

EU-Project FamWork

“Family Life and Professional Work: Conflict and Synergy“

A joint project of the Universities of
Munich (D), Fribourg (CH), Graz (A), Nijmegen (NL), Porto (P), Mons (B) and Palermo (I)

Technical Report FamWork-04-A/01

„Sample description for the FamWork questionnaire survey in Graz“

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Sample description of the Graz-sample of the FamWork questionnaire survey

This report provides a detailed description of the Graz-sample of the FamWork questionnaire survey.

The survey was conducted from the end of April 2003 until the end of December 2003. The final Graz-sample consists of 206 couples that correspond to the agreed upon criteria for the national FamWork samples.

Fourteen additional couples of the original sample had to be removed from the data-set because they either did not fit the sample criteria or their questionnaires were incomplete. These couples were not used for further analysis.

The report is divided into four parts:

- *Demographic characteristics* including sex, age, nationality and language, educational level, religious affiliation, and area of living.
- *Relationship characteristics* including duration of relationship, duration of living together, duration of marriage, marital status, number of children, children's age, sex and living status, number of cohabitating persons, number of family members in permanent need of care, and the use of relationship counseling services.
- *Occupation* including current occupation, individual monthly net income, household net income, equivalence income, and amount of professional work.
- *Miscellaneous* containing the willingness to participate in future FamWork-surveys.



Demographic characteristics

Sex:

Since both partners of a couple had to complete the questionnaire there are 206 persons of each sex within the sample.

Age:

Two persons did not state their age. For the 410 remaining persons the mean age is 35 years and 2 month with a range from 22 to 55 years.

<i>Age (years)</i>	Overall	Women	Men
N/statements	410	205	205
Mean	35,15	33,95	36,35
Median	35,00	34,00	36,00
Std.-Dev.	4,680	4,125	4,898
Min.	22	22	26
Max.	55	46	55

Nationality and language:

The majority of the sample has the Austrian citizenship and German as the mother tongue.

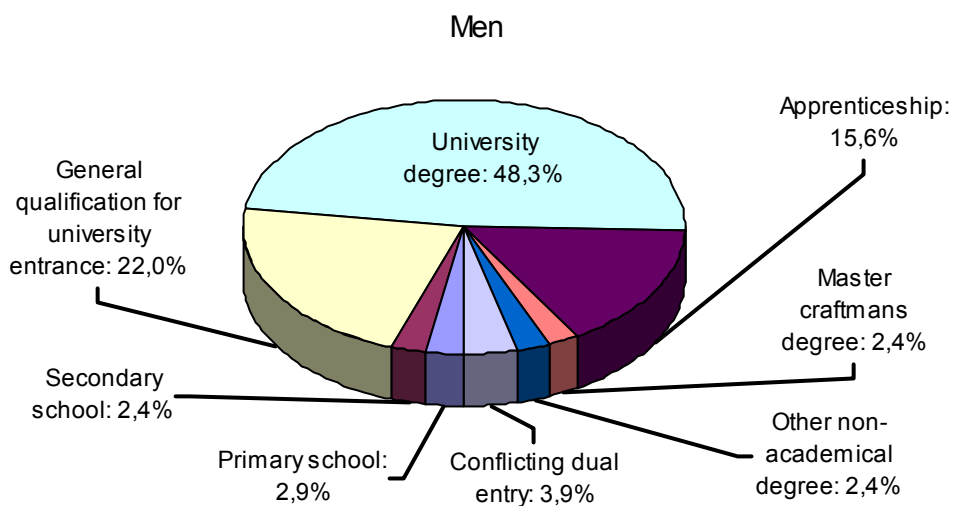
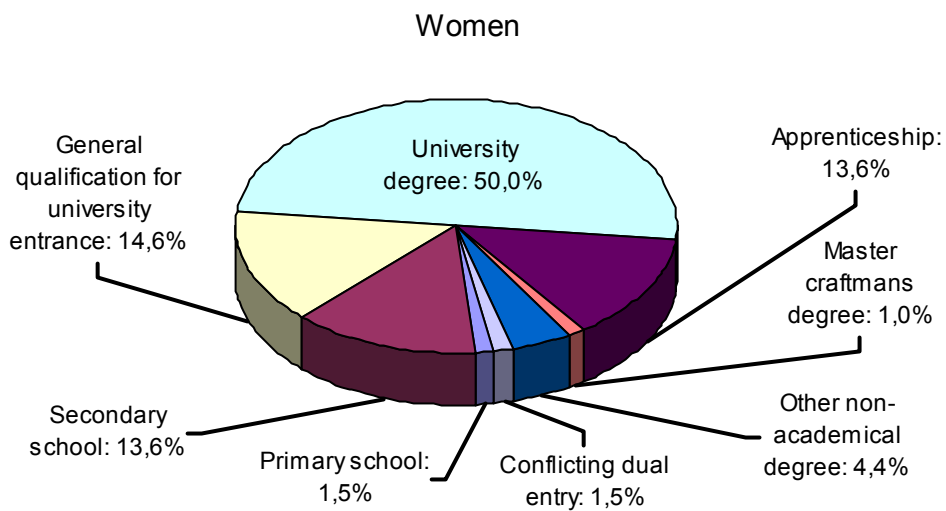
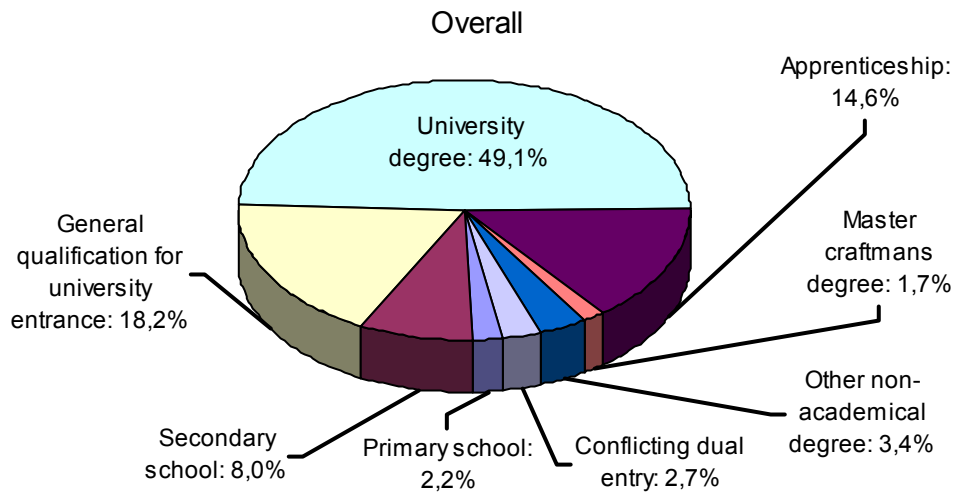
<i>Nationality</i>	Overall	Women	Men
N/statements	411	206	205
Austria	95,9%	97,1%	94,6%
Germany	1,7%	1,0%	2,4%
Croatia	0,7%	0,5%	1,0%
Dual citizenship (Austria and another country)	0,5%	1,0%	
Portugal	0,2%		0,5%
Italy	0,2%	0,5%	
Hungary	0,2%		0,5%
Luxembourg	0,2%		0,5%
Turkey	0,2%		0,5%

<i>Language</i>	Overall	Women	Men
N/statements	411	206	205
German	95,9%	96,6%	95,1%
Croatian	0,7%	0,5%	1,0%
Slovenian	0,7%	1,0%	0,5%
English	0,5%	0,5%	0,5%
Igbo	0,5%	0,5%	0,5%
Hungarian	0,2%		0,5%
French	0,2%	0,5%	
Luxembourgian	0,2%		0,5%
Persian	0,2%	0,5%	
Romanian	0,2%		0,5%
Turkish	0,2%		0,5%
Bilingual	0,2%		0,5%



Educational level:

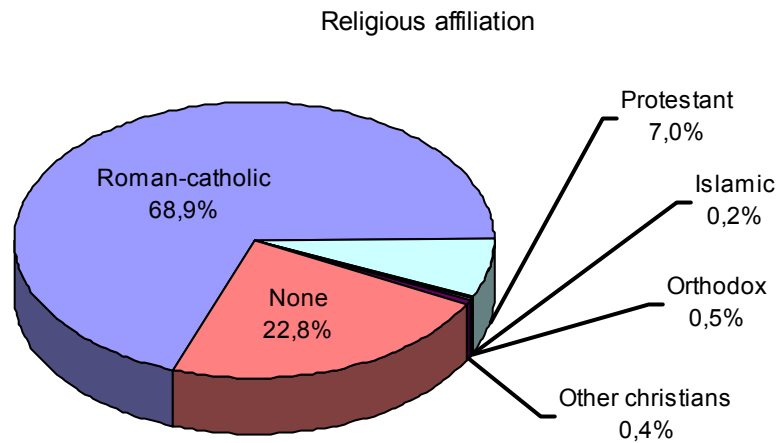
The participants were asked to state their highest educational level as school graduation, academic graduation or vocational education. The sample has a considerably higher-than-average education compared to the Austrian population.





Religious affiliation:

77% of the participants stated a religious affiliation. 90% of those who stated a religious affiliation belong to roman-catholic church, 9% belong to protestant church. Other Christian churches as well as Islam were each stated by less then 1%.



In contrast to the high percentage of persons with religious affiliation, less than half of the sample (48%) stated to care about religious values in daily life.

Area of living:

Three quarters of the 206 couples are from the city of Graz. The remaining couples are from surrounding areas.

Relationship characteristics

Duration of relationship, duration of living together, and duration of marriage:

The mean duration of the couples' relationships is 11 years and 1 month (mean: 132,9 month; range: from 6 to 304 month). The mean duration of living together is nearly two years lower than being together with a mean of 9 years and 2 month (mean: 109,5 month; range: from 6 to 277 month).

174 (84,4%) of the couples in our sample are married. The duration of marriage was stated only by 339 persons. The mean duration of marriage is 6 years and 10 month.

<i>Duration (month) of...</i>	<i>relationship</i>	<i>living together</i>	<i>marriage</i>
N/statements	407	401	339
Mean	132,94	109,52	81,84
Median	129,00	104,00	73,00
Std.-Dev.	54,300	45,332	40,575
Min.	6	6	2
Max.	304	277	253

Marital status:

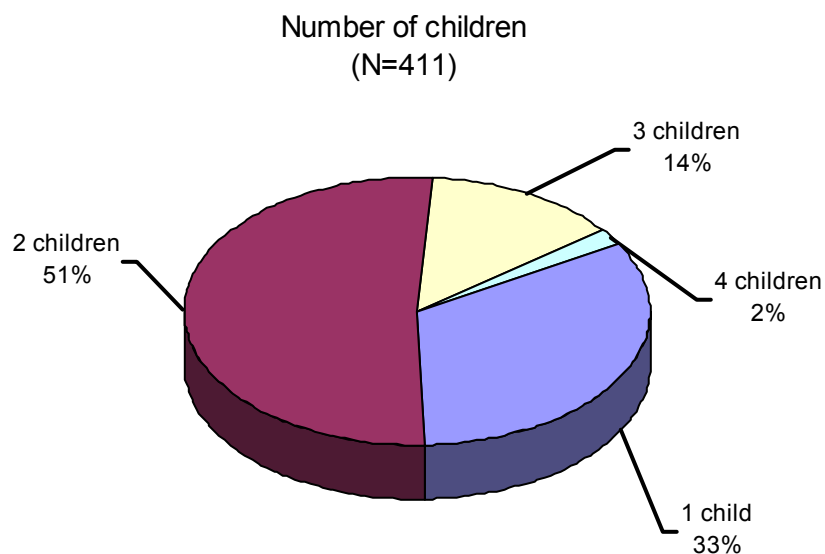
174 of the 206 participating couples are married. 19 women (9,3%) and 17 men (8,3%) are remarried. For the majority, it is the first marriage.



Number of children:

One criterion for participation was to have at least one preschool-aged child. The number of children ranges from 1 to 4 with a mean of 1,85 children per family. There is a negligible difference in the number of children within couples which may be due to the fact that stepchildren were not always stated by both partners.

<i>Number of children</i>	Overall	Women	Men
N/statements	411	206	205
Mean	1,85	1,82	1,87
Median	2,00	2,00	2,00
Std.-Dev.	0,721	0,693	0,750
Min.	1	1	1
Max.	4	4	4



Children’s age, sex and living status:

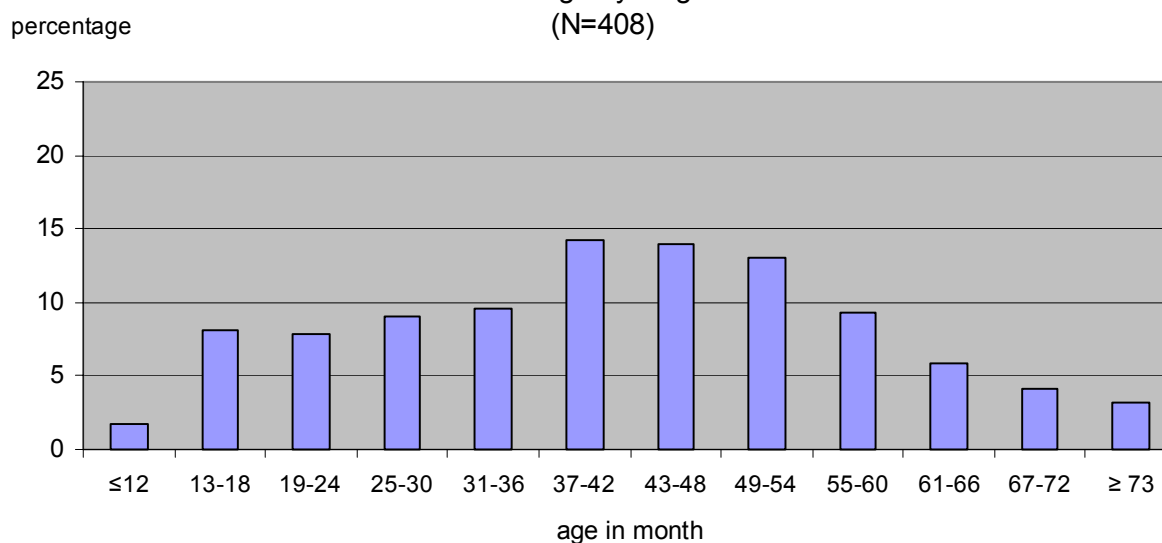
In correspondence with the criterion for participation, the mean age of the youngest child is 3 and a half years. The range is from 9 month to 6 years and 3 month and so within the range of pre-school age. The mean ages of the older children are 6 years and 3 month for the second youngest, 11 years and 3 month for the third youngest, and 16 years and 1 month for the fourth youngest – including those children living elsewhere but at the parents’ homes. The range for the children except the youngest is from 2 years to more than 30 years.

Although there are differences between the statements of the parents, the overall results are reported, because the differences in the stated children’s age are small and are probably due to the fact that the parents did not complete the questionnaires at the same point of time.

<i>Children’s age (month)</i>	youngest	2 nd youngest	3 rd youngest	4 th youngest	5 th youngest
N/statements	408	273	63	8	0
Mean	41,91	75,73	134,76	193,00	
Median	42,00	74,00	112,00	164,50	
Std.-Dev.	16,296	28,834	73,008	85,685	
Min.	9	24	46	112	
Max.	76	252	428	364	



Childrens' age - youngest child
(N=408)



Children's sex	youngest	2 nd youngest	3 rd youngest	4 th youngest	5 th youngest
N/statements	410	270	62	8	0
Female	56,3%	51,5%	48,4%	0%	
Male	43,7%	48,5%	51,6%	100%	

Children's living status	youngest	2 nd youngest	3 rd youngest	4 th youngest	5 th youngest
N/statements	410	271	63	8	0
Parents' house	100%	96,7%	77,8%	50%	
Elsewhere	0%	3,3%	22,2%	50%	

Number of cohabitating persons and number of family members in permanent need of care:

The number of persons living together in the household corresponds closely to the number of children. The range is from 3 to 6 persons per household and the mean number is 3,8 persons per household. A typical family in this sample consists of two adults and two children living in a household with no other persons.

There are only very few family members in permanent need of care who have to be supported by the participants, either living at their homes or living elsewhere. Only 2,6% stated to have 1 to 3 such family members.

Number of persons	Living in household	In need of care
N/statements	411	411
Mean	3,82	0,04
Median	4,00	0,00
Std.-Dev.	0,709	0,244
Min.	3	0
Max.	6	3

Visiting couple counseling:

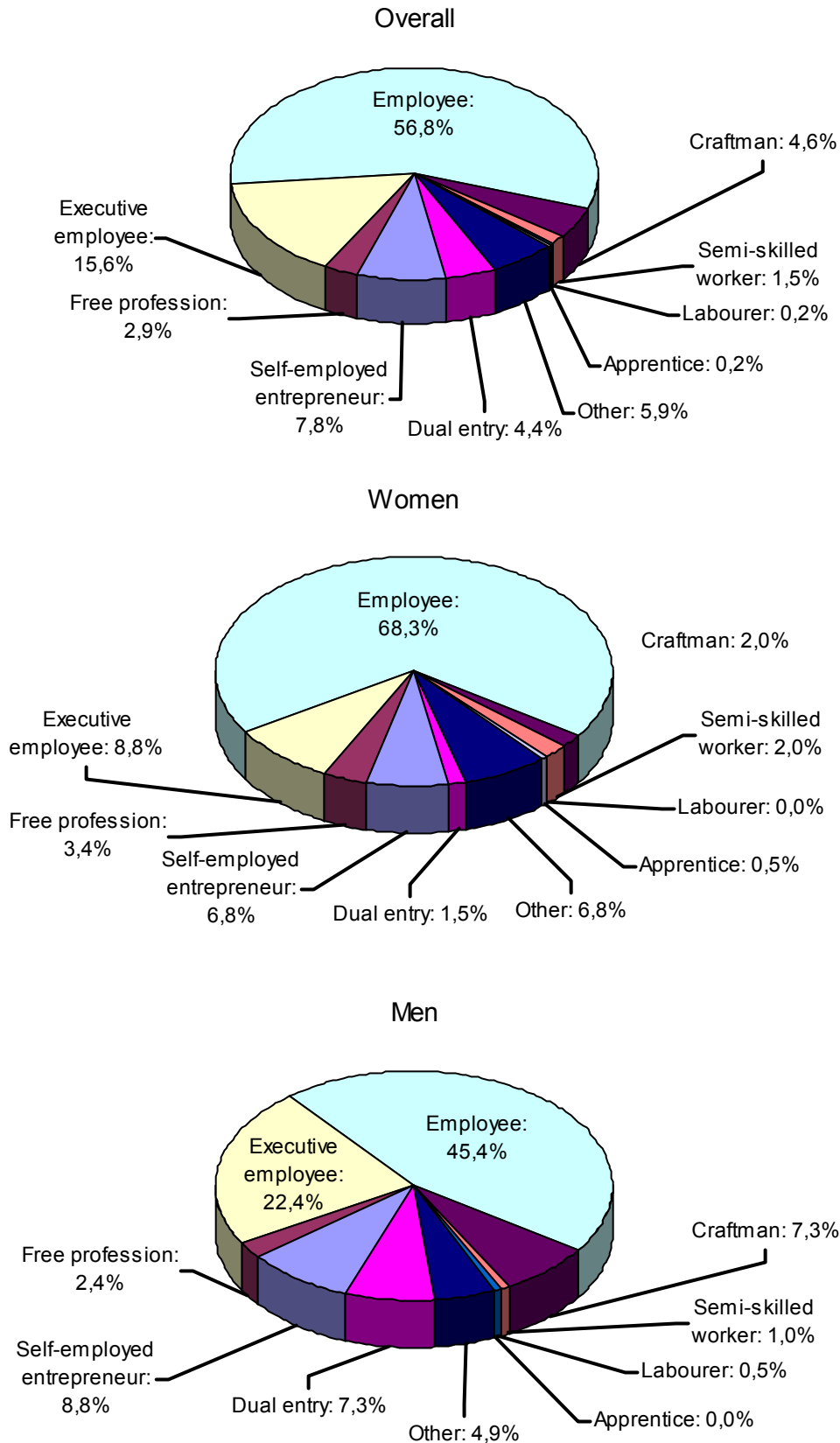
The number of couples who have visited any kind of relationship counseling service is low (8,8%).



Occupation

Current occupation:

The majority of the participants classify themselves to the broad category of employees. Other categories occur much less frequent.



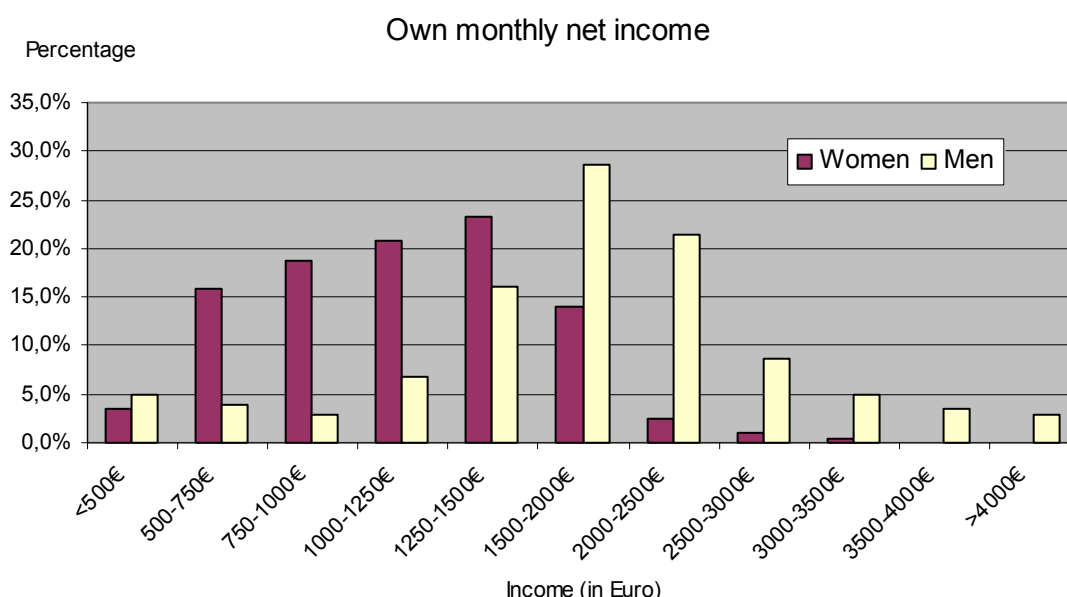


Within the category of employees a distinction was made between employment in public or governmental service and in private economy, which shows a two-thirds to one-third split in advantage of private economy.

Individual monthly net income:

Participants were asked to state their own net income per month using 11 categories (1: <€ 500; 11: >€ 4000). The overall median was 5, i.e. the category “€ 1250-1500,-“. The statements of men cover all 11 categories while there are no women in the two highest categories. Men and women also differ in the frequency of using certain categories with women tending to the lower and men to middle and higher categories. This is in accordance with the extent of professional work of men and women which is reported below.

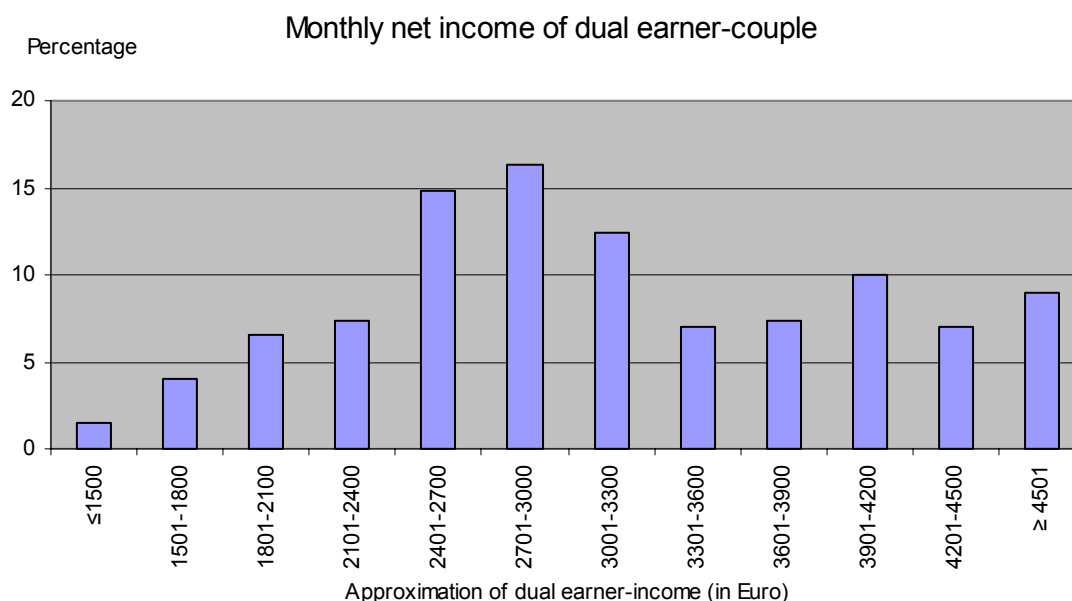
Own net income (€)	Overall	Women	Men
N/statements	408	202	206
Median	5,00 (€ 1250-1500)	4,00 (€ 1000-1250)	6,00 (€ 1500-2000)
Min.	1 (< € 500)	1 (< € 500)	1 (< € 500)
Max.	11 (> € 4000)	9 (€ 3000-3500)	11 (> € 4000)



Household income:

Since for the social situation and stratification the household income is more important than the single person’s income, an approximation for the dual earner-couple’s income was estimated. 9,4% of the couples have an approximated household net income of 2000 Euro or less, 5,9% have an income of 5000 Euro or more. 50% have an approximated household income between 2050 and 3125 Euro, the median household income is about 2925 Euro. The Austrian median household net income per month is 2308 Euro (Statistik Austria, 2001¹).

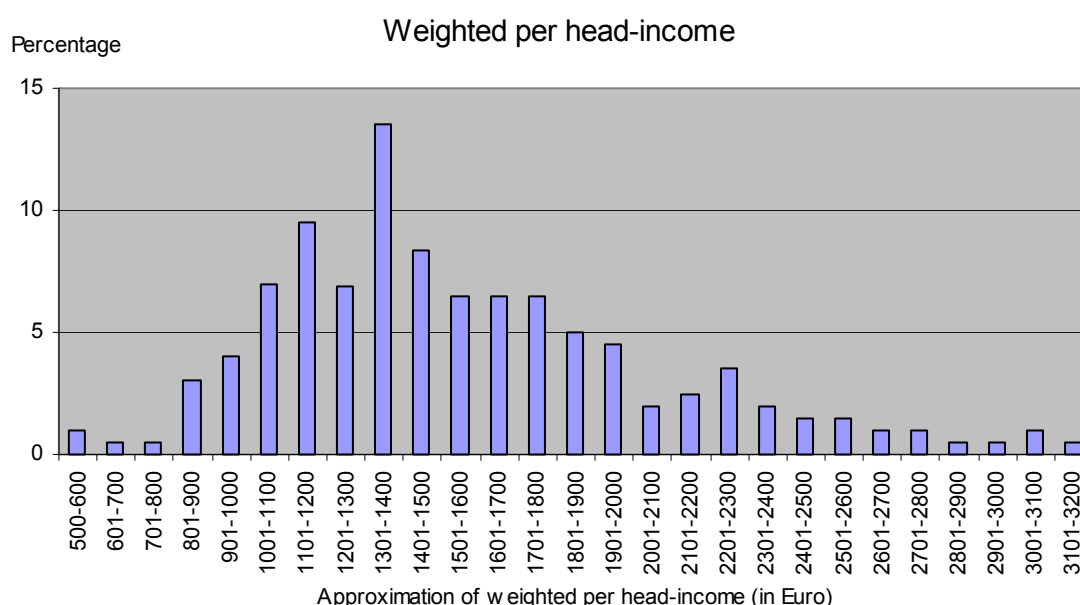
¹ Statistik Austria, 2001: http://www.statistik.at/fachbereich_03/einkommenhaushalt_txt.shtml



Equivalence income:

For households with children or other cohabitants without own income it is useful to estimate a weighted per head-income (“equivalence income”), that takes the household size into account. The following approximations were estimated according to the EU-standard for estimation of equivalence incomes².

9% of the Graz-sample have a weighted net income of 1000 Euro or less and 46% have one of 1427 Euro or less. This is about the median equivalence net income of all Austrian households (including those without children). The median of the Austrian households with one or more children is 1041 Euro (Statistik Austria, 2001). This value is exceeded by nearly 89% of the Graz-sample. The mean weighted per head-net income of the Graz-sample is 1563 Euro, that is negligible higher than the mean equivalence net income of all Austrian households (including those without children), which is 1540 Euro (Statistik Austria, 2001).

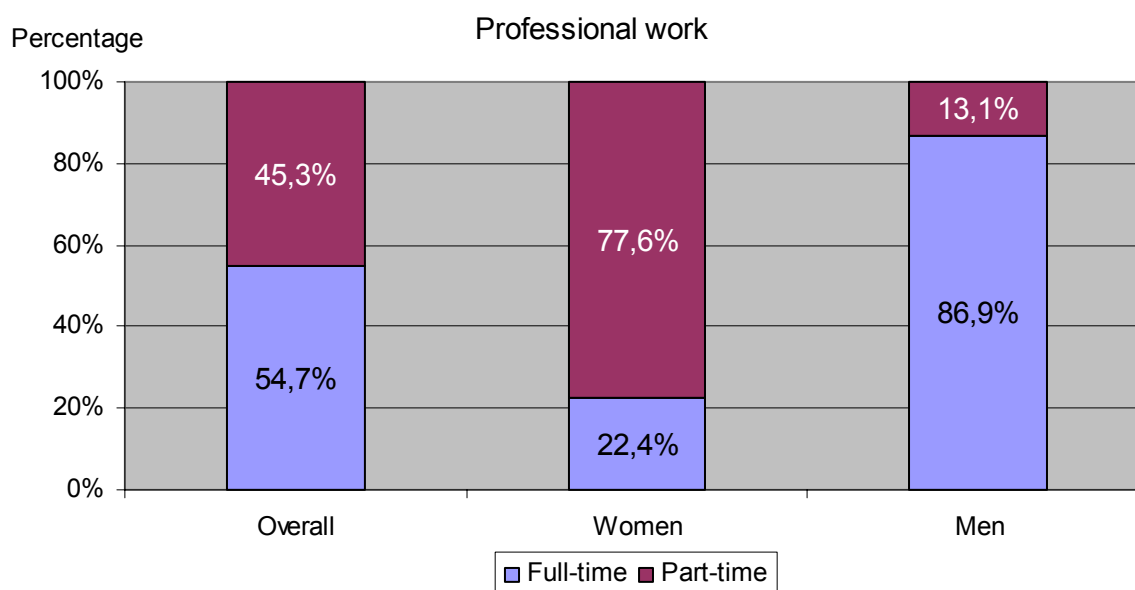


² First adult: weight = 1; other persons apart of children under 14: weight = 0,5; children under 14: weight = 0,3; equivalence income = household income / sum of weights



Amount of professional work:

The sample is nearly half-split in full time- and part time-workers, but there are major sex differences.



For those who work part-time, the mean amount of weekly hours contracted, which is to be seen as the minimum time one has to spend for professional work per week, is 21,5 hours. The range is from 2 to 36 hours. The effective expenditure of time for professional work (including working hours, transportation, overtimes) is higher than the weekly working hours contracted: The minimum is 14 hours and the mean is 28,8 hours per week for part time-workers.

<i>Weekly working hours contracted</i>	Overall	Women	Men
N/statements	185	159	26
Mean	21,46	21,25	22,71
Median	20,00	20,00	23,5
Std.-Dev.	5,739	5,348	7,731
Min.	2,0	4,0	2,0
Max.	36,0	35,0	36,0
Weekly real expenditure of time for professional work (mean)	28,79	28,38	31,19

Miscellaneous

Participation in future FamWork-surveys:

Asked about their willingness to participate in a future survey within the project, more than 94% answered positive. That may be taken as an affirmation for the importance of the topic and also for the quality of the questionnaire with regard to the situation of parents of young children. That could also be understood in the way that people just like to have a possibility to describe their situation and to express their everyday worries.