

Table 3.2. **Most mothers are in paid work, especially when children go to school, 2005**

Maternal employment rates, women aged 15-64

	By age of youngest child				By number of children under 15		
	0-16	<2	3-5	6-16	One child	Two children	Three children
Australia	63.1	48.3		70.5	63.3	58.1	
Austria	64.7	60.5	62.4	67.5	67.7	60.1	46.5
Belgium	59.9	63.8	63.3	56.9	58.3	58.5	39.4
Canada	70.5	58.7	68.1	71.1	70.1	73.2	66.3
Czech Republic	52.8	19.9	50.9	67.6	57.4	52.5	34.4
Denmark	76.5	71.4	77.8	77.5	..	..	..
Finland	76.0	52.1	80.7	84.2	71.2	70.9	60.1
France	59.9	53.7	63.8	61.7	62.2	57.6	38.1
Germany	54.9	36.1	54.8	62.7	58.4	51.8	36.0
Greece	50.9	49.5	53.6	50.4	48.4	44.4	37.4
Hungary	45.7	13.9	49.9	58.3	53.7	48.3	24.6
Iceland	84.8	83.6		86.5	88.5	82.3	
Ireland	57.5	55.0		59.9	55.4	52.5	42.3
Italy	48.1	47.3	50.6	47.5	48.3	41.0	27.4
Japan	52.4	28.5	47.5	68.1	..	..	..
Luxembourg	55.4	58.3	58.7	52.7	56.0	49.8	33.8
Netherlands	69.2	69.4	68.3	69.4	70.1	70.6	59.9
New Zealand	64.6	45.1	60.6	75.3	64.1	64.5	56.7
Poland	46.4	..	..	..	42.7	35.6	28.5
Portugal	67.8	69.1	71.8	65.4	63.5	59.2	46.1
Slovak Republic	48.4	23.1	46.6	60.4	56.4	49.4	31.5
Spain	52.0	52.6	54.2	50.9	51.1	44.7	38.5
Sweden	82.5	71.9	81.3	76.1	80.6	84.7	75.6
Switzerland	69.7	58.3	61.7	77.0	69.5	65.4	58.0
United Kingdom	61.7	52.6	58.3	67.7	67.1	62.4	42.3
United States	66.7	54.2	62.8	73.2	..	..	..
<b>EU19</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>41.2</b>
<b>OECD average</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>51.9</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>44.0</b>

Source: Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics (2005); 6224.0.55.001 FA2 Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families; Statistics Canada (2001 data), Statistics Denmark (1999 data), Statistics Finland (2002 data), Statistics Iceland (2002 data for women age 25-54), Japanese authorities (2001 data), Swiss LFS (2006 second quarter data), UK Office of National Statistics (2005 data), and the US Current Population Survey (2005 data); all other EU countries, *European labour Force Survey* (2005 data), except for Italy which concerns 2003.

parental leave schemes cover an employment-protected period of absence from work for about one year (Chapter 5).

Table 3.2 shows that in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Japan and the Slovak Republic women often withdraw from the labour force upon childbirth. For Korea (see OECD, 2007d), it is not uncommon that women resign from their job upon marriage. In some countries, mothers often withdraw from work during the first three years of their children's lives – via paid leave schemes or career