

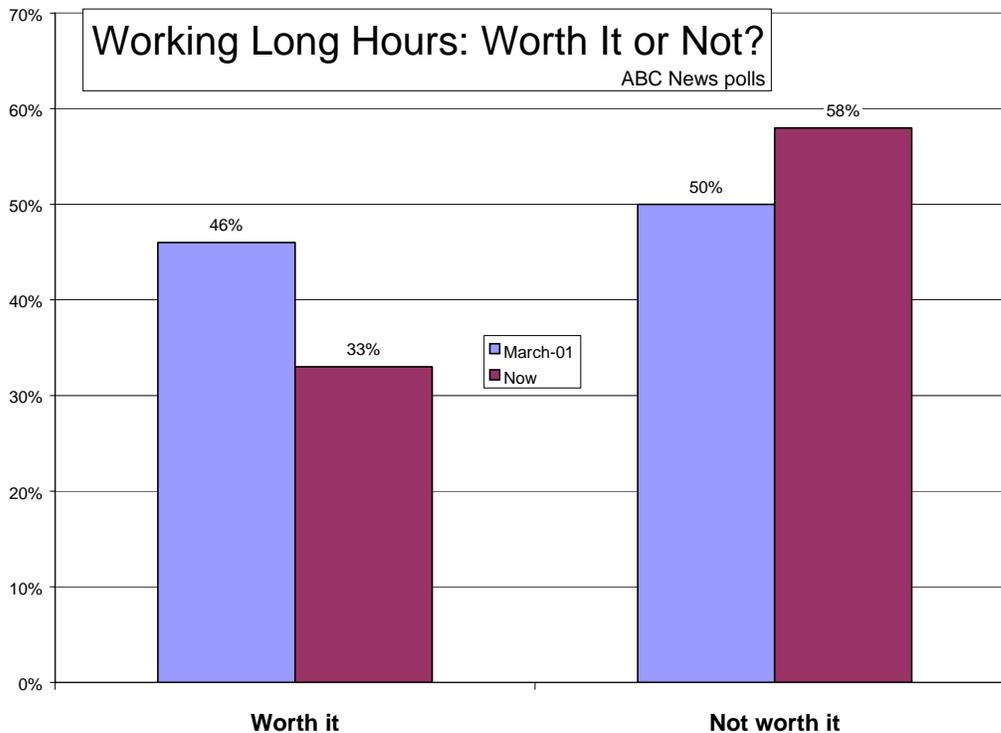
## Fewer Say Long Hours Are Worth the Sacrifice

The number of Americans who say working long hours is worth the sacrifice has dropped substantially in the last year and a half, another apparent example of the greater emphasis on family life that's occurred since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

In March 2001 the public divided: Forty-six percent said it was worthwhile to work long hours to achieve a higher standard of living, but 50 percent said it wasn't worth the stress and lack of time. Today, just 33 percent say long hours are worth it; 58 percent say not.

| Working long hours: | Now | 3/01 | Change |
|---------------------|-----|------|--------|
| Worth it            | 33% | 46   | -13    |
| Not worth it        | 58  | 50   | +8     |

This change corresponds with an increase since Sept. 11, 2001, in the number of Americans who call spending time with their family "essential" – a peak of 83 percent last month, compared to 60 percent in a poll two years ago.



The change in this poll is most pronounced among married couples. In March 2001, 45 percent of married adults said working long hours was worth it; now that's down to 29 percent, a 16-point drop. Among unmarrieds the decline was a milder nine points.

| Working long hours: | Now | 3/01 | Change |
|---------------------|-----|------|--------|
| Married             |     |      |        |
| Worth it            | 29% | 45   | -16    |
| Not worth it        | 62  | 53   | +9     |
| Unmarried           |     |      |        |
| Worth it            | 39  | 48   | -9     |
| Not worth it        | 54  | 48   | +6     |

Working long hours also is less popular among adults with children at home – again just 29 percent say it's worth it, compared to 35 percent of those without minor kids at home.

**MEN & WOMEN** – The drop in interest in working long hours was the same among men and women alike. But that leaves men considerably more likely than women to say long hours are worth it: Forty-one percent of men say so, compared to 26 percent of women. (It was 54 percent of men, and 39 percent of women, in March 2001.)

| Working long hours: | Now | 3/01 | Change |
|---------------------|-----|------|--------|
| Men                 |     |      |        |
| Worth it            | 41% | 54   | -13    |
| Not worth it        | 50  | 42   | +8     |
| Women               |     |      |        |
| Worth it            | 26  | 39   | -13    |
| Not worth it        | 66  | 58   | +8     |

As was the case a year and a half ago, younger adults, age 18 to 34, are a bit more likely to say working long hours is worth it – 40 percent say so (down from 54 percent in March '01), compared to 31 percent of their elders (down from 43 percent).

**METHODOLOGY** - This ABC News.com survey was conducted by telephone Oct. 16-20, 2002 among a random national sample of 1,032 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Julie Crandall.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:  
<http://www.abcnews.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

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Full results follow.

45. Some people say working long hours is worth it because it produces prosperity and a higher standard of living. Others say it's not worth it because it creates stress and lack of time. On balance would you say

working long hours is or is not worth it?

|          | Is worth it | Is not worth it | No opinion |
|----------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| 10/20/02 | 33          | 58              | 9          |
| 3/25/01  | 46          | 50              | 3          |

\*\*\*END\*\*\*