

# Children and Coupled Joblessness in Europe: Labour Supply, Fertility, and Comparative Differences

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## **Abstract**

I use the European Community Household Panel (ECHP) survey for twelve European countries (total number of couples = 27,008) to estimate the effect of children on the risk of both partners of a couple being simultaneously jobless, and selection into childbearing according to the risk factors of coupled joblessness. Using fixed effects logit models, I find cross-national differences in the effects of childbirth on coupled joblessness. By comparing these estimates with ones from logit models with pooled data, I also find cross-national differences in childbearing propensities according to the risk factors of dual joblessness. These two estimates show a strong negative correlation, suggesting that couples decide on additional children based on their future economic expectations. On the other hand, this decreases children's risks of living in jobless households. Cross-national comparisons show that the countries cluster partly according to the common four-regime categorization, even though within-regime variation is large. The country-level estimates of the effects of children on dual joblessness show a rather strong positive association with the share of part-time employment of all employment. This suggests that part-time work is an unattractive alternative for jobless households.