

# Couples et familles



## Press Kit



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## INSEE in brief

The *Insee Références* collection offers a periodic overview of major social and economic issues. The data and commentaries are based on official statistical sources and analysis methods.

### In the same collection

#### Published

Les entreprises en France, édition 2015  
France portrait social, édition 2015  
Emploi et revenus des indépendants, édition 2015  
Tableaux de l'Économie Française, édition 2015  
L'économie française - Comptes et dossiers, édition 2015  
Couples et familles, édition 2015

#### Forthcoming

Tableaux de l'Économie Française,  
Revenus et Patrimoine des ménages



## Introduction

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In *INSEE Références - Couples and families*, **INSEE has for the first time carried out an in-depth and detailed analysis of many aspects of life as a couple and as a family**: the different types of couples and families with children, life events of family members, economic aspects of family life, the aftermath of divorce (custody of children, maintenance, impact on standard of living).

We learn that **despite some significant changes in relationships and family life** (increase in non-married partnership, children outside marriage, increased share of one-parent families, much more shared custody of the children when parents have separated, etc.), **some permanent features remain** (marriage is still the most common type of union and “traditional” families – composed of a couple, whether or not they are married, and the children born from this union, or adopted together – are still in the majority; child custody is more often in the mother dwelling than in the father one or in both dwellings).

The document is divided into **3 main parts**:

- **An overview giving a general panorama** of couples and families.
- **4 reports focusing on specific topics**:
  - One-parent families in Europe
  - Custody and maintenance for children of separated parents
  - Variations in standards of living for men and women following divorce or the breakup of a civil solidarity pact
  - Life events in couples and families as experienced by men and women
- **36 fact sheets provide key facts**, some general, but some more detailed, about couples, families with children, couples and families in society and in their working lives, financial aspects and family policy along with some international comparisons.

Most of the analyses in this study are based on the Family and Housing survey from 2011, which gives details on the family situation of adults, but in much greater depth than the information provided every year from the population census. The census, providing demographic framework data, has also been used, especially for comparisons over time. Although the 2012 census data are now available, for purposes of comparison with the analyses in the Family and Housing survey, here we have preferred to use the 2011 data. More surveys are underway to complete this panorama, such as the individual and conjugal life events survey carried out in 2013-2014 in association with the INED on the family and conjugal paths that individuals take.



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# Overview





## Couples and families: permanent features and changes

p.9 de l'ouvrage

### Main results

- ✓ **Marriage remains the most common conjugal situation:** three out of four couples are married.
- ✓ **The most common type of family is still made up of parents who are married living with children** that they have had together.
- ✓ **However, unions are becoming more vulnerable.** The share of one-parent families increased substantially between 1999 and 2011 and their living standards remain more challenging than those of other families. The children concerned are more at risk of poverty.
- ✓ **For men, life events and their family situation are still very different from those of women,** their rate of lone parenthood is lower and they form another couple more quickly after a breakup.

### Two out of three adults are in a couple<sup>1</sup>

In 2011, in metropolitan France there were 47.8 million adults over the legal age of consent, of whom 31.8 million, or two out of three, were in a couple: **23.2 million were married (73%)**, 1.4 million had entered into a civil solidarity pact (4%) and 7.2 million (23%) were cohabiting. Most people in a couple shared the same dwelling as their partner (30.4 million people, i.e. 96%) and 1.3 million were in a non-cohabiting couple (4%).

**205,000 people are in a couple with a partner of the same sex, or 0.6% of all those in a couple.**

Living as a couple starts later than previously: for example at age 25, fewer women were living in a couple in 2011 than in 1990 (52% in 2011 against 63% in 1990 f).

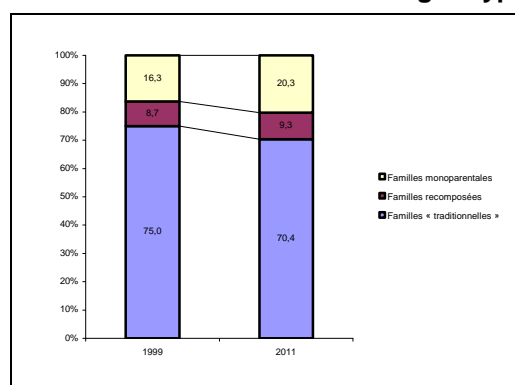
### The most common type of family: two married parents and their children

In 2011, **“traditional”<sup>2</sup> families represented 70% of families with at least one child under 18 living at home.** In the majority of these “traditional” families, the parents are married (almost 73%). All in all, one in two families with children under 18 is composed of a married couple and their children.

**Two out of ten families are one-parent families,<sup>3</sup> and almost one in ten is a step-family.<sup>4</sup>**

The share of “traditional” families has declined, however (75% of families with child/children under 18 were “traditional” families in 1999 and a decrease of 4.6 points between 1999 and 2011), mainly replaced by one-parent families (16% of families in 1999, and an increase of 4 points between 1999 and 2011). In addition, the share of step-families has increased slightly (+0.6 points, from 8.7% in 1999 to 9.3% in 2011).

Distribution of families according to type



Scope: Metropolitan France, families with at least one child under 18 at home.

Source: INSEE, Study of Family History 1999 (calculations by INSEE) and Family and Housing survey 2011.

<sup>1</sup> A couple is made up of two people who answer “Yes” to the question, “Are you in a couple?” Other criteria are then added, depending on the study being carried out, such as the age of those concerned (are they legally adults, for example) or whether they live together in the same dwelling (cohabiting couples).

<sup>2</sup> A “traditional” family is composed of a couple of cohabiting adults, who may or may not be married, and children born to them (or adopted together) and who share the same dwelling.

<sup>3</sup> A one-parent family is composed of one parent who does not live in a couple and who lives with his/her children.

<sup>4</sup> A step family is made up of a couple of cohabiting adults (who may or may not be married) and at least one child born from a previous union of one of them and living in the dwelling.





# Reports





# 1. One-parent families in Europe: new ways of founding a family and new standards?

*p.27 de l'ouvrage*

One-parent families in all European countries increased from 14% of families to 19% between 1996 and 2012, and this rise was accompanied by a change in the characteristics of these families: fewer widowed parents, increased share of lone fathers (10% in 1996, against 15% in 2012), and greater participation in the labour market.

Countries can be divided into 5 groups according to the numbers of one-parent families among all the family situations and according to the type of one-parent family. The first three groups form a continuum, starting with countries in Northern Europe, which includes France, where the rate of one-parent families is relatively high and births outside marriage are widespread, and moving on to the Eastern European countries, which are still strongly rooted in the traditional standards of the family; countries in Southern and Central Europe are in a kind of transition between these two models. The main features of the fourth group, the British Isles, are a high rate of early motherhood and lone parents with at least three children. Lastly, the Baltic States are distinctive mainly for having the highest proportion of one-parent families in Europe.

On the basis of demographic characteristics and legal marital status, seven types of one-parent family can be distinguished.<sup>6</sup> There are also five groups of countries in Europe defined according to the number of one-parent families and the share of each of these seven family types.

## Northern Europe and France, scenes of unmarried life

The characteristic feature of these countries is a fairly high rate of one-parent families (15% to 25% of families with at least one child under 18) and there are also widespread instances of couples living together without being married, births outside marriage, and divorce. Reflecting this long-established weakening of the institution of marriage, “never-married mothers without early motherhood” and “divorced mothers” are particularly strongly represented in this group of countries. In Denmark, for example, they represent 23% and 45% respectively of one-parent families.

## In the East: still a strong attachment to marriage

The countries of Eastern Europe are distinctive for having the lowest rate of one-parent families in Europe (between 10% and 17%) and the highest proportion of widow(er)s among their lone parents. The small proportions of “divorced mothers”<sup>1</sup> and “never-married mothers without early motherhood” (21% and 6% respectively in Poland, for example, against 32% and 16% across all the countries studied) reveal that, in addition to a high marriage rate, there is a certain permanence in marriage as the basis for founding a family. In these countries, the influence of religion and attachment to the traditional family model remain strong.

## In the South and certain countries in Central Europe: a high proportion of divorced lone parents

These countries seem to be in transition. They have recently seen the family transformations experienced earlier by the countries of Northern Europe. The relatively high proportion of divorced women living alone with children (e.g. 42% in Italy) is a sign of the rise in divorce in these countries. However, there are fewer “never-married mothers without early motherhood” than in the countries of Northern Europe. In some of these countries marriage remains the central institution in which to found a family. The importance of religion varies considerably, depending on the country, as do opinions on the family: whereas 40% of the Portuguese believe that a child does not necessarily need a father and a mother to be happy, other countries in this group, like Greece for example, remain attached to “traditional” family standards.

<sup>6</sup> Widows or widowers (6%); non-widowed fathers (11%); divorced or never-married mothers, with three or more dependent children (11%) (called “mothers of large families”); divorced or never-married mothers, with one or two children living in a three-generational household (13%) (called “mothers in a three-generational household”); finally, within the group of divorced or never-married mothers, with one or two children in a two-generational household, we find: divorced mothers (32%) (called simply “divorced mothers”), “never-married mothers with early motherhood” (10%) or “without early motherhood” (16%).



Source: Eurostat, EU SILC 2012, visualization: Drees

### In the British Isles: large families and “early motherhood”

In Ireland and the United Kingdom, one in four families is a one-parent family. In the United Kingdom one-parent families have existed for a long time, in contrast to Ireland. A distinguishing feature of these countries is the large number of lone parents at the head of a large family and the high proportion of “never-married mothers, with early motherhood”.

### In the Baltic States: highest share of lone-parent families in Europe

Like their neighbours in Northern Europe, the Baltic States have high rates of divorced women (34%) and women who are in the “never-married, without early motherhood” group (12%). However, multi-generational cohabitation is also fairly frequent and they are strongly attached to the traditional model of the couple with children, like their neighbours in the East.

### European lone parents: living standards are on average worse than for families overall

The poverty rate is high for these families (31% against 17% for couples with children). The situation differs, however, depending on the type of one-parent family and the country. For mothers living in a three-generational household, their standard of living is closest to that of families in their country overall, as they can pool their resources with those of their parents. In countries in Southern and Central Europe, sharing a home and expenses between generations is associated with a greater vulnerability, as half of women in this situation do not work. For widows and widowers, who have experienced more life events, their level is similar to the average, except in Eastern Europe. Mothers of large families and never-married mothers with early motherhood are less likely to be in the labour market and their standard of living is 40% lower than the level in their country; “divorced mothers” and “never-married mothers without early motherhood”, typical configurations in the countries of Northern Europe, have the highest living standards.



## 2. Custody and maintenance for children of separated parents: initial decisions and changes

*p.41 de l'ouvrage*

In 2012, family court judges (JAF) issued 126,000 decisions concerning the custody of minors following the separation of their parents (through divorce or separation where parents were not married). Shared custody was granted in 16% of cases. Since 2003, shared custody has increased over sole custody to the mother, while figures for sole custody awarded to the father remained stable (7%). Sole custody is still awarded to the mother in the vast majority of cases (75%). The judge also rules on the payment of child maintenance. This is put in place in 68% of initial decisions, and stands at an average of €170 per month and per child.

Over time, parents may want to change custody arrangements for their children, but this is rare. Only 10% of parents who divorced in 2012 made a change in 2014, and this was usually at the request of the child. These were changes from shared custody or from custody by the mother in favour of sole custody to the father. When maintenance was set, in eight out of ten cases, the parents say that it was paid regularly and in full during the two years following the judgement.

### The proportion of shared custody in divorce decision has almost doubled in 9 years

In 2012, shared custody was decided on for 34,000 minors, which represents 16% of decisions issued by the JAFs concerning custody of minors in that year. Since the introduction in 2002 of the “possibility of sharing custody and for the child to alternate between the homes of both parents”, the proportion of shared custody has increased, and in the case of divorce decisions in particular, it has almost doubled (from 12% in 2003 to 21% in 2012). This increase has come **at the expense of sole custody for the mother**, while figures for sole custody for the father have remained unchanged (7% of decisions in 2012). Sole custody for the mother still represents the overriding majority of cases (75%).

**Shared custody of the children is more frequent in cases of mutual consent divorces (30%)** than in cases of contentious divorces (13%) or in procedures between unmarried parents (11%). This is also the case when the children are over six years old and when the parents live in the same town.

### Maintenance was set for 82% of children in the custody of their mothers in 2012

The judge also rules on the payment of child maintenance, which is very closely linked with the living arrangements made for the children. 68% of initial decisions stipulated payment of child maintenance. In such cases, payments **were €170 per month and per child on average**.

The decision to set child maintenance occurs much more frequently when the mother has custody (82%) than when the father has custody (31%) or when custody is shared (23%). When custody is shared, the contribution to child maintenance tends to take the form of payment in kind for the child's expenses. **When one or other parent has sole custody, it is more common for child maintenance to be paid to the mother, partly due to the large wage gap between spouses:** in couples who divorced in 2012, 33% of mothers earned less than 1,200 Euros per month, whereas only 14% of fathers were in this situation.

### Two years after divorce, in three out of four cases, there has been no change in custody and the way it is organised

**Two years after the divorce settlement, only 10% of couples who divorced in 2012 changed custody of their children** and only 16% changed the arrangements in any way. The most common reason given (56% of cases) for parents to change child custody was that the child requested it. Half of all changes in custody took place at least a year and a half after the divorce.

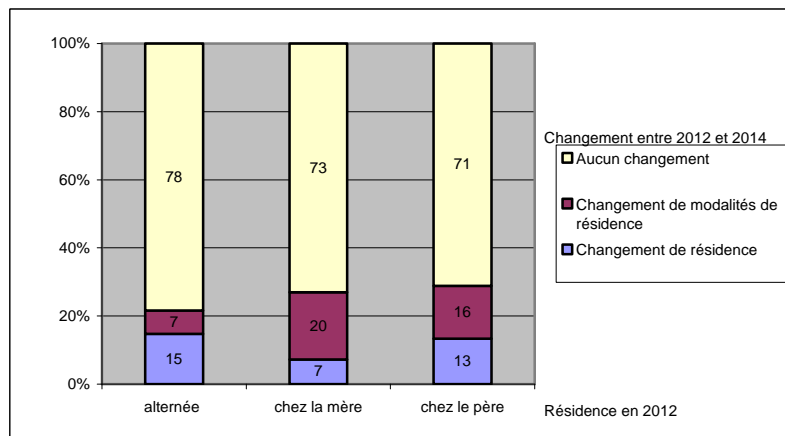
In 2014, two years after the judge's decision, 83% of all divorced couples are satisfied with their child custody and the way the arrangements are organised, irrespective of whether they have been changed.

### Changes in child custody two years after the divorce, with a move away from shared custody

Although three-quarters of divorced people say that “child custody should in principle be awarded to the father as much as to the mother”, parents tend to change their minds more often when custody is shared, and also when the father has sole custody. 15% of divorced people who had shared custody of their children changed the custody arrangements; 13% changed when sole custody was with the father, and only 7% changed when sole custody was with the mother.

However, given that sole custody with the mother is by far the most common scenario, half of children whose custody changed were living with their mother. In terms of numbers, therefore, changes in custody tended to move away from shared custody, but also away from custody by the mother, with numbers going up for sole custody awarded to the father or to another person: among those who divorced in 2012 and whose children’s custody arrangements changed during the following two years (10% of divorced people still had minor children in 2014), 15% had shared custody of the children in 2014, compared with 35% in 2012; and sole custody with the mother was 26% in 2014, compared with 50% in 2012.

### Changes in custody for minors between 2014 and 2012

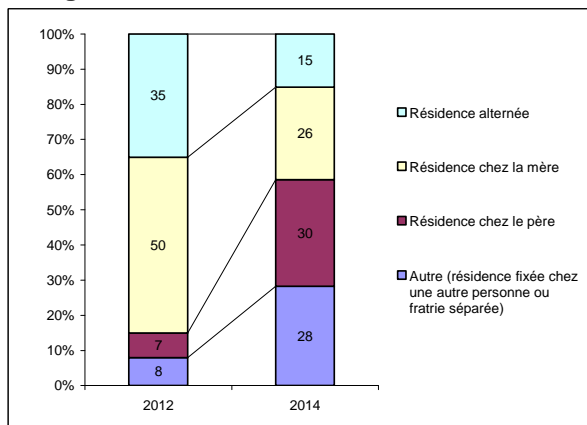


Scope: France, people who divorced in June 2012 and whose children are still minors in 2014.

How to read this chart: for all divorced people who agreed to share custody of their children in 2012, the situation has not been changed since then in 78% of cases.

Source: Ministry of Justice / SDSE, Divorce survey 2014.

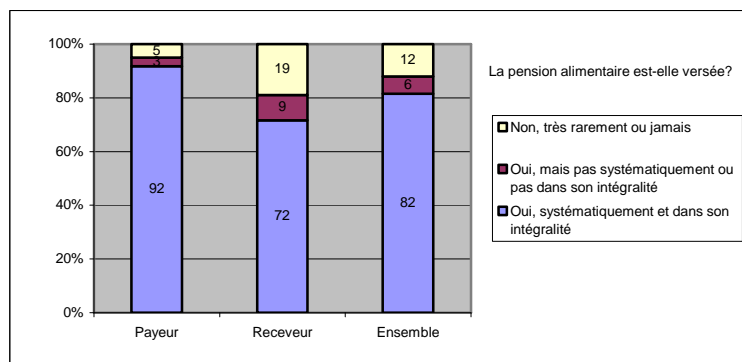
### Distribution of divorced people whose child custody changed between 2012 and 2014



Scope: France, people who divorced in June 2012, whose children are still minors in 2014 and for whom child custody changed between 2012 and 2014.

Source: Ministry of Justice / SDSE, Divorce survey 2014.

### Payment of child maintenance in 2014



Scope: France, people whose maintenance was set at the time of the divorce in 2012.

Source: Ministry of Justice / SDSE, Divorce survey 2014.

### Two years after the divorce, child maintenance was paid regularly and in full in eight out of ten cases

Divorced people who had to pay child maintenance were more likely to say that it was paid regularly and in full (92%) than those who were receiving it (72%). Similarly, 19% of those who should have received maintenance said that it was never paid, compared with only 5% of those who should have been paying.



### 3. Variations in the relative standards of living of men and women following a divorce or the termination of a civil partnership

*p.51 de l'ouvrage*

Frequently conducted in English-speaking countries, studies using French data to analyse the standards of living experienced by couples after a separation are still few. The study presented here allows us to demonstrate that in the year following a break-up (divorce or the termination of a civil partnership, observed here in 2009), the average decline in the standard of living directly connected with the break-up is 20% for women compared with just 3% for men.<sup>7</sup>

Both men and women therefore lose out financially when they break up, as they no longer benefit from the economies of scale made possible by living as a couple. The loss observed was much more substantial for women, as on average they contributed less to the household in terms of financial resources, and thus found themselves with a lower income following the separation.

#### Variations in the standards of living<sup>8</sup> experienced following a divorce or the termination of a civil partnership are different for men and women

When people who have been married or engage in a civil partnership separate without immediately entering into another couple, they generally see a decline in their standard of living.

Before the separation, all of the couple's earned income was pooled and much of their expenditure was shared, particularly the costs of accommodation and running the home.

After the break-up, each member of the couple is left with just his/her own income, as well as losing the benefits of economies of scale. Generally speaking, it is the mother who maintains custody of the children at home on a day-to-day basis. The mother's resources, which are often lower, are thus shared between more people than the resources of the father. Break-ups may also generate new costs.

In order to deal with these changes, financial transfers may be set up between the ex-partners, such as spousal or child support. After the separation, social benefits and taxes are modified to take into account the new situation.

#### On average, women's standard of living declines significantly following a separation

For women who separated from partners in 2009 and had not entered into another relationship in 2010, the standard of living measured in the year following the separation was lower than that for the year before the break-up (-14.5%), whereas it would have increased by 5.5% if they had remained in the relationship. The loss of standard of living resulting from the separation is therefore 20%.

For men, the standard of living measured after a separation is often higher than it was before (+3.5%), but the increase would have been greater still if they had remained in their relationship (+6.5%). So ultimately the separation does lead to a loss of standard of living, estimated here as -3%.

The mean disparity between men and women is thus substantial. It is attenuated by the payment of spousal or child support, generally from men to women, and by government redistribution mechanisms (social benefits and taxes).

<sup>7</sup> Between 2008 and 2010, their standard of living may have changed as a result of the separation, but also as a result of economic circumstances, changes in the rules regarding the allocation of social benefits and taxation, as well as events in their professional lives. The evolution of the overall standard of living, which results from a combination of all of these effects including the effect which can be directly attributed to separations, is studied elsewhere in the INSEE analysis. This article focuses exclusively on those effects which can be directly attributed to separations.

<sup>8</sup> Standard of living is the household's disposable income – i.e. earned income, income replacement, income from property and benefits, net of taxes – divided by the number of consumption units (CU) in the household. The first adult in the household counts as 1 CU, with other persons aged 14 and over counted as 0.5 CU and children below the age of 14 counted as 0.3 CU. By way of an example, in 2013 for a family comprising a couple with two children under the age of 14, the median standard of living corresponds to a disposable income of 42,000 euros per year (3500 Euros per month). By construction, all members of the same household are considered to have the same standard of living. This standard of living corresponds to the household's income divided by its number of CUs.

### Variation in the standard of living experienced between 2008 and 2010 by men and women who separated in 2009

	Difference in standard of living between 2010 and 2008 (in %) Separated people	Difference in standard of living between 2010 and 2008 (in %) Non-separated people	Variation in living standard which can be directly attributed to separation (in %)
	(A)	(B)	(A)-(B)
Men	3.5	6.5	-3
Women	-14.5	5.5	-20

Scope: persons aged 20 to 55 having separated in 2009, after being married or in a civil partnership for more than a year, and not cohabiting with a new partner in 2010.

N.B.: figures rounded to the nearest 0.5.

Source: DGFIP, calculations by the authors.

### The decline in standard of living experienced by mothers following a separation is not significantly affected by the number of children in their care

Child support payments and benefits help to attenuate disparities in standard of living caused by the number of children in one partner's care. As such, for mothers, the loss of standard of living which can be attributed to their separation is 20% with one or two children and 17% with three children or more. Women with no children to support also lose out financially when separating from their partner (-23%).

The situation is different for men, and the decline in their standard of living following a separation is smaller the more children they have (-10.5% with no children, -5% with one child, -1% with two and +5% with three children or more).

### Variations in standard of living which can be directly attributed to a separation are largely dependent on the respective contribution of each member to the couple's combined income

Women who contributed nothing or little to the couple's income (53% of couples surveyed) are the biggest losers (-26.5% on average), with those women earning more than their partners (13% of couples) seeing an increase in their standard of living (+1%). This increase is nonetheless less substantial than that enjoyed by men who earned more than their partner (+10.5%). In cases where both parties have similar incomes (34% of couples), the decline in standard of living which can be attributed to the separation is comparable for men and women (-16% compared with -18%).

### Variation in standard of living between 2008 and 2010 which can be directly attributed to a separation in 2009, based on the contribution of each party to the household's total resources

	Variation (in %)
Men whose contribution to the household income in 2008 was ...	
Less than that of their partner (less than 40%)	-24
Equivalent to that of their partner (40%-60%)	-16
More than that of their partner (more than 60%)	10.5
Women whose contribution to the household income in 2008 was ...	
Less than that of their partner (less than 40%)	-26.5
Equivalent to that of their partner (40%-60%)	-18
More than that of their partner (more than 60%)	+1

Scope: persons aged 20 to 55 having separated in 2009, after being married or in a civil partnership for more than a year, and not cohabiting with a new partner in 2010.

N.B.: figures rounded to the nearest 0.5.

Source: DGFIP, calculations by the authors.





## 4. Life events in couples and families as experienced by men and women over generations and social backgrounds

*p.63 de l'ouvrage*

In Metropolitan France, the majority of the population will cohabit as part of a couple at least once in their life. Couples are moving in together later than they used to, in line with the increase in the amount of time spent in education and the increase in the average age at which people enter employment. Couples are not as solid as they used to be, and the number of separations has increased. Having several cohabiting relationships over the course of one's lifetime is now more and more common, even though living with one's first partner still remains the most prevalent marital situation. Following a separation, young people and men tend to enter into new relationships more rapidly. Finally, the time elapsing between a couple first moving in together and the arrival of their first child has continued to increase.

### Couples are moving in together later than they used to

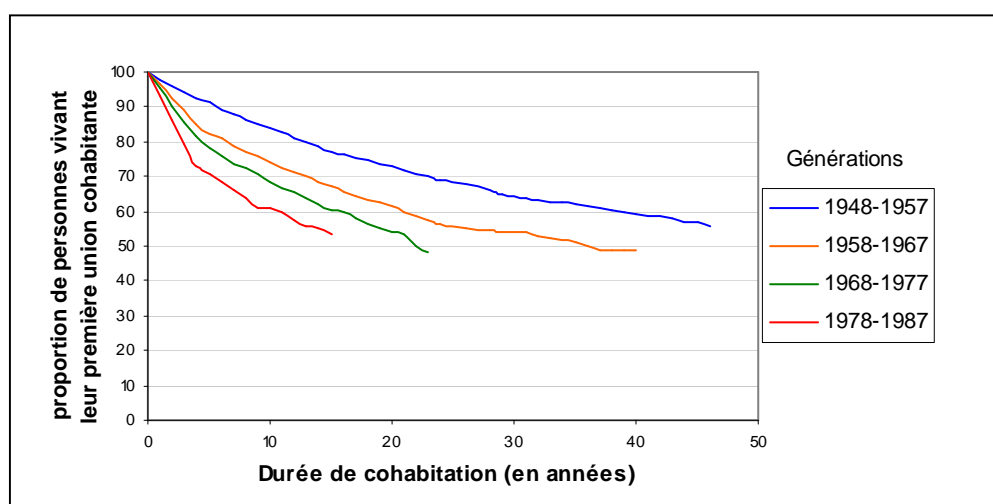
Few people never live with a partner. At the age of 35, 12% of those born between 1948 and 1957 had never lived together with a partner. In more recent generations, for example those born between 1968 and 1977, this proportion is similar (13%). But the age at which people move in with a partner for the first time is getting later: 67% of those born between 1948 and 1957 had already cohabited with a partner before the age of 25, compared with 58% of those born thirty years later. This development can be explained by the increase in the age at which people finish their studies and enter employment. **The age at which people move in with a partner for the first time has therefore been pushed back, but having had at least one cohabiting partnership is no less common in recent generations.** More than nine out of ten cohabiting couples started their relationship without living together. On average, this period of non-cohabitation lasted for 1.8 years.

### More and more couples break up each year

Between 2009 and 2012 in Metropolitan France, an average of 253,000 couples in which at least one of the partners was aged between 25 and 45 broke up each year. Sixteen years earlier, in the period 1993-1996, the corresponding figure was 155,000. **From generation to generation, since the 1950s, the average duration of first partnerships has been in decline.**

Among those who have already lived with a partner, 30% of people born between 1978 and 1987 have had a first cohabiting relationship which lasted less than 5 years, compared with just 9% of those born 30 years earlier. The risk of breaking up is greatest in the first four years of cohabitation. Couples who are married, in a civil partnership or have young children are less likely to break up. This may indicate that people in these situations are less inclined to break up, but it may just as well indicate that the most stable couples are also those who are most likely to formalise their relationship and have children. Being in a relationship for a long time before cohabiting, and moving in together later in life, both reduce the risk of a first relationship breaking up. However, this risk is higher for people whose own parents separated when they were children.

**Generational estimates of the proportion of people still living in their first cohabiting relationship, at different intervals of time since the start of this cohabitation**

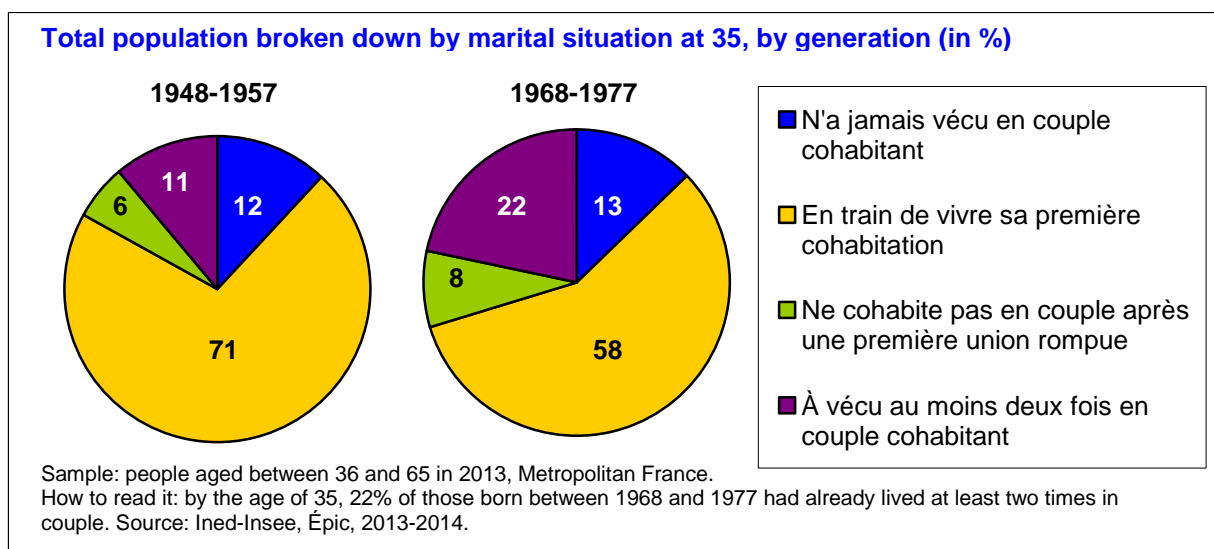


Sample: people aged between 26 and 65 in 2013 who had already lived with a partner, Metropolitan France.

Key: among those born between 1958 and 1967, 74% were still in their first cohabiting relationship 10 years after the start of this cohabitation (i.e. 26% were separated from their first partner, or widowed). Source: Ined-Insee, Épic, 2013-2014.

### Cohabiting with several partners over the course of a lifetime is increasingly common

In 2013, 19% of men and women aged 26-65 had been in two cohabiting relationships, with 5% having been in three or more. This phenomenon is more pronounced in more recent generations. By the age of 35, 58% of people born between 1968 and 1977 were still living with their first cohabiting partner, compared with 71% of those born 1948-1957. 22% were in or had been in a subsequent cohabiting relationship, compared with 11% of the age group born 1948-1957. Among older generations (1948-1967), more educated people are more likely to have several cohabiting relationships over the course of their lifetime.



### After a separation, older people are less likely than younger people to form new couples

In 2013, one in three people between the ages of 26 and 65 had already been through a separation. Of those who separated from partners between the ages of 25 and 50, half were living with new partners within 5 years of the separation. Women are less likely to start new relationships than men: 15 years after a separation between the ages of 25 and 50, an estimated 87% of men and 79% of women had formed new couples, whether or not they were cohabiting with their new partner. The proportions are lower when we count only cohabiting relationships, and the gap between men and women is greater (75% of men and 64% of women). **The time it takes for people to form new relationships depends primarily on their age at the time of separation.** In comparable circumstances, particularly in terms of the time elapsed since the split from their previous partner, women who break up after the age of 45 are five times less likely to enter into a new long-term relationship than those aged between 25 and 34. For men, this probability is divided by three. **Age at time of separation is therefore a bigger factor for women than it is for men.**

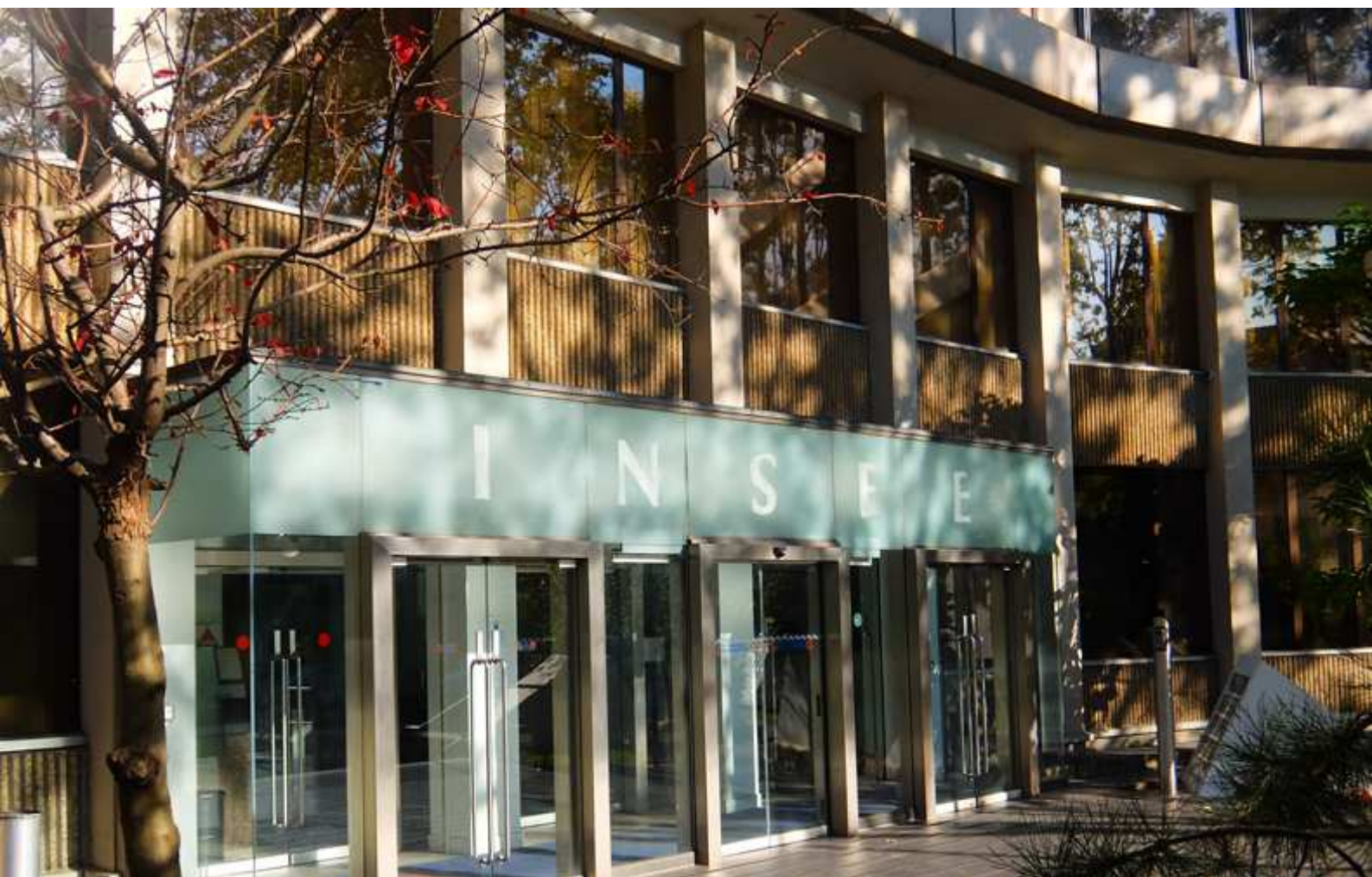
### Stable couples are as likely as ever to have at least one child

**The average time between a couple moving in together and the birth of their first child has increased from generation to generation, evidence of an increasingly clear disconnect between the early phase of relationships and the arrival of children.** In first cohabiting relationships, the first child now tends to arrive slightly later than was previously the case. It is also more common to have one's first child in a second relationship, although having one's first child with one's first partner remains the most common scenario. One other thing remains unchanged: almost all long-term couples produce at least one child, whether they met in the early 1980s or the late 1990s. Almost 95% of people who moved in with a partner for the first time before the age of 30, and whose relationship lasted for at least 15 years, had at least one child in the first 15 years of this relationship.

Half of all couples (in which at least one partner is aged between 25 and 45) who break up have children below the age of 18. **The number of children whose parents have separated has increased as a result: in the early 1990s, 145,000 more children were affected each year; this figure had risen to 191,000 by the late 2000s.**



# INSEE in brief





## INSEE and official statistics

### A prime goal: to shed light on the economic and social debate

INSEE collects, produces, analyses and disseminates information on the French economy and society. This information is relevant to public officials, government bodies, social partners, businesses, researchers, the media, teachers and private individuals. It helps them to deepen their knowledge, conduct studies, prepare forecasts and take decisions.

### INSEE is ...

- A public agency whose personnel are government employees. INSEE operates under government accounting rules and receives its funding from the State's general budget.
- An independent institute working in total professional independence. No external authority has inspection rights on the statistical results that it publishes. This professional independence is enshrined in law: the Economic Modernisation Act (Loi de modernisation de l'économie) of August 4, 2008 established the Official Statistical Authority (Autorité de la Statistique Publique), to oversee compliance with the principle of professional independence in the design, production and dissemination of official statistics.

### INSEE coordinates the work of the official statistical service

The official statistical service comprises INSEE and the ministerial statistical offices (services statistiques ministériels - SSM), which conduct statistical operations in their areas of expertise. INSEE and the SSMs, under the coordination of the Institute, decide which methods, standards and procedures to apply in preparing and publishing statistics.

### INSEE in EU and international bodies

INSEE works on a daily basis with Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Communities) and its EU counterparts. It thus contributes to the construction of the EU's statistical space. INSEE also participates in the statistical activities of the UN (United Nations), the IMF (International Monetary Fund), the OECD (Organisation for economic cooperation and development) and the World Bank. INSEE is a member of the UN Statistical Commission, the UN Economic Commission for Europe, and the OECD Committee on Statistics.

### A brief history ...

The National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques) - INSEE – was created by the Budget Law of 27 April 1946 (art. 32 and 33). This new institution took over responsibility for public statistics, work that had been carried out continuously since 1833.

#### Today, INSEE is organised into five main directorates:

- Methodology, Statistical Coordination and International Relations Directorate
- Business Statistics Directorate
- Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate
- Economic Studies and National Accounts Directorate
- Dissemination and Regional Action Directorate

INSEE is also present in the regions, with its regional offices.





## Press Office

### Press office opening times

Monday to Thursday: 9:30-12:30 / 14:00-18:30

Friday: 9:30-12:30 / 14:00-17:30

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