

# Marriage Case Increase ≠ Birth Rate Increase?

- Japan and France Study on Parenting and Career Issues -

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## Introduction

Japan had the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest birth rate among OECD countries in 2022 (total fertility rate: 1.26)

## Question

How does Japan differ from France which maintains a high fertility rate of 1.79 (2022)?

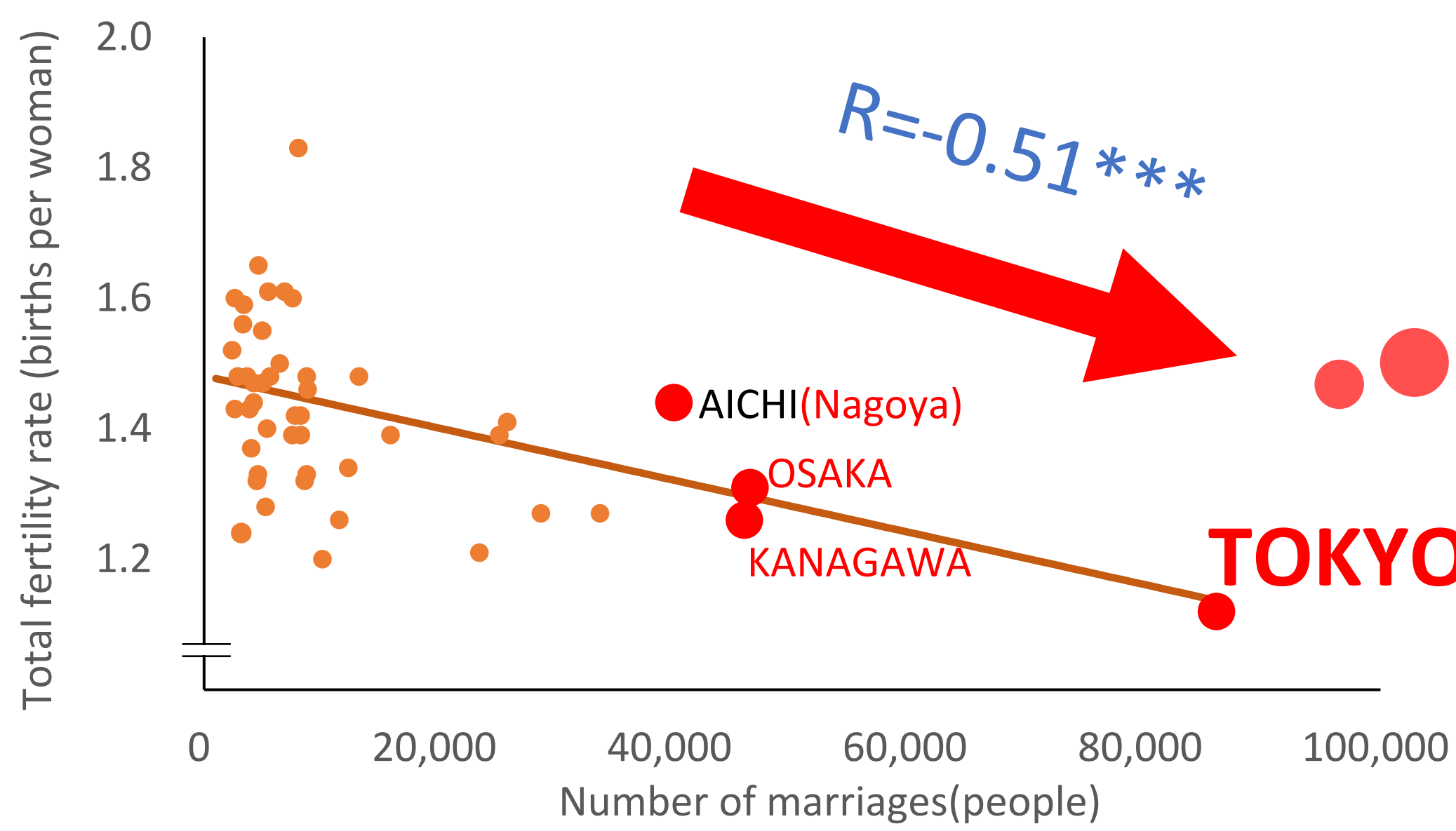
## Data Analysis and Comparison

### Marriage Cases and Total Fertility Rate Correlation

**Japan** 

#### Negative correlation

Bigger the number of marriage cases,  
Lower the total fertility rates



Marriage cases (2019) - Total fertility rate (2020)

R= correlation coefficient, \*\*\*p<0.001

What can be suggested

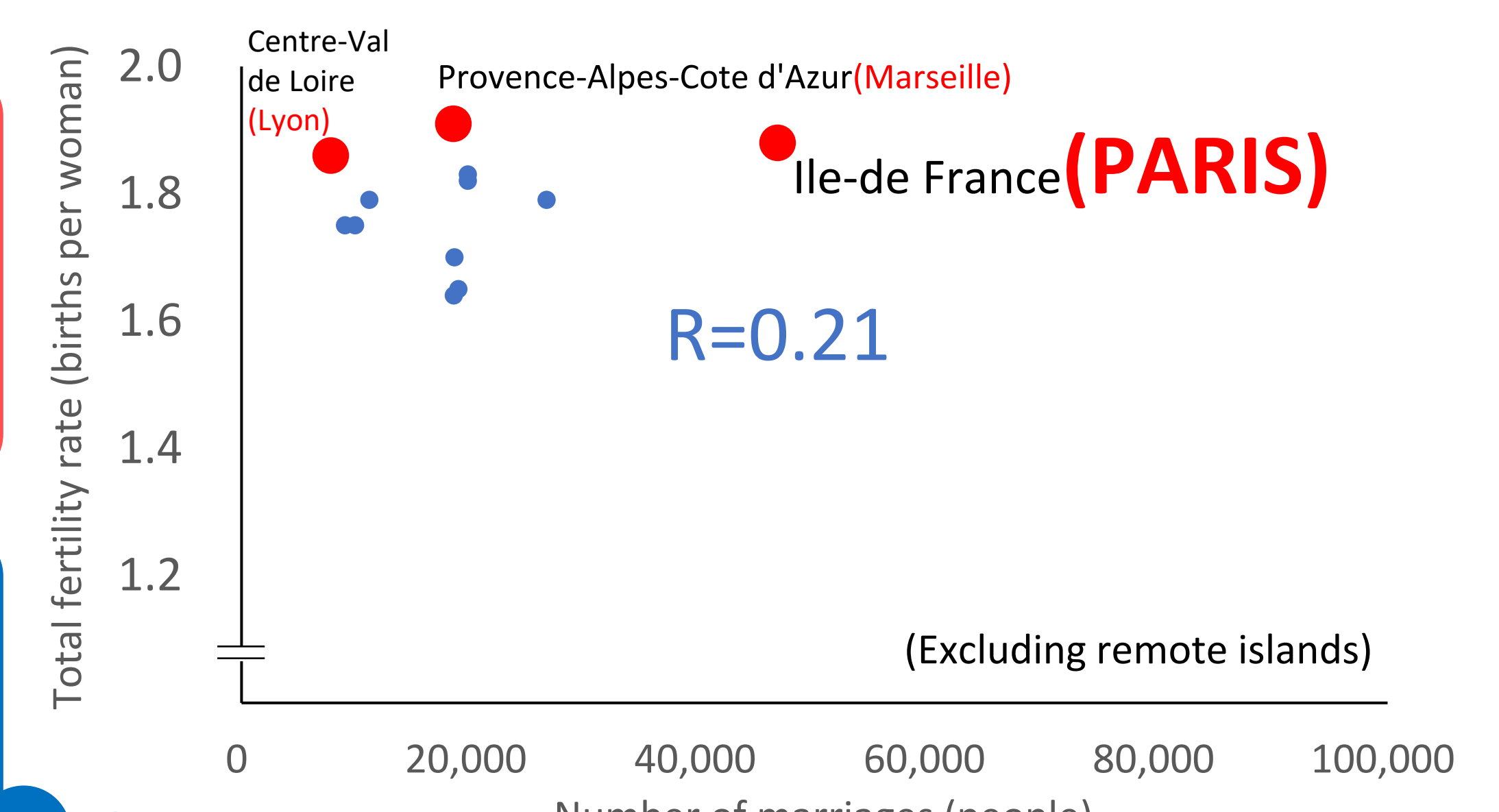
It is more challenging to raise children in urban areas

No major regional differences in the difficulty of raising children

**France** 

#### No correlation

No regional differences in the total fertility rates



Marriage cases (2019) - Total fertility rate (2020)

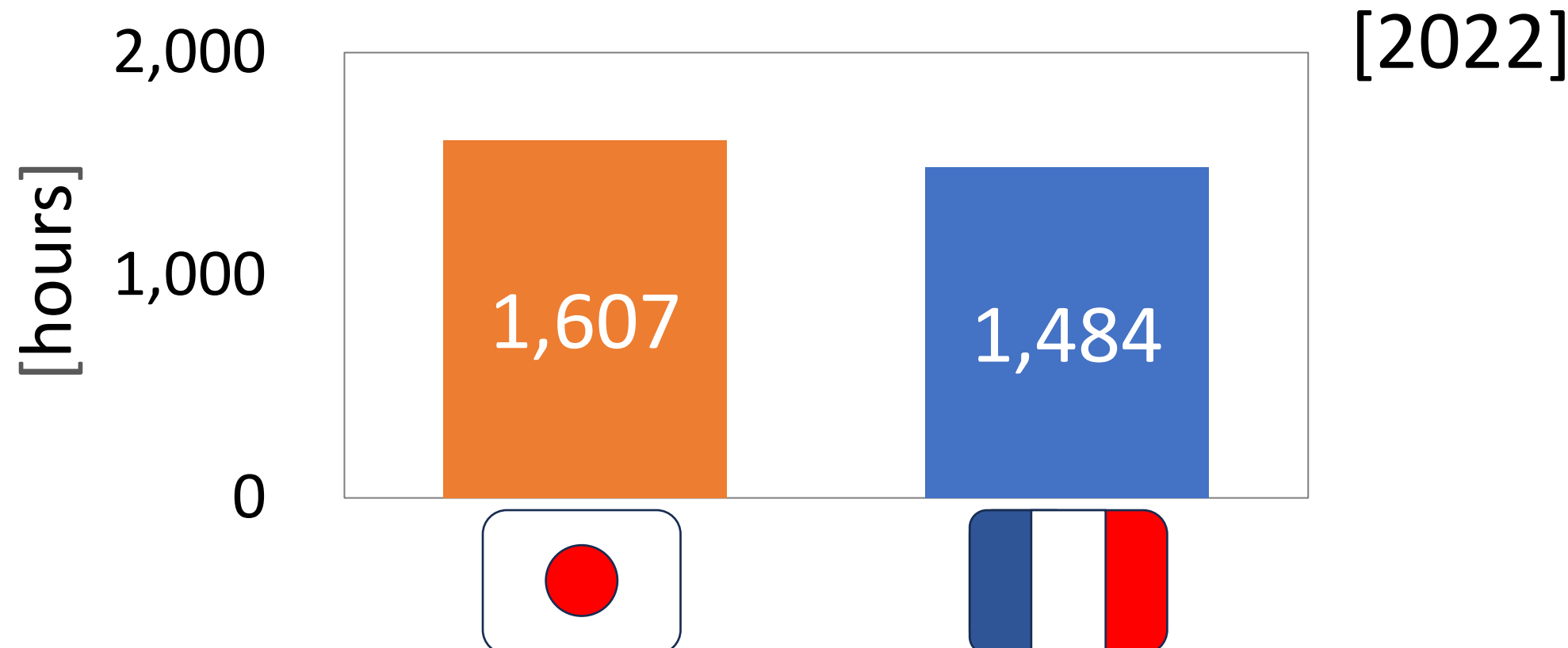
It's hard to keep a work-home balance (especially in urban areas, e.g. Tokyo, Osaka)

Why the difference?

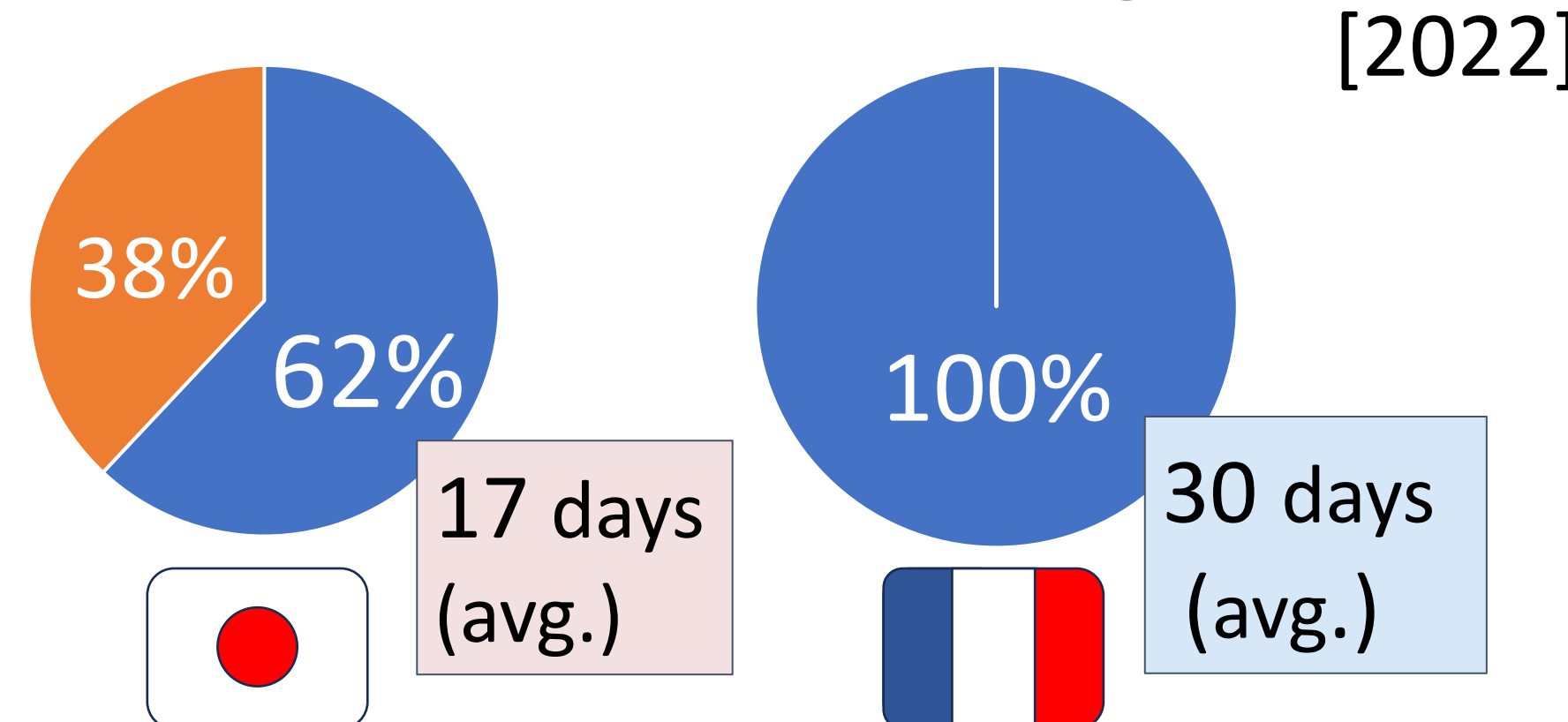
Balancing work and family is less hard (even in urban areas, e.g. Paris, Marseille)

### Comparing Work and Family

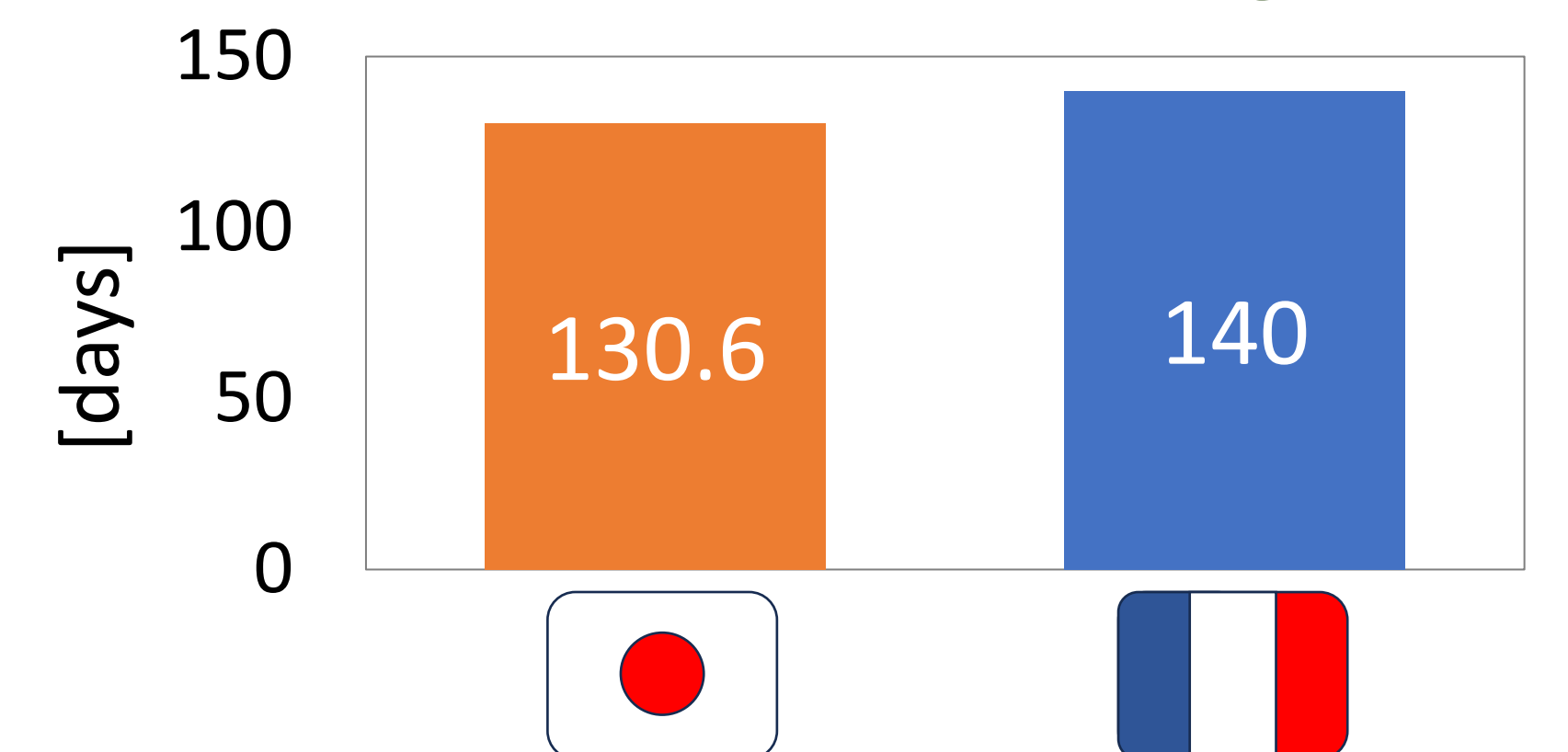
#### Average Annual Work Hours [2022]



#### Paid Leave Consumption [2022]



#### Annual Holidays [2022]



The Japanese work longer and take less time off!

## Literature Review

**Japan**

Reasons why birth rates are falling in both countries

**France**

- Burden of work-home balance
- Difficulty of raising children for unmarried parents
- Changes in individual views on marriage and values
- Financial and mental burden of childcare

- Increased women's age at which they enter the workforce due to higher education levels
- Growing desire for personal liberation for women
- Women take on more household chores than men

## Conclusions and Discussions

- Japan needs **improvement in its workers' work-home balance**
- In today's changing society, a system which supports **people that see value in building a family** is inevitable

### References

Fertility rates | OECD 独立行政法人 統計センター SSDSE-B-2024 (47都道府県×12年次×多分野109項目) Infographie. Dans quelles régions se marie-t-on le plus? France: fertility rate by region | Statista データブック国際労働比較2024 (全文) 【報告書】R4実施状況報告 2023年の合計特殊出生率が1.68に低下 (フランス: 2024年2月) | 労働政策研究・研修機構 (JILPT)