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Women work longer hours than men

More than half of women's working time is unpaid, compared to a third for men

Vienna, 2023-12-18 – The total working time of women, including paid employment, household and family care as well as voluntary activities, accounts on average for 7 hours and 38 minutes per day, for men on average 13 minutes less. This is according to the results of the Time Use Survey 2021/22 by Statistics Austria, which also contains more information about the daily routines of people living in Austria.

“The division of paid and unpaid work in Austria largely follows traditional gender roles: Women perform significantly more than half of their total working hours in the household, raising children, caring for relatives or as volunteers. In contrast, around two thirds of men's working hours are spent in paid employment and one third in unpaid work. This distribution has remained almost unchanged since the last Time Use Survey 2008/09”, says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Gender differences in paid employment and unpaid work

Adult women under the age of 65 spend an average of 7 hours and 38 minutes per day on unpaid work and employment, while adult men under the age of 65 spend an average of 7 hours and 25 minutes (see table 1). The gender-specific differences are particularly evident in the various activities. Of the 24 hours in a day, adult women under the age of 65 spend an average of 3 hours and 19 minutes on paid employment, while men spend 4 hours and 56 minutes (see figure). Men therefore spend 1 hour and 37 minutes more time per day on paid employment than women. Adult women spend an average of 4 hours and 19 minutes and men 2 hours and 29 minutes per day on unpaid work. This means that women carry out unpaid work for almost 2 hours longer per day than men. The two categories of paid employment and unpaid work have fundamentally very different characteristics. Around half of all people living in Austria spend time on employment on an average day – in particular adults under the age of 65. Unpaid work, on the other hand, is carried out by almost all persons every day.

Women and girls spend more than 3 hours per day on housework

Gender differences in unpaid work are not limited to the mainly employed population: Independent of age, women and girls aged ten years and older spend more time on unpaid work than men and boys. In addition to housework, childcare and supporting adult household members, unpaid work also includes voluntary work, i.e. supporting people in other households as well as voluntary work in associations and initiatives.

Housework makes up by far the largest part of unpaid work and is thereby very unevenly distributed (see table 2). Women and girls aged ten and older spend 3 hours and 7 minutes per day doing housework, while men and boys spend more than an hour less (1 hour and 54 minutes). The unequal distribution of housework is also particularly evident between women and men who are in a relationship and live in the same household. If the woman and her partner have the same extent of working hours in paid employment, the woman takes on around two thirds (64.0%) of the housework and the man around one third (36.0%). Even if the woman's share of working hours in employment is larger than that of the man, she carries out more than half of the housework.

In mixed-sex couple households, two thirds of childcare are provided by the woman

In households with one or more children, childcare takes up a particularly large amount of time besides housework. Childcare activities include caring for and supervising children, reading, playing, learning and practicing with them or accompanying them to activities and appointments. Women who live with at least one child under the age of 18 spend on average 1 hour and 58 minutes per day on childcare. Men who live with children in the same household spend an average of 53 minutes, which is less than half as much. In general, the younger the youngest child in the household is, the more time is needed for childcare. If the youngest child in the household is under three years old, adult women spend on average 4 hours and 12 minutes on childcare and men on average 1 hour and 34 minutes. Even if the time required for childcare is not as high anymore for older children, it is still very unevenly distributed: Women spend more than double the time on childcare than men do. The unequal distribution of childcare is also particularly visible when looking at the distribution of time spent between partners within a household. Similar to housework, women takes on around two thirds of the childcare (67.2%) and men around one third (32.8%).

26,0% of women and girls and 22,1% of men and boys under time pressure

Women and girls do not only do more unpaid work, but also experience time pressure more often. 26.0% of women and girls and 22.1% of men and boys aged ten years and older (almost) always experience time pressure. For 36.5% of women and girls and 22.7% of men and boys, the activity where time pressure is felt the most is household and family care, and for 18.0% of women and girls and 28.7% of men and boys it is employment. Those who spend more time on unpaid work and paid employment also suffer more frequently from time pressure. In contrast, the ones less often under time pressure spend more time on leisure and social contacts. This is also reflected in the fact that 50.0% of women and girls and 51.4% of men and boys consider social contacts and leisure to be the most enjoyable activity during the day.

How many of the 24 hours of a day are left for leisure on average varies by gender, but also strongly by age. Men aged 65 and older spend the most leisure time with 7 hours and 37 minutes. Women aged 65 years and older spend 6 hours and 41 minutes on leisure and social contacts. Women aged between 20 and 39 spend the least time on leisure and social contacts at 4 hours and 32 minutes (men aged between 20 and 39: 5 hours and 14 minutes). Across all age categories, women and girls spend less time on leisure activities and social contacts than men and boys.

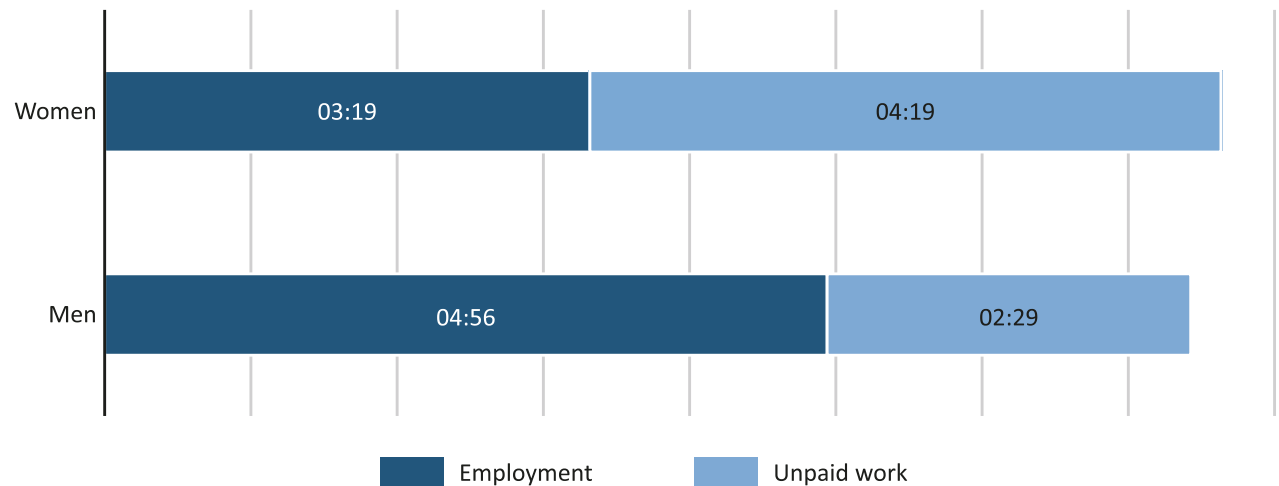
For detailed results and further information on the Time Use Survey 2021/22 please refer to our [website](#). The publication "Zeitverwendung 2021/22" is also available there (in German only).

Table 1: Comparison of the average time per day for paid and unpaid work 2008/09 and 2021/22 – in hours und minutes

Main activity	2008/09		2021/22	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Employment	03:43	05:58	03:19	04:56
Unpaid work	04:54	02:34	04:19	02:29
Total working time	08:37	08:32	07:38	07:25

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Time Use Survey 2021/22, Time Use Survey 2008/09. – The average time per day refers to the main activities of adults aged under 65 living in Austria.

Average time per day for paid and unpaid work – in hours and minutes



S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Time Use Survey 2021/22. – The average time per day refers to the main activities of adults aged under 65 living in Austria.

Table 2: Average time use for summarised main activities (Monday–Sunday)

Main activity	Women			Men		
	∅ time per day	Participation	∅ participation time per day	∅ time per day	Participation	∅ participation time per day
	Hours:Minutes	%	Hours:Minutes	Hours:Minutes	%	Hours:Minutes
Sleeping	08:52	100,0	08:52	08:46	100,0	08:46
Eating and other personal activities	02:49	99,8	02:50	02:35	99,9	02:37
Employment	02:13	42,2	07:27	03:35	55,0	08:51
Studies	00:40	14,8	05:49	00:39	14,4	05:55
Household and family care	03:37	95,5	04:05	02:06	87,5	02:51
Voluntary activities	00:20	27,5	02:07	00:20	24,9	02:23
Social contacts and leisure	05:19	99,8	05:25	05:51	99,8	06:02
Unspecified time use	00:09	19,4	01:19	00:08	16,5	01:17

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Time Use Survey 2021/22. – The data refer to the main activities of people aged 10 and over living in Austria.

Information on methodology, definitions: The Time Use Survey 2021/22 was conducted by Statistics Austria on behalf of the Federal Chancellery/Federal Minister for Women, Family, Integration and Media from October 2021 to December 2022 and is the fourth survey (after 1981, 1992 and 2008/09) on the use of time in Austria.

From a methodological perspective, the survey 2021/22 differs in some important points from the survey 2008/09, such that direct comparability is not given and the comparisons are to be understood as an approximation. In the 2008/09 survey, a diary for one day was completed by each respondent, in the current survey the diary was kept for two days. In addition, the time intervals in which the diaries were completed differ (ten-minute vs. fifteen to thirty-minute intervals) and the assignment of free text entries to activity codes followed a different scheme in 2008/09 than in 2021/2022. In addition, the 2021/22 time use survey was a household survey, while the 2008/09 survey was related to individuals.

From October 2021 until December 2022, 4 342 households were questioned on a voluntary basis. 7 863 members of these households aged ten years and older documented their daily routine in ten-minute intervals on two specified days. In addition to the main activity, a side activity could also be specified as well as additional contextual information such as where the activity was carried out, who was present and whether an internet-enabled device was used. The survey also included questions on the subjective perception of time.

The Time Use Survey 2021/22 took place in the course of the EU-wide survey wave HETUS (Harmonised Time Use Surveys) 2020.

If you have any questions on this topic, please contact:

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