

Glossary of terms

Couple family	A family with dependent children that was headed by one natural or adoptive parent, and a partner.
Dependent children	Children aged 16 years or younger, or 17 or 18 years and in full-time education.
Dual earners	A couple family where the mother and her partner both worked for 16 or more hours per week.
FACS	The acronym used to describe the Families and Children Study.
Family (unit)	Comprises two generations of people; at least one dependent child and at least one adult who is responsible for this child.
Full-time work	Paid work of 30 or more hours per week.
Lone father	A male lone parent.
Lone mother	A female lone parent.
Lone-parent family	A family with dependent children that was headed by one natural or adoptive parent only. Lone parents may be male or female.
Mother	Used to refer to the person who took part in the main FACS interview. This person was usually the family's 'mother figure' – an adult with the main responsibility for looking after the children in the family. In the vast majority of couple families this person was female. In lone-parent families this person was either the lone mother or the lone father.
Not working	No work (i.e. working zero hours).
Not working 16 or more hours per week	Work of 1 to 15 hours or no work (i.e. working zero hours).

Parent	The adult responsible for the child. This can be the child's natural or adoptive parent, or the legal guardian(s) to whom Child Benefit is paid. In couple families both adults are referred to collectively as the parents.
Partner	The person with whom the mother shares a home.
Part-time work	Paid work of 16 to 29 hours per week.

Guide to methods used in the tables

A large number of tables appear in this report, located at the end of each chapter. The majority of tables use row percentages, presenting the percentage of a family characteristic, such as family type, who gave a particular mutually exclusive response – for example, the percentage of lone parents who were in poor health and the percentage who were not in poor health. In these tables the percentages sum to 100. Some tables present multiple responses (the respondent could choose a number of responses rather than just one) and hence percentages will not sum to 100 – for example, the percentage of lone parents who suffer from a list of illnesses (where the respondent could have more than one illness). Some tables present the profile of a particular outcome according to family characteristics – for example, the percentage of parents with poor health who were lone parents – so use column rather than row percentages. Tables do not necessarily contain just percentages, sometimes they contain a measure of the average – for example, the median housing costs of respondents who rent their accommodation. These statistics are made clear in the appropriate tables.

In the tables the following conventions are used:

Figures in []	based on between 25 and 49 actual cases, and should, therefore, be treated with caution
.	based on between 1 and 24 actual cases, and, therefore, results are not published
-	this category is not applicable
*	percentage is greater than 0 but less than 0.5
0	percentage is zero, in other words there were no responses in the category
Total	presented for mutually exclusive categories where the percentages sum to 100
Base	the unweighted count of the base is presented in all tables, usually the number of respondents in the relevant family characteristic sub-group
Weighting	All analysis is weighted using the grossing cross-sectional weight provided with the FACS dataset. This weight provides estimates for the survey that match the population's known profile on a range of different characteristics. For further information see Appendix A.
Statistical significance	Where a relationship between a response and family characteristic is mentioned in the text, this has been checked to ensure it is statistically significant with a 95 per cent level of confidence. Occasionally, we mention a relationship that is not statistically significant and this is made clear in the text.

