Vienna Institute of Demography

ÖAW AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Wittgenstein Centre FOR DEMOGRAPHY AND GLOBAL HUMAN CAPITAL
A COLLABORATION OF IIASA, VID/ÖAW, WU

Birth Barometer

Monitoring Fertility in Austria

Annual Report 2018

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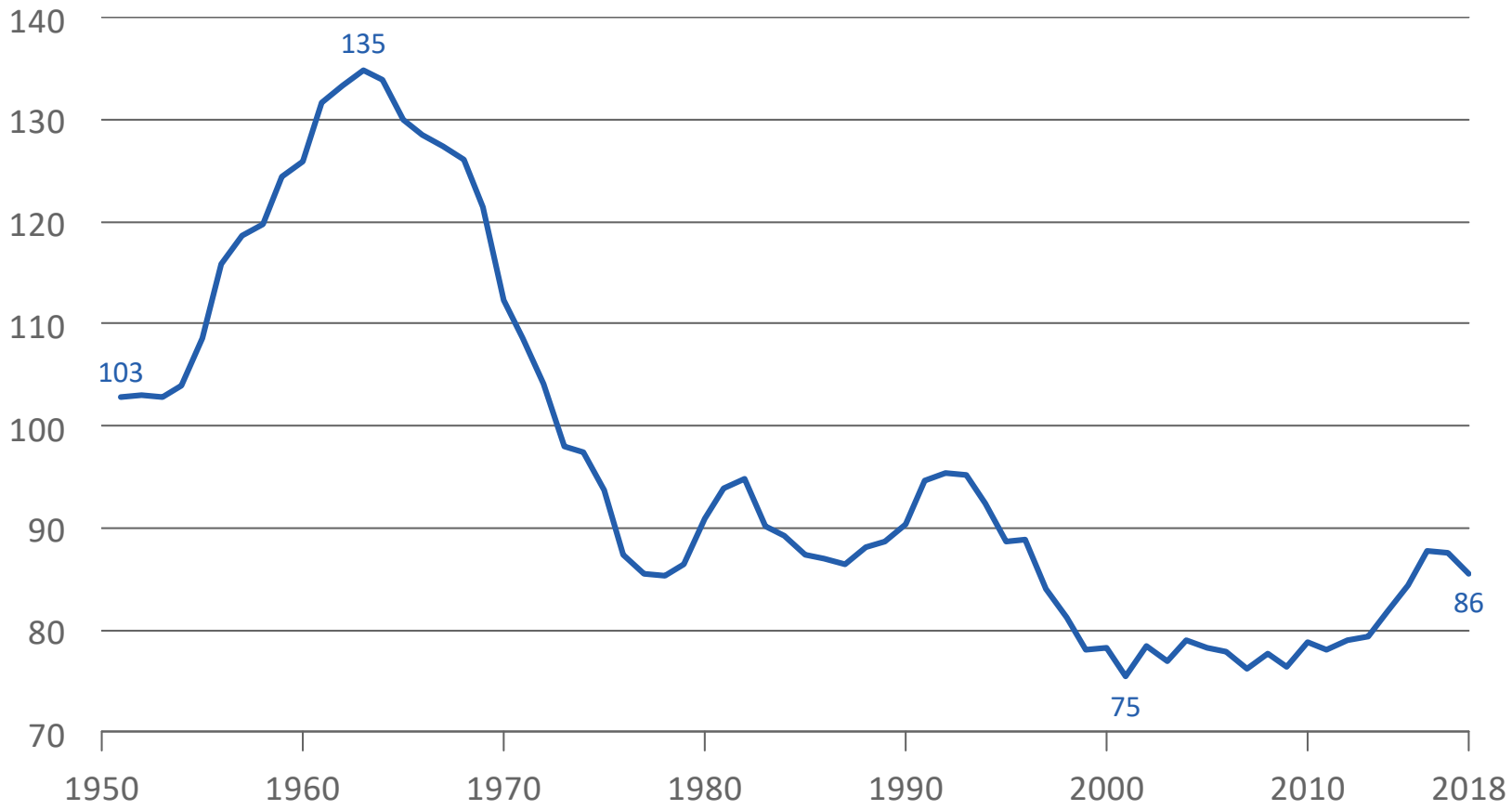
Analysis based on data from Statistics Austria covering the period until 2018

3 September 2019

Absolute number of live births

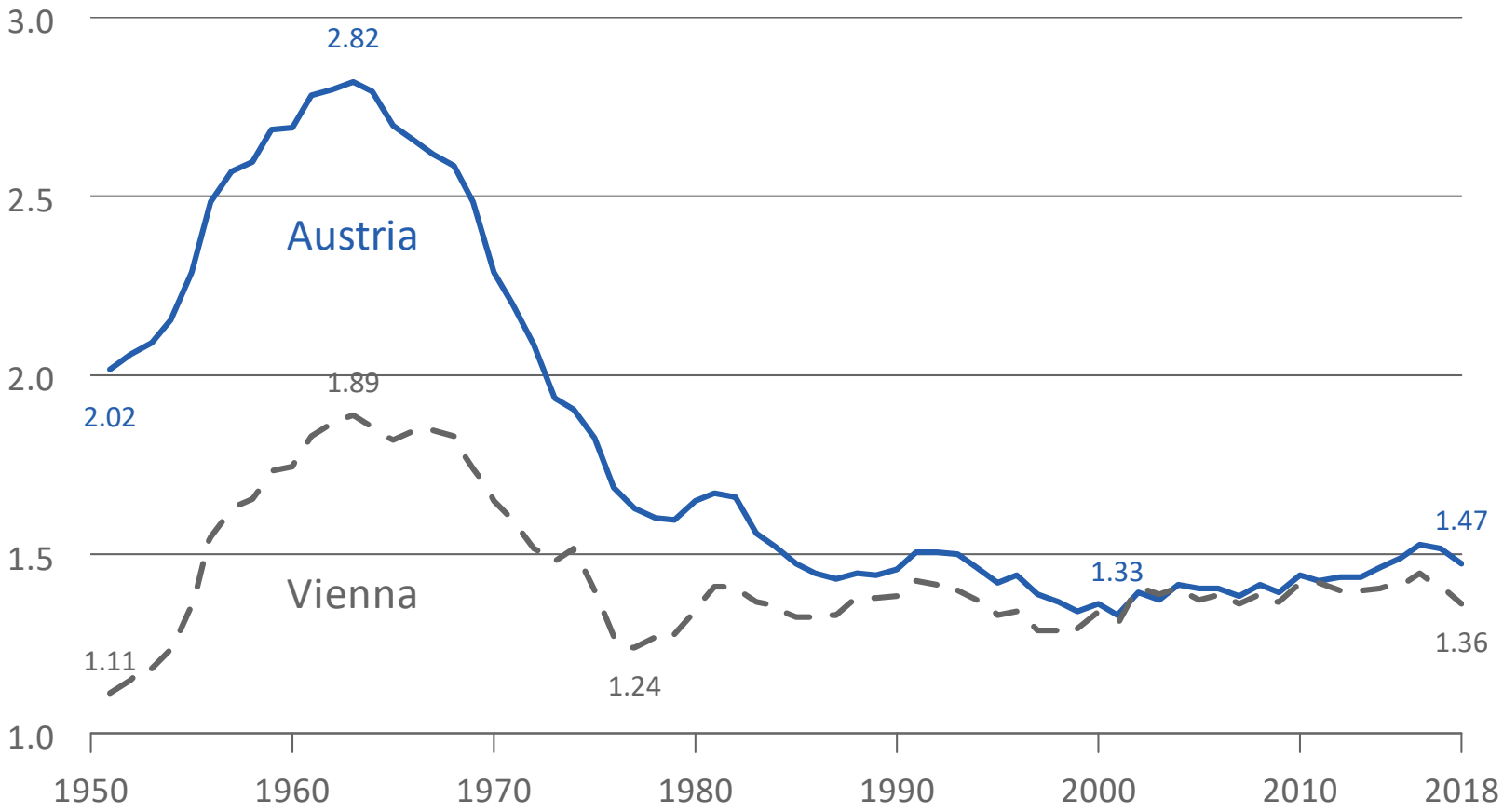
Children born in 1951–2018 (thousands)



- The number of children born in Austria peaked in 1963 at 135 thousand. Then it plummeted rapidly until the mid-1970s and again in the second half of the 1990s. It reached a minimum of 75 thousand in 2001
- The recent upswing in fertility rates contributed to an increase in the number of births to 88 thousand in 2016 and 2017, a level last seen in the mid-1990s
- A slight decline to 86 thousand births took place in 2018
- These changes are influenced not only by fertility levels, but also by changing size and age structure of the female population. Increases or declines in the number of women in reproductive age push the number of births up or down

Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

Mean number of children per woman in 1951–2018



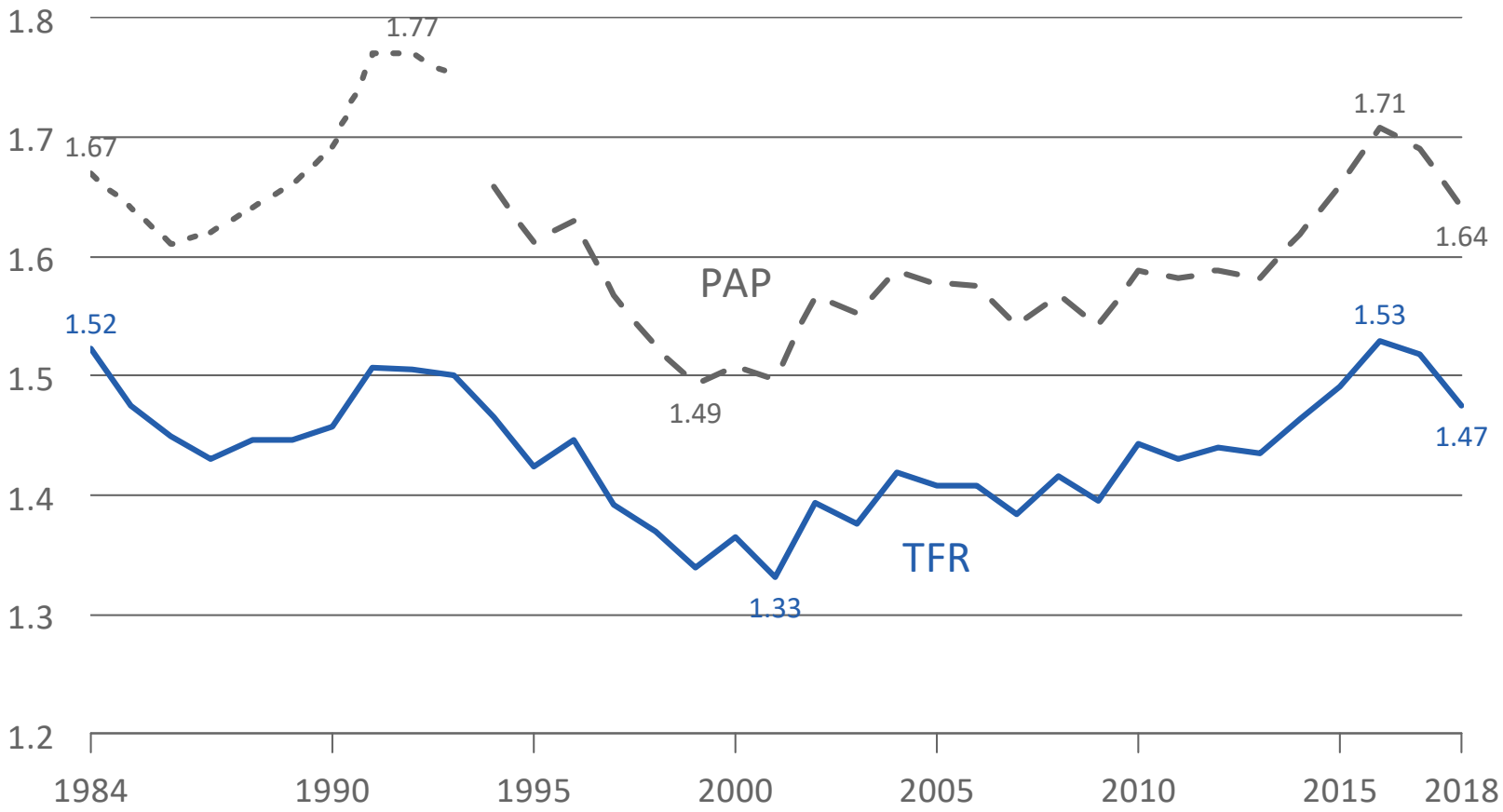
Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the most common indicator of fertility. It is not affected by the changing number and age structure of the female population. It is often interpreted as measuring the number of children per woman in a period. However, it is sensitive to shifts in the age at childbearing and can change rapidly from one year to the next

- The TFR in Austria had been relatively low (at 1.3–1.5) and stable between the mid-1980s and the 2000s. It reached an all-time low of 1.33 in 2001
- TFR increased gradually between 2001 and 2016, with the TFR exceeding 1.50 in 2016–2017, but declined slightly in 2017 and 2018, reaching 1.47 in 2018

➢ **See also special topic on VIENNA**

Period Average Parity (PAP)

PAP and TFR in 1984–2018

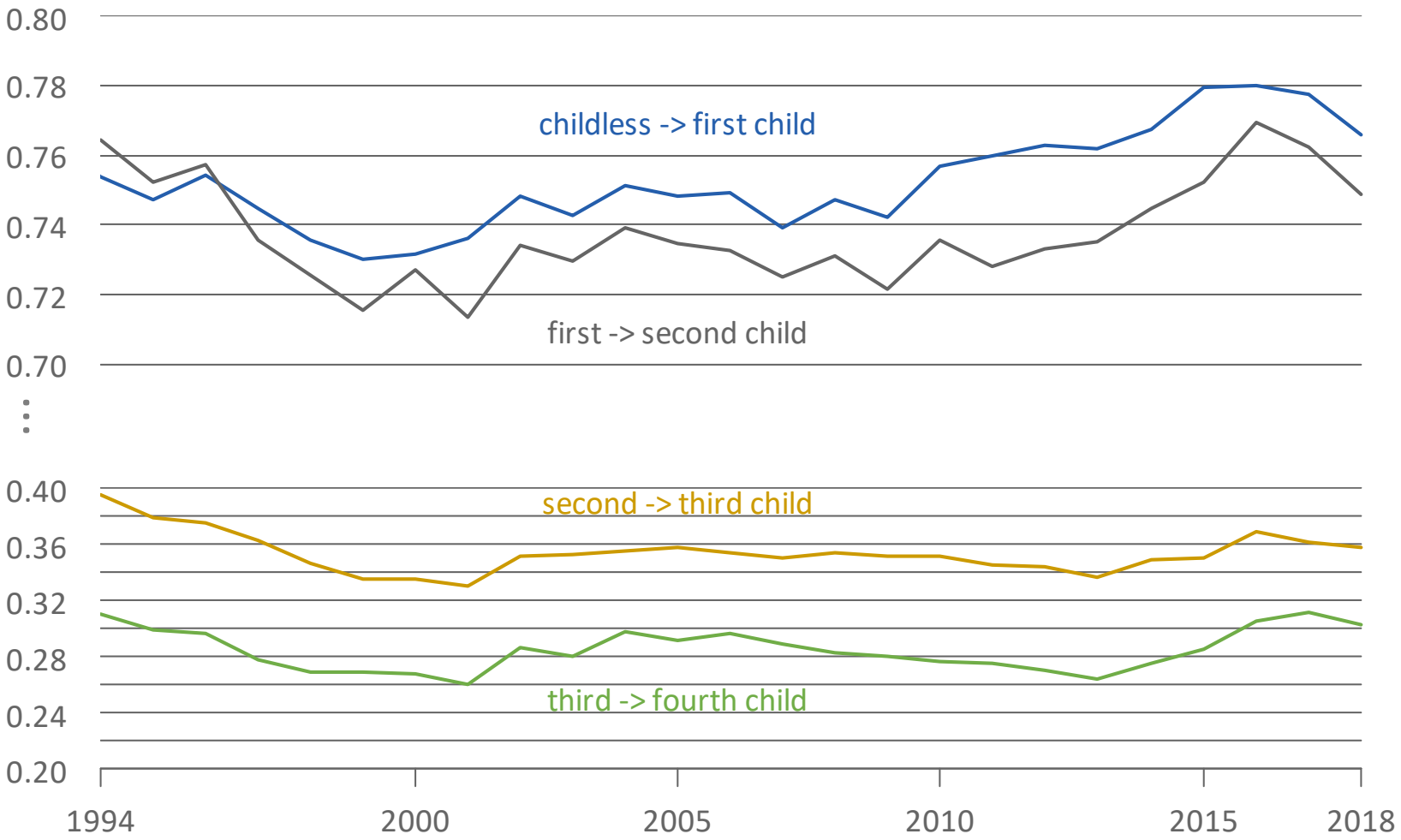


Period Average Parity (PAP) is an indicator of fertility that takes into account not only the age structure of women, but also their parity composition (number of children). It is computed separately for each birth order (a simplified method was used before 1994). Like the Total Fertility Rate, the PAP is often interpreted as a period indicator of the number of children per woman

- PAP reaches on average by 0.2 higher levels than the TFR. This is because it has been less affected by the rising age at childbearing during the last decades
- After reaching the lowest level of 1.49 in 1999, the PAP increased in the early 2000s and then again in the 2010s, reaching 1.71 in 2016 and 1.64 in 2018

Parity Progression Ratios (PPR)

1994 to 2018

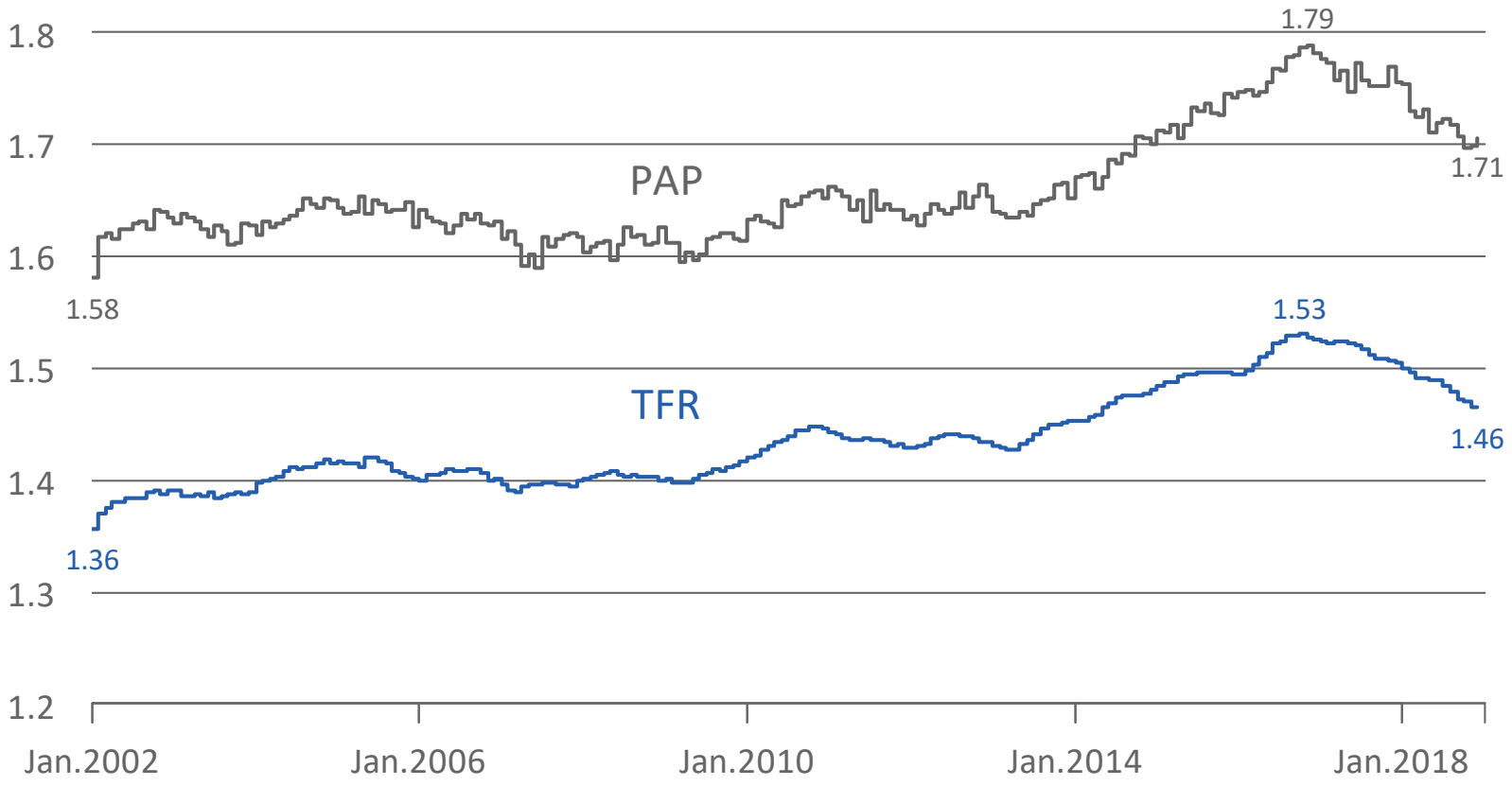


Parity Progression Ratios (PPR) measure the probability that a woman with a given number of children (parity) will have another child. The computations take into account the age structure of women, the number of children they have, and the number of years since their previous birth

- Based on the data for 2018, 77% of initially childless women would give birth to a child, 75% of women with one child would have a second one, 36% of women with two children would have a third one, and 30% of women with three children would have a fourth one
- The fertility increase in 2009–2016 was driven mostly by rising first and second birth rates

Monthly trends in PAP and TFR

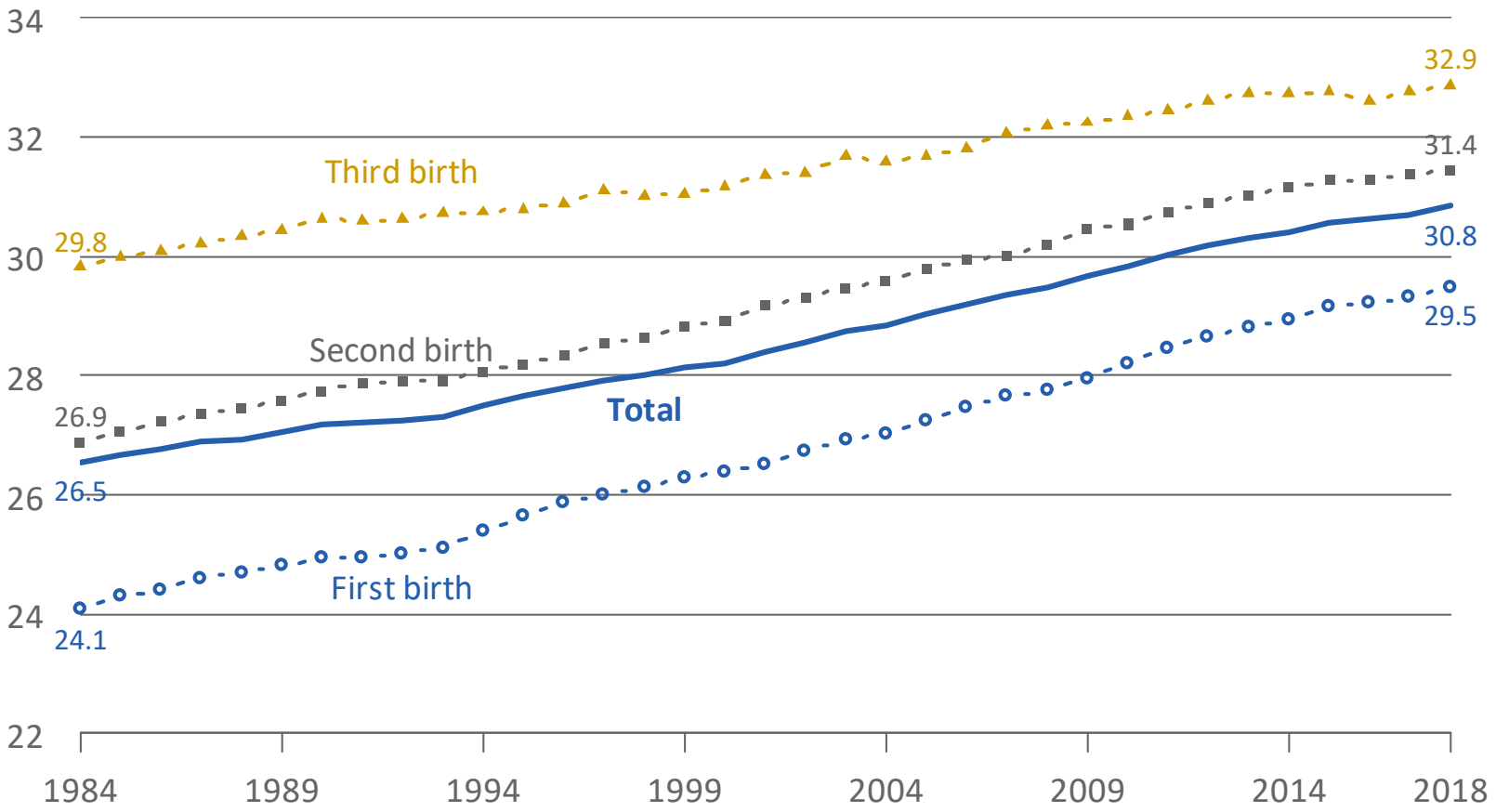
January 2002 to December 2018



- A closer look at monthly data allows identifying more precisely the periods when fertility levels start increasing or falling. This helps us better understand the underlying factors behind fertility change
- The computations control for length of the month, weekly fluctuations, seasonality in birth rates and short-term fluctuations
- The average monthly levels of PAP differ slightly from annual PAP levels
- The most recent increase in fertility started in mid-2014 and continued until October to December 2016, when it peaked with the TFR at 1.53 and PAP at 1.79

Mean age of mother at birth

By birth order, 1984–2018



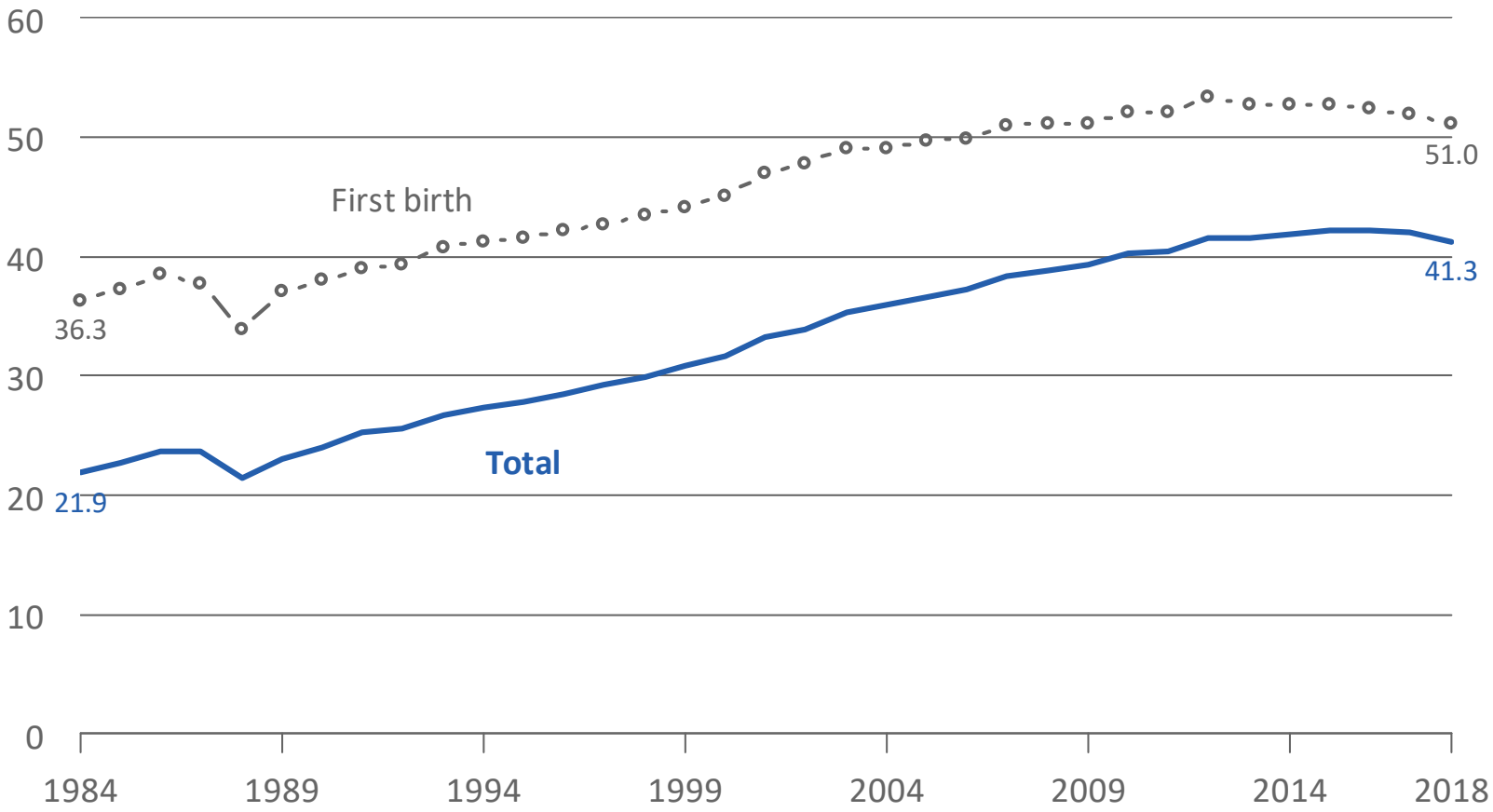
The mean age of mother at childbirth (MAB) is computed from fertility rates by single years of age and therefore it is not affected by changing age structure of women in reproductive age

- Fertility trends in the last three decades have been strongly influenced by the increasing age of mothers
- The shift to a later age at birth started in the early 1970s (not shown). Since then it has continued without interruption
- The mean age at first birth jumped by more than five years between 1984 and 2018
- In 2018 the average Austrian woman had a first child at age 29.5 and the second child at age 31.4

➢ **See more details under special topic on TIMING OF FERTILITY**

Births outside marriage

Share of non-marital births (%), 1984–2018



- Four out of ten of all children are born to unmarried mothers
- First births outside of marriage are even more frequent: a majority of first births are non-marital
- The share of children born outside of marriage increased continually over half a century, between 1965 and 2015
- This trend reflects long-term changes in the family—especially the increase in unmarried cohabitation and higher frequency of divorce—that have taken place across Europe
- The long-term increase in non-marital childbearing has ceased in 2015. The share of births outside of marriage has stabilized and the rise in non-marital first births has reversed

Birth Barometer: Monitoring Fertility in Austria

Data Source: STATISTICS AUSTRIA. Vital Statistics

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Graphic design: Jan Šotola; layout inspired by the National Records of Scotland

Acknowledgement to Regina Fuchs (Statistics Austria)

Suggested citation:

Zeman, K., T. Sobotka, R. Gisser, and M. Winkler-Dworak. 2019. *Birth Barometer: Monitoring Fertility in Austria.* Vienna Institute of Demography. Available at www.birthbarometer.at

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