

China moves to boost its birthrate

After decades of limiting most families to just one child, China's decision-making Politburo is allowing couples to have up to three children, after data showed a dramatic decline in births

Number of births (millions)

0.0 Fertility (births per woman)



Mao Zedong



Deng Xiaoping



Xi Jinping

1970-76: Mao's "Late, Long and Few" birth control campaign – two children for urban families, three for rural – cuts population by half

1963: 29.8

1970: 27.5

1976: 18.6

1987: 25.3

1995: 20.6

1990s: Fertility drops below replacement level of 2.1 births per woman

2020: Average number of births falls to 1.3

20.2

1979: 17.3

1979: Leader **Deng Xiaoping** introduces one-child policy to curb China's rapidly growing population

1961: 12.0

1959-61: Famine kills 15-30 million people during **Mao Zedong's** Great Leap Forward

2015: 16.6

2020: 12.0

2015: President **Xi Jinping** scraps one-child policy, replacing it with two-child limit

5.5 6.2 6.3 4.8 3.0 2.5 2.8 1.8 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.3

