

1 July 2011

**Economically Active Population Survey (EAPS)**  
**Module on conciliation between working life and family life**  
Year 2010

**Main results**

- 14.7% of persons with at least one child aged under 14 years old use childcare services to take care of him or her in the year 2010.
- 5.1% of the population between the ages of 16 and 64 years old regularly look after children, and 8.7% take care of dependent persons.
- Six out of 10 persons who decide to work part time or give up working to look after their children do so, because care services are “very expensive”. In the case of taking care of dependants, 43.7% regard the prices of these services as too high.
- 27.5% of wage earners are unable to rearrange their working hours for family reasons, and 31.5% do not manage to organise their working day in order to take days off for the same reasons.
- One in five women with a child under the age of eight years old reduces their working day by a month or more in order to look after their child. One in three of these women taking an extended leave of absence did so for a period of six to 12 months.

The module on conciliation between working life and family life, of the 2010 Economically Active Population Survey, analysed 30.87 million persons between the ages of 16 and 64 years old. This included 9.76 million with at least one child (their own or their partner's) aged 14 years old or under.

14.7% of these persons with underage children (1.43 million) used childcare services to take care of their youngest child.

**Persons between the ages of 16 and 64 years old with at least one child<sup>(1)</sup> and have or have not used childcare services in order to take care of their youngest child or that of their spouse, by sex.**

**Absolute data in thousands**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Have used childcare services</b>	<b>Percentage of the total</b>	<b>Have not used childcare services</b>	<b>Percentage of the total</b>
<b>Total</b>	9,763.2	1,432.1	14.7	8,324.4	85.3
Men	4,641.9	661.8	14.3	3,978.2	85.7
Women	5,121.3	770.2	15.0	4,346.3	84.9

<sup>(1)</sup> Own children or those of the partner aged 14 years old or under and living in the household are taken into account.

With regard to the number of hours childcare services were used for underage children, half used them 20 hours or less per week, 18.3% used them for between 20 and 30 hours, 21.7% did so for between 30 and 40 hours, and 8.8% for more than 40 hours.

### Population looking after children and dependent persons

More than one-and-a-half million persons between the ages of 16 and 64 years old (5.1% of this population) took care of children who were not their own in 2010.

In the case of economically inactive persons, the percentage of persons looking after children who were not their own reached 7.9%.

In turn, 2.67 million persons (8.7% of the total in the survey age bracket) took care of relatives or friends aged over 15 years old and who needed care.

By sex, 6.1% of males cared for dependent persons, as compared with 11.3% of females, a percentage which rose to 13.6% in the case of economically inactive women.

### Persons between the ages of 16 and 64 years old by whether or not they regularly take care of dependent persons<sup>(3)</sup>, by sex and relation to the activity

Sex / relation to the activity	Absolute values in thousands			Percentage		
	Total	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No
<b>Total</b>	30,878.7	2,670.6	28,208.1	100.0	8.6	91.4
Employed persons	18,321.5	1,441.0	16,880.4	100.0	7.9	92.1
Unemployed persons	4,622.0	361.2	4,260.8	100.0	7.8	92.2
Inactive persons	7,935.3	868.4	7,066.8	100.0	10.9	89.1
<b>Men</b>	15,539.4	943.9	14,595.5	100.0	6.1	93.9
Employed persons	10,203.4	620.1	9,583.4	100.0	6.1	93.9
Unemployed persons	2,521.8	152.9	2,368.9	100.0	6.1	93.9
Inactive persons	2,814.2	171.0	2,643.2	100.0	6.1	93.9
<b>Women</b>	15,339.3	1,726.7	13,612.6	100.0	11.3	88.7
Employed persons	8,118.1	821.0	7,297.1	100.0	10.1	89.9
Unemployed persons	2,100.2	208.3	1,892.0	100.0	9.9	90.1
Inactive persons	5,121.1	697.5	4,423.6	100.0	13.6	86.4

<sup>(3)</sup> Relatives or friends aged over or equal to 15 years old and who need care are taken into account.

A total of 850,000 persons did not work or seek employment, or else worked part time in order to regularly take care of their children in the year 2010. 59.5% made this decision because the care services were “very expensive”, a percentage which rose to 64.4% among unemployed persons.

In the case of caring for dependent persons, the population not working and not seeking employment, or else working part time, was 289,800. 43.7% of them regarded the prices of these services to be “very expensive”. In the case of unemployed persons, 59.5% estimated that the prices of these services were very high.

### Flexibility in the working day for family reasons

11.9% of wage earners set their working hours in 2010, albeit only in part. For the remaining 88.1%, their hours were wholly determined by the employer.

By sex, 11.0% of men were able to establish their hours, as compared with 12.9% of women.

Another aspect of working day flexibility was specified in the possibility of amending the working hours, to the start or end, and by at least one hour, for family reasons. Thus, 47.3% of wage earners had flexible hours, or were generally able to amend them under those terms. In turn, 19.3% hardly ever managed to change them, and 27.5% were unable to do so.

By sex, there was greater flexibility in the case of women than in that of men. Older workers also found it easier to amend the working day.

#### Wage earners aged between 16 and 64 years old by whether or not they are able to amend the start or end of the working day, by at least one hour, for family reasons. By sex and age group

Sex / age group	Total (in thousands)	Those with flexible working hours (as a %)	It is generally possible to amend them (as a %)	occasionally possible to amend them (as a %)	It is not possible to amend them (as a %)	Does not know (as a %)
<b>Total</b>	15,238.40	6.4	40.9	19.3	27.5	5.9
16-24	1,104.50	3.2	32.6	18.6	36.3	9.3
25-44	9,036.00	6.4	41.1	19.9	26.8	5.8
45-64	5,097.80	7	42.2	18.3	27	5.4
<b>Men</b>	8,169.90	6.1	39.6	20.1	28	6.3
16-24	574.8	3.1	30.7	18.3	38.3	9.6
25-44	4,806.30	6	39.7	20.5	27.4	6.3
45-64	2,788.80	6.9	41.1	19.6	26.8	5.6
<b>Women</b>	7,068.40	6.7	42.4	18.3	27.1	5.5
16-24	529.7	3.3	34.7	18.9	34.1	9
25-44	4,229.70	6.8	42.7	19.1	26.1	5.2
45-64	2,309.0	7.2	43.6	16.8	27.1	5.3

With regard to the organisation of the working day in order to take days off for family reasons, 42.7% of wage earners were able to do so, generally, whereas 31.5% were not afforded that possibility.

In this situation, flexibility at work was also somewhat greater among women and among older age groups.

**Wage earners between the ages of 16 and 64 years old by whether or not they are able to organise their working day in order to be able to take days off for family reasons, by sex and age group**

Sex / age group	Total (in thousands)	It is generally possible to organise them (as a %)	It is occasionally possible to organise them (as a %)	It is not possible to organise them (as a %)	Does not know (as a %)
<b>Total</b>	15,238.40	42.7	19.7	31.5	6.1
16-24	1,104.50	33.4	17.6	37.9	11.1
25-44	9,036.00	42.3	20.3	31.5	5.9
45-64	5,097.80	45.4	19.2	30	5.3
<b>Men</b>	8,169.90	41.5	20.3	31.5	6.7
16-24	574.8	31.8	17	38.3	12.9
25-44	4,806.30	41	20.4	32	6.6
45-64	2,788.80	44.4	20.6	29.4	5.6
<b>Women</b>	7,068.40	44.1	19.1	31.4	5.4
16-24	529.7	35.1	18.3	37.5	9.1
25-44	4,229.70	43.8	20.1	31	5.2
45-64	2,309.0	46.6	17.6	30.8	5.0

**Reduction of the working day in order to take care of children**

87.0% of the more than 5.54 million persons with at least one child aged under eight years old (who worked or did so at some time after the birth of their child) did not reduce the number of hours worked in order to take care of the child. This percentage reached 95.8% in men and decreased to 76.9% in women.

Of the remaining 685,300 persons who did reduce their working hours, 85.1% were women and 14.9% were men.

With regard to the amount of time by which they reduced their working day, it was worth noting that one in five women did so by a month or more.

**Persons between the ages of 16 and 64 years old, with at least one child aged under eight years old, who are employed or, where this is not the case, have worked at some time since the birth of their youngest child, by whether or not they reduced the number of hours worked in order to provide care and the time by which they reduce the number of hours. As a percentage**

Total	Yes, they reduced them by an amount of time greater than or equal to one month	Yes, they reduced them by an amount of time less one month	Yes, they reduced them, but do not know by how much time	They did not reduce them	They do not know whether they reduced them
Total	100.0	10.93	1.02	0.41	87.04
Men	100.0	2.11	1.14	0.19	95.80
Women	100.0	21.07	0.89	0.67	76.98

Conversely, 260,600 persons (92.8% of them women) took a full-time extended leave of absence in order to take care of their child aged under eight years old.

One in three of these women who took an extended leave of absence did so for a period of six to 12 months, whereas three out of four men enjoyed an extended leave of absence of less than six months.

Lastly, 303,300 persons decided to give up working, without considering extended leaves of absence, in order to take care of their child aged under eight years old. Nine out of 10 of these persons were women, and almost half gave up working for more than one year or had still not returned to work.

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