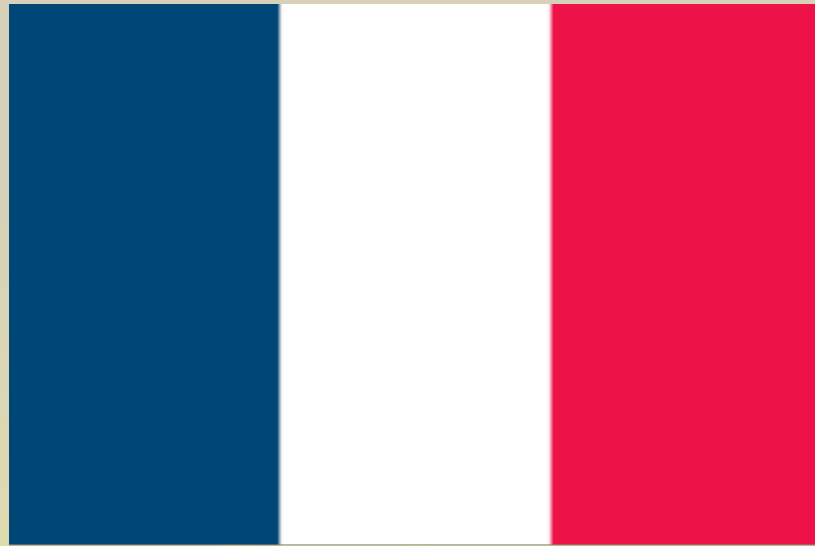


France:

A pro-natalist population policy



Evaluation of pro-natal policies

what you need to be able to write about

List the characteristics of pro-natal policies used by France.

i.e. 'What have they done?'

Write down objective evidence which can be used to support the hypothesis.....

'France has been successful in encouraging an above average fertility rate when compared with similar European countries'

i.e. 'Has it worked?'

What is a pro-natalist policy?

- A pro-natalist policy is a population policy which aims to encourage more births through the use of incentives.



Why population policies?

In most developed countries, the decline in fertility and the increase in longevity has raised three concerns for the future:

- the decrease in the supply of labour
- the socioeconomic implications of population ageing
- the long term prospect of population decline

The French policy

- Long history - in 1939 the French passed the 'Code de la famille' – a complex piece of pro-natalist legislation.
- Offered cash incentives to mothers who stayed at home to care for children.
- Subsidised holidays
- Banning of the sale of contraceptives (repealed in 1967)

French government incentives:

- Payment of up to 1264 euros to couples having third child
- Generous maternity grants
- Family allowances to increase the purchasing power of three-child families
- Maternity leave, on near full pay, ranges from 20 weeks for the first child to 40 or more for a third.
- 100% mortgage and preferential treatment in the allocation of 3 bed-roomed council flats

More government incentives....

- Full tax benefits to parents until the youngest child reaches 18
- 30% fare reduction on all public transport for 3 child families
- Pension schemes for mothers / housewives
- Child-orientated development policies e.g. provision of creches, day-nurseries etc
- Depending on the family's income, childcare costs from virtually nothing to around €500 a month for the most well-off.
- Nursing mothers are encouraged to work part-time or take a weekly day off work

“France plans to pay cash for more babies”

Headline in the Guardian 2005

“As its population ages,
France needs more babies”

San Diego Union-Tribune Feb 06

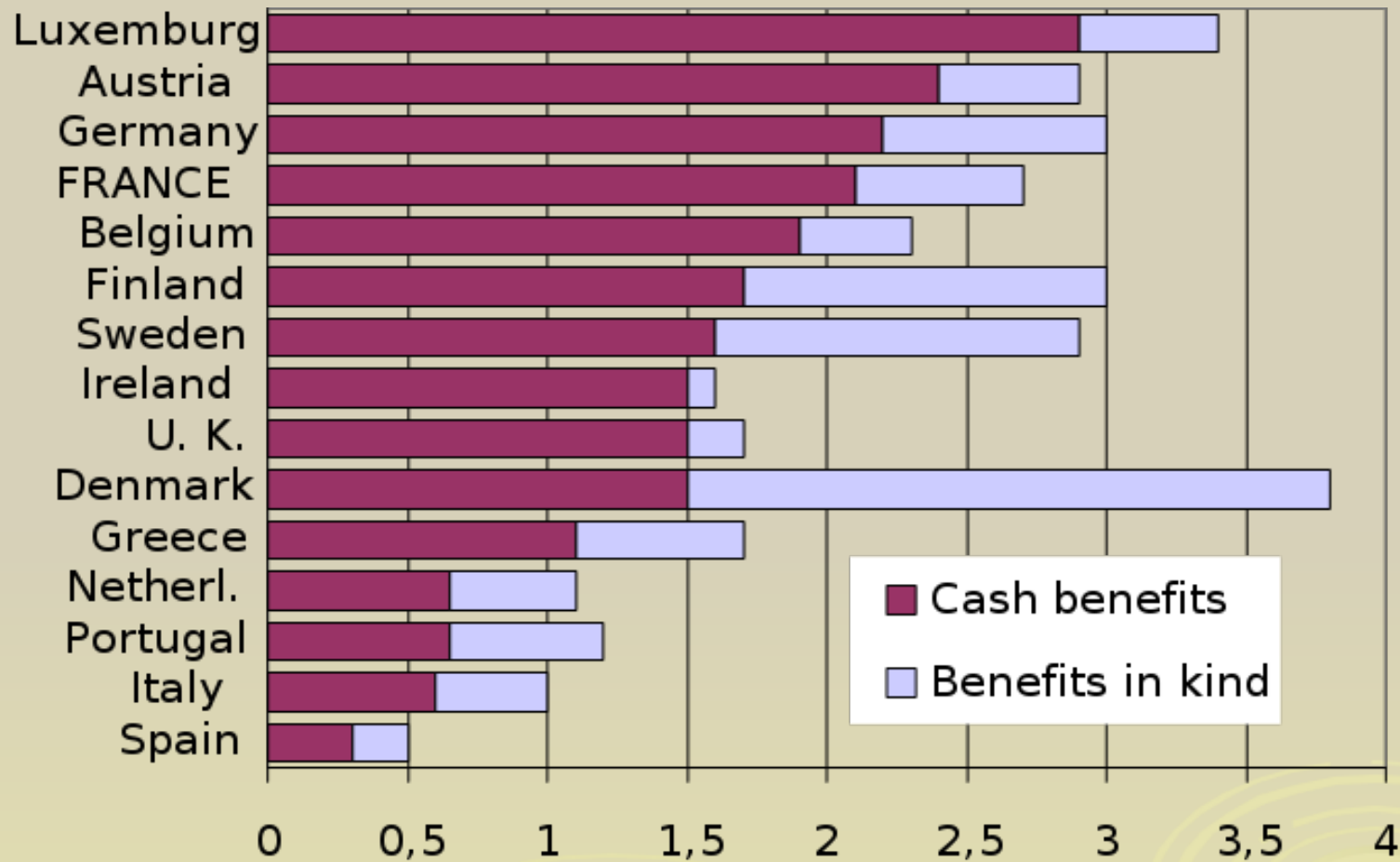
“Cash payments, tax breaks and subsidized child care have helped make France's fertility rate the second highest in Europe. It still isn't high enough to rescue the country from an aging population that threatens state spending on pensions and health.”

**French celebrate
biggest baby boom
since 1980s**

Independent January 2007

“France had more babies in 2006 than in any year in the past quarter century, capping a decade of rising fertility that has bucked Europe's greying trend.”

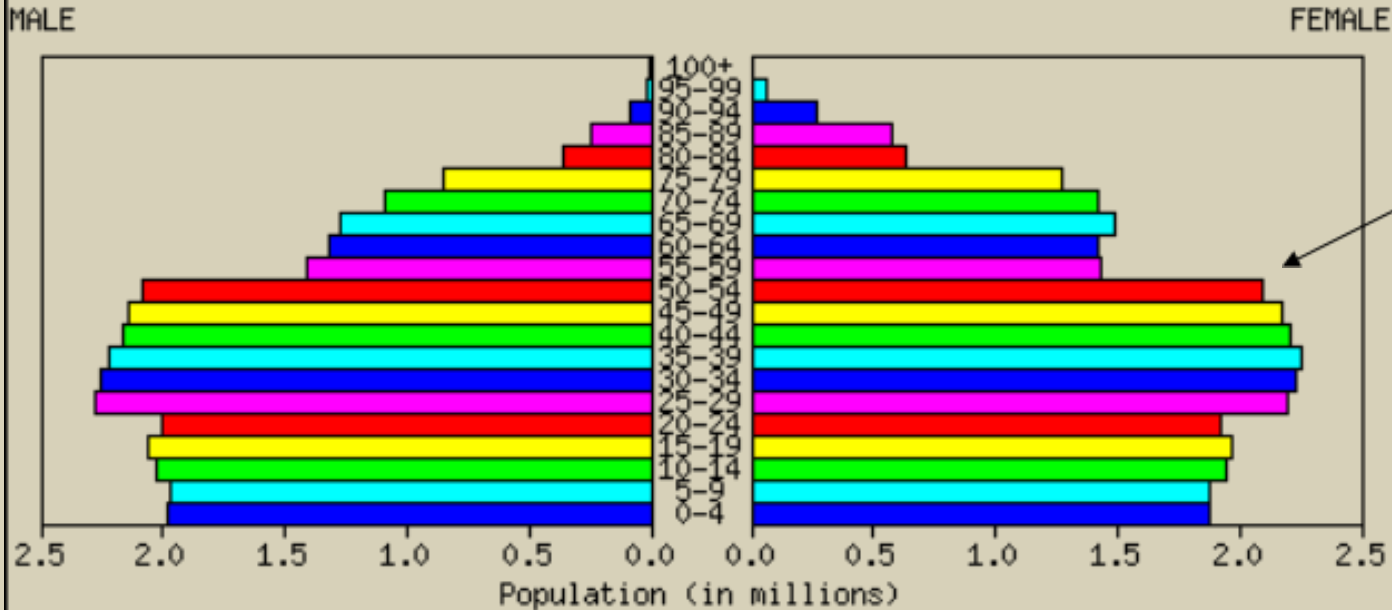
Social protection benefits for the families in Europe: cash / in kind [education excluded] (in % of GDP)



Some traits of the French family policy

- Complex and not always consistent
 - More than 30 measures (not easy to evaluate)
 - Means-tested benefits (for social redistribution), but also tax cuts
 - Still wavering between extra support to the 3rd child and benefits from the 1st child
- But quite consensual and politically neutral
 - Unquestioned in the last electoral debates
 - Confirmed every year by *la Conférence de la famille*
- Shows clear gender equality
 - No need to be married; no need to stay home
 - Strong support to the one-parent families
- A 60-year continuity that inspires confidence in the population

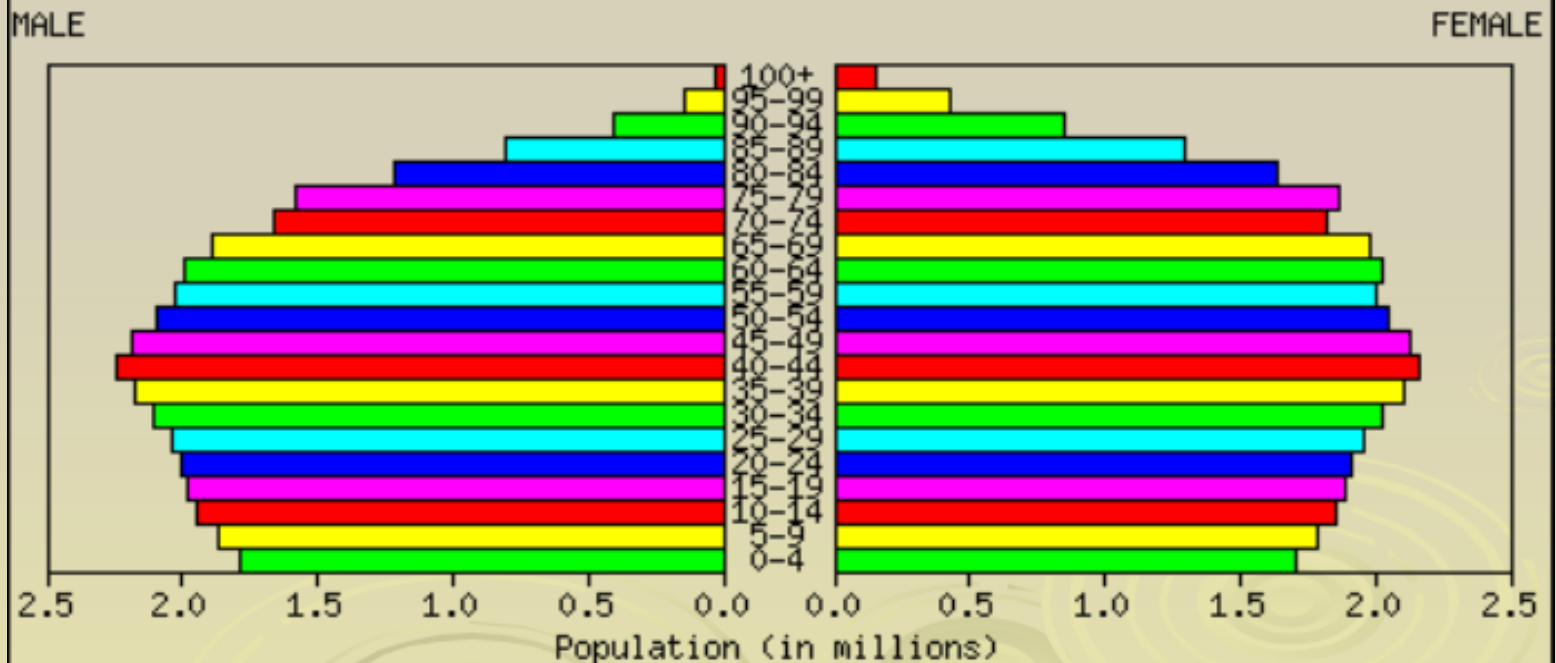
France: 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base.

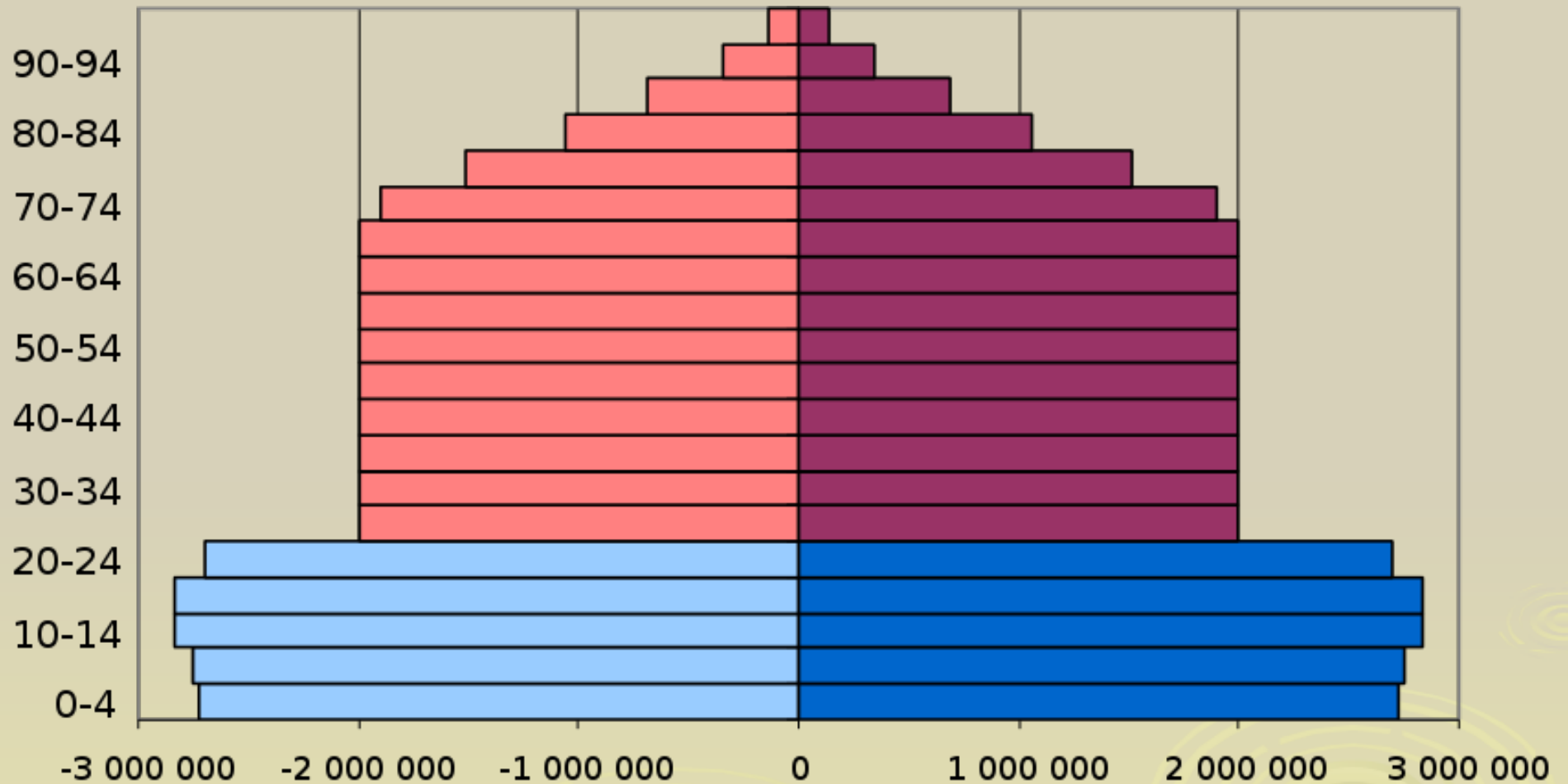
Some increase in birth rate (now moving into older age groups)

France: 2050

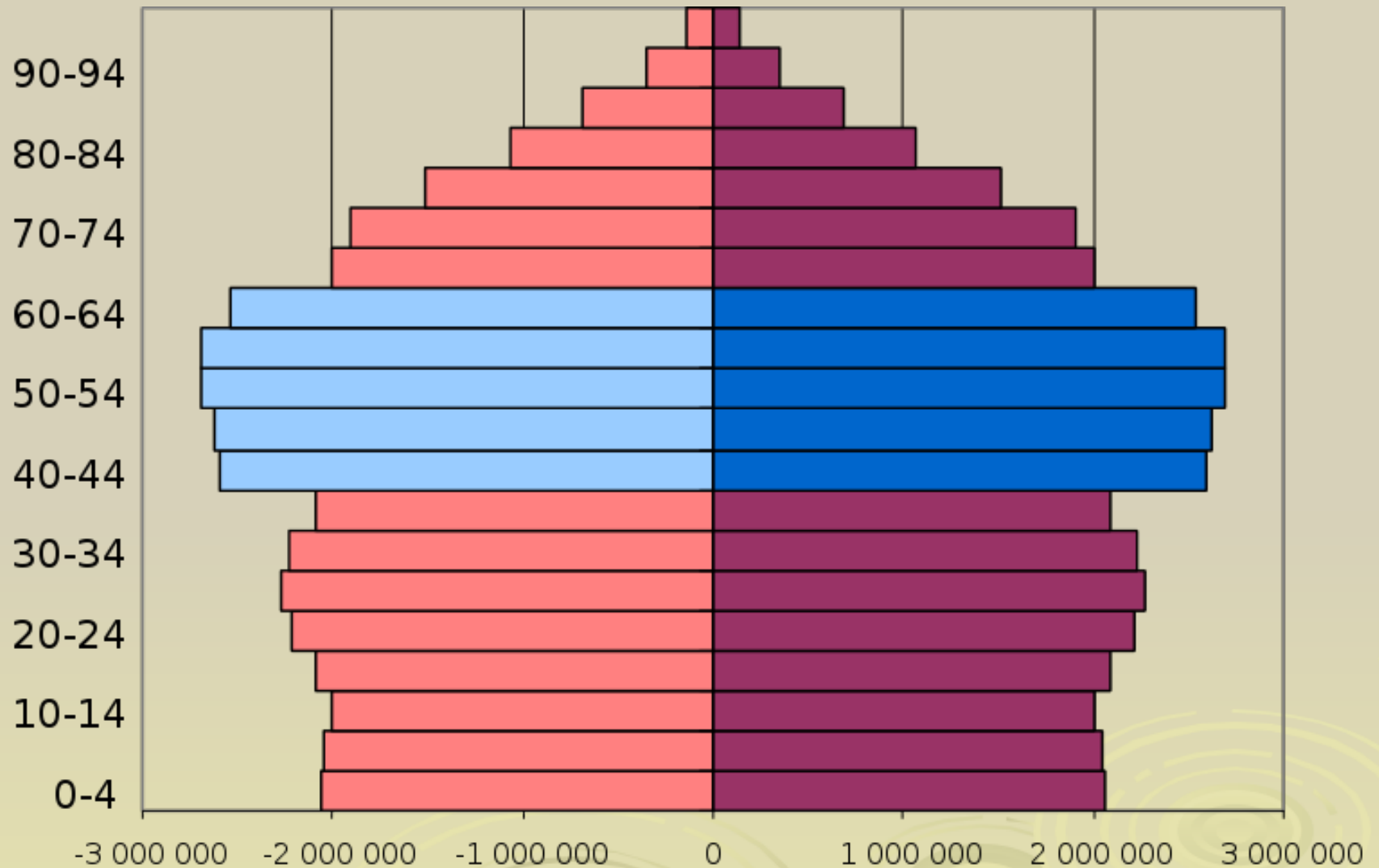


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base.

A temporary additional fertility (*baby-boom*)
which first rejuvenates the population...



...but 40 years later makes it older



Ageing population

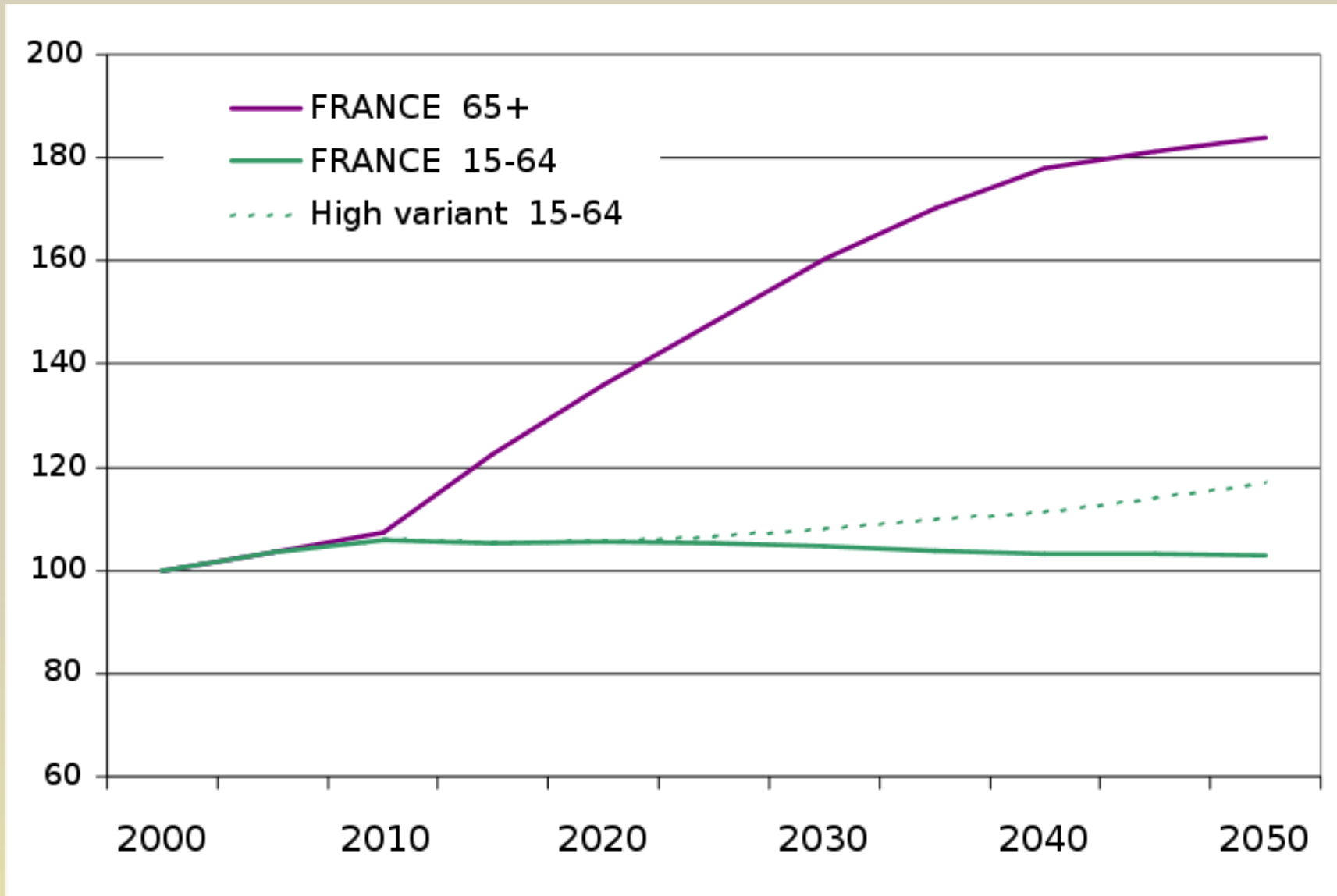
- Total fertility rates in France declined from the 1960s to the 1990s
- 1960 fertility rate 2.73 (children per woman)
- 1992 fertility rate 1.73

But.....2007 1.98 children born/woman

ALSO.....

- Ageing population (and associated problems)

Population aged 65+ and population aged 15-64 FRANCE 2000-2050 (per 100 persons in 2000)



Total Fertility Rates 2003

Group 1 Countries	TFR	Group 2 Countries	TFR
United States (2002)	2.01	Portugal	1.44
Iceland	1.99	Switzerland	1.41
Ireland	1.98	Malta	1.41
New Zealand	1.96	Austria	1.39
France	1.89	Germany	1.34
Norway	1.80	Spain	1.29
Denmark	1.76	Italy	1.29
Finland	1.76	Japan	1.29
Australia	1.75	Greece	1.27
Netherlands	1.75	Singapore	1.26
Sweden	1.71	Taiwan	1.24
United Kingdom	1.71	Republic of Korea	1.19
Luxembourg	1.63	Hong Kong SAR	0.94
Belgium	1.61		
Canada (2002)	1.50		

Facts and figures

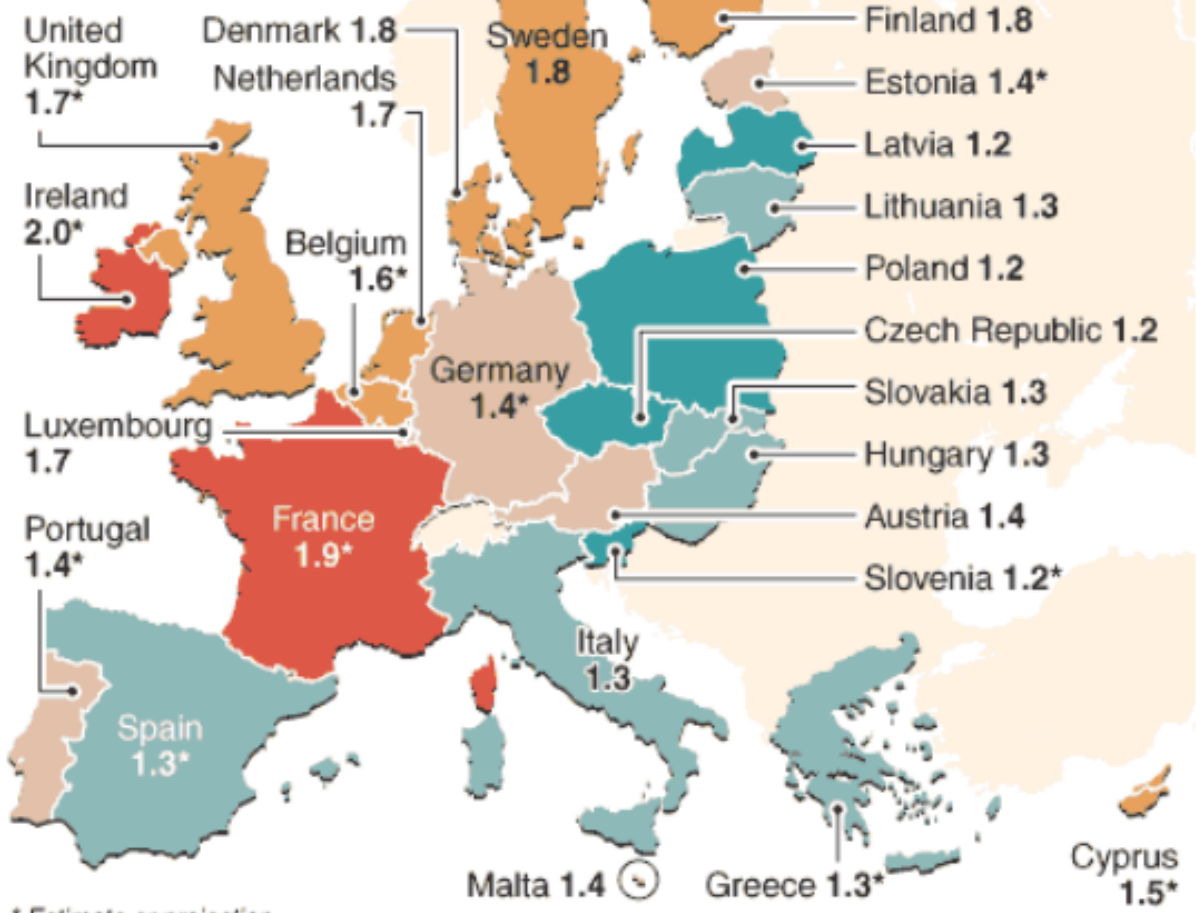
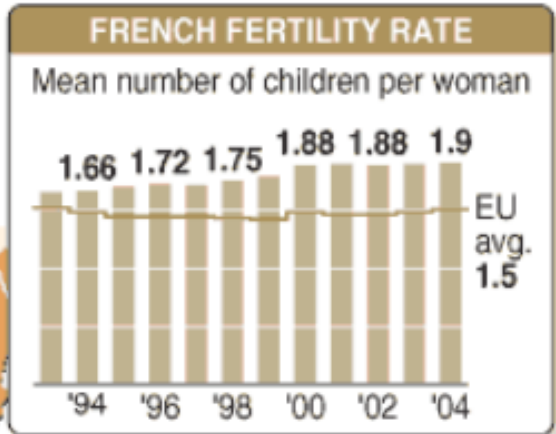
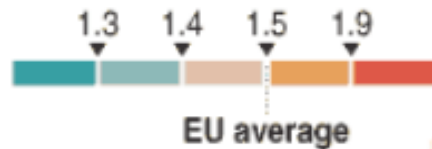
	France	UK
Birth rate	12.91 births/1,000 population (2007 est.)	10.67 births/1,000 population (2007 est.)
Death rate	8.55 deaths/1,000 population (2007 est.)	10.09 deaths/1,000 population (2007 est.)
Fertility rate	1.98 children born/woman (2007 est.)	1.66 children born/woman (2007 est.)
Net migration rate	1.52 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2007 est.)	2.17 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2007 est.)
Population growth rate	0.588% (2007 est.)	0.275% (2007 est.)

Are immigrants the reason for the growth in population?

- It is often claimed that the French fertility rate is due to foreign population
- Surprising though it may seem, the foreign population brings a **large contribution to *births* but a limited impact on *fertility***
 - 2005: 94 000 babies born to a foreign mother out of 774 000 = 12 %
 - This raises the national fertility rate by just 0.10 child, from 1.8 (for French women) to 1.9 (for women of all nationalities)
- Explanation:
 - Foreign women have 1.5 child more than the nationals
 - But represent only 7% of the female population of childbearing age
 - the 1.5 additional child accounts only for 7% in the national rate
 - The impact of foreigners on the number of births depends more from the extra number of foreign women than from their extra fertility
- If we take *immigrant* rather than *foreign* women, the contribution to births increases, while the contribution to fertility gets smaller
 - since the immigrants have arrived at an earlier age, they resemble more native French women in terms of fertility

France is the second most prolific country in Europe, just behind Ireland. French fertility rates have been rising steadily since the 90s

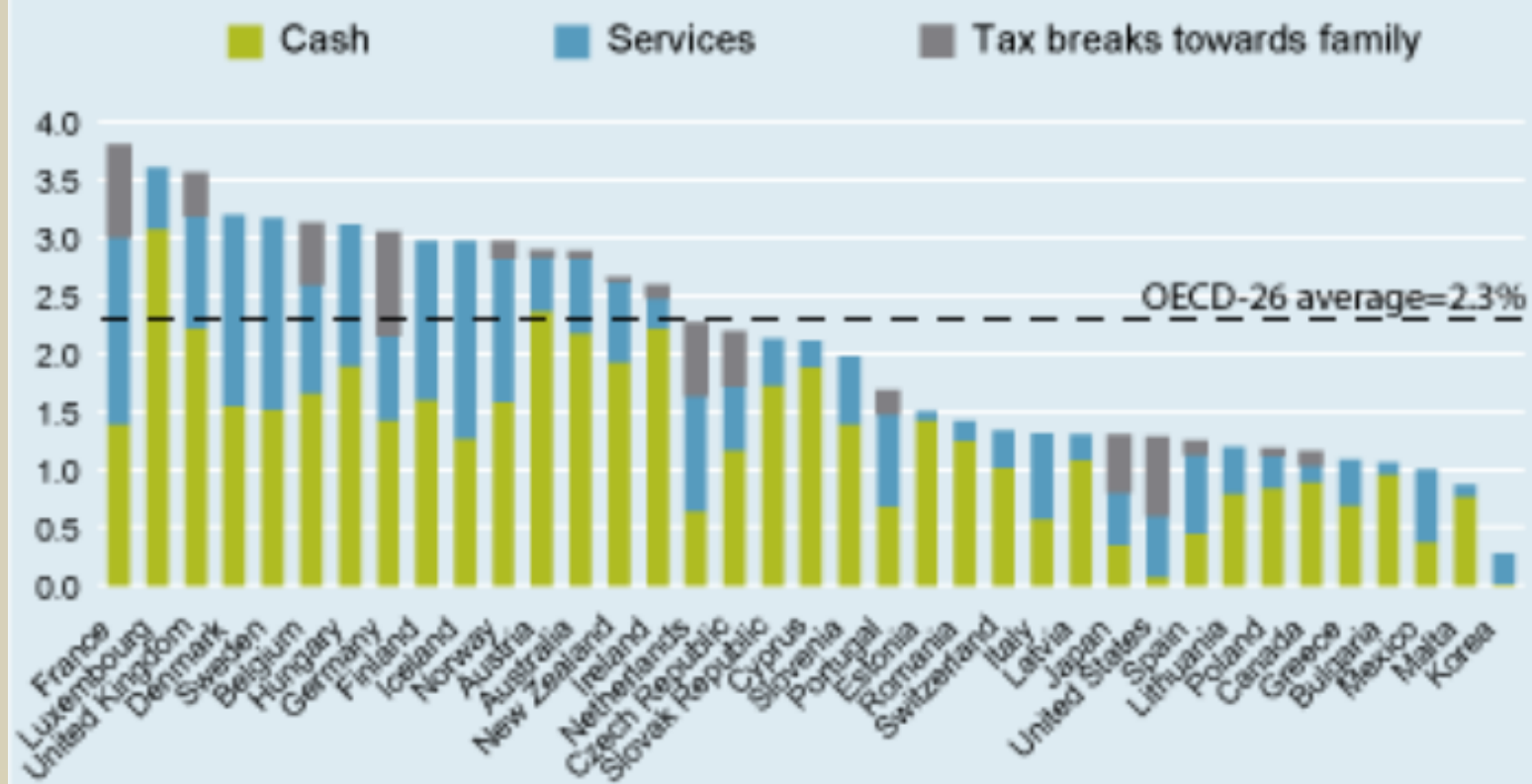
MEAN NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER WOMAN IN 2004



* Estimate or projection

Source: Eurostat

Figure 1: Public spending on family benefits in cash, services and tax measures, in per cent of GDP, 2005



Note: Public support accounted here only concerns public support that is exclusively for families (e.g. child payments and allowances, parental leave benefits and childcare support). Spending recorded in other social policy areas such as health and housing support also assists families, but not exclusively, and is not included here.

Source: Social Expenditure Database (www.oecd.org/els/social/expenditure)

And now on to a question....

- 'Using an example of one country, evaluate the success of its pro-natal policy'. (15)
- You need to answer this question in the form of an essay plan.
- Remember this question involves evaluation.