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HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILY TYPES: gradual diversification

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This publication focuses on households (the people who live in the same dwelling) and families (the individuals in a couple or filial relationship within these households), since several families can live under the same roof. In particular, the aim is to understand the stability of these structures and the dynamics of their diversification.

The 2021 census will therefore make it possible to detect these profound yet slow changes in household structure. On the one hand, there are many signs of household diversification, with married couples with children now accounting for just under half of all households. Transformation of the couple, growth in the number of single-parent households, later widowhood and break-ups are all phenomena that the census makes it possible to observe. Other, more complex changes are emerging: while there are fewer children, they are staying with their parents for longer and leaving later than before. The consequences of this are complex and less unambiguous than we might have imagined. Above all, a comparison between households where the reference person was born in Luxembourg and the others shows quite different structures. The overall landscape and dynamics of households confirm the increased diversity of Luxembourg society.

Definitions and method

Households are made up of individuals living in the same dwelling. A distinction must first be made between private households, which account for the majority of the population living in so-called ordinary dwellings, and collective households, those living in collective accommodation (most often in retirement or nursing homes, but also in barracks, prisons, homes for adults, religious communities, etc.).

This document focuses primarily on private households, which include:

- Non-family households with one person living alone: these are known as "single households".
- Single-family households are the most standard form, where all people share direct ties as a couple (whatever the legal status of their cohabitation) or as relatives, with at least one child. In this group, households have one and only one 'family nucleus' that links everyone together: here we mean a couple with or without children, or a lone parent with at least one child (in the latter case, the notion of family nucleus is limited to the relationship between parent and child(ren)). These single-family households may or may not include children, and also include single-parent households. A distinction is made between cases where the children are under 15 ("young children") and also children under 25 living in the household ("dependent children"). In previous censuses, at a time when young adults were leaving their families early, it was customary

to count only young children; in today's context, it is more realistic to include resident children up to and including the age of 24.

- The other households are non-family multiple households (typically flatmates or students sharing a flat), or more complex multi-family households, in which two or more 'family nuclei', made up of people related by blood or marriage, live together in the same dwelling. In this publication, we distinguish between these other households and those with at least one child living at home, and those without.
- It should also be noted that between 2011 and 2021, the definition of multi-family households was slightly different: in 2011, multi-family households included configurations where a single-family household (consisting of a single family nucleus) housed at least one other person. In 2021, however, these configurations are counted as single-family. These variations in definition over time do not appear to affect the trends observed.
- In addition, in this publication, we will cross-reference data by age, gender, level of education and country of birth of residents. Unlike nationality, place of birth does not vary over the course of one's life, enabling us to gain a better understanding of the effects of ageing.
- Finally, we take into account the definition of a 'reference person' in each household, who may be at least one adult who plays a central role in the household. In households with more than one adult, this is the oldest person in the household in a couple and in employment¹.

¹ If the rule results in a tie, the person with the highest level of education is chosen, and if not, a random draw is used to identify a single reference person, regardless of gender.

1.

Group households: a diverse minority

In 2021, a large majority of Luxembourg residents (643,941 people) will be living in private households (632,610), with the remainder in collective households (11,331). Before turning to the heart of this publication, namely private households, we look here at collective households (see definitions), which represent a wide variety of lifestyles and living arrangements. Over the past 40 years, this proportion has been stable (Peltier et al 2013), representing around 1.8% of Luxembourg residents in 2021. This population is slightly more female: 2.0% of women live in collective households and 1.5% of men.

Figure 1. Number of people in collective households by 5-year age group and gender in 2011 and 2021



Source: STATEC RP2021, RP2011

Figure 2. Number of people in collective households by 5-year age group and sex in 2011 and 2020 (Luxembourg-born on the left and foreign-born on the right)



Source: STATEC RP2021, RP2011

The structure by age and sex (figure 1) and by country of birth (figure 2) helps us to understand the specific demographics of these collective households. In 2021, of the 11,331 people in collective households, more than half (5,326) were aged over 65, three-quarters of them women. Most of these people are residents of retirement homes or care homes for the elderly. This figure is slightly lower than the number of beds counted in 2021 (6,422 beds in March), as some of the people concerned continue to declare themselves as residents of their private homes. The over-representation of women can be explained by differential mortality, to the disadvantage of men, and by the fact that the last surviving spouse more often calls on institutions specialising in services for dependent people. In this population, people born in Luxembourg are five times more numerous than others.

Over the intercensal period 2011-2021, the peak in the number of senior citizens living in collective households has shifted towards older ages, as life expectancy has increased. The trend towards a later onset of dependency reflects the population's gains in terms of longevity in relatively good health. In the 85 to 89 age group living in Luxembourg, 21.6% of men and 37.5% of women live in collective households.

For younger people, the major structural change is the disappearance of the peak observed for men aged 20 in 2011, which disappears in 2021. This change is the result of a simple change in the measurement instrument: in 2011, the residents of the Diekirch barracks were counted as a collective household, whereas in 2021, military personnel are counted as members of their private household.

On the other hand, outside this peak, changes in the percentage of young adults living in collective households highlight the development of the reception of refugees living in hostels, whether men, women or children, with a relative increase of around a third for men, and a doubling for women and children. The numbers and percentages involved remain modest: around 1.5% of the population for young adults aged 25-29, and around 0.5% for those aged 50-54.

In the remainder of this publication, we will focus solely on private households.



2. Private households: couples still predominate

The structure of private households shows slow changes, in a rapidly changing demographic context. In November 2021, Luxembourg had a population of 643,941, 632,610 of whom lived in private households. There were 250,325 households in 2021, compared with 208,565 at the 2011 census, representing growth of 20.0%, which is considerable and should be seen in the context of the country's strong demographic growth.

Data from the 2021 census confirms that the majority of households are couples (whatever their legal status: married, in a registered partnership or in a consensual union), with or without children, a configuration that accounts for 63.1% of households. Couples with at least one child living at home account for 31.0% of households, and 22.0% of those without children. The breakdown by person reinforces the relative weight of larger households: 47.9% of Luxembourg residents² live in a household based on a couple with children (table 1).

Over the intercensal period, the strongest growth was in the number of childless couples (whose share of the total increased by 2.2 points), which can be explained above all by gains in the longevity of individuals and therefore by later widowhood, but also by the decline in fertility (Allegrezza, 2024, p18), even if the fact that children remain in their parents' homes at a later age tends to blur the statistical picture. The growth in the proportion of single-parent families (+1.9 points for individuals), formed by so-called "isolated" mothers or fathers, is notable. While women were in the vast majority among single-parent families in 2011, there has been a partial rebalancing between women and men: in 2021, households with lone fathers accounted for 22.8% of single-parent households, compared with 16.3% ten years earlier. This slow change can be explained by the complex choices of where children are domiciled in cases of shared custody.

On the other hand, the proportion of single-person households (where only one person lives) has fallen, while 'other multi-family households' without children (typically non-family multiple households, i.e. shared accommodation for students or young workers) are more common. At the same time, 'other multi-family households' with children, which often correspond to temporary accommodation for acquaintances, friends or more distant family, are less numerous than in 2011.

Overall, the panorama of household models is relatively stable: although single-parent families are growing in importance, the couple with at least one child (the famous "nuclear family" described by sociologist Talcott Parsons in the 1950s) is declining slightly in relative share, but is holding steady. Above all, single-family households (characterised by living as a couple and/or by a direct filial relationship with children) saw their relative share increase by 3.8 points to represent 63.1% of private households, and 76.6% of people, since these households have the largest number of individuals. Of course, within this group, single-parent households and couples without children are driving the trend, and couples with children have fallen slightly in relative terms (-0.2 points). Nevertheless, neither complete solitude nor life in the most complex households is numerically dominant.

² From now on, calculations will be based on the number of people.

Table 1: Types of private households in 2011 and 2021

	Workforce				Percentages			
	People		Households		People		Households	
	2011	2021	2011	2021	2011	2021	2011	2021
Single-person households	69 529	72 289	69 529	72 289	13.8	11.4	33.3	28.9
Single-family households	366 152	484 620	120 856	158 046	72.8	76.6	57.9	63.1
Couples without children	82 188	116 739	41 094	55 151	16.3	18.5	19.7	22.0
Couples with children	242 244	303 332	63 139	77 655	48.1	47.9	30.3	31.0
Lone fathers	6 658	14 053	2 740	5 826	1.3	2.2	1.3	2.3
Lone mothers	35 062	50 496	13 883	19 414	7.0	8.0	6.7	7.8
Other households	67 599	75 701	18 180	19 990	13.4	12.0	8.7	8.0
with child(ren)	41 994	37 495	8 499	6 509	8.3	5.9	4.1	2.6
without children	25 605	38 206	9 681	13 481	5.1	6.0	4.6	5.4
Total	503 280	632 610	208 565	250 325	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
With children	325 958	405 376	88 261	109 404	64.8	64.1	42.3	43.7

Source: STATEC RP2021, RP2011

These changes in households can be interpreted in the light of a combination of sometimes contradictory demographic phenomena:

- an increase in longevity, which reduces the risk of widowhood, a trend that favours couples,
- young people staying at home longer, a phenomenon without which there would be a fall in the proportion of households with children (relatively fewer children staying longer with their parents),
- transformations in family models, with diversification linked to the breakdowns that have led to the increase in single-parent families in particular,
- the housing crisis, which can make multi-family households more complex,
- The arrival of a large number of immigrant families between the two censuses,
- and finally the Covid 19 pandemic, which was still active in November 2021 at the time of the census, and which has particularly affected new migration and the settlement of young adults in independent housing or as couples

All of these phenomena, some of them trendsetting factors, others temporary disruptions, have contributed to the changes observed and may still have an impact on demographic transformations in the future.

The rest of this publication focuses on different dimensions, in particular the characteristics (country of birth, age, qualifications, etc.) of the household's reference person (see definition).

2.1 Native-born and immigrant households

The geographical origin of the reference person, whether born in Luxembourg or not, is a key characteristic of households.

Over ten years, the population of people living in a household where the reference person was born in Luxembourg has remained stable, falling by 0.2% from 251,877 to 247,918, whereas the population living in a household where the reference person was born outside Luxembourg has grown strongly, rising by 55.2% from 251,403 to 384,692, which confirms and even reinforces the findings already made for individuals (Docquier et al., 2023). A comparison between natives and non-natives shows significant differences (table 2).

Firstly, households whose reference person was born abroad are more often couples with children (51.2% compared with 43.0% for native-born households). Conversely, households whose reference person was born in Luxembourg are more likely to be single households, couples without children, or made up of single mothers. Overall, in 2021, households with child(ren) represent a larger proportion of the population of households whose reference person was born abroad than do native-born households (67.7% versus 58.5%, respectively). Differences in the age structure of native-born and foreign-born households, the latter being younger on average, partly explain these differences. Nonetheless, these differences have narrowed over the last 10 years, leading to a convergence confirmed by other studies, such as those on comparative fertility (Allegrezza, 2024, p18).

Table 2: Breakdown of the population by type of private household and country of birth of the reference person in 2011 and 2021 (in %)

	Born in Luxembourg		Born abroad	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
Single-person households	15.0	14.8	12.6	9.2
Single-family households	73.1	76.2	72.4	76.9
Couples without children	20.1	22.0	12.6	16.1
Couples with children	43.4	43.0	52.9	51.2
Lone fathers	1.6	2.2	1.1	2.2
Lone mothers	8.1	8.9	5.9	7.4
Other households	11.9	9.0	15.0	13.9
with child(ren)	6.8	4.4	9.9	6.9
without children	5.1	4.6	5.1	7.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
With children	59.8	58.5	69.7	67.7
Total workforce	251 877	247 918	251 403	384 692

Source: STATEC RP2021, RP2011

Note for the reader: In 2021, 76.2% of respondents living in a household where the reference person was born in France will be living in a single-family household, and 76.9% when the reference person was born abroad.

Similarly, the average number of children in the household (under the age of 25, as specified in the definitions and methods, see box) is higher in households where the reference person was born abroad (table 3): thus, in 2021, these households had an average of 1.2 children, compared with 0.9 for households where the reference person was born in Luxembourg. Similarly, foreign couples with children had an average of 1.9 children at home, compared with an average of 1.6 for those born in Luxembourg. Even though the demographic ratio of minors to the adult population is falling in Luxembourg, as elsewhere in the most developed countries, the average number of children under 25 per household is falling only slightly, as children attending school and young working adults stay longer in their parents' home. On the other hand, native-born households have fewer children, but there is some convergence.

Table 3: Average number of children under 25 by household type and place of birth of the reference person in 2011 and 2021

	Born in Luxembourg		Born abroad		Total	
	2011	2021	2011	2021	2011	2021
Single-family households						
Couples without children	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Couples with children	1.8	1.6	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8
Lone fathers	1.1	0.9	1.4	1.0	1.2	0.9
Lone mothers	1.3	1.1	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.3
Other households						
with child(ren)	1.9	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0
without children	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	1.0	0.9	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1

Source: STATEC RP2021, RP2011

2.2 Living with a partner and having children in the household by age

The diversification of household models can be seen more closely across age groups (table 4 and figure 3). Firstly, people are starting to live as couples later in life: in the 25-34 age groups, for both men and women, the percentage of people living as couples has fallen by almost 5 points (compared with 25% for men aged 25-29), which corresponds to a postponement of the start of living as a couple by almost a year. In mid-life,

in the 40-49 age group, the rate of cohabitation fell by around 2 points. This slight erosion is the result both of couples being formed later in life and, above all, of couples breaking up more frequently. Beyond this, the differential effect of the higher mortality rate among men means that widowers are rarer than widows: men are therefore more likely than women to remain in a couple for the rest of their lives. However, between 2011 and 2021, this form of relative advantage for men in terms of living with a partner into old age has diminished. On the other hand, over the age of 75, women's rate of living with a partner increases, due to widowhood occurring later in life. The effects of longevity and the weakening of couples combine here in a complex way.

Table 4: Percentage of residents living with a partner by age group and sex in 2011 and 2021

	2011		2021		Evolution	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Difference Men	Difference Women
20-24	1.6	3.6	1.2	2.4	-0.3	-1.2
25-29	30.2	45.8	25.2	38.8	-5.0	-7.0
30-34	54.7	65.9	50.0	61.6	-4.8	-4.3
35-39	66.2	72.4	63.2	69.9	-3.0	-2.5
40-44	69.1	73.0	66.6	71.3	-2.5	-1.7
45-49	69.6	71.0	67.0	68.7	-2.5	-2.3
50-54	70.5	70.7	65.8	66.9	-4.7	-3.8
55-59	73.6	70.3	66.2	65.5	-7.3	-4.8
60-64	75.8	68.3	67.8	63.3	-8.1	-5.0
65-69	77.2	62.9	70.8	61.1	-6.4	-1.8
70-74	77.4	54.7	72.4	56.9	-5.0	2.2
75+	71.3	32.0	67.9	34.9	-3.4	2.9
Total	46.1	45.9	44.2	44.7	-1.9	-1.2

Source: STATEC, RP 2021, RP2011

Note for the reader: In 2021, of all residents aged 20 to 24, 1.2% of men and 2.4% of women will be living with a partner.

Figure 3: Percentage of people living with a partner by age group and gender in 2011 and 2021



Source: STATEC, RP2021, RP2011

When we break down the legal forms of couplehood (according to whether people are married, in a registered partnership or in a consensual union), the data highlight a clear diversification in the matrimonial models chosen by couples, particularly among the younger generations (table 5). Below the age of 30, the proportions of the various marital types are far from stable, since many people are not in a couple. However, around the ages of 30 to 34, the percentages seem to more or less level off for the generation in question: with 56.1% of married couples in this age group, compared with 75.1% in 2011, it is possible to speak of a rapid erosion of marriage in favour of registered partnerships and consensual unions. This profile of young adults contrasts with that of the over-60s, where over 90% of couples are married. On the other hand, it is too early to speak of the disappearance of marriage, which remains in the majority in all age groups over 30.

Table 5: Percentage share of different types of marriage among people living with a partner, by age group of reference person in 2011 and 2021

	2011				2021			
	Married	Partnership	Union	Total	Married	Partnership	Union	Total
20-24	45.2	12.5	42.4	100.0	26.6	8.9	64.6	100.0
25-29	59.4	10.8	29.8	100.0	35.8	21.5	42.6	100.0
30-34	75.1	6.3	18.6	100.0	56.1	20.1	23.9	100.0
35-39	83.8	3.4	12.8	100.0	68.5	15.0	16.5	100.0
40-44	88.3	2.4	9.3	100.0	76.0	10.5	13.5	100.0
45-49	92.0	1.6	6.4	100.0	81.6	6.5	11.9	100.0
50-54	93.7	1.3	5.0	100.0	85.2	4.6	10.1	100.0
55-59	95.3	1.0	3.6	100.0	88.9	3.4	7.7	100.0
60-64	96.8	0.7	2.5	100.0	91.5	2.4	6.1	100.0
65-69	97.5	0.6	1.9	100.0	93.7	1.6	4.7	100.0
70-74	97.7	0.6	1.7	100.0	95.0	1.0	3.9	100.0
75+	98.4	0.3	1.3	100.0	96.0	0.5	3.5	100.0
Total	88.1	2.7	9.1	100.0	78.2	8.3	13.5	100.0

Source: STATEC, RP2021, RP2011

Note for the reader: in 2021, 64.6% of couples where the reference person is aged between 20 and 24 will be living in a consensual union, i.e. neither married nor in a registered partnership.

The average number of children in the home (table 6) is another crucial dimension of household life. Here we see a bell-shaped curve peaking between the ages of 40 and 44, corresponding to the age when the last children in the household are born while their elders have not yet left: at this age, couples will have an average of 1.7 children at home in 2021, compared with 1.8 in 2011. In addition, the average number of children in couples in their fifties will rise slightly (0.6 in 2011 and 0.8 in 2021 for the 55-59 age group), in line with the long-term trend towards children being born later in couples' lives, and young adults leaving home later.

Comparing the average number of children under the age of 25 in different types of couple according to their marital model, married couples have the most children on average (1.9 children around the ages of 40-44) and consensual unions the fewest (1.2), with people in partnerships ranking just above (1.3).

2.3 Origins of couple members and average number of children living in the household

Another aspect of household diversification can be seen in the composition of couples according to country of birth: two Luxembourg natives, two foreigners, or one of each, corresponding to mixed origins. Over the generations, it appears that younger age groups have fewer couples of two natives and more couples of two people born abroad, with the proportion of mixed households remaining stable. Thus, between the ages of 40 and 44, in 2021, 61.2% of couples will consist of two immigrants, whereas this percentage was only 46.8% in 2011. By contrast, among the over-70s, native-born couples remain in the majority (50.2% in the 70-74 age group in 2021, compared to 64.0% in 2011). Among the under-50s, native-born households account for between a fifth and a quarter of the various age groups

Table 6: Average number of children under 25 in couples, by marital type and reference person's age group, in 2011 and 2021

	2011				2021			
	Married	Partnership	Union	Total	Married	Partnership	Union	Total
20-24	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.4
25-29	1.1	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.5
30-34	1.4	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.9
35-39	1.8	0.9	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.2	1.0	1.5
40-44	1.9	1.1	1.3	1.8	1.9	1.3	1.2	1.7
45-49	1.7	0.9	1.1	1.7	1.8	1.1	1.1	1.6
50-54	1.2	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.4	0.8	0.9	1.3
55-59	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.8
60-64	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
65-69	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
70-74	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
75+	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	1.1	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.7	1.0

Source: STATEC RP2021, RP2011

Note for the reader: in 2021, married couples where the reference person is aged between 20 and 24 will have an average of 0.8 dependent children, compared with 0.3 if the couple is in a consensual union.

Table 7: Country of birth of members of the couple, by age in 2011 and 2021

	2011				2021			
	Both born abroad	Mixed	Both born in Luxembourg	total	Both born abroad	Mixed	Both born in Luxembourg	Total
20-24	51.4	21.8	26.8	100.0	57.0	20.4	22.6	100.0
25-29	51.1	18.7	30.2	100.0	56.1	18.4	25.5	100.0
30-34	52.8	18.7	28.5	100.0	58.8	17.2	24.0	100.0
35-39	52.7	17.2	30.1	100.0	61.1	16.1	22.8	100.0
40-44	46.8	16.6	36.6	100.0	61.2	16.7	22.1	100.0
45-49	41.6	15.2	43.2	100.0	60.3	16.4	23.3	100.0
50-54	38.0	14.9	47.1	100.0	54.8	15.3	30.0	100.0
55-59	33.8	16.2	49.9	100.0	46.3	15.7	38.0	100.0
60-64	30.2	16.0	53.8	100.0	36.4	16.6	47.0	100.0
65-69	23.5	18.5	58.0	100.0	34.7	16.8	48.5	100.0
70-74	18.2	17.8	64.0	100.0	33.9	15.9	50.2	100.0
75+	13.6	16.9	69.4	100.0	26.5	17.3	56.2	100.0
Total	40.5	16.9	42.7	100.0	51.8	16.5	31.7	100.0

Source : STATEC, RP2021, RP2011

Note for the reader: in 2021, 22.6% of couples aged between 20 and 24 will consist of two people born in Luxembourg, and 57.0% of these couples will consist of two people born abroad.

Here too, variations in the average number of children under 25 living at home (table 8) are the result of a complex combination of the differential fertility of couples and the propensity of children to leave their parents' home at a more or less early age. The resulting differences are consistent with previous findings. Immigrants have more children on average than natives: in the 40-44 age group, 1.8 for foreign-born couples compared with 1.7 for native-born couples. However, the differences are not large.

Table 8: Average number of children under 25 living at home by country of birth of couple and age of reference person in 2011 and 2021

	2011				2021			
	Both born abroad	Mixed	Both born in Luxembourg	total	Both born abroad	Mixed	Both born in Luxembourg	Total
20-24	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
25-29	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5
30-34	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1
35-39	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6
40-44	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.8
45-49	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6
50-54	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
55-59	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6
60-64	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
65-69	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
70-74	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
75+	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	1.3	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.7	1.0

Source : STATEC, RP2021, RP2011

Note for the reader: in 2021, couples aged 20 to 24 made up of two native-born people will have an average of 0.2 dependent children, compared with 0.3 for couples where both were born abroad.

2.4 Educational qualifications, household types and average number of children living in the household

The level of education of the reference person in the household shows a link with the type of household (table 9). Among people born in Luxembourg in particular, higher education graduates are more often in couples with children (51%) than those with fewer qualifications (30.8%). On the other hand, among people born abroad, the percentage differences in household type are small.

Table 9: Proportion (as a percentage) of people by type of private household, level of education and country of birth of the reference person in 2011 and 2021

	2011				2021			
	<Bac	Bac	Superior	total	<Bac	Bac	Superior	Total
Born in Luxembourg								
Single-person households	17.8	15.4	11.1	15.0	22.7	13.6	11.5	14.8
Single-family households	68.7	72.1	79.9	73.1	67.6	76.9	80.6	76.1
Couples without children	25.7	19.2	16.0	20.1	26.5	21.7	19.6	22.0
Couples with children	32.4	42.7	56.4	43.4	30.1	43.1	51.0	43.0
Lone fathers	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2
Lone mothers	9.1	8.6	5.9	8.1	8.8	9.8	7.8	8.9
Other households	13.5	12.5	9.0	11.9	9.7	9.5	7.8	9.0
with child(ren)	7.8	7.2	4.9	6.8	4.6	4.9	3.7	4.4
without children	5.7	5.3	4.1	5.1	5.2	4.6	4.1	4.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
With children	50.8	60.1	68.8	59.8	45.7	60.1	64.8	58.5

	2011				2021			
	<Bac	Bac	Superior	total	<Bac	Bac	Superior	Total
Born abroad								
Single-person households	6.4	18.3	12.0	12.6	8.2	8.7	10.1	9.2
Single-family households	75.3	66.7	77.3	72.4	76.1	76.4	77.7	76.9
Couples without children	11.2	12.8	13.8	12.6	16.1	15.6	16.5	16.1
Couples with children	57.8	45.8	57.3	52.9	50.1	49.9	52.6	51.2
Lone fathers	0.7	1.2	1.2	1.1	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2
Lone mothers	5.5	6.8	4.9	5.9	7.6	8.6	6.5	7.4
Other households	18.3	15.1	10.7	15.0	15.7	15.0	12.1	13.9
with child(ren)	13.7	9.6	5.7	9.9	9.5	7.9	4.7	6.9
without children	4.6	5.5	5.0	5.1	6.2	7.1	7.4	7.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
With children	77.7	63.4	69.2	69.7	69.4	68.7	65.9	67.6

	2011				2021			
	<Bac	Bac	Superior	total	<Bac	Bac	Superior	Total
Total	11.4	16.7	11.6	13.8	13.0	11.2	10.6	11.4
Single-person households	11.4	16.7	11.6	13.8	13.0	11.2	10.6	11.4
Single-family households	72.4	69.7	78.5	72.8	73.3	76.6	78.7	76.6
Couples without children	17.5	16.4	14.9	16.3	19.5	18.8	17.5	18.5
Couples with children	46.7	44.1	56.9	48.1	43.5	46.3	52.1	47.9
Lone fathers	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2
Lone mothers	7.1	7.8	5.4	7.0	8.0	9.3	6.9	8.0
Other households	16.2	13.6	9.9	13.4	13.7	12.1	10.7	12.0
with child(ren)	11.1	8.2	5.4	8.3	7.8	6.3	4.4	5.9
without children	5.1	5.4	4.6	5.1	5.9	5.8	6.3	6.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
With children	66.0	61.6	69.0	64.8	61.6	64.2	65.6	64.1

Source : STATEC RP2021, RP2011.

Note for the reader: in 2021, 11.5% of residents whose reference person was born in Luxembourg and holds a higher education diploma live in a single-person household, compared with 22.7% of those whose level of education is below the Baccalauréat.

2.5 Same-sex couples: greater statistical recognition

Developments in the legal framework governing same-sex couples (notably the 2004 law recognising civil unions in particular of same-sex persons, and above all the 2014 law opening up the possibility of marriage to same-sex couples) are also contributing to the diversification of family models, which is a general feature of advanced post-industrial societies.

Although comparisons over time may be fragile, since there may have been a significant gap, varying over time, between the demographic realities of same-sex couples and their recognition in the census, the 2021 census counted 3,300 people living in a same-sex couple, compared with 826 in 2011 (table 10).

According to the 2021 census, 1.6% of men and 0.7% of women live in same-sex couples.

Compared with 2011, this proportion has tripled among couples. This represents rapid growth, particularly among men under 50, for whom the rate is 2% or more. This trend confirms that, in Luxembourg as in other European countries, same-sex couples are now receiving greater recognition in the census.

2.6 Families and territories

The proportion of households consisting of a couple with at least one child under the age of 25 fell slightly between the two censuses: 30.5% of households in 2011 and 28.9% in 2021 (Map 1).

In 2021, Luxembourg City will have only 18.8% of such families, while municipalities such as Diekirch, Remich, Weiswampach and Mondorf-les-Bains will have around 22%. By contrast, other municipalities on the edge of Luxembourg's urban area, such as Betzdorf, Flaxweiler, Manternach, Garnich, Koerich, Mamer, Mertzig, Consdorf, Waldbillig, Fischbach and Heffingen, all have more than 38% of such families. This territorial structure largely corresponds to the geographical distribution of house dwellings (Paccoud et al. 2024, map 1-A), particularly to the south of the diagonal running from Redange-sur-Attert to Vianden.

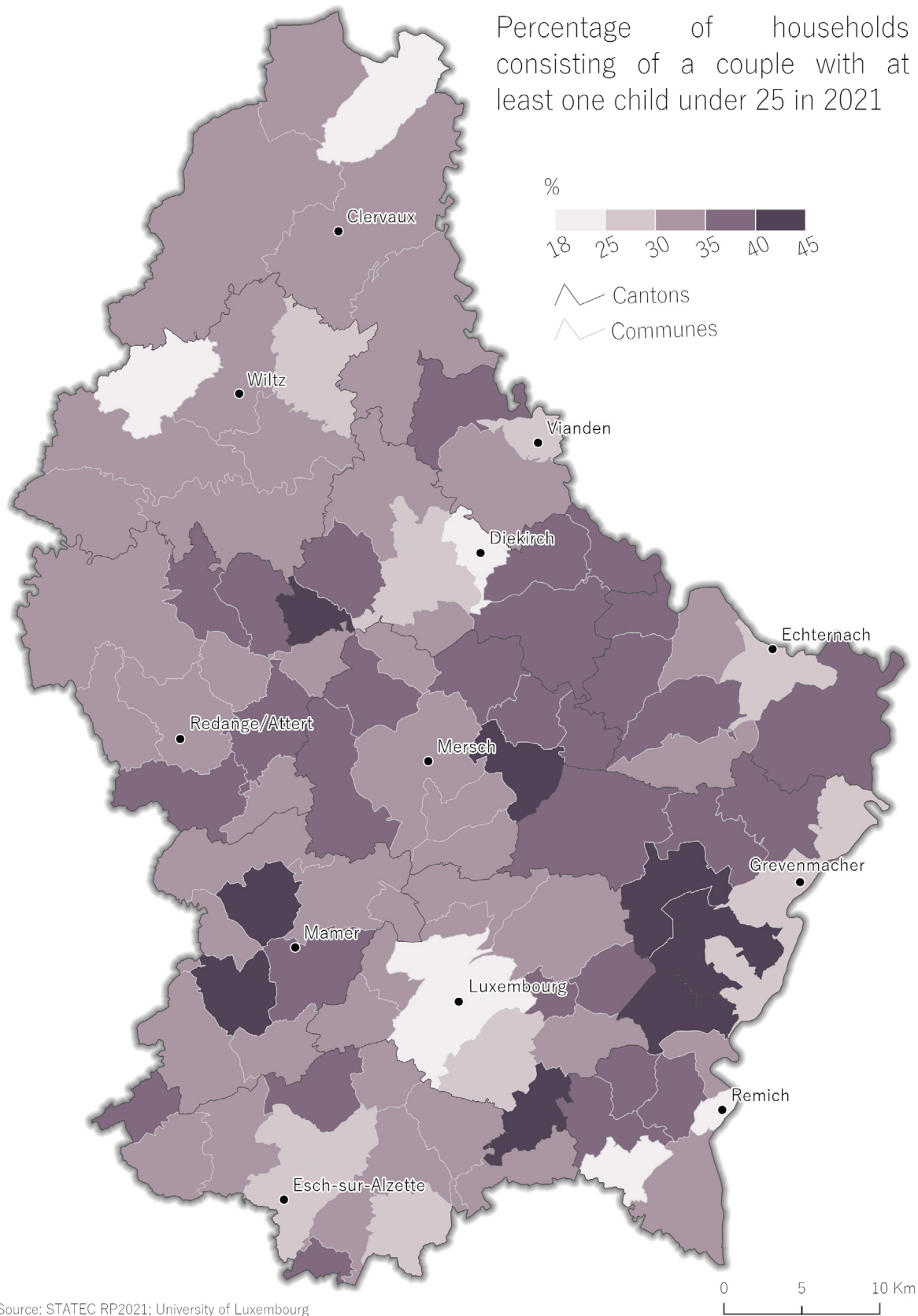
Urban and environmental factors (preference for intermediate densities), as well as economic factors (price per square metre and proximity to jobs), may account for the specific location of families on the edge of dense urban areas in the south of the country, whereas the situations of single people and couples without children are more compatible with living in the city of Luxembourg.

Table 10: People living in same-sex couples (numbers and percentages of people living in couples), by sex in 2011 and 2021

	2011			2021		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Workforce	540	286	826	2 276	1 024	3 300
%	0.5%	0.2%	0.4%	1.6%	0.7%	1.2%

Source: STATEC RP2021,RP2011.

Map 1: Couples with at least one child under 25 by municipality in 2021



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