

# **Fertility Trends and its Ethnic Dimensions in Russia in During the Last Three and Half Decades**

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Over the past 35 years, Russia's Central Statistical Office conducted 7 large-scaled interviewing of Russian women on the number of children born (general population censuses in 1979, 1989, 2002, 2010 and microcensuses in 1985, 1994, 2015). After official termination of processing of vital statistics by ethnicity, only censuses and sample surveys remain a source of information about the ethnic differentiation of fertility. The conclusions are: (1) the historical downward trend of fertility for 32 of 34 nationalities is still valid; (2) the fertility decline occurred most rapidly among ethnic groups who were undergoing through an active phase of the First Demographic Transition; (3) there is the on-going *reduction in ethnic differentiation in fertility in Russia for women in their forties and fifties*. At the same time it is quite possible that recent pronatalist demographic policy since 2006 intensified the youth stimulus to childbearing, especially in ethnic groups, which still have ideals and illustrative examples of large families.