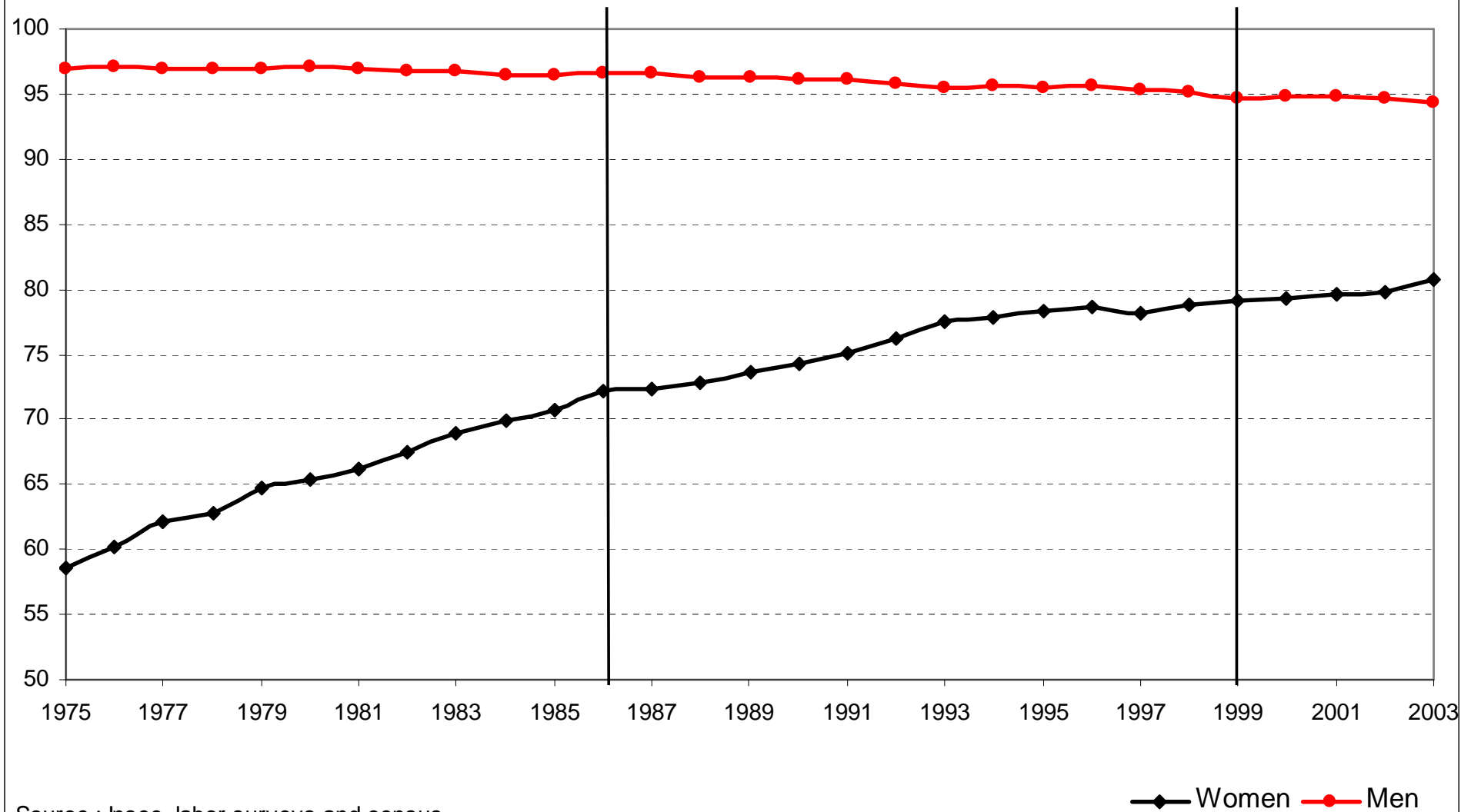


The effects of the family work day on family time

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Labor participation rates for French women and men aged 25 - 49



Source : Insee, labor surveys and census.

—◆— Women —●— Men

The daily balance of family and work for dual-earner couples

- General increase in the female labor force participation rate

80% in 2003 in France (25-49)

- Dual-earner couples

70% of couples in 2002 in France

How work and family are balanced
in daily life?

A simple question... not that easy to answer

Family time

- Traditional time-budget perspective: primary activities
- But only direct care is registered (what about family dinners?)
- Other approaches:
 - Secondary activities
 - Interaction perspective: 'with whom' information

Family work day

- Traditional time-budget perspective: work time is reduced to durations
- Other solution: indicators (night work, Sunday work, etc.)
- Better solution: typology which takes into account both the number of hours worked and their scheduling
- *Family* work day: the combined durations and scheduling and their possible non-overlap must be analyzed

Data and method

- French time use surveys of 1985-86 and 1998-99 (diary for both spouses)
- ‘With whom’ information used to measure family time
- A variant of Optimal Matching Analysis is used to build a typology of family work days

Families without children (1985)

- Conjugal time = 3h23
- Three main activities:
 - Meals (55 min)
 - TV (54 min)
 - Other leisure (44 min)

Families with children (1985)

- Conjugal time = 44 min (mainly TV)
- Parents and children = 1h06
 - Meals (27 min)
 - Leisure (15 min) and TV (12 min)
- Mothers alone with children = 1h57
 - Unpaid work (37 min)
 - Care (35 min)
- Fathers alone with children = 29 min
 - TV (6 min) and other leisure (5 min)
 - Care (6 min)

The family work day

Type of family work day		1985-86			
		%	Duration of the husband's work day	Duration of the wife's work day	Synchronicity (%)
Standard	Double standard work day	49	08:36	07:54	72.8
Atypical	With long hours	8	11:04	08:51	57.7
	With shifted schedules	14	07:05	07:07	23.9
	- in the morning for men	8	06:34	06:48	31.0
	- in the evening for men	4	07:21	07:39	22.1
	- perfectly shifted	3	08:15	07:16	5.4
	With a partially worked day by women	12	08:54	04:49	36.9
With short/irregular work hours	17	05:47	04:15	27.0	
Total		100	08:09	06:53	52.4

The family work day

- Atypical family work days, and thus desynchronization, increased between 1985 and 1999
- The family work day is highly correlated with social position: the higher the social position of couples the highest the synchronicity
- Desynchronization is indirectly imposed by firms to the subordinate working class

The effects of the family work days on family time

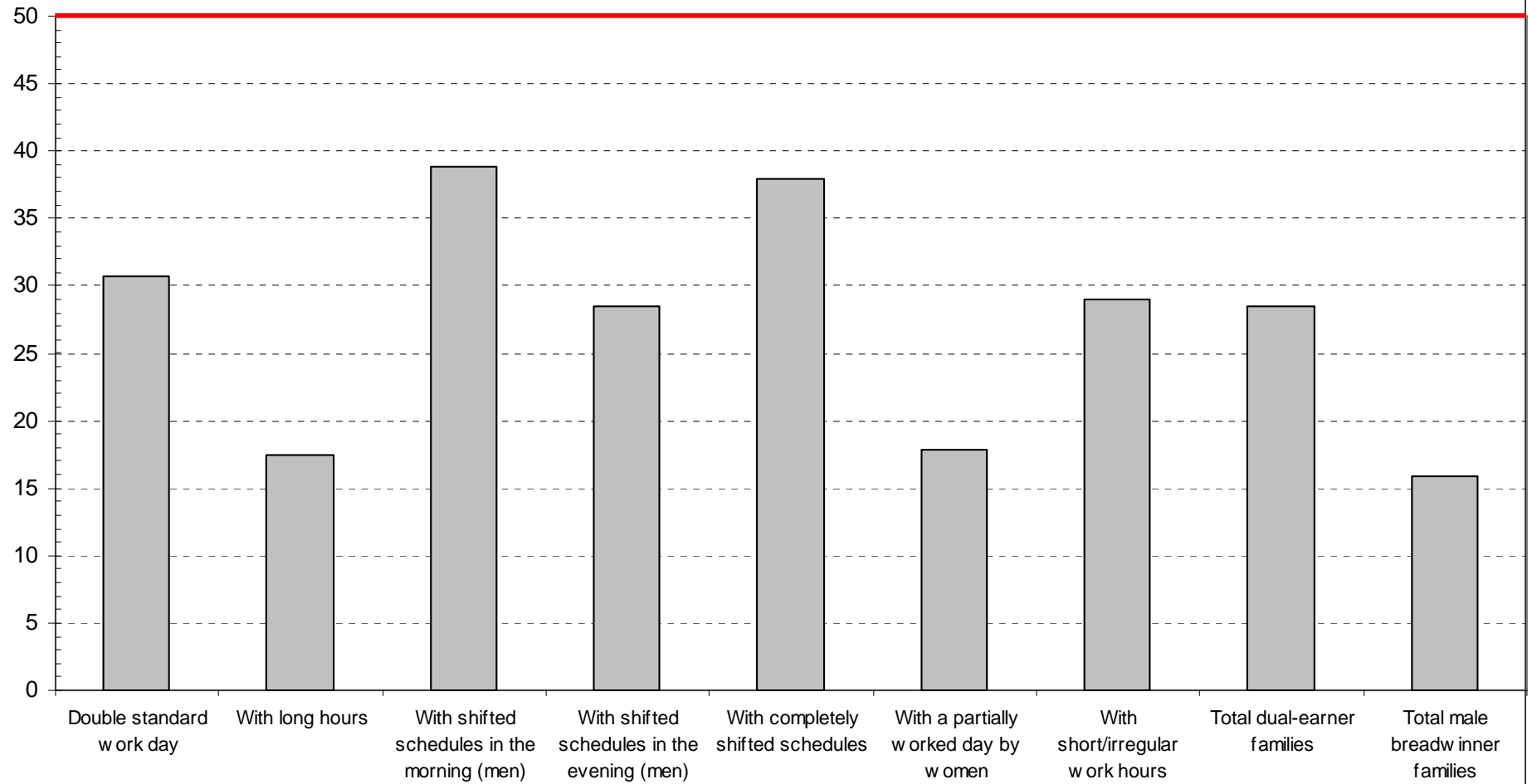
- Desynchronization reduces conjugal time and parents with children time (symmetrical family time)
- Desynchronization increases fathers' share of parental work (asymmetrical family time)

Consequently

- Dual earner work schedules' synchronicity has dramatic consequences on families' daily life
- Parental work/presence is shared more equally in dual-earner families than in male breadwinner families
- But the new father, if he is ever to be seen, is not in the well-off families but rather in the subordinate ones as a result of desynchronization: inequalities in the economic field counterbalance gender inequalities in the family

Fathers' share of parental work

in %



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