

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: Birth Rates Are Falling In The Nordics. Are Family-Friendly Policies No Longer Enough?

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Tweet: Despite aggressive pro-natal policies such as world-class maternity care, generous parental leave, and a right to preschool childcare, Finland's fertility rate was 1.27 in 2023, down 1/3 since 2010.

Summary: Anna Rotkirch, research director at the Family Federation of Finland's Population Research Institute [noted] "The strange thing with fertility is nobody really knows what's going on. The policy responses are untried because it's a new situation. It's not primarily driven by economics or family policies. It's something cultural, psychological, biological, cognitive." Until recently, fertility decline was driven by families having fewer children than their parents and grandparents. Now the key dynamic is childlessness. In Finland, 3/4 of the recent decline in fertility is attributable to people who have no children. In the family barometer surveys, among Finns born in the late 1970s and 1980s, fewer than one in twenty said at the age of 25 that they didn't want to have children. Among those born in the late 1980s and early 1990s, that proportion rose to nearly one in four. Nearly 40% of Finnish men with low education are now childless at the age of 45 (and probably for life): a "huge" proportion. Most have no partners. Men are as likely as women to say they want children but are more likely to be childless.

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Primary Topic: Demographics

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