



# THE FUTURE OF FAMILIES TO 2030

## AN OECD INTERNATIONAL FUTURES PROGRAMME PROJECT

OECD, 17 December 2015

# Context and objectives

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- Project duration: 2010-2012
- Experimental - Applying foresight tools to policy areas not usually addressed by foresight
- Assess the longer-term outlook for family and household structures in OECD countries
- Discuss the demographic, economic, social and technological trends shaping the future family landscape to 2030
- Explore the implications for families
- Consider policy responses for the future

# Building blocks

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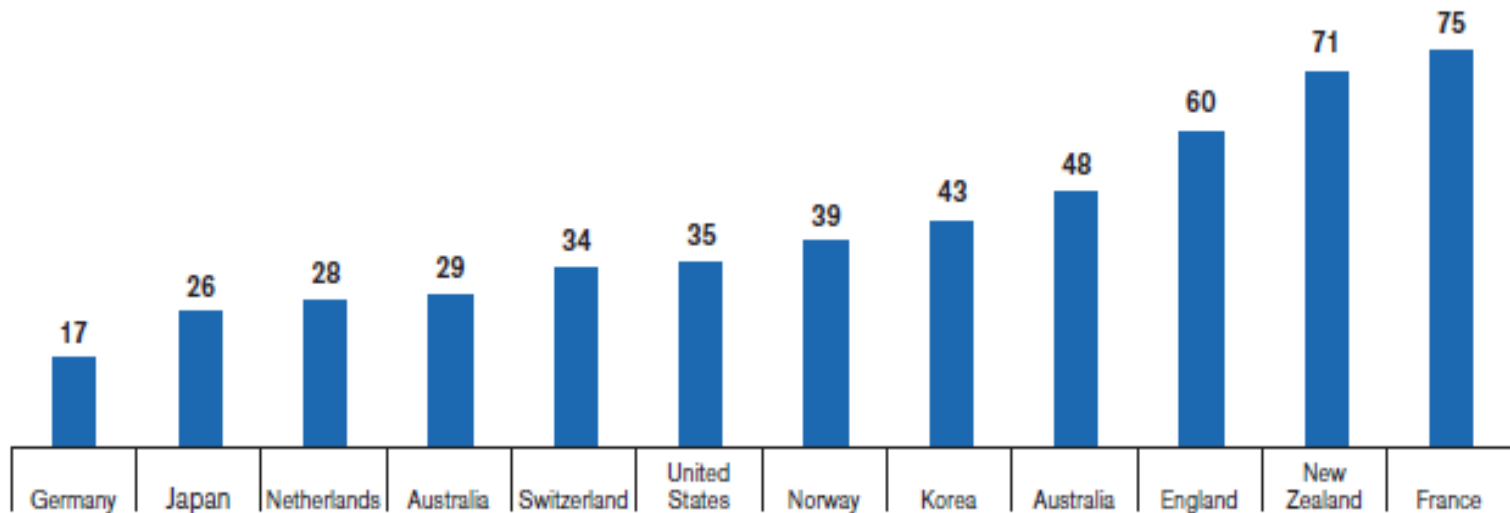
- Broad “macro” trends shaping the family landscape to 2030
- **Expected trends in family and household structures in OECD countries**
- Scenarios
- Apply trend analysis/scenario results to three key family issue areas agreed with Steering Group:
  - Work/family life balance
  - Role of elderly as recipients/providers of care
  - Low-income families and social exclusion

# Expected trends in family and household structures

# Expected trends in family and household structures to 2025/30\*

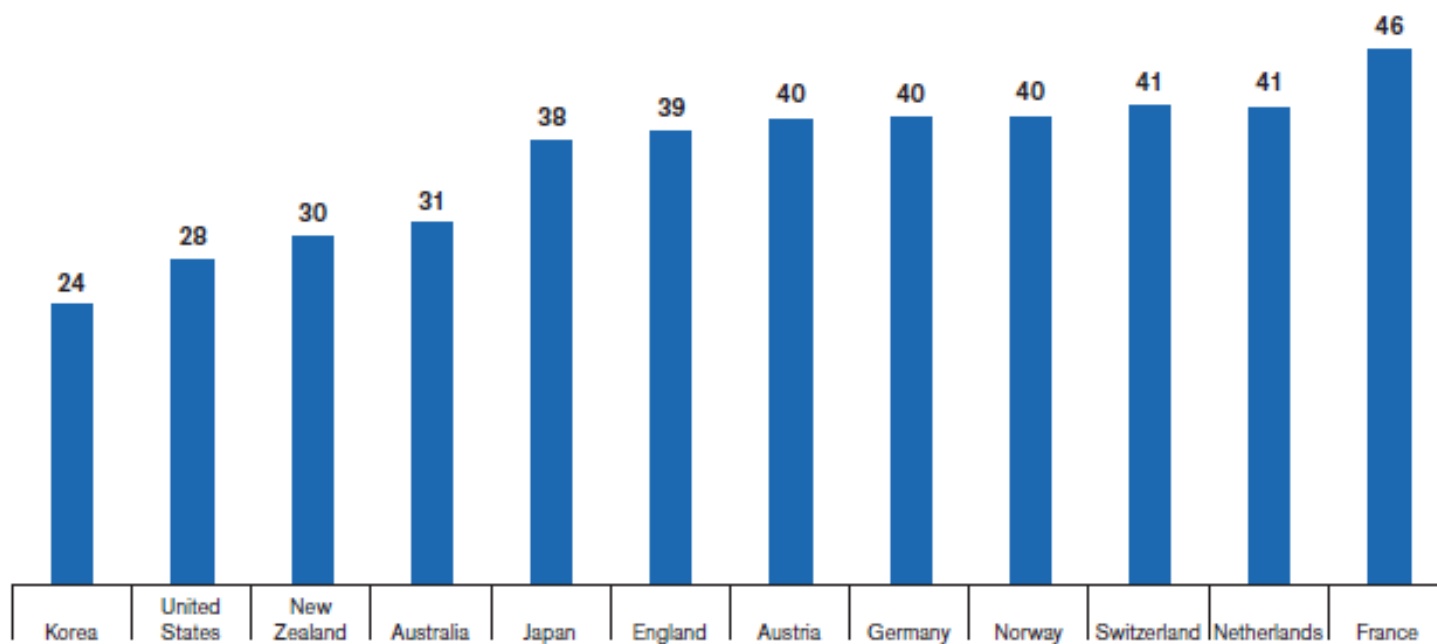
- Based on review of projections in 14 OECD countries conducted or commissioned by government departments or agencies:
- Marriages – fewer and later
- Co-habitation to rise
- Divorce rates to remain stable or rise
- “Reconstituted” families to increase
- Single-person households to increase
- Single-parent households to increase
- Couples with children to decrease

**Figure 1. One-person households**  
**Projected % increase in numbers of one-person households in selected OECD countries, from early-mid-2000s to 2025-2030<sup>1</sup>**

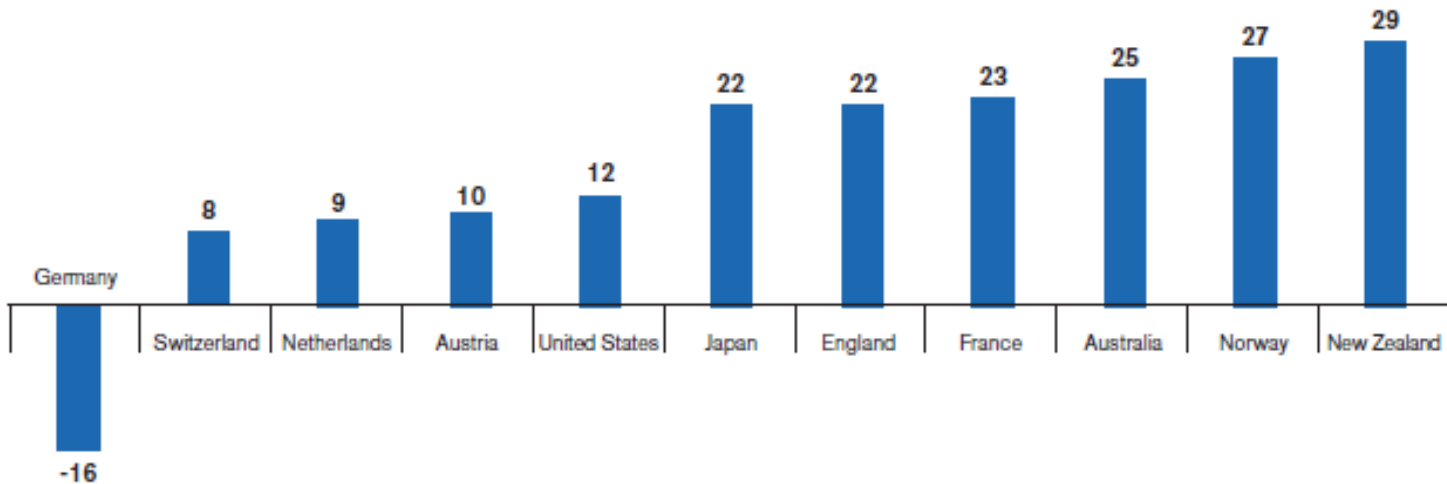


1. The periods over which changes are projected are as follows: Australia (2006 to 2026), Austria (2007 to 2030), France (2005 to 2030), Germany (2007 to 2025), Japan (2005 to 2030), Korea (2007 to 2030), Netherlands (2009 to 2030), New Zealand (2006 to 2031), Norway (2002 to 2030), Switzerland (2005 to 2030), United Kingdom (2006 to 2031) and United States (2000 to 2025).

**Figure 5. One-person households**  
Projected share of one-person households 2025-2030<sup>1</sup> as a % of all households

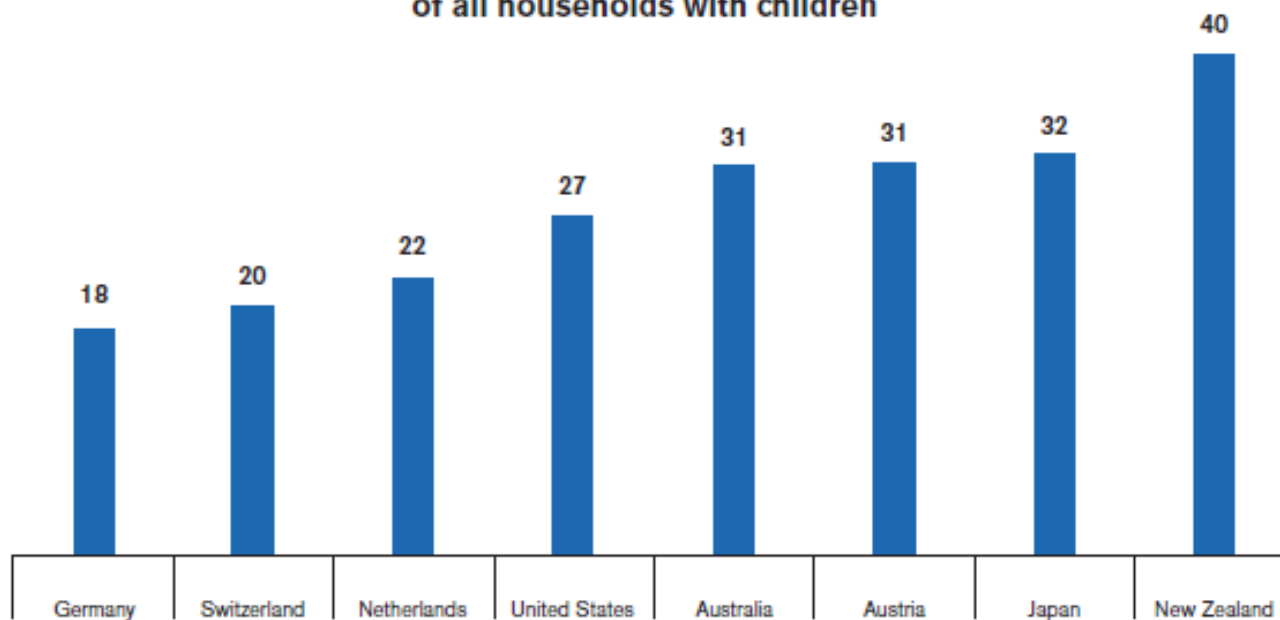


**Figure 2. Single-parent families**  
**Projected % increase in numbers of single-parent households in selected OECD countries, from early-mid-2000s to 2025-2030<sup>1</sup>**





**Figure 6. Single-parent households**  
**Projected share of single-parent households 2025-2030<sup>1</sup> as a %**  
**of all households with children**





# A few examples of implications for policy.....

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- Family services, health, housing, transport, technology....
- Higher mobility to be expected as result of “fragmenting” and “reconstituting” family and household structures (transport, IT....)
- Use of housing policy to influence family formation and intergenerational solidarity: shared- and intergenerational housing
- Mainstream the role of new technologies within family policies – telework, tele-education, smart sensing, biometric real-time monitoring....
- Re-balance responsibilities and entitlements among individuals, the family, business, associations, the state....e.g. offering “pick&mix” - combinations of full state-funded elderly care/informal family care/co-payments for formal care provision (cash vouchers etc.); local partnerships for families to find family-friendly solutions.

# Thank you.

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# Four scenarios to 2030

