

Parenthood among the self-employed

Self-employed women who employ staff are more likely to have children than solo self-employed women. However, compared to women in dependent employment, self-employed women tend to be older at the time of childbirth.

Share of childbearing self-employed women in the total population of self-employed women



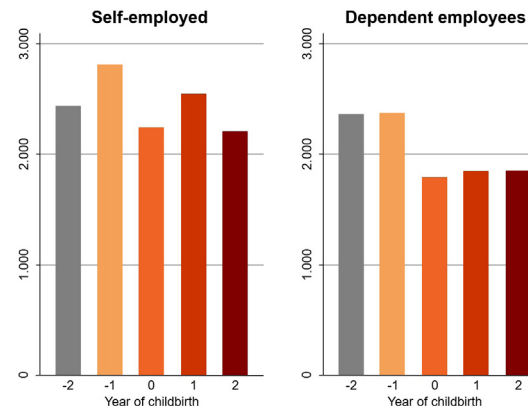
Although the period around childbirth presents significant challenges for self-employed women in their daily working lives, the majority of them remain self-employed even after the birth of a child.



Income decreases

The gross monthly income of self-employed women declines following the birth of a child, primarily due to reductions in working hours. In contrast, their gross hourly income increases. However, with regard to the household's available monthly net income, self-employed women experience only minor and short-term losses. Evidently, these losses are largely offset by increased earnings of their partners.

Average monthly gross salary (two years before and after childbirth, in €)



Moreover, public transfer payments, such as child benefit, serve to offset household income losses to some extent.

Increased life satisfaction among self-employed individuals following childbirth

The birth of a child leads to a greater increase in life satisfaction among self-employed women than among women in dependent employment. Among the self-employed, life satisfaction peaks in the year of childbirth, whereas for employed mothers it is highest in the year prior to the birth.

Mean life satisfaction (2 years before/after childbirth; scale: 0 = dissatisfied, 10 = fully satisfied)

