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Modern Parenthood

Roles of Moms and Dads Converge as They Balance Work and Family

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT

Pew Research Center
1615 L St., N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036

Media Inquiries:
202.419.4372
www.pewresearch.org

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Modern Parenthood

Roles of Moms and Dads Converge as They Balance Work and Family

By Kim Parker and Wendy Wang

OVERVIEW

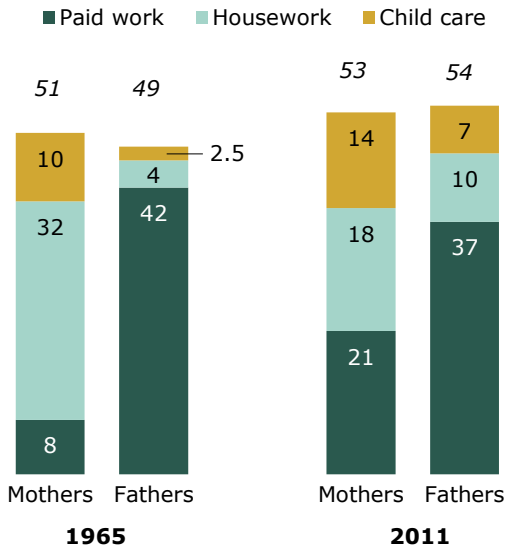
The way mothers and fathers spend their time has changed dramatically in the past half century. Dads are doing more housework and child care; moms more paid work outside the home. Neither has overtaken the other in their "traditional" realms, but their roles are converging, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of long-term data on time use.

At the same time, roughly equal shares of working mothers and fathers report in a new Pew Research Center survey feeling stressed about juggling work and family life: 56% of working moms and 50% of working dads say they find it very or somewhat difficult to balance these responsibilities.

Still, there are important gender role differences. While a nearly equal share of mothers and fathers say they wish they could be at home raising their children rather than working, dads are much more likely than moms to say they want to work full time. And when it comes to what they value most in a job, working fathers place more importance on having a high-paying job, while working mothers are more concerned with having a flexible schedule.[1]

Moms and Dads, 1965-2011: Roles Converge, but Gaps Remain

Average number of hours per week spent on ...



Note: Based on adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household. Total figures (at the top of each bar) may not add to component parts due to rounding.

Source: 1965 data from Table 5A.1-2 in Bianchi, et al. (2006). 2011 data from Pew Research analysis of the American Time Use Survey.

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[1] Unless otherwise noted, references to "parents" and "mothers" or "fathers" throughout this report refer to those with at least one child under the age of 18 and references to "young children" refer to children younger than 18.

However, mothers' attitudes toward work have changed considerably in recent years. Among mothers with children under age 18, the share saying they would prefer to work full time has increased from 20% in 2007 to 32% in 2012. Tough economic times may have ushered in a new mindset, as women in the most difficult financial circumstances are among the most likely to say working full time is the ideal situation for them.

At the same time, the public remains conflicted about what is best for children. Among all adults, only 16% say the ideal situation for a young child is to have a mother who works full time. A plurality of adults (42%) say mothers working part time is ideal, and one-third say it's best for young children if their mothers do not work at all outside of the home.

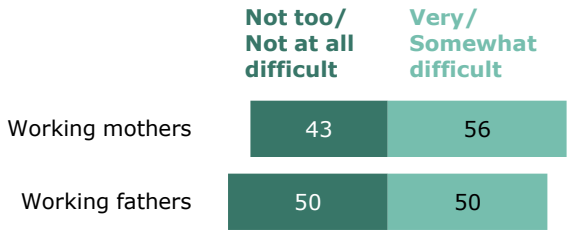
These findings are based on a new Pew Research survey of 2,511 adults nationwide conducted Nov. 28-Dec. 5, 2012, and an analysis of the American Time Use Survey (ATUS). The ATUS, which began in 2003, is a nationally representative telephone survey that measures the amount of time people spend doing various activities throughout the day. It is sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Data collected from 2003 through 2011 include interviews with more than 124,000 respondents. Comparable time diary data are available going back as far as 1965, allowing for an analysis of trends over a nearly 50-year period.[2]

Balancing Work and Family

The Pew Research survey finds that about half (53%) of all working parents with children under age 18 say it is difficult for them to

Work-Family Balance Is Challenging for Moms and Dads

% saying it is ... for them to balance the responsibilities of their job and their family



Notes: Based on mothers and fathers with children under age 18. "Working" refers to full- or part-time employment. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

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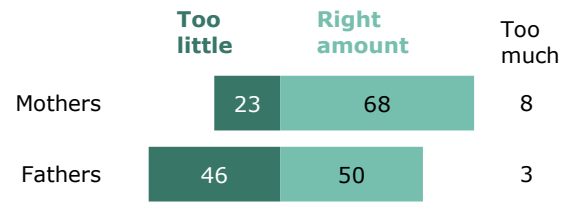
Fathers Conflicted about Time Spent with Children

% saying they spend ... time with their children



Notes: Based on mothers and fathers with children under age 18. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

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[2] Data from 1965 to 2000 are from Suzanne Bianchi, et al., 2006, *Changing Rhythms of American Family Life,* which analyzed time diary surveys conducted before the ATUS was established.

balance the responsibilities of their job with the responsibilities of their family. There is no significant gap in attitudes between mothers and fathers: 56% of mothers and 50% of fathers say juggling work and family life is difficult for them.

Feeling rushed is also a part of everyday life for today's mothers and fathers. Among those with children under age 18, 40% of working mothers and 34% of working fathers say they *always* feel rushed.

With so many demands on their time, many parents wonder whether they are spending the right amount of time with their children. Overall, 33% of parents with children under age 18 say they are not spending enough time with their children. Fathers are much more likely than mothers to feel this way. Some 46% of fathers say they are not spending enough time with their children, compared with 23% of mothers. Analysis of time use data shows that fathers devote significantly less time than mothers to child care (an average of seven hours per week for fathers, compared with 14 hours per week for mothers). Among mothers, 68% say they spend the right amount of time with their children. Only half of fathers say the same. Relatively few mothers (8%) or fathers (3%) say they spend too much time with their children.

Mothers, Fathers and Time Use

A lot has changed for women and men in the 50 years since Betty Friedan wrote "The Feminine Mystique." Women have made major strides in education and employment, and the American workplace has been transformed. But with these changes have come the added pressures of balancing work and family life, for mothers and fathers alike. Trends in time use going back to 1965 clearly show how the increased participation of women in the workforce has affected the amount of time mothers devote to paid work. In 2011, mothers spent, on average, 21 hours per week on paid work, up from eight hours in 1965. Over the same period, the total amount of time mothers spend in non-paid work has gone down somewhat.

For their part, fathers now spend more time engaged in housework and child care than they did half a century ago. And the amount of time they devote to paid work has decreased slightly over that period. Fathers have by no means caught up to mothers in terms of time spent caring for children and doing household chores, but there has been some gender convergence in the way they divide their time between work and home.

Roughly 60% of two-parent households[3] with children under age 18 have two working parents. In those households, on average, fathers spend more time than mothers in paid work, while mothers spend more time on child care and household chores. However, when their paid work is combined with the work they do at home, fathers and mothers are carrying an almost equal workload.

How Do Today's Mothers and Fathers Rate Themselves?

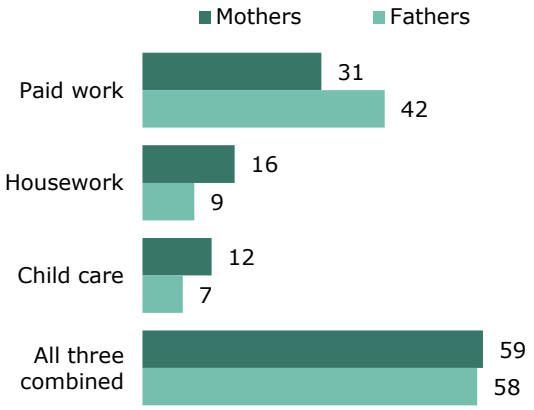
In spite of challenges they face, today's parents give themselves good grades overall for the job they are doing raising their children. Among all parents with children under age 18, 24% say they have done an excellent job, and an additional 45% say they have done a very good job. Some 24% say they have done a good job, and only 6% rate their job as parents as fair or poor.

Mothers give themselves somewhat higher ratings than do fathers: 73% of mothers say they are doing an excellent or very good job as a parent, compared with 64% of fathers.

Working mothers give themselves slightly higher ratings than non-working mothers for the job they are doing as parents. Among mothers with children under age 18 who work full or part time, 78% say they are doing an excellent or very good job as parents. Among mothers who are not employed, 66% say the same.

How Dual-Income Couples Divide Their Time

In dual-income households, average number of hours spent each week on ...



Note: Based on adults ages 18-64 who are currently married or living with a partner, working either full or part time and have their own child(ren) in the household.

Source: Pew Research analysis of the American Time Use Survey, 2003-2011.

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Mothers, Fathers Give Themselves High Ratings for Parenting

% with children under age 18 saying they are doing an "excellent" or "very good" job as parents

Note: "Working" refers to full- or part-time employment.

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[3] In both the Pew Research Survey and the American Time Use Survey, it is possible that some two-parent households are made up of a same-sex couple rather than a mother and father. Due to data limitations, same-sex couples are not analyzed separately.

Other Key Survey Findings

- The rise in the share of mothers saying they would prefer to work full time since 2007 has been more pronounced among working mothers themselves than among those who do not work outside of the home. Fully 37% of today's working mothers say their ideal situation would be to work full time, up from 21% of working mothers in 2007. (Among non-working mothers, the increase from 16% to 22% is not statistically significant.)

- The new Pew Research survey finds a strong correlation between financial well-being and views about the ideal work situation. Among women who say they "don't even have enough to meet basic expenses," about half (47%) say the ideal situation for them is to work full time. By contrast, only 31% of women who say they "live comfortably" say working full time is their ideal situation.

- Marital status is also strongly linked to views about the ideal work situation, and the gap in views between married and unmarried mothers has widened significantly in recent years. Among unmarried mothers, about half (49%) say working full time would be their ideal. This is up dramatically from 26% who said the same in 2007. Only 23% of married mothers today say their ideal situation would be to work full time, basically unchanged from 2007.

- A plurality of mothers (45%) and about four-in-ten fathers (41%) say the best thing for a young child is to have a mother who works part time. Relatively few (16%) say having a mother who works full time is best for children. Mothers' views about this have remained relatively consistent over the past few years, while fathers' attitudes have changed significantly. In 2009, 54% of fathers with children under age 17 said the ideal situation for young children was to have a mother who did not work at all outside the home; today only 37% of fathers say that—a drop of 17 percentage points.

- When asked how difficult it is for them to balance the responsibilities of work and family life, 16% of working mothers and 15% of working fathers say it is very difficult. Overall, 56% of working mothers and 50% of working fathers say it's either very or somewhat difficult for them to balance work and family.

- Whether parents feel they spend enough time with their children has a big impact on how they evaluate their parenting. Parents who think they spend the right amount of time with their children are about three times as likely as parents who say they spend too little time with their children to say they are doing an excellent job parenting (30% vs. 11%).

- Among mothers with children under age 18, married moms are happier overall than unmarried moms. Fully 43% of married mothers say they are very happy with their life these days; only 23% of unmarried mothers say the same. There is also a significant gap in happiness between working and non-working mothers: 45% of non-working mothers say they are very happy, compared with 31% of mothers who work either full or part time. When other factors (race, ethnicity, income and education) are taken into account, marriage is a significant predictor of a mother's happiness while employment status is not.

Other Key Time Use Findings

- The amount of time parents spend with their children continues to go up. Fathers have nearly tripled their time with children since 1965. Mothers' time with children has also increased, and today's mothers spend more time with their children than mothers did in the 1960s. There is still a large gender gap in time spent with children: Mothers spend about twice as much time with their children as fathers do (13.5 hours per week for mothers in 2011, compared with 7.3 hours for fathers).

- The amount of time parents spent doing housework has changed significantly too. Fathers' time spent doing household chores has more than doubled since 1965 (from an average of about four hours per week to about 10 hours). Mothers' time doing housework has gone down significantly over the same period (from 32 hours per week to 18).

- Married parents spend more time at work than unmarried parents, counting housework, child care and paid work together, and have less leisure time than other parents. Married parents are also more egalitarian than cohabiting couples. Married fathers' time in paid and unpaid work totals about 55.5 hours per week, 1.4 hours more than that of married mothers. Yet the total work hours for cohabiting fathers are almost three hours less than that of cohabiting mothers.

- When paid work, child care and housework are combined, parents in dual-income households have a more equal division of labor than parents in single-earner households. In dual-income households, fathers put in, on average, 58 hours of total work time a week, compared with 59 hours for mothers. In households where the father is the sole breadwinner, his total workload exceeds that of his spouse or partner by roughly 11 hours (57 vs. 46 hours per week). In households where the mother is the sole breadwinner, her total workload exceeds that of her spouse or partner by about 25 hours (58 vs. 33 hours per week).

- Men spend more time than women in leisure activities (such as watching TV, playing games, socializing and exercising). The gender gap in leisure time is bigger among men and women who do not have children in the house (37 hours per week for men vs. 32 hours per week for women). Among parents with children under age 18, fathers spend, on average, 28 hours per week on leisure activities, while mothers spend 25 hours on leisure.

Roadmap to the Report

The report is divided into two main sections. Section I, *Public Opinion Survey Findings*, is based mainly on the new Pew Research survey and includes three chapters. **Chapter 1** looks at women's growing presence in the labor market and explores changing attitudes about work. **Chapter 2** looks at the challenges mothers and fathers face in attempting to balance work and family life. **Chapter 3** explores how these challenges are affecting parents—both in terms of their overall happiness and in how they evaluate the job they are doing raising their children.

Section II of the report, *Time Use Findings*, primarily draws from time use surveys and includes public opinion questions related to time use when available. **Chapter 4** provides an overview of how mothers and fathers spend their time in the workplace and at home and how they feel about their time. **Chapter 5** goes into detail about the long-term trend in time use among men and women—and fathers and mothers—over the past five decades. **Chapter 6** looks at current time use patterns among parents of different family types and living arrangements.

Acknowledgements

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and demographic research for the report. Cary Funk, Senior Researcher at Pew Research's Forum on Religion and Public Life, helped with data analysis.

About the Data

Findings in this report are based on two main data sources: (1) Pew Research Center surveys conducted in 2007 and 2012 and (2) time use data collected from 1965 to 2011.

Public Opinion Surveys: The latest Pew Research survey was conducted Nov. 28 to Dec. 5, 2012, with a nationally representative sample of 2,511 adults age 18 and older, including 353 mothers and 290 fathers with at least one child under age 18. A total of 1,506 interviews were completed with respondents contacted by landline telephone and 1,005 with those contacted on their cellular phone. Data are weighted to produce a final sample that is representative of the general population of adults in the United States. Survey interviews were conducted in English and Spanish under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. Margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2.2 percentage points for results based on the total sample at the 95% confidence level.

The report also draws on findings from a previous Pew Research Center survey. That survey was conducted Feb. 16 to March 14, 2007, with a nationally representative sample of 2,020 adults age 18 and older. All interviews were conducted by landline telephone. Data were weighted to produce a final sample that was representative of the general population of adults in the continental United States. Survey interviews were conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International, in English and Spanish. Margin of sampling error was plus or minus 2.8 percentage points for results based on the total sample at the 95% confidence level.

Time Use Surveys: Different from the standard survey questions that ask people to estimate how much time they spend on doing different activities, Time diary/Time use surveys record respondents' activities sequentially, including the starting and ending times for each, over a specific time period (usually 24 hours). The time use findings presented in Section II are primarily based on the American Time Use Survey (ATUS), the nation's largest survey on time use and the only federal survey providing such data. It was launched in 2003 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The ATUS sample is nationally representative and drawn from the Current Population Survey (CPS). The ATUS interviews a randomly selected individual age 15 or older from a subset of the households that complete their eighth and last interview from the CPS. Interviews are conducted over the telephone. The monthly sample is divided into four randomly selected panels, one for each week of the month. It is also split evenly between weekdays and weekends. The ATUS data files are released annually. The response rate for each year has been above 50% since the survey started in 2003. For more information on the ATUS methodology, see http://www.bls.gov/tus/atususersguide.pdf.

The Pew Research Center analyses are based on the yearly ATUS data from 2003 to 2011. To increase the sample sizes for parents in different types of families, ATUS data from 2003 to 2011 are pooled and analyzed. The sample size for working-age parents with children under age 18 at home is 46,483: 18,865 fathers and 27,618 mothers. The data are weighted to adjust for nonresponse, oversampling and the weekend and weekday distribution. The ATUS data files were downloaded from ATUS-X (www.atusdata.org).*

Historical time use findings prior to 2003 are drawn from Bianchi, Robinson and Milkie (2006),Table 5A.1-2, who analyzed the following datasets: 1965-66 Americans' Use of Time Study; the 1975-76 Time Use in Economic and Social Accounts; 1985 Americans' Use of Time; the 1995 Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Study; and the combined file of the 1998-99 Family Interaction, Social Capital and Trends in Time Use Study, and the 2000 National Survey of Parents.

* Katharine G. Abraham, Sarah M. Flood, Matthew Sobek, and Betsy Thorn. 2011. American Time Use Survey Data Extract System: Version 2.4 [Machine-readable database]. Maryland Population Research Center, University of Maryland, College Park, and Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

SECTION I: PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY FINDINGS

CHAPTER 1: CHANGING VIEWS ABOUT WORK

Much of the change in the way mothers and fathers spend their time has been driven by women's growing presence in the workplace. And the pressures of modern parenthood are inextricably linked to the competing demands of work and home life that face both mothers and fathers today.

Although they have reached near parity with men in terms of their representation in the labor force, many women, especially mothers, still wrestle with what their "ideal" situation would be—working or not working, working full time vs. part time. Since 2007, there has been a significant spike in the share of mothers who say working full time would be ideal for them. This chapter will explore mothers' changing views about work and what the public believes is best for children. It will also look at what mothers and fathers value most in a job.

Women in the Labor Force

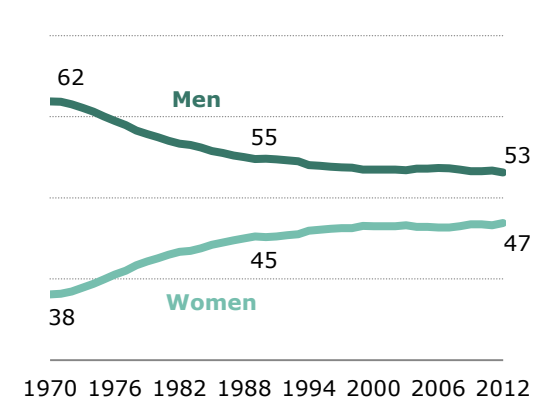
Today women make up almost half (47%) of the U.S. labor force, up from 38% in 1970. Women's share in the labor force rose steadily from 1970 to about 1990. It leveled off in the mid-1990s and has remained relatively stable since then.

In 2012, 68% of women ages 16 to 64 were in the labor force—that is, they were either employed full or part time or unemployed but looking for work. This compares with 79% of working-age men.

Among mothers with children—especially those with school-aged children—a slightly higher share is in the labor force. Among all mothers with children younger than 18, 71% are labor force participants. That share is higher still for mothers with children ages 6 to 17 (76%) but somewhat lower for those with very young children (65%).

Women and Men Approach Parity in the Labor Force, 1970-2012

Share of labor force that is men, women



Note: Annual averages based on civilian noninstitutional population ages 16 and older. For changes to the Current Population Survey (CPS) over time, see www.bls.gov/cps/eetech_methods.pdf.

Source: For 1970-2011, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Women in the Labor Force: A Databook," Table 2, February 2013. For 2012, Pew Research Center tabulations of Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

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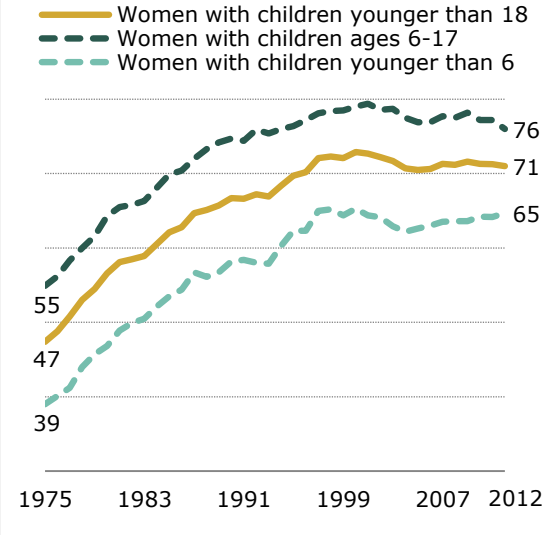
The share of mothers in the labor force increased sharply from 1975 to 2000. Only 39% of women with children under the age of six were in the labor force in 1975; by 2000 the share had risen to 65%.

While a plurality of today's mothers (47%) say their ideal situation would be to work part time, in reality most working mothers are employed full time. Among all mothers with children younger than 18 in 2012, 51% had worked full time in the previous year, 19% worked part time and 29% did not work at all.[4]

Mothers in the Labor Force

% of ... in the labor force



Note: Children include biological children, as well as stepchildren and adopted children. Data from 1994 on are not directly comparable with data for 1993 and earlier because of the introduction of a major redesign of the Current Population Survey (CPS).

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Women in the Labor Force: A Databook," Table 7, February 2013. For 2012, Pew Research Center tabulations of March 2012 Current Population Survey

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Mothers' Views about Work Change with the Times

Mothers' views about whether and how much they would like to work have changed significantly in the recent years. Compared with 2007, more mothers now say working full time would be ideal for them, and significantly fewer say not working at all would be ideal.

However, this change may be more a reaction to outside forces than a natural evolution of views. The Pew Research Center has measured this on three separate occasions over the past 15 years, and at each point in time, women have expressed a different set of attitudes. Between 1997 and 2007, the share of mothers with children younger than 18 who said their ideal situation was to work full time fell significantly, from 30% to 20%.[5] Over that same 10-year period, the share of mothers who said they would prefer to work part time went from 44% to 50% (not a statistically significant change). And the share saying their ideal situation would be to not work at all stayed largely unchanged (26% in 1997 and 29% in 2007).

[4] Based on Pew Research Center tabulations of 2012 March Current Population Survey. Employment status of mothers is based on the number of hours per week that they usually worked during the previous calendar year. Full-time work is defined as 35 hours per week or more.

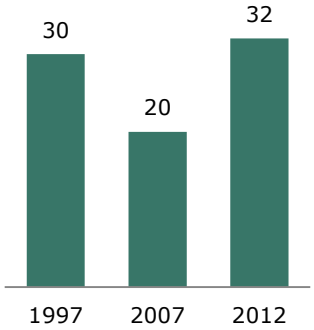
[5] In 1997, the question was based on respondents with children younger than 18 living in the household.

Between 2007 and 2012, mothers' views about full-time work moved in the opposite direction. The share saying that full-time work would be ideal for them rose sharply, from 20% to 32%, while the share saying they would prefer not to work at all fell from 29% to 20%. The share opting for part-time work did not change significantly (50% in 2007 and 47% in 2012).

There was no clear explanation for the change in attitudes from 1997 to 2007, but the more recent shift occurred during one of the most difficult economic periods in recent history. The Great Recession, which officially started in December 2007 and ended in June 2009, had an impact on mothers and fathers alike. A Pew Research survey conducted in May 2010 found that among all adults in the labor force, more than half (55%) had experienced some type of work-related hardship during the recession—a spell of unemployment, a cut in pay, a reduction in hours or a forced move to part-time work. These experiences may have helped to reshape mothers' views toward work.[6]

Full-Time Work More Appealing in Post-Recession Era

% of mothers with children under age 18 saying their ideal situation would be to work full time



Note: For 1997, n=457; for 2007, n=414, for 2012, n=353.

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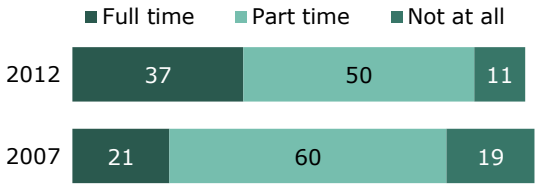
More Working Mothers Now Prefer Full-Time Work

The recent shift toward a preference for full-time work has been more pronounced among working mothers themselves than among those who are not employed. Fully 37% of today's working mothers say their ideal situation would be to work full time, up from 21% of working mothers in 2007. (Among non-working mothers, the increase from 16% to 22% is not statistically significant.)

Rising Share of Working Mothers Prefer Full-Time Work

% of working mothers with children under age 18 saying their ideal situation would be to work ...



Notes: Working mothers include those who work either full or part time. For 2012, n=229; for 2007, n=259. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

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[6] For a more detailed discussion of the impact of the Great Recession, see Pew Research Center. 2010. "How the Great Recession Has Changed Life in America." Social & Demographic Trends project. June.

Only 11% of working mothers say their ideal situation would be not to work at all, down from 19% in 2007. Part-time work remains the most appealing option for working mothers; 50% now say working part time would be ideal for them, down marginally from 60% in 2007.

Among mothers who do not work outside the home, in 2007, roughly half (48%) said not working was their ideal situation. Today only 36% of these mothers say the same. The share saying they would prefer to work either full or part time has increased slightly over the same period (from 49% in 2007 to 63% now).

For their part, fathers prefer full-time work. Fully 75% of fathers with children under age 18 say working full time is ideal for them. Some 15% say working part time would be ideal, and 10% say they would prefer not to work at all. In general, fathers' views about what is ideal for them have not changed significantly in recent years. In 2007, 72% of fathers with children under age 18 said working full time would be ideal for them, 12% said they would like to work part time and 16% said they would prefer not to work at all.

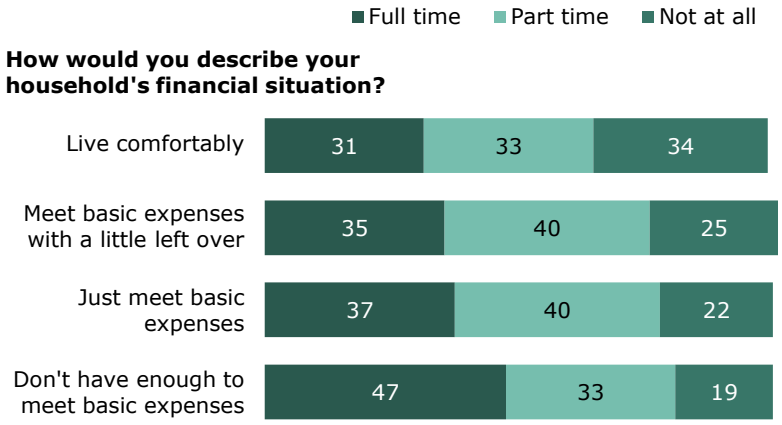
Tough Economic Times and Changing Attitudes about Work

The new Pew Research survey finds a strong correlation between financial well-being and views about the ideal work situation, particularly among women. Respondents were asked to describe their household's financial situation, and among women who say they "don't even have enough to meet basic expenses," nearly half (47%) say the ideal situation for them is to work full time.

By contrast, among women who say they "live comfortably" only 31% say working full time is their

Financial Well-Being Linked to Views on Ideal Work Situation

% of women saying their ideal situation would be to work ...



Notes: Figures are based on all women rather than mothers because sample sizes among mothers were too small to analyze. For "Live comfortably," n=487; "Meet basic expenses with a little left over," n=424; "Just meet basic expenses," n=329; "Don't have enough to meet basic expenses," n=129.

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ideal situation. Fully one-third (34%) of this group says not working at all would be ideal for them. Women who say they can meet their basic expenses but do not live comfortably are more evenly split between whether working full time or working part time would be ideal for them.

Similarly, income is tied to mothers' views about what is ideal for them. Some 40% of mothers with annual family incomes of less than $50,000 say full-time work would be best for them, compared with 25% of mothers with incomes of $50,000 or higher.

Mothers and the Marriage Gap

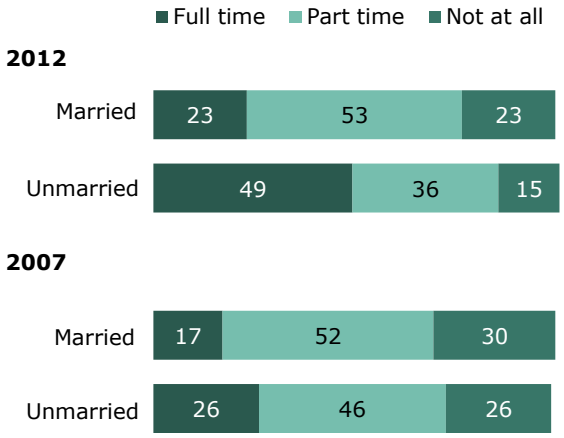
Marital status is also strongly related to views about the ideal work situation, and the gap in views between married and unmarried mothers has widened significantly in recent years. For married mothers with children under age 18, working part time is the most desirable situation—53% say this would be ideal for them. About one-in-four married mothers (23%) say their ideal situation would be to work full time, not significantly different from the share saying this in 2007 (17%).

Among unmarried mothers, about half (49%) say working full time would be their ideal. This is up dramatically from 26% who said the same in 2007. About one-third (36%) of unmarried moms say they would ideally like to work part time, and only 15% say what would be ideal for them would be not working at all.

As a group, unmarried mothers find themselves in a much different financial situation than married mothers. Only 15% of unmarried mothers with children younger than 18 say their family income was $50,000 or higher last year. By contrast, among married mothers, 62% report having an annual family

Married, Unmarried Mothers Differ Sharply over What Is 'Ideal'

% of mothers with children under age 18 saying their ideal situation would be to work …



Notes: For 2012, married n=237, unmarried n=113; for 2007, married n=260, unmarried=152.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER IDEAL

Big Income Gap between Married, Unmarried Mothers

% of mothers saying their family income was … last year

	Married	Unmarried
Less than $30,000	19	**61**
$30,000-$49,999	10	21
$50,000 or higher	**62**	15

Notes: Based on mothers with children under age 18. For married mothers, n=237; for unmarried mothers, n=113. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER INCOME

income of $50,000 or higher. Among unmarried mothers, fully 61% say their income was below $30,000 last year. This compares with 19% among married mothers. This suggests that choosing full-time work may be more of an economic necessity than a lifestyle choice, especially for unmarried mothers.

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the share of single mothers has been steadily rising over the past 50 years. In 1960, only 8% of mothers with children in their custody were single mothers. Today, about three-in-ten (31%) mothers are unmarried.[7]

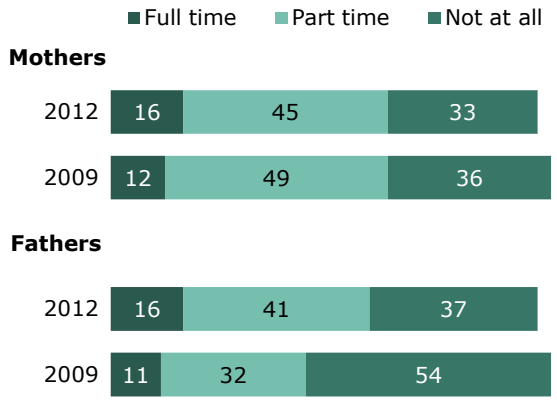
What's Ideal for Children?

There remains somewhat of a disconnect between what mothers describe as their ideal work situation and what society says is ideal for children. While 32% of mothers with children under age 18 say they would prefer to work full time, only 16% of all adults say having a mother who works full time is ideal for a young child. A plurality of adults (42%) say having a mother who works part time is ideal for a young child, and one-third say having a mother who doesn't work at all is ideal. The public's views on this have changed somewhat since 2009, when 43% of all adults said the ideal situation for a young child was to have a mother who doesn't work at all.

Mothers and fathers are largely in agreement on what is best for young children. Mothers' views about this have remained relatively consistent over the past few years, while fathers' attitudes have changed. In 2009, 54% of fathers with children under age 17 said the ideal situation for young children was to have a mother who did not work at all. Today only 37% of fathers with children under age 18 say this—a drop of 17 percentage points.

Fathers Rethinking What's Best for Children

% of mothers/fathers saying the ideal situation for young children is to have a mother who works ...



Notes: For 2012, mothers n=353, fathers n=290; For 2009, mothers n=192, fathers n=191. 2012 figures are based on parents with children under age 18; 2009 figures are based on parents with children under age 17.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q37

[7] Based on Pew Research Center tabulations of 1960 Census (5% IPUMS) and 2011 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS). Percentages are based on women ages 18 and older. "Children" includes biological, adopted or stepchildren living with the mother.

Mothers' views about what is best for children differ widely depending on their own circumstances. Mothers who are employed full time are much more likely than mothers who do not work to say having a working mother is ideal for a young child (75% vs. 44%). Even so, most full-time working mothers don't endorse their own situation. Only 22% say having a mother who works full time is best for a young child, while 53% say having a mother who works part time is ideal. About one-in-five (19%) mothers who work full time say having a mother who doesn't work at all is best for a child.

Mothers who don't work have a much different view. Fully half (51%) say having a mother who stays home is ideal for a young child. Only 11% say having a full-time working mother is ideal, and 32% say having a mother who works part time is the best situation for a young child.

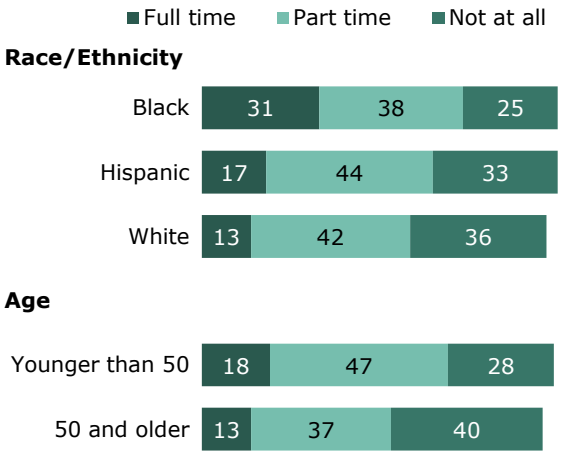
Views on What's Best for Children Differ by Race, Age

Among all adults, blacks (31%) are much more likely than whites (13%) to say that the ideal situation for young children is to have a mother who works full time. Only one-in-four blacks say it's best for young children if their mother does not work at all outside the home; this compares with 36% of whites. The gap on this issue between black men and white men is particularly large. While 40% of white men say the ideal situation for a young child is to have a mother who stays home, only 21% of black men agree. The views of Hispanics are similar to those of whites.

There is also an age gap in views about what's best for children. Adults under age 50 are more likely than those ages 50 and older to say having a working mother is the best thing for a young child. Some 18% of those under age 50 say having a mother who works full time is the ideal situation for a young child, and an additional 47% say having a mother who works part time is ideal.

Race and Age Gaps in Views about Ideal Situation for Children

% saying the ideal situation for a young child is having a mother who works ...



Note: Blacks and whites include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q37

By contrast, among those ages 50 and older, only 13% say having a full-time working mother is ideal for children, and 37% say having a mother who works part time would be best. Fully 40% of those ages 50 and older say the ideal situation for a young child is to have a mother who doesn't work at all outside the home. Only 28% of adults under age 50 agree. The age differences are more pronounced among men than among women.

What's Ideal for Mothers and Fathers with Young Children?

Survey respondents were also asked what the ideal situation is for mothers and fathers with young children. Among all adults, only 12% say it's best for mothers of young children to work full time. A 47% plurality say working part time is the ideal situation for mothers of young children, and one-third say it's best if these mothers not work at all outside the home.

The public has much different views about what is best for fathers of young children. Fully seven-in-ten adults say the ideal situation for men with young children is to work full time. One-in-five endorse part-time work for fathers of young children, and only 4% say the ideal situation for these dads would be not to work at all.

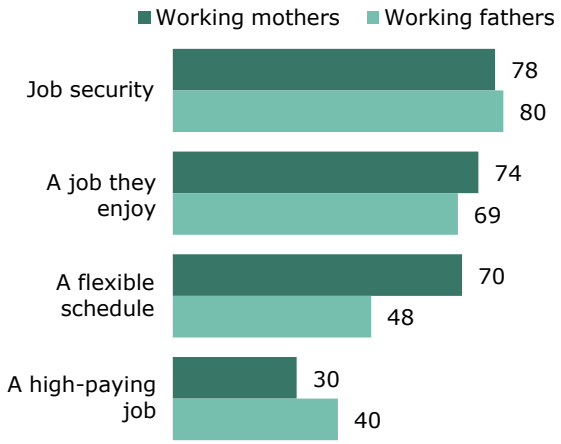
Fathers themselves are bigger proponents than mothers of full-time work for parents with young children. Among fathers with children under age 18, 17% say the ideal situation for mothers of young children is to work full time. Only 7% of mothers agree with this. When it comes to what's ideal for fathers, there is somewhat more agreement: 75% of fathers say the ideal situation for fathers of young children is to work full time; 66% of mothers agree.

Mothers, Fathers and Work Life

When it comes to their work lives, mothers and fathers place a great deal of importance on job security and personal fulfillment. Among working parents with children under age 18, roughly equal shares of mothers (78%) and fathers (80%) say having job security is extremely important to them. And they value

What Mothers and Fathers Value in a Job

% of working mothers/fathers who say having ... is extremely important to them personally



Notes: Based on parents with children under age 18. Working parents include those who work either full or part time.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q40a-d

nearly as much having a job they enjoy: 74% of working mothers and 69% of working fathers say this is extremely important to them.

Having a flexible work schedule is much more important to working mothers than it is to working fathers. Fully seven-in-ten working mothers with children under age 18 say having a flexible schedule is extremely important to them. Only about half (48%) of working fathers place the same level of importance on this.

There is a large gap between parents and non-parents in the value each places on having a flexible work schedule. Among working women with no children under age 18, only 43% say having a flexible work schedule is extremely important to them (vs. 70% of working mothers). And among working men with no minor children, 36% say this is extremely important (vs. 48% of working fathers).

Mothers and fathers differ in the importance they place on having a high-paying job. Four-in-ten working fathers say having a high-paying job is extremely important to them, compared with three-in-ten working mothers.

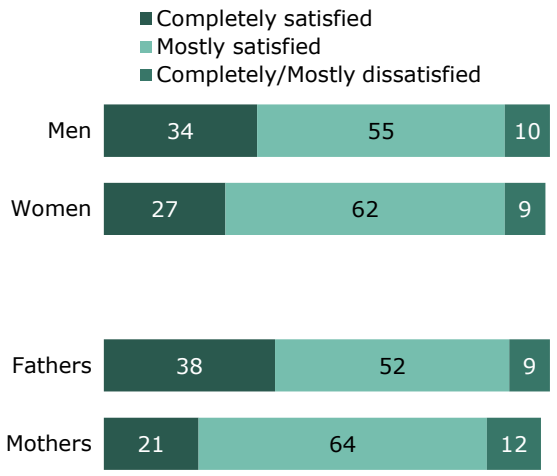
Among working mothers, there is a significant gap between those who are married and unmarried in terms of the value they place on having a high-paying job. Only 26% of those who are married say this is extremely important to them personally, while 39% of those who are unmarried say having a high-paying job is extremely important.

Job Satisfaction

While not all women agree about what their own ideal work situation would be, those who do work are generally satisfied with their job. Overall, 27% of women who work at least part time say they are completely satisfied with their job, and an additional 62% are mostly satisfied. Only about one-in-ten are completely (3%) or mostly (6%) dissatisfied with their job.

Gender Gap in Job Satisfaction

% saying they are ... with their job



Notes: Based on those who are employed either full or part time. Fathers and mothers are those with children under age 18. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q39

Women who work part time are no more or less satisfied with their jobs than those who work full time.

Working mothers are less satisfied with their jobs than are working women who do not have minor children. Among all working mothers with children under age 18, 21% say they are completely satisfied with their job; this compares with 32% of working women without children under age 18.

Men are more likely than women to say they are completely satisfied with their job (34% vs. 27%). And the gap between mothers and fathers is even wider. Among working fathers with children under age 18, 38% say they are completely satisfied with their job (only 21% of working mothers say the same).

CHAPTER 2: BALANCING WORK AND FAMILY LIFE

One of the challenges for working parents is finding enough time to do it all. Many say they feel rushed, and more than half say they have difficulty balancing the responsibilities of their job and their family life. While working mothers and fathers divide their time differently—with fathers concentrating somewhat more on paid work and mothers more on home and children—moms and dads are equally likely to find the juggling act challenging.

Feeling Rushed?

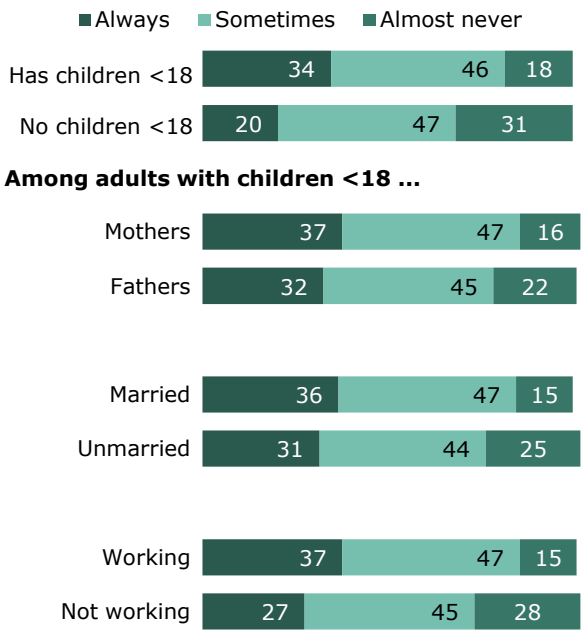
Overall, 25% of adults say they "always" feel rushed, and an additional 47% say they "sometimes" feel rushed. Parents with children under age 18 are significantly more likely than adults who do not have children in that age group to say they always feel rushed, even to do the things they have to do (34% vs. 20%, respectively). Only 18% of parents say they almost never feel rushed, compared with 31% of adults with no children under age 18. Similar shares of fathers (32%) and mothers (37%) say they are always in a rush.

Working parents are more likely than non-working parents to say that they always feel rushed. Some 37% of employed parents say they are always rushed, and an additional 47% say they sometimes feel rushed. Among parents who are not employed, 27% say they are always rushed and 45% say they are sometimes in a rush. Among mothers, non-working mothers are more than twice as likely as working mothers (24% vs. 11%) to say they almost never feel rushed.[8]

Married and unmarried parents are about equally liked to say they always feel rushed (36% and 31%, respectively). However, unmarried parents (25%) are significantly

Parents More Rushed than Non-Parents

% saying they ... feel rushed



Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q4

[8] There were too few non-working fathers in the sample to analyze them separately.

more likely than married parents (15%) to say they almost never feel rushed.

Parents who live in dual-income households report feeling busier than those who live in a household where only one spouse or partner is employed. About four-in-ten (39%) parents in dual-earner partnerships say they are always rushed, compared with 28% of parents for whom either they or their partner is not working.

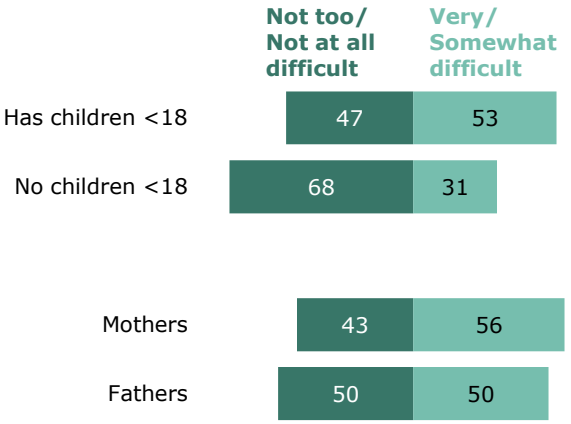
Managing Work and Family

Mothers and fathers feel equally pressured these days when it comes to managing their time between work and family. Among those with children under age 18, half of working fathers and 56% of working mothers say that balancing the responsibilities of their job with the responsibilities of their family is very or somewhat difficult.

Among all working parents with children under age 18, 15% say it is very difficult and 37% say it is somewhat difficult to balance their work and their family life. About one-third (32%) say it is not too difficult, and 15% say it is not at all difficult.

How Difficult Is It to Balance Your Work and Family?

% of employed adults who either have children under age 18 or are married saying it is ...



Notes: Based on those who are employed either full or part time. Mothers are fathers are those with children under age 18. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q41

In the Pew Research survey, this question was asked among employed people who were either parents of children younger than 18 or married. Those who did not have children under age 18 (i.e., who are married with grown children or married without any children) were less likely than parents of young children to say it was difficult for them to manage work and family simultaneously—31% of those without children under age 18 say this balance is very or somewhat difficult, compared with 53% of those who have young children.

Parents in dual-income households are no more likely than those in single-income households to say it is very or somewhat difficult to balance the responsibilities of work and family life (54% vs. 49%, respectively).

There is no historical trend for the Pew Research question, so it is difficult to say how the level of difficulty men and women experience in balancing work and family life has changed over time. However, another national survey offers some clues. The Families and Work Institute conducted a survey of the U.S. workforce in 2008 that included questions about work-life balance. This survey found that fathers were more much likely to feel conflicts between their working lives and personal lives in 2008 than they had been in 1977, while mothers experienced only a modest increase in these conflicts over the same period. In 1977, 35% of employed fathers whose spouse or partner worked and 41% of employed mothers in dual-earner couples said they experienced at least some work-life conflict.[9] In 2008, the share of fathers saying this had increased to 60%, while the share of mothers saying so went up only marginally to 47%.[10]

Working vs. Staying Home with the Kids

Not only do many working mothers and fathers find it difficult to balance work and family, fully half say they would like to be home with their children, rather than working. Survey respondents were asked which statement best describes how they balance work and family: (1) They would prefer to be at home raising their children, but they need to work because they need the income; or (2) Even though it takes them away from their family, they enjoy their work and want to keep working. Among all working parents with children under age 18, 50% say they would prefer to be home raising their children, while 46% say they want to keep working.

Working Mothers, Fathers Conflicted about Work and Family

% saying…

	Working mothers	Working fathers
I'd prefer to be home with my children, but I need the income so I need to work	52	48
Even though it takes me away from my family, I want to keep working	42	49
Don't know/Refused	5	3
	100	100

Notes: Based on those who are employed either full or part time. Mothers are fathers are those with children under age 18. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. See text for complete wording of items.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q44

Mothers and fathers have nearly identical views on this question. Roughly half of working mothers (52%) and fathers (48%) say they would prefer to be home with their children but they have to work because they need the

[9] 1977 figures are from surveys conducted by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.
[10] This analysis is based on mothers and fathers with child(ren) younger than 18 who are in dual-earner couples and are employed for at least 20 hours per week. Work-life conflict is measured here using the following question: "How much do your job and your family life interfere with each other—a lot, somewhat, not too much or not at all?" To see the full report from the Families and Work Institute, see, Galinsky, Ellen, K. Aumann, J.T. Bond. 2011. "Times are Changing: Gender and Generation at Work and at Home." Families and Work Institute. August.

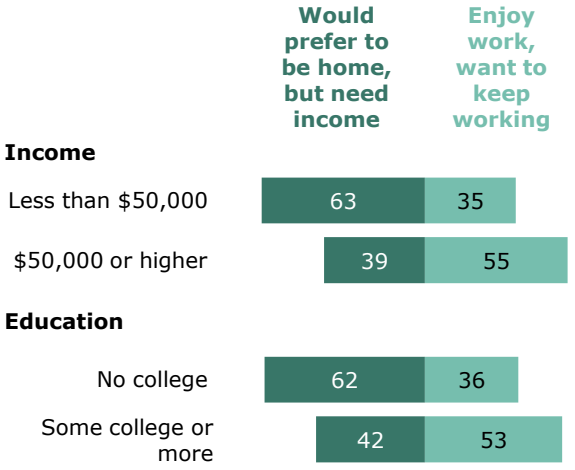
income. Some 42% of mothers and 49% of fathers say that even though work takes them away from their families, they enjoy their work and want to keep working. (These differences are not statistically significant.)

NBC News and the Wall Street Journal asked this question of working mothers 12 years ago, and opinions have changed very little since then. In 2000, 48% of working mothers with children under age 18 said they would prefer to be home with their children but needed to work, and 44% said they would like to keep working even though it took them away from their family.[11]

Income and education are strongly correlated with the desire to be at home rather than working. Among working parents with annual household incomes of less than $50,000, fully 63% say they would prefer to be home with their children but need to work because they need the income. This compares with 39% of working parents with incomes of $50,000 or higher. Similarly, working parents who have not attended college are more likely than those who have to say they would prefer to be home with their children (62% vs. 42%).

Income and Education Gaps in Work-Life Balance

% of employed parents with children under age 18 saying they …



Note: Based on those who are employed either full or part time. Income based on annual family income. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q44

[11] In the June 2000 NBC/WSJ trend, the question was asked only of employed women who have children younger than 18 *living in their household.* This differs slightly from the Pew Research question, which does not take into account the living situation of the children. Fathers were not asked this question in the 2000 survey.

CHAPTER 3: OUTCOMES

How Do Today's Mothers and Fathers Rate Themselves as Parents?

In spite of the challenges they face, today's parents give themselves good grades overall for the job they are doing raising their children. Among all parents with children under age 18, 24% say they are doing an excellent job, and an additional 45% say they are doing a very good job. Some 24% say they are doing a good job, and only 6% say they are doing a fair or poor job as parents.

Mothers give themselves somewhat higher grades than do fathers: 73% of mothers with children under age 18 say they are doing an excellent or very good job as a parent, compared with 64% of fathers.

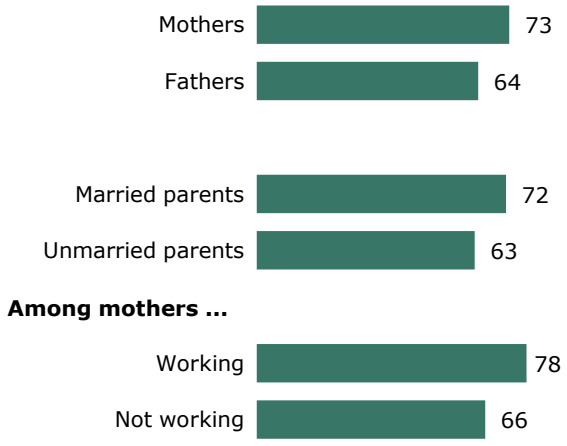
Married parents with children younger than 18 give themselves higher ratings than do unmarried parents. Some 72% of married parents say they are doing an excellent or very good job raising their children, compared with 63% of unmarried parents.

Among mothers, those who are working give themselves particularly high ratings—78% of working moms say they are doing an excellent or good job raising their children. Among non-working mothers, 66% say the same.

Whether parents feel they spend enough time with their children has a big impact on how they evaluate their parenting. Parents who think they spend the right amount of time with their children are about three times as likely as

Mothers, Fathers Give Themselves High Ratings for Parenting

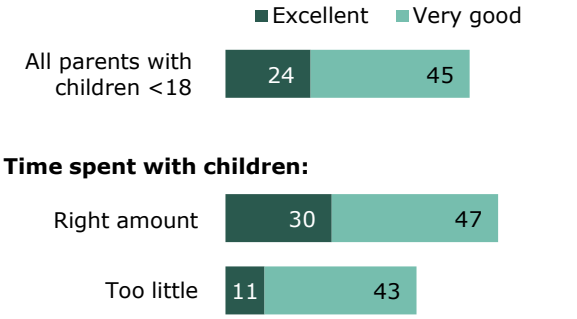
% with children under age 18 saying they are doing an "excellent" or "very good" job as parents



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q25

Does More Time Spent with Children Lead to Better Parenting?

% saying they are doing an ... job as parents



Notes: Parents who said they spend "too much" time with children not shown due to small sample size. For all parents, n=643; for parents who spend "right amount," of time n=395; for "too little" time, n=204. "Good," "Only fair," "Poor" and "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q25, 26a

parents who say they spend too little time with their children to say they are doing an excellent job parenting (30% vs. 11%). Overall, 77% of parents who say they spend the right amount of time with their kids also say they are doing an excellent or very good job as parents; only 54% of those who say they spend too little time rate themselves as doing an excellent or very good job.

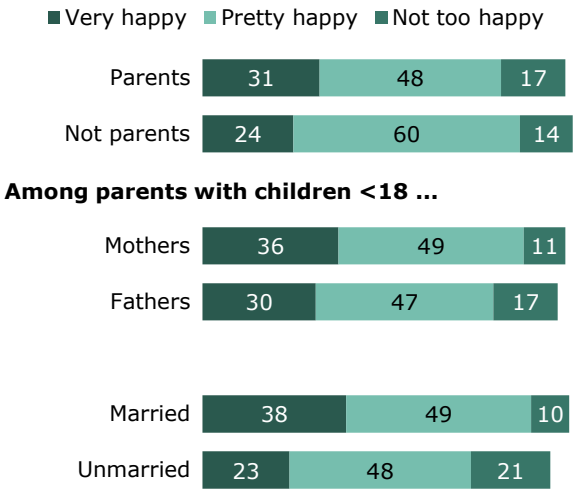
Similarly, parents who say they have difficulty balancing work and family life are harder on themselves when it comes to evaluating their parenting. Among working parents who say balancing the responsibilities of their job and their family is difficult for them, two-thirds give themselves an excellent or very good rating for the job they are doing as parents. By contrast, among working parents who say balancing these responsibilities is not difficult for them, 77% give themselves high marks.

Parents' self-evaluations differ somewhat by key demographic groups. Among parents with children of any age, white and black parents give themselves similar grades for their parenting, while Hispanic parents are much harder on themselves. Only 56% of Hispanic parents say they are doing an excellent or very good job as parents, while 72% of white parents and 67% of black parents give themselves high marks for parenting.[12]

Education is also linked to parents' self-assessments. Among parents with children under age 18, those who have attended or graduated from college rate their parenting more favorably than those who have not attended college: 73% of parents with some college experience say they are doing an excellent or very good job as parents, compared with 63% of those with no college experience.

Who's Happy?

% saying they are ... with their life these days



Note: In the first set of bars, parents are adults with children of any age. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q1

[12] Analysis of racial and ethnic differences is based on parents with children of any age due to small sample sizes among those with children under age 18.

Some Parents are Happier than Others

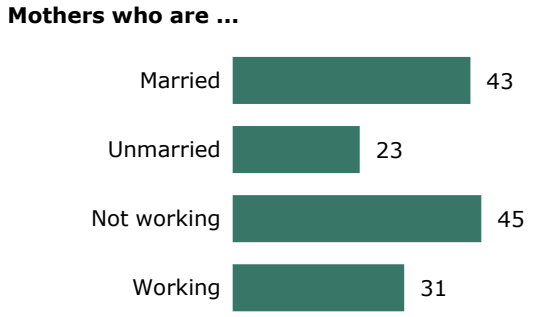
The stresses and joys of parenthood are inextricably linked to overall happiness and well-being. It is nearly impossible, using survey data alone, to disaggregate the factors that contribute to happiness. However, some interesting patterns emerge relating to work and family life.

In general, adults with children of any age tend to be somewhat happier than those who do not have children.[13] Three-in-ten parents (31%) say they are "very happy," 48% say they are "pretty happy" and 17% say they are "not too happy." Among adults with no children, 24% say they are very happy, 60% say they are pretty happy and 14% say they are not too happy.

Among parents with children under age 18, mothers (36%) and fathers (30%) report roughly equal levels of happiness. However, a slightly larger share of fathers than mothers say they are not too happy (17% vs. 11%). Married parents are happier than unmarried parents (38% vs. 23% say they are very happy).

Moms, Marriage, Work and Happiness

% of mothers with children under age 18 saying they are "very happy"



Note: "Working" includes those who work full or part time.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q1

There is a significant gap in happiness between married and unmarried mothers. Among married mothers with children under age 18, 43% say they are very happy with their life overall. By contrast, only 23% of unmarried mothers say they are very happy.

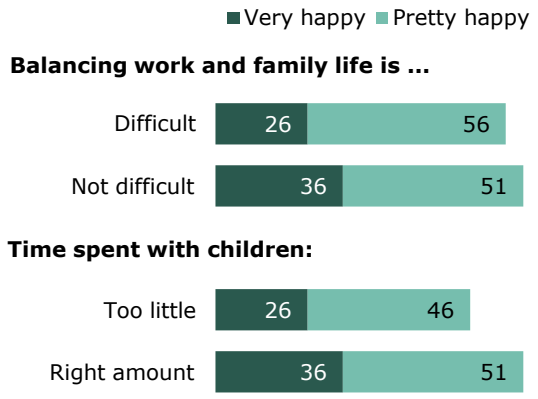
There is also a gap in happiness between working and non-working mothers. While 45% of mothers who do not work are very happy with their life, only 31% of working mothers say they are very happy.

[13] It was cited frequently in psychological research in the past that parents were less happy than non-parents. However, recent studies have suggested that while this was true from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, there seems to have been a turn-around in 1995, with parents from then until 2008 happier than non-parents. (USA Today, Sharon Jayson, "Parents today are happier than non-parents, studies suggest," May 2012, and The Atlantic, Hans Villarica, "Study of the Day: Maybe Parents Actually Are Happier than Non-Parents," May 2012.)

Further statistical analysis suggests that marriage trumps employment status when it comes to moms' happiness. When race, ethnicity, educational attainment and income are held constant, marital status is a significant predictor of overall happiness, but work status is not.[14]

How Does Work-Family Stress Impact Happiness?

% of parents with children under age 18 saying they are … with their life overall



Notes: Top two bars are based on full- or part-time working parents. For "difficult," n=256; for "not difficult," n=220. Bottom two bars are based on all parents with children under age 18. For "too little," n=204; for "right amount," n=395. Parents saying they spend "too much" time with their children not shown due to small sample size. "Not too happy" and "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q1, 26a, 41

Work-Life Balance and Happiness

While parenthood can be a source of great happiness, the stresses and strains of balancing work and family life may have an impact on overall well-being. Working parents who say they find it difficult to manage the responsibilities of their job and their family are somewhat less happy overall than those who don't have difficulty balancing these things. Only 26% of those who say it's difficult for them to balance work and family say they are very happy, compared with 36% of those who don't have difficulty balancing.

Further analysis shows there is a much stronger correlation between happiness and work-life balance among working fathers than among working mothers. While 23% of working fathers who say it's difficult to balance work and family life are very happy overall, 38% of fathers who don't have difficulty balancing say they are very happy. There is no significant difference in the level of happiness among working women who say balancing work and family is difficult for them (30% are very happy) and those who say it is not (32%).[15]

Similarly, parents who say they do not spend enough time with their children are less happy than those who say they spend the right amount of time with their children. Among those parents who say they spend too little time with their children, 26% say they are very happy overall. This compares with 36% of those who say they spend the right amount of time with their children.

[14] These findings are based on a multivariate regression analysis which tested the likelihood that a mother would be "very happy," based on a series of variables: employment status, marital status, race, ethnicity, educational attainment and income.
[15] For mothers saying it is not difficult for them to balance work and family life, n=96.

SECTION II: TIME USE FINDINGS

CHAPTER 4: HOW MOTHERS AND FATHERS SPEND THEIR TIME

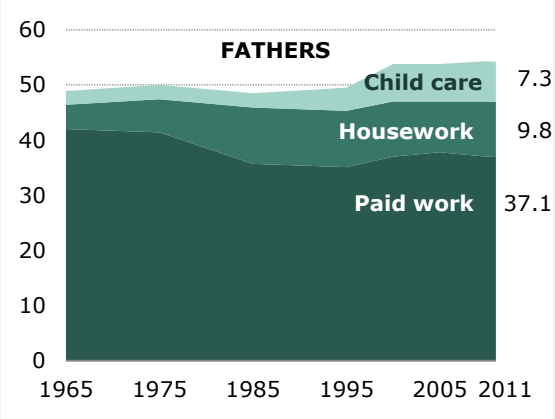
The work lives of American men and women have become more similar since the 1960s, measured by time in both paid work for a job and unpaid work at home. The average hours spent per week at job-related activities has declined from 42 hours in 1965 to 37 hours in 2011 for fathers, but increased from eight hours to 21 hours for mothers.[16]

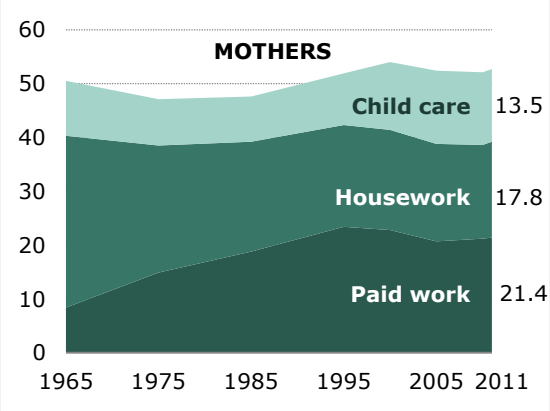
On the home front, fathers today spend more than twice as much time doing housework as they did in the 1960s (10 hours vs. four hours per week), and mothers have cut their housework time almost in half during the same period (18 hours vs. 32 hours per week). These analyses are based on historical time diary data[17] as well the more recent American Time Use Survey, which asked nationally representative samples of Americans about activities they did in the previous day sequentially.

Parents' time with their children continues to go up. Fathers have nearly tripled their time with their children (from 2.5 hours in 1965 to 7.3 hours per week in 2011). After a decline in the 1970s and '80s, mothers' time with their children has also increased, and today's mothers spend more time with their children than mothers did in the 1960s. Despite the increase in child care time among fathers,

Time in Paid Work, Housework and Child Care,1965-2011

Average number of hours per week spent on ...





Notes: Based on adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household.

Source: 1965-2000 data from various early time use surveys (Bianchi, et al. 2006). 2003-2011 data from the American Time Use Survey.

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[16] Working-age mothers' paid work was about 23 hours per week in 1995 and has come down since.
[17] See Suzanne M. Bianchi, et al., 2006. *Changing Rhythms of American Family Life*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

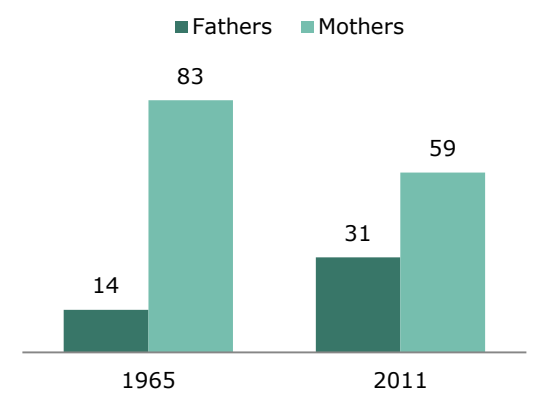
American mothers spend about twice as much time with their children as fathers do.[18] In 2011, the average child care time is 7.3 hours per week for fathers and 13.5 hours per week for mothers.

The total work time for parents, which includes both paid and unpaid (housework and child care) work, has increased slightly over more than four decades, and the total workload for mothers and fathers has been nearly identical. In 1965, fathers spent about 49 hours per week in paid work, housework and child care combined, compared with 54 hours in 2011. Mothers' total work time was 51 hours in 1965 and 53 hours in 2011.

What has changed more over this period is the allocation of time. More than 80% of mothers' work time in 1965 was spent taking care of the house and caring for children; that share dropped to about 60% by 2011. In contrast, more of fathers' time is now spent in unpaid work; the share of work time fathers devote to housework and caring for children has increased from 14% to 31%.

Share of Unpaid Work: 1965-2011

% housework and child care of total work time



Note: Based on adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household.

Source: 1965 data from Table 5A.1-2 in Bianchi, et al. (2006). 2011 data from Pew Research analysis of the American Time Use Survey.

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Work and Leisure Time among Parents in Different Types of Families

American families have undergone dramatic changes in the past five decades, as the share of adults who are married has declined from 72% in 1960 to about 50% today.[19] Compared with single fathers and fathers who live with a partner, married fathers work longer hours in their job and have the least amount of leisure time. Married mothers, meanwhile, spend more time in housework than do single or cohabiting mothers, but they also have the least amount of leisure time. As a result, married parents spend more time at work than unmarried parents,

[18] "Spend time with children" and "Child care" are used interchangeably in this report. Child care time is measured as the time that parents report directly engaging in caregiving activities related to children, such as physical care, playing with children, helping with home work. For a detailed list of activities, see Appendix 3.

[19] See Pew Research Center, "The Decline of Marriage and Rise of New Families," Nov. 18, 2010, and "Barely Half of U.S. Adults Are Married—A Record Low," Dec. 14, 2011.

counting housework, child care and paid work together, and have less leisure time than other parents.

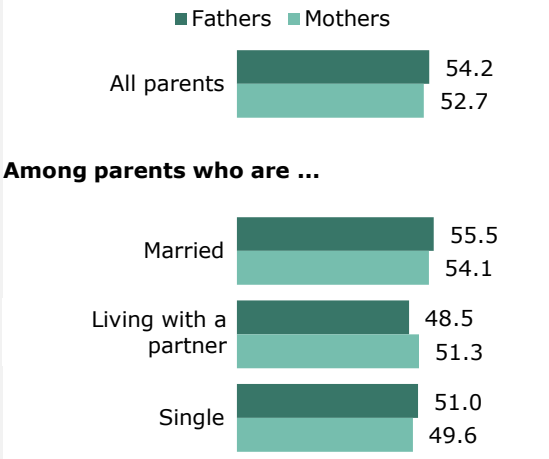
On average, married fathers' overall weekly workloads are 1.4 hours more than those of married mothers, while the workload for cohabiting fathers is almost three hours less than that of cohabiting mothers. Single fathers' overall work time is slightly longer than that of single mothers (51 hours per week vs. 50 hours). Regardless of their family arrangements, fathers in general have more leisure time than mothers.

The gender gap in work and leisure is more closely related to how couples arrange their paid and unpaid work. Among parents who are married or living with a partner, dual-income couples are the most egalitarian couples, even though they do not divide up their work in a 50-50 way. Dual-income fathers spend about 11 hours more than mothers in paid work per week, but mothers make up their hours by spending more time on average time in child care and housework. Dual-income fathers have more leisure time than mothers; the gap is about 4.5 hours per week.

Time in work and leisure is somewhat unbalanced among single-income families, especially when the mother is the breadwinner. Working mothers are overburdened in this arrangement: They spend about 25 hours more in total work time per week, but 20 hours less in leisure, than their non-employed partners do. In contrast, when working fathers are the sole breadwinner, their overall work time is

Work Time

A combination of housework, child care and paid work (hours per week)



Note: Based on adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of Pooled data from 2003-2011 American Time Use Survey.

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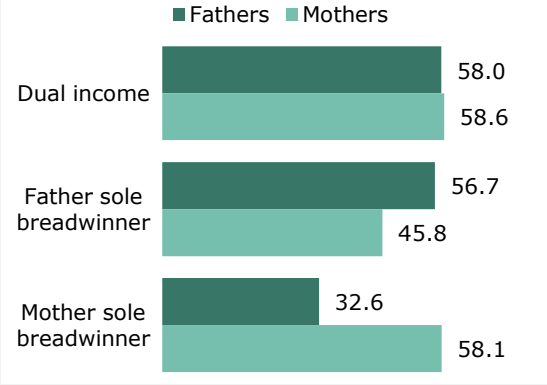
Work Time for Couples

A combination of housework, child care and paid work (hours per week)



Note: Based on adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household, currently married or living with a partner.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of Pooled data from 2003-2011 American Time Use Survey.

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about 11 hours per week more than their non-employed partner's, and their leisure time is about four hours less than their partners' leisure time.

How Do Parents Feel about their Time?

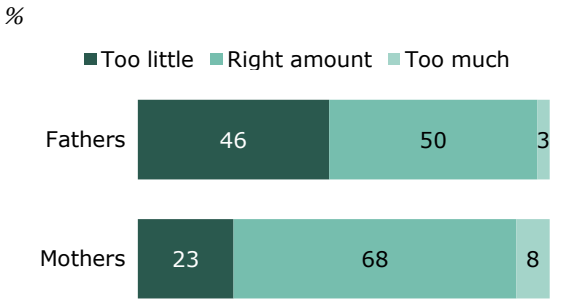
Findings from the time diary data are largely echoed by how parents feel about their time in a recent Pew Research Center survey. About half of adults with children under age 18 (49%) say that they spend more time with their children than their parents did when they were young. One-third say that their own child care time is the same as their parents'. This is consistent with the rising child care time for parents since the 1960s based on the time use data.

Given that American fathers' time with children is only about half of mothers', it is not surprising to find that American fathers with children under age 18 are twice as likely as mothers to say they don't spend enough time with their children. According to a recent Pew Research survey, 46% of fathers say they spend too little time with their children, compared with 23% of mothers. A majority of mothers (68%) say they spend the right amount of time with their children, compared with only half of fathers.

When it comes to "who does more" child care as well as household chores and responsibilities among married or cohabiting parents, both mothers and fathers indicate that mothers usually do more—although a higher share of fathers report that these responsibilities are shared equally.

Even though findings from the time use data suggest that generally men spend more time than women in leisure activities, there is no

Time with Children Too Much or Too Little?



Note: Based on adults with children under age 18, n=643.
Source: Pew Research Survey, Nov. 28-Dec. 5, 2012.
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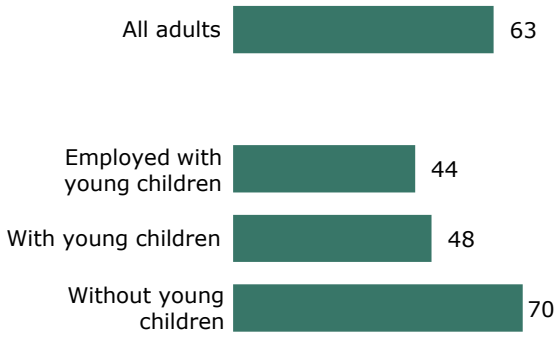
Enough Free Time?

% saying they feel like they have enough free time to do the things they want to do



Note: Young children are under age 18.
Source: Pew Research Survey, Nov. 28-Dec. 5, 2012.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q36

significant gender difference in how adults view their free time. Among parents with children under age 18, 48% say that they generally feel like they have enough free time to do the things they want to do. The share falls to 44% among working parents with young children. In contrast, a vast majority of parents without young children (70%) report that they have enough free time, in part because a higher share of these adults are retired.

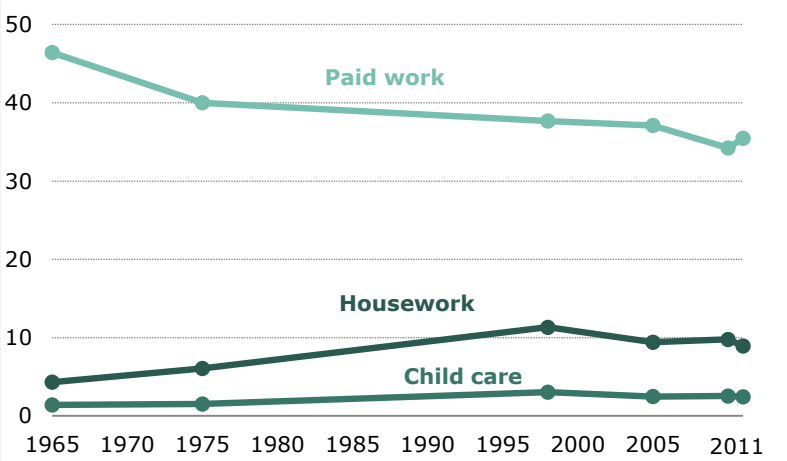
The rest of this section goes into details about the long-term trend of Americans' time at work and at home as well as time use patterns among parents of different family types and living arrangements. Public opinion questions related to time use are also discussed when available.

CHAPTER 5: AMERICANS' TIME AT PAID WORK, HOUSEWORK, CHILD CARE, 1965 TO 2011

One of the most significant changes in American society in the past half century is women's increasing presence in the workplace. In 1965, 42% of women ages 16 to 64 were employed, about half of the rate among men (85%). Women's employment rate rose steadily and peaked at 68% in 2000. In the past decade, the employment rate has dropped for both women and men, especially as the recession took a heavy toll on workers. By 2011, about 71% of men ages 16 to 64 were employed, as were 62% of women in the same age bracket.[20]

Men's Work at Home and at Work, 1965-2011

Hours per week



Notes: Includes adults ages 18 to 64. Paid work time include commute time.

Source: 1965-1998 data from calculations based on Table 2 in Sayer (2005). 2003-2011 data from Pew Research analysis of the American Time Use Survey.

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The changes in employment have affected how men and women use their time, both at work and at home. In 1965, working-age men (ages 18 to 64) on average spent 46 hours per week at paid work; by 2011, the number had fallen to about 35 hours per week.[21] Working-age women doubled their time at paid work, from 15 hours per week in 1965 to 30 hours per week in 1998; the amount has gone down somewhat in the recent decade, to 25 hours per week in 2011.

On the home front, men are spending more time doing housework than they did in the 1960s, while women have cut back their hours in this area. Men's housework time has doubled from four hours per week in 1965 to about nine hours per week in 2011. Women, meanwhile, have cut their housework time almost in half, from about 28 hours per week to 15 hours per week during the same period.

[20] See Pew Research Center report, "Public Says a Secure Job Is Ticket to the Middle Class," Aug. 31,2012.
[21] To be consistent with the historical trends, paid work time for men and women includes commuting time to and from work.

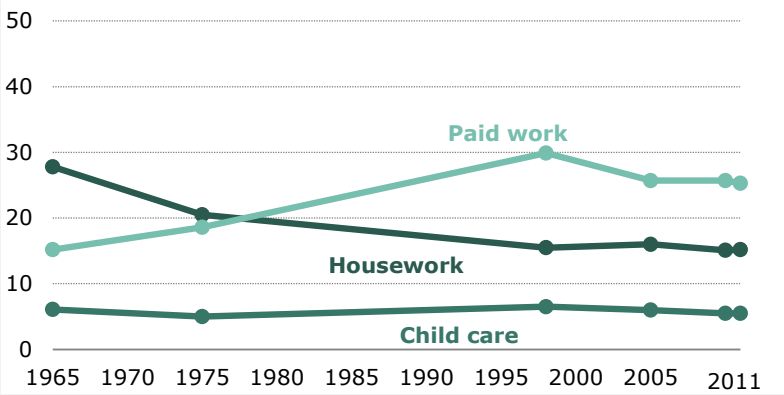
Child care time for men has increased over time, from one hour per week to about two hours. For women, the average time spent taking care of children has been relatively stable, ranging from five to six hours per week. Because not all men or women have children, the average child care time for all is much lower than it is for parents.

Child care: Married mothers with young children are the major driving force for the rise of women's employment rate. In 1968, about 37% of working-age married women with young children were employed; in 2011, it was about 65%.[22]

Despite the trend of more mothers working for pay, American parents' time with children continues to go up. Fathers have nearly tripled the time they spend with their children (from 2.5 hours in 1965 to 7.3 hours today). After a slight decline in the 1970s, mothers' time with children has also increased, and today's

Women's Work at Home and at Work, 1965-2011

Hours per week



Note: Includes adults ages 18 to 64. Paid work time include commuting time.

Source: 1965-1998 data from calculations based on Table 2 in Sayer (2005). 2003-2011 data from Pew Research analysis the American Time Use Survey.

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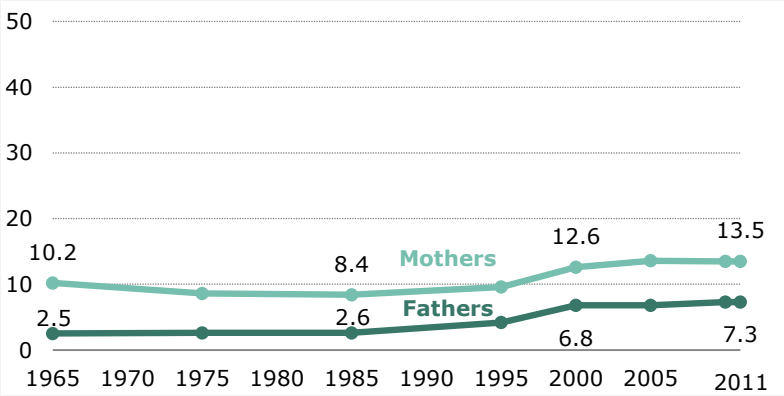
Parents' Child Care Time, 1965-2011

Hours per week



Note: Based on adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household.

Source: 1965-2000 data from Table 5A.1-2 in Bianchi, et al. (2006). 2003-2011 data from Pew Research analysis the American Time Use Survey.

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[22] Pew Research Center analysis of Current Population Survey 1968-2011, IPUMS.

mothers spend more time with their children than mothers did in the 1960s.

The trend applies to both married and single parents, although married parents generally spend more time with their children than single parents. The time married mothers devoted to child care increased from 10.6 hours per week in 1965 to 14.3 hours per week in 2011, and married fathers' time spent on child care increased from 2.6 hours to 7.2 hours during the same period. In contrast, single mothers increased the time they spend with their children from 5.8 hours per week in 1985 to 11.3 hours per week in 2011. Single fathers' time with their children increased from less than one hour per week in 1985 to about eight hours per week in 2011.[23]

Despite the increase in child care time, American mothers still spend about twice as much time with their children as fathers do. In 2011, child care time was 7.3 hours per week for fathers and 13.5 hours per week for mothers.

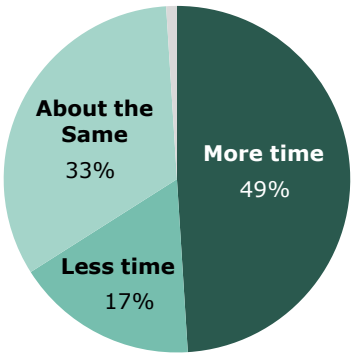
What Do Parents Think about Child Care?

Public opinion toward child care time largely reflects these changes. When asked to compare the amount of time they spend with their children with how much time their parents spent with them, about half (49%) of adults with children under age 18 say they spend more time with their kids than their parents spent with them. One-third say they spend about the same amount of time, and only 17% say that they spend less time with their children than their own parents spent with them. Earlier surveys on this question in 1993 and 2009 show similar results.[24]

Married and unmarried parents hold similar views about this comparison, although

Your Time with Children vs. Your Parents'

% saying they spend ... with their children than their parents did with them



Note: Based on adults with children under age 18, n=643. "Don't know/Refused" responses are shown but not labeled.

Source: Pew Research Survey, Nov. 28-Dec. 5, 2012

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[23] Child care time trends for single parents prior to 1985 are not reported because of the small sample sizes. Single fathers' child care time fluctuates year to year between 2000 and 2011.
[24] While the share saying they spend more time with their children than their parents did (42%) or about the same amount of time (40%) were slightly different in 1993, the share that say they spend less time (17%) is identical to the share in 2012.

unmarried parents are more likely than married parents to say that they spend less time with their kids than their parents spent with them (22% vs. 15%). Mothers working full time are more likely than mothers who either work part time or do not work for pay at all to say that they spend less time with their children than their parents spent with them (21% vs. 10%).

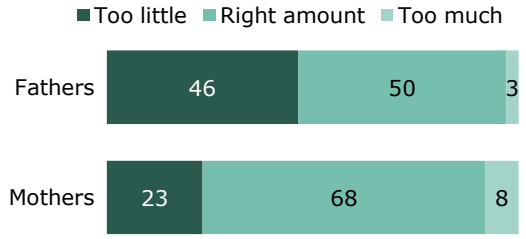
American parents generally feel OK about the amount of time they spend with their children. Six-in-ten parents with children under age 18 say that they spend the right amount of time with their children, while one-third say that the time they spend with their children is not enough. Married parents are more likely than unmarried parents to say that they spend the right amount of time with their children (64% vs.52%).

Time diary data show that fathers' child care time is about half that of mothers, which may explain why fathers feel they spend insufficient time with their children. Some 46% of fathers with children under age 18 say that they spend too little time with their children. That is twice the share of mothers (23%) who say so. In contrast, the majority of mothers (68%) say that the time they spend with their children is about right, compared with half of fathers.

Working mothers are more likely than non-working mothers to say they spend too little time with their children (26% vs. 17%).

Time with Children Too Much or Too Little?

% saying they spend ... time with their children



Note: Based on adults with children under age 18, n=643. "Don't know/Refused" responses are not shown.

Source: Pew Research Survey, Nov. 28-Dec. 5, 2012.

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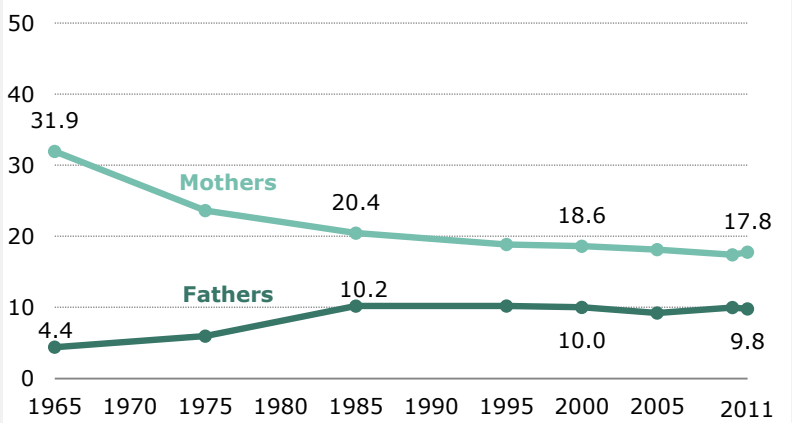
Housework: As with child care, American mothers spend more time than fathers doing housework. However, the gap has narrowed. In 1965, working-age mothers on average spent about 32 hours per week on housework—such chores as cleaning, cooking and laundry—while fathers spent about four hours per week on housework. Mothers' time spent on housework has declined dramatically since the 1960s, and today's mothers spend about half as much time doing household chores as mothers did in the 1960s. American fathers, meanwhile, are more involved in housework. Today's fathers spend about 10 hours per week doing household chores—more than double the amount of time fathers spent on that in the mid-1960s. As a result, the gap between fathers' and mothers' time devoted to housework has decreased from 28 hours per week in 1965 to about eight hours per week in 2011.

The decline in time spent doing housework does not apply only to mothers. Working-age women in general have reduced their time in this area. And men overall, not just fathers, have increased the time they spend on housework activities. Wider use of household appliances such as washing machines and dryers, and dishwashers—not to mention the invention of microwave ovens—may have made time saving in household activities possible. In addition, as women and mothers spend more time at the workplace, they have less time available for household chores.

Paid work: Working-age American fathers spent 42 hours per week at paid work in 1965.[25] Their paid work hours decreased gradually, hitting a low of 35 hours per week in the mid-1990s, and then crept back up over the past decade to about 37 hours per week. In contrast, mothers' time in paid work has increased significantly since the 1960s, reaching a

Parents' Time in Housework, 1965-2011

Hours per week



Note: Based on adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household.

Source: 1965-2000 data from Table 5A.1-2 in Bianchi, et al. (2006). 2003-2011 data from Pew Research analysis the American Time Use Survey.

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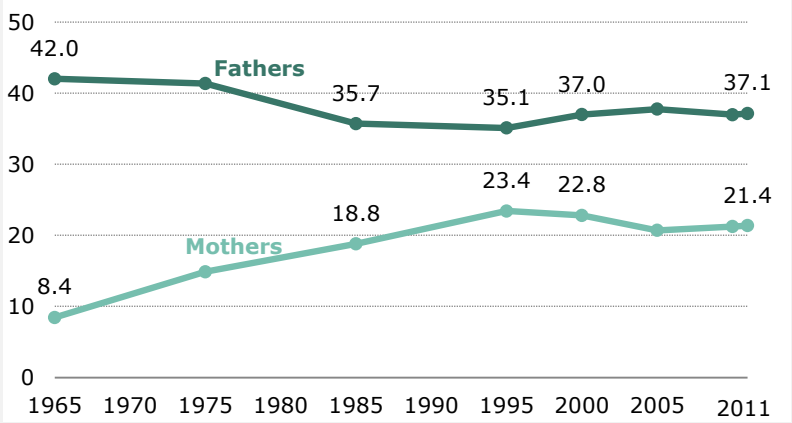
Parents' Time in Paid Work, 1965-2011

Hours per week



Note: Based on adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household.

Source: 1965-2000 data from Table 5A.1-2 in Bianchi, et al. (2006). 2003-2011 data from Pew Research analysis the American Time Use Survey.

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[25] Paid work time for parents does not include commuting time. If including commuting time, it would be 46.4 hours per week for fathers and 9.3 hours per week for mothers in 1965.

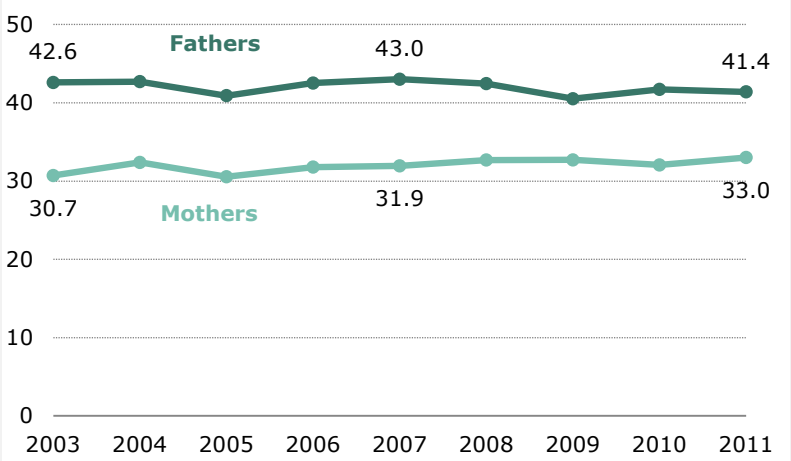
peak of 23 hours in the mid-1990s and then declining slightly.

As a result, the gap between fathers' and mothers' paid work time was the smallest in the mid-1990s (about 12 hours per week), and it increased to about 16 hours per week in 2011. But in both instances, the gap was much smaller than it was in the mid-1960s, when less than 40% of women with children under the age of 18 worked outside home,[26] and the gap between fathers and mothers was nearly 34 hours per week.

Time in paid work is determined largely by parents' employment situation. The employment trend from 2003 to 2011 suggests that the share of mothers and fathers who are employed has gone down. However, among fathers who are employed, more are working part time: The share of employed fathers working part time increased from 3.8% in 2003 to 6.6% in 2011. Among working mothers, the share of part-time workers has changed only slightly during the same period, from 25.8% to 26.6%.[27]

Employed Parents' Time in Paid Work, 2003-2011

Hours per week



Note: Based on employed adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household.

Source: 2003-2011 data from the American Time Use Survey.

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The trend in paid work time among employed parents is somewhat different from the one among all parents. Employed mothers worked an average of 30.7 hours per week in 2003 and 33 hours per week in 2011. The opposite trend occurred for employed fathers; their time at work has declined from 42.6 hours per week in 2003 to 41.4 hours per week in 2011.

[26] The employment rate for working-age women with children under age 18 was 39.2% in 1968, based on a Pew Research Center analysis of March CPS data, IPUMS.
[27] Pew Research Center analysis of March CPS data, IPUMS.

Commuting time is another factor that is related to the work time, even though it is unpaid. Between 2003 and 2011, commuting time for employed adults ages 18 to 64 went up from 2.8 hours per week to 3.2 hours. On average, men spend about one hour more per week commuting than women do. Parents' commuting hours are similar to adults overall, and fathers spend more time commuting than do mothers.

CHAPTER 6: TIME IN WORK AND LEISURE, PATTERNS BY GENDER AND FAMILY STRUCTURE

Taking paid and unpaid work time together, working-age American men and women differ very little in their total work time. Analyses of pooled data from the American Time Use Survey of 2003 to 2011 indicate that on average, men spend about 10 hours more than women per week in paid work, although women spend about six hours more than men in household work and about three additional hours in child care, bringing the total work time to 45.6 hours per week for men and 45.2 hours for women.

However, men spend more time than women in leisure activities, which includes TV time, playing games, sports and a series of other activities.[28] The gender gap in leisure is about five hours per week.

Having children at home changes people's time use patterns. Men who have kids spend more hours in paid work, while the opposite is true for women. Fathers with children under age 18 on average spend 38 hours per week in paid work, seven hours more than the amount of paid work time spent by men who do not have children at home, yet mothers spend less time in paid work than working-age women without children at home (22 hours per week vs. 25 hours).

Gender Gap in Time Use

Hours per week

	Men	Women	*Diff*
All adults ages 18 to 64			
Total work time	**45.6**	**45.2**	**0.4**
Paid work	33.8	23.9	9.9
Housework	9.3	15.5	-6.3
Child care	2.5	5.8	-3.3
Leisure	**33.7**	**29.0**	**4.7**
Adults with children younger than 18 at home			
Total work time	**54.9**	**53.0**	**2.0**
Paid work	38.4	21.6	16.8
Housework	9.5	17.7	-8.2
Child care	7.0	13.6	-6.5
Leisure	**27.7**	**25.0**	**2.7**
Adults without children younger than 18 at home			
Total work time	**40.8**	**39.9**	**0.9**
Paid work	31.4	25.4	6.0
Housework	9.2	14.0	-4.9
Child care*	0.2	0.4	-0.3
Leisure	**36.8**	**31.7**	**5.1**

*Child care time is not limited to caring for own children.

Source: Pew Research analysis of American Time Use Survey 2003-2011.

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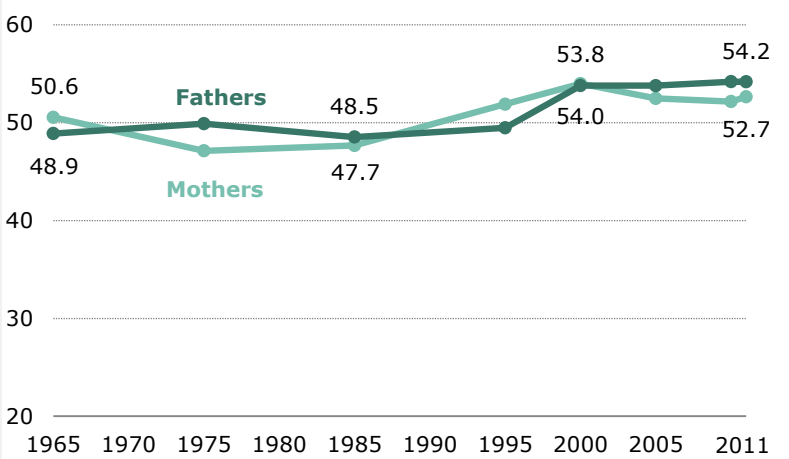
Despite the fact that mothers still do more housework and child care than fathers, fathers' overall work time (including unpaid work at home) is actually two hours more than that of mothers. Fathers also enjoy more leisure time than mothers; the gap is close to three hours per week. For adults who do not have young children at home, the gender gap for total work time

[28] For a list of activities, see Appendix 3.

is minimal, although the leisure gap is wider: men without young children at home spend about five hours per week more in leisure than women in the same situation. Since the mid-1960s, the total work time for parents has increased slightly, and the gap between fathers and mothers is fairly small. In 1965, working-age fathers spent about 49 hours per week in paid and unpaid work combined; mothers spent 51 hours per week.

Total Time in Paid Work and Unpaid Work, 1965-2011

Hours per week



Note: Based on adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household.

Source: 1965-2000 data from Table 5A.1-2 in Bianchi, et al. (2006). 2003-2011 data from Pew Research analysis the American Time Use Survey.

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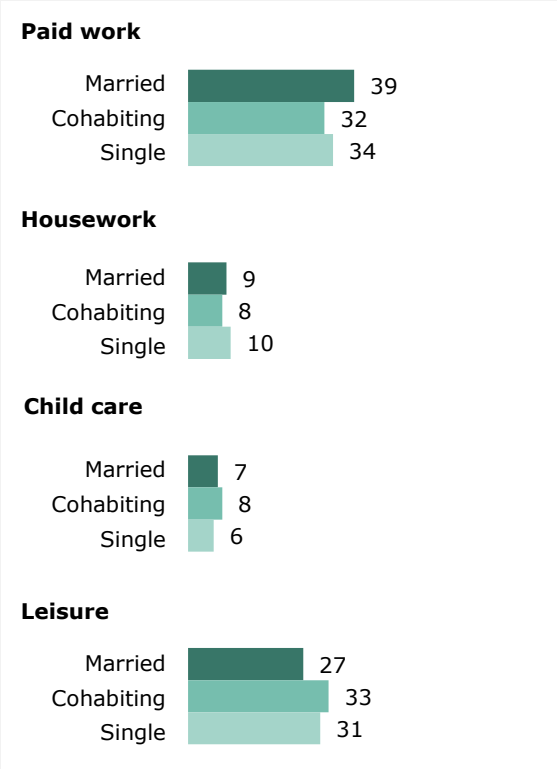
However, the allocation of work time for mothers and fathers has changed dramatically. In 1965, 83% of mothers' work time was spent doing housework and caring for children; the share of unpaid work for fathers was only 14%. More than four decades later, fathers' overall work time has increased to about 54 hours per week; their share of unpaid work is about 31%. Mother's total work time has also slightly increased to nearly 53 hours per week in 2011, but their share of unpaid work has dropped to about 60%.

Fathers and Mothers in Different Family Settings

While overall marriage rates have fallen significantly, most parents with children at home are married. According to 2003 to 2011 pooled ATUS data, about 80% of parents ages 18 to 64 with children younger than 18 are married and living with a spouse, an additional 16% of parents are not, and about 4% of parents live with a partner. Fathers are more likely than mothers to be married and living with a spouse.

Fathers' Time by Family Structure

Hours per week



Note: Based on adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household.

Source: 2003-2011 American Time Use Survey.

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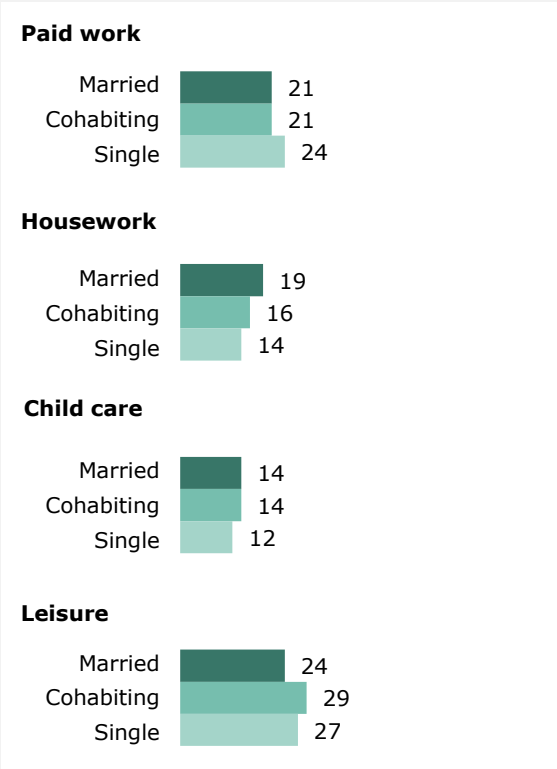
Mothers' Time by Family Structure

Hours per week



Note: Based on adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household.

Source: 2003-2011 American Time Use Survey.

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Compared with single fathers and fathers who live with a partner, married fathers work the longest hours and enjoy the least amount of leisure time. Their time in housework and child care is relatively high as well. Single fathers spend 10 hours per week in housework (similar to married fathers) but less time in child care than men who are married or cohabiting. Fathers living with a partner have the most leisure time, averaging 33 hours per week.

Similar to married fathers, married mothers spend less leisure time than do mothers in other family settings. Married mothers spend the longest time in housework (19 hours per week), compared with single mothers (14 hours) or mothers living with a partner (16 hours). Single mothers spend less time in child care than do married or cohabiting mothers, but their hours at paid work are longer than for mothers in other family settings.

Gender Gap among Married or Cohabiting Couples

Parents who live with a partner are a small minority of parents (4%). Compared with married couples, cohabiting couples are younger, less educated and less likely to be employed. They also have fewer children at home than married couples, and their kids are a bit younger.[29]

Using the yardstick of overall workload, married couples with children are more egalitarian than cohabiting couples. On average, married fathers' time in paid and unpaid work totals 55.5 hours per week, 1.4 hours more than that of married mothers. The total work hours for cohabiting fathers are almost three hours less than those of cohabiting mothers.

Work and Leisure for Married and Cohabiting Parents

Hours per week

	Married			Cohabiting		
	Fathers	Mothers	*Diff*	Fathers	Mothers	*Diff*
Total work time	**55.5**	**54.1**	**1.4**	**48.5**	**51.3**	**-2.8**
Paid work	38.9	20.9	18.0	32.4	20.8	11.6
Housework	9.5	19.0	-9.5	8.3	16.3	-8.0
Child care	7.1	14.2	-7.1	7.8	14.1	-6.3
Leisure	**27.3**	**24.2**	**3.1**	**33.0**	**29.4**	**3.6**

Note: Based on adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of pooled data of American Time Use Survey (2003-2011)

Compared with cohabiting couples, married couples seem to be more "specialized" in allocating their time: Dads spend more time in paid work, and moms take over more housework and child care. Married dads spend 18 hours per week more in paid work than do married moms, and in return, moms spend about 10 hours more in housework and seven hours more in child care, which brings the total work time of married dads to about one hour per week more than moms.

Fathers living with a partner spend much less time at paid work than do married fathers, but mothers who cohabit spend about the same amount of time in paid work as married mothers. The result is in a gender gap in paid work among cohabiting couples that is lower than it is among married couples. Cohabiting mothers spend less time than married mothers in housework (16 hours per week vs. 19 hours), but their child care time is about the same.

[29] For more details, please see Appendix 2.

Cohabiting mothers' longer hours in child care and housework are not offset by longer paid work hours from their partners, and therefore the gender gap of total work time among cohabiting couples is actually larger.

Fathers have more leisure time than their partners, regardless of marital status.

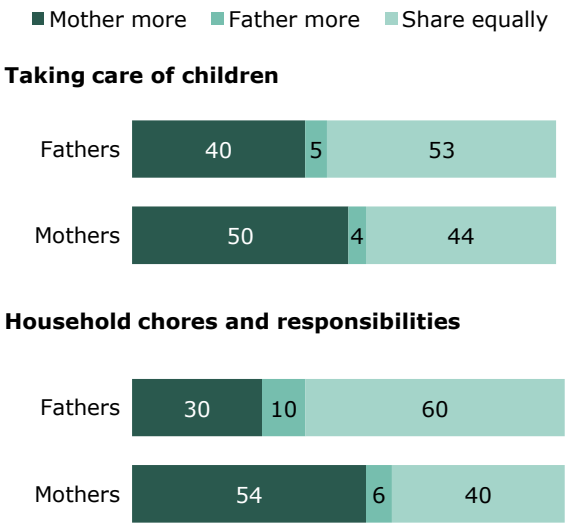
How Do Couples View the Division of Labor at Home?

Time use data show that among married and cohabiting couples with children, mothers spend about twice as much time as fathers in housework and child care. Findings from the public opinion survey indicate that couples generally have a good sense of who does more at home.

When asked how child care work is divided at home, four-in-ten fathers acknowledge that their partners usually do more than they do: only 5% say that they do more child care than their partners. Half of mothers say that they do more than their partners; only 4% say their partners do more child care. About half of fathers (53%) say that they share the child care responsibilities equally with their partners, compared with 44% of mothers.

Couples Generally Agree that Moms Do More at Home

% saying ...



Note: Based on adults with children under age 18, currently married or living with a partner, n=480.

Source: Pew Research Survey, Nov. 28-Dec. 5, 2012.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q42,43

Fathers and mothers seem to be less in agreement over who takes on more household chores and responsibilities. Three-in-ten fathers say that their partners do more housework than they do, and one-in-ten say they do more housework than their partners. A higher share of mothers (54%) say they are the ones who do more household chores; only 6% say their partners do more.

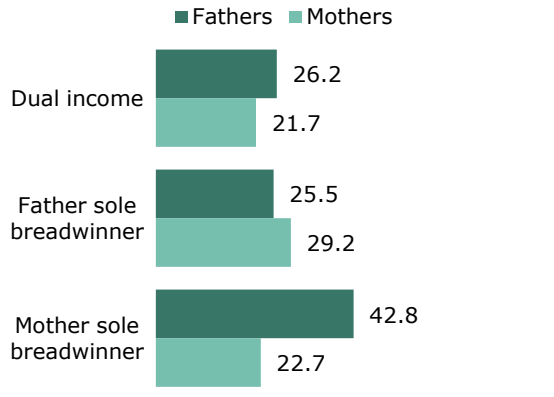
From fathers' perspectives, housework is more of a shared task. Six-in-ten fathers who are married or living with a partner say that they share the household chores and responsibilities equally with their partners; 40% of mothers say the same.

Dual-Earner Couples

Among working-age parents with young children who are either married or living with a partner, a majority (59%) are dual-income couples and an additional 32% fall in the pattern of "Ozzie and Harriet" where dad is the breadwinner and mom is the homemaker. About 6% of couples have reversed the traditional model with mothers becoming the sole provider for the family. For a small group of couples (3%), neither parent works for pay.[30]

Leisure Time for Couples

hours per week



Note: Based on adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household, currently married or living with a partner.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of Pooled data from 2003-2011 American Time Use Survey.

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Since both partners need to juggle work and home responsibilities, the overall work time among dual-earner couples is fairly even: 58 hours per week for fathers and 58.6 hours for mothers. Dual-income couples do not necessarily divide up their work in a 50-50 way. Fathers spend about 42 hours per week at the paid work, nearly 11 hours more than mothers. Mothers, instead, spend longer hours in child care and housework than fathers. However, fathers in dual-income households have more leisure time than mothers, so the gap is 4.5 hours per week.

One reason that working mothers log in less time at paid work is that they are much more likely than fathers to work part time. In 2011, only about 7% fathers ages 18 to 65 worked part time, compared with about 27% of mothers.[31]

[30] Pew Research Center analysis of polled data from 2003-2011 American Time Use Survey.
[31] Pew Research Center analysis of March CPS data, IPUMS.

Stay-at-Home Dads vs. Stay-at-Home Moms

Stay-at-home dads are much less common than stay-at-home moms. Only about 6% of fathers who are married or living with a partner stay at home and take care of kids and the house, compared with 30% of mothers in a similar arrangement. Compared with fathers who are either in dual-earner arrangements or are the sole earner for the family, stay-at-home fathers are slightly older (the average age is 41), white and less likely to be college educated. Stay-at-home mothers are slightly younger than mothers who work for pay (age 36 vs. 38), they tend to have more children and their children are younger as well. [32]

Work and Leisure for Dual-Income and Single-Income Couples

Hours per week

	Dual income		Single income				Neither employed	
			Father income		Mother income			
	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers
Total work time	**58.0**	**58.6**	**56.7**	**45.8**	**32.6**	**58.1**	**25.9**	**39.1**
Paid work	41.6	30.9	42.5	0.6	3.4	35.1	3.9	1.1
Housework	9.4	15.7	7.6	25.5	17.9	14.1	13.4	22.9
Child care	7.0	11.9	6.5	19.7	11.3	8.9	8.6	15.0
Leisure	**26.2**	**21.7**	**25.5**	**29.2**	**42.8**	**22.7**	**46.1**	**33.0**

Note: Based on adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of pooled data of American Time Use Survey (2003-2011)

When mothers are the sole breadwinner in the family, they spend about 25 hours more per week in total work time, but 20 hours less in leisure than their non-employed partners. In contrast, when working fathers are the sole breadwinners, their overall work time is about 11 hours per week more than their partners, and their leisure time is about four hours less than their partners.

Stay-at-home fathers help out more in housework and child care than do working fathers. They average about 18 hours per week in doing housework and 11 hours in taking care of the kids, the highest levels of all fathers. Their housework and child care hours are longer than their partners', although the difference is not big. Stay-at-home fathers spend about four hours more per week than their working partners in housework, and about two hours more per week in child care. Yet their leisure time is nearly double that of their partners (43 hours per week vs. 23 hours).

[32] Ibid.

In contrast, when moms stay at home and dads work for pay, they average about 26 hours per week in housework and about 20 hours in child care, more than three times as much as what their working partners put into these activities. Stay-at-home mothers have more leisure time than their partners who work for pay, but only by less than four hours.

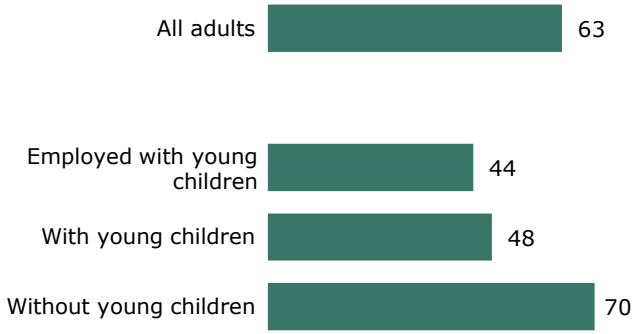
For a small group of couples with kids, neither partner works for pay (about 3% from 2003 to 2011). Interestingly, when there is no obligation of paid work for either partner, mothers still spend nearly twice as much as time in housework and child care work than do fathers (38 hours per week vs. 22 hours).

Free Time: Delusion or Real Deal?

Free time is usually measured by the residual time after subtracting time spent in paid work, housework, child care, commuting and personal care, while leisure time is more about time spent in activities that relate to relaxation. Between 2003 and 2008, fathers had on average 32 hours per week of free time; mothers had 31 hours.[33] Fathers also had more leisure time than mothers, as discussed earlier in the chapter using 2003 to 2011 ATUS: On average, fathers spend about 28 hours per week on leisure activities, roughly three hours more than mothers.

Enough Free Time?

% saying they feel like they have enough free time to do the things they want to do



Note: Young children are under age 18.

Source: Pew Research Survey, Nov. 28-Dec. 5, 2012.

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Fathers and mothers seem to experience their free time differently. Mothers' free time is often interrupted, which may make it hard for them to relax (Bianchi, et al. 2006; Mattingly & Bianchi 2003). Moreover, mothers tend to spend more time than fathers in multitasking; the additional hours spent on multitasking are mainly related to time spent on housework and child care (Offer & Schneider 2011).

The recent Pew Research survey asked respondents whether or not they felt they had enough free time to do the things they want to do. Surprisingly, no gender differences are found about

[33] See Tables 1 & 2 in Suzanne M. Bianchi, "Family Change and Time Allocation in American Families," *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, vol. 638, November 2011.

how men and women evaluate their free time, nor did fathers and mothers differ in their views. More than six-in-ten adults say that generally they feel like they have enough free time to do the things they want to do.

Adults ages 65 or older are more likely than adults at younger ages to say that they have enough free time, and the adults in their 30s and 40s are the least likely to say so. About eight-in-ten adults ages 65 and older (83%) say that they have enough free time to do the things they want to do, compared with 63% of adults ages 18 to 29, 64% of those ages 50 to 64 and 52% of those ages 30 to 49.

Having young children is associated with how people feel about their free time. Seven-in-ten adults who do not have children under age 18 say that they have enough free time, compared with 48% of adults with young children. Some 72% of adults with grown children over ages 18 feel that they have enough free time to do the things they want to do.

Unmarried parents are more likely than married parents to say that they do not have enough time to do the things they want to do. And working parents with young children feel a lack of free time: More than half (55%) say they do not have enough free time, and 44% say that they do. Employed fathers and mothers view their free time similarly.

References

Bianchi, Suzanne M., John P. Robinson, and Melissa A. Milkie. 2006. *Changing Rhythms of American Family Life*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Abraham, Katharine G., Sarah M. Flood, Matthew Sobek, and Betsy Thorn. 2011. American Time Use Survey Data Extract System: Version 2.4 [Machine-readable database]. Maryland Population Research Center, University of Maryland, College Park, and Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Mattingly, M.J., and Suzanne M. Bianchi. 2003. "Gender Difference in the Quantity and Quality of Free Time: The U.S. Experience," *Social Forces*, March 2003, vol. 81, no. 3, pp. 999-1030.

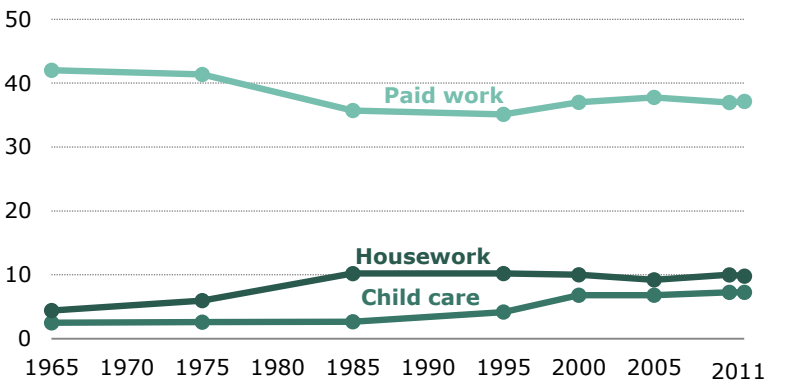
Offer, Shira, and Barbara Schneider. 2011 "Revisiting the Gender Gap in Time-Use Patterns: Multitasking and Well-Being among Mothers and Fathers in Dual-Earner Families," *American Sociological Review*, vol. 76, no. 6, pp. 809-833.

Sayer, Liana C. 2005. "Gender, Time and Inequality: Trends in Women's and Men's Paid Work, Unpaid Work and Free Time," *Social Forces*, vol. 84, no. 1, pp. 285-303.

APPENDIX 1: ADDITIONAL CHARTS

Fathers' Work Time at Work and at Home, 1965-2011

Hours per week



Note: Based on adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household,

Source: 1965-2000 data from various early time use surveys (Bianchi, et al. 2006). 2003-2011 data from the American Time Use Survey.

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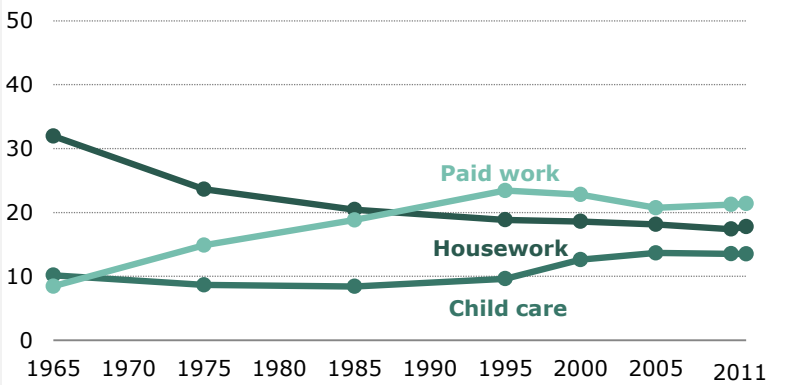
Mothers' Work Time at Work and at Home, 1965-2011

Hours per week



Note: Based on adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household.

Source: 1965-2000 data from various early time use surveys (Bianchi, et al. 2006). 2003-2011 data from the American Time Use Survey.

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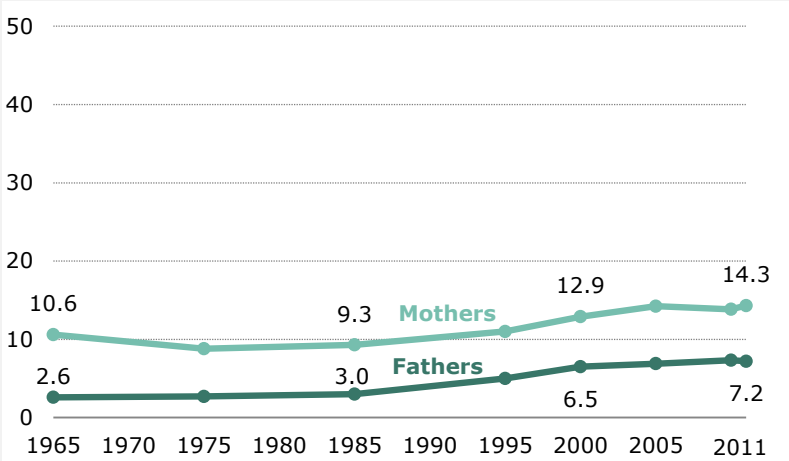
Married Parents' Child Care Time, 1965-2011

Hours per week



Note: Based on adults ages 18-64 with own child(ren) under age 18 living in the household.

Source: 1965-2000 data from various early time use surveys (Bianchi, et al. 2006). 2003-2011 data from the American Time Use Survey.

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APPENDIX 2: CHARACTERISTICS OF MEN AND WOMEN IN DIFFERENT FAMILY SETTINGS

	N	Age	% white	% college educated	% employed[1]	Earnings (weekly, $2011)	# of children[2]	Age of youngest child[2]
All ages 18-64	96,733							
Men	42,869	40.2	68.8	28.5	79.1	718.1	0.6	7.3
Women	53,864	40.6	67.8	30.0	66.5	463.3	0.8	7.0
Parents of young children								
Men	18,865	39.4	65.9	33.1	88.1	914.7	1.9	6.7
Women	27,618	36.6	62.2	31.0	63.0	437.9	1.9	6.7
Non-parents of young children								
Men	24,004	40.6	70.2	26.1	74.4	616.8	0.0	--
Women	26,246	43.3	71.6	29.3	68.9	480.7	0.0	--
Parents by family structure	46,483							
Married								
Fathers	16,789	39.7	66.9	35.4	89.2	950.3	1.9	6.7
Mothers	19,044	37.6	68.2	37.4	62.3	455.8	1.9	6.7
Cohabiting								
Fathers	563	33.3	52.6	7.1	80.9	525.8	1.6	4.5
Mothers	874	30.8	60.2	8.2	58.6	333.6	1.7	4.6
Single								
Fathers	1,513	38.5	60.6	15.3	77.7	643.2	1.5	8.3
Mothers	7,700	34.7	43.9	15.2	66.1	400.6	1.7	7.0
Among two-parent families	37,270							
Both employed								
Fathers	10,555	40.1	71.9	36.4	100.0	999.7	1.8	7.2
Mothers	12,219	38.0	73.4	40.9	100.0	676.0	1.8	7.2
Father employed								
Fathers	5,442	37.9	59.4	35.0	100.0	1058.8	2.1	5.3
Mothers	5,910	35.6	60.6	29.9	0.0	0.0	2.1	5.2
Mother employed								
Fathers	904	41.2	55.3	18.6	0.0	0.0	1.8	7.5
Mothers	1,198	38.2	59.2	30.6	100.0	732.4	1.8	7.5
Neither employed								
Fathers	451	40.9	51.0	14.6	0.0	0.0	2.0	6.9
Mothers	591	35.5	49.2	11.2	0.0	0.0	2.0	5.9

[1] Employment status as of last week. [2] Children under ages 18 living in the household.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of pooled data of American Time Use Survey (2003-2011)

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APPENDIX 3: TIME USE ACTIVITIES FOR PAID WORK, HOUSEWORK, CHILD CARE AND LEISURE

Time use classification	Examples of activities included	Code in ATUS
Paid work	At work (main job or other jobs), work-related activities (eg., socializing, events, lunch with clients), other income-generating activities(e.g., making arts for sale, playing in a band for pay), job searching and interviewing, etc.	05 series
Housework	Laundry, cleaning, cooking, interior and exterior maintenance, lawn, gardens, pet care, vehicles, appliances, household management, etc.	02 series
Child care	Physical care, reading to children, playing with children, arts and crafts with children, playing sports with children, organization& planning for children, attending children's events, helping with children's homework, home schooling, providing medical care to children, travel related to caring for and helping children	0301-0303 series,180381
Leisure	Socializing, attending/hosting social events, relaxing, television & movies, games, music, radio, computer use for leisure, hobbies, reading for personal interest, attending performing arts, museums, playing sports, biking, bowling, dancing, fishing, exercising, attending sports/recreational events	12 and 13 series

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: American Time Use Survey Activity Lexicon 2003-11.

APPENDIX 4: TOPLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

PEW SOCIAL & DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS
NOVEMBER 2012 GENDER AND GENERATIONS SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 5, 2012
TOTAL N=2,511

NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE PERCENTAGES. THE PERCENTAGES GREATER THAN ZERO BUT LESS THAN 0.5 % ARE REPLACED BY AN ASTERISK (*). COLUMNS/ROWS MAY NOT TOTAL 100% DUE TO ROUNDING. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL TRENDS REFERENCE SURVEYS FROM SOCIAL & DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS.

ASK ALL:

Q.1 Generally, how would you say things are these days in your life – would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?

Total	
29	Very happy
51	Pretty happy
16	Not too happy
4	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

Trends:[34]

	Very happy	Pretty happy	Not too happy	DK/Refused (VOL.)
Nov 2012	29	51	16	4
Jul 2012	30	47	21	1
Dec 2011	31	50	15	3
Sep 2011	30	47	20	3
Mar 2011	30	52	16	2
Jan 2010	28	54	16	2
Jul 2009[35]	34	49	15	3
Apr 2009	29	52	16	4
Feb 2009	32	49	15	4
Oct 2008	29	51	17	3
Jun 2008	35	48	14	3
Sep 2006	36	51	12	1
Nov 2005	29	56	14	1
Oct 2005	34	50	15	1
Late Mar 2003	29	51	16	4
Feb 2003	29	51	17	3
Sep 1996	34	53	11	2

[34] Unless otherwise noted, trends throughout the topline are based on total sample.
[35] The Jul 2009 survey was based on respondents ages 16 and older. In this topline, all Jul 2009 trends are based on respondents ages 18 and older only.

ASK ALL:
Q.2 How would you rate your own health in general these days? Would you say your health is excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

Total	
77	**NET** Excellent/Good
26	Excellent
51	Good
23	**NET** Only fair/Poor
18	Only fair
4	Poor
*	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

Trends:

	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	DK/Refused (VOL.)
Nov 2012	26	51	18	4	*
Jul 2012	29	44	20	6	1
Pew Internet: Aug 2010[36]	30	49	16	5	*
Jul 2009	29	51	15	5	1
Feb 2009	31	46	17	5	1
Pew Internet: Nov 2008	29	51	14	5	1
Jan 2008	30	48	17	5	*
Pew Internet: Aug 2006	33	47	14	4	1
Feb 2006	29	51	15	5	*
Oct 2005	30	48	17	5	*
Pew Internet: May 2004	33	49	14	4	1
Jun 2003	28	52	15	5	*
Pew Internet: Nov 2002	35	48	12	4	1
Pew Internet: Jun 2001	29	57	12	2	*
Pew Internet: Aug 2000	39	49	10	2	*
Mid-July 1990	27	53	15	5	*

ASK ALL:
Q.3 How would you describe your household's financial situation? Would you say you **[READ; DO NOT RANDOMIZE]**

Total		May 2010	Jul 2009
33	Live comfortably	30	33
30	Meet your basic expenses with a little left over for extras	30	27
24	Just meet your basic expenses **[OR]**	27	26
11	Don't even have enough to meet basic expenses	11	11
2	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	2

[36] In trends from the Pew Internet & American Life Project, the question was worded: "In general, how would you rate your own health—excellent, good, only fair, or poor?"

ASK ALL:

Q.4 In general, how do you feel about your time—would you say you always feel rushed even to do the things you have to do, only sometimes feel rushed, or almost never feel rushed?

Total		Oct 2005
25	Always feel rushed	24
47	Sometimes feel rushed	53
27	Almost never feel rushed	23
2	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1

QUESTIONS 5-6a, Q.14, Q.17-23 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED; Q.11-13 AND Q.15-16b HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE; NO QUESTIONS 7-10

ASK ALL:

Still thinking about your family…

P.1 Do you have any children under age 18? **IF RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS THAT THEY HAVE STEPCHILDREN, ASK:** Do you consider yourself (**IF MORE THAN ONE:** their/**IF ONE:** his or her) parent or guardian, or not? **IF YES TO EITHER, ASK:** How many children (OR, **IF APPLICABLE:** stepchildren) under age 18 do you have?

Total	
33	Yes
13	One child under 18
19	More than one
67	No
*	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL:

P.2 Do you have any adult children, age 18 or older? **IF RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS THAT THEY HAVE STEPCHILDREN, ASK:** Do you consider yourself (**IF MORE THAN ONE:** their/**IF ONE:** his or her) parent or guardian, or not? **IF YES TO EITHER, ASK:** How many adult children (**OR, IF APPLICABLE:** adult stepchildren) do you have?

Total	
48	Yes
13	One adult child
35	More than one
52	No
*	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

NO QUESTION 24

IF RESPONDENT HAS ANY CHILDREN (P.1=1,2 OR P.2=1,2), ASK: [n=1,862]

Q.25 Overall, how would you rate the job you have done or are doing as a PARENT – would you say excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?

Total		Oct 2010	Feb 2009
26	Excellent	26	32
43	Very good	44	36
24	Good	25	24
5	Only fair	4	6
1	Poor	1	1
1	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	2

ASK IF RESPONDENT HAS CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 (P.1=1,2): [n=643]

Q.26a Do you think you spend too much time with your children, too little time or about the right amount of time?

Total		*Trend for comparison PSRA/Newsweek:* Apr 1993[37]
6	Too much	5
33	Too little	33
60	Right amount	61
1	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1

ASK IF RESPONDENT HAS CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 (P.1=1,2): [n=643]

Q.26b Generally speaking, do you spend more time with your children than your parents did with you, less time, or about the same amount?

		Trends for comparison[38]	
			PSRA/Newsweek:
Total		Jul 2009	Apr 1993
49	More time	48	42
17	Less time	13	17
33	About the same amount	38	40
1	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	2	1

QUESTIONS P.3-5 AND Q.27-35 PREVIOUSLY RELEASEED; NO QUESTION 30

[37] In the April 1993 PSRA/Newsweek survey, the question was only asked among parents with children ages 10-16. It was also preceded by a question that asked how often they have dinner with their children. The questions used to filter parents with young children did not explicitly include stepchildren.

[38] For both trends, only parents with children younger than 17 were asked. The questions used to filter parents with young children in each survey did not explicitly include stepchildren. For July 2009 it asked if the respondent had any children 16 or younger; for April 1993 it asked if there were any children ages 16 or younger in the household.

ASK ALL:
Now, on a different subject…
M.1 Are you currently married, living with a partner, divorced, separated, widowed, or have you never been married? **(IF R SAYS "SINGLE," PROBE TO DETERMINE WHICH CATEGORY IS APPROPRIATE)**

Total	
49	Married
7	Living with a partner
9	Divorced
3	Separated
7	Widowed
25	Never been married
1	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK IF LIVING WITH PARTNER (M.1=2): [n=120]
M.2 Have you ever been married?

Total	
30	Yes
70	No
0	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL:
Q.36 On another subject, generally do you feel like you have enough free time to do the things you want to do, or not?

Total	
63	Yes
37	No
1	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL:
Q.37 In your opinion, what is the ideal situation for young CHILDREN: mothers working full-time, mothers working part-time, or mothers not working at all outside the home?

Total		Jul 2009
16	Full-time	11
42	Part-time	40
33	Not at all	43
8	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	6

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [n=1,257]

Q.38a And what do you think is the ideal situation for WOMEN with young children: working full-time, working part-time, or not working at all outside the home?

Total		Jul 2009
12	Full-time	12
47	Part-time	44
33	Not at all	39
8	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	6

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [n=1,254]

Q.38b And what do you think is the ideal situation for MEN with young children: working full-time, working part-time, or not working at all outside the home?

Total	
70	Full-time
20	Part-time
4	Not at all
6	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL:

E1 Are you currently retired?

Total	
22	Yes
2	Yes, semi-retired or "still do some type of work" **(VOL.)**
73	No
3	Disabled **(VOL.)**
*	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL:

E2 Are you now enrolled in school, either full or part-time, or not?

Total	
9	Yes, full-time
5	Yes, part-time
85	No
*	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL:

E3 **(IF E1=1,2:** Some people who have retired do some type of work for pay…/**IF E2=1,2 & E1=3,9:** Some students also
do some type of work for pay/**IF E1=4:** Some people who are disabled do some type of work for pay…) Are you now employed full-time, part-time or not employed?

Total	
45	Full-time
15	Part-time
39	Not employed
*	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK IF EMPLOYED (E3=1,2): [n=1,367]

Q.39 Overall, how satisfied are you with your job? Are you **(READ)**:

Total	
31	Completely satisfied
58	Mostly satisfied
7	Mostly dissatisfied **[OR]**
3	Completely dissatisfied
1	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

Trends:

	Jul 2012	Dec 2011[39]	May 2010	Jul 2009	*Pew Internet:* Mar 2008[40]	Jan 2008	Jun 2006	*PSRA/U.S. News & World Report:* May 1992	*Gallup:* Jul 1989
Completely satisfied	30	36	32	30	33	31	28	20	28
Mostly satisfied	56	49	54	60	57	56	61	63	61
Mostly dissatisfied **[OR]**	10	10	7	7	8	10	8	14	8
Completely dissatisfied	3	5	4	2	2	3	2	2	3
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	1	2	1	1	*	1	1	*

[39] In December 2011, the question read: "How satisfied are you with your current job…."

[40] In March 2008, the question read: "Now thinking about your job overall, would you say you are completely satisfied with your job overall,
mostly satisfied, mostly dissatisfied or completely dissatisfied?"

ASK ALL WHO ARE NOT FULLY RETIRED {(E1=2 THRU 9 OR (E1=1 AND E3=1,2)}): [n=1,785]

Q.40 There are many things people value in a job. How important is each of these things to you personally? First, **(INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE) –** Is this extremely important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important? How about **(INSERT ITEM)**? **READ IF NECESSARY**: Is this extremely important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important?

a. Having a high-paying job

Total	
33	Extremely important
51	Somewhat important
12	Not too important
3	Not at all important
1	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

b. Having job security

Total	
76	Extremely important
19	Somewhat important
2	Not too important
2	Not at all important
1	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

c. Having a flexible work schedule

Total	
46	Extremely important
39	Somewhat important
9	Not too important
5	Not at all important
2	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

d. Having a job you enjoy doing

Total	
74	Extremely important
22	Somewhat important
2	Not too important
1	Not at all important
1	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL:

IDEAL Considering everything, what would be the ideal situation for you – working full-time, working part-time, or not working at all outside the home?

Total		Feb 2007
48	Full-time	40
29	Part-time	31
22	Not at all	28
1	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1

BASED ON MOTHERS OF CHILDREN UNDER 18: [n=353]

		Trend	*Trend for comparison*
Total		Feb 2007	Mar 1997[41]
32	Full-time	20	30
47	Part-time	50	44
20	Not at all	29	26
1	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	*
		(n=414)	**(n=457)**

ASK ALL WHO ARE EMPLOYED AND HAVE KIDS UNDER 18 AND/OR ARE MARRIED {E3=1,2 AND (P.1=1,2 OR M.1=1)}: [n=888]

Q.41 How difficult would you say it is for you personally to balance the responsibilities of your job with the responsibilities of your family? Would you say it is … **[READ IN ORDER]**

Total		*With children younger than 18*	*Without children younger than 18*
45	**NET** Difficult	53	31
12	Very difficult	15	6
33	Somewhat difficult	37	25
55	**NET** Not difficult	47	68
34	Not too difficult **[OR]**	32	39
20	Not at all difficult	15	30
1	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	*
		(n=478)	**(n=409)**

[41] In March 1997, question was based on respondents with children younger than 18 living in the household.

ASK ALL WHO HAVE CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 (P.1=1,2): [n=643]

Q.42 When it comes to taking care of your (**IF P.1=1:** child, **IF P.1=2:** children), do you do more than your (**IF M.1=1:** spouse, **IF M.1=2:** partner, **IF M.1 GE 3 & P.1=1:** child's other parent, **IF M.1 GE 3 & P.1=2:** children's other parent), does your (**IF M.1=1:** spouse, **IF M.1=2:** partner, **IF M.1 GE 3 & P.1=1:** child's other parent, **IF M.1 GE 3 & P.1=2:** children's other parent) do more than you, or do you share this about equally?

Total	
35	Respondent does more
18	Spouse/partner/other parent does more
44	Share about equally
1	Someone else does it **(VOL.)**
1	Depends on which child/parent **(VOL.)**
1	There is no other parent **(VOL.)**
1	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL WHO ARE MARRIED OR LWP (M.1=1,2): [n=1,382]

Q.43 When it comes to household chores and responsibilities, do you do more than your (**IF M.1=1:** spouse, **IF M.1=2:** partner), does your (**IF M.1=1:** spouse/**IF M.1=2:** partner) do more than you, or do you share this about equally?

Total	
30	Respondent does more
16	Spouse/partner does more
54	Share about equally
*	Someone else does it **(VOL.)**
*	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK IF MARRIED OR LWP (M.1=1,2): [n=1,382]

E5 Is your (**IF M.1=1:** spouse, **IF M.1=2:** partner) now employed full-time, part-time or not employed?

Total	
54	Full-time
13	Part-time
32	Not employed
1	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

COMBO E3/E5:

Total	
50	Both employed **(NET)**
32	Both full-time
2	Both part-time
16	One full-time, one part-time
31	One employed
18	Neither employed
1	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL WHO ARE EMPLOYED AND HAVE KIDS UNDER 18 (E3=1,2 AND P.1=1,2): [n=478]
Q.44 Which one of the following statements best describes how you balance work and family? **[READ AND ROTATE]**

Total	
50	I would prefer to be at home raising my children, but I need to work because we need the income **[OR]**
46	Even though it takes me away from my family, I enjoy my work and want to keep working
4	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

BASED ON EMPLOYED WOMEN WITH KIDS UNDER 18: [n=229]

		Trends for comparison[42]	
Total		*NBC/WSJ:* Apr 2012	*NBC/WSJ:* Jun 2000
52	I would prefer to be at home raising my children, but I need to work because we need the income **[OR]**	46	48
42	Even though it takes me away from my family, I enjoy my work and want to keep working	47	44
5	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	7	8

ASK ALL:
Finally, just a few questions for statistical purposes only.

[NOT SHOWN: EDUC2, HISP4, RACE, CITIZEN, BIRTH_HISP, USBORN1A, USBORN2, RELIG, CHR, BORN, ATTEND, INCOME]

ASK ALL: [N=1,979][43]
REG Which of these statements best describes you? **[READ IN ORDER]**

Total	
75	Are you ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN that you are registered to vote at your current address **[OR]**
3	Are you PROBABLY registered, but there is a chance your registration has lapsed **[OR]**
21	Are you NOT registered to vote at your current address
1	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

[42] In April 2012 and June 2000, the question was only asked of employed women who have children under 18 *living in their household*.
[43] REG, PVOTE12A and PVOTE12B were asked starting on November 30, 2012.

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REG=1):

PVOTE12A In the 2012 presidential election between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, did things come up that kept you from voting, or did you happen to vote?

ASK IF YES (PVOTE12A=1):

PVOTE12B Did you vote for Obama, Romney or someone else?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [n=1,604]

Total	
89	Voted
41	Obama
33	Romney
4	Other candidate
11	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**
11	Did not vote (includes too young to vote)
*	Don't remember if voted/ Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

Total	
24	Republican
33	Democrat
34	Independent
4	No preference **(VOL.)**
*	Other party **(VOL.)**
4	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

Trends:

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference (VOL.)	Other party (VOL.)	DK/Ref. (VOL.)
Nov 28-Dec 5, 2012	24	33	34	4	*	4
Nov 8-11, 2012	31	35	32	*	*	1
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012	26	34	34	3	1	3
Oct 24-28, 2012	28	33	33	4	*	2
Oct 4-7 2012	27	31	36	3	1	3
Sep 12-16, 2012	**24**	**35**	**36**	**2**	*****	**2**
Jul16-26, 2012	22	33	38	4	*	3
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	24	33	37	3	*	3
Jun 7-17, 2012	24	33	39	2	*	2
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	24	32	36	4	*	4
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	31	39	3	*	2
Mar 7-11, 2012	24	34	36	3	1	2
Feb 8-12, 2012	26	32	36	4	1	2
Jan 11-16, 2012	22	31	42	3	*	2
Jan 4-8, 2012	26	31	35	4	*	4
Dec 7-11, 2011	23	33	38	3	*	2
Nov 9-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	1	2
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	23	33	38	2	1	3
Aug 17-21, 2011	24	30	40	3	*	3
Jul 20-24, 2011	24	32	38	4	*	2
Yearly Totals						
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6
2001 *Post-Sep 11*	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6
2001 *Pre-Sep 11*	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	n/a	3.6
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4
1989	33	33	34	n/a	n/a	n/a
1987	26	35	39	n/a	n/a	n/a

ASK ALL:
PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?
ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):
PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

Total	
36	Republican/lean Republican
48	Democrat/lean Democrat
16	Refused to lean

ASK ALL:
IDEO In general, would you describe your political views as… **[READ]**

Total	
8	Very conservative
29	Conservative
35	Moderate
15	Liberal
7	Very liberal
6	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

[NOT SHOWN: HH1, HH2, OWNRENT]