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## Emerging Social Issues Division

### Social Policy and Population Section

#### *Asia-Pacific Population Journal*

**Article**     **70 years of Fertility Change in Korea: New Estimates from 1916 to 1985**

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**Abstract**     This article examines the long-term fertility trends in the Republic of Korea by estimating TFR using a uniform methodology that covers both the historical and transitional stages. The Korean experience fits well into the typical broad description of fertility change in the theory of demographic transition. The period before 1960 is the pre-transitional stage when fertility was generally high with small fluctuations. The early 1960s marks the beginning of the downward drift in fertility, which accelerated during the course of the two decades ending in 1976-1980. During the quarter century from 1956-1960 to 1981-1985, TFR declined by 61 per cent. The decline was much faster than that in the developed countries at a similar stage of fertility transition. Thus, this occurrence demonstrates the prospects for rapid fertility decline in the Asian context.

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