

Economic Importance of Women's Rising Hours of Work: Time to Update Employment Standards

Eileen Appelbaum, Center for Economic and Policy Research

Heather Boushey, Center for American Progress

John Schmitt, Center for Economic and Policy Research

**U.S. Department of Labor Commemoration of
the 75th Anniversary of the Fair Labor Standards Act**

November 15, 2013

Employment Status, 1979-2012 (percent)

Employment Status	1979	1989	2000	2007	2012	1979- 89	1979- 07	1979- 12
<i>(a) Women, 16-64</i>								
No work	34.6	27.3	25.4	29.3	32.2	-7.3	-5.3	-2.4
Part-time, part-year	36.7	35.4	30.4	27.1	27.1	-1.3	-9.6	-9.6
Full-time, full-year	28.6	37.3	44.2	43.6	40.7	8.7	15.0	12.1
<i>(b) Mothers</i>								
No work	35.4	27.2	22.9	25.7	28.0	-8.2	-9.7	-7.4
Part-time, part-year	37.2	35.9	31.1	28.3	27.9	-1.3	-8.9	-9.3
Full-time, full-year	27.3	36.9	46.0	46.0	44.1	9.6	18.7	16.8

Notes: Authors' analysis of March Current Population Survey.

Annual Hours Worked, 1979-2012 (hours per year)

Percentile	1979	1989	2000	2007	2012	1979-89	1979-07	1979-12
<i>(a) Women, 16-64</i>								
10th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Median	925	1,530	1,820	1,820	1,664	605	895	739
90th	2,236	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	364	364	364
<i>(b) Mothers</i>								
10th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Median	600	1,200	1,600	1,596	1,560	600	996	960
90th	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080	0	0	0

Notes: Authors' analysis of March Current Population Survey.

Women and mothers' share of hours, by three definitions of middle-class, 1979-2012 (percent of total household hours)

	Women (all households)			Mothers (households with children)		
<i>(a) 75-200 percent of median</i>						
	Below	Middle	Above	Below	Middle	Above
1979	37.1	36.2	36.2	31.4	27.9	26.2
1989	41.5	40.4	39.8	35.1	33.1	30.4
2000	44.9	42.4	40.9	37.6	34.4	32.6
2007	44.8	43.4	42.7	37.5	34.8	35.5
2011	46.2	43.9	42.7	37.1	35.0	36.6
2012	46.1	43.6	42.8	36.3	34.6	36.3
1979-89	4.3	4.2	3.6	3.7	5.2	4.3
1979-07	7.7	7.1	6.5	6.1	6.9	9.3
1979-12	8.9	7.4	6.6	5.0	6.8	10.2
<i>(b) Middle-three quintiles</i>						
	Below	Middle	Above	Below	Middle	Above
1979	38.2	35.9	36.8	32.9	28.4	26.6
1989	43.7	40.2	40.1	37.6	33.1	31.4
2000	46.9	42.5	41.4	40.8	34.5	33.3
2007	47.5	43.3	42.8	40.2	34.9	35.3
2011	48.2	44.1	42.8	40.0	35.0	36.3
2012	47.9	43.9	42.8	39.1	34.5	36.1
1979-89	5.5	4.3	3.3	4.6	4.7	4.8
1979-07	9.3	7.3	6.0	7.2	6.5	8.7
1979-12	9.6	8.0	6.0	6.2	6.1	9.4



Women and mothers' share of hours, by three definitions of middle-class, 1979-2012 (percent of total household hours)

	Women (all households)			Mothers (households with children)		
<i>(c) "Three Faces"</i>						
	Below	Middle	Professional	Below	Middle	Professional
1979	37.2	36.3	35.9	38.2	35.9	36.8
1989	41.5	40.4	40.0	43.7	40.2	40.1
2000	45.1	42.3	41.0	46.9	42.5	41.4
2007	45.0	43.3	42.8	47.5	43.3	42.8
2011	46.6	43.6	43.1	48.2	44.1	42.8
2012	46.3	43.6	43.0	47.9	43.9	42.8
1979-89	4.3	4.1	4.1	5.5	4.3	3.3
1979-07	7.9	7.0	6.9	9.3	7.3	6.0
1979-12	9.2	7.3	7.0	9.6	8.0	6.0

Notes: Authors' analysis of March Current Population Survey.

Women and mothers' share of earnings, by three definitions of middle-class, 1979-2012 (percent of total household earnings)

	Women (all households)			Mothers (households with children)		
<i>(a) 75-200 percent of median</i>						
	Below	Middle	Above	Below	Middle	Above
1979	29.5	24.8	23.0	25.0	18.9	16.9
1989	35.3	31.5	28.7	30.3	26.3	22.4
2000	40.0	35.5	26.7	33.8	29.7	21.3
2007	40.4	37.2	32.3	34.2	30.6	27.6
2011	42.6	38.2	33.1	34.8	31.3	29.7
2012	42.7	37.9	33.3	34.3	30.7	29.5
1979-89	5.8	6.7	5.6	5.3	7.4	5.4
1979-07	10.9	12.4	9.3	9.2	11.6	10.6
1979-12	13.2	13.1	10.2	9.3	11.8	12.6
<i>(b) Middle-three quintiles</i>						
	Below	Middle	Above	Below	Middle	Above
1979	33.5	25.0	23.8	29.1	19.7	26.6
1989	39.9	31.8	29.2	34.7	26.7	31.4
2000	44.0	35.9	28.1	38.7	29.9	33.3
2007	44.5	37.4	33.0	38.1	30.9	35.3
2011	45.9	38.8	33.4	38.3	31.7	36.3
2012	45.8	38.6	33.5	37.8	31.2	36.1
1979-89	6.4	6.8	5.4	5.6	7.0	4.8
1979-07	10.9	12.4	9.2	8.9	11.2	8.7
1979-12	12.3	13.6	9.7	8.7	11.5	9.4

Women and mothers' share of earnings, by three definitions of middle-class, 1979-2012 (percent of total household earnings)

	Women (all households)			Mothers (households with children)		
<i>(c) "Three Faces"</i>						
	Below	Middle	Professional	Below	Middle	Professional
1979	29.5	24.9	22.6	25.0	19.2	16.1
1989	35.4	31.2	29.1	30.5	26.2	23.1
2000	40.3	34.2	27.8	34.1	29.0	22.4
2007	40.7	37.0	32.4	34.4	30.6	27.7
2011	43.4	37.1	34.0	35.5	31.0	30.2
2012	43.1	37.3	33.7	34.7	30.4	30.1
1979-89	5.9	6.3	6.5	5.6	7.0	7.0
1979-07	11.2	12.1	9.8	9.5	11.4	11.6
1979-12	13.6	12.4	11.1	9.7	11.2	14.0

Notes: Authors' analysis of March Current Population Survey.

Estimated impact of women's increased annual hours of work on GDP, 1979-2012

	Average annual hours of work	
	1979	2007
Men	1,717	1,685
Women	907	1,203
All	1,295	1,438
All, assuming women worked 1979 average hours	1,295	1,285
Ratio of counterfactual to actual hours		0.894
Implied change in GDP		
Percent		-10.6%
Billions 2012 dollars		-\$1,661

Notes: Authors' analysis of March CPS. Data are limited to population 16-64. Women were 51.4 percent of working-age population in 2012.