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REGARDS CROISÉS SUR LES MODES D'ACCUEIL
DES JEUNES ENFANTS



German Public Policies for Parents & Children. Triggers, logics & consequences

Ilona Ostner

University of Göttingen, Germany

iostner@uni-goettingen.de



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- Remarkable reform activities towards employability, “dual earning” & child-centred social investments since early 2000s in Germany
- Major triggers of change
- Data: increasing female employment & birth rates
- The policy-fertility nexus or how do public policies for parents & children matter – do they matter?



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Triggers of change

- Labour shortages in the German medium-to-high-skill, still industrial, production system and political economy, due to
 - Population ageing, ageing workforce and declining birthrates
 - Fiscal pressures, cost containment policies →
 - Need to recalibrate welfare state policies towards universal employability, workforce activation & early childhood education & care
 - New Red-Green Federal government 1998-2005: 1998 Coalition mission statement on the promotion of a new family model
 - PISA results from 2000 on: undesired 'educational inequalities' transmitted via families
- “sustainable” = employment-friendly & child-centred family policies



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Reform activities: social Investment, employability, gender equality

- 2002 Coalition Agreement: Reconciliation as overarching family policy goal
- 2003: Social Investment Programme (Future of Education & Care), kick-off of all-day schooling
- 2003: Preferential treatment of employed parents seeking public childcare; special focus on single parents
- 2005: TAG Federal Law on Extension of Universal Full-time Childcare (also for children under three) and Related Federal Subsidies to Municipalities
- 2007 Introduction of Swedish style Parental Leave (14 months), including two Daddy Months, and Wage-Related Parental Leave Benefit, privileging better-off parents
- 2013: Right to full-time public childcare for all children older than 12 months (1996 right of children aged 3+)
- 2015: Flexibilisation of Parental Leave to Encourage Fathers' and Both Parents' Long Part-Time Employment
- 2016: Federal Court of Justice ruled parents' entitlement to compensation of their income loss if municipalities have failed to provide childcare (municipality has to pay)

Next slide: Children 1-3 (red) = 32,7 % [East: 51,8; West 28,1] & children 3-6 (blue) in public daycare

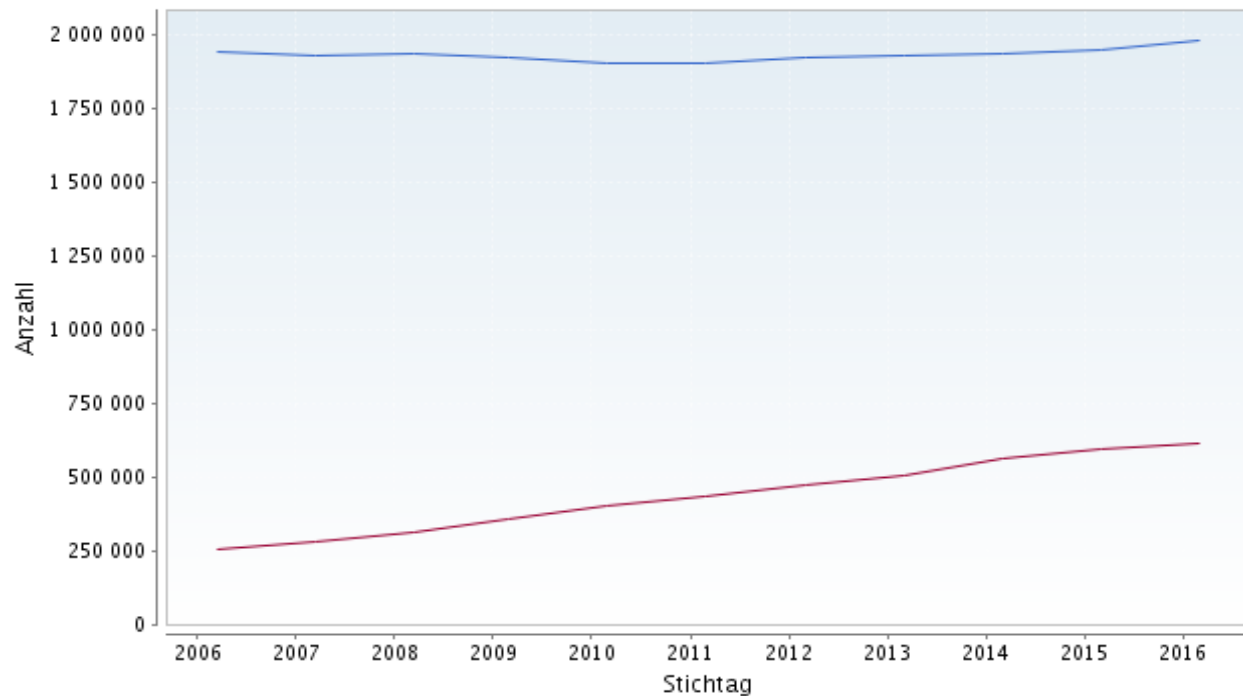


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Kinder in Tageseinrichtungen: Bundesländer, Stichtag, Altersgruppen

Kinder und tätige Personen in Tageseinrichtungen
Kinder in Tageseinrichtungen (Anzahl)



- unter 3 Jahre; Deutschland
- 3 bis unter 6 Jahre; Deutschland



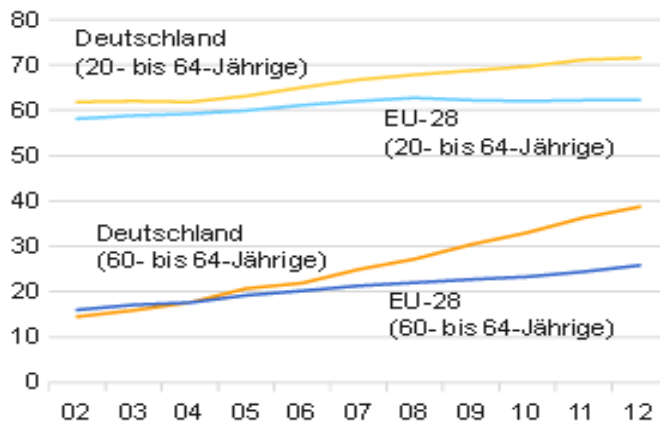
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Female Employment Rates 2002-2012 – GER & EU 28 in %

Erwerbstätigenquoten der Frauen

in %



Quelle: Eurostat

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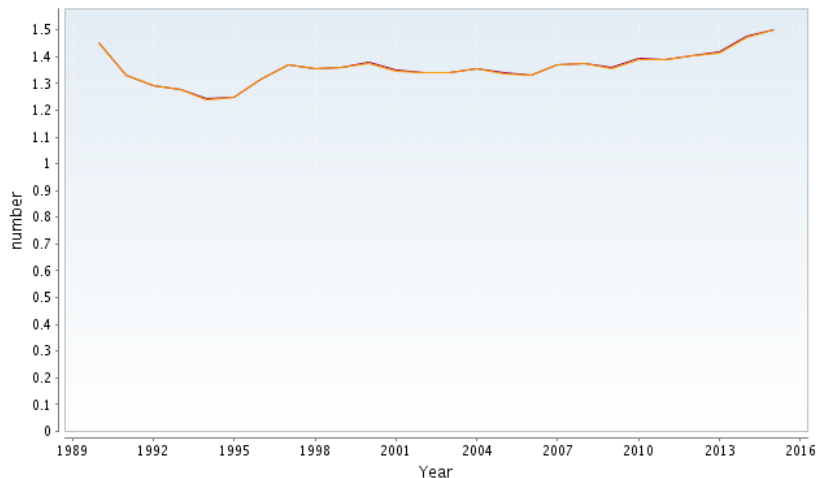
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Total fertility rate, 1989-2016, age groups

Total fertility rate (per woman): Germany, years, age groups

Birth statistics
Germany

Total fertility rate (per woman) (number)



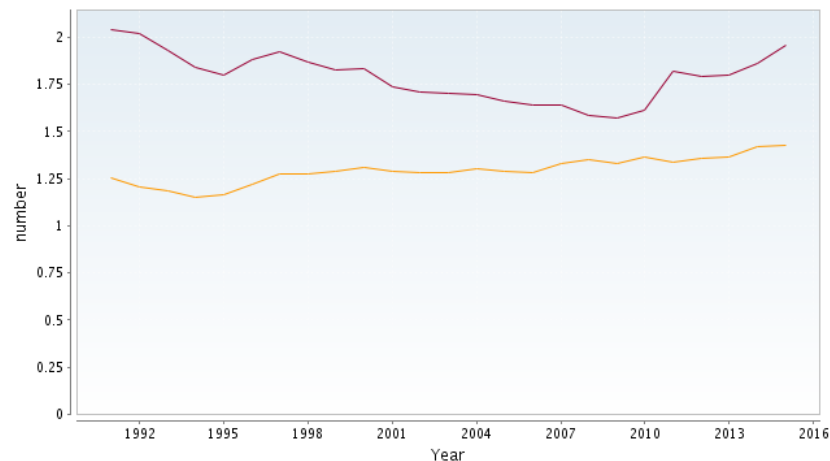
— 15 to under 45 years
— 15 to under 50 years

Total fertility rate, 1992-2016, by maternal citizenship

Total fertility rate (per woman): Germany, years, citizenship of the mother

Birth statistics
Germany

Total fertility rate (per woman) (number)



— German
— Foreign



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A policy-fertility-nexus? Yes and No ... (Bujard & Passet 2013)

- No reform effects regarding total population, however interesting group-specific effects
- Age-specific fertility rates increasing among 35-44 old highly educated women
- Effect of parental leave benefit on recuperation among highly educated women in their mid-thirties and older
- Disclaimer: Context matters! Very good employment opportunities for qualified women; little penalty for having second child in mid thirties or later in GER, in contrast to South