

Is it Possible to Increase Fertility in Latvia in the near Future?

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The article is aimed to study the medium-term fertility trend in Latvia answering the following research question: is it possible in the near future to increase fertility in Latvia, as it is planned in the “Strategy for the Reproduction of the Nation FAMILY – LATVIA – 203 (2050)”? The authors analyzed the total fertility rate in Latvia for the period of 1970–2022. The novelty of this interdisciplinary study is the use of mathematical analysis to investigate demographic trends and also the methodological use of the theory of economic cycles to identify demographic fertility cycles and their phases in Latvia, to predict fertility rates in Latvia for the near future. Furthermore, the analysis of data from sociological surveys helped the authors to understand the main reason for the decline in fertility in Latvia. This reason is value changes in society, in which the child is no longer at the center of the value system of men and especially women in Latvia. It can be expected that the decline in fertility in Latvia will continue for several more years before the bottom of the next demographic fertility cycle is reached and there will be an upturn in a linearly declining fertility trend.