

Birth Barometer

Monitoring Fertility in Austria

Fertility in Vienna



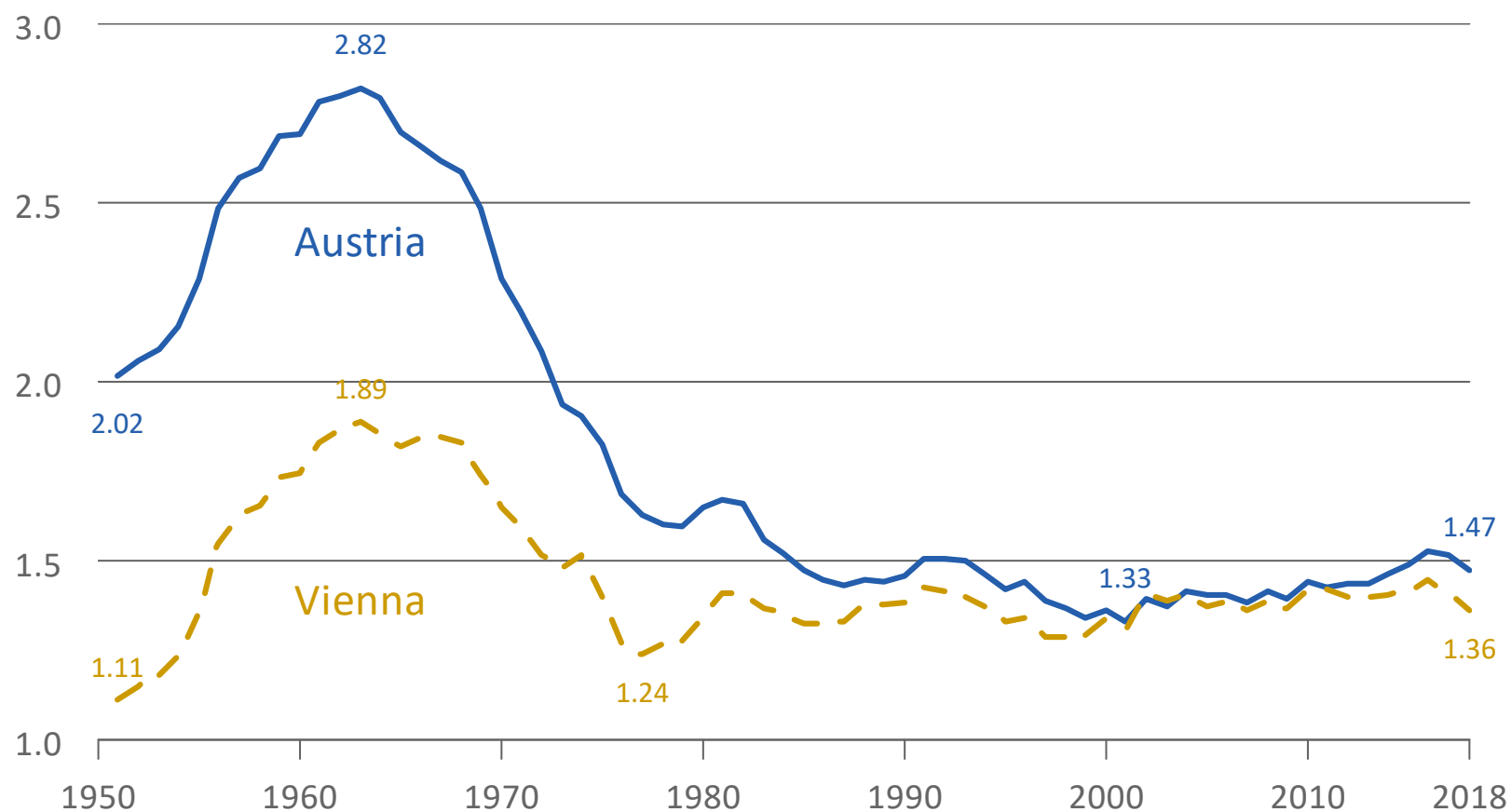
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Analysis based on data from
Statistics Austria covering the
period until 2018

3 September 2019

Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

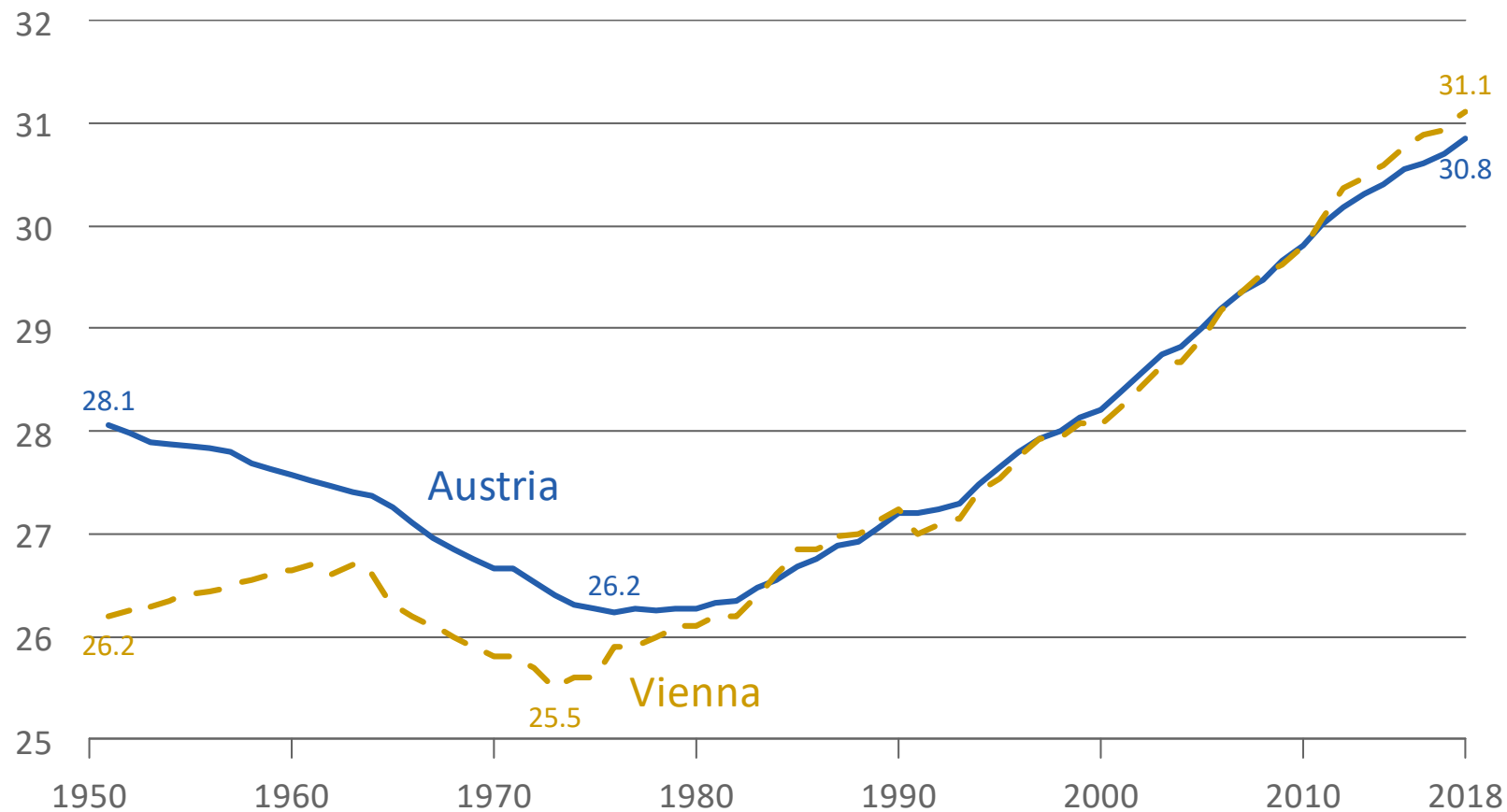
Mean number of children per woman in 1951–2018



- Historically, fertility in Vienna was far below the fertility rates in the whole of Austria. Between the two World Wars (not shown here) and in the early 1950s Vienna had extremely low fertility rates, among the lowest recorded at that time
- Since reaching a low of 1.24 in 1977, the TFR in Vienna has recovered a bit, reaching 1.36 in 2018
- The wide gap in fertility between Vienna and Austria had vanished between the 1970s and 2002. More recently, Viennese fertility shifted below that in the whole country once again

Mean age of mother

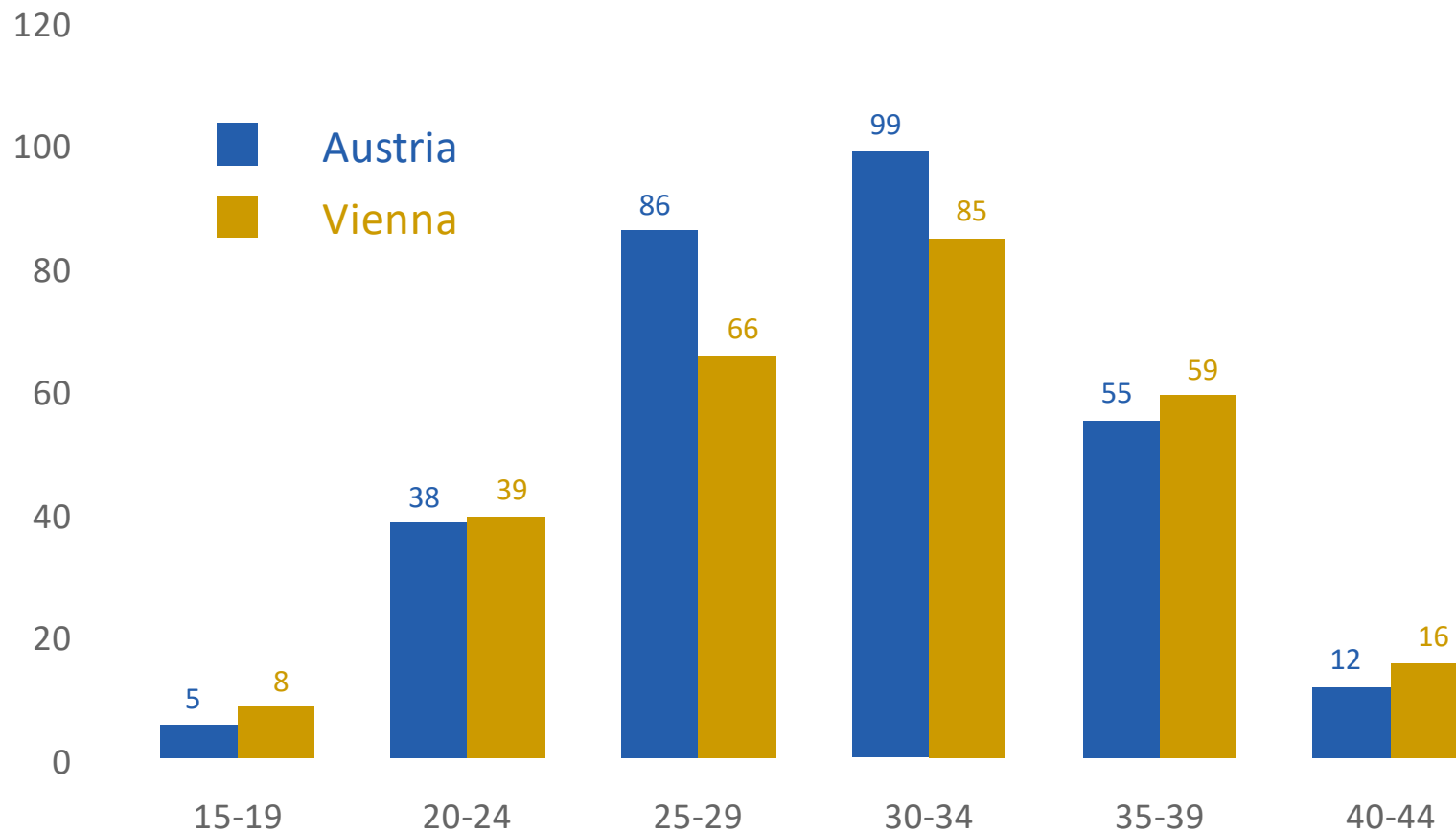
Mean age of mother at childbirth in 1951–2018



- The mean age at birth among mothers in Austria and Vienna has increased continually during the last four decades, reaching around 31 in 2018. This is a large increase compared with the 1970s, when women in Vienna became mothers at ages 25 to 26 on average
- Mothers in Vienna were younger than mothers in the whole country up until the 1970s. This was due to smaller family sizes in Vienna. Women in other regions more often had third and higher-order births, which are usually born to mothers at later reproductive ages

Fertility rates by age

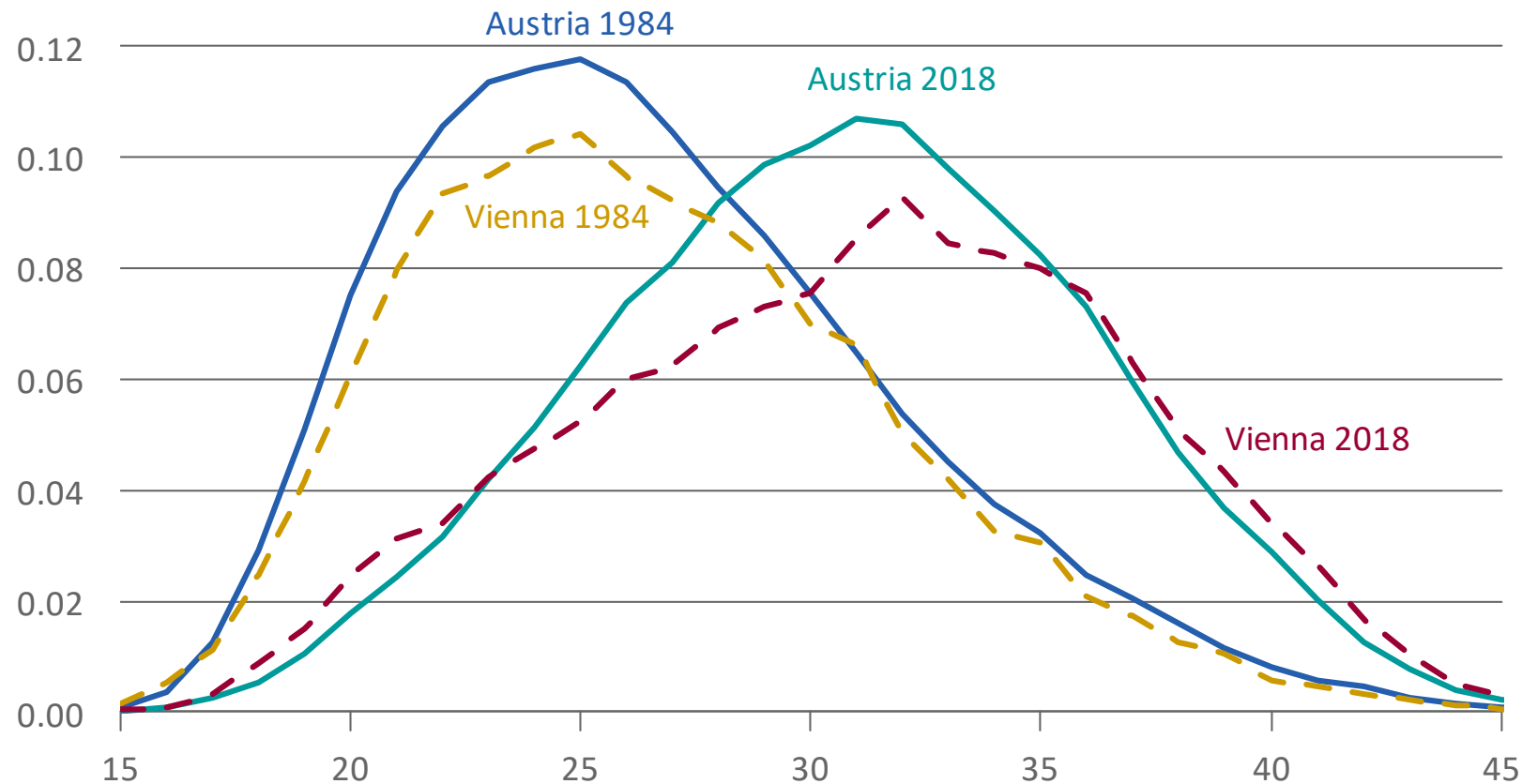
Births per thousand women in Vienna and Austria, 2018



- Childbearing at both very young and late reproductive ages is more common among women living in Vienna than in Austria as a whole
- Fertility rates in Vienna are less concentrated to peak reproductive ages than in other Austrian regions
- The higher fertility rates among teenage women in Vienna are linked to the higher share of migrant groups with an earlier fertility pattern living in the city
- The higher fertility rates at later childbearing ages (35 and over) in Vienna are linked to the higher share of highly educated women in the city, who often postpone motherhood towards their late 30s or early 40s

Fertility rates by age

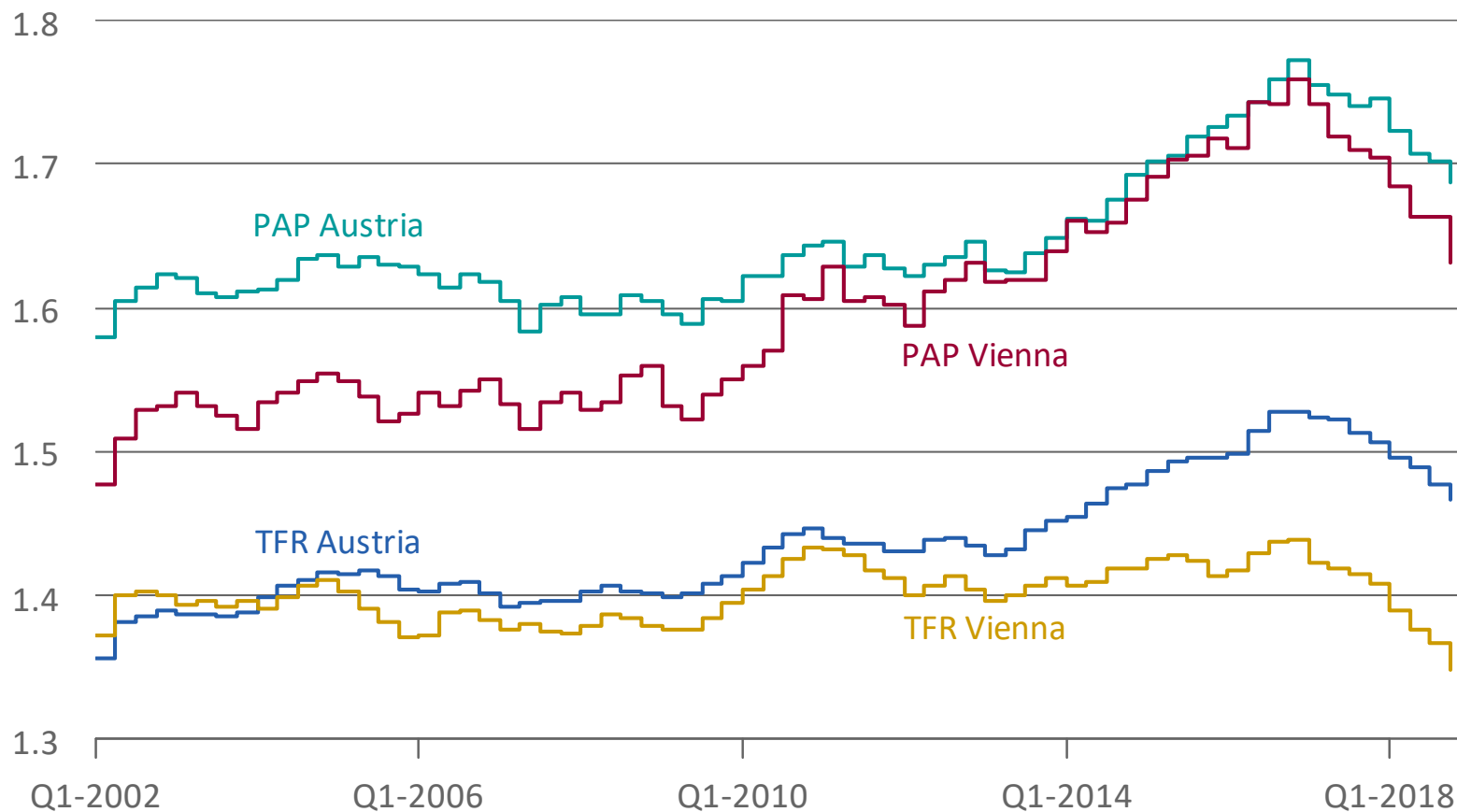
Vienna and Austria, 1984 and 2018



- Between 1984 and 2018 the fertility schedule among women in Vienna and in the whole Austria shifted towards much later ages
- In 1984 childbearing among young adult women was common and fertility rates peaked early, at ages 24–25 years
- In 2018 early childbearing became uncommon. Austrian women depict a symmetrical age schedule of childbearing, but now peaking at ages 31–32. Fertility among Viennese women peaks at age 32

Period Average Parity and the TFR

Quarterly indicators of fertility in Vienna and Austria in 2002–2018

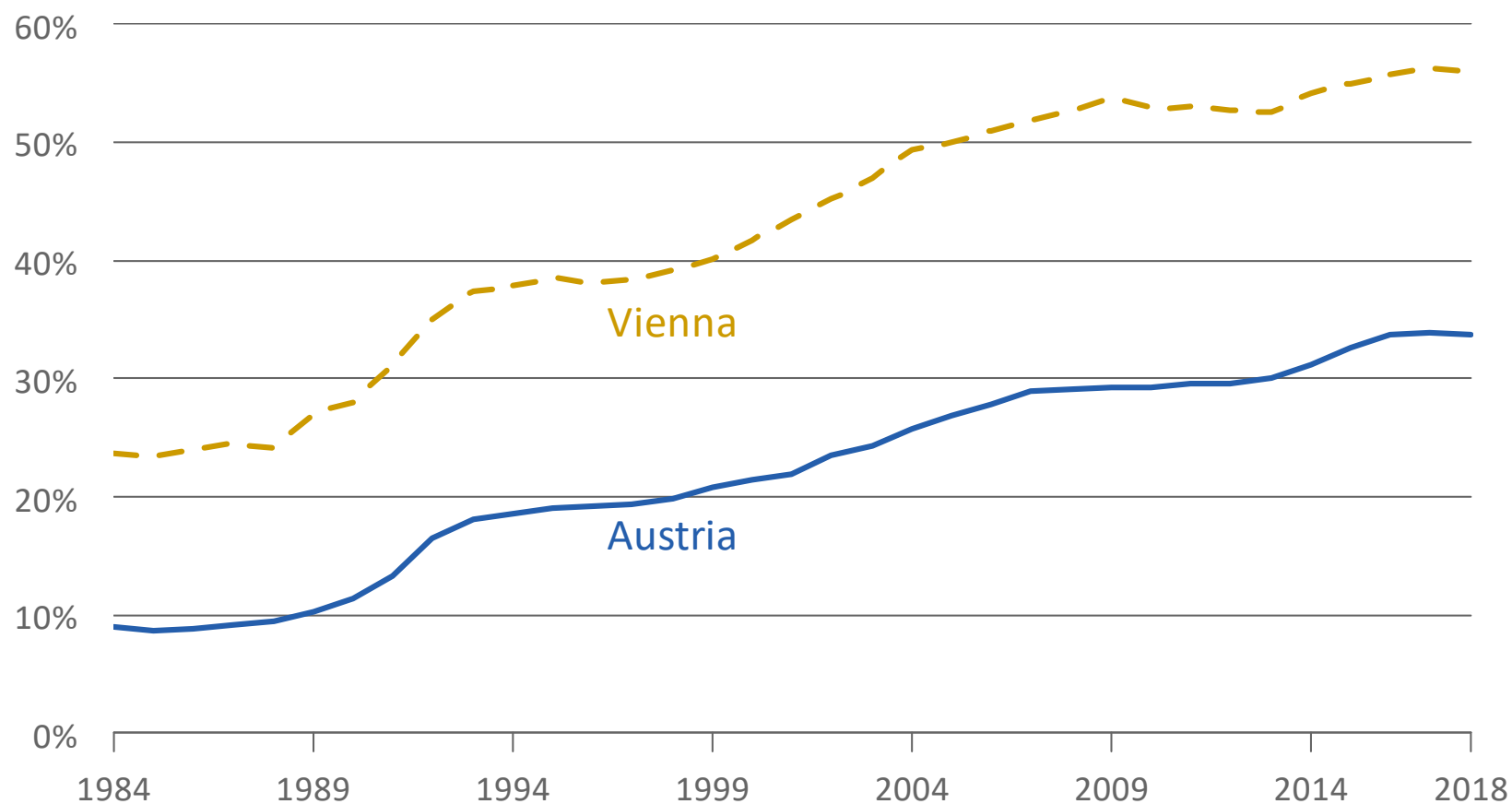


Period Average Parity (PAP) is an indicator of fertility that takes into account not only the age structure of women, but also their parity composition (number of children). It is computed separately for each birth order

- The PAP consistently shows higher values than the TFR as it is much less affected by the ongoing postponement of births to higher reproductive ages
- The PAP in Vienna and Austria as a whole increased in tandem in 2012–2016. It peaked at 1.76–1.77, well above the level of 1.5 reached in Vienna in 2002
- The TFR increased slower than the PAP. In Austria it surpassed 1.5 in 2016–2017, whereas in Vienna it has remained stable, just above 1.4, in 2010–2017, but declined below this threshold in 2018

Births to foreign born mothers

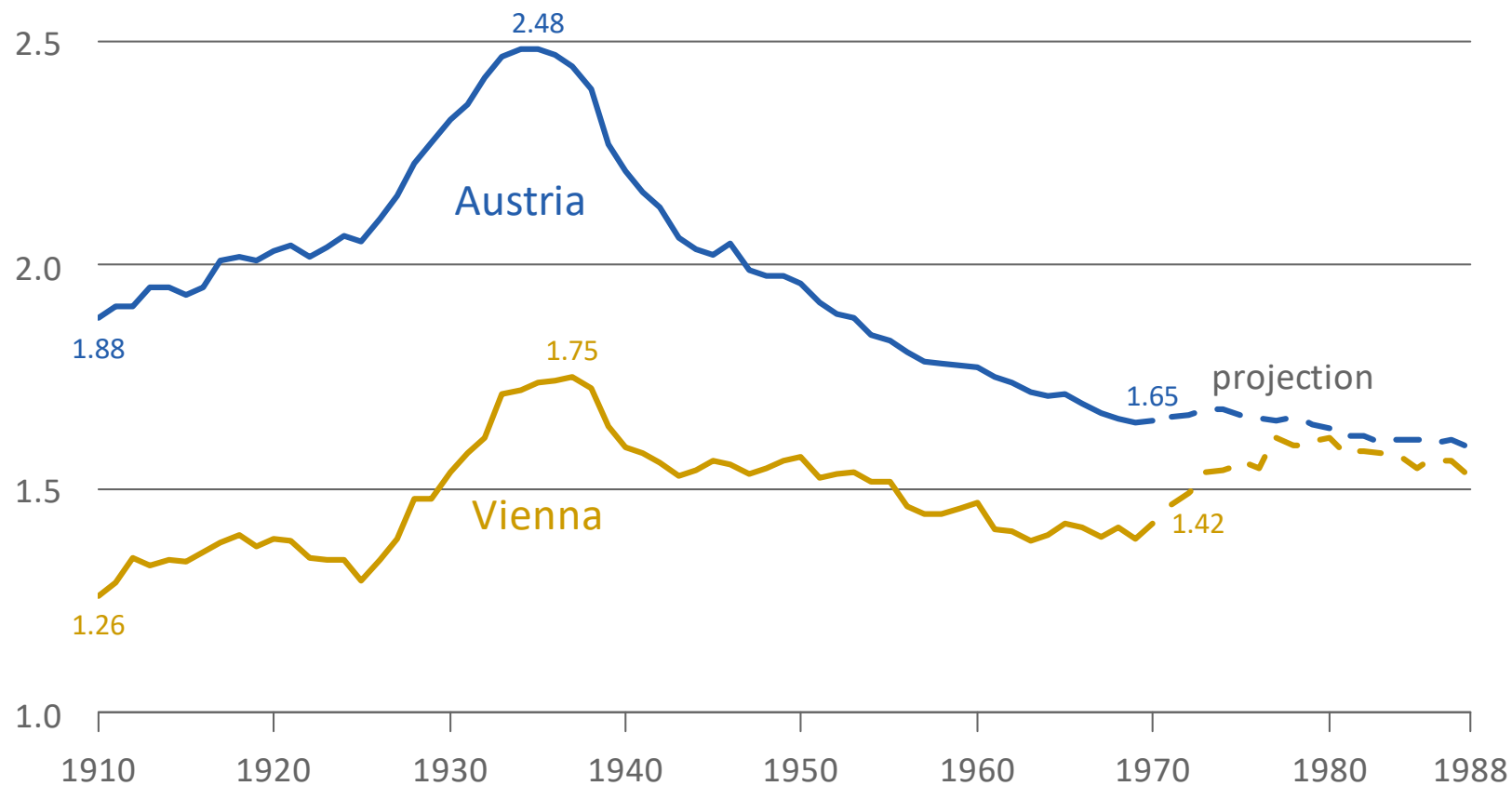
Proportion of births to foreign born mothers, 1984–2018



- The majority of children (56%) born in Vienna in 2018 were born to mothers coming from another country
- This is a much higher share than in the whole country: mothers born abroad accounted for one in three children born in Austria
- The contribution of foreign-born women to the total number of births in Vienna increased rapidly in the two decades since the mid-1980s, jumping from 23% in 1985 to 40% in 1999, and to 50% in 2005
- The rising share of children to mothers born abroad is due to the increasing number of migrant women in the population, their younger age structure and also their higher fertility rates

Cohort fertility (family size)

Mean number of children per woman born in 1910–1988



- Historically, family size in Vienna was much smaller than family size in the whole of Austria
- The gap in completed fertility between Vienna and Austria was narrowing among women born in the 1940s–1960s due to a slower decline in family size in Vienna
- Viennese women born in the early 1970s had 1.42 children on average compared with 1.65 for the entire country
- Cohort fertility among Viennese women born in the 1970s and early 1980s is projected to increase, eventually converging to Austrian fertility. This is largely due to an expected decrease in childlessness

Birth Barometer: Monitoring Fertility in Austria

Data Source: STATISTICS AUSTRIA. Vital Statistics

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