

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 37 (1973)  
**Heft:** [6]

**Artikel:** The Swiss birthrate is too low  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942165>

#### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

#### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

#### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 23.02.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

## THE SWISS BIRTHRATE IS TOO LOW

A RECENT full-page report in the "Weltwoche", Switzerland's top quality weekly, expressed concern at the country's diminishing birthrate, which has fallen by 8 percent since 1963. 86,067 babies were born that year, and only 67,384 in 1971. The figures for 1972 are expected to fall by another 5 percent.

The consequences of this trend will make themselves felt in about thirty years time, when a minority of active persons will be supporting a mass of old age pensioners and retired people. There are several other aspects to the situation. The Army, for example, will find it difficult to fill its ranks in a few years time.

While the indigenous Swiss population is actually declining (there are more deaths than births), the alien population is booming; Switzerland's million foreigners have given birth to 30,000 babies in 1971, or nearly half of the number of **Swiss** babies! Sociologists fortunately expect foreign families to follow the Swiss birth-control pattern. In a few years time, the birth rate should be equivalent in both communities as resident-foreigners become more and more integrated both culturally and economically.

According to the "Weltwoche" report, the present fall of the birthrate witnessed in Switzerland (and elsewhere) can't be directly put down to the pill. It seems that the pill has allowed families to have complete control over their new offsprings, something they had wanted to do for a long time but had not been able to achieve owing to the insufficient preventive methods available before the advent of the pill. Switzerland's growing prosperity has also had a direct effect on reducing the birthrate. Prosperity has meant more job opportunities and driven women away from house-keeping. Secondly, the taste of comfort and the easy life has pushed more and more people in to placing priority on a high standard of living, and not on children.

---

### Laugh a little . . .

To reach the mountain Athos one is asked to take a seat in a basket, and one is pulled up the mountain side in this fashion. A tourist is a bit uneasy and asks: "Do you frequently change your rope?"

"Yes, always when it is worn out."

"And how do you know when it is worn out?"

"When it tears."

"And does this happen often?"

"Every two years."

"And when did you change the rope?"

"Three years ago."