

2005 Demographic report

In France, the female fertility rate continues to rise

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On January 1st 2006, the population of metropolitan France and the overseas departments is estimated to be 62.9 million inhabitants. The number of births rose in 2005 and nearly reached 2000's record level. For the second year in succession, the number of deaths is below what would be expected from the trend over the last decades to lower rates of mortality. Life expectancy is stable : 76.7 years for men and 83.8 years for women. For the first time since 2000's peak, the number of marriages remained the same while the number of civil partnerships continued to rise.

population of France is estimated to be 62.9 million inhabitants, of which metropolitan France has 61.0 million.

The French population represents 13.6% of the population of the 25 countries of the European Union and remains in second position behind Germany (82.5 million inhabitants on January 1st 2005), just ahead of the United Kingdom (60.0 million).

The aging of the French population continues. On January 1st 2006, 16.2% of the inhabitants were 65 years old or older, which is 1.1 points greater than ten years earlier. In the same period, the proportion of young people below 20 years old dropped from 26.3% to 25.1% (table 1). The proportion of people 20 to 64 years old is practically unchanged.

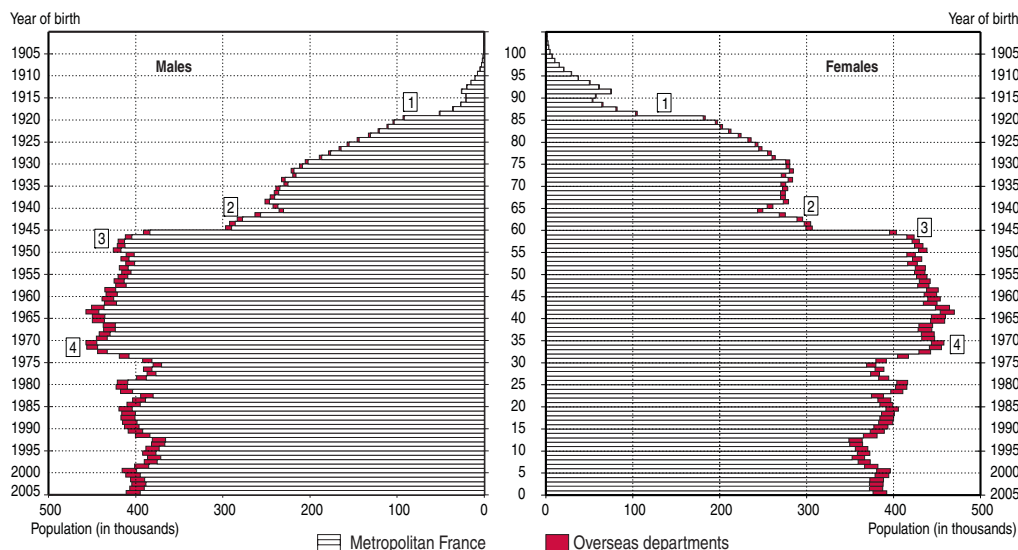
The number of births keeps rising

In 2005, 807,400 births and 537,300 deaths were registered in metropolitan France and the overseas departments. The natural growth thus rose to 270,100 people. The migratory balance is estimated to be 97,500 people. Overall, the population has thus increased by 367,600 people in one year. Taking into account the first two census surveys of 2004 and 2005 (box), on January 1st 2006 the

In 2005, birth rose at the same rate as in 2004 (+ 0.9%): there were thus 807,400 births, close to the figure for 2000 (808,200 births) (table 2). This confirms the trend towards an increase that has prevailed since 2003.

Despite this, the number of women between 20 and 40 years old giving birth continues to fall (- 0.4% between 2004 and 2005).

① Population by age and sex on 1st January 2006



① Birth deficit due to World War I

② Birth deficit due to World War II

③ Baby-boom

④ End of baby-boom

Sources : Vital statistics and "Cities" survey, Insee.

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But this fall is more than compensated for by the fact that on average women are having more children than in previous years: the total fertility rate for 2005 is 194 children for every 100 women, compared to 192 in 2004 (table 3).

With this rate, in 2004 France was in second place among the 25 countries of the European Union, just behind Ireland (with 199 children for every 100 women). These two countries remain in the lead, far above the European average (150). Among the countries of the European Union, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Luxembourg have a rate above 170. At the same time, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovakia, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovenia have the lowest fertility rate, with fewer than 130 children for every 100 women. For Spain, Italy, Germany and Malta, the rate is between 130 and 140 children for every 100 women.

Births later and later in life

In 2005, fertility rates only rose for women over 30 years old. As a result, the average age for mothers continues to rise: it was 29.7 years old in 2005, compared to 28.9 ten years earlier. In 2005 one mother out of two was aged 30 years or older, compared to 43% in 1995.

On average, by the end of their childbearing years women had given birth to more than two children. In 2005, the completed fertility rate for women born in 1955 was 2.13. At age 35 years, these women already had 1.96 children. Women born in 1965 had only 1.78 children at age 35, but then caught up somewhat because they had 1.99 children at age 40 (compared to 2.10 for the generation born in 1955); their completed fertility rate will exceed 2 children. Today, women aged 35 have on average 1.71 children: the delay has increased, but allows an anticipated completed fertility rate at least higher than 1.95 children for each woman.

The number of births outside marriage continued to rise. In 2005, 48.3% of children were born to parents who were not married, compared to 43.6% in 2000 and 38.6% in 1995. For first children, this proportion reached 59%.

1 Population by age group

Year	Population on 1 st january (in thousands)			Proportion per 100		
	Under 20	20 - 64 years	65 years or over	Under 20	20 - 64 years	65 years or over
1995	15,663.2	34,845.4	8,806.6	26.4	58.8	14.8
2000	15,632.8	35,318.4	9,562.2	25.8	58.4	15.8
2001	15,646.0	35,585.4	9,683.3	25.7	58.4	15.9
2002	15,653.4	35,864.7	9,807.6	25.5	58.5	16.0
2003	15,662.2	36,154.3	9,918.2	25.4	58.5	16.1
2004 (p)	15,713.9	36,406.6	10,009.7	25.3	58.6	16.1
2005 (p)	15,744.8	36,637.9	10,135.8	25.2	58.6	16.2
2006 (p)	15,773.0	36,904.8	10,208.4	25.1	58.7	16.2

Field : France (metropolitan France and overseas departments).

(p) Provisional data.

Sources : Vital statistics and "Cities" survey, Insee.

2 Population dynamics

Year	In thousands						
	Population on 1 st january	Marriages	Live births	Deaths	Natural balance	Estimated migration balance	Adjustment
1985	56,461.2	275.8	796.5	560.5	+ 236.0	+ 42	0
1990	58,029.4	294.9	793.9	534.5	+ 259.4	+ 77	- 52
1995	59,315.1	262.0	759.7	540.4	+ 219.3	+ 42	- 54
1999	60,158.5	293.7	776.5	547.4	+ 229.1	+ 61	+ 65
2000	60,513.4	305.4	808.2	540.7	+ 267.5	+ 71	+ 63
2001	60,914.7	295.9	804.1	541.2	+ 262.9	+ 87	+ 61
2002	61,325.7	286.3	793.6	545.4	+ 248.3	+ 97	+ 64
2003	61,734.7	282.9	793.9	562.6	+ 231.3	+ 102	+ 62
2004 (p)	62,130.2	278.6	800.2	520.7	+ 279.5	+ 109	0
2005 (p)	62,518.6	278.0	807.4	537.3	+ 270.1	+ 98	0
2006 (p)	62,886.2	...	...	...	...	...	...

Field : France (metropolitan France and overseas departments).

(p) Provisional data.

Sources : Vital statistics and "Cities" survey, Insee.

Census and population estimation

Taking into account the results of the 2004 census survey has led to an upward revision of the estimate of the population on January 1st 2004 (cf. *INSEE Première* 1000 and 1004). The results of the 2005 survey confirm the sense of this revision and have led to the size of the adjustment being increased. The population levels on January 1st 2004 and January 1st 2005 have therefore been revised upward by 150,000 people. The adjustment introduced in 2005 and intended to reflect the difference in measurement between the two censuses was set at 310,000 people ; it has been applied uniformly over the years 1999 to 2003. The variation is explained by the difference in methods between the 1999 census and the new census. In particular, the annual census survey, carried out on a sample, mobilises fewer census agents. This makes it possible to train them better and to obtain a better quality of data collection. Notably, if it is inevitable that certain people are not included in the census, their number is reduced.

The two surveys of 2004 and 2005 indicate a population level of 60.68 million inhabitants for metropolitan France on July 1st 2004, the date halfway between the two collections of data. This level would correspond, in applying the evolution indicated by the 2004 demographic report, to levels of approximately 60.50 million inhabitants on January 1st 2004 and 60.86 million inhabitants on January 1st 2005. The census having been optimised over five years, it had been thought preferable to only take into account part of the rise indicated by the census surveys, and to fix on a figure of 60.34 million inhabitants on January 1st 2004.

INSEE has already introduced an adjustment to reconcile the results of the last two censuses of 1990 and 1999 with the estimations for the natural surplus and the migratory balance for the period 1990–1998. The adjustment was therefore –480,000 people for the whole period.

Stability of marriages, increase in civil partnerships

In 2005, there were 278,000 marriages, as many as there were in 2004 (*table 4*). The number has fallen since the peak in 2000, but this trend was not continued in 2005. Between 2003 and 2004, the number of marriages involving single people, which represents 4 marriages out of 5, fell while the number of re-marriages rose slightly. The rise in the number of marriages involving at least one spouse of foreign nationality, which started in 1997, was not continued in 2004. These represent 20% of marriages.

The average age at first marriage continues to rise. In 2004, on average men got married at age 30.9 compared to 30.6 in 2003, and women at 28.8 compared to 28.5 in 2003. Men therefore got married 2.2 years later than they did ten years ago. For women, the difference is 2 years.

Since its introduction at the end of 1999, and except for 2001, the number of civil partnerships has not stopped rising. Thus, 40,100 civil partnerships were signed in 2004, 27% more than in 2003. The increase has continued in 2005 as 40,000 civil partnerships have already been registered during the first three quarters, which is almost as many as in the whole of 2004. The number of dissolutions of civil partnerships is rising just as quickly: in 2004, 7,000 civil partnerships were dissolved. Overall, this is the case for 12% of civil partnerships concluded since 1999.

For the second year in succession, a mortality rate below the trend level

In 2005, 537,300 people died, which is 3.2% more than in the preceding year. There was a large epidemic of flu in the beginning of 2005. But above all 2004 and 2003 were two exceptional years: the net fall in the mortality rate in 2004 was partly explained by the heat wave in 2003, which caused premature deaths. So as to evaluate the situation more precisely, it is preferable use the year 2002 as a reference. The number of deaths thus appears to have fallen (-1.5%). However, the rise in the number of elderly people should have

led to a number of deaths that was slightly higher than that for 2002 if the fall in the mortality rate has continued its trend of the last decades.

After rising steeply in 2004, life expectancy did not increase in 2005 (*table 5*): it has reached 76.7 years for men and 83.8 years for women. Since 1995, life expectancy has increased by 2.9 years for men and 1.9 years for women. French women have the highest

life expectancy in the 25 countries of the European Union, equal to Spanish women (83.8 years in 2004) and far above the European average (81.3 years). French men are in the middle position but above the European average (74.9 years). Five countries are above France: Sweden, Spain, Cyprus, Italy, and Malta. Latvian and Estonian men have the lowest life expectancy, with less than 66 years.

3 Fertility by age (per 100 women)

Year	Total period fertility rate (1)					Average age at birth (2)
	Total	15 - 24 years	25 - 29 years	30 - 34 years	35 years or over	
1994	168.25	33.70	64.50	46.85	23.20	28.8
1996	175.02	31.95	65.52	51.87	25.68	29.0
1998	177.90	31.04	64.61	54.31	27.94	29.3
2000	189.46	33.37	66.68	58.44	30.97	29.3
2001	189.70	34.02	65.63	58.33	31.72	29.3
2002	188.33	33.00	64.96	58.19	32.18	29.4
2003	189.38	32.45	64.60	59.47	32.86	29.5
2004 (p)	191.86	32.74	64.61	60.58	33.93	29.6
2005 (p)	194.22	32.10	64.04	62.46	35.62	29.7

Field : France (metropolitan France and overseas departments).

(1) See *Definitions*.

(2) Calculated on the basis of the fertility rates.

(p) Provisional data.

Sources : *Vital statistics and "Cities" survey, Insee.*

4 Marriages by previous marital status and mean age at first marriage

Year of marriage	Total	Previous marital status				Mean age at first marriage (1)	
		Single men	Widowed or divorced men	Single women	Widowed or divorced women	Men	Women
1994	261 037	214 864	46 173	218 487	42 550	28.7	26.8
1996	287 308	233 930	53 378	237 329	49 979	29.5	27.4
1998	278 679	227 889	50 790	231 339	47 340	29.8	27.7
2000	305 385	248 776	56 609	252 205	53 180	30.2	28.1
2001	295 882	243 621	52 261	246 945	48 937	30.2	28.1
2002	286 320	234 237	52 083	237 250	49 070	30.4	28.3
2003	282 927	230 439	52 488	233 574	49 353	30.6	28.5
2004	278 602	224 769	53 833	227 996	50 606	30.9	28.8
2005 (p)	278 000	...	...	...	...	...	...

Field : France (metropolitan France and overseas departments).

(1) Calculated on the basis of the nuptiality rates.

(p) Provisional data.

Sources : *Vital statistics and "Cities" survey, Insee.*

3 Life expectancy at various ages

Year	Males					Females				
	0 year	1 year	20 years	40 years	60 years	0 year	1 year	20 years	40 years	60 years
1994	73.6	73.1	54.6	36.3	19.7	81.8	81.3	62.6	43.3	25.0
1996	74.1	73.5	54.9	36.4	19.7	82.0	81.4	62.6	43.3	25.0
1998	74.7	74.1	55.5	36.8	20.0	82.4	81.7	63.0	43.6	25.3
2000	75.2	74.6	56.0	37.2	20.4	82.8	82.1	63.3	43.9	25.6
2001	75.4	74.8	56.2	37.4	20.6	82.9	82.2	63.5	44.0	25.7
2002	75.7	75.1	56.4	37.6	20.8	83.0	82.3	63.5	44.1	25.8
2003	75.8	75.2	56.5	37.6	20.8	82.9	82.2	63.4	43.9	25.6
2004 (p)	76.7	76.0	57.3	38.4	21.4	83.8	83.1	64.3	44.8	26.4
2005 (p)	76.7	76.0	57.3	38.4	21.4	83.8	83.1	64.3	44.7	26.4

Field : France (metropolitan France and overseas departments).

(p) Provisional data.

Sources : *Vital statistics and "Cities" survey, Insee.*

The infant mortality rate fell below the threshold of 4 per 1,000 in 2004 (*table 6*). With 3.8 deaths of infants less than one year old per 1,000 live births, France is below the European average (4.5 per 1,000) and is close to that of the countries of Northern Europe.

A migratory balance close to 100,000 people

The migratory balance, estimated to be 97,500 in 2005, has fallen slightly compared to 2004. For all population categories other than workers, the flow of people entering the country fell in 2005. France is one of the European countries where the migratory balance makes the lowest contribution, in relative terms, to population growth: migratory flows represent a quarter of the increase in 2004, compared to four-fifths for all of the 25 countries of the European Union.

Sources

For the births, marriages, and deaths, INSEE carries out a statistical operation on data collected by the Town Halls when civil status records are created. The entire information is not available as quickly for all the communities. 2004 deaths have been estimated using quasi-definitive results for civil status records and additional operations to collect data from the communities.

The number of events in 2005 is calculated by extrapolating the number of events collected in a sample of large towns (the "Towns" survey) for metropolitan France and from partial civil status data for the overseas departments. These are therefore provisional figures.

To draw up the demographic report, INSEE estimates the migratory balance for the past year, the difference between the people entering and leaving the country. There are not many governmental or statistical sources providing data on movements between France and abroad. Information about the entry of foreign nationals is only surveyed by the "Agence

6 Population dynamics (rates)

Year	Population at mid-year (in thousands)	Gross rates (per 1,000)				Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births
		Nuptiality rate	Birth rate	Death rate	Natural increase	
1985	56,600.0	4.9	14.1	9.9	+4.2	...
1990	58,171.4	5.1	13.6	9.2	+4.5	...
1995	59,418.7	4.4	12.8	9.1	+3.7	5.0
2000	60,714.0	5.0	13.3	8.9	+4.4	4.5
2001	61,120.2	4.8	13.2	8.9	+4.3	4.6
2002	61,530.2	4.7	12.9	8.9	+4.0	4.2
2003	61,932.5	4.6	12.8	9.1	+3.7	4.2
2004 (p)	62,324.4	4.5	12.8	8.4	+4.5	4.1
2005 (p)	62,702.4	4.4	12.9	8.6	+4.3	3.8

Field : France (metropolitan France and overseas departments).

(p) Provisional data.

Note : Infant mortality rates are missing for years 1985 and 1990 because deaths under one year of age are not available for the overseas departments before 1995.

Sources : *Vital statistics and "Cities" survey, Insee.*

nationale de l'accueil des étrangers et des migrations", the French national agency for the reception of foreigners and migration, (ANAEM), the French Interior Ministry and the "Office français pour la protection des réfugiés et des apatrides", the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons, (OFPRA). There is no systematic counting of departures of foreign nationals or movements of French people. INSEE takes this partial data and fills it out by extrapolating previous trends, identified from censuses.

Data relating to other European countries comes from Eurostat.

Definitions

The total fertility rate is the sum of the fertility rates by age observed for a given year. This rate gives the number of children that a woman could have given birth to throughout her whole life if the fertility rates observed for the year looked at for each age remain unchanged.

The completed fertility rate is the average number of children born to a generation of women, not subject to death, throughout their childbearing years.

The life expectancy at birth is equal to the average length of life of a fictional generation that experiences throughout its life the mortality conditions by age of the year looked at.

Bibliography

The demographic report is available on INSEE's Internet site (www.insee.fr, section "Population"). It contains both data covering the whole of France (metropolitan France and the overseas departments) and data covering metropolitan France.

It is also published, together with provisional monthly results for the population, births, marriages and deaths in metropolitan France, on INSEE's Internet site (www.insee.fr, section "Demography"). The detailed results for the civil status records are published in the Insee Résultats collection. The last year available is 2003 in: "La situation démographique en 2003" (The demographic situation in 2003), Beaumel C., Richet-Mastain L. and Vatan M., *Insee Résultats* society, no 41, September 2005.

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