

Closing the Gap Table 1: ratios² in time spent on defined activities - working fathers³ v. working mothers: change over time

Defined activity	2014/15 (pre-pandemic)	2020 (lockdown year)	2022 (post-pandemic ⁴)
Time spent by working fathers on UNPAID CHILDCARE as a % of time spent by working mothers ⁵	Working fathers spent 54% of the time working mothers spent on childcare <i>So - for every 60 minutes spent by working mothers on childcare, working fathers spent 32 minutes</i>	Working fathers spent 88% of the time working mothers spent on unpaid childcare <i>So - for every 60 minutes spent by working mothers on childcare, working fathers spent 53 minutes</i>	Working fathers spent 65% of the time working mothers spent on unpaid childcare <i>So - for every 60 minutes spent by working mothers on childcare, working fathers spent 39 minutes</i>
Time spent by working fathers on UNPAID HOUSEHOLD WORK (excluding gardening/DIY) as	Working fathers spent 50% of the time working mothers spent on household work	Working fathers spent 55% of the time working mothers spent on household work	Working fathers spent 61% of the time working mothers spent on household work

¹ Our analysis is based on Office for National Statistics, July 2022: [Families and the Labour Market, UK: 2021](#), comparing ONS time-use data from April 2020 and March 2022 with data from the [UK Centre for Time Use Research \(CTUR\) for 2014/15](#). These Tables are **our compilation** of and **calculations from** the published ONS statistics (statistical release and accompanying spreadsheets).

² We calculated these ratios using the data in Table 2: for each defined activity we provide a footnote listing the relevant section(s).

³ The terms (a) 'Working fathers' and (b) 'Working mothers' refer throughout to (a) employed men living with dependent children and (b) employed women living with dependent children. In the context of this data from time use surveys, the term 'living with' refers to a parent who states in the survey that they have at least one dependent child (their birth/adoptive/'step' child or a fostered or other 'looked-after' child) living in their (sole or 'main') household. Fathers and mothers whose dependent child/ren live solely or mainly elsewhere are likely to be excluded from this data.

⁴ The term 'post pandemic' is used as shorthand for the period when the main pandemic restrictions had ceased in England in March 2022.

⁵ Ref Table 2 section D

a % of time spent by working mothers ⁶	<i>So - for every 60 minutes spent by working mothers on unpaid household work, working fathers spent 30 minutes</i>	<i>So - for every 60 minutes spent by working mothers on household work, working fathers spent 33 minutes</i>	<i>So - for every 60 minutes spent by working mothers on household work (excluding gardening/ DIY), working fathers spent 37 minutes</i>
Time spent by working fathers on ALL UNPAID DOMESTIC WORK (household work + gardening/DIY – excluding childcare and travel) as a % of time spent by working mothers ⁷	Working fathers spent 56% of the time working mothers spent on domestic work <i>So - for every 60 minutes spent by working mothers on unpaid domestic work, working fathers spent 34 minutes</i>	Working fathers spent 69% of the time working mothers spent on domestic work <i>So - for every 60 minutes spent by working mothers on unpaid domestic work, working fathers spent 41 minutes</i>	Working fathers spent 66% of the time working mothers spent on domestic work <i>So - for every 60 minutes spent by working mothers on unpaid domestic work, working fathers spent 40 minutes</i>
Time spent by working fathers on ALL UNPAID WORK excluding travel (childcare, household work, gardening/DIY) as a % of that spent by working mothers ⁸	Working fathers spent 55% of the time working mothers spent on ALL UNPAID WORK <i>So - for every hour spent by working mothers on ALL UNPAID WORK, working fathers spent 33 minutes</i>	Working fathers spent 75% of the time working mothers spent on ALL UNPAID WORK <i>So - for every hour spent by working mothers on ALL UNPAID WORK, working fathers spent 45 minutes</i>	Working fathers spent 66% of the time working mothers spent on ALL UNPAID WORK <i>So - for every hour spent by working mothers on ALL UNPAID WORK working fathers spent 40 minutes</i>

⁶ Ref Table 2 section E: E1

⁷ Ref Table 2 Section E: E2

⁸ Ref Table 2 Section F

Time spent by working mothers on PAID WORK as a % of time spent by working fathers - excluding commuting ⁹	Working mothers spent 67% of the time working fathers spent on PAID WORK <i>So - for every hour spent by working fathers on PAID WORK working mothers spent 40 minutes</i>	Working mothers spent 65% of the time working fathers spent on PAID WORK <i>So - for every hour spent by working fathers on PAID WORK, working mothers spent 39 minutes</i>	Working mothers spent 75% of the time working fathers spent on PAID WORK <i>So - for every hour spent by working fathers on PAID WORK, working mothers spent 45 minutes</i>
Time spent by working mothers on TRAVEL as a % of time spent by working fathers ¹⁰	Working mothers spent 83% of the time working fathers spent on TRAVEL <i>So - for every hour spent by working fathers on TRAVEL working mothers spent 50 minutes</i>	Working mothers spent 33% MORE time than working fathers spent on TRAVEL <i>So - for every hour spent by working mothers on TRAVEL working fathers spent 45 minutes</i>	Working mothers spent 92% of the time working fathers spent on TRAVEL <i>So - for every hour spent by working fathers on TRAVEL working mothers spent 56 minutes</i>
Time spent on UNPAID WORK as a percentage of total time spent on ALL forms of work (PAID + UNPAID) - excluding commuting /other 'travel' ¹¹	Working fathers: 33% Working mothers: 57%	Working fathers: 49% Working mothers: 67%	Working fathers: 35% Working mothers: 52%
Changes in amount of time spent WORKING FROM HOME across the period ¹²	n/a (baseline)	Working fathers increased their working-from-home time by a factor of 3.4 (2014/15-2020) Working mothers increased their working-from-home time	Working fathers increased their working-from-home time by a factor of 6.5 (2014/15-2022) Working mothers increased their working-from-home time

⁹ Ref Table 2 Section G

¹⁰ Ref Table 2 Section B

¹¹ Ref Table 2 Sections F and G

¹² Ref Table 2 Section A: A1

		by a factor of 3.0 (2014/15-2020)	by a factor of 3.8 (2014/15-2022)
Time spent on WORKING FROM HOME, as a percentage of total time spent on all forms of PAID WORK (EXcluding commuting) ¹³	Working fathers: 6% Working mothers: 8%	Working fathers: 27% Working mothers: 33%	Working fathers: 37% Working mothers: 27%

¹³ Ref Table 2 Section A: A1 and A2

Closing the Gap Table 2¹⁴: time spent on defined activities by working fathers and mothers before, during and after the pandemic (ONS, 2022)

	Working fathers ¹⁵ : average minutes spent per day on the activity in 2014/15 (pre-pandemic)	Working fathers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in April 2020 (lockdown year)	Working fathers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in March 2022 (post-pandemic ¹⁶)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in 2014/15 (pre-pandemic)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in April ¹⁷ 2020 (lockdown year)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in March 2022 (post-pandemic)
A: Paid work						
Paid work – working outside home excluding commuting: total minutes per day	284.9	172.0	204.3	185.6	102.6	178.7
% change in number of minutes per day	n/a (baseline)	-40%	-28%	n/a (baseline)	-45%	-4%

¹⁴ See footnote 1 for information about, and links to, the original data on which this table draws

¹⁵ See footnote 2 for definition

¹⁶ See footnote 3 for definition

¹⁷ The 2020 survey took place between 28 March and 26 April.

Paid work - working from home (A1): total minutes per day	18.3	63.0	119.4	17.0	50.8	64.8
<i>% change in number of minutes per day</i>	<i>n/a (baseline)</i>	<i>+244%</i>	<i>+652%</i>	<i>n/a (baseline)</i>	<i>+199%</i>	<i>+281%</i>
All paid work – working from + outside home (A2) excluding commuting: total minutes per day	303.2	235.0	323.7	202.6	153.4	243.5
<i>% change in number of minutes per day</i>	<i>n/a (baseline)</i>	<i>-22%</i>	<i>+7%</i>	<i>n/a (baseline)</i>	<i>-24%</i>	<i>+20%</i>

	Working fathers ¹⁸ : average minutes spent per day on the activity in 2014/15 (pre-pandemic)	Working fathers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in April 2020 (lockdown year)	Working fathers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in March 2022 (post-pandemic ¹⁹)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in 2014/15 (pre-pandemic)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in April ²⁰ 2020 (lockdown year)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in March 2022 (post-pandemic)
B: Travel²¹						
Travel: total minutes per day	109.8	15.6	65.2	90.6	20.8	60.3
<i>% change in number of minutes per day</i>	<i>n/a (baseline)</i>	<i>-86%</i>	<i>-41%</i>	<i>n/a (baseline)</i>	<i>-77%</i>	<i>-33%</i>

¹⁸ See footnote 2 for definition.

¹⁹ See footnote 3 for definition.

²⁰ See footnote 4.

²¹ Including commuting, and a proportion of travel in the course of paid work, but excluding being paid for travel as a main occupational activity.

	Working fathers ²² : average minutes spent per day on the activity in 2014/15 (pre-pandemic)	Working fathers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in April 2020 (lockdown year)	Working fathers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in March 2022 (post-pandemic ²³)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in 2014/15 (pre-pandemic)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in April ²⁴ 2020 (lockdown year)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in March 2022 (post-pandemic)
C: All travel and paid work						
All travel+ paid work: total minutes per day	413	250.6	388.9	293.2	174.2	303.8
<i>% change in number of minutes per day</i>	<i>n/a (baseline)</i>	-39%	-6%	<i>n/a (baseline)</i>	-41%	+4%

²² See footnote 2 for definition.

²³ See footnote 3 for definition.

²⁴ See footnote 4.

	Working fathers ²⁵ : average minutes spent per day on the activity in 2014/15 (pre-pandemic)	Working fathers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in April 2020 (lockdown year)	Working fathers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in March 2022 (post-pandemic ²⁶)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in 2014/15 (pre-pandemic)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in April ²⁷ 2020 (lockdown year)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in March 2022 (post-pandemic)
D: Unpaid childcare²⁸						
Childcare excludes travel with children or otherwise related to children, which is included in 'travel' above: total minutes per day	47.1	90.3	55.5	87.5	102.4	85.0
% change in number of minutes per day	n/a (baseline)	+92%	+18%	n/a	+17%	-3%

²⁵ See footnote 2 for definition.

²⁶ See footnote 3 for definition.

²⁷ See footnote 4.

²⁸ At first glance, minutes/ hours spent on childcare seem relatively low. This is because this data includes respondents with teenage children (up to age 19); and includes time spent on 'childcare' **only as a primary activity**.

	Working fathers ²⁹ : average minutes spent per day on the activity in 2014/15 (pre-pandemic)	Working fathers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in April 2020 (lockdown year)	Working fathers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in March 2022 (post-pandemic ³⁰)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in 2014/15 (pre-pandemic)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in April ³¹ 2020 (lockdown year)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in March 2022 (post-pandemic)
E: Unpaid domestic work (excluding childcare and travel)						
Household work (E1) (includes volunteering and caring for adults outside the home): total minutes per day	86.8	101.8	102.0	174.0	183.9	167.4
% change in number of minutes per day	n/a (baseline)	+17%	+18%	n/a (baseline)	+6%	-4%

²⁹ See footnote 2 for definition.

³⁰ See footnote 3 for definition.

³¹ See footnote 4.

Gardening/ DIY: total minutes per day	15.0	37.9	13.7	6.8	18.8	7.9
<i>% change in number of minutes per day</i>	<i>n/a (baseline)</i>	<i>+153%</i>	<i>-9%</i>	<i>n/a (baseline)</i>	<i>+176%</i>	<i>+16%</i>
All unpaid domestic work (E2) (household work + gardening /DIY but excluding childcare and travel): total minutes per day	101.8	139.7	115.7	180.8	202.7	175.3
<i>% change in number of minutes per day</i>	<i>n/a (baseline)</i>	<i>+37%</i>	<i>+14%</i>	<i>n/a (baseline)</i>	<i>+12%</i>	<i>-3%</i>

	Working fathers ³² : average minutes spent per day on the activity in 2014/15 (pre-pandemic)	Working fathers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in April 2020 (lockdown year)	Working fathers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in March 2022 (post-pandemic ³³)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in 2014/15 (pre-pandemic)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in April ³⁴ 2020 (lockdown year)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in March 2022 (post-pandemic)
F: All unpaid work excluding travel: childcare + all unpaid domestic work						
Childcare + All unpaid domestic work (excluding travel): total minutes per day	148.9	230	171.2	268.3	305.1	260.3
<i>% change in number of minutes per day</i>	<i>n/a (baseline)</i>	<i>+54%</i>	<i>+15%</i>	<i>n/a (baseline)</i>	<i>+14</i>	<i>-3%</i>

³² See footnote 2 for definition.

³³ See footnote 3 for definition.

³⁴ See footnote 4.

	Working fathers ³⁵ : average minutes spent per day on the activity in 2014/15 (pre-pandemic)	Working fathers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in April 2020 (lockdown year)	Working fathers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in March 2022 (post-pandemic ³⁶)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in 2014/15 (pre-pandemic)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in April ³⁷ 2020 (lockdown year)	Working mothers: average minutes spent per day on the activity in March 2022 (post-pandemic)
G: All work: paid + unpaid						
All paid and unpaid work (excluding commuting, and a proportion of travel in the course of work): total minutes per day	452.1	465	494.9	470.9	458.5	503.8
% change in number of minutes per day	<i>n/a (baseline)</i>	+3%	+9%	<i>n/a (baseline)</i>	-3%	+7%

³⁵ See footnote 2 for definition.

³⁶ See footnote 3 for definition.

³⁷ See footnote 4.