

12 February 2014

Original: English

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## **Economic Commission for Europe**

### **Conference of European Statisticians**

#### **Group of Experts on Gender Statistics**

#### **Work Session on Gender Statistics**

Geneva, 19-21 March 2014

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

#### **Time use surveys**

## **Are gendered differentials in time use evening out in Finland?**

### **Note by Statistics Finland<sup>1</sup>**

#### *Summary*

This paper examines how the time women and men use for gainful and domestic work has developed since the late 1980s by means of Statistics Finland's data concerning time use over a whole year. The article searches answers to the following questions: Have the amounts of time men and women use for gainful and domestic work been converging over two decades? Has the segregation into women's and men's domestic work persisted? How does the total work load comprised of gainful work and domestic work divide between men and women? How are changes in total working time visible in experiencing sufficiency of time for men and women?

## **I. Introduction**

1. A common development feature of men's and women's time use in recent decades has been the evening out of gendered differentials in the time spent on gainful and domestic work. Men have done more gainful work than women but the gap has narrowed as more and more women have entered working life. The difference in the amount of domestic work women and men do has been evening

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out as women have reduced and men have increased the amount of domestic work they do. Women in Finland have participated in working life for a relatively long time and the role of part-time working has been minor by international comparison.

2. This paper examines how the time women and men use for gainful and domestic work has developed since the late 1980s by means of Statistics Finland's data concerning time use over a whole year. The article searches answers to the following questions:

- Have the amounts of time men and women use for gainful and domestic work been converging over two decades?
- Has the segregation into women's and men's domestic work persisted?
- How does the total work load comprised of gainful work and domestic work divide between men and women?
- How are changes in total working time visible in experiencing sufficiency of time for men and women?

3. Time use by men and women is viewed mainly according to the socio-economic group and stage in family cycle. At the end of the article, information is also given about the monetary value of unpaid work carried out in households.

4. Statistics Finland's Time Use Surveys are used as data for the article. Statistics Finland has conducted Time Use Surveys covering the whole country four times since 1979, approximately every ten years. The first Time Use Survey relating to the whole year was carried out between 1987 and 1988. The latest data concerning time use were collected between April 2009 and May 2010. At the time, 3,795 persons kept a diary. The newest data comprise in all 7,480 survey days. The two latest Time Use Surveys have been made according to uniform European guidelines. This article examines the time use of men and women based on the data concerning the whole year. The data derive from the years 1987 to 1988, 1999 to 2000 and 2009 to 2010.

5. The time use data were collected by means of diaries. The respondents recorded in their diaries what they were doing at the accuracy of ten minutes. Two simultaneous activities could be recorded in the diary. In addition, they made a note in the diary about whether they were together with other members of their household or with friends or acquaintances. The location was deduced in connection with coding. The diaries were coded afterwards at Statistics Finland following uniform instructions. Main and secondary activities were classified with most accuracy into 146 different groups. (More details about the survey, Pääkkönen and Hanifi 2012.)

6. The diary method is well suited for studying daily activities. These are such as sleeping, having meals, washing and many other activities related to personal care and various types of domestic work, such as food preparation and childcare at least for parents of small children. However, not all activity is usually recorded in diaries. These could be, for example, sensitive matters and unauthorised behaviour.

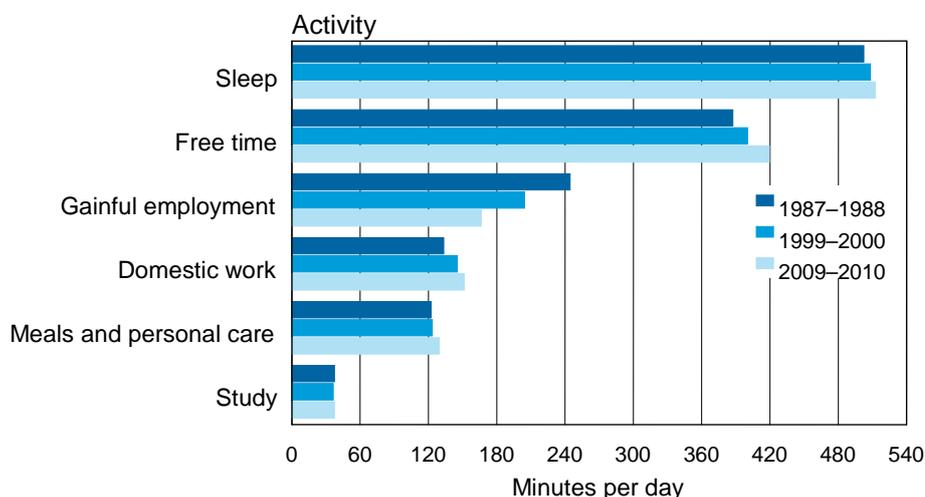
## **II. Gainful employment has decreased and free time increased**

7. First, we examine the basic structure of men's and women's time use. In Figures 1 and 2, time use is divided into six main categories: 1) Sleep, 2) Meals and other personal care, 3) Gainful employment, 4) Study, 5) Domestic work and 6) Free time. In the Time Use Survey, free time is defined as the amount of time in a day that remains after deducting the time spent on sleep, meals, gainful employment and domestic work, as well as on studying.

8. The numbers in Figures 1 and 2 describe time use on a day of an average year. The survey includes all men and women aged ten or over: schoolchildren, employed, pensioners

and others. For them, included are weekdays and weekend days, as well as work days, school days and days off.

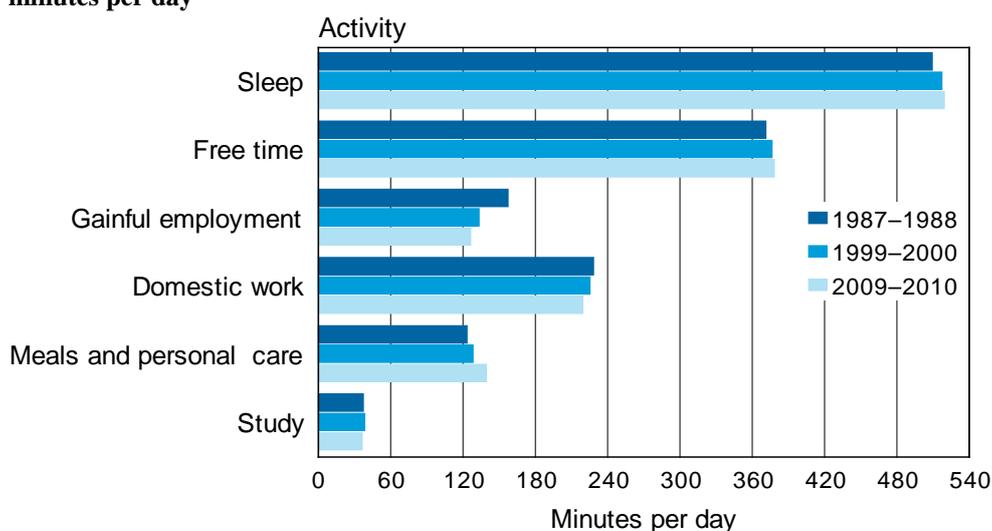
**Figure 1**  
Time use of men aged ten or over in 1987 to 1988, 1999 to 2000 and 2009 to 2010, minutes per day



Source: Statistics Finland. Time Use Survey.

9. The clearest change in men's time use is the decrease in gainful employment and growing free time caused by the economic downturn (Figure 1). For men, free time is seven hours per day. The time used by men for domestic work has gradually grown throughout the survey period and is now good 2.5 hours per day. The time used by men for sleeping has increased by ten minutes over two decades. Men sleep good 8.5 hours per day, on average. The time used for studying has remained unchanged at nearly 40 minutes for the population aged ten or over since the late 1980s. There are no differences between men and women as to the time used for studying.

**Figure 2**  
Time use of women aged ten or over in 1987 to 1988, 1999 to 2000 and 2009 to 2010, minutes per day



Source: Statistics Finland. Time Use Survey

10. For women, the decrease in gainful employment is not as evident as for men in the last decade (Figure 2). Domestic work done by women has been falling steadily and is now good 3.5 hours per day. Women use slightly more time for meals, washing, dressing and other personal care than before. The population aged ten or over spent an average of two hours and a quarter on these activities, women ten minutes more than men.

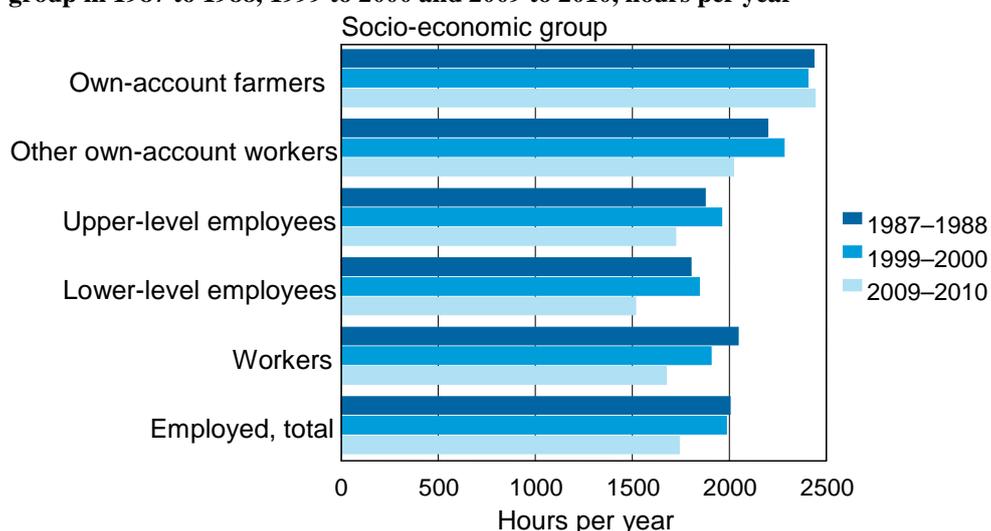
### III. Men do more gainful work than women

11. As said above, less time was used for gainful employment in 2009 to 2010 than in the two previous survey periods. The hours actually worked per employed was around ten per cent shorter than ten years previously. The number of days off from work grew, and the share of long working days diminished. In the previous decade, working time developed in the opposite direction: then long working days became more common.

12. The cyclical stages of the economy have been very different in the last two survey periods. In 1999, the economy was growing, while from spring 2009 to spring 2010 the economic downturn advanced rapidly. Temporary lay-offs became common and the number of persons working a shortened week grew. The downturn weakened employment more among men than women. Reasons for shortened working hours are also part-time work becoming more general and reduced overtime work. The share of part-time workers in wage and salary earners has been growing since the late 1990s. Part-time work has become more common for both men and women. However, women still work more part-time than men.

13. Although the working time shortened in general, the change in working hours varied in different population groups. Shortening of working hours was stronger for those working part-time than for those in full-time employment. The working time of parents of families with children shortened less than that of others.

**Figure 3**  
**Men's hours actually worked per employed in main and second jobs and socio-economic group in 1987 to 1988, 1999 to 2000 and 2009 to 2010, hours per year**

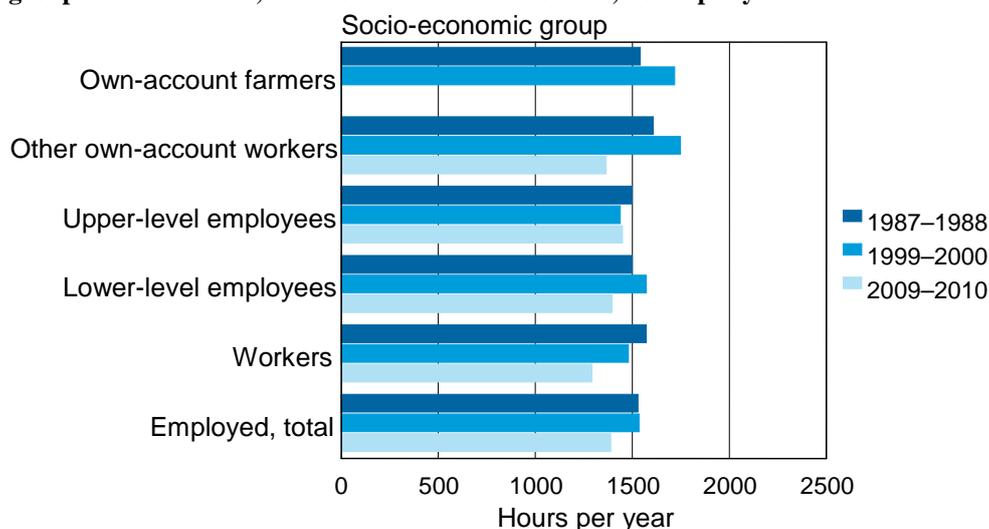


Average for daily working hours multiplied by 365.

Source: Statistics Finland. Time Use Survey

14. The time used by farmer men on gainful employment has remained nearly unchanged during the monitoring period (Figure 3). They do most gainful work among different socio-economy groups. The working time of all other socio-economic groups has shortened for men in the 2000s.

**Figure 4**  
**Women's hours actually worked per employed in main and second jobs and socio-economic group in 1987 to 1988, 1999 to 2000 and 2009 to 2010, hours per year**



Average for daily working hours multiplied by 365.

Source: Statistics Finland. Time Use Survey

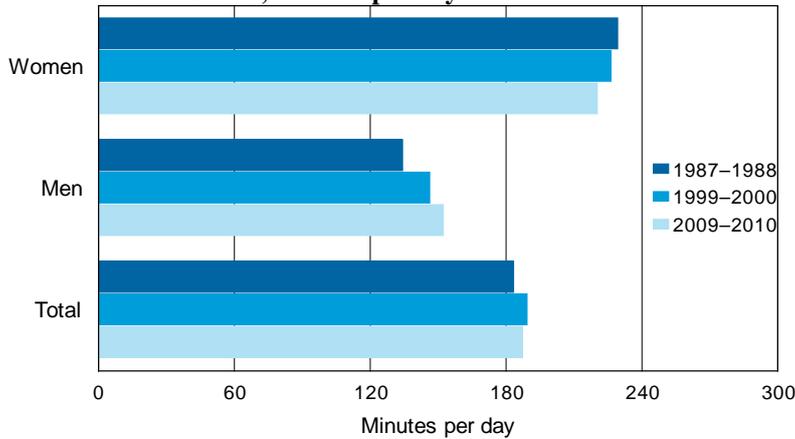
15. Hours actually worked per employed have remained unchanged for upper-level employee women (Figure 4). For other socio-economic groups, hours actually worked per employed have shorted in the 2000s. There are so few farmer women in the data that the latest changes for them cannot be presented reliably. As the working hours of female own-account workers have shortened, socio-economic differences have evened out among employed women.

16. Although the working time of men shortened more than that of women, men still do more gainful work than women. The difference between women and men in the amount of gainful employment diminished among wage and salary earners, but grew among self-employed persons. The average of hours worked by women is slightly decreased by that women on maternity leave are included as employed persons in above Figures 3 and 4.

#### IV. Men do more domestic work than before

17. Finns did domestic work good three hours per day, on average, in 2009 to 2010 (Figure 5). This number has not changed much from the previous survey period. Women did domestic work over 3.5 hours and men 2.5 hours per day. The time used by women for domestic work has diminished by around ten minutes in 20 years, and men's time for domestic work has in turn increased by nearly 20 minutes. At the same time, women's share of all domestic work has fallen from 63 to 59 per cent.

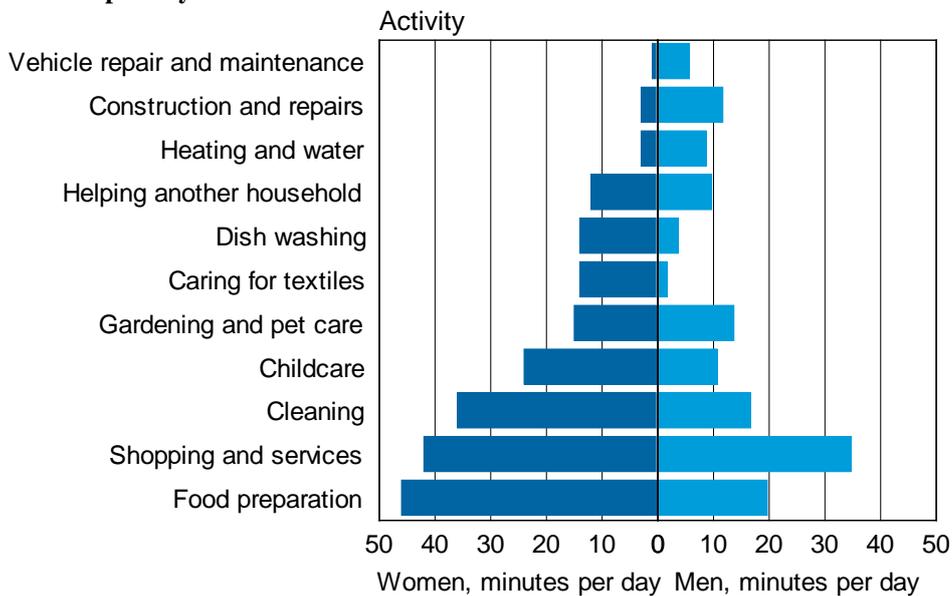
**Figure 5**  
**Time used for domestic work by persons aged ten or over by sex in 1987 to 1988, 1999 to 2000 and 2009 to 2010, minutes per day**



Source: Statistics Finland. Time Use Survey

18. In its content, domestic work has divided very much in the same way over two decades. However, the time used for shopping and services, helping other households, and gardening and pet care has grown slightly compared with the late 1980s. The time spent on childcare has increased in families with children from the end of the 1980s.

**Figure 6**  
**Time used by women and men on different types of domestic work in 2009 to 2010, minutes per day**

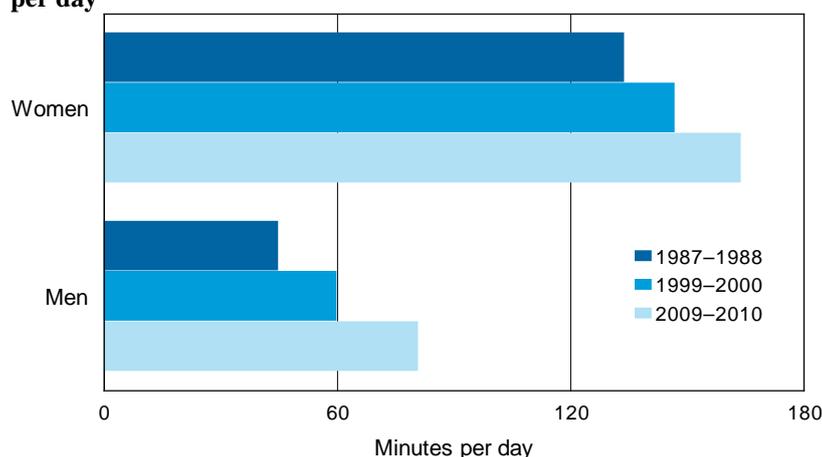


Source: Statistics Finland. Time Use Survey

19. Women use more time than men for food preparation, shopping and services, cleaning, childcare, care for textiles and dish washing (Figure 6). In turn, men use more time than women for repair and maintenance work. Women and men use more or less the same amount of time on helping another household and gardening and pet care.

20. The content of domestic work made by women and men has converged in that for women the time used on food preparation has gone down, while for men it has in turn gone up. Women's time used for dish washing and care for textiles has fallen and time spent for helping another household and gardening has increased. However, women still do the majority of housekeeping work (68 per cent) and men most of maintenance work (63 per cent).

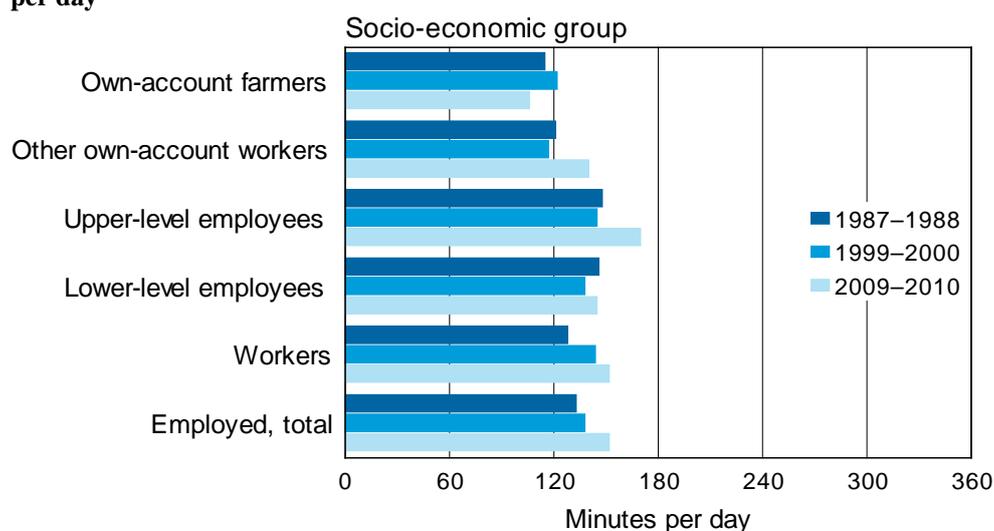
**Figure 7**  
Time used by mothers and fathers of under school-age children on childcare, minutes per day



Source: Statistics Finland. Time Use Survey

21. The time used for childcare has increased in families with children compared to the late 1980s (Figure 7). Parents of under school-age children use half an hour more time on childcare than in the late 1980s. Mothers use clearly more time for childcare than fathers. Mothers of under school-age children spent two hours 44 minutes per day and fathers one hour 21 minutes on childcare as the main activity. In addition, mothers used 32 minutes and fathers 12 minutes per day on secondary childcare besides another activity. In all, mothers of small children thus used over three hours per day and fathers 1.5 hours on childcare.

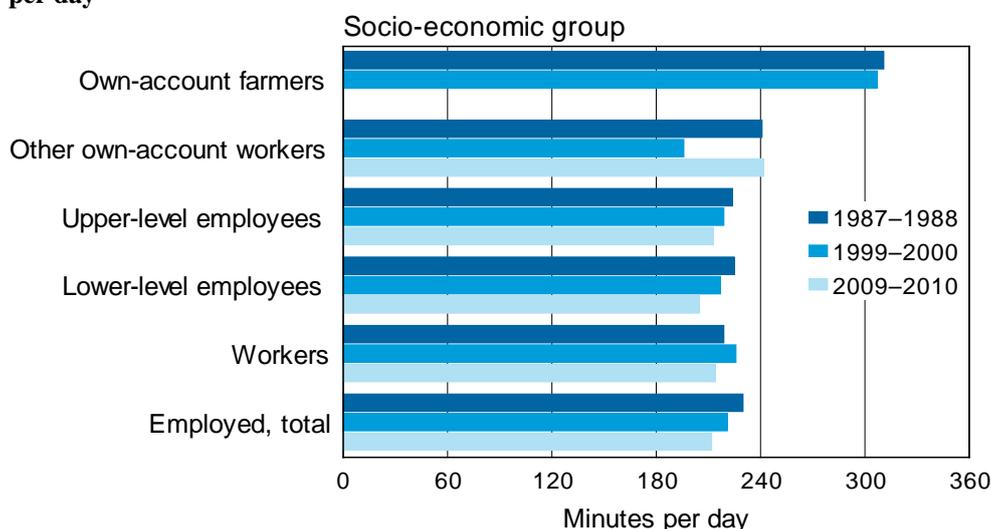
**Figure 8**  
Time used by employed men for domestic work by socio-economic group, minutes per day



Source: Statistics Finland. Time Use Survey

22. Employed men did more domestic work in all socio-economic groups except for farmers (Figure 8). Upper-level employees now do clearly most domestic work of all employed men.

**Figure 9**  
**Time used by employed women for domestic work by socio-economic group, minutes per day**



Source: Statistics Finland. Time Use Survey

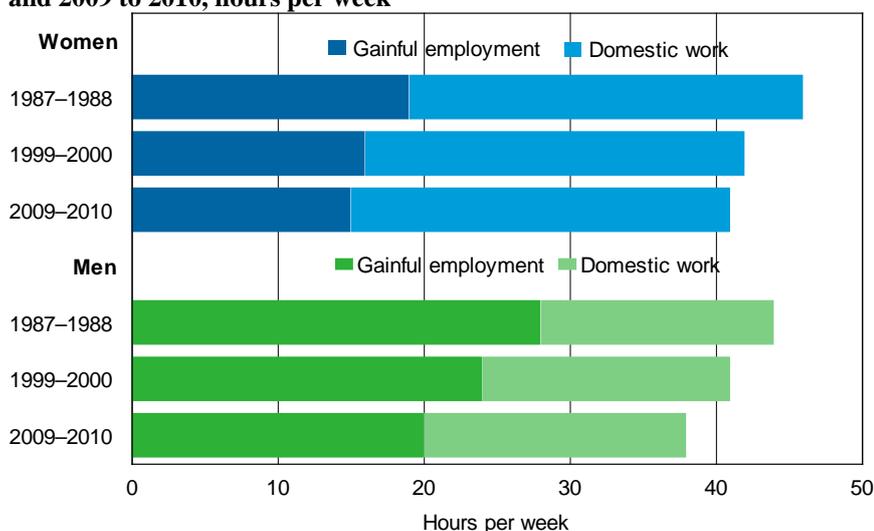
23. Farmer women have conventionally done most domestic work. In the data for 2009 to 2010, their number is, however, so small that reliable data cannot be presented. The amount of domestic work done by other female own-account workers returned, after the dip at the turn of the century, to the same figures as in the late 1980s. In other socio-economic groups, women did slightly less domestic work. (Figure 9.)

24. When comparing the amount of domestic work done by women to that done by men in the same socio-economic group, it can be seen that the shares of women and men are closest in the group of upper-level employees. Men belonging to this group completed 80 per cent of the domestic work done by women in 2009 to 2010. However, these figures do not describe the division of work by couples, but only the time use of women and men belonging to the same socio-economic groups. Spouses do not necessarily belong to the same groups. Lower-level employees and worker men did 71 per cent of the domestic work done by women in the corresponding groups. Men's share is at its lowest among own-account workers: male own-account workers did nearly 60 per cent of the domestic work done by female own-account workers. Due to the small amount of data, male and female farmers cannot be compared in 2009 to 2010. Previously, the division of work has been the least even in this group. (Pääkkönen and Hanifi 2012.)

## V. Women's total working time longer than men's

25. When the time spent on gainful work and domestic work is added up, we gain total hours worked. They describe a person's paid and unpaid total work input. Total hours worked are also an indicator of an individual's well-being. Their flip side is the time remaining for personal care or free time.

**Figure 10**  
**Total hours worked by women and men aged ten or over in 1987 to 1988, 1999 to 2000**  
**and 2009 to 2010, hours per week**

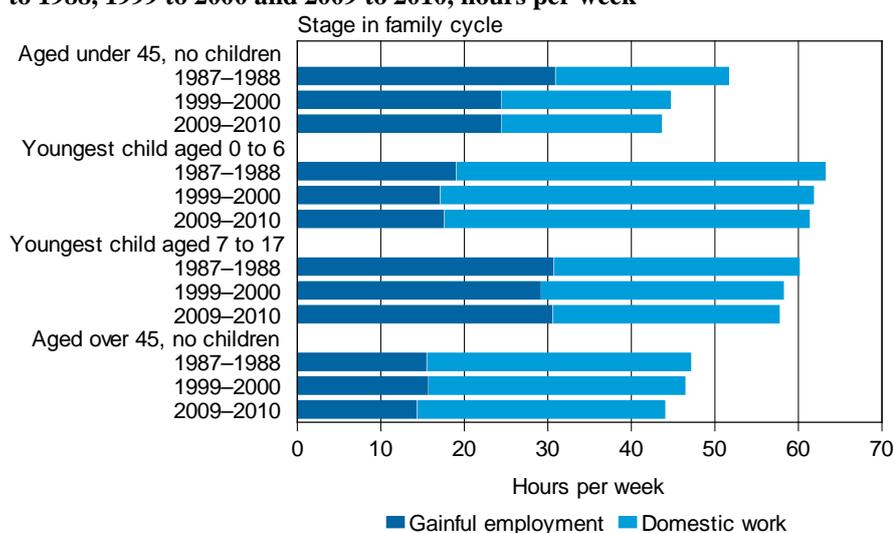


Source: Statistics Finland. Time Use Survey

26. Total hours worked have shortened in Finland in the 1990s and 2000s (Figure 10). During the past decade, total hours worked shortened more for men than women. The reason for this was the decrease in men's gainful work, although their time for domestic work grew. Women's total working hours (41 hours per week) are now longer than men's (38 hours). Earlier, men's and women's total hours worked have been fairly close to each other.

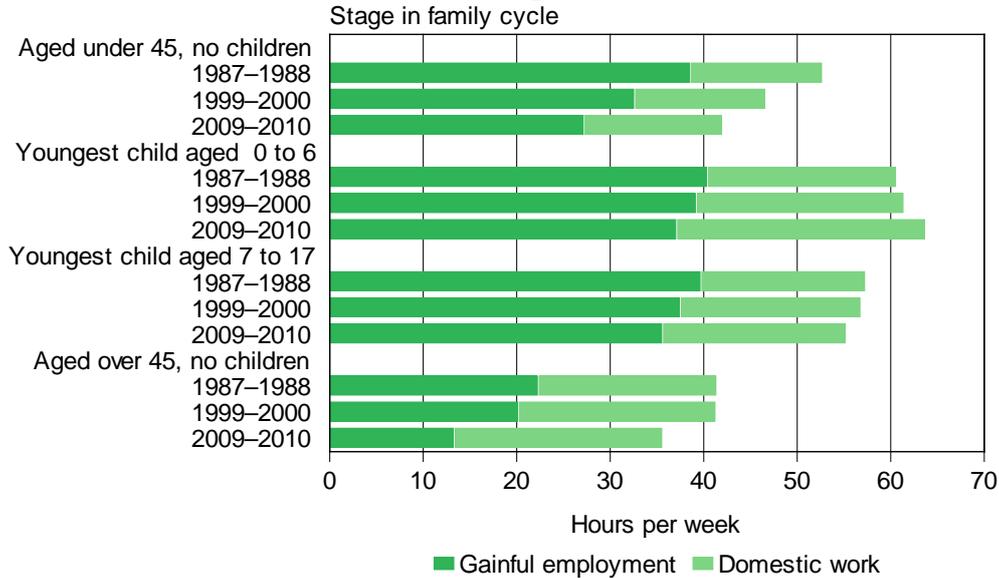
27. Total hours worked vary considerably in different stages of life. For both men and women, they are at greatest among parents of under school-age children. At that time, gainful work gets most emphasis for men in total working hours and for women domestic work. Fathers of under school-age children increased domestic work so that their total working hours grew over the 2000s. Their total hours worked are now longer than among mothers of under school-age children. (Figures 11 and 12).

**Figure 11**  
**Total hours worked by married or cohabiting women by stage in family cycle in 1987 to 1988, 1999 to 2000**  
**and 2009 to 2010, hours per week**



Source: Statistics Finland. Time Use Survey

**Figure 12**  
**Total hours worked by married or cohabiting men by stage in family cycle in 1987 to 1988, 1999 to 2000 and 2009 to 2010, hours per week**

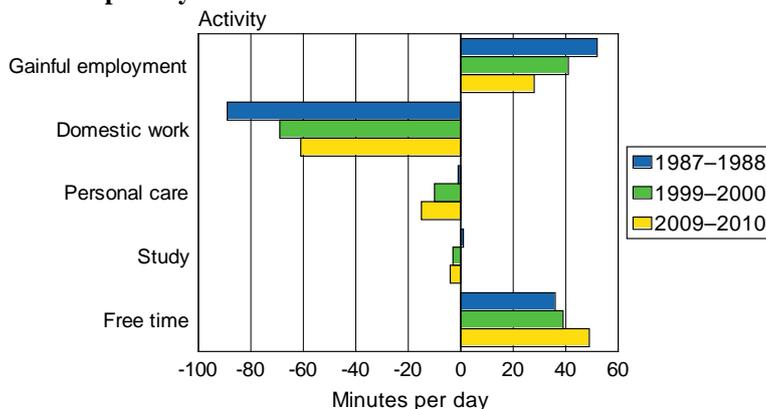


Source: Statistics Finland. Time Use Survey

## VI. Differences between women and men diminished in doing gainful and domestic work

28. The figures above have been "direct" averages concerning different population groups. In the following, differences between women's and men's time use are viewed adjusted for socio-economic group and family stage. Adjustment was made with regression models where the dependent variable is time used on different time use categories in minutes and the independent variables are sex, socio-economic group and family stage. The models were calculated separately for different survey years. Figures 13 and 14 show only the results concerning sexes.

**Figure 13**  
**Differences in time use by men and women aged ten or over (men-women) adjusted for socio-economic group and family stage in 1987 to 1988, 1999 to 2000 and 2009 to 2010, minutes per day**



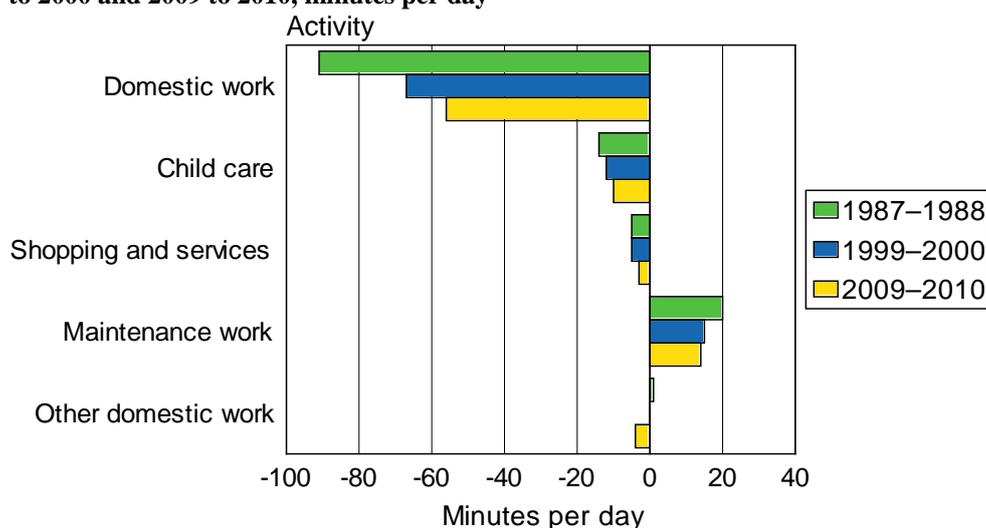
Adjusted for family stage and socio-economic group.

Source: Statistics Finland. Time Use Survey

29. Figure 13 shows differences in men's and women's time use in the time use categories adjusted for family stage and socio-economic group. In the figure, sleeping and meals and hygiene are combined into the same personal care group. It can be seen in the figure that differences between sexes have diminished in doing gainful and domestic work. In contrast, differences have grown for personal care and free time. Differences between sexes are not statistically significant with respect to time used on studying.

**Figure 14**

**Differences in time used on domestic work by men and women aged ten or over (men-women) adjusted for socio-economic group and family stage in 1987 to 1988, 1999 to 2000 and 2009 to 2010, minutes per day**



Adjusted for family stage and socio-economic group.

Source: Statistics Finland. Time Use Survey

30. In Figure 14, domestic work is divided into five categories. The figure clearly shows how differences between sexes have narrowed down for housekeeping work. During the examination period, men have increased doing housekeeping work by 13 minutes and women have decreased it by 23 minutes. There has been some evening out in the time used on childcare between men and women compared to the end of the 1980s. Women's and men's differences in the time used on shopping and services have remained more or less similar. Compared to the late 1980s, an opposite development can be seen in maintenance work compared to housekeeping work: there we can detect signs of the domestic work made by women becoming more "male-dominated" (Bittman 2004).

Parents of small children afflicted by rush and lack of time

31. How are the above-mentioned changes in gainful and domestic work visible in experiencing sufficiency of time? Questions have been asked in the Time Use Survey about feeling both rushed and experiencing lack of time. The respondents were asked: "How often do you feel rushed?" The response alternatives were constantly, at times or hardly ever. Feeling of rush was further specified by asking how lack of time was experienced. "Are there any such things you would like to do on ordinary weekdays but which you cannot do due to lack of time?" The response alternatives were *Yes* or *No*.

**Table 1**  
**Shares of persons having felt rushed constantly or at times by main activity, family stage and sex in 1999 to 2000 and 2009 to 2010, per cent**

	%			
	Women		Men	
	1999–2000	2009–2010	1999–2000	2009–2010
All	75	77	73	69
Employed	90	92	87	86
Unemployed	60	66	56	52
Student	82	80	73	65
Retired	45	48	42	39
Caring for own household	78	76	43	72
Other	78	84	34	46
Single:				
Under 45 years, living with parents, no children	77	76	69	64
Under 45 years, living elsewhere, no children	90	92	84	82
Aged over 45, no children	45	52	52	46
Single parent	89	93	94	65
Married or cohabiting:				
Aged under 45, no children	91	91	86	85
Youngest child aged 0–6 years	89	92	91	91
Youngest child aged 7–17 years	88	90	83	84
Aged over 45, no children	70	73	63	58

*Source:* Statistics Finland. Time Use Survey

32. In the Time Use Survey 2009 to 2010, 77 per cent of women and 69 per cent of men said they felt constantly or at times rushed. Seventeen per cent of women and 15 per cent of men were constantly rushed. Ten years earlier, the share of those feeling constantly rushed was slightly higher. Feeling rushed was more common among employed persons than average for the whole population. Of employed women, 92 per cent and 86 per cent of men had felt rushed at least at times. There was not much of a change for them in feeling rushed compared to the period ten years ago. Nearly all fathers and mothers of under school-age children (over 90 per cent) said they were rushed constantly or at times. Mothers feeling rushed had grown slightly in ten years.

**Table 2**  
**Shares of persons having felt lack of time by main activity, family stage and sex in 1987 to 1988, 1999 to 2000 and 2009 to 2010, per cent**

	%					
	Women			Men		
	1987–1988	1999–2000	2009–2010	1987–1988	1999–2000	2009–2010
All	43	42	44	38	37	36
Employed	59	61	64	49	53	56
Unemployed	21	17	22	18	12	16
Student	48	46	39	35	34	27
Retired	7	8	12	4	8	6
Caring for own household	45	52	59	.	.	.
Other	44	34	57	46	9	22
Single:						
Under 45 years, living with parents, no children	42	39	37	33	27	22
Under 45 years, living elsewhere, no children	58	56	60	45	42	46
Aged over 45, no children	11	14	19	6	14	19
Single parent	56	52	72	.	.	.
Married or cohabiting:						
Aged under 45, no children	53	59	60	46	56	51
Youngest child aged 0–6 years	72	70	78	61	65	74
Youngest child aged 7–17 years	60	60	60	49	56	57
Aged over 45, no children	34	30	33	24	25	22

*Source:* Statistics Finland. Time Use Survey

33. Since the late 1980s, 40 per cent of the respondents have felt lack of time. However, there have been changes in different population groups in feeling lack of time. Lack of time felt by schoolchildren aged under 15 has diminished. In contrast, lack of time has increased among employed persons and home-makers. This development has been similar for both men and women. The lack of time experienced by parents of small children has also increased. Three-quarters of parents of under school-age children feel that they do not have time to do everything on weekdays due to lack of time.

**Table 3**  
**On what employed mothers and fathers of under school-age children would like to spend more time in 2009 to 2010, per cent**

Activity	%	
	Women	Men
Sports and outdoor activities	39	37
Child care	7	9
Other domestic work	12	8
Hobbies	13	14
Socialising with family	3	11
Resting, sleeping	7	9
Reading books	10	3
Other	9	9
Total	100	100

*Source:* Statistics Finland. Time Use Survey

34. On what would time be used if there was more of it on weekdays? The responses show that more time was clearly wanted for physical exercise than at the moment. Nearly 40 per cent of employed parents of under school-age children having felt lack of time would have wanted to do more sports and outdoor exercise (Table 3). Parents would have liked to spend more time with their children and family. More time was also wanted for just resting and sleeping. Parents of small children also had too little time for reading books and for their hobbies.

## **VII. Value of unpaid domestic production 41 per cent of gross domestic product**

35. Time use data can also be used for calculating the value of unpaid work made in households. Alongside national accounts, household production is described as so-called satellite accounts. They calculate the value of household production, which in addition to work, consists of consumption of fixed capital and the value of raw materials and other intermediate products used in production. Labour input data are derived from the Time Use Survey, other data from the Household Budget Survey and national accounts. In Finland, satellite accounts have been compiled for the years 2001, 2006 and 2009 (Varjonen & Aalto 2013).

36. Gross value added of household production, which includes the value of work, taxes related to production minus subsidies and consumption of fixed capital, amounted to EUR 82.6 billion in 2009. Of that, EUR 12.5 billion were included in national accounts, and EUR 70.1 billion remained outside national accounts. Its share of gross domestic product has been in different calculation periods around 39 per cent, but in 2009 it rose to 41 per cent, as gross domestic product decreased.

37. The value of household production is calculated according to household-specific data, so the shares of men and women cannot be separated there. In the satellite account, households are divided according to life stage into different types, however. The value of household production was highest in families with small children: EUR 55,700 in 2009. It was almost as high in families with school-age children (EUR 50,000). The value of household production for pension-age couples was EUR 46,700. It was lower than this for other couples and for those living alone.

38. Among the function groups of household production, housing services were the biggest, as their value added was EUR 36.5 billion (EUR 1,200 a month per household). The value of meal production was EUR 20.7 billion (EUR 750 a month per household). The value of the production of clothing care and care services and voluntary work was around EUR six to seven billion (EUR 200 a month per household). (Varjonen & Aalto 2013.)

## **VIII. Summary**

39. The basic features of time use change fairly slowly. However, it can be seen that the gender differences in time use have somewhat evened out over the past two decades. Men still do more gainful employment than women do, and they have more free time than women have. Women still do the majority of domestic work. These features of time use can be seen in other developed countries as well (Fisher & Robinson 2011; Gimenez-Nadal & Sevilla 2012).

40. The time used by women for domestic work has fallen and that used by men increased. The content of domestic work has evened out slightly between sexes. Men's share in time used for housekeeping work has grown, as has women's share of home maintenance work. Men thus take more part in conventional "women's housework" and women more in "men's housework".

41. The total labour input formed by gainful and domestic work diminished over the 2000s, because the time spent on gainful employment fell among men, in particular. Women's total working time is now longer than men's.

42. Lack of time felt by employed persons, home-makers and parents of small children has increased. This development has been similar for both men and women.

43. The value of household production left outside national accounts was 41 per cent of gross domestic product in 2009. The functions of household production with the highest value were housing and meal services.

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