

Female Breadwinners



Everything turns out differently: When women earn the money for the family.

author, event, date

1. **structure of the project** and **scientific background**
 2. **definition** and **facts concerning** „femal breadwinners“ in Germany
 3. **reasons** for becoming a femal breadwinner
 4. **conditions under which** women earn the money for the family
 5. fair **opportunities** for working women:
What needs to be done?
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1. Structure of the project and scientific background

- **Cooperation project „female breadwinners“**
 - Initiated by the **Confederation of German Trade Unions (DGB)**
Financed by the **federal ministry of Family affairs, Senior citizens, Women and Youth**
 - Project duration from 2010 to 2014
 - Aim: policy development, policy implementation, create key acteurs' awareness

 - **Scientific background**
 - Studies of the Hans-Böckler-Stiftung on „female breadwinners“
 - Brehmer et al 2010 (quantitatively, SOEP 2007)
 - Klammer et al 2012: BW in Westgermany (qualitatively)
 - Klenner et al 2013: BW in Eastgermany (qualitatively)
 - Schmidt/SowiTra 2013: BW in different sectors (quantitatively)
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2. definition and facts concerning „femal breadwinners“ in Germany

Definition „female breadwinners“

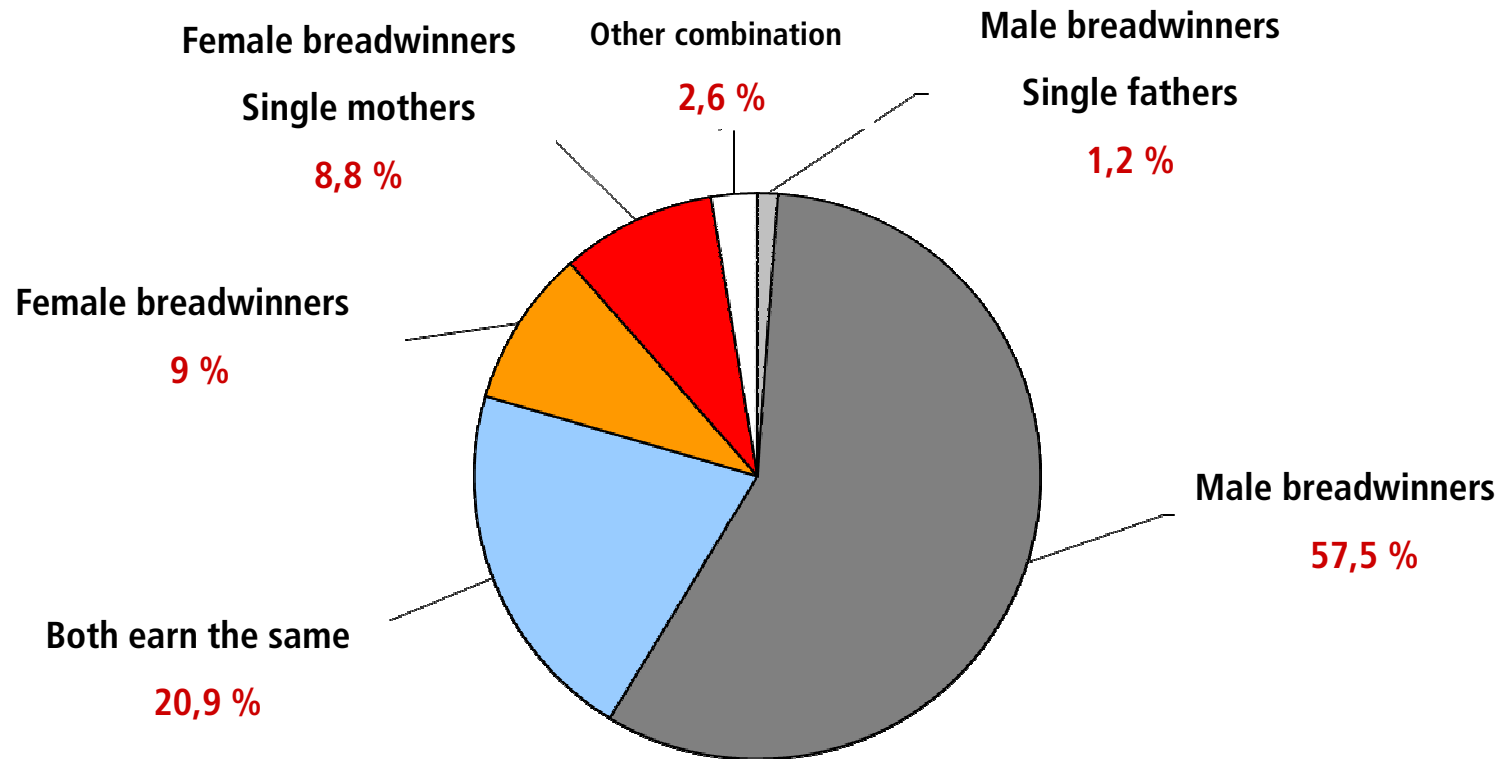
- **Female breadwinners are women who provide the majority of the household income**

- At least **60 %** = female breadwinner
- 40 to 60 % = egalitarian earner
- 0 to 40 % = male breadwinner

- Female breadwinners could be **single parents** or **women with partner**
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Mult-person-households in Germany (2007)

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Ohne Single-Haushalte, ohne Rentner-Haushalte
Quelle: SOEP, Brehmer/Klenner/Klammer 2010

3. reasons for becoming a **female breadwinner**

Reasons for female breadwinners – society change

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1. Change of **gender relations**

- Women's level of qualification is increasing
- In Eastern Germany employment remains high, in Western Germany, female employment grows

2. Changes in the labor market and the **welfare system**

- More insecurity in the labor market: low wages, short-term contracts, forced part-time employment or temporary employment
 - Strong focus on getting unemployed back to work (social reforms „Agenda 2010“)
 - Contradictory policies in the German welfare system
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The reasons for the female breadwinners

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- **Women are becoming female breadwinners because less men are providing for their families**
 - Many of the partners nowadays are unemployed or have irregular or low-paying jobs
 - A good education is rarely the reason for becoming a female breadwinner (54% with a professional or higher qualification)
 - **Women **unintended take on the** role of the female breadwinner**
 - Half of them are single mothers
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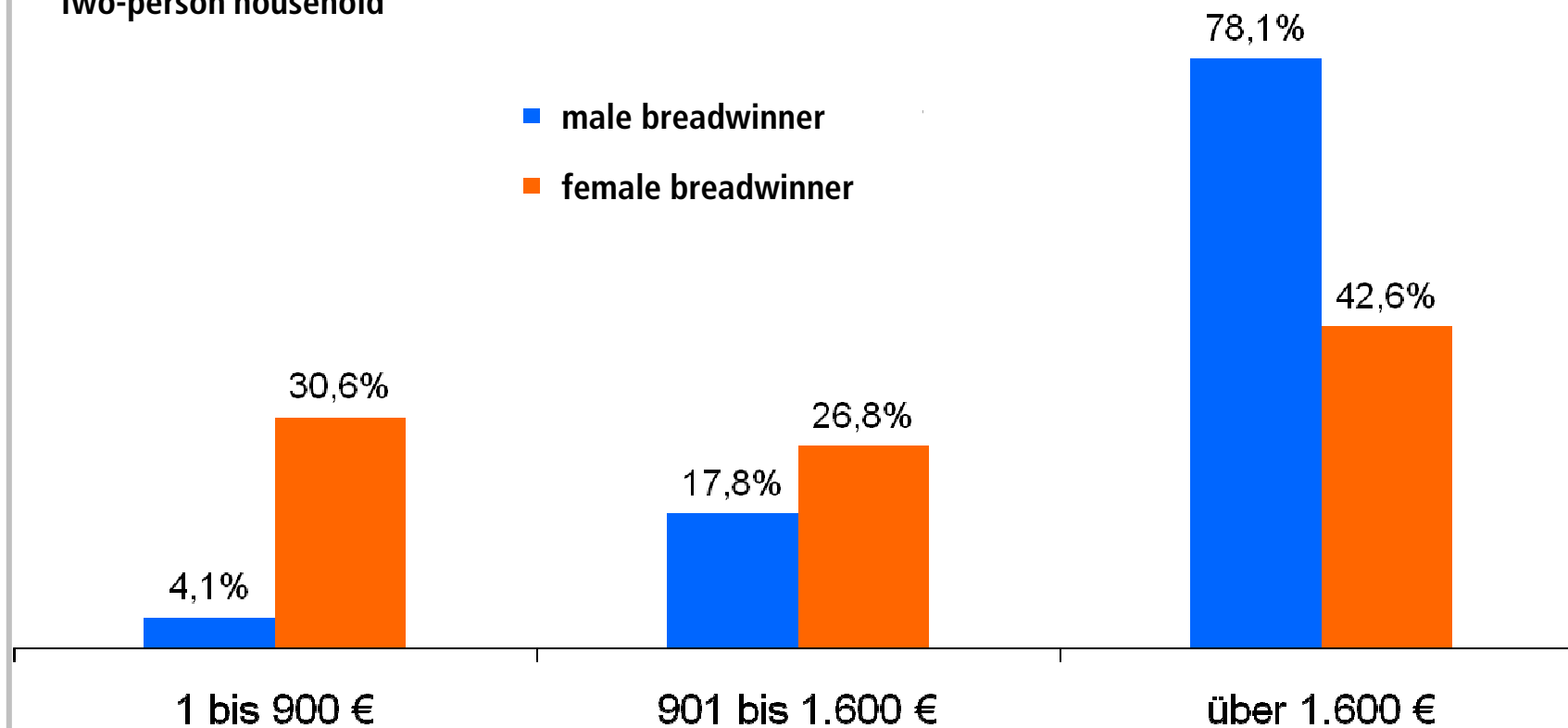
4. Conditions under which women earn the money for the family

- **Female breadwinners are often unable to provide for the whole family with their **wage****
 - Often employed below their qualification
 - Work in Minijobs which do not provide a living wage
 - Low wages in sectors and occupations dominated by women
 - Rarely in leading positions
 - Gender Pay Gap of 22 %
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Monthly net income of female breadwinners who live with a partner (2007)

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Two-person household



Quelle: SOEP 2007, Brehmer, Klenner, Klammer 2010.

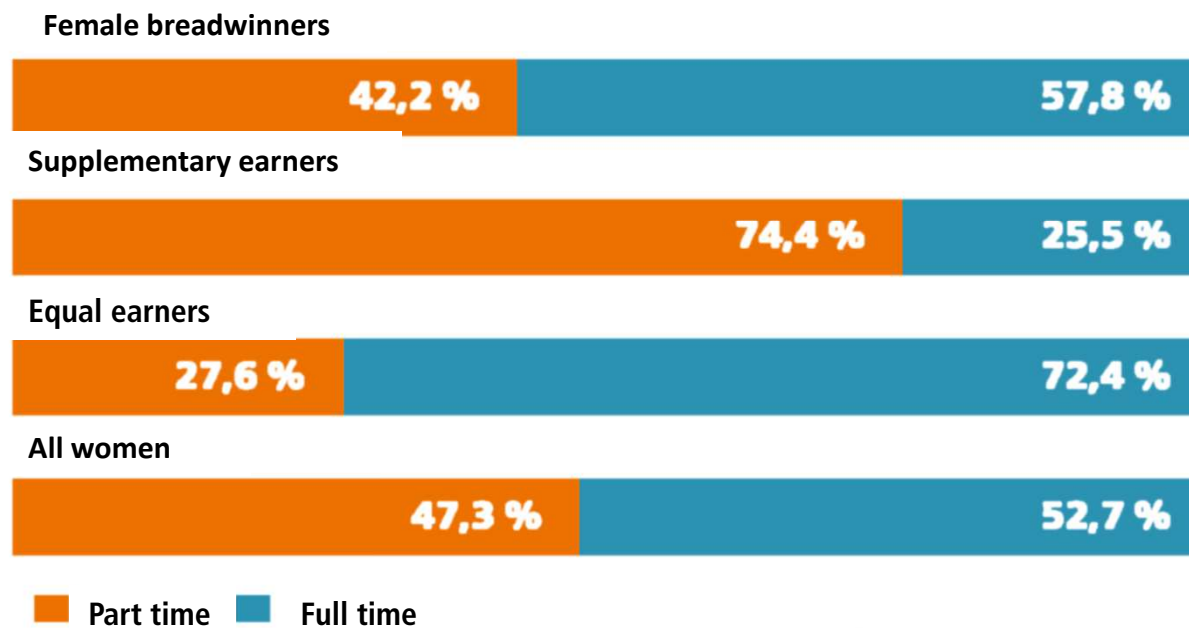
- **difficult family friendly terms and conditions of employment**
 - Unintended part-time
 - Flexible working hours and work places
 - Unpaid overtime hours, working without frontiers
 - Little Co-determination in the workplace
 - Childcare (if it exist) are less flexible than the working hours

 - **women are basicly regarded as supplementing the man's income**
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Volume of work of female breadwinners (2011)

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Female breadwinners with a part – time job



Female breadwinners with children (2011)

High demand for Child Care

Female breadwinners



Supplementary earners



Equal earners



All women



■ With children unter 16 ■ Without children unter 16

Quelle: SOEP 2011, Berechnungen: Schmidt Sozialforschung / SowiTra

Female breadwinners at home

- **Traditional gender relations burden** every day life of female breadwinners
 - **There is great diversity among women from Western Germany and Eastern Germany concerning the acceptance of new role models**
 - Eastern German women emphasize financial autonomy
 - They are used to double-income models
 - **No change of traditional roles**
 - Main responsibility for housework and child care remains with female breadwinners
 - But partners of female breadwinners are more involved in housework
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Conclusion

- **The concept of female breadwinners has been a **social reality** in Germany for a long time**
 - the number of households with female breadwinners increases
 - **Every woman can become a female breadwinner in her lifetime**
 - Intendedly or unintendedly
 - For a short period or long-term
 - **female breadwinners - not a **desireable model!****
 - Women have to work under different conditions than their male colleagues
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**5. Fair opportunities for working women:
What needs to be done?**

A political roadmap.

DGB

- **Aims of the roadmap**

- A new view on the employment of women
- Sustainable improvement of the situation of femal breadwinners
- ideas and suggestions for a modern policy for gender equality

- **Three fields of action in focus:**

1. Getting rid of stereotypes. Instead establish diverse roles for women and men!
2. Standing on their own two feet. Economic independence for women!
3. What doesn't fit, is arranged to fit! A balance between care and work!



A political roadmap

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- **Diverse roles for women and men!**
 - Focus on the whole life (life course perspective)
 - New roles for men
 - Contradictions of the applicable law need to be eliminated

 - **Economic independence for women!**
 - Social protection beginning of the first working hour → Reforming Minijobs!
 - Preventing the expansion of the low wages area → statutory minimum wage!
 - Guaranteed right of return from part- to fulltime work

 - **Balance between care and work!**
 - To establish demand – oriented time models
 - More and better childcare with flexible opening hours
 - To raise the awareness of key actors of trade unions, companies and administration
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Gefördert vom:



Bundesministerium
für Familie, Senioren, Frauen
und Jugend

DGB

Thank you for your attention!

Further information: www.familienernaehrerin.de