

→ Infrastructure of Child Day-Care Facilities

At the end of 2002, there were in Germany 47300 day-care facilities for children with just under 3.1 million places. The total number of places compared to 1998 remained unchanged. The past four years have seen a shift in the type of institutions offering care. At the end of 2002, the number of **crèches** increased by 15% to 798. The number of **day-care facilities** in which children of various age groups are looked after increased by 11% to 15.200. In contrast, the number of **kindergarten and day nurseries** fell by 8% in each case (to 27.00 and 3.500).¹⁴

In comparison to the survey of 1998, the number of places in **crèches** has risen by 14 per cent. Yet there are only crèche places for an average of 9 in 100 children under 3, although there are great differences between West and East Germany in this respect.

There are sufficient **kindergarten places** for nearly 90% of all children between 3 and 6 ½ . The number of places increased in East Germany and Berlin in particular between 1998 and 2002, whereas the number in West Germany stagnated. The number of all-day places in children in kindergarten has increased by 25% to 914.000 in comparison to 1998. This meant a place/child ratio increase for this care form from 26% to 33% by the end of 2002.

In the age group 6½ to 10, there are **places in day nurseries** for an average of 14 out of 100 children. The number of places available has declined sharply, particularly in East Germany over recent years, due largely to the drastic decline in school children in this age group. In addition, full-time schools were developed further, the care capacity of which is not shown here. Although the number of places in day nurseries has declined, the number of places available per 100 children of the corresponding age has risen. Here too in West Germany there is a much lower level of care on offer than in the states of Eastern Germany.

There are places available in child care facilities for 9% of all children under 3 and nearly 90% of all children of pre-school age.

Table 10 Places in day-care facilities and place/child ratios, 1998 and 2002

	Number of places		Changes between 1998 and 2002		Place/child ratio: per 100 of each age group		Change in percentage points
	31.12.98	31.12.02	abs.	in %	31.12.98	31.12.02	
under 3-year olds (crèche places)							
Germany	166.927	190.395	23.468	14,1	7,0	8,5	1,6
West Germany (minus Berlin)	44.334	50.775	6.441	14,5	2,2	2,7	0,6
East Germany (minus Berlin)	94.623	108.944	14.321	15,1	34,8	37	2,2
Berlin	27.970	30.676	2.706	9,7	32,2	35,8	3,6
3- to under 6 1/2-year olds (kindergarten places)							
Germany	2.486.780	2.507.744	20.964	0,8	89,5	89,8	0,3
West Germany (minus Berlin)	2.104.854	2.088.176	-16.678	-0,8	87,2	88,1	0,8
East Germany (minus Berlin)	308.808	341.328	32.520	10,5	113,4	105,1	-8,3
Berlin	73.118	78.240	5.122	7,0	77,6	80,6	3,1
6 1/2- to under 10-year olds (nursery places)							
Germany	450.734	398.394	-52.340	-11,6	14,2	14,3	0,1
West Germany (minus Berlin)	151.293	176.830	25.537	16,9	5,9	7,3	1,4
East Germany (minus Berlin)	258.760	186.865	-71.895	-27,8	54,0	68,5	14,5
Berlin	40.681	34.699	-5.982	-14,7	35,6	38,4	2,8

Source: Federal Statistics Office: Institutions and Active Persons, Child Day Centres (working documents) Bonn 2003;

Compiled by Dortmund Arbeitsstelle Kinder- und Jugendhilfestatistik (Dortmund Working Groups Child and Juvenile Aid Statistics).

¹⁴ The information on child care institutions was taken from a press statement by the Federal Statistics Office of 18 December 2003.

→ Children in day-care facilities

In 2000, nearly one half of all children under 8 (48%) – of those who did not go to school – were looked after in a day-care facility. Every tenth child under 3 and about three quarters (79%) of children aged between 3 and 8 went to a child care facility.

Over the past years, the availability of care given to children in day-care institutions has tended to increase, albeit with differences according to the age groups of the children. The amount of care offered to children of pre-school age (between 3 and 5) in particular could be improved. Children before school age (from 5 onwards) were catered for to a large extent by the mid-1990's. The amount of care available to children under 3 only increased minimally in the second half of the 1990's to just 10 per cent.

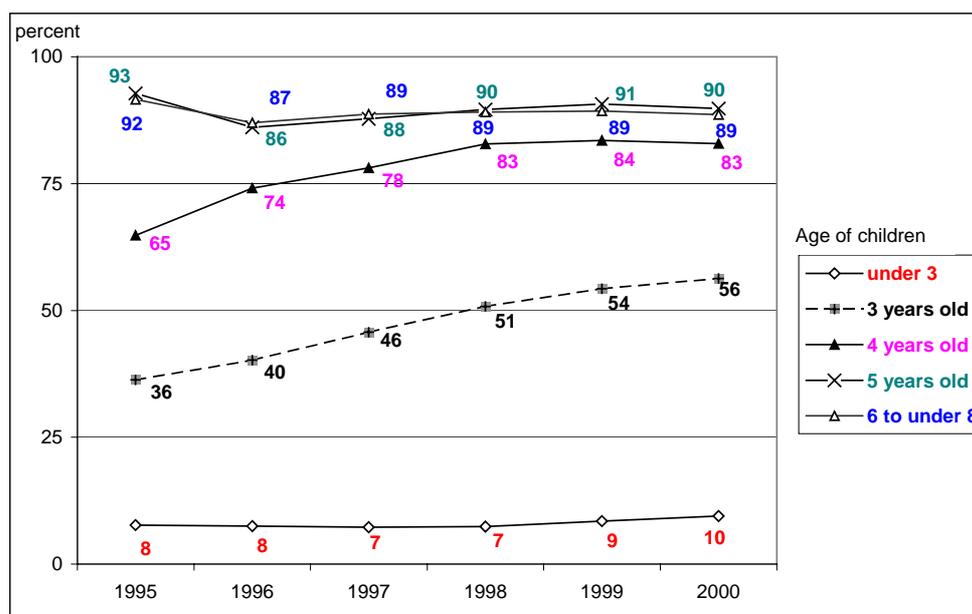
For **children under 3** there are few crèche facilities available in the former FRG. In a European comparison, the former FRG is one of the countries with a relatively low level of facilities for this age group. In 2000 in West Germany, only 6 per cent of those aged under 3 spent part of their day in such facilities. The children of working lone parents, on the other hand, had an above average attendance. In contrast the states of Eastern Germany had a particularly high number of crèche facilities, also when compared to the other EU countries. In the year 2000 35 per cent of all children under 3 were taken care of outside the home, although in 1995 it had been as high as 40 per cent. This is probably the result of the reduced labour market participation by East German women with small children.

79 per cent of **children of pre-school age** between 3 and 8 were looked after in day-care centres in the year 2000. The children of working mothers are more highly represented in kindergarten than those of housewives, particularly if a lone mother is involved. Nearly all parents (9 out of 10) avail themselves of kindergarten or day-care institutions if their children are over 6 and do not yet go to school.

One fifth of all **schoolchildren aged 6 and 7** go to a day nursery after the end of tuition at school. In East Germany over a half of all children (55%) went to a day nursery or similar facility.

About one half of all children who do not yet go to school are looked after in day care facilities.

Figure 23 Proportion of children under 8 looked after in day care facilities* according to age of child** (minus children who already attend school), 1995-2000



Source: Federal Statistics Office: Statistical Yearbook 2001, Data: Micro Census

* day care facilities: kindergarten, crèche, nursery

** children in day care facilities per 100 children of each age group

4.3 The European Perspective: Employment of Women and Child Care

→ Employment rates for women in the European Union

The **gap** between the **employment rates** for men and women has continued to narrow throughout the 1980's and 1990's. In the EU, Greece, Italy and Spain are in the group of countries where the imbalance in the employment rates of men and women is still strongly pronounced. These inequalities are lowest in Sweden and other Northern European countries.¹⁵

Employment rates are generally higher and the gender gap narrower for women with higher qualifications. Better education opens up opportunities for more interesting and better paid employment for women.

Parenthood has very mixed effects on employment rates for men and women. Whereas for women employment declines with a growing number of children, for men it tends to increase.

Women with children are more likely to work part-time than those without children.

It is evident that women generally go out to work less often and with more interruptions, particularly if they have children and are low qualified. Interrupted careers and reduced working hours are particularly frequent with women immediately after the birth of a child. This negative effect of childbirth on the employment of women is particularly noticeable in Germany and Great Britain.

The gap between the activity rates of men and women in Europe is gradually closing. In this process, the level of women's employment in the EU remains very heterogeneous.

Table 11 *Women's employment rates and the gender employment gap by presence of children, 2000, persons aged 25 to 54 years.*

	Total		No children		One child		Two or more children	
	Employment rate	Gender gap ¹⁾	Employment rate	Gender gap ¹⁾	Employment rate	Gender gap ¹⁾	Employment rate	Gender gap ¹⁾
Austria	73,5	16,2	76,0	10,5	75,6	18,5	65,7	29,0
Belgium	67,8	20,1	65,6	17,4	71,8	23,5	69,3	24,7
Denmark (1998)	80,5	7,7	78,5	7,7	88,1	3,5	77,2	12,9
Finland (1997)	77,6	7,0	79,2	0,1	78,5	11,8	73,5	19,7
France	69,6	17,7	73,5	9,6	74,1	18,7	58,8	32,9
Germany	71,1	16,3	77,3	7,2	70,4	21,2	56,3	35,6
Greece	52,6	35,9	53,1	31,1	53,9	40,3	50,3	45,4
Ireland	53,1	29,0	65,8	14,1	51,0	33,2	40,8	43,2
Italy	50,7	33,9	52,8	26,2	52,1	40,9	42,4	49,9
Luxembourg	63,0	29,8	68,7	21,3	65,8	30,4	50,1	46,1
Netherlands	70,9	21,4	75,3	15,6	69,9	24,3	63,3	30,8
Norway	81,5	7,1	82,9	5,9	83,3	-	78,0	-
Portugal	73,9	16,4	72,6	13,4	78,5	16,6	70,3	24,8
Spain	50,6	34,8	54,6	26,0	47,6	44,7	43,3	48,6
Sweden	81,7	4,1	81,9	-0,4	80,6	9,8	81,8	9,4
United Kingdom	73,1	14,4	79,9	5,4	72,9	17,1	62,3	28,2

Source: OECD Employment Outlook 2002, Paris 2002

1) Percentage point difference between the employment rates for men and women.
- data not available

As shown in Table 12, **mothers in couple families** have a below-average employment rate in comparison to fathers. This is true for the whole of Europe.

The employment rate for **lone parents** is lower than that of parents in couple households in almost all EU countries. The gender effect makes itself felt here, as the majority of lone parents are mothers and the employment rate of women is lower than that of men.

The employment rate for **childless women** aged between 20 and 60 differs greatly throughout Europe. It is relatively high in Great Britain, the Netherlands and Germany, with lower rates in Greece, Spain and Italy.

¹⁵ Cf. here and following sections: OECD Employment Outlook 2002, Paris 2002

Mothers with small children under 6 show over-average employment rates in Belgium, Portugal and Sweden, below average in Spain, Ireland and Italy.

Table 12 *Employment rates in different types of family, percentages*

	Year	Employment rate in couple families		Employment rate of lone-parents	Employment rate of all women without children aged 20-60	Employment rate of all mothers with child under 6
		Parents	Mothers			
Belgium	1999	68,9	71,8	49,2	58,3	69,5
Denmark		-	-	-	-	-
Germany	1999	70,9	51,4	49,7	67,3	51,1
Greece	1999	71,3	48,4	63,2	43,2	48,6
Spain	1999	65,9	41,5	64,9	41,4	41,8
France	1999	72,9	56,8	51,6	64,7	56,2
Ireland	1997	64,5	45,5	35,2	58,3	44,4
Italy	1999	68,0	44,9	72,2	43,1	45,7
Luxembourg	1999	70,4	46,1	74,1	59,5	47,4
Netherlands	1999	77,8	62,3	38,7	67,9	60,7
Austria	1999	78,9	65,7	76,1	62,0	66,5
Portugal	1999	80,6	70,2	82,9	62,0	70,6
Finland	1998	74,2	57,7	64,9	-	58,8
Sweden ¹⁾	2000	-	-	64,6	-	77,8
United Kingdom	1999	75,1	61,3	36,8	74,3	55,8

Sources: OECD-Employment Outlook 2001

Data: OECD-Secretariat calculations on the basis of data supplied by EUROSTAT and national authorities.

- Data not available

1) Mothers aged 25-54.

➔ Full and part-time employment of women in the European Union

Every second mother in the EU who works and has a child under 6 in the household works **part-time**.¹⁶

As shown in Table 13, part-time work is very unequally divided between men and women. The proportion of women working part-time is much higher in all European countries than that of men working part-time. Whereas for men the presence of children in the household has little effect on their low part-time employment rate, the situation for women is quite different. Women with one, or to a greater extent, two or more children show a much higher percentage of part-time employment than women without children. Exceptions are found in the southern European states of Greece, Portugal and Spain and the northern European countries Denmark, Finland and Sweden. All these countries have a below-average part-time employment rate for women.

In the EU about one half of working mothers with children under 6 works part-time.

¹⁶ Cf. OECD Employment Outlook 2001, Paris 2001

Table 13 *Part-time work, by gender and presence of children, 2000, percentage of persons working part time in total employment by category, workers aged 25 to 54 years*

	Women				Men		
	No children	One child	Two or more children	Total	No children	With children	Total
Austria	17,4	33,6	43,7	26,7	2,1	1,7	1,9
Belgium	29,2	34,7	46,1	34,7	6,5	5,1	5,9
Denmark (1998)	18,5	13,3	16,2	16,6	-	-	3,7
Finland (1997)	7,5	8,6	13,6	9,2	-	-	3,7
France	20,0	23,7	31,8	23,7	5,2	3,6	4,4
Germany	24,0	45,3	60,2	35,2	4,2	2,3	3,4
Greece	8,4	9,7	11,2	9,2	2,8	2,5	2,7
Ireland	16,6	37,2	46,4	29,7	4,3	3,6	4,0
Italy	20,0	27,2	34,4	24,1	5,5	4,5	5,1
Luxembourg	19,9	32,7	48,1	29,0	1,4	1,6	1,5
Netherlands	38,3	72,6	82,7	55,9	6,2	4,6	5,5
Norway	24,7	33,5	41,1	31,8	5,0	-	5,0
Portugal	11,5	10,5	11,3	11,2	2,7	1,3	2,0
Spain	13,7	17,4	18,6	15,3	2,6	1,2	1,9
Sweden	14,6	16,7	22,2	17,9	5,2	3,4	4,3
United Kingdom	23,7	46,6	62,8	38,6	4,1	3,2	3,7

Sources: OECD-Employment Outlook 2002

- Data not available

→ Work patterns of couples in the European Union

According to the EU Labour Force Survey¹⁷, the proportion of **two earner households** in couple households of those aged between 20 and 59 averaged 62 per cent. But there are great differences between the northern member states and Portugal, where at least two thirds of all couple households were double earners, and Spain, Greece, Ireland and Italy, where the number of this household form was under 50 per cent.

Between 1992 and 2000, the proportion of couples in EU member states in which both husband and wife work has increased. One of the main factors here is the increased labour force participation of women with children in couple households, above all in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Greece, Portugal and Austria.

A north-south divide is apparent when looking at the participation rate of women and mothers in the EU. Over three quarters of the women aged between 25 and 49 in Finland, Sweden and Portugal (with a large agricultural sector) go out to work, the number in southern European countries such as Italy, Spain and Greece is little over 50 per cent.

Figure 24 shows that there is a clear discrepancy between **preference** and **reality** for couples with small children as far as employment combinations are concerned. The combination of simultaneous full time employment of husband and wife is less common in practice than many would desire in all of the EU countries in this chart (apart from Ireland). There are marked differences between the various countries here. In Sweden, for instance, one half of all couples with children under 6 interviewed were both working full time, whereas in Germany this proportion is a mere 16 per cent. Yet full time work would be the choice of both partners for two thirds of all couples in Sweden and by one third of the couples in Germany.

Instead the reality experienced by over one half of all German couples with small children is the combination "husband working full time/wife not working", although it is the preference of only 6 per cent of these couples. The most popular combination for German couples of "husband working full time/wife part time" can only be realised by one quarter of all couples with children under 6.

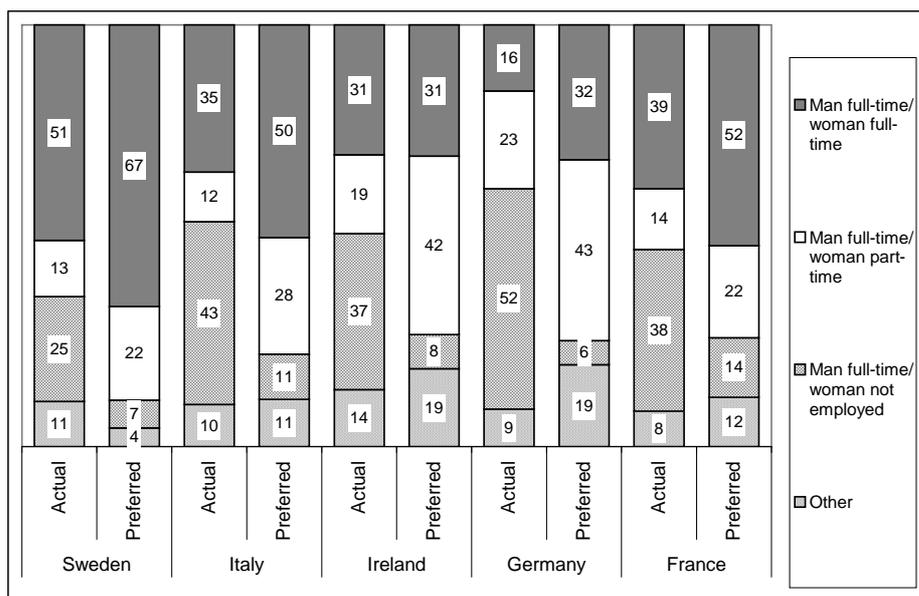
One reason for this is undoubtedly the inadequate child care facilities available at a pre-school age.

In most EU states, the dominant pattern is for both husband and wife to go out to work in couple households in the 20-59 year old age group.

There is still a wide gap between preference and reality in work patterns of couple families with small children in the EU.

¹⁷ Cf. Franco, A., Winqvist, K. (2002) Women and Men who combine Work and Family. in: Eurostat Statistics in focus, Theme 3 – 9/2002. The study used data for the following countries: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, United Kingdom.

Figure 24 Actual and preferred work patterns by full-time and part-time work, couple families with child under 6, percentages



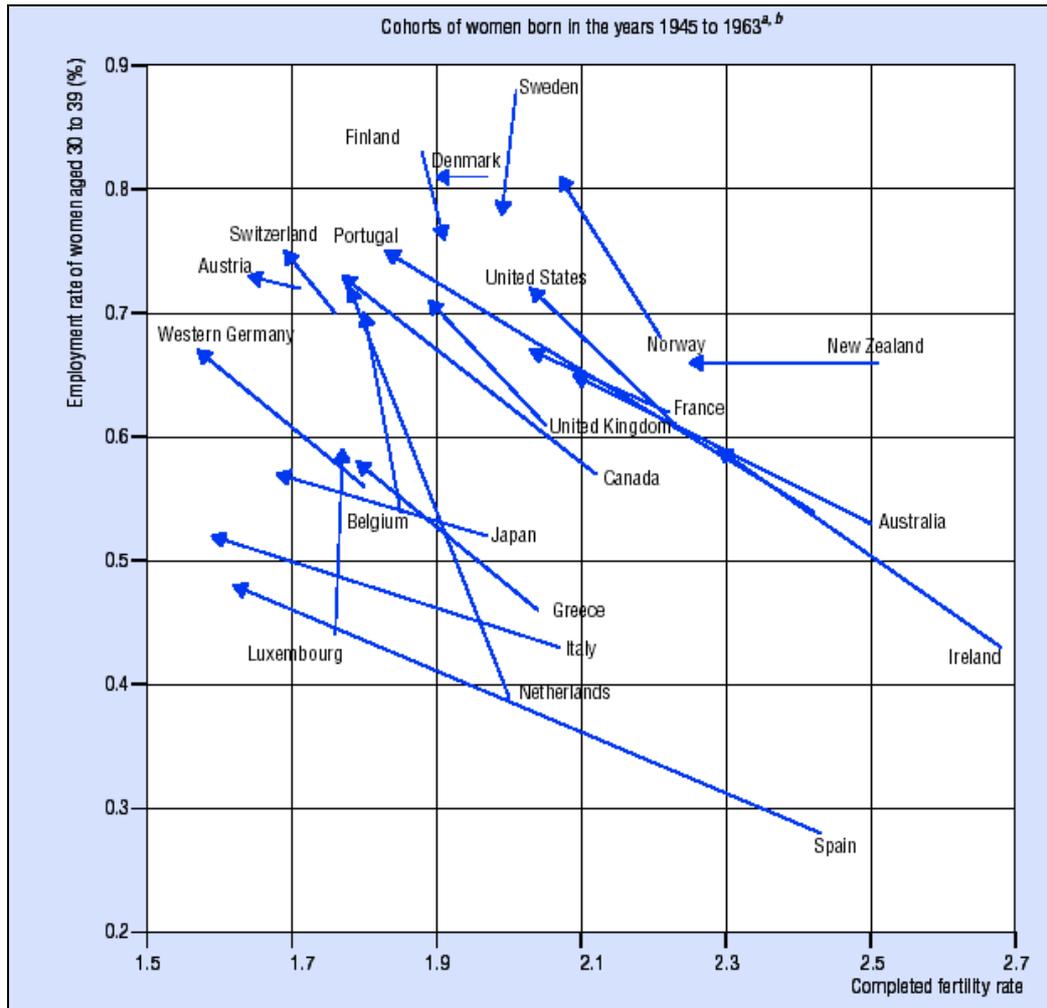
Source: OECD-Employment Outlook 2001, Data: OECD-Secretariat calculations on the basis of microdata from the Employment Options of the Future survey.

→ Employment of women, fertility and child care in the European Union

As seen from Figure 25, there is a worldwide trend in the OECD states towards both a growing number of women of a reproductive age in employment and decreasing fertility. European states such as Italy and Spain experienced profound changes in birth rates over the past decades and now belong to those states with the lowest fertility in Europe.

On the other hand, northern European countries such as Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway have succeeded in attaining a high fertility level by European standards, combined with a very high level of women working. This demonstrates that a high rate of female employment does not automatically lead to low birth rates. The possibility of combining work and family, with the associated child care opportunities, can be regarded as a key factor in this fertility development.

Figure 25 Trends in employment and trends in fertility, selected OECD countries



From: OECD-Employment Outlook 2001, Paris 2001

Data Sources: European Demographic Observatory; Statistics Canada for the CFR data; and OECD employment database.

a) Data for Australia, Ireland, New Zealand and the United Kingdom are based upon cohorts aged 25-34 and 35-44; data for Finland concern those aged 30-34 and 35-44; data for Italy concern those aged 30-39 and data for Switzerland refer to cohorts aged 25-39.

b) The data shown cover the 1945 to 1963 cohorts, except for Austria, 1959-1963; Belgium, 1948-1962; Denmark, 1948-1963; Greece, 1950-1963; Ireland, 1949-1962; Italy, 1945-1961; Japan, 1945-1962; Luxembourg, 1948-1963; New Zealand, 1951-1962; Sweden 1952-1963; Switzerland, 1956-1963 and the United Kingdom, 1951-1963.

As shown in Table 14, Germany is one of the states in the EU where only a minority of children under 3 attend a **child day-care institution**. In countries such as Denmark and Sweden in particular, but also Great Britain, Ireland, France and Belgium, small children are much more likely to participate in formal child-care arrangements. Germany is also around the average mark in the care quota for the age group from age 3 to commencement of schooling.

The level of child care in the EU varies greatly. Germany is only around the average mark.

Table 14 *Summary indicators of formal child-care coverage*

	Proportion of young children using formal child-care arrangements		
	Year	Aged under 3	Aged 3 to mandatory school age
Belgium	2000	30	97
Denmark	1998	64	91
Germany	2000	10	78
Greece	2000	4	46
Spain	2000	5	84
France	1998	29	99
Ireland	1998	38	56
Italy	1998	6	95
Luxembourg		-	-
Netherlands	1998	6	98
Austria	1998	4	68
Portugal	1999	12	75
Finland	1998	22	66
Sweden	1998	48	80
United Kingdom	2000	34	60

Source: OECD-Employment Outlook 2001
 - Data not available

5 The Contribution of the Family

5.1 Use of time in the family and family division of labour

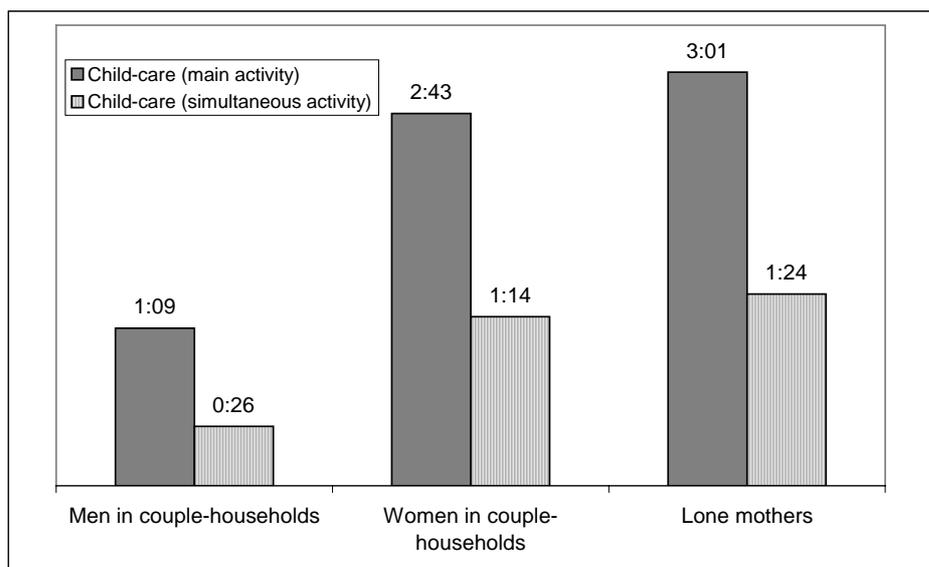
The population spends overall more time on **unpaid work** within the family, in the neighbourhood and in community participation than in gainful employment. According to the results of the Federal Statistics Office Time Budgeting Study 2001/02¹⁸, women on the average spend 31 hours per week on unpaid work of this kind, men 19.5 hours. If working hours are added to this (including commuting time), women spend a total of 43 hours per week on paid and unpaid work, one hour more than men with 42 hours.

→ Child care and upbringing in the family

The use of time within and outside the family is an important indicator of the daily division of roles and labour as practiced within the family. The time unit “**child care**” serves here as an example for the family’s use of time: as shown in figure 26, women spend much more time on child care than men. This difference is most pronounced when there are small children in the household and becomes less as the children grow older. Working women in couple-households with children under 6 spend 2 ¼ hours on childcare, twice as much as working men, non-working women 3 ¼ hours, around three times as much.

Women spend much more time on child care than men, especially when there are small children in the home.

Figure 26 Time spent on child care by lone mothers and couples with children, 2001/02



Source: Cf. footnote 18, Data: Time Budgeting Survey 2001/02

As the child grows older, time spent both on child care and time spent together with the child declines. In the case of couples with children under 6, child care accounts for over one third of total unpaid work: for lone mothers, as much as 43 per cent. Couples whose youngest child is aged between 6 and 18 spend less than one third of the time on child care than that spent by parents with children aged under 6.

¹⁸ Cf. BMFSFJ/Federal Statistics Office (publ.)(2003). Wo bleibt die Zeit? Die Zeitverwendung der Bevölkerung in Deutschland 2001/02 (Where does the time go? Time use by the population in Germany 2001/02), Berlin, Wiesbaden. Between the spring of 2001 and spring 2002 the Federal Statistics Office conducted a nation-wide time budget survey. The respondents included 5400 households with over 12000 people.

→ Care services performed by the family

In 1999, some 2 million people in Germany were **in need of care** as defined by the Long Term Care Act (SGB XI); over two thirds of these were women. Nearly three-quarters (72% or 1.44 million) of those in need of care are looked after **at home**. Of those being looked after by relatives at home, 12 per cent had an advanced need for care (care stage III).

1.03 million of those in need of care were exclusive recipients of care allowances, meaning that they were generally cared for at home solely by relatives. In the case of a further 414.000 people being cared for at home, the care was supplied either wholly or in part by mobile care services. 28 per cent of care recipients, i.e. some 573.000 were looked after in an institutional setting.

Care at home is a female preserve. 80 per cent of carers are **female**. Main carers are still wives and daughters.

38 per cent of those receiving care in the home require round the clock attention. A further 24 per cent needs care three time per day or more.

Women account for 80 per cent of those looking after the elderly, making them the largest group of carers.

Table 15 Characteristics of private main carers of dependent persons in private households 1998

Characteristics of main carer	Proportion (in %)
Sex	
female	80
male	20
Age (in years))	
under 40	15
40 – 64	53
65 – 79	27
80 and older	5
Relation to dependent person	
Female (married) partner	20
Male (married) partner	12
Mother	11
Father	2
Daughter	23
Son	5
Daughter-in-law	10
Son-in-law	0
Other relative	10
Neighbour/friend	7
Place of residence	
Same household as dependent	73
Separate household	27

Source: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (2002): Vierter Bericht zur Lage der älteren Generation (Fourth Report on the Situation of the Older Generation), Bonn. Data; Schneekloth & Müller (2000), Wirkungen der Pflegeversicherung (Effects of Long Term Care Insurance). Publication series of Federal Health Ministry, Volume 127. Baden-Baden.

According to the results of the Time Budgeting Survey 2001/02, 24 per cent of respondents aged between 40 and 65 say they support parents or parents-in-law who do not live in their own household. The women in this group support parents and parents-in-law for almost 8 ¼ hours per week, men for 6 ¼ hours. Most of the support is made up of care of the aged and sick.¹⁹

¹⁹ Source: see Footnote 18

5.2 The European Perspective: Child care and care services in families

Europeans spend an average of six to seven hours a day on gainful employment/education and household activities. The amount of time spend is highest in Slovenia and Hungary and lowest in Belgium and Finland.²⁰

The amount of time spent bears a close relation to whether or not there are children in the household. Women in couple-households with children spend on an average less time on gainful employment/education than women in households without children, particularly if the child is aged under 7. This is linked to the lower employment rate of women with children. The difference in time spent on gainful employment/education between women in couple-households without children and in couple-households with children between 7 and 17 is in Belgium and France 1 hour per day; in Slovenia, Estonia, Sweden and Finland there is much less difference. Conversely, the time a woman spends on household activities increases in couple-households with children.

This pattern is not so pronounced for men living in couple-households. But time spent on household activities increases for them too in households with children, especially if these are children aged under 7. This tendency is particularly marked in Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Men with children spend slightly more or the same amount of time on gainful employment/education.

Table 16 Average amount of time spent per day on gainful employment, education and home and family, and percentage of people, who on an average perform the various activities per day

Age group	Belgium 12 - 95 years		Denmark 16 - 74 years		France 15 - years		Finland 10 - years		Sweden 20 - 84 years		UK 8 - years		Estonia 10 - years		Hungary 15 - 84 years		Slovenia 10 - years		Norway 10 - 79 years	
	Hours and min		Hours and min		Hours and min		Hours and min		Hours and min		Hours and min		Hours and min		Hours and min		Hours and min		Hours and min	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Gainful work	2:02		3:27		2:34		2:35		3:17		2:40		2:22		2:33		2:42		2:59	
women	1:28	31	2:59	37	1:55	30	2:04	30	2:40	37	1:56	29	2:00	29	2:01	28	2:13	27	2:20	34
men	2:38	46	4:00	45	3:16	43	3:12	41	3:57	49	3:25	43	2:49	36	3:08	39	3:13	36	3:38	47
Study	0:43		0:37		0:30		0:35		0:16		0:40		0:30		0:30		0:44		0:36	
women	0:41	16	0:40	13	0:30	9	0:36	13	0:18	8	0:40	13	0:27	10	0:29	9	0:44	14	0:38	12
men	0:45	17	0:33	9	0:31	9	0:34	11	0:13	5	0:40	13	0:34	12	0:30	9	0:44	13	0:35	11
Household work and family care	3:12		2:51		3:17		2:52		3:10		2:53		3:32		3:39		3:26		2:42	
women	3:58	98	3:20	96	4:13	95	3:32	96	3:44	98	3:41	93	4:27	96	4:39	96	4:25	94	3:16	96
men	2:23	95	2:17	90	2:16	80	2:05	86	2:33	92	2:03	83	2:28	84	2:33	84	2:24	79	2:09	89

Source: Aliaga, Christel/Winqvist, Karin (2003) How Women and Men spend their time – Results from 13 European countries. Eurostat. Statistics in Focus Theme 3 12/2003

²⁰ Cf. and in following section: Aliaga, Christel/Winqvist, Karin (2003): How Women and Men spend their time – Results from 13 European Countries. Eurostat. Statistics in Focus, Theme 3 12/2003. The data result from time budgeting surveys in the following countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom, Estonia, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia. The data from the German time budgeting survey were not utilised.

6 The Economic Situation of Families

6.1 Income

The economic situation of private households and families is mainly determined by the income at their disposal, their expenditure on cost of living, the amount of assets available or accumulated, debts, and their housing situation. The long version of this publication gives key data on these areas and some of these are presented here.

→ Income level of various household types

According to the results of official statistics on continuous household budgets, private households in Germany in the year 2000 had an average monthly **net household income** of 2583 €. The income of couples with children under 18 was 3499 €, for lone parents only half this figure (1777 €). The income of East German families is lower than that of their West German counterparts.

Table 17 Monthly net household income for various household types, 2000

Type of Household ¹	Germany	Former FRG	East German states and East Berlin
Average per household and month, in €			
Households overall	2583	2714	2024
People living alone	1538	1636	1095
Couples ² without children	2887	3059	2180
Couples ² with children ³	3499	3614	2948
Lone parents ³	1777	1874	1465

Source: Statistisches Bundesamt (2002): Einnahmen und Ausgaben privater Haushalte 1999-2000, Wiesbaden (Federal Statistics Office: Income and expenditure of private households 1999-2000); Statistics on continuous household budgets of private households (not including households of self-employed, farmers and top earners (17895€ and over)

1) Households whose membership composition meets the defined category only;

2) Married and non-married couples

3) Children under 18.

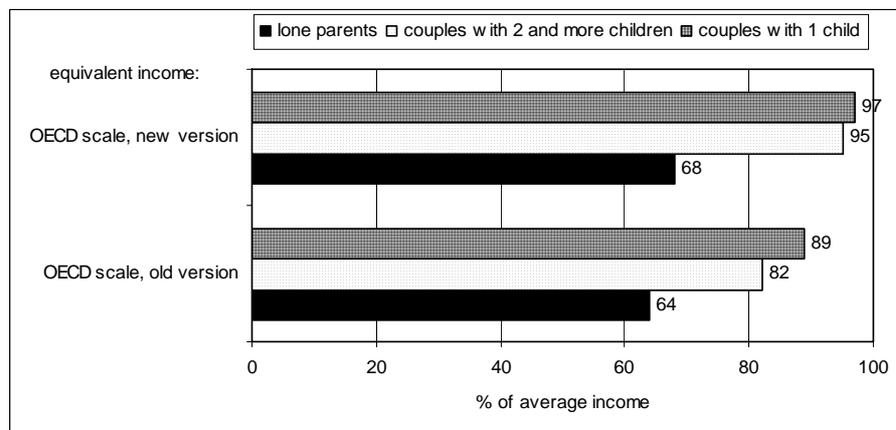
One-person and couple-households without children in particular are made up of people in various phases of life. Couples without children in the household include both younger couples – as yet – without children, and older couples whose children have already left home. If comparison is restricted to couples under pension age, there is less difference in income between couples with and without children in the household.²¹

When the number of household members to be provided for is included by converting the household income to a weighted per-capita income, the income of couples with children is slightly below and that of lone-parents considerably below the total average. The resultant income position does, however, depend on the conversion key, the so-called equivalence scale. On the new OECD scale, the partner and children are weighted lower than on the old OECD scale. The new OECD scale results in a higher weighted per-capita income for the same household income and a higher **income position** than the old scale (cf. figure 27).

In relation to household size, the income of couples with children is slightly, and that of lone-parents considerably lower than the average income of all households.

²¹ According to results of the Income and Consumption Sample Survey of the Federal Statistics Office, in 1998 couples without children (main earner under 50) had an average monthly net household income of 3170 Euro. For couples with 2 minor children, this figure was 3492 Euro.

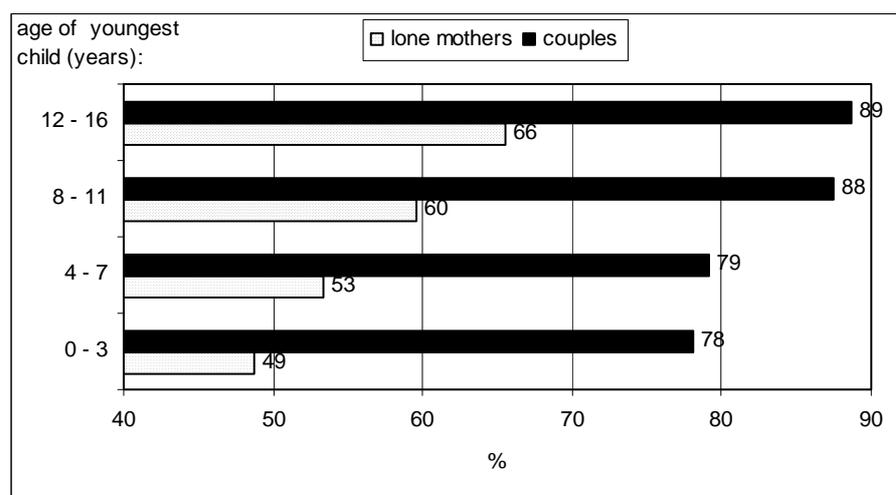
Figure 27 *Level of needs-weighted per-capita income for couple households and lone parents with children under 18, 1998 (in % of average of all households).*



Source: compiled from data in Münnich, M: Einkommens- und Geldvermögensverteilung privater Haushalte in Deutschland, Teil 1 (Distribution of income and capital wealth of private households in Germany, Part 1), in: *Wirtschaft und Statistik* 9/2000, P. 679-69, and Statistisches Bundesamt (2001): *Einkommensverteilung in Deutschland, Wiesbaden* (Federal Statistics Office: Distribution of Income in Germany). Data: Sample Survey of Income and Expenditure 1998.

In addition, data from the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP)²² show that, the younger the youngest child, the lower the disposable income and the relative income position of families. One of the main reasons for this is the low labour force participation rate of mothers when children are in the baby, infant and pre-school phase; this in turn is influenced by the often poor supply of external, affordable child-care facilities. The widespread and prolonged exit from the labour market by women in the former FRG in particular and the frequent limitation to part-time employment of those re-entering the workforce are main factors in this typical income differentiation according to the age of the youngest child. Additional factors are the initially comparatively low and later gradually increasing salaries, especially for men.

Figure 28 *Level of needs-weighted per-capita income of couple households and lone-parents with children up to age of 16 according to age of the youngest child, 2000 (in % of average of all households).*



²² The SOEP is a representative repetitive survey of private households carried out annually in West Germany since 1984 and since 1990 in East Germany. In 2000 the scope of the SOEP Survey was doubled to around 25.000 respondents.

Source: compiled from data in Grabka, M. (2002): Einkommen in Haushalten mit Kindern (Income in Households with Children), DIW Wochenbericht 69 (32), P. 529; Data: SOEP 2000, with older OECD Scale calculation of net household income of previous year.

→ Poverty and Receipt of Welfare Assistance

Poverty is generally understood as a multi-dimensional phenomenon defined by varying frames of reference. There are thus a number of poverty definitions used by social scientists. A term frequently used in social reporting and official statistics is that of relative income poverty. The Data Report published every two years, for instance, contains descriptions of relative income poverty, as do the results of the Sample Survey of Income and Expenditure 1998 published by the Federal Statistics Office. Both sources are based on a definition by the European Union. "This defines income poverty for a person living in a household which has an equivalised income of less than 50% of the median income of the total population". (Federal Statistics Office 2002: 586).²³

According to the results of the SOEP, in the year 2000 12 per cent of the population living in couple households with minor children lived in relative **income poverty**, as opposed to 4 per cent of the couple households without children and 7 per cent of the population living alone. The poverty rate for lone parents of 31 per cent was more than triple that of the national median.

The instance of income poverty is higher in East Germany than West Germany for nearly all household types.

12 per cent of couples with minor children and 31 per cent of lone parents come under the category of income poverty.

Table 18 Proportion of the population living in relative income poverty according to household type, 2000

Type of private household lived in	Population in relative poverty* (in %)	
	Germany	East German states
Overall	9,1	11,7
One-person households	6,6	9,4
Up to age 45	9,8	15,4
Aged 46 - 65	4,7	8,3
Aged 66 and over	4,8	5,2
Couple households without children	3,7	4,5
Head of household up to 45	2,9	6,7
Head of household 46-65	3,5	5,2
Head of household 66 and over	4,5	2,3
Couple households with minor children	11,9	15,2
One-parent households	30,6	42,6
Parent households with adult children	8,9	7,5

Source: Statistisches Bundesamt, Federal Statistics Office (2002): Datenreport 2002, Wiesbaden, P. 590; Data: SOEP 2000

*) Proportion of population in private households with a needs-weighted per capita income (old OECD scale) less than half the national median.

A comparison of age groups shows that children and juveniles more often than others live in households with an equivalised income below the poverty threshold, whereas the proportion of adults amongst those with income poverty decreases with age. Those of pension age are least affected by income poverty. The high risk of poverty amongst children and juveniles in comparison to other age groups is also evident in the age-specific quota for welfare assistance recipients. At the end of 2000, 8 per cent of all children under 7, 6 per cent of children aged between 7 and 10 and 5 per cent of the 11 – 15 year olds received ongoing

Children and juveniles live more often than adults in low-income households and are more often dependent on welfare assistance than other age groups.

²³ Federal Statistics Office (2002): Datenreport 2002, Wiesbaden.

subsistence support. The quota for children and juveniles is thus well above that of adults, which also decreases with age. Old people receive the lowest amount of welfare assistance in the narrower sense. But the proportion of older people in need of "assistance in special situations" is higher, particularly if they need long-term care. Poverty in old age was successfully combated in recent decades, for instance by improvements to systems for provision in old age. The poverty risk for children, on the other hand, has grown. Welfare assistance is increasingly often the response, if frequently only to bridge the gap until other social benefits have been granted. There are numerous reasons for the increased poverty risk for children. Central factors are obviously increased unemployment, higher divorce rates, separations and lone mothers, the immigration of low-income families and the difficulty for the income of many families with several children to keep up with rising costs of living.

In looking at **welfare assistance** at the family level, it is lone parents in particular who stand out as having a high proportion of welfare assistance recipients, whereas couples with one or two children are below the average rate of subsistence support. Slightly above average is the recipient rate for married couples with three and more children. From 1995 to 2000, the number of married couples with minor children in need of welfare assistance decreased by 16 per cent, that of lone parents on the other hand rose by 14 per cent. The recipient rate for married couples with children has also fallen slightly and has risen for lone parents.

The need for welfare assistance of couples with children has declined, that of lone parents has increased.

Table 19 Groups of recipients of ongoing subsistence support outside of institutions as at 31.12.2000

Group of recipients	Number	Per 100 households	Alteration on 1995 figure	Group of recipients per 100 households 1995
Overall	1 405 263	3,7	+ 10 %	3,4
Of which:				
Couples with children*	134 533	1,9	- 16 %	2,1
- with 1 child	50 631	1,5	- 11 %	1,6
- with 2 children	44 659	1,5	- 23 %	1,9
- with 3 or more children	39 243	4,1	- 15 %	4,6
Lone parents** with children*	339 913	23,9	+ 14 %	22,4
- with 1 child	187 415	20,0	.	.
- with 2 children	105 101	27,9	.	.
- with 3 or more children	47 397	42,6	.	.

Source: Federal Statistics Office, Welfare Assistance Statistics and Micro census.

*) children under 18 **) without partner in the household

6.2 Financial Assets

Around one fifth (19%) of all lone parents in Germany in 1998 had no **savings**, as against 8 per cent of all private households and 4 per cent of couples with children. One-person households are also more often than average without financial assets, particularly men living alone. Couples without children have the highest average financial assets of all household types (41.530 €), including both those who are –still– childless and parents whose children have already left the parental home. Lowest on the scale of savings are lone parents (8.928 €). Couples with minor children are as a group around the average mark, although those with one child only are slightly below the average of all households.

Table 20 Financial assets of various types of private households, 1998

Household type ¹	Proportion of households without assets (gross) ²			Average net assets		
	Germany	Former FRG	Eastern states and East Berlin	Germany	Former FRG	Eastern States and East Berlin
	%			€ (calculated from all households)		
Households overall	7,6	7,7	7,4	31 345	35 080	15 145
Women living alone	11,8	11,6	12,6	16 505	18 349	8 536
Men living alone	15,7	16,1	14,5	25 301	29 300	8 363
Childless couples	3,7	3,8	3,5	41 530	46 266	20 532
Couples with children	4,1	4,0	4,8	30 239	33 522	15 045
- with 1 child	5,2	5,1	6,5	26 959	29 630	14 697
- with 2 or more children	3,5	3,3	3,5	32 276	35 863	15 298
Lone parents	19,0	20,7	16,4	8 928	10 026	5 000

Source: compiled from data in Statistisches Bundesamt (2001): Geldvermögensbestände und Konsumentenkreditschulden privater Haushalte, Wiesbaden (Federal Statistics Office: Financial assets and consumer debts of private households); Data: Sample Survey of Income and Expenditure 1998 (private households with a monthly net household income under 17895€)

1) Households with members as defined by type category; children=children under 18; couples = married couples and non-married partnerships

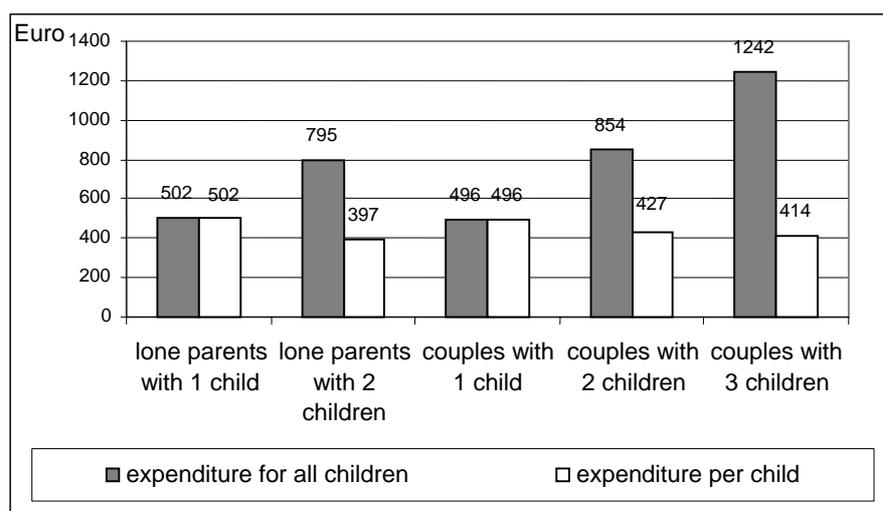
2) Proportion of households without savings and building society assets, securities, shares, other investments and insurance credit (surrender value) or money lent privately;

3) Assets (including insurance credit) after deduction of any consumer loan debt

6.3 Cost of living expenditure of families and their children²⁴

Couples with 2 minor children spend on an average 854 Euro per month on the cost of living for their children (West: 870€, East 708€). Lone parents with 1 child spend 502€ and do not have less expenditure for their children's' cost of living than couples with 1 child (496€), although their income is lower than that of couples with 1 child.

Figure 29 Monthly cost of living expenditure of families for their children²⁾ according to household type, EVS 1998¹⁾



Source: Federal Statistics Office, EVS 1998

1) without households with a monthly net income of 17 895 Euro (35 000DM) and over, and without people in institutions and community accommodation 2) unmarried children under 18.

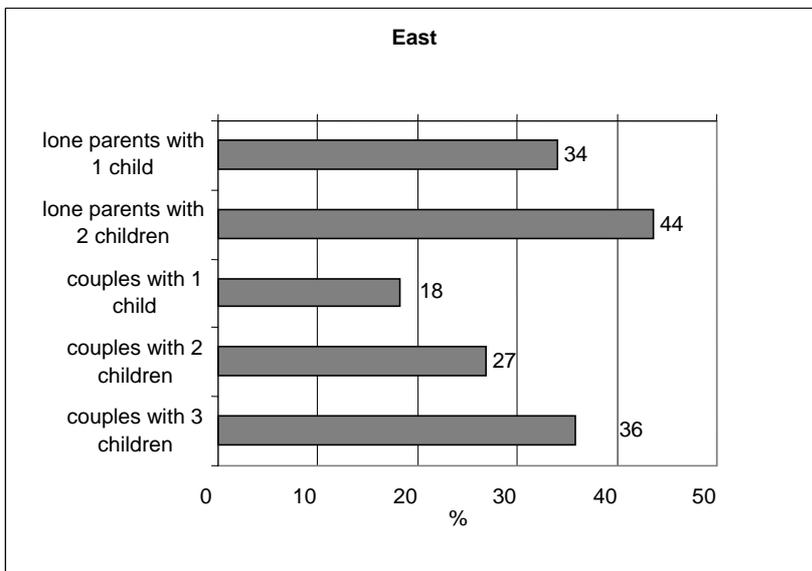
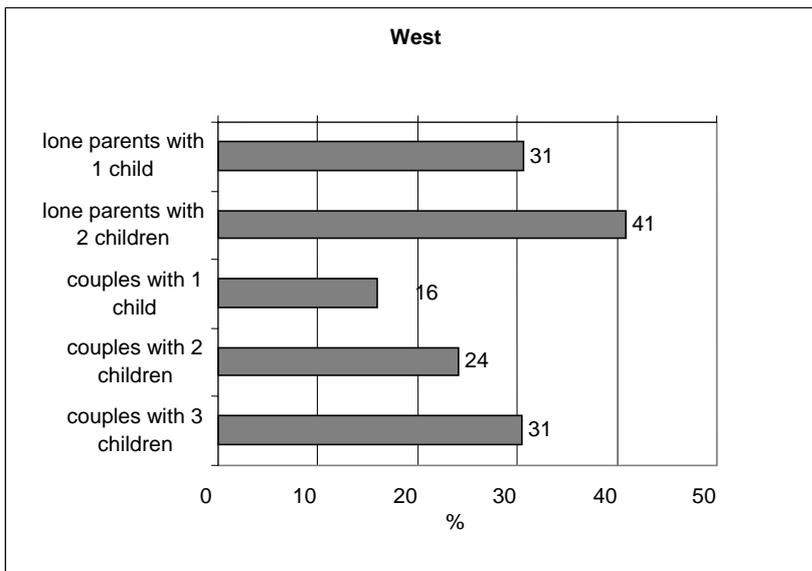
The average cost of living expenditure of a child was in 1998 between 397 and 502 Euro, depending on family type and number of children.

²⁴ For more detailed results see M. Münnich and T. Krebs (2002): Ausgaben für Kinder in Deutschland (Expenditure on Children in Germany), in: Wirtschaft und Statistik, 12/2002. P. 1080-1100.

The proportion of net household income spent on child-related items varies from 16 to 42 per cent depending on the type and size of family. Lone parents spend a far higher proportion of their income on their children than is the case for couple households with children. For both couple households with children and lone-parent households, the share of net household income spent on children rises in proportion to the number of children living in the household. For couples with one child this is around 16 per cent, for two children 24 per cent and for couples with three children in the household as much as 31 per cent of the household net income. Lone parents with one child spend about 32 per cent, those with two children around 42 per cent of their household budget for their children.

Couples with 3 children spend an average of 31% of their income on cost of living of the children, lone parents with 2 children 42%.

Figure 30 Cost of living expenditure for children as a percentage of the net household income for varying family types, EVS 1998



Data: Federal Statistics Office, Sample Survey of Income and Expenditure 1998

6.4 Housing Situation

According to the results of the Sample Survey of Income and Expenditure of the Federal Statistics Office of 1998, 44 per cent of private households in West Germany and 26 percent in East Germany lived in dwellings owned by them. Of the group of families with children, lone parents are relatively seldom **owners** of the dwelling in which they live. In the case of couples with children, the ownership rate increases with the number of children. In West Germany, for instance, 64 percent of couples with 3 or more children own the dwelling in which they live as opposed to 58 per cent of couples with 2 children and 42 per cent of couples with 1 child in the household.

The more children in the household, the larger the home of the family, but the per capita living space is reduced accordingly. Homes in East Germany are smaller than in West Germany. The average size of home for households with children in 1998 was 108 square metres in West Germany (29 square metres per person), in the Eastern states 89 square metres (25 square metres per person).

The amount of **rent** of households varies only slightly with the number of children in the household. In 1998, households with or without children in West Germany spent around one quarter of their net income on rent, in East Germany one fifth.

42% of West German couples with 1 child, but only 18% of lone parents own the home in which they live.

Table 21 *Main tenant households according to household structure and average rent ¹⁾ per housing unit and per square metre living space, 1998.*

Household type	Average rental		average rent burden ² in per cent
	Per housing unit	Per square metre	
Euro			
Germany			
Households overall	378	5,50	23,5
With 1 child	434	5,51	23,3
With 2 children	471	5,40	24,1
With 3 or more children	516	5,33	26,4
Households together with children.	456	5,45	24,0
Households without children	353	5,52	23,3
Former FRG			
Households overall	403	5,68	24,5
With 1 child	469	5,72	24,8
With 2 children	502	5,56	25,5
With 3 or more children	537	5,47	27,0
Households together with children.	489	5,63	25,3
Households without children	377	5,70	24,2
Eastern states and East Berlin			
Households overall	292	4,78	19,9
With 1 child	334	4,82	19,0
With 2 children	368	4,77	19,6
With 3 or more children	400	4,50	22,5
Households together with children	350	4,77	19,4
Households without children	273	4,78	20,1

Source: Winter, H. (1999): Wohnsituation der Haushalte 1998. Ergebnisse der Mikrozensus-Ergänzungserhebung, Teil 2 (Living arrangements of households 1998. Results of the micro census supplementary survey, Part 2), in *Wirtschaft und Statistik*, 11/1999, P. 858-864.

1) in addition to basic rent includes "cold" running costs (costs of water, sewerage, road sweeping, refuse collection, house cleaning and lighting, chimney sweeping, caretaker, public burdens, building insurance and cable connection).

2) proportion of household net income for expenditure on rent

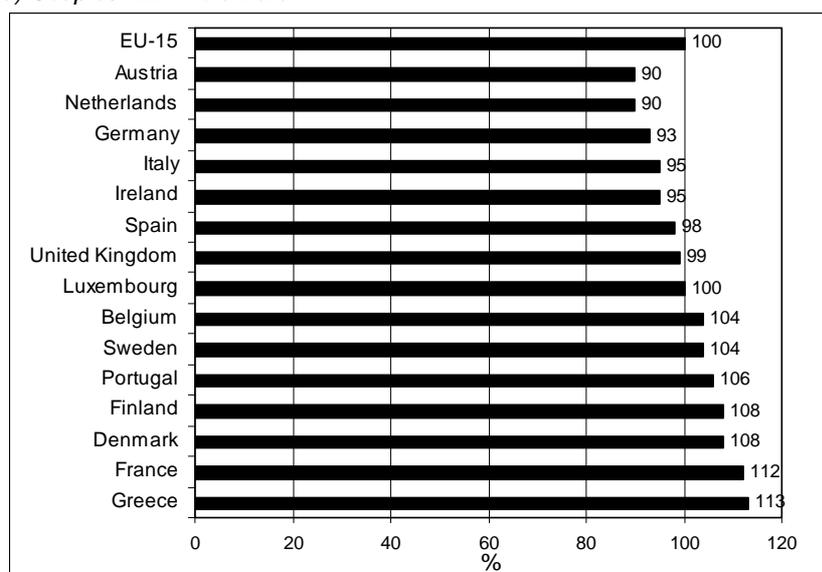
6.5 The European Perspective: income situation, home ownership rate

According to findings of the European Communities Household Panel (ECHP)²⁵ of 1998, the median **equivalised income** of couples with 1 dependent child in the European Union was 12 per cent higher than the equivalised income of all households; for couples with two children it equalled the median for all household types and for couples with three or more children it was 30 per cent below the median. Lone parents had to manage on an equivalised income 27 per cent under the EU average. This means that families with several children and lone parents have an income which is well below average. This also applies to Germany. The relative amount of income for couples with children in Germany was slightly under that of most of the EU states in 1998. The income of couples with children was 93 per cent of the national average income of all households, that of couples with three or more children only 55 per cent (median equivalised income). This proportion was lower in two countries in the EU: for couples with two children in Austria (90%) and the Netherlands (90%), for those with three or more children in Italy (52%) and Portugal (53%). Lone-parent income in Germany is further below the national average than in other EU states.

According to data of Eurostat, in 1997 the equivalised income of couples with two children in Germany was about 7 per cent below the equivalised income of all households in Germany. Thus, the income position of this family type in Germany was slightly below the EU average.

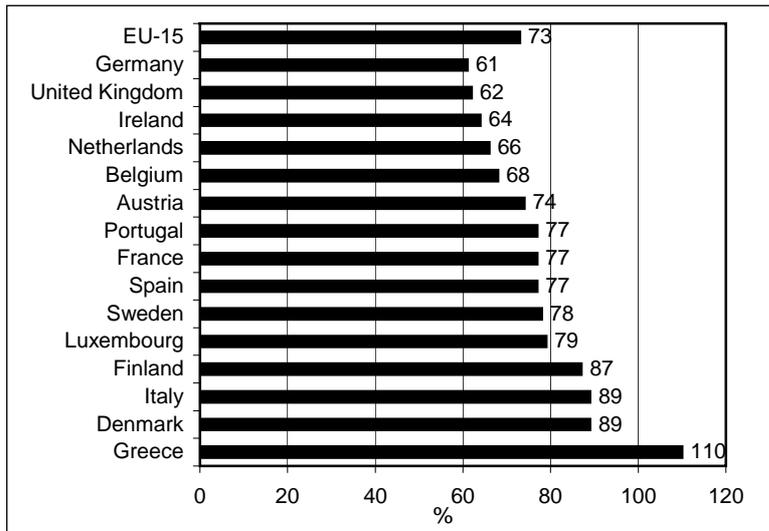
Figure 31 *Equivalised income of lone parents and couples with two children as % of the equivalised income of the population in the member states of the EU, 1998**

a) Couples with two children



²⁵ The ECHP was an input-harmonized panel survey, which started in 1994 and ended in 2001. Yet, after wave 3 (1996) Germany as well as the United Kingdom and Luxembourg no longer took part in interviewing the members of the panel households. Instead, since 1997 existing data of the German Socio-economic Panel (GSOEP) were incorporated and adopted to the design of the ECHP. Therefore, the German numbers might not be exactly comparable to the numbers of the other countries.

b) Lone parents



Source: European Commission, Eurostat (2003): The Social Situation in the European Union 2003, Luxembourg, P. 188; Data: European Communities Household Panel 1998. The data refer to income during the calendar year prior to the survey

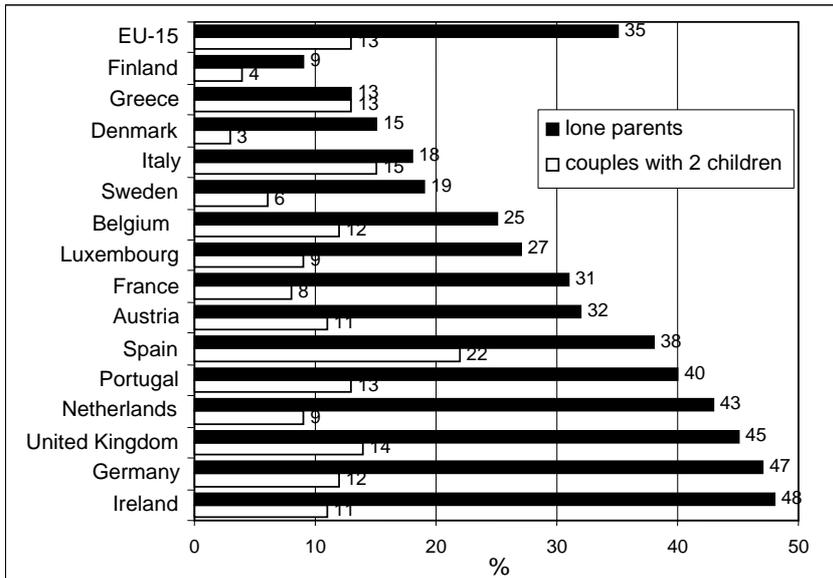
EU-15 = Estimates for the EU as a whole

*) equivalised income: needs-weighted per-capita income (new OECD scale); Comparison of the medians (value reached by exactly one half of the population); children = children entitled to maintenance

In spite of the – by EU standards - below-average **income position** of this main family type in Germany, namely couples with 2 children, the proportion of low-income families in the couple with 2 children group in Germany is not higher than the EU average. In 1998 in Germany 12 per cent of the couple households with 2 children lived under the income threshold of 60 per cent of the national average income (median). In EU terms, it was 13 per cent for this family type.

The situation for lone parents is different. Of all EU countries, Germany in 1998 had after Ireland and before Great Britain the second highest proportion of low-income lone parents. In Germany 47 per cent of the population in one-parent households had an income under the 60 per cent threshold, in the EU it was 35 per cent.

Figure 32 *Low-income proportion of lone parents and couples with two children in the EU member states, 1998**



Source: European Commission, Eurostat (2003): The Social Situation of the European Union 2003, Luxembourg, P. 188;

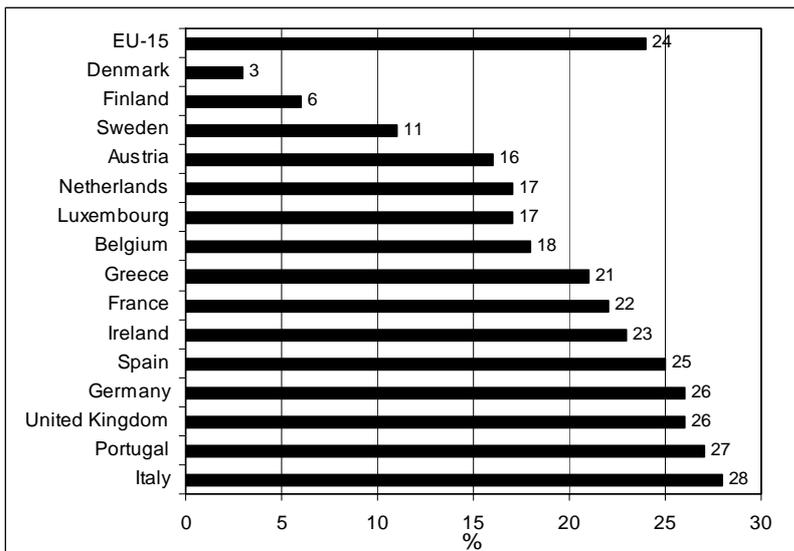
Data: European Communities Household Panel. Data refer to income during the calendar year prior to the survey.

EU-15 = estimates for the EU as a whole

*) low-income = people in households with a needs-weighted per-capita income (new OECD scale) under 60 per cent of the median income of all persons in the country in question.

Of all children aged under 16 in Germany in 1998, 26 per cent lived in **low-income households**, the EU average was 24 percent. The lowest rates for children living in low-income households were in Denmark, Finland and Sweden, the highest in Portugal and Italy.

Figure 33 *Proportion of children under 16 living in low-income households in the EU member states, 1998**



Source: European Commission, Eurostat (2003): The Social Situation in the European Union 2003, Luxembourg, P. 188;

Data: European Communities Household Panel. Data refer to income during the calendar year prior to the survey.

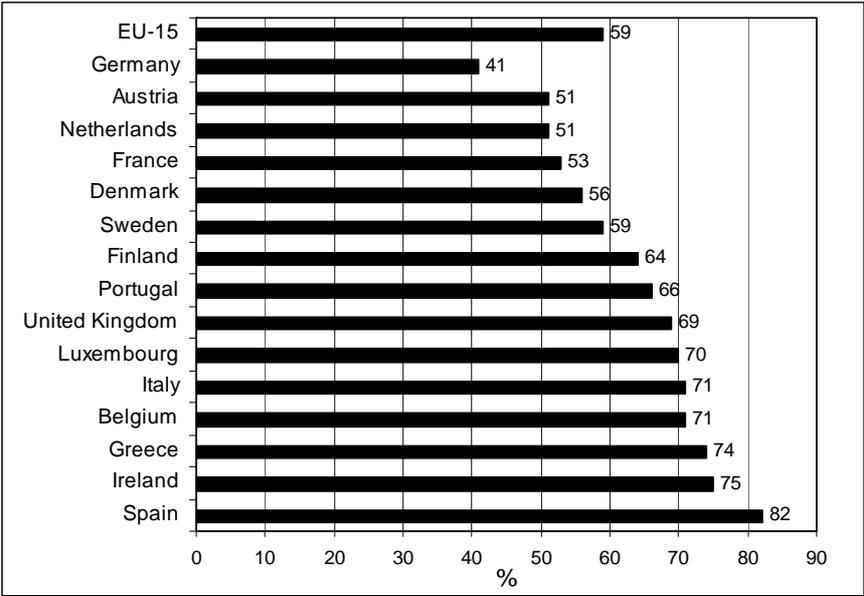
EU-15 – estimates for the EU as a whole

*) low-income = people in households with a needs-weighted per-capita income (new OECD scale) under 60 percent of the median income of all persons in the country in question.

A comparison of the housing situation of households and families in the countries of the European Union reveals a low proportion of households in Germany who are **owners** of the homes in which they live. Whereas in 1998 on an EU average, 59 percent of all households owned the home they lived in, in Germany this was only 41 percent. Austria and the Netherlands, who came next, are 10 percentage points higher. The highest owner-occupier quota is in Spain (82%), followed by Ireland (75%) and Greece (74%).

Fewer households in Germany live in their own property than in all other EU countries.

Figure 34 Proportion of households in the EU who are owners of the dwelling in which they live, 1998 (in %)



Source: European Commission (2002): The Social Situation in the European Union 2002, Luxembourg, P. 130;
 Data: European Communities Household Panel

Glossary

The data used in the tables and figures originate mainly from official statistics on population, households and families, demographic trends and the income and expenditure of private households. The terms used are therefore closely aligned to the definitions and differentiations employed by the Federal Statistics Office.

Former FRG (West Germany): territory of the Federal Republic of Germany prior to 3.10.1990; it includes the states of Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Hesse, Saarland, Rhineland-Palatinate, Northrhine-Westfalia, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg and Bremen and also the territory which was formerly West Berlin.

East German states and East Berlin (East Germany): includes information on the states of Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia and East Berlin. The term 'former GDR' is also used to describe this territory prior to 3.10.1990.

Micro census: the micro census is an annual official household survey involving about 1 per cent of all private households chosen at random. The survey mainly covers general personal characteristics, composition of households and the families in the household, education and further training, items such as occupational activity and the economic situation of all members of the household. Additional areas, for instance retirement provision, health, commuter patterns, are covered at intervals of several years.

Sample Survey of Income and Expenditure: This is a household survey usually conducted at five-yearly intervals on the income and expenditure and also includes monetary and property assets and the debts of private households. It is a quota sample survey of around 0.2 per cent of all private households. Participation is voluntary and comprises an introductory interview at the beginning of the year, the keeping of household books over a period of three months spread over the four quarters of the survey year and the exact registration of the consumption of food, beverages and tobacco during one month. The results are projected for the total population in private households on the basis of the micro census. Households with exceptionally high income and the population living in communal homes and institutions are not included.

Household: a household is defined as any community of individuals living together and forming an economic entity, plus people who live and keep house alone (i.e. single subtenants). Several households can live in one dwelling. A household can include persons who are related or not related. Community and institutional accommodation do not count as households, although they can contain private households (for instance that of the head of the institution).

Families: the micro census includes as 'families' narrowly defined communities of individuals within a private household who are linked by marriage, descent or right of custody. These can be made up of married couples living together with or without unmarried 'children' in the household, and lone (i.e. unmarried, separated, divorced and widowed) mothers and fathers, living with their unmarried children in the same household. Any further related or not related persons in the household are not included in the family as such, but can be members of another family (i.e. as married grandparents living together in a three-generation household). Thus several families can live in one household. Where figures given refer to families in one-family households (i.e. families as defined above, but without any further persons in the household), particular mention is made of this.

Children: unmarried individuals (without age limit) living together with their parents or one parent in a household. Included as children are also step-children, adopted and foster children. It is not possible to differentiate child status in the micro census.

Married couples with children: Married couples living with unmarried children in a household (without age limit). Unlike the micro census, the Income and Expenditure Sample Survey only includes households which consist solely of the married couples and children, without any further persons.

Married couples without children: married couples living together whose household does not or no longer includes unmarried children.

Non-married partnerships, non-married couples: Two individuals of different sexes who are neither related nor married to each other, with or without children, who have a common household not shared with any further persons. Prior to 1996, estimates were made based on micro census results. Since 1996, there is an explicit question on non-married partnerships in the micro census. In official family statistics, non-married partnerships are included with 'lone parents', but not in this brochure.

Lone parents (without a partner in the household): sole parents with children, but without a partner in the household. This family type can only be indirectly estimated in the micro census by subtracting the non-married partnerships from the total number of sole parents with children. In the Income and Expenditure Sample Survey, only those households are counted as lone parents in which there are no further persons living apart from the parent and one or more children. The term "one-parent family" is used synonymously to lone parent.

Total fertility rate: the total fertility rate indicates how many children would be born to 1000 women in the course of their lives if they conformed to the age-specific birth figures of the survey year for the rest of their lives and there was no mortality. It is calculated from the summation of the age-specific birth figures within a survey year.

Cohort: population group defined by a chronologically shared initial occurrence. The birth cohorts examined in this brochure are determined either by a common year of birth or by a certain time span, in which the birth occurs. Other occurrences such as joining the labour force, getting married or divorced can define cohorts. The idea behind the cohort concept is that, for example, the members of one birth cohort are exposed to common cultural and socio-economic influences which will affect their lives to a greater or lesser extent. When this is the case, we speak of cohort effects. The cohort concept is fundamental to the examination of social change and the development of social structures.

Labour Force: persons who are either engaged in or seeking gainful employment, regardless of the returns from this activity and the working hours. The labour force is made up of those 'at work' and those 'seeking employment'.

Employed persons: Persons in an employment relationship (including members of the armed forces and family members helping out in a family enterprise), independently running a trade or agricultural enterprise or engaged in a profession. Included amongst employed persons are those who are temporarily not working because, for instance, they are on parental leave. Up to 1995, however, no explicit enquiries were made in the micro census as to temporary leave, so that inclusion of those temporarily not employed in the ranks of employed persons was largely dependent on how participants responded and assessed themselves. Since the 1996 micro census, specific enquiries are made as to temporary periods of leave, so that this publication can include in particular the proportion of working mothers with children aged under three both with and without reference to temporary periods of leave.

Unemployed persons: persons without employment who are seeking work, regardless as to whether or not they are registered with a job centre as unemployed.

Employment rate: the employment rate represents the persons in employment (with or without those temporarily on leave) as a proportion of the total population in the same group.

Activity rate: share of employed and unemployed persons in the total population in the same group.

Net household income: in the Sample Survey of Income and Expenditure, monthly household net income is defined as the sum of the monthly income of all household members. All income from employment, social benefits, pensions and other retirement benefits, rentals and leases and any other assets were added and tax and compulsory contributions to social insurance deducted. Tax income derived from income from businesses or self-employed activity was to be declared. Net household income does not include withdrawal of savings, loans, the sale of assets, inheritances, gifts, etc. The average monthly income is derived from annual totals.

Equivalised income: needs-weighted per-capita income. In order to make realistic comparisons between the income situations of households of varying sizes and composition, the household income is converted to a needs-weighted per-capita income (equivalised income). In so doing, the household members are converted to consumer units by means of so-called equivalence scales, the scaling being dependent on the theoretical and methodical approach adopted. It is accepted that because of the cost advantages of communal housekeeping in multi-person households and the different need levels of individuals according to age, the number of consumer units should be lower than that of the members of the household. But to date there is no consensus on the weighting to be used in each case. A system often used internationally is the scale developed by the OECD (new OECD scale) which is used by the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat). In the new version of this scale, the head of household is assessed with 1 unit, each child under 15 with 0.3 and every further person over 15 with 0.5 units. The consumption requirement of children is thus rated relatively low, the savings effects of a joint household relatively high. In an older version of the OECD scale, children under 15 were rated with 0.5 and every further person over 15 with 0,7 units. The use of this scale leads in the case of a multi-person household to a lower equivalised income.

Cost of living expenditure of families for their children: that portion of private consumption or household consumption which is allocated to children. Several types of expenditure can be categorised as child-related because of their obvious use (i.e. expenditure of children's clothing, children's furniture, baby good, toys, school items). The division of expenditure on transport and general food costs was undertaken on the basis of conclusions and experiences of amounts gained from national transport and food studies. The remaining consumer expenses were divided between parents and children according to plausible assumptions. The children's portion in the household rent plus incidental expenses was assessed in relation to the size of the children's room in relation to the total living space.

Financial assets: in the Income and Expenditure Sample Survey, gross financial assets are the end of year total credit balance from savings and deposits, the actual value of securities, building society and insurance credits (cash-in value) of all household members. The figure for net financial assets is arrived at by deducting the remaining debt on consumer loans from the total sum of assets. Private households with an exceptionally high monthly net income (1998: over 35.000 DM or 17.895 Euro). It can generally be assumed that asset reserves are under-assessed.

Links

The following links could be helpful looking for further information related to the topics of this publication.

Federal Government	http://www.bundesregierung.de
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	http://www.bmfsfj.de
Federal Ministry of Health and Social Security	http://www.bmgs.bund.de
Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour	http://www.bmwi.de
Federal Ministry of Education and Research	http://www.bmbf.de
Federal Statistical Office Germany	http://www.destatis.de
Federal Institute for Population Research at the Federal Statistical Office	http://www.bib-demographie.de/
Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research	http://www.demogr.mpg.de/
German Youth Institute	http://www.dji.de
German Centre of Gerontology	http://www.dza.de
German Centre for Research on Ageing	http://www.dzfa.uni-heidelberg.de
The European Observatory on the Social Situation, Demography and Family	http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/index_en.html
Eurostat-European Statistics	http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	http://www.oecd.org
United Nations Population Division	http://www.un.org/esa/population/