



After the Second World War, Canada experienced a baby boom followed by a baby bust. The total fertility rate (TFR) peaked at 4.7 births per woman around 1963 and reached a low of 1.5 births per woman in 1976 and has fluctuated between 1.5 and 1.8 births per woman since 1976. While this pattern is common, Canada's recent fertility history is unique. The current TFR is lower than in Nordic or other English-speaking countries but higher than in the very low fertility countries of Europe and East Asia.

Canada's unique fertility pattern appears to result from broad variation across the provinces. The TFR in most provinces declined throughout the 1960s and has been fairly stable since the early 1970s. The exception is Quebec where, after reaching a low of 1.5 births per woman in 1976, the TFR began rising, reaching a high of 4.7 births per woman in 1981 and 1982. This provincial level variation points to several cultural and institutional factors that may have an influence on Canadian fertility.

time for fathers and covers more women than the federal policy because it includes the self employed and has a lower earnings threshold

Since Quebec explicitly reserves some leave for fathers and because the higher maximum benefits make leave more appealing to men fathers in Quebec are much more likely to take parental leave than fathers in the rest of Canada In take up rates were percent in Quebec compared with per cent in the other provinces

A family allowance programme was introduced across Canada in 1947 offering an annual payment of US \$100 per child up to age 13 The same programme in Quebec offers increasing allowances with each successive birth up to US \$100 for the youngest child in a large family

Between 1980 and 1985 the government of Quebec offered an additional non taxable baby bonus reportedly in response to public concerns about low fertility Over the years the amount of the baby bonus steadily increased The programme was replaced in 1986 by an Integrated Child Allowance which is income tested rather than universal expansion of subsidized childcare and more generous parental leave

In 1986 the Quebec government introduced an annual tax credit that by 1990 ranged from US \$100 to US \$200 per child Altogether between 1980 and 1990 family benefits at the federal level increased by a factor of 2 but they increased by a factor of 4 in Quebec

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