

LMF9: The distribution of working hours among adults in sole-parent families by age of youngest child and number of children

Definitions and methodology

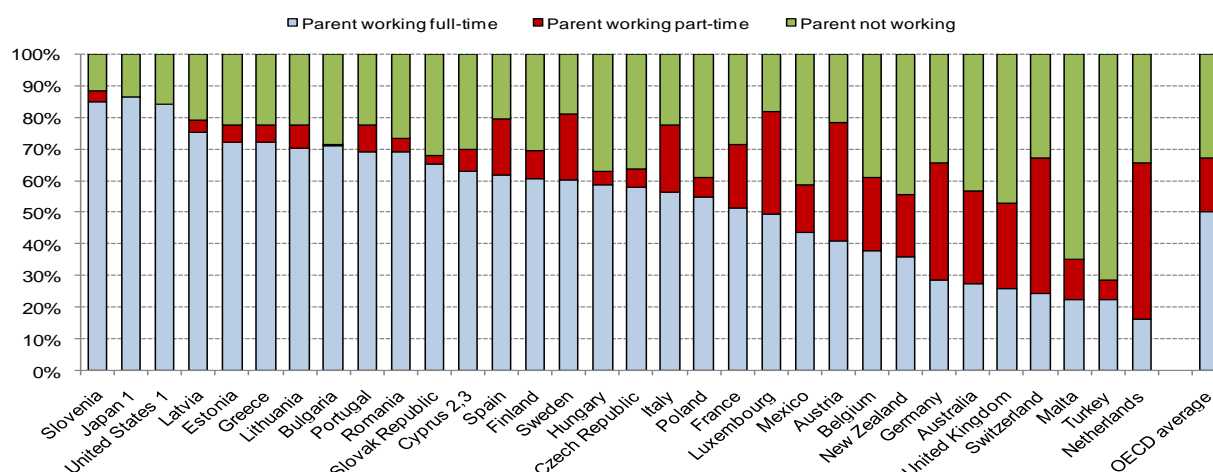
The distribution of paid working hours among adults in sole-parent families aged 15 to 64 with at least one dependent child (0-14 years of age) is presented along three labour force categories - working full-time, part-time or not being in paid work. The distinction between full-time and part-time employment is based on the information provided by survey-respondents (LMF6 and “Comparability and data issues”).

The data on working hours concern usual weekly working hours, including regular overtime. Data on usual weekly working hours concern cover all workers (including the self-employed), but not working hours in a secondary job. Usual weekly hours of work are grouped into the following categories: 1-29, 30-39, 40-44 and 45 hours or more (LMF7).

Key findings

Chart LMF9.1 shows the labour force status of parents (mothers and fathers) in sole-parent families with children aged 0 to 14. Apart from Turkey where non-employment concerns over half of sole parents, full-time paid work is the most commonly reported labour force status by sole parents, except in Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the UK, where sole parents more often work part-time.

Chart LMF9.1 Employment status of sole parents with children aged 0-14, 2007



1) No distinction between full-time and part-time employment in the data for Japan and the US.

2) Footnote by Turkey: The information in this document with reference to « Cyprus » relates to the southern part of the Island. There is no single authority representing both Turkish and Greek Cypriot people on the Island. Turkey recognizes the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Until a lasting and equitable solution is found within the context of United Nations, Turkey shall preserve its position concerning the “Cyprus issue”.

3) Footnote by all the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Commission: The Republic of Cyprus is recognized by all members of the United Nations with the exception of Turkey. The information in this document relates to the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Sources: EU-countries and Turkey, ELFS (2007); Australia: ABS Family Characteristics and Transitions Survey, 2006-07; Japan: 2007 Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions of the People on Health and Welfare; New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings (2006); Japan, National Authorities (2007); Mexico, National Occupation and Employment Survey (2008); Sweden, Level-of-living Condition Survey (2005); Switzerland, Swiss Labour Force Survey (2005); and, the US, Current Population Survey (2005)

Other relevant indicators: Children in families by employment status (LMF1); Maternal employment (LMF2); Sole parents in paid employment (LMF3); Distribution of working hours among individuals in couple families (LMF8); and, Family friendly workplace practices (LMF10).

Table LMF9.1 shows the proportion of sole parents working full-time, part-time or not in paid work by age of youngest child. The table shows that sole-parent employment rates go up with the age of the youngest child: the proportion of sole parents with youngest child aged 6-14 in employment is almost twice as high as for sole parents with children not yet 3 years of age. The majority of sole-parents with a child aged 6 to 14 are in full-time work, except in Germany and the Netherlands, where part-time work is most prevalent.

Table LMF9.1 Employment patterns among sole-parent families by age of youngest child, 2007

	Sole-parent families with youngest child 0-2			Sole-parent families with youngest child 3-5			Sole-parent families with youngest child 6-14		
	Parent working full-time	Parent working part-time	Parent not working	Parent working full-time	Parent working part-time	Parent not working	Parent working full-time	Parent working part-time	Parent not working
Australia	8.9	19.6	71.4	21.0	28.4	51.9	:	:	:
Austria	32.7	29.4	37.9	32.8	42.9	24.3	44.7	37.8	17.5
Belgium	25.2	16.6	58.3	32.5	21.7	45.8	43.3	25.4	31.3
Bulgaria	33.8	0.0	65.0	56.6	1.0	39.9	76.0	0.2	21.7
Cyprus ^{1,2}	31.8	5.2	63.0	56.7	0.0	43.3	67.3	8.9	23.8
Czech Republic	12.5	2.5	85.0	41.3	10.7	48.1	74.1	5.4	20.5
Estonia	28.8	2.3	68.9	58.5	11.5	30.0	84.3	4.4	11.3
Finland	31.6	11.3	57.1	51.4	11.9	36.7	67.0	8.1	24.9
France	32.5	15.7	51.8	44.0	24.6	31.4	58.9	19.5	21.6
Germany	21.2	18.0	60.7	17.2	39.7	43.1	33.6	40.8	25.6
Greece	62.9	5.9	31.2	71.8	2.6	25.6	72.8	5.7	21.5
Hungary	5.6	0.5	93.9	53.3	4.1	42.6	69.8	4.7	25.5
Italy	47.3	19.8	32.9	49.7	24.8	25.5	59.6	21.0	19.4
Japan		71.7	28.3		83.5	13.5		87.1	11.6
Lithuania	61.8	2.8	35.5	62.2	10.0	27.8	74.6	7.3	18.1
Luxembourg	34.2	34.9	30.9	50.5	35.5	14.0	51.1	31.6	17.4
Latvia	44.8	6.6	48.6	78.5	0.9	20.7	86.0	3.7	10.4
Malta	20.8	4.9	74.3	18.7	22.2	59.2	23.9	13.3	62.8
Mexico	37.9	14.3	40.6	38.4	13.2	47.0	49.2	15.9	32.8
Netherlands	10.7	35.9	53.4	10.2	50.2	39.6	19.7	52.3	28.0
New Zealand	17.2	13.4	66.8	27.4	20.7	50.1	44.7	20.4	33.3
Poland	28.9	9.0	62.1	47.8	6.4	45.8	62.2	5.6	32.2
Portugal	52.1	6.7	41.2	63.0	13.3	23.8	76.0	7.5	16.5
Romania	52.7	1.8	45.5	54.6	6.4	39.1	74.4	4.1	21.4
Slovenia	84.7	4.7	10.7	82.4	0.7	16.9	86.0	3.6	10.4
Slovak Republic	8.4	2.1	89.6	63.1	6.1	30.7	81.1	2.1	16.8
Spain	56.5	22.9	20.6	54.8	28.9	16.3	65.0	13.3	21.7
Sweden	28.5	4.1	67.5	44.8	32.1	23.0	66.0	20.1	13.9
Switzerland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey	8.8	4.5	86.7	20.1	8.2	71.8	27.4	6.5	66.1
United Kingdom	13.5	20.4	65.8	18.7	26.4	54.7	34.8	30.2	34.6
OECD-22 Average	27.6	14.2	57.8	41.0	21.6	37.3	56.0	18.6	25.2
EU-25 Average	36.0	11.4	53.1	49.9	17.4	33.1	63.0	15.1	22.3

1) and 2) see notes 2) and 3) to Chart LMF9.1

Sources: EU-countries and Turkey, Eurostat Labour Force Survey (2007); Australia: ABS Family Characteristics and Transitions Survey, 2006-07; Japan: 2007 Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions of the People on Health and Welfare; New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings (2006); Mexico, National Occupation and Employment Survey (2008); and, Sweden, Level-of-living Condition Survey (2005).

Table LMF9.2 presents differences in sole-parents' working hours by children's age. Overall, the number of working hours among sole-parents is larger among families with children in school age (6-14 years old) than among those with younger children (0-5 years old). In Austria, the Netherlands and the UK, where part-time work is common, the proportion of parents working 1-29 hours is larger when the youngest child is aged 0-5 than when aged 6-14. Alternatively, in Portugal and some Eastern European countries the proportion of sole-parents working long hours (45 hours or more per week) is highest among families with children in compulsory school (6-14 years old).

Table LMF9.3 presents the distribution of usual working hours per week for sole-parents by number of children. The table shows that across countries an increasing number of children in the household leads to sole parents reducing their number of hours paid work. This holds in particular for Austria, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK, where sole parents with more than one child are very likely to be in paid work for less than 30 hours per week.

In general, it seems that associations between working hours and age of the youngest child, and working hours and number of children in households are somewhat weaker for sole-parent families than for mothers in couple families (LMF8).

Comparability and data issues:

This indicator was constructed using information on sole parents (both sole-mothers and sole-fathers) with a dependent child under the age of 15. Data are not disaggregated by sex because in many countries the underlying samples are very small (especially for sole fathers). For this reason, no information could be included on Malta and the Slovak Republic. In general data presented here concern sole parents, of which about 75% are mothers; single parents living with other adults in the same dwelling are not included here for European countries.

Data on the incidence of usual weekly hours worked as in the OECD database on Usual Weekly Hours Worked cannot be linked to family status. Consequently, data were taken from both National Labour Force Surveys and the ELFS to pull together relevant information. However, these data are not fully comparable. First, these data report usual weekly working hours in the *main* job, except for Finland, Norway and Poland which report hours worked in all jobs, so these latter three countries will *a priori* have longer working hours across the distribution. Second, in most countries the National LFS groups workers into full-time and part-time categories on basis of self-assessment by survey respondents rather than the 30-hours threshold commonly used in OECD statistics (LMF6); in Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden part-time work is defined as employment for less than 35 per week; and, in Switzerland part-time work is defined as working less than 30 hours per week. Third, employment rates of sole parents can differ slightly from those presented in LMF3 because non-employed sole parents here include those who did not answer the question in the LFS on full-time and part-time employment.

Sources and further reading: OECD on-line Labour Force Statistics database; EU Labour Force Survey database, User Guide, http://circa.europa.eu/irc/dsis/employment/info/data/eu_lfs/index.htm; OECD *Babies and Bosses: Reconciling Work and Family Life* (Volume 1 to5), 2002-2007; *Employment Outlook 2008*; "Women at work: who are they and how are they faring?", Chapter 2 in *Employment outlook 2002*, pp. 123-165; Aliaga C. (2005), "Gender gaps in the reconciliation between work and family life", *Statistics in focus*, 4.

Table LMF9.2 Working hours patterns among sole-parent families by age of youngest child, 2007

	Sole- Parents with a child aged 0-5				Sole- Parents with a child aged 6-14				Sole- Parents with a child aged 0-14			
	1-29	30-39	40-44	45+	1-29	30-39	40-44	45+	1-29	30-39	40-44	45+
Austria	39.3	23.4	27.2	10.2	30.5	26.9	32.1	10.5	32.9	25.9	30.7	10.4
Belgium	32.2	50.8	9.1	8.0	28.6	49.6	10.1	11.7	29.7	50.0	9.8	10.6
Bulgaria	0.0	0.0	81.5	18.5	0.3	2.1	80.6	17.1	0.3	1.8	80.7	17.3
Cyprus ^{1,2}	3.5	39.9	46.9	9.8	12.2	48.6	34.4	4.8	10.7	47.1	36.6	5.7
Czech Republic	14.4	18.3	58.2	9.1	2.9	17.6	69.5	10.0	5.0	17.7	67.5	9.8
Estonia	14.7	8.7	76.7	0.0	4.8	6.8	75.5	12.9	6.8	7.2	75.7	10.3
Finland	12.3	62.9	22.3	2.5	6.6	69.3	18.0	6.1	7.9	67.8	19.0	5.2
France	23.6	56.7	8.2	11.5	16.1	58.1	13.1	12.7	18.3	57.7	11.7	12.4
Germany	44.6	27.4	22.0	6.0	45.4	32.8	17.1	4.6	45.2	31.4	18.4	5.0
Greece	9.2	27.5	40.5	22.8	10.7	20.8	44.1	24.5	10.4	21.9	43.5	24.2
Hungary	6.1	4.2	81.8	7.9	5.3	4.2	84.1	6.4	5.4	4.2	83.8	6.6
Italy	31.9	28.5	30.1	9.5	26.5	29.9	31.2	12.5	28.0	29.5	30.9	11.7
Latvia	3.0	6.0	75.8	15.2	3.4	10.2	70.9	15.5	3.3	8.9	72.4	15.4
Lithuania	7.9	5.4	81.7	5.1	10.1	11.4	69.5	9.0	9.4	9.6	73.1	7.9
Luxembourg	23.1	23.6	51.3	2.0	21.2	23.7	52.5	2.6	21.7	23.7	52.2	2.5
Netherlands	60.5	32.1	5.5	1.8	51.6	35.2	10.2	3.1	54.3	34.3	8.8	2.7
Poland	16.6	14.0	50.3	19.1	13.1	5.4	60.5	21.0	14.0	7.4	58.1	20.6
Portugal	9.6	25.5	55.7	9.2	8.6	30.5	50.1	10.8	9.0	28.9	51.9	10.3
Romania	5.7	3.7	75.4	15.2	5.2	4.3	76.2	14.3	5.3	4.2	76.1	14.5
Slovak Republic	11.1	15.6	71.7	1.6	1.2	16.9	68.8	13.1	2.7	16.7	69.2	11.3
Slovenia	3.3	3.1	86.4	7.2	4.7	0.4	86.1	8.8	4.1	1.5	86.3	8.1
Spain	31.0	16.4	39.6	13.0	16.8	23.2	38.2	21.8	21.6	20.9	38.7	18.9
Turkey	29.9	8.9	26.0	35.2	19.2	7.3	28.1	45.4	22.4	7.8	27.5	42.3
U.K.	56.3	28.2	6.5	9.0	43.2	33.3	12.6	10.9	47.7	31.6	10.5	10.3
<i>OECD-17 average</i>	<i>23.6</i>	<i>23.7</i>	<i>43.1</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>17.9</i>	<i>24.7</i>	<i>44.5</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>19.4</i>	<i>24.4</i>	<i>44.2</i>	<i>12.1</i>
<i>EU-24 average</i>	<i>21.0</i>	<i>21.2</i>	<i>47.1</i>	<i>10.6</i>	<i>17.0</i>	<i>23.0</i>	<i>47.1</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>18.1</i>	<i>22.5</i>	<i>47.1</i>	<i>12.2</i>

For 1) and 2) see notes to Chart LMF9.1

Sources: ELFS 2007

Table LMF9.3 Working hours patterns among sole-parent families by number of children, 2007

	Sole-parents with one child				Sole-parents with two or more children			
	1-29	30-39	40-44	45+	1-29	30-39	40-44	45+
Austria	29.2	26.6	34.2	9.9	39.8	24.4	25.4	10.5
Belgium	29.0	50.3	10.0	10.8	30.8	49.6	9.3	10.2
Bulgaria	0.4	2.2	83.3	14.1	0.0	1.1	76.5	22.3
Cyprus ^{1,2}	9.0	50.5	38.2	2.3	14.8	43.4	33.0	8.9
Czech Republic	4.0	17.9	68.1	10.1	6.1	17.7	66.8	9.5
Estonia	7.2	6.5	77.0	9.3	6.6	8.5	73.5	11.4
Finland	8.6	65.7	21.1	4.6	16.7	63.3	14.8	5.3
France	14.0	58.7	12.9	14.5	22.9	56.6	10.4	10.1
Germany	41.8	34.2	18.8	5.2	51.8	26.5	17.3	4.5
Greece	9.2	21.8	45.1	23.9	11.7	22.1	41.6	24.6
Hungary	4.0	4.1	85.6	6.4	7.0	4.3	81.9	6.9
Italy	26.2	28.0	34.0	11.8	31.2	31.3	26.0	11.4
Latvia	3.1	10.6	70.0	16.4	3.5	6.8	75.0	14.7
Lithuania	8.5	8.0	73.8	9.6	10.7	11.9	72.1	5.4
Luxembourg	19.9	18.7	60.8	0.7	23.5	30.2	41.4	5.0
Malta	38.6	9.6	47.6	4.3	36.1	2.2	44.8	17.0
Netherlands	52.7	35.7	9.8	1.8	66.0	25.3	6.1	2.7
Poland	13.1	6.8	61.6	18.5	15.8	8.3	54.0	22.0
Portugal	7.4	27.0	53.7	11.9	10.6	31.4	49.8	8.2
Romania	3.3	3.3	78.6	14.9	8.0	5.4	72.7	13.9
Slovak Republic	5.6	12.4	70.5	11.5	0.0	20.8	68.0	11.2
Slovenia	6.0	2.4	85.1	6.6	5.9	2.0	83.1	9.1
Spain	23.4	18.7	39.7	18.2	19.8	23.4	37.2	19.6
Turkey	9.5	5.4	39.2	45.9	30.8	9.1	20.2	40.0
U.K	40.2	35.6	12.2	12.1	56.2	27.0	8.6	8.2
<i>OECD-17 average</i>	<i>18.9</i>	<i>28.9</i>	<i>40.5</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>24.7</i>	<i>28.5</i>	<i>35.3</i>	<i>11.4</i>
<i>EU-24 average</i>	<i>16.6</i>	<i>22.4</i>	<i>49.2</i>	<i>11.8</i>	<i>21.0</i>	<i>22.1</i>	<i>44.4</i>	<i>12.5</i>

For 1) and 2) see notes to Chart LMF9.1

Sources: ELFS