

Work Activities of Married Parents

- Forty-three percent of married mothers and 88 percent of married fathers were employed full time. Full-time workers are those who usually work 35 hours or more per week.
- Among full-time workers who are parents of children under 18, married mothers were less likely to work on an average day than were married fathers; this partly reflects the fact that married mothers—particularly those with young children—were more likely to be on leave from their jobs than were married fathers. Among married mothers employed full time, 65 percent of those with a child under age 6 worked on an average day compared to 71 percent of married mothers whose youngest child was age 6 to 17. About 73 percent of married fathers who were employed full time worked on an average day, regardless of the age of their youngest child. (See table 1.)
- Among full-time workers who are parents of children under 18, married fathers worked about 1.0 hour more per day than did married mothers—6.1 versus 5.1 hours. The estimates are averages of both workdays and non-workdays; on average, married fathers employed full time worked

42.6 hours per week, and married mothers employed full time worked 36.0 hours. The difference between these estimates partly reflects married mothers' greater likelihood of being absent from work. (See table 1.)

- In households with children under 18, the amount of time fathers who were employed full time worked varied by their wives' employment status. In households where both spouses were employed full time, fathers spent 17 minutes fewer per day working than did fathers whose spouses were not employed. (See table 2.)

Childcare Activities of Married Parents

- Among full-time workers who are parents of children under 18, married mothers were more likely to provide childcare to household children than were married fathers. On an average day, 71 percent of these mothers and 54 percent of these fathers spent time caring for and helping household children. Mothers spent more time providing this care than did fathers—1.2 hours per day versus 0.8 hour (49 minutes) per day. The difference in the amount of time spent partly reflects mothers' greater likelihood of providing childcare on an average day. (See table 1.)
- Full-time employed married mothers of children under 18 also were more likely to engage in travel related to childcare than were fathers with similar characteristics. Forty percent of these mothers and 23 percent of these fathers spent some time in travel related to caring for and helping household children on an average day. (See table 1.)
- Regardless of employment status, both mothers and fathers of children under 6 spent more than twice as much time providing childcare on an average day as did their counterparts whose youngest child was age 6 to 17. Both mothers and fathers were more likely to provide childcare when their children were under 6 than when their children were older. (See table 1.)
- In households with children under 18 where married mothers were not employed and married fathers were employed full time, mothers spent triple the amount of time providing childcare on average than did fathers—2.5 hours versus 0.8 hour (50 minutes). (See table 2.)

Household Activities of Married Parents

- In households with children under 18, married mothers who were employed full time were more likely to do household activities—such as housework, cooking, or lawn care—on an average day than were fathers who were employed full time (89 versus 64 percent). (See table 1.)
- Among married mothers of children under 18, those who were not employed spent an average of 3.6 hours per day doing household activities; this was 1.6 hours more than married mothers employed full time, and 1.0 hour more than married mothers employed part time. (See table 1.)
- On an average day, married fathers who had children under 18 and were not employed spent 2.3 hours doing household activities, about 1.1 hours more than did fathers who were employed full time. In addition to spending more time doing household activities, married fathers who were not employed were more likely to do household activities on an average day than were married fathers who were employed full time—73 versus 64 percent. (See table 1.)

- In households with children under 18 where both spouses were employed full time, mothers spent an average of 2.1 hours per day doing household activities, while fathers spent about 1.4 hours. However, fathers in these households spent more time doing household activities than did fathers whose spouses were not employed—0.3 hour (20 minutes) more per day. (See table 2.)

Leisure Activities of Married Parents

- Married mothers who were not employed and had children under 18 spent 4.2 hours doing leisure activities on an average day, while married mothers who were employed full time spent 2.9 hours. By contrast, married fathers who were not employed spent 6.3 hours doing leisure activities, and married fathers who were employed full time spent 3.7 hours. (See table 1.)
- In households with children under 18 where mothers were employed part time and fathers were employed full time, mothers spent 3.4 hours doing leisure activities on an average day and fathers spent 3.6 hours. (See table 2.)

Table 1. Time spent in primary activities ¹ and the percent of married mothers and fathers who did the activities on an average day by employment status and age of youngest own household child, average for the combined years 2003-06

Own household children under 18

Activity	Average hours per day spent in primary activities ¹					Percent doing the activity on an average day				
	Married mothers			Married fathers ²		Married mothers			Married fathers ²	
	Employed full time	Employed part time	Not Employed	Employed full time	Not Employed	Employed full time	Employed part time	Not Employed	Employed full time	Not Employed
Total, all activities	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Personal care activities	9.00	9.08	9.42	8.62	9.66	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sleeping	8.18	8.32	8.77	8.03	8.98	99.9	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.0
Household activities	2.05	2.63	3.64	1.24	2.32	88.6	92.4	95.8	64.2	73.1
Housework .....	.89	1.16	1.69	.22	.52	55.5	68.3	77.4	18.3	30.5
Food preparation and cleanup .....	.78	1.01	1.44	.28	.60	73.9	81.2	88.6	38.5	49.4
Lawn and garden care .....	.10	.12	.14	.23	.35	6.4	8.8	9.8	11.0	15.2
Purchasing goods and services .....	.60	.77	.82	.38	.54	53.1	61.7	57.5	40.5	45.5
Grocery shopping .....	.14	.19	.23	.07	.11	19.1	25.7	26.3	9.8	13.6
Consumer goods purchases, except grocery shopping .....	.37	.44	.47	.25	.26	38.9	43.7	39.4	31.8	30.0
Caring for and helping household members	1.22	1.87	2.48	.84	1.26	72.1	82.6	86.0	55.4	60.6
Caring for and helping household children	1.19	1.83	2.45	.81	1.21	70.7	81.1	85.0	53.8	58.7
Physical care .....	.52	.75	1.07	.26	.32	50.6	63.7	72.3	32.0	31.9
Education-related activities .....	.10	.16	.23	.06	.15	11.0	18.6	20.0	6.2	13.7
Reading to/with children .....	.04	.08	.09	.02	.03	9.0	14.5	15.3	5.2	4.6
Playing/doing hobbies with children .....	.19	.35	.52	.26	.31	14.1	20.0	27.9	15.9	17.8
Working and work-related activities ³	5.18	2.74	.10	6.12	.50	69.1	53.8	3.3	73.7	15.4
Working ³	5.14	2.70	.02	6.08	.10	68.7	52.5	.8	73.3	2.6
Leisure and sports	2.93	3.42	4.19	3.66	6.30	93.1	96.3	96.4	94.2	97.3
Socializing and communicating .....	.66	.81	.92	.64	1.07	41.1	48.3	48.5	37.9	46.0
Watching television	1.46	1.66	2.22	1.96	3.70	71.4	76.3	80.0	76.5	85.7
Participating in sports, exercise, and recreation .....	.16	.21	.23	.30	.24	13.3	18.2	16.2	16.2	14.1
Travel	1.39	1.40	1.17	1.47	1.21	94.5	93.0	85.0	94.9	77.7
Travel related to caring for and helping household children .....	.23	.28	.28	.12	.17	39.6	44.6	41.9	22.8	29.4
Other activities, not elsewhere classified	1.63	2.10	2.19	1.66	2.22	97.6	98.5	98.2	97.6	95.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Time spent in primary activities ¹ and the percent of married mothers and fathers who did the activities on an average day by employment status and age of youngest own household child, average for the combined years 2003-06—Continued

Own household children, youngest under 6

Activity	Average hours per day spent in primary activities ¹					Percent doing the activity on an average day				
	Married mothers			Married fathers ²		Married mothers			Married fathers ²	
	Employed full time	Employed part time	Not Employed	Employed full time	Not Employed	Employed full time	Employed part time	Not Employed	Employed full time	Not Employed
Total, all activities	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Personal care activities	9.06	9.06	9.48	8.63	9.59	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sleeping	8.31	8.38	8.89	8.06	9.02	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.0
Household activities	1.92	2.44	3.42	1.15	2.13	88.1	89.8	95.5	63.1	71.6
Housework .....	.84	1.09	1.61	.24	.42	52.5	64.9	78.0	19.7	27.8
Food preparation and cleanup .....	.77	1.00	1.41	.29	.64	75.3	80.1	88.5	39.5	50.5
Lawn and garden care .....	.08	.08	.11	.21	.30	4.7	6.4	7.9	9.8	11.9
Purchasing goods and services .....	.61	.73	.76	.41	.54	52.7	57.4	54.6	40.3	43.3
Grocery shopping .....	.15	.17	.20	.08	.12	18.9	20.9	22.5	10.4	12.6
Consumer goods purchases, except grocery shopping .....	.36	.42	.45	.27	.31	38.2	41.0	38.2	31.8	33.0
Caring for and helping household members	1.99	2.72	3.24	1.23	1.81	89.4	93.3	93.2	67.9	72.1
Caring for and helping household children	1.97	2.70	3.21	1.21	1.75	89.1	92.8	93.1	67.0	71.4
Physical care	1.04	1.30	1.54	.45	.57	80.5	86.6	88.2	49.4	47.5
Education-related activities .....	.07	.10	.17	.05	.09	8.2	13.3	16.1	5.0	10.4
Reading to/with children .....	.08	.12	.12	.04	.05	18.4	22.3	21.3	8.6	8.0
Playing/doing hobbies with children .....	.42	.70	.82	.46	.60	31.1	39.0	43.0	26.4	31.5
Working and work-related activities ³	4.84	2.58	.07	6.05	.48	65.6	50.7	2.5	73.1	14.8
Working ³	4.81	2.52	.02	6.01	.17	65.3	49.4	.7	72.7	3.0
Leisure and sports	2.70	3.14	3.89	3.50	5.58	92.3	95.6	96.0	93.7	97.9
Socializing and communicating .....	.66	.84	.89	.68	.97	40.4	48.4	47.8	38.9	45.6
Watching television	1.38	1.50	2.10	1.87	3.18	70.2	74.2	78.9	74.5	81.9
Participating in sports, exercise, and recreation .....	.14	.18	.18	.27	.23	12.5	14.8	14.4	15.0	12.6
Travel	1.39	1.30	1.06	1.41	1.23	93.9	91.8	83.5	94.8	78.1
Travel related to caring for and helping household children .....	.28	.27	.25	.11	.19	45.4	42.8	40.5	22.8	31.2
Other activities, not elsewhere classified	1.50	2.03	2.09	1.61	2.63	97.3	98.0	98.7	97.8	95.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Time spent in primary activities ¹ and the percent of married mothers and fathers who did the activities on an average day by employment status and age of youngest own household child, average for the combined years 2003-06—Continued

Own household children 6-17, none younger

Activity	Average hours per day spent in primary activities ¹					Percent doing the activity on an average day				
	Married mothers			Married fathers ²		Married mothers			Married fathers ²	
	Employed full time	Employed part time	Not Employed	Employed full time	Not Employed	Employed full time	Employed part time	Not Employed	Employed full time	Not Employed
Total, all activities	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Personal care activities	8.96	9.11	9.33	8.61	9.70	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sleeping	8.09	8.27	8.61	8.00	8.95	99.9	100.0	100.0	99.9	99.9
Household activities	2.13	2.78	3.96	1.32	2.45	88.9	94.7	96.2	65.3	74.3
Housework .....	.92	1.22	1.80	.20	.60	57.3	71.2	76.6	17.0	32.5
Food preparation and cleanup .....	.78	1.02	1.47	.27	.57	73.1	82.2	88.8	37.5	48.5
Lawn and garden care .....	.12	.16	.17	.25	.39	7.4	10.8	12.5	12.1	17.6
Purchasing goods and services .....	.60	.80	.90	.35	.54	53.3	65.2	61.8	40.7	47.0
Grocery shopping .....	.13	.21	.27	.06	.11	19.2	29.7	31.7	9.3	14.3
Consumer goods purchases, except grocery shopping .....	.37	.45	.50	.23	.22	39.3	45.9	41.0	31.9	27.9
Caring for and helping household members .....	.74	1.16	1.39	.47	.86	61.3	73.8	75.5	43.6	52.3
Caring for and helping household children .....	.71	1.11	1.34	.43	.82	59.1	71.4	73.3	41.3	49.6
Physical care .....	.20	.30	.38	.08	.14	31.8	44.6	49.1	15.6	20.7
Education-related activities .....	.12	.21	.32	.07	.19	12.8	23.0	25.7	7.3	16.0
Reading to/with children .....	.02	.04	.04	.01	.02	3.1	8.1	6.7	2.0	2.2
Playing/doing hobbies with children .....	.04	.05	.08	.08	.10	3.4	4.3	6.0	5.9	8.0
Working and work-related activities ³	5.39	2.87	.15	6.19	.51	71.3	56.4	4.5	74.3	15.8
Working ³	5.35	2.84	.03	6.15	.05	70.8	55.2	.9	73.9	2.4
Leisure and sports	3.08	3.64	4.64	3.81	6.82	93.6	96.9	97.1	94.7	96.9
Socializing and communicating .....	.65	.78	.96	.61	1.13	41.5	48.2	49.4	37.0	46.3
Watching television	1.51	1.80	2.39	2.05	4.07	72.1	78.0	81.6	78.3	88.5
Participating in sports, exercise, and recreation .....	.17	.24	.29	.32	.25	13.8	20.9	18.7	17.3	15.2
Travel	1.39	1.48	1.32	1.53	1.20	94.9	94.0	87.2	94.9	77.4
Travel related to caring for and helping household children .....	.20	.29	.33	.12	.15	36.1	46.2	44.0	22.9	28.2
Other activities, not elsewhere classified	1.71	2.15	2.32	1.71	1.93	97.8	98.9	97.5	97.4	95.8

¹ A primary activity refers to an individual's main activity. Other activities done simultaneously are not included.

² Estimates for part-time workers are not shown because it is uncommon for fathers of household children to work part time.

³ Estimates include a small amount of work time done by persons who do not meet the ATUS definition of employed.

NOTE: Data refer to persons 15 years and over.

Table 2. Time spent in primary activities¹ by married mothers and fathers with own household children under 18 by employment status of self and spouse, average for the combined years 2003-06

Activity	Average hours per day						Differences in married mothers' and fathers' time use on an average day (hours) ²		
	Both spouses work full time		Mother employed part time and father employed full time		Mother not employed and father employed full time		Both spouses work full time	Mother employed part time and father employed full time	Mother not employed and father employed full time
	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers			
Total, all activities	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Personal care activities	8.97	8.63	9.05	8.46	9.38	8.72	.34	.59	.67
Sleeping	8.15	8.04	8.28	7.89	8.73	8.10	.11	.39	.63
Household activities	2.08	1.39	2.62	1.21	3.69	1.05	.69	1.41	2.64
Housework .....	.91	.28	1.16	.20	1.71	.16	.63	.96	1.55
Food preparation and cleanup .....	.79	.32	1.01	.31	1.45	.22	.47	.69	1.23
Lawn and garden care .....	.10	.25	.12	.22	.14	.21	-.14	-.11	-.07
Purchasing goods and services .....	.62	.39	.77	.35	.81	.40	.23	.42	.41
Grocery shopping .....	.14	.07	.19	.05	.24	.08	.07	.14	.15
Consumer goods purchases, except grocery shopping .....	.38	.25	.45	.24	.46	.26	.13	.21	.20
Caring for and helping household members	1.23	.81	1.92	.87	2.57	.86	.42	1.05	1.71
Caring for and helping household children	1.20	.79	1.88	.84	2.54	.83	.42	1.04	1.71
Physical care .....	.52	.25	.78	.28	1.10	.26	.27	.49	.84
Education-related activities .....	.10	.07	.16	.05	.25	.06	.03	.11	.19
Reading to/with children .....	.04	.02	.08	.03	.09	.03	.02	.05	.07
Playing/doing hobbies with children .....	.19	.23	.36	.26	.54	.30	-.04	.10	.24
Working and work-related activities ³	5.14	5.98	2.72	6.17	.11	6.26	-.83	-3.46	-6.15
Working ³	5.12	5.94	2.67	6.13	.03	6.23	-.81	-3.45	-6.20
Leisure and sports	2.92	3.73	3.39	3.64	4.09	3.60	-.81	-.25	.49
Socializing and communicating .....	.65	.61	.79	.65	.90	.68	.04	.14	.22
Watching television	1.44	2.05	1.63	1.90	2.15	1.90	-.61	-.27	.25
Participating in sports, exercise, and recreation .....	.16	.29	.22	.30	.24	.30	-.13	-.08	-.07
Travel	1.41	1.47	1.42	1.51	1.17	1.46	-.06	-.09	-.29
Travel related to caring for and helping household children .....	.24	.14	.29	.11	.29	.09	.10	.17	.20
Other activities, not elsewhere classified	1.63	1.61	2.11	1.79	2.17	1.66	.03	.33	.51

¹ A primary activity refers to an individual's main activity. Other activities done simultaneously are not included.

² In each employment category, differences are calculated by subtracting fathers' average hours from mothers' average hours.

³ Estimates include a small amount of work time done by persons who do not meet the ATUS definition of employed.

NOTE: Data refer to persons 15 years and over.