



Average Maternal Age at Birth

East Germany	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
1st child	26.1	26.4	26.6	26.9	27.0	27.1	27.3	27.5
2nd child	29.3	29.5	29.7	29.9	29.9	30.1	30.5	30.7
3rd child	31.4	31.6	31.6	31.6	31.6	31.8	32.1	32.2
4th and subsequent children	33.2	33.2	33.1	33.0	33.1	33.2	33.1	33.3
Total	27.9	28.1	28.3	28.6	28.7	28.9	29.1	29.3
West Germany	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
1st child	27.4	27.6	27.7	28.0	28.1	28.3	28.5	28.7
2nd child	29.9	30.0	30.2	30.3	30.4	30.6	30.8	31.0
3rd child	31.5	31.6	31.7	31.8	31.9	32.0	32.2	32.4
4th and subsequent children	33.1	33.1	33.2	33.3	33.3	33.4	33.5	33.6
Total	29.0	29.1	29.3	29.5	29.6	29.8	30.0	30.2

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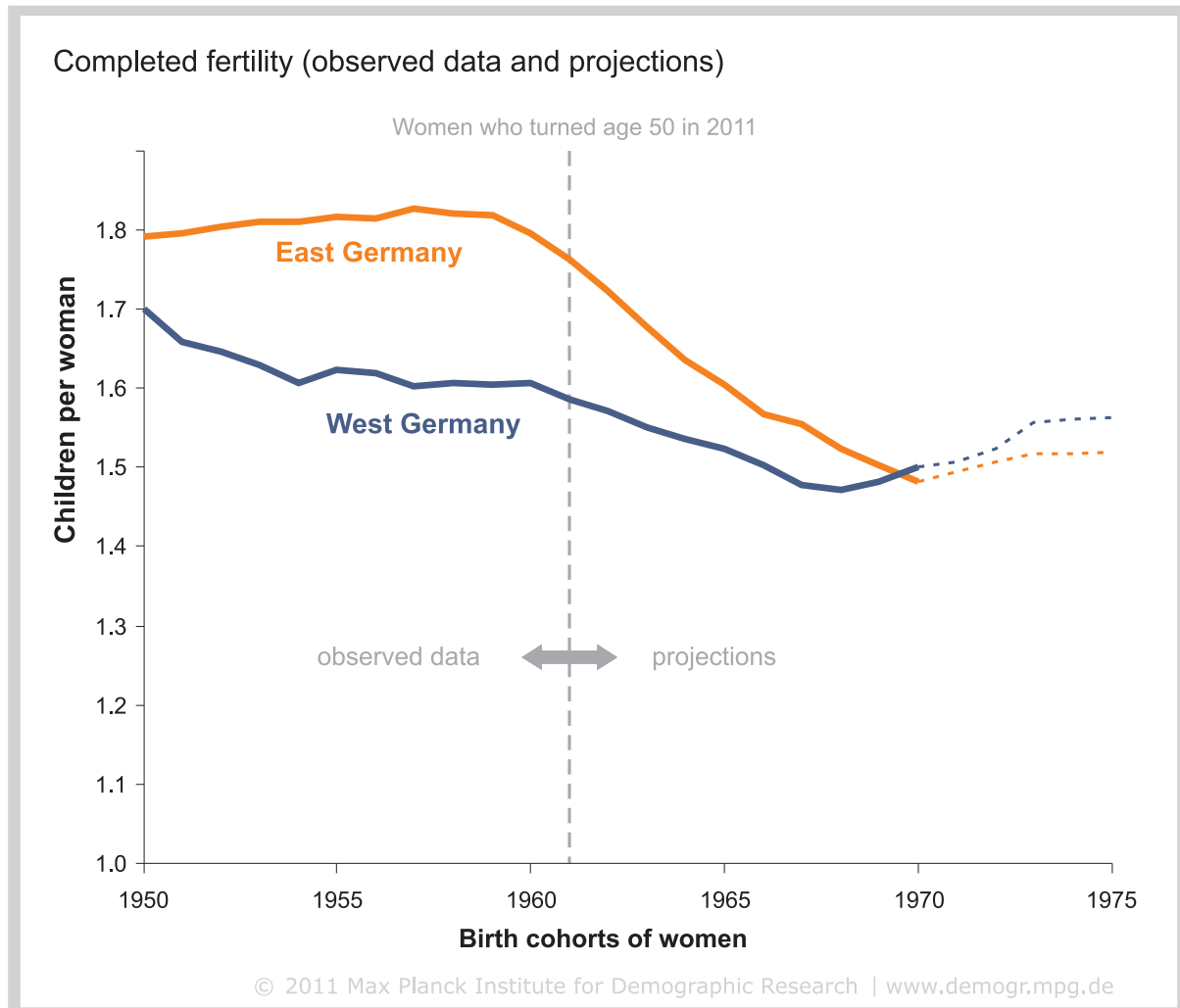
Increasingly late entry into motherhood – but still earlier in the East than in the West: The decades-long trend towards having children later in life continues. In 2008, the average West German woman had her first child at 28.7 years of age. The average woman in East Germany was more than one year younger. But in both regions of the country, the average maternal age at first birth rose by around 1.25 years between 2001 and 2008.

Source: BQS perinatal statistics and MPIDR calculations





Figure:



The 1970s cohorts turn the trend around: According to projections, completed fertility for women who were born in the early 1960s falls to between 1.5 and 1.6 children per woman, representing a continuation of the downward trend of recent decades. However, completed fertility is rising again: the birth cohorts around 1970 appear to mark a reversal of this trend. The projections for the cohorts after 1970 cannot yet be confirmed, but a trend reversal appears to be very likely.

The final birth rate represents the average number of children the women of a particular cohort have given birth to over the course of their lives. The final number of children cannot be calculated until members of a cohort have reached the age of 50.

This fact sheet, together with high-resolution images and an accompanying press release can be found online at: www.demogr.mpg.de/en/press/2254.htm