

## Age-Specific Birthrate in Foreign Countries

Demographers have categorized countries in the world into the ones with relatively easy birthrate and very severe birthrate by setting the borderline to 1.5 on total fertility rate. They call the former, “moderately low fertility” country and the latter, “lowest low fertility” country. Moderately low fertility countries include France (1.92), Sweden (1.85), USA (1.84), and UK (1.80), while lowest low fertility countries include Italy (1.35), Japan (1.45), and Germany (1.50)<sup>1 2</sup>.

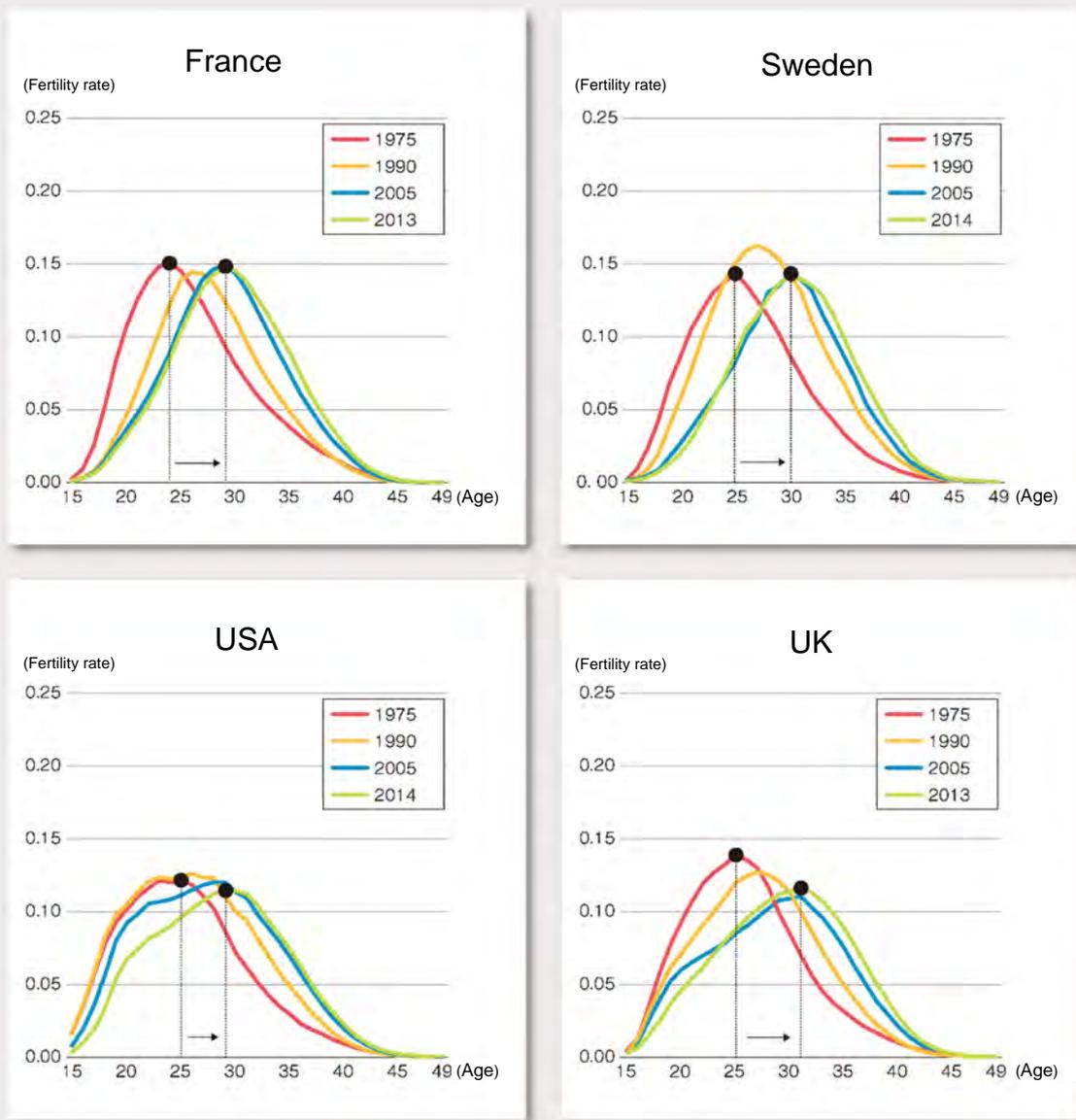
In moderately low fertility countries, women who delayed (postponed) having children in their young age started to give birth in their late 20s to 30s. While number of giving birth in young age dropped, birthrate in older age increased and it seems this condition caused backward rising of the total fertility rate (Chart 1).

On the other hand, young age-specific birthrate has largely decreased but older age-specific birthrate has not increased too much in lowest low fertility countries like Italy and Japan. It is considered that this is the reason their total fertility rate dropped to the level of 1.2 to 1.3 and has not recovered to the level over 1.5 yet<sup>3</sup>. In another lowest low fertility country, Germany, birthrate by age showed faster drop than rate compared to Italy and Japan. In 1975, total fertility rate in German marked lower than 1.5 and the peak of birthrate in this year by age was 0.11 (age 24), which was lower than its counterpart in Italy or Japan in the same year. In 2013, the age-specific birthrate reaches its peak of 0.10 at age 31, which is roughly the same level as that at age 24 in 1975. (Chart 2)

1. According to the definition of Gendai Jinko Jiten (Current Demographic Dictionary) (2010) edited by Jinkogaku Kenkyukai (Research Team of Demographic), a declining birthrate is defined as the condition where level of fertility falls continuously below the level of replacement fertility, and the total fertility rate is regarded to be the level lower than approximately 2.1. Also, the book says almost all advanced countries and part of East Asian countries are supposed to be currently under this type of lower fertility condition. Countries with slightly lower fertility condition than this are called “moderately low fertility” countries and largely lower ones are called “lowest low fertility” countries. One of the widely accepted views regarding the borderline of these groups is supposed to be whether their total fertility rate is 1.5 or higher or lower. Germany is categorized as “lowest low fertility” country, but their total fertility rate in 2015 was 1.50.
2. Numbers in parenthesis after the names of each country shows its total fertility rate in 2015 (OECD Family database revised version in May 2017 and Vital Statistics from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare).
3. Refer to Ato (2011).

Chart 1

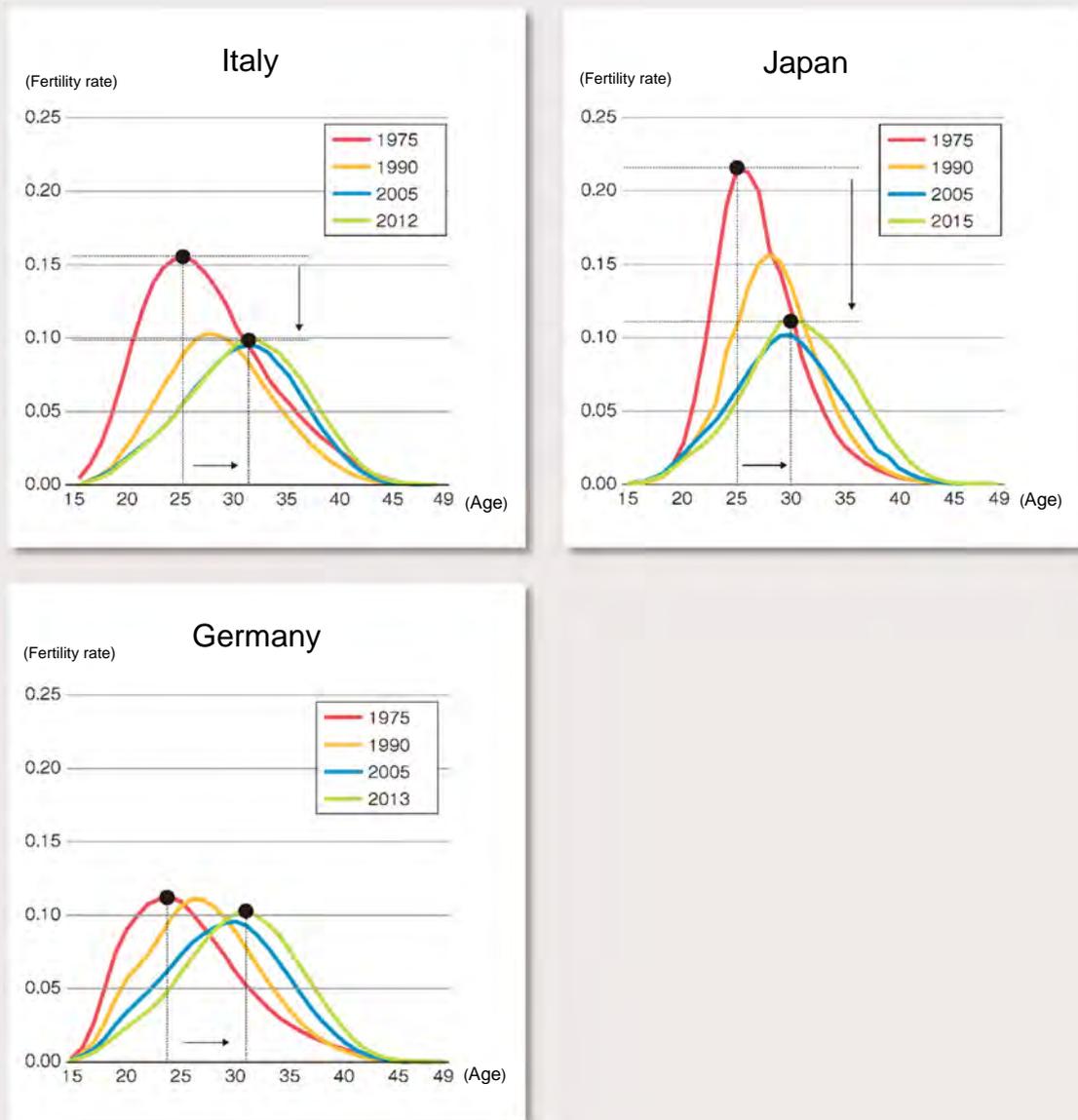
Age-specific fertility rate in moderately low fertility countries (France, Sweden, USA and UK)



Source: Prepared by the Cabinet Office based on The Human Fertility Database, a joint project of the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) and the Vienna Institute of Demography (VID).

## Chart 2

### Age-specific fertility rate in lowest low fertility countries (Italy, Japan and Germany)



Source: Graph of Italian data is prepared by the Cabinet Office based on The Human Fertility Database, a joint project of the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) and the Vienna Institute of Demography (VID).

Graph of Japanese data is prepared by the Cabinet Office based on "Population Projection for Japan (2017)" by National Institute of Population and Social Security Research

Graph of German data is prepared by the Cabinet Office based on The Human Fertility Database, a joint project of the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) and the Vienna Institute of Demography (VID). Numbers in 1975 was calculated by Human Fertility Database project referring to the data from former West Germany and former East Germany before they reunified.