

18 November 2011

CHILDHOOD AND DAILY LIFE

■ The context of family life for children and youngsters is changing: between 1998 and 2011 the percentage of minor children without brothers and sisters has risen from 23.8% to 25.7%, while that of those with 2 or more brothers and sisters has fallen from 23.1% to 21.2%. The percentage with only one brother or sister has remained essentially stable, at 53.1%.

■ The number of minor children living with just one parent has doubled, from 6% in 1998 to 12% in 2011.

■ Over the same time period, the percentage of minor children whose fathers work and whose mothers are housewives has fallen from 40.5% to 28.7%. Therefore the percentage of minor children whose parents both work (41.5%) now exceeds that of those whose mothers are housewives.

■ New technologies are the terrain where children's and youngsters' behaviour is changing most quickly. The use of mobile phones is increasing, having almost doubled among 11- to 17-year olds (from 55.6% in 2000 to 92.7% in 2011), and is being transformed into a multimedia tool: the number of 11- to 17-year-olds who use their mobile only to make calls has fallen from 20.3% to 3.9%.

■ The use of Internet has also increased significantly: for the 6- to 17-year old age class it went from 34.3% in 2001 to 64.3% in 2011, while for 11- to 17-year-olds it rose from 47.0% to as high as 82.7%.

■ The percentage of 3- to 5-year-old children who use video games and computers to play has increased: from 19.6% in 1998 to 24.1% in 2011 for boys and from 6.7% to 15.9% for girls.

■ Leading the rankings for favourite toys among 3- to 5-year-olds are more traditional toys: dolls for girls (86.4%), and toy cars, trains and other such toys for boys (77.3%). Among 6- to 10-year-olds the rankings see football (74.2%), followed by video games (65.8%) in first place for boys, and drawing (77.7%) and dolls for girls (67.6%).

■ Compared with 1998, the percentage of children aged between 3 and 10 who play with their parents, with grandparents and with children of the same age has increased. The percentage of children who play with their mother on working days has risen from 32.4% to 57.8%, while the figure has risen from 22.5% to 46.2% with fathers; on Sundays and public holidays the percentage of children who play with their mother has risen from 40.5% to 64.6%, while the figure for fathers has risen from 39.9% to 60.6%.

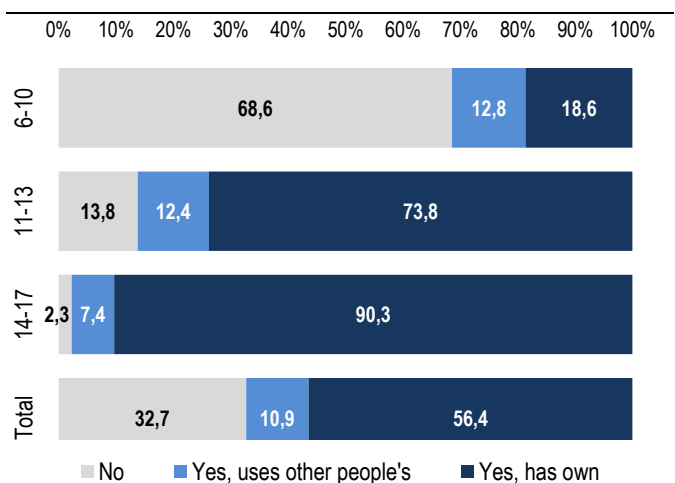
■ Between 1998 and 2011 there has been an increase in the percentage of children aged 6 to 17 who go to the theatre (from 19.9% to 31.6%), who go to the cinema (from 69.2% to 80.2%), who visit museums and exhibitions (from 38.3% to 43.1%), who attend classical music concerts (from 5.7% to 7.9%) or sports events (from 38.7% to 42.1%), and who read books (from 51.6% to 56.9%). However, marked geographical differences persist between North and South with regard to enjoyment of culture.

■ In 2011, 314,000 children aged between 6 and 17 (4.6% of this age group), during the 12 months preceding the interview, did not go to the cinema, did not read books, did not use either a PC or Internet, and did not do any sport. In 2001 the percentage was 7.2%.

■ Between 1998 and 2011 the percentage of children attending extracurricular lessons has increased (from 41% to 51% for children aged 3 to 17), more for girls (from 39.7% to 50.4%) than for boys (from 42.3% to 51.6%).

■ Between 1998 and 2011 the percentage of children and youngsters aged between 6 and 17 who regularly receive money from their parents has fallen (from 35.1% to 25.6%): the most marked fall occurred between 2008 and 2011. The percentage of those who never receive money showed the largest increase: from 30.2% in 1998 to 37.4% in 2011.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNGSTERS AGED 6 TO 17
BY USE OF MOBILE PHONE AND AGE CLASS**
2011, per 100 children and youngsters aged 6 to 17



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