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# In a Growing Share of U.S. Marriages, Husbands and Wives Earn About the Same

*Even when earnings are similar, husbands spend more time on paid work and leisure, while wives devote more time to caregiving and housework*

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## How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to better understand the role women and men play as economic providers in opposite-sex marriages and how this relates to the way spouses divide their time between paid work, leisure, caregiving and housework. We also looked at public attitudes about gender roles in marriages today to put the findings in a broader context.

The analysis in this report is based on three separate data sources. The earnings data comes from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement of the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The findings on hours devoted to paid work, household responsibilities and leisure are based on data from the American Time Use Survey. The data on public attitudes was collected as part of a larger Center survey of 5,152 U.S. adults conducted Jan. 18-24, 2023. Everyone who took part in the latter is a member of Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the [ATP's methodology](#).

Read more about the survey [questions used for this report](#) and [the report's methodology](#).

## Terminology

A wife sole breadwinner couple refers to a marriage in which the wife has positive earnings, and the husband has no earnings.

A wife primary breadwinner couple refers to a marriage in which the wife earns more than 60% of the couple's combined earnings, and the husband has earnings.

In an "egalitarian marriage," both the wife and husband earn between 40% and 60% of the couple's combined earnings.

A husband primary breadwinner couple refers to a marriage in which the husband earns more than 60% of the couple's combined earnings, and the wife has earnings.

A husband sole breadwinner couple refers to a marriage in which the husband has positive earnings, and the wife has no earnings.

A breadwinner wife marriage refers to a marriage with a wife who is the sole or primary provider.

A breadwinner husband marriage refers to a marriage with a husband who is the sole or primary provider.

References to White, Black and Asian Americans include only those who are not Hispanic and identify as only one race. Hispanics are of any race.

References to college graduates or people with a college degree comprise those with a bachelor's degree or more. "Some college" includes those with an associate degree and those who attended college but did not obtain a degree.

# In a Growing Share of U.S. Marriages, Husbands and Wives Earn About the Same

*Even when earnings are similar, husbands spend more time on paid work and leisure, while wives devote more time to caregiving and housework*

Among married couples in the United States, women's financial contributions have grown steadily over the last half century. While men remain the main breadwinner in a majority of opposite-sex marriages, the share of women who earn as much as or significantly more than their husband has roughly tripled over the past 50 years.

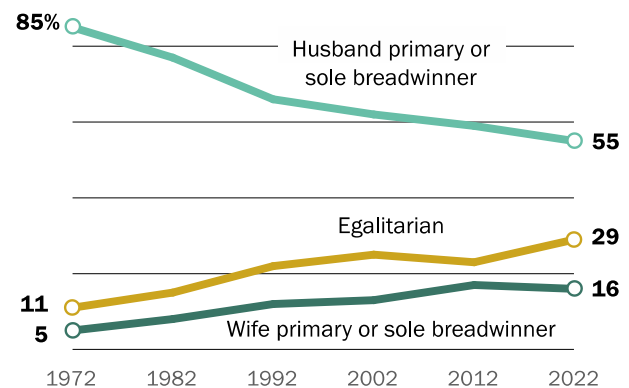
In 29% of marriages today, both spouses earn about the same amount of money. Just over half (55%) of marriages today have a husband who is the primary or sole breadwinner and 16% have a breadwinner wife.

Even as financial contributions have become more equal in marriages, the way couples divide their time between paid work and home life remains unbalanced. Women pick up a heavier load when it comes to household chores and caregiving responsibilities, while men spend more time on work and leisure.

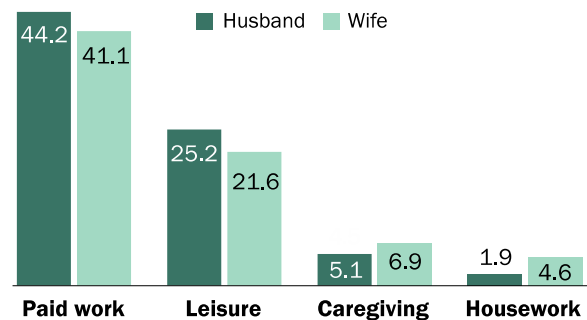
This is true in egalitarian marriages – where both spouses earn roughly the same amount of money – and in marriages where the wife is the primary earner. The only marriage type where

## Wives are gaining economic influence while carrying a heavier burden at home

*% of opposite-sex marriages with each type of earnings arrangement*



*In egalitarian marriages, average number of hours spent on \_\_\_ each week*



Note: Earnings analysis limited to opposite-sex marriages including spouses ages 25 to 64. In an egalitarian marriage, each spouse earns 40%-60% of the couple's joint earnings. A primary breadwinner earns more than 60% of the couple's joint earnings. A sole breadwinner earns 100% of the couple's earnings. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) and American Time Use Survey, 2016-2021 merged (IPUMS).

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husbands devote more time to caregiving than their wives is one in which the wife is the sole breadwinner. In those marriages, wives and husbands spend roughly the same amount of time per week on household chores.

As a backdrop to all of this, a majority of Americans say that society values men's contributions at work more than their contributions at home. Only 7% say society values men's contributions at home more than those at work, and 35% say these contributions are valued about equally. When it comes to women, about half of adults (49%) say the contributions women make at work and at home are valued about equally. Some 31% say women's contributions at home are valued more than what they do at work, and 20% say just the opposite.

These findings come from a new Pew Research Center survey and analysis of government data. The nationally representative survey of 5,152 U.S. adults was conducted Jan. 18-24, 2023, using the Center's [American Trends Panel](#).<sup>1</sup> The analysis of government data about opposite-sex married couples is based on data from the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) and the [American Time Use Survey](#).<sup>2</sup> Here are some of the key findings:

- **Far fewer husbands are the sole breadwinner in their marriage these days.** The share of marriages where the husband is the primary or sole breadwinner has fallen steadily in recent decades, driven mainly by the declining share of marriages where the

### The five basic marriage types:

- 1) *Wife is the sole breadwinner:* The wife has positive earnings; husband has no earnings.
- 2) *Wife is the primary breadwinner:* The wife earns more than 60% of the couple's combined earnings (and the husband has earnings).
- 3) *Egalitarian marriage:* Both the wife and husband earn between 40% and 60% of the couple's combined earnings.
- 4) *Husband is the primary breadwinner:* The husband earns more than 60% of the couple's combined earnings (and the wife has earnings).
- 5) *Husband is the sole breadwinner:* The husband has positive earnings; wife has no earnings.

### Jump to:

- The earnings landscape of marriages today
- Time allocation across marriage types
- Public views on gender roles in marriages

<sup>1</sup> For details, see [the Methodology](#) section of the report.

<sup>2</sup> Other researchers have explored [how same-sex couples divide unpaid labor at home](#).

husband is the *sole* provider – this was the arrangement in 49% of marriages in 1972, while today that share is 23%.

- **Breadwinner wives are still in the minority.** Relatively few marriages (6%) have a wife who is the sole breadwinner, and wives are the primary breadwinners in 10% of marriages today. The share of marriages where the wife is the sole or primary breadwinner has increased from 5% in 1972 to 16% today.
- **Earnings arrangements within marriages differ by demographics.** Among wives overall, Black women, those with a four-year college degree, those ages 55 to 64 and those with no children are among the most likely to be the breadwinner in their marriage.
- **In egalitarian and breadwinner wife marriages, husbands spend considerably more time on leisure activities than wives.** Husbands in egalitarian marriages spend about 3.5 hours more per week on leisure activities than wives do. Wives in these marriages spend roughly 2 hours more per week on caregiving than husbands do and about 2.5 hours more on housework. In marriages where wives are the primary earners, husbands' leisure time increases significantly (compared with egalitarian marriages), while the time they spend on caregiving and housework stays about the same. When wives are the sole earners, the amount of time husbands spend on caregiving and housework does tick up somewhat.
- **The public thinks married men and women have different ideas about which spouse should earn more money.** About half of Americans (48%) say most men who are married to a woman would prefer that they earn more than their wife. Only 3% say most men want a wife who earns more than they do, and 13% say most men would prefer that they and their spouse earn about the same. The public has mixed views about what most women would prefer: 22% say most women want a husband who earns more than they do, 26% say most would want to earn about the same as their husband, and only 7% say most women want to earn more than their spouse.
- **When it comes to what's best for kids, most Americans think both parents should be equally focused on work and home.** A 77% majority say that, when children are being raised by a mother and a father, they are better off if both parents focus equally on their job or career and on taking care of the children and the home. Some 19% say kids are better off if the mom focuses more on home and the dad focuses more on work; only 2% say a dad focused on home and a mom focused on work is ideal.

## The earnings landscape of marriages today

Women are contributing an ever-greater share of married couples' economic resources. In 2022, 16% of opposite-sex marriages had wives who were the sole or primary breadwinners, roughly triple the share from 50 years earlier (5%). Wives were the primary family provider, meaning they earned more than 60% of the couple's combined earnings, in 10% of marriages in 2022, up from 3% of marriages in 1972. Wives were the sole earners in 6% of these marriages, compared with 2% 50 years earlier.

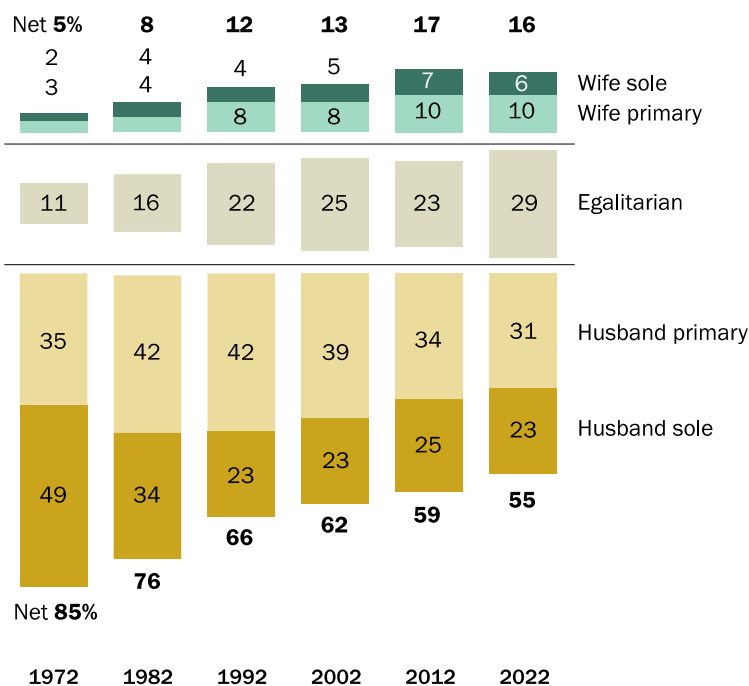
Marriages in which husbands and wives are roughly equal contributors, meaning they each make between 40% and 60% of the couple's combined earnings, have also increased substantially. Today 29% of marriages are egalitarian, up from only 11% in 1972.

As women's financial contributions have increased, the share of marriages in which the husband is the main breadwinner has declined. Today, 55% of marriages have a husband who is the primary or sole contributor to the couple's earnings. Fifty years ago, husbands were the breadwinner in 85% of marriages.

From the 1970s to the 1990s, the decline in the share of marriages with breadwinner husbands was due entirely to the falling share of marriages in which the husband was the sole provider. From 1972 to 1992, this share fell from 49% to 23%, and it has remained at roughly the same level since then.

### Husbands and wives have roughly equal earnings in a growing share of U.S. marriages

*% of opposite-sex marriages with each type of earnings arrangement*



Note: Earnings analysis limited to opposite-sex marriages including spouses ages 25 to 64. Figures may not add to subtotals due to rounding. In an egalitarian marriage, each spouse earns between 40%-60% of the couple's joint earnings. A primary breadwinner earns more than 60% of the couple's joint earnings. A sole breadwinner earns 100% of the couple's earnings.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) data files (IPUMS).

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From the 1990s until today, the falloff in the share of marriages with a breadwinner husband has been driven by a decline in marriages where the husband is the primary provider (from 42% in 1992 to 31% in 2022).

The sharp drop in the share of marriages with a husband as the sole provider during the first two decades occurred as married women streamed into the labor force. [Married women's labor force participation](#) peaked around 2000 and has since modestly declined.

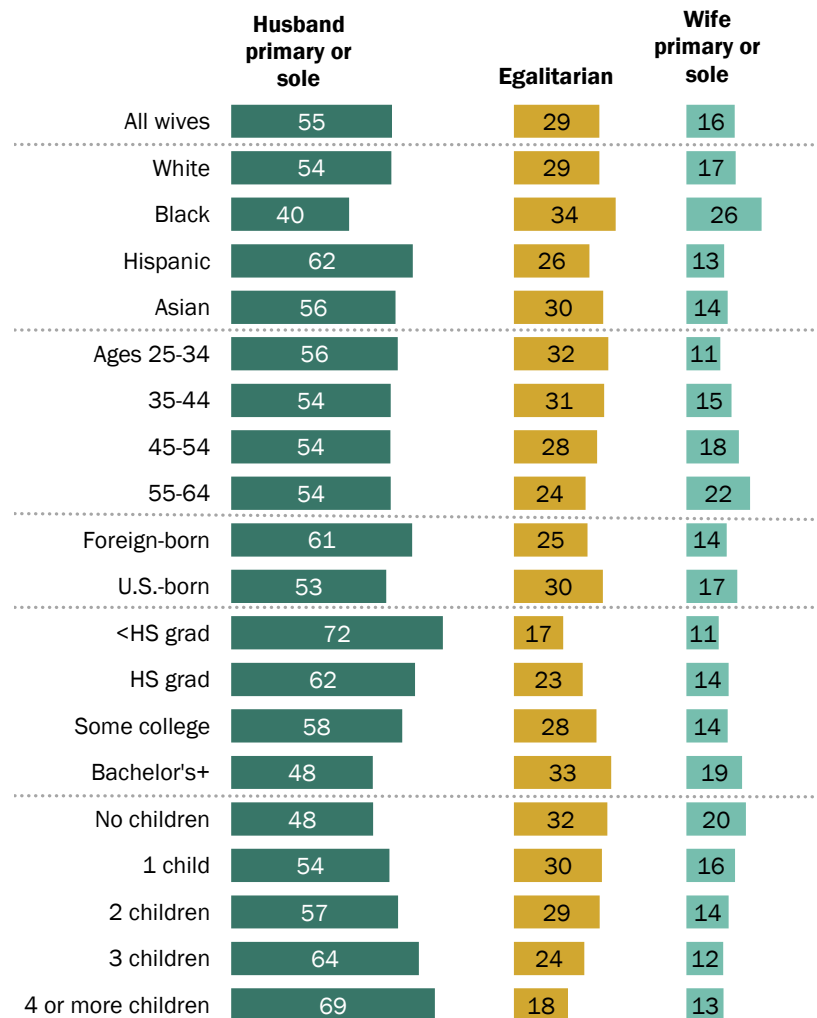
### Breadwinner status of husbands and wives differs by demographics

Overall, 16% of opposite-sex marriages have a breadwinner wife, but some wives are more likely than others to fall into this category. The likelihood varies by the wife's education and race and ethnicity, as well as other characteristics.

Wives with more formal education are more likely to out-earn their husbands. Nearly one-in-five wives (19%) who have completed at least a

## Black wives, college graduates more likely than other wives to be in egalitarian and breadwinner wife marriages

Among wives in opposite-sex marriages in 2022, % in each type of marriage



Note: Earnings analysis limited to opposite-sex marriages including spouses ages 25 to 64. In an egalitarian marriage, each spouse earns between 40%-60% of the couple's joint earnings. A primary breadwinner earns more than 60% of the couple's joint earnings. A sole breadwinner earns 100% of the couple's earnings. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. "Some college" includes those with an associate degree and those who attended college but did not obtain a degree.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) data files for 2022 (IPUMS).

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bachelor's degree are the sole or primary breadwinner in their marriage. In comparison, 11% of wives who have not completed a high school diploma are breadwinners. Some 72% of these wives are married to a breadwinner husband (versus 48% of wives with at least a bachelor's degree).

Relatedly, a wife's education compared with her husband's education is correlated with breadwinner status. In 2022, the wife was the breadwinner in 25% of the marriages in which she had more education than her husband, compared with only 11% of marriages in which she had less education than her husband.

The growing share of marriages in which the wife has more education than her husband is likely contributing to the growth of breadwinner wife marriages. Today, 24% of marriages have a wife with more education than her husband, up from 19% in 1972.

Black wives are significantly more likely than wives from other racial or ethnic groups to be the breadwinner in their marriage. This was also the case in 1972. Today, roughly one-in-four Black wives (26%) out-earn their husbands.

Smaller shares of White (17%), Asian (14%) and Hispanic (13%) wives are the breadwinner in their marriage. Hispanic wives are more likely than wives from other racial and ethnic groups to be married to a breadwinner husband (62% have this earnings arrangement). Women who were born in the U.S. (17%) are more likely to out-earn their husbands than are foreign-born wives (14%).

There are also differences by age, with [younger wives less likely than older wives to be the breadwinner](#), a pattern found in previous research. Among wives ages 25 to 34, 11% are the breadwinner in their marriage, whereas 22% of wives ages 55 to 64 out-earn their husbands. Younger wives may be more likely to have very young children, which can negatively impact their earnings. In addition, earnings tend to rise with age and labor market experience, and wives are much more likely to be the breadwinner in their marriage as their earnings increase. Among wives who earn less than \$25,000 annually, just 5% are the breadwinner in the marriage. By contrast, 43% of wives who earn \$100,000 or more are the breadwinner in their marriage.

Married mothers with children in the household are less likely to be the breadwinner than those without children: 20% of wives without children out-earn their husbands, compared with 15% of wives with one or more children at home. Among married couples with four or more children in the household, 13% have wives who out-earn their husbands while 69% have a husband who is the sole or primary provider.

Declining family size may be part of the explanation for the growing share of breadwinner wives from 1972 to 2002. The average number of children in married households fell from 1.9 in 1972 to 1.3 in 2002. Family size in households with opposite-sex married spouses has not declined since 2002. In 2022, the average married women had 1.4 children in her household.

The demographic patterns in egalitarian marriages are similar to those in breadwinner wife couples. Married Black women, wives with a bachelor's degree or more education and those with fewer children at home are among the most likely to be in egalitarian marriages. The age patterns are different, however. Older wives are less likely than younger wives to be in an egalitarian marriage (while they are more likely than younger wives to be in a breadwinner wife marriage).

### Median earnings vary across different types of marriages

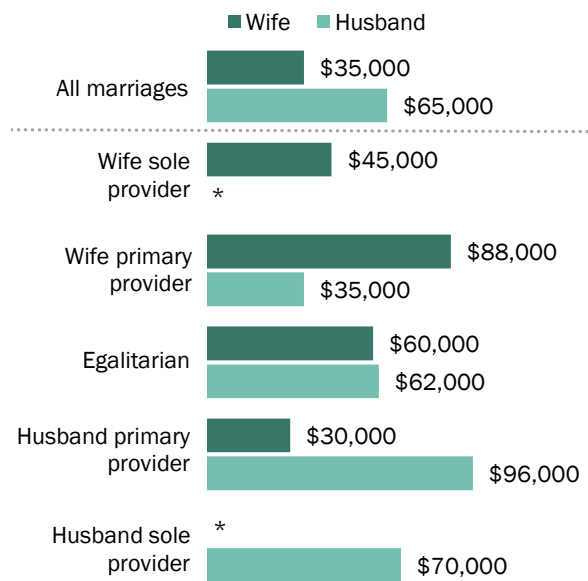
Across all opposite-sex marriages in 2022, the median earnings for wives were \$35,000 while husbands earned a median of \$65,000.<sup>3</sup>

By definition, in egalitarian marriages, spouses' earnings are similar to one another. Today, wives in egalitarian marriages earn \$60,000 at the median, while husbands earn \$62,000.

In marriages where the husband is the primary provider, wives earn a median of \$30,000 annually. This translates into 31% of husbands' median earnings of \$96,000 in these marriages.

### In egalitarian marriages, wives and husbands tend to earn about \$60K each

Median annual earnings of wives and husbands across marriage types in 2022



\*Spouse does not work for pay.

Note: Earnings analysis limited to opposite-sex marriages including spouses ages 25 to 64. Median earnings are rounded to the nearest thousand. In an egalitarian marriage, each spouse earns between 40%-60% of the couple's joint earnings. A primary breadwinner earns more than 60% of the couple's joint earnings. A sole breadwinner earns 100% of the couple's earnings.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) data file for 2022 (IPUMS).

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<sup>3</sup> The median refers to the halfway level; half of wives earned less than \$35,000 and half earned above \$35,000. Median earnings are rounded to the nearest thousand.

When the wife is the primary provider, her earnings are somewhat lower than when the husband is the primary provider – about \$88,000 a year. In these marriages, the husband’s median earnings are roughly \$35,000, around 40% of the wife’s earnings.

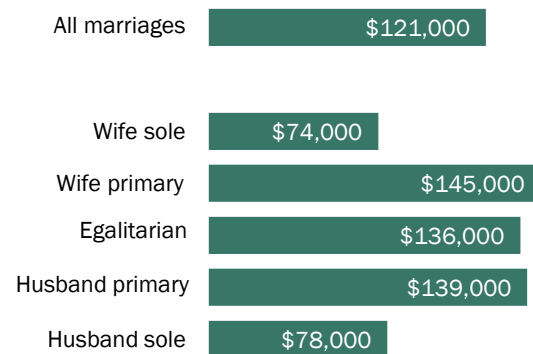
As the share of women in egalitarian and breadwinner wife marriages has increased substantially since 1972, wives’ relative earnings contributions within those types of marriages have also increased. For example, in 1972, wives in egalitarian marriages earned about 89% of the amount their husbands earned. Today their earnings are almost identical (97% of their husband’s earnings).

### Dual-earner marriages have the highest income

Household economic well-being is often measured by household income and poverty. After adjusting for household size, marriages in which both spouses work tend to have much higher incomes than marriages with a sole provider. Marriages with either the wife or husband as the primary provider and those that are egalitarian had a median household income of roughly \$135,000 to \$145,000 in 2022.<sup>4</sup> Marriages with a sole earner lagged far behind at around \$75,000. Poverty rates paint a similar picture; they are much higher for sole-earner marriages compared with dual-earner marriages (7% and 9% for husband and wife sole-provider marriages, respectively, versus only 1% in dual-earner marriages).

### Dual-provider marriages tend to have higher household incomes than sole-provider marriages

*Median household income across marriage types in 2022*



Note: Household income is adjusted for household size and scaled to a three-person household. Median income is rounded to the nearest thousand. Analysis limited to opposite-sex marriages including spouses ages 25 to 64. In an egalitarian marriage, each spouse earns between 40%-60% of the couple’s joint earnings. A primary breadwinner earns more than 60% of the couple’s joint earnings. A sole breadwinner earns 100% of the couple’s earnings. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) data file for 2022 (IPUMS).

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<sup>4</sup> Household income is adjusted for household size and scaled to a three-person household. Median income is rounded to the nearest thousand.

## Time allocation across marriage types

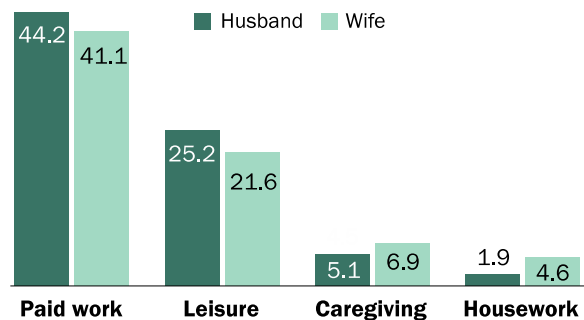
While wives' financial contributions have grown significantly over the years, there remains an imbalance in the way leisure time, housework and caregiving are divided within couples – even in marriages that are considered egalitarian in terms of earnings. An analysis using the American Time Use Survey shows that husbands in egalitarian marriages spend more time on paid work per week than wives do (44.2 hours vs. 41.1, on average). They also spend more time in activities related to leisure, such as socializing or relaxing (25.2 hours vs. 21.6).

In contrast, wives in egalitarian marriages dedicate more hours to responsibilities at home than their husbands do. On average, these wives spend 6.9 hours taking care of individuals in the household and 4.6 hours doing housework per week, while husbands spend roughly 5 and 2 hours on these activities, respectively.

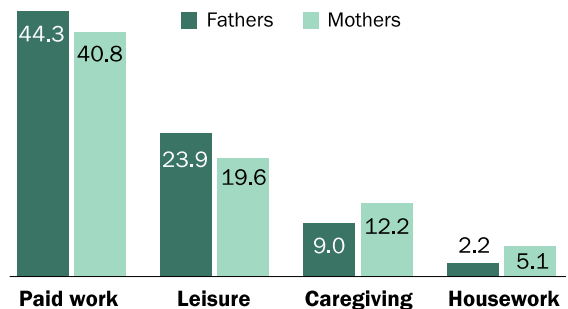
Time spent on caregiving is mainly driven by parents with children younger than 18 in the home. Among parents in egalitarian marriages, wives spend 12.2 hours on caregiving per week on average, compared with 9 hours for husbands. Husbands and wives who don't have children at home spend less than an hour per week on caregiving.

### In egalitarian marriages, husbands spend more time on paid work and leisure than wives do

*In egalitarian marriages, average number of hours spent on \_\_\_\_ each week*



*Among parents in egalitarian marriages, average number of hours spent on \_\_\_\_ each week*



Note: Parents are individuals with a child less than 18 in the household. In an egalitarian marriage, each spouse earns between 40%-60% of the couple's joint earnings.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2016-21 American Time Use Survey (IPUMS).

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## Gender disparities in time use remain when wives are breadwinners

The gender imbalance in time spent on caregiving persists, even in marriages where wives are the breadwinners. Women who are the primary earner in their marriage spend slightly more time than husbands on paid work, and they have considerably less leisure time.

On average, wives in these marriages spend 42 hours per week on paid work, while husbands spend 40.4 hours per week. These wives spend only 21.1 hours a week on leisure activities. By comparison, husbands whose wives are the primary earner spend about 9 hours more per week on leisure (29.9 hours).

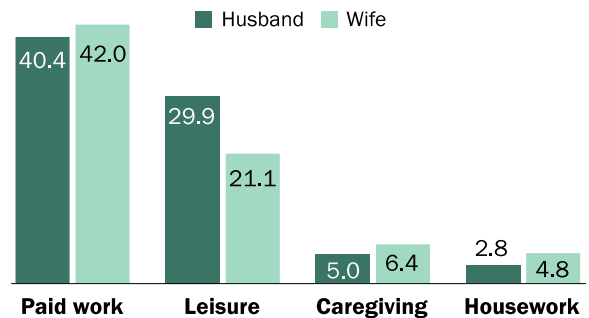
Husbands in these marriages spend 5 hours on caregiving each week, on average, compared with 6.4 hours spent by wives. These husbands also spend less time on housework than wives do (2.8 hours vs. 4.8).

Among parents in marriages where the wife is the primary earner, mothers spend about 13 hours on caregiving activities compared with an average of 8.9 spent by fathers.

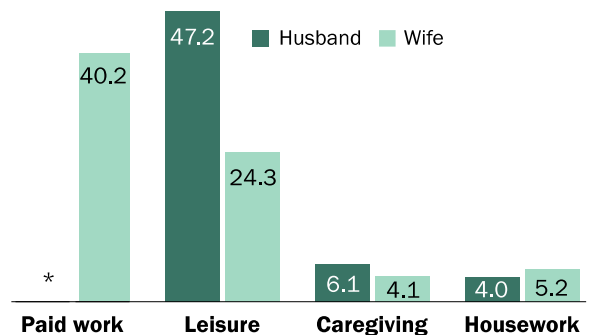
In marriages where the wife is the *sole* breadwinner, wives spend about 40 hours per week on paid work. Husbands in these marriages have more leisure time than husbands in any other type of arrangement – spending 47.2 hours per week on leisure activities. There are no significant differences in time husbands and wives spend on housework, but husbands spend more time on caregiving. This is the only type of marriage where husbands spend more time than their wives caring for others in the household (6.1 hours vs. 4.1).

### Wives who are the primary earner in their marriage spend more time on caregiving and housework, less time on leisure than their husbands do

*In wife primary earner marriages, average number of hours spent on \_\_\_\_ each week*



*In wife sole earner marriages, average number of hours spent on \_\_\_\_ each week*



\*Husband does not work for pay.

Note: A primary breadwinner earns more than 60% of the couple's joint earnings. A sole breadwinner earns 100% of the couple's earnings. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2016-21 American Time Use Survey (IPUMS).

"In a Growing Share of U.S. Marriages, Husbands and Wives Earn About the Same"

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When there are children in the household, fathers in these marriages carry a much heavier caregiving load. They spend roughly 14 hours on caregiving, compared with 8.4 hours for mothers.

**When husbands are the breadwinner, gender gap in time spent on caregiving and housework widens**

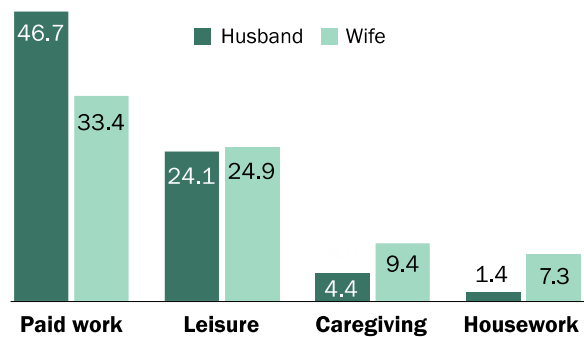
When husbands are the primary providers, they spend considerably more hours working for pay than wives do (46.7 hours per week, on average, compared with 33.4 for wives). Couples in these marriages spend roughly the same amount of time on leisure per week, but women do considerably more caregiving and housework. Wives spend an average of 9.4 hours per week on caregiving (compared with 4.4 hours for husbands), and they spend 7.3 hours on housework (vs. 1.4 hours for husbands).

In marriages where husbands are the sole breadwinner and wives are not contributing any earnings, the gap in time spent on caregiving and leisure is wider. Husbands in these marriages spend 43.9 hours per week, on average, working for pay. Wives spend more time on leisure activities in these marriages than husbands do (30.5 hours vs. 24.5). And wives also spend much more time on caregiving (14.1 vs. 4.5) and housework (10.5 vs. 1.4).

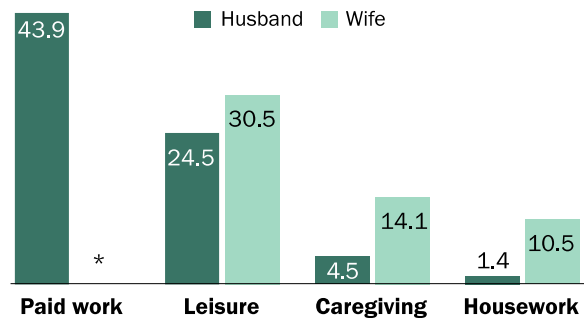
Among parents, when fathers are the primary earner, mothers spend 15.8 hours taking care of people at home, while fathers spend 7.4 hours on these activities. When fathers are the sole earner in the marriage, mothers dedicate roughly 20 hours to care activities versus 6.6 hours that fathers spend.

**Large gap in hours spent on paid work when husbands are the primary earners**

*In husband primary earner marriages, average number of hours spent on \_\_\_ each week*



*In husband sole earner marriages, average number of hours spent on \_\_\_ each week*



\*Wife does not work for pay.

Note: A primary breadwinner earns more than 60% of the couple's joint earnings. A sole breadwinner earns 100% of the couple's earnings.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2016-21 American Time Use Survey (IPUMS).

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## Public views on gender roles in marriages

Even as egalitarian marriages and marriages where a woman is the primary earner become more common, public views about what husbands and wives would prefer when it comes to their respective earnings paint a more nuanced picture. About half of Americans (48%) say most men in an opposite-sex marriage would prefer to earn more money than their wife. A quarter of Americans say they think most husbands would have no preference as to who earns more, and smaller shares say they think men would prefer to earn about the same as their wife (13%) or to have a wife who earns more (3%).

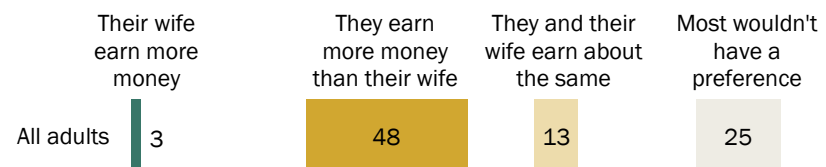
When it comes to what the public sees as women's preferences, about a quarter of adults (26%) say they think most women would prefer that they and their husband earn about the same amount of money. A slightly smaller share (22%) say they think most wives would prefer that their husband earn more than they do. Only 7% say they think most women would prefer to make more money than their husband, and a third say they don't think women would have any preference.

Men and women have somewhat different views on

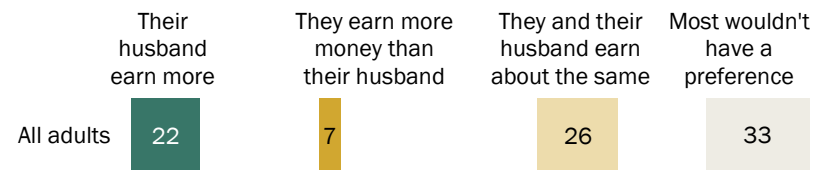
all of this. Women are more likely than men to say they think most husbands would want to earn more than their wives do – 52% of women say this, compared with 43% of men. And men are more likely than women to say they don't think most husbands would have a preference (31% vs. 20%). With regard to wives' preferences, a greater share of women than men say most wives would prefer to earn about the same as their husband does (30% vs. 21%).

### About half of Americans say they think most men would prefer to earn more money than their wife

*% of U.S. adults saying most **men** who are married to a woman would prefer that ...*



*% of U.S. adults saying most **women** who are married to a man would prefer that ...*



Note: Share of respondents who answered "Not sure" or didn't offer an answer not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 18-24, 2023.

"In a Growing Share of U.S. Marriages, Husbands and Wives Earn About the Same"

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## Majority of adults say society values men’s contributions at work more than their contributions at home

More than half of U.S. women are in the labor force and an [even higher share of mothers with children younger than 18 are working these days](#). When asked about how women’s contributions are valued by society, 49% of adults say society values what women do at work and at home equally. Roughly three-in-ten adults (31%) say society values the contributions women make at home more, which is larger than the share saying society places more value on their contributions at work (20% say this).

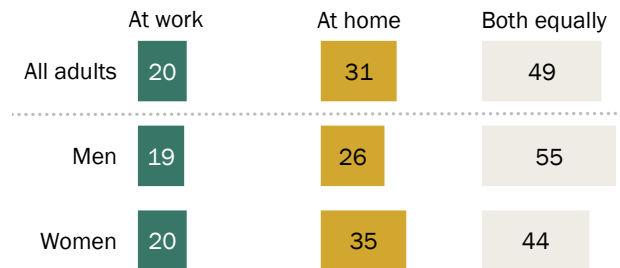
These views differ by gender. Women are more likely than men to say that their home contributions are valued more by society (35% vs. 26%), whereas men are more likely to say society values work and home contributions by women equally (55% of men say this vs. 44% of women).

When asked about the contributions men make to society, more than half of U.S. adults (57%) say what men do at work is valued more than the contributions they make at home (only 7% say this). About a third of adults (35%) say men’s contributions at work and at home are valued about equally.

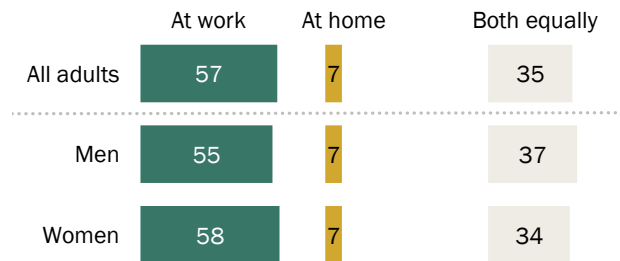
For both questions, there are differences in viewpoint by age and political party. Younger Americans are the most likely to say the contributions women make at home are valued more – half of those younger than 30 say this, versus 35% of those ages 30 to 49 and 20% of those 50 and older. In turn, older Americans are more likely to say society values women’s contributions at home and work equally – 59% of adults ages 50 and older say this, compared with 45% of adults 30 to 49 and 31% of those younger than 30. Relatedly, younger adults are more likely to say men’s contributions at work

### More than half of U.S. adults say society values men’s contributions at work more than what they do at home

*% of U.S. adults who say when it comes to **women**, American society values the contributions they make \_\_\_\_\_ more these days*



*% of U.S. adults who say when it comes to **men**, American society values the contributions they make \_\_\_\_\_ more these days*



Note: Share of respondents who didn’t offer an answer not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 18-24, 2023. “In a Growing Share of U.S. Marriages, Husbands and Wives Earn About the Same”

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are more valued by society than their contributions at home, and older adults are more likely to say men's contributions are valued equally.

Republicans and those who lean towards the GOP are more likely than Democrats and Democratic leaners to say the contributions women make at home and at work are equally valued by society (54% vs. 43%), while Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say the contributions women make at home are valued more (39% vs. 22%).

### Most adults say children are better off when their mother and father both focus equally on work and home life

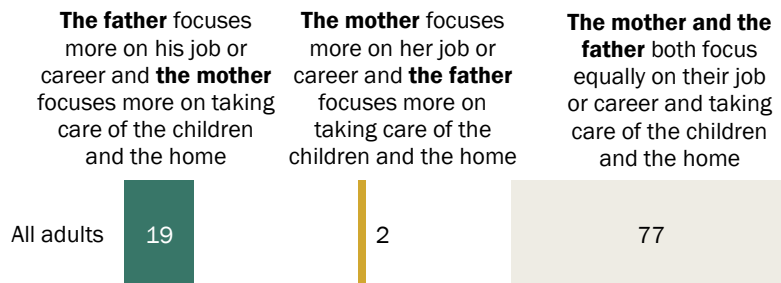
The way working parents divide their time between work and family life has implications for their children. Most Americans (77%) say children are better off when their mother and father both focus equally on their job and taking care of the home.<sup>5</sup>

About one-in-five Americans (19%) say children are better off when the father focuses more on his job and the mother focuses more on the home and child care. Only 2% of Americans say children are better off when the mother concentrates more on her job while the father takes care of the home responsibilities.

There are slight differences in viewpoint on this question by gender. Men are more likely than women to say children are better off when fathers focus on their job and mothers focus more on the children and the home (23% vs. 16%). Still, majorities of men and women say children are better off when both mothers and fathers focus equally on their job and home responsibilities (73% of men say this vs. 80% of women).

### Majority of Americans say children are better off when their mother and father both focus equally on their job and taking care of the children and home

*% of U.S. adults saying children who are being raised in a household with a mother and a father are better off when ...*



Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 18-24, 2023.

"In a Growing Share of U.S. Marriages, Husbands and Wives Earn About the Same"

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<sup>5</sup> This question asked specifically about parents in opposite-sex relationships with a father and a mother. Research has shown that [parents in same-sex relationships may approach the division of labor and child care in their households differently](#) than opposite-sex couples.

Additionally, there are notable differences by political party. A large share of Democrats and Democratic leaners (85%) say it's better if both the mother and father focus equally on their job and the home, while 68% of Republicans and GOP leaners say this. About three-in-ten Republicans (28%) say children are better off when the father focuses more on his career and the mother focuses more on child care and the home.

## Acknowledgments

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals. Find related reports online at [pewresearch.org/topic/family-relationships](https://www.pewresearch.org/topic/family-relationships)

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## Methodology

### The American Trends Panel survey methodology

#### Overview

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from the panel wave conducted from Jan. 18 to Jan. 24, 2023. A total of 5,152 panelists responded out of 5,715 who were sampled, for a response rate of 90%. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 4%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is less than 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 5,152 respondents is plus or minus 1.7 percentage points.

#### Panel recruitment

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 9,942 (50%) agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to

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#### American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	1,504
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	881
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	434
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS	9,396	8,778	4,117
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS	5,900	4,720	1,475
June 1 to July 19, 2020; Feb. 10 to March 31, 2021	ABS	3,197	2,812	1,542
May 29 to July 7, 2021; Sept. 16 to Nov. 1, 2021	ABS	1,329	1,162	788
May 24 to Sept. 29, 2022	ABS	3,354	2,869	1,701
	<b>Total</b>	<b>42,894</b>	<b>30,283</b>	<b>12,442</b>

Note: RDD is random-digit dial; ABS is address-based sampling. Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

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address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a stratified, random sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. Sampled households receive mailings asking a randomly selected adult to complete a survey online. A question at the end of the survey asks if the respondent is willing to join the ATP. In 2020 and 2021 another stage was added to the recruitment. Households that did not respond to the online survey were sent a paper version of the questionnaire, \$5 and a postage-paid return envelope. A subset of the adults who returned the paper version of the survey were invited to join the ATP. This subset of adults received a follow-up mailing with a \$10 pre-incentive and invitation to join the ATP.

Across the five address-based recruitments, a total of 23,176 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 20,341 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. In each household, one adult was selected and asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. Of the 30,283 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 12,442 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.<sup>6</sup> The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

### **Sample design**

The overall target population for this survey was non-institutionalized persons ages 18 and older living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii. It featured a stratified random sample from the ATP in which Hispanic men, Non-Hispanic Black men, and Non-Hispanic Asian adults were selected with certainty. The remaining panelists were sampled at rates designed to ensure that the share of respondents in each stratum is proportional to its share of the U.S. adult population to the greatest extent possible. Respondent weights are adjusted to account for differential probabilities of selection as described in the Weighting section below.

### **Questionnaire development and testing**

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos. The web program was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos project management team and Pew Research Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

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<sup>6</sup> AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. "[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling](#)."

## Incentives

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or a gift code to Amazon.com or could choose to decline the incentive. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$15 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

## Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was Jan. 18 to Jan. 24, 2023. Postcard notifications were mailed to all ATP panelists with a known residential address on Jan. 18.

Invitations were sent out in two separate launches: soft launch and full launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on Jan. 18. The ATP panelists chosen for the initial soft launch were known responders who had completed previous ATP surveys within one day of receiving their invitation. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on Jan. 19.

All panelists with an email address received an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. All ATP panelists who consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to two SMS reminders.

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### Invitation and reminder dates, ATP Wave 120

	<b>Soft launch</b>	<b>Full launch</b>
Initial invitation	January 18, 2023	January 19, 2023
First reminder	January 21, 2023	January 21, 2023
Final reminder	January 23, 2023	January 23, 2023

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## Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, the Center's researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing clear patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for very high rates of leaving questions blank, as well as always selecting the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, four ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

## Weighting

The ATP data is weighted in a multistep process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of selection for their initial recruitment survey. These weights are then rescaled and adjusted to account for changes in the design of ATP recruitment surveys from year to year. Finally, the weights are calibrated to align with the population benchmarks in the accompanying table to correct for nonresponse to recruitment surveys and panel attrition. If only a subsample of panelists was invited to participate in the wave, this weight is adjusted to account for any differential probabilities of selection.

Among the panelists who

completed the survey, this weight is then calibrated again to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

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### American Trends Panel weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age (detailed)	2021 American Community Survey (ACS)
Age x Gender	
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metro/Non-metro	2021 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2022 American Trends Panel Annual Profile Survey/2019 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2022 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Frequency of internet use	
Religious affiliation	
<i>Additional weighting dimensions applied within Black adults</i>	
Age	2021 American Community Survey (ACS)
Gender	
Education	
Hispanic ethnicity	
Voter registration	2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2022 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Religious affiliation	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population. Volunteerism is estimated using a model to account for potential changes in volunteering behavior due to the coronavirus outbreak that began in February 2020.

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The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

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**Sample sizes and margins of error, ATP Wave 120**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	5,152	1.7 percentage points
Men	2,728	2.5 percentage points
Women	2,366	2.2 percentage points

Note: This survey includes oversamples of Hispanic men, Non-Hispanic Black men, and Non-Hispanic Asian adults. Unweighted sample sizes do not account for the sample design or weighting and do not describe a group's contribution to weighted estimates. See the Sample design and Weighting sections above for details.

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Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

## Dispositions and response rates

### Final dispositions, ATP Wave 120

	<b>AAPOR code</b>	<b>Total</b>
Completed interview	1.1	5,152
Logged on to survey; broke off	2.12	14
Logged on to survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	49
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	496
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		4
Screened out		0
<b>Total panelists in the survey</b>		<b>5,715</b>
Completed interviews	I	5,152
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	563
Non-contact	NC	0
Other	O	0
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,715</b>
<b>AAPOR RR1 = I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)</b>		<b>90%</b>

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### Cumulative response rate as of ATP Wave 120

	<b>Total</b>
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	12%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	71%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 120	49%
Response rate to Wave 120 survey	90%
<b>Cumulative response rate</b>	<b>4%</b>

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## Annual Social and Economic Supplement methodology

The analysis of the earnings contributions of spouses in opposite-sex marriages is derived from the [Annual Social and Economic Supplement](#) (ASEC), which is conducted in March of every year as part of the Current Population Survey (CPS). Administered jointly by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the CPS is a monthly survey of approximately [70,000 households](#) that typically interviews about 50,000 households. It is the source of the nation's official statistics on unemployment. The ASEC survey in March typically features an expanded sample of more than 75,000 households with about 70,000 interviews. The ASEC collected in 2022 had about 59,000 households.

The CPS microdata used in this report is the [Integrated Public Use Microdata Series](#) (IPUMS) provided by the University of Minnesota. The IPUMS assigns uniform codes, to the extent possible, to data collected in the CPS over the years. Read [more information about the IPUMS](#), including variable definition and sampling error.

Marriages including a householder and spouse ages 25 to 64 were analyzed. The few marriages in which both spouses had zero earnings were dropped. Under these restrictions, the number of unweighted marriages analyzed was 19,552 in 2022.

Marriages were classified on the basis of the spouses' annual earnings, which are the sum of wage and salary income, non-farm business income and farm income.

Household incomes are adjusted for the number of people in a household using the methodology from [Pew Research Center's previous work on the American middle class](#). That is done because a four-person household with an income of, say, \$50,000, faces a tighter budget constraint than a two-person household with the same income.

## American Time Use Survey methodology

Time use analysis is based on data from the [American Time Use Survey](#) (ATUS) covering the 2016-2021 period and conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The ATUS provides nationally representative estimates of how, where and with whom Americans spend their time.

The ATUS microdata used in this analysis comes from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) provided by the University of Minnesota. The IPUMS ATUS extract builder is designed to facilitate researchers' access to use data from the ATUS. The analysis focuses on time use of married individuals ages 25 to 64 with spouses of the opposite sex ages 18 to 64. The wider age range of spouses aims to maximize the sample size. Weekly estimates of time in provision of care,

housework and leisure activities are based on daily reported time multiplied by seven. Estimates of work hours are based on respondents' reports of usual work hours per week.

Relative earnings are based on respondents' weekly earnings and their spouses' weekly earnings. Marriages in which both spouses had zero earnings were dropped. The ATUS top codes weekly earnings at \$2,884.61. Cases in which both or one of the spouses' weekly earnings were top coded and in which it was not possible to infer the relative distribution were dropped. Under these restrictions, the number of unweighted marriages analyzed was 14,758 from 2016 to 2021. After data cleaning and adjustments, the distribution of marriage types by relative earnings closely resembles the estimates using the ASEC.

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## Topline questionnaire

**2023 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 120 JANUARY 2023  
FINAL TOPLINE  
JANUARY 18-24, 2023  
N=5,152**

**NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE PERCENTAGES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. THE PERCENTAGES LESS THAN 0.5% ARE REPLACED BY AN ASTERISK (\*). ROWS/COLUMNS MAY NOT TOTAL 100% DUE TO ROUNDING. THE QUESTIONS PRESENTED BELOW ARE PART OF A LARGER SURVEY CONDUCTED ON THE AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL. THE OTHER QUESTIONS ON THIS SURVEY ARE HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE OR HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY RELEASED.**

	<b>Sample size</b>	<b>Margin of error at 95% confidence level</b>
U.S. adults	5,152	+/- 1.7 percentage points

**[RANDOMIZE WOMENCONT AND MENCONT; DISPLAY ON ONE SCREEN]**

**ASK ALL:**

WOMENCONT In general, when it comes to WOMEN, what do you think American society values more these days? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

Jan 18-24,  
2023

20	The contributions women make at work
31	The contributions women make at home
49	Both equally <b>[ANCHOR]</b>
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

MENCONT In general, when it comes to MEN, what do you think American society values more these days? **[SHOW RESPONSE OPTIONS IN THE SAME ORDER AS WOMENCONT]**

Jan 18-24,  
2023

57	The contributions men make at work
7	The contributions men make at home
35	Both equally <b>[ANCHOR]</b>
1	No answer

**[RANDOMIZE HUSBANDPREF AND WIFEPREF; DISPLAY ON ONE SCREEN]****ASK ALL:**

HUSBANDPREF In general, do you think most women who are married to a man would... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH 3-5 ALWAYS LAST]**

Jan 18-24,

2023

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 22 | Prefer that their husband earn more money than they do                 |
| 7  | Prefer that they earn more money than their husband                    |
| 26 | Prefer that they and their husband earn about the same <b>[ANCHOR]</b> |
| 33 | Most wouldn't have a preference <b>[ANCHOR]</b>                        |
| 13 | Not sure <b>[ANCHOR]</b>   |
| *  | No answer  |

**ASK ALL:**

WIFEPREF In general, do you think most men who are married to a woman would... **[SHOW RESPONSES IN THE SAME ORDER AS HUSBANDPREF]**

Jan 18-24,

2023

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 3  | Prefer that their wife earn more money than they do                 |
| 48 | Prefer that they earn more money than their wife                    |
| 13 | Prefer that they and their wife earn about the same <b>[ANCHOR]</b> |
| 25 | Most wouldn't have a preference <b>[ANCHOR]</b>                     |
| 11 | Not sure <b>[ANCHOR]</b>  |
| *  | No answer   |

**ASK ALL:**

CHILDBETTER In general, do you think children who are being raised in a household with a mother and a father are better off when... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

Jan 18-24,

2023

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 19 | The father focuses more on his job or career and the mother focuses more on taking care of the children and the home             |
| 2  | The mother focuses more on her job or career and the father focuses more on taking care of the children and the home             |
| 77 | The mother and the father both focus equally on their job or career and taking care of the children and the home <b>[ANCHOR]</b> |
| 1  | No answer  |

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

**ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...<sup>7</sup>

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
28	28	28	15	2	18	19

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<sup>7</sup> PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.