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FP-18-11 Job Satisfaction and Interference with Family Life Among Mothers and Fathers

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Today, most parents work—of the nation’s 34.2 million families that include children under the age of 18, nine out of ten have at least one parent employed. In three out of five married-couple families with children under 18, both parents are employed, and seven out of ten unmarried parents with children under 18 are employed (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2017). The challenges associated with combining work and family are well-known (Bianchi and Milkie, 2010). This profile uses data from the 2014 General Social Survey to examine job satisfaction and conflicts between work and family life among working parents with at least one child under 18 living at home.

### Degrees of Job Satisfaction Among Working Parents

#### Overall

- Nearly half of working American parents with at least one minor child at home reported being “very satisfied” with their jobs.
- Only 10% of working parents reported being not satisfied with their jobs.

A larger share of married parents reported being “very satisfied” with their job—compared to single parents.

- Maried mothers were more satisfied than single mothers, and married fathers were more satisfied than single fathers.
- Married mothers stand out with 60% reporting being “very satisfied” with their job, compared to single parents.
- Married fathers were least likely to report that their family life interfered with their work, reporting such high levels of job satisfaction.

#### Working Parents Who Were “Very Satisfied” With Their Jobs, by Gender and Marital Status

- Married mothers reported the least interference between their jobs and their family lives.
- Fathers, regardless of marital status, had the highest levels of conflict (57%).
- Mothers, regardless of marital status, fall at the highest level of conflict (57%).

#### Conflicting Work and Family Lives, by Gender and Marital Status

*How often do the demands of your job interfere with your family life?*

*How often do the demands of your family interfere with your work on the job?*

#### Data Source
