

## What is the Cost of Married Women's Paid Work?

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### Abstract

This study used a sample of 1,766 married couples from the 2003-2004 Consumer Expenditure Survey to assess costs incurred by dual-income households. It found that, compared to one-earner households with equal income and similar demographics, dual-earner households paid significantly more in tax, Social Security and private pension contributions but, except for families with preschool children, did not have more work-related expenditures. The findings indicate a convergence of consumption patterns between one-earner and two-earner households. They also indicate that dual-earner households save more for retirement through pension plans.

### Endnotes

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