

The Work Time of Professionals

In their article "The work-home crunch," Kathleen Gerson and Jerry Jacobs (2004) emphasize that changes in work time are unevenly distributed across occupations in the U.S. According to these scholars, "the decade-long debate over whether Americans are working longer hours is misleading. Indeed, white well-educated professionals are working more hours than they used to, others with less education are working fewer." Managers and professionals tend to have the longest work weeks. According to Peter Kuhn, an economist, overtime labor among these workers is influenced by "'the incentivization of white-collar work': more compensation for longer hours and more job commitment, with implied penalties if you don't give your all" (Bonné 2003).

PROFESSION	WORK WEEK	REFERENCES
Higher Education	<p>Professors work an average of 52-55 hours per week. Faculty at research institutions tend to work the longest hours. [Jacobs 2004, pp, 7-10]</p> <p>Four key factors have increased time pressures on faculty:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. greater emphasis on teaching 2. rising expectations for research productivity 3. as a result of technological advances, faculty spend more time on correspondence 4. as the proportion of part-time faculty increases, there is greater competition for full-time positions and a smaller proportion of full-time faculty are responsible for committee work and administrative tasks <p>[Jacobs & Winslow 2004, pp. 109-111]</p>	Jacobs (2004); Jacobs & Winslow (2004); Gerson & Jacobs (2004)
K-12 Public Schools	Public school teachers worked an average of 50 hours in 2004. The 50-hour work week included 38 paid hours and 12 uncompensated hours.	National Education Association (2003)
Medicine	<p>In 1997, physicians worked an average of 58 hours per week. In the medical profession, 40-65 hours per week is regarded as regular, full-time work. Internists tend to work the longest hours.</p> <p>In 2003, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) began restricting the duty hours of residents to 80 per week. In addition, the ACGME mandated that residents have one day off per week, work a maximum of 24 hours per shift, have at least 10 hours off between shifts, and have overnight on-call duty no more than every third night.</p>	Murray et al. (2000); Weinstein (2002)

PROFESSION	WORK WEEK	REFERENCES
Law	Most law firms expect their attorneys to have at least 2000 billable hours each year. To meet this standard, an attorney must work an average of 60 hours per week. Attorneys in larger law firms are obliged to work much longer hours.	Rhode (2001)
Software Development	The average work week varies between 43 and 62 hours. The work time of software programmers, engineers, technicians is influenced by a variety of factors, including work culture, unionization, programming methodology, and labor supply. Peer and supervisor pressure contribute to the amount of overtime hours.	Leipzig (2002)

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