

Work and family policies

Country	Maternity leave entitlements (in weeks), 2005		Public expenditure on child care support per child in U.S. dollars (using PPPs), 2003
	Total entitlement	Share of entitlement paid (FTE)*	
United States	12	0.0	\$1,803
Japan	12	8.4	1,252
Germany	14	14.0	3,084
United Kingdom	52	15.3**	1,850
France	16	16.0	4,009
Italy	21	16.8	..
Canada	15	9.4	..
Australia	52	..	\$ 874
Austria	16	16.0	3,251
Belgium	15	11.53***	1,900
Denmark	18	18.0	8,009
Finland	18	11.7	4,186
Greece	17	17.0	..
Ireland	26	14.4****	1,430
Netherlands	16	16.0	2,025
New Zealand	12	6.0	672
Norway	26	20.8	6,085
Spain	16	16.0	1,234
Sweden	15	12.0	5,530
Switzerland	16	16.0	919
<i>Average excluding U.S.</i>	21	14.0	\$2,894

* Full-time equivalent of leave in weeks, as if the claimant were to receive 100% of average earnings. Paid leave as listed here is the federal minimum standard and does not include parental or family leave benefits, or disability insurance for which a mother may qualify in a particular country.

** Calculated at 90% for initial 6 weeks, followed either: a flat rate (approximately 30% of average wage) for remaining 33 weeks (as calculated here) or 90% of average weekly earnings, whichever is lower (effective April 2007).

*** Paid at 82% for first four weeks and 75% for the remaining 11.

**** Paid at 80% for first 18 weeks plus eight weeks unpaid.

Source: OECD Family Database, OECD Social Expenditure Database, International Social Security Association, and United Nations (2005).

Table 8.7 from: Mishel, Lawrence, Jared Bernstein, and Heidi Shierholz, *The State of Working America* 2008/2009. An Economic Policy Institute Book. Ithaca, N.Y.: ILR Press, an imprint of Cornell University Press, 2009.

