

Austria experienced a modest baby boom after the Second World War, peaking at a total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.82 children per woman in 1963, followed by a slow but steady decline. Since the mid-1980s, Austrian fertility has remained remarkably stable, ranging from 1.33 to 1.51 births per woman. In 2014, the TFR was 1.46 births per woman. Over the past century, the population has grown slowly from 6 million in 1900 to 8.5 million in 2014.

Family transformations

The post-war baby boom took place at the height of the "traditional family" model, characterized by a high prevalence of marriage and male bread-winners. Much of this pattern was reversed in the late 1960s and 1970s with a shift towards later and less marriage. By 2012, a woman's peak age at first marriage was 30. The diminishing importance of marriage is also seen in the steady rise in the share of children born outside marriage.

Cohabitation has become a dominant form of partnership among people in their twenties; in fact, marriage without previous cohabitation has become unusual. The rise of less traditional living arrangements has also affected families with children. Most problematic from the policy perspective is the high share of single mothers, fuelled by a mix of unintended pregnancies, voluntary single motherhood, and instability of marital and cohabiting unions. At present, the total divorce rate is 40 per cent, and 14 per cent of all families with children are headed by single parents.

As of 2012, 42 per cent of Austrian women and 29 per cent of men were expected to obtain a university degree. Most young adults complete the

