

Guardian Opinion Poll
Fieldwork : August 13th-15th 2004

Absolutes/col percents

Table 8

Q.8. People talk about parents of young children having the right balance between the amount of time they spend at work and at home with their children. From what you yourself have seen do you think that for such people, the balance is about right, do they spend too long at work or not enough time at work?

Base: All respondents

	Sex		Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region			
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Unweighted base	1005	491	514	98	149	554	204	303	247	170	285	194	237	140	74	330	316	359
Weighted base	1005	484	521	106	168	528	203	252	290	212	251	205	230	143	71	336	313	356
About Right	242	121	121	28	42	130	43	68	66	49	59	53	70	23	16	83	82	77
	24%	25%	23%	26%	25%	25%	21%	27%	23%	23%	24%	26%	30%	16%	22%	25%	26%	22%
Too long at work	615	282	333	65	104	338	108	152	188	132	143	124	136	103	42	201	185	229
	61%	58%	64%	62%	62%	64%	53%	60%	65%	62%	57%	60%	59%	72%	60%	60%	59%	64%
Not enough time at work	59	40	19	4	13	23	20	11	12	14	23	13	12	7	7	22	21	16
	6%	8%	4%	4%	7%	4%	10%	4%	4%	7%	9%	6%	5%	5%	10%	7%	7%	5%
Don't know	88	41	48	9	10	37	33	22	24	16	26	15	11	9	5	30	25	33
	9%	8%	9%	8%	6%	7%	16%	9%	8%	8%	10%	7%	5%	6%	8%	9%	8%	9%

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Table 9

Q.9. Some people we have spoken to were not aware that the Government has introduced new rights to request flexible working, which means adapting working hours to suit your family responsibilities, maternity leave was extended to a year and two weeks paid paternity leave introduced for fathers. Were you yourself aware of these new rules?

Base: All respondents

	Sex		Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region			
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Unweighted base	1005	491	514	98	149	554	204	303	247	170	285	194	237	140	74	330	316	359
Weighted base	1005	484	521	106	168	528	203	252	290	212	251	205	230	143	71	336	313	356
Yes - Aware	704 70%	322 66%	382 73%	60 57%	100 60%	408 77%	135 66%	199 79%	210 73%	137 65%	157 63%	137 67%	159 69%	108 76%	48 67%	225 67%	215 69%	264 74%
No - Not Aware	297 30%	160 33%	137 26%	45 43%	66 39%	117 22%	68 34%	53 21%	78 27%	74 35%	92 37%	68 33%	68 30%	35 24%	23 33%	108 32%	99 31%	91 25%
Don't know	5 *	2 *	2 *	- -	2 1%	3 1%	- -	1 *	1 *	1 *	2 1%	- -	2 1%	- -	- -	3 1%	- -	1 *

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Table 10

Q.10. At present new mothers get maternity leave of up to a year off, the first 6 weeks being paid at 90% of their annual salary with the next 20 weeks paid at £102.80 per week and the rest unpaid, and fathers get two weeks paid paternity leave of £102.80 per week. Do you think these arrangements are too generous, too mean or have the government got it about right?

Base: All respondents

	Sex		Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region			
	Total	Male	Fe-male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid-lands	South
Unweighted base	1005	491	514	98	149	554	204	303	247	170	285	194	237	140	74	330	316	359
Weighted base	1005	484	521	106	168	528	203	252	290	212	251	205	230	143	71	336	313	356
Too Generous	191 19%	103 21%	88 17%	2 2%	12 7%	102 19%	75 37%	36 14%	50 17%	42 20%	63 25%	65 32%	28 12%	25 18%	13 18%	63 19%	56 18%	72 20%
Too Mean	180 18%	90 19%	90 17%	28 27%	54 32%	94 18%	4 2%	57 22%	56 19%	41 19%	27 11%	25 12%	39 17%	28 20%	17 24%	54 16%	56 18%	70 20%
About right	586 58%	265 55%	320 61%	73 69%	96 57%	306 58%	111 54%	151 60%	163 56%	122 57%	150 60%	111 54%	155 68%	83 58%	39 54%	211 63%	186 59%	189 53%
Don't know	48 5%	26 5%	23 4%	3 3%	6 4%	27 5%	13 6%	9 3%	21 7%	7 4%	12 5%	4 2%	7 3%	7 5%	2 3%	8 2%	15 5%	25 7%

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Table 11
Q.11. And in any further changes which of the following, if any, do you think the government should aim to do ...
Base: All respondents

	Sex		Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region			
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Unweighted base	1005	491	514	98	149	554	204	303	247	170	285	194	237	140	74	330	316	359
Weighted base	1005	484	521	106	168	528	203	252	290	212	251	205	230	143	71	336	313	356
Give mothers longer than a year off work	319 32%	158 33%	161 31%	45 42%	67 40%	157 30%	51 25%	62 25%	89 31%	77 36%	91 36%	53 26%	80 35%	49 34%	23 32%	108 32%	112 36%	99 28%
Give mothers more than 6 months paid maternity leave	515 51%	244 50%	271 52%	82 77%	107 64%	258 49%	67 33%	127 50%	136 47%	119 56%	133 53%	70 34%	136 59%	78 54%	41 58%	180 54%	163 52%	172 48%
Give fathers more than 2 weeks paternity leave	535 53%	262 54%	273 52%	80 76%	110 66%	283 54%	61 30%	133 53%	159 55%	121 57%	122 49%	75 37%	148 64%	88 62%	40 56%	180 53%	160 51%	195 55%
Allowing the mother or the father to up to 6 months paid leave	659 66%	297 61%	362 70%	86 81%	129 77%	344 65%	101 50%	162 64%	194 67%	146 69%	157 63%	118 58%	168 73%	104 73%	45 63%	223 66%	206 66%	230 65%
None of these/leave things as they are	183 18%	96 20%	87 17%	8 7%	11 6%	98 19%	67 33%	42 17%	55 19%	35 16%	51 20%	57 28%	24 11%	18 13%	11 15%	61 18%	56 18%	66 19%
Don't know	14 1%	4 1%	9 2%	- -	- -	9 2%	4 2%	2 1%	6 2%	1 1%	4 2%	4 2%	- -	- -	1 2%	5 1%	2 1%	6 2%

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Table 12

Q.12. As far as other workers are concerned do you think the time off given to new parents is accepted by other work colleagues as fair or do you feel the additional workload

on other staff make it unfair?

Base: All respondents

	Sex		Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region			
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Unweighted base	1005	491	514	98	149	554	204	303	247	170	285	194	237	140	74	330	316	359
Weighted base	1005	484	521	106	168	528	203	252	290	212	251	205	230	143	71	336	313	356
Fair	481	240	240	62	112	251	56	140	135	101	105	76	138	66	40	159	156	166
	48%	50%	46%	58%	67%	47%	28%	55%	47%	48%	42%	37%	60%	46%	56%	47%	50%	47%
Unfair	451	210	241	42	50	241	118	102	130	98	122	121	75	71	26	146	143	162
	45%	43%	46%	39%	30%	46%	58%	40%	45%	46%	48%	59%	33%	50%	36%	43%	46%	46%
Don't know	73	34	39	2	5	36	30	11	25	13	25	9	16	6	6	31	14	28
	7%	7%	8%	2%	3%	7%	15%	4%	9%	6%	10%	4%	7%	4%	8%	9%	4%	8%

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Table 13
Q.13. Do you agree or disagree that Britain should adopt the European regulation of a maximum 48 hour working week?
Base: All respondents

	Sex		Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region			
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Unweighted base	1005	491	514	98	149	554	204	303	247	170	285	194	237	140	74	330	316	359
Weighted base	1005	484	521	106	168	528	203	252	290	212	251	205	230	143	71	336	313	356
Agree	553 55%	276 57%	277 53%	51 48%	94 56%	312 59%	97 48%	158 62%	159 55%	110 52%	127 51%	101 49%	138 60%	96 67%	43 60%	188 56%	174 56%	191 54%
Disagree	413 41%	199 41%	214 41%	50 48%	66 39%	199 38%	97 48%	89 35%	121 42%	91 43%	112 45%	98 48%	85 37%	46 32%	27 38%	131 39%	130 42%	151 42%
Don't know	39 4%	9 2%	30 6%	4 4%	7 4%	17 3%	10 5%	6 2%	10 4%	10 5%	12 5%	6 3%	7 3%	1 1%	1 2%	17 5%	8 3%	13 4%