

## Abstract

The wage gap between parents and non-parents is a subject of extensive research. Numerous scholars have thoroughly discussed the "motherhood penalty" and "fatherhood premium" as phenomena illustrating the varying labour market impacts of parenthood on women and men. To what extent can we trust these findings, and does publication bias mask the true impact of family size on parents' labour market performance? This thesis aims to investigate the impact of family size on parents' labour market outcomes through a comprehensive meta-analytical review. We collect 1542 estimates from 89 primary studies, comprising 1323 estimates for females, 209 for males, and 10 gender-neutral estimates. Subsequently, we convert all estimates into Partial Correlation Coefficients (PCCs). Our analysis indicates a slightly negative publication bias for women, and a substantial positive bias for men. After correcting for publication bias, the effect of parenthood on males appears negligible, while the effect on mothers remains negative. Furthermore, we employ Bayesian Model Averaging to explore the heterogeneity among PCCs. Consequently, we control for 32 additional study characteristics for the female sample, and 28 for the male sample. The findings reveal that after controlling for additional research parameters, there is no further evidence of publication bias in the female sample. However, the results of the robustness checks suggest that there might be negative publication bias present in the subsample of studies that control for endogeneity. For the male sample, the heterogeneity analysis confirms the presence of positive publication bias, suggesting that the effect of fatherhood on labour market outcomes is exaggerated.

**JEL Classification** F12, F21, F23, H25, H71, H87

**Keywords** meta-analysis, publication bias, family size, labour market outcome, parenthood

**Title** How Family Size Affects Parents' Labour Market Outcomes: A Meta-Analysis