

Beijing’s one-child policy is gone, but many Chinese are still reluctant to have more

Notes & Cues:	<p>Article:</p> <p>China’s population is forecast to peak at 1.45 billion as early as 2027, then slump for several decades.</p> <p>Authorities in Beijing moved to a two-child policy in 2016, but it turns out that government policies have little influence on procreation in modern China. The country’s family-planning authority had forecast 20 million births in 2018, anticipating a baby boom after the end of the one-child policy. Instead, there were only 15.23 million births in China last year, a whopping 2 million fewer than in the previous year.</p> <p>It all comes down to the economy. As China has transformed, living costs have skyrocketed, especially in the big cities, and long work hours have become the norm. The 20-somethings of today, knowing their quality of life is better than their parents’ generation, want their children to experience a similar leap in living standards.</p> <p>Wang Feng, a sociologist at the University of California at Irvine, said many Chinese parents have one goal in mind: "Wanting their children to move up the social ladder, or at least not get stuck."</p> <p>"It's not that people can't feed their children. It's how can that child be 'successful' and have a better life."</p>
Summary:	