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, the majority of working parents are satisfied with their jobs.

- 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.

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

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

- Married 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 jobs. In comparison, less than half of all other parents reported such high levels of job satisfaction.

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

Working parents report that the demands of their jobs often interfere with their family life. The differences in job satisfaction and family interference between mothers and fathers are dramatic.

- Married mothers were more satisfied than married fathers.
- Mothers, regardless of marital status, have the largest share—at nearly 60%—who reported their job interfered with their family life often or sometimes. Fathers, regardless of marital status, had the largest share—36%—who reported such high levels of job interference.

### Data Source


Data from Marsden; Co-Principal Investigator, Michael Hout; Sponsored by National Science Foundation. --NORC ed.-- Chicago: NORC at the University of Chicago [producer]; Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut [distributor], 2015.

Data Source: General Social Survey, 2014

**Family Interferences with Job**

- Married mothers were more likely to report that their family life interfered with their work than married fathers.
- Married parents were less likely to report such high levels of job interference. More than half of all other parents reported such high levels of job interference.

**Family Interferences with Job**

- Married mothers were more likely to report that their family life interfered with their work than married fathers.
- Married parents were less likely to report such high levels of job interference. More than half of all other parents reported such high levels of job interference.

Suggested Citations:


Family Profiles: Original reports summarizing and analyzing nationally representative data with the goal to provide the latest analysis of U.S. families. These profiles examine topics related to the NCFMR’s core research themes.