



Fig. 1. Age-specific fertility curves of the Belgian population, by birth cohort and year of occurrence (smoothed values<sup>11</sup>)  
 [Source: 1991 Belgian census, 20% sample]

Note: ASF-rates are indicated by a circle, except for ages 24 and 32, where they correspond to a triangle and a diamond, resp.

Figures 1 and 2 were made as an illustration for the changes in fertility of the national population; figures 3 and 4 to illustrate the changes of the migrant populations<sup>12</sup>

The recent fertility decrease has become apparent in most European countries since the sixties and seventies. In most (all?) cases the decline was first observed through a decrease of the (period) Total fertility rate (TFR). As all demographers know, this measure not only depends on a genuine change of the fertility level

<sup>11</sup> Smoothed vales are calculated according to the following formula:

$$X_i \text{ smoothed} = 1/4 \times (X_{i-1}^{\text{obs}} + 2 \times X_i^{\text{obs}} + X_{i+1}^{\text{obs}})$$

<sup>12</sup> The Moroccan and Turkish immigrant populations are the two most important migrant communities in Belgium. Together they correspond to roughly two thirds of all migrants from outside the 15 EU member states.