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Parental Working in Europe: Household Patterns of Work

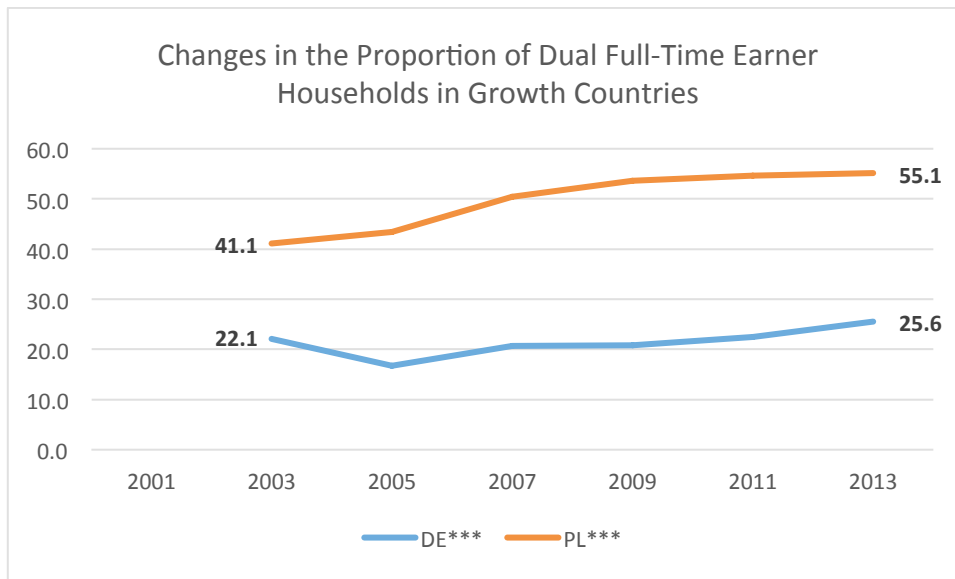
Authors: Matthew Aldrich, Sara Connolly, Margaret O'Brien, Svetlana Speight and Robert Wilshart

This **Research Note** investigates the changing working patterns of couple households with dependent children across EU countries. There are four 'standard' working patterns and a residual category that captures a number of 'non-standard' working arrangements. Explanations of the classification of household working arrangements, as well as information on the definitions, country groupings, data and methods used, can be found in the accompanying **Research Note [Parental Working in Europe: Methodology]**.

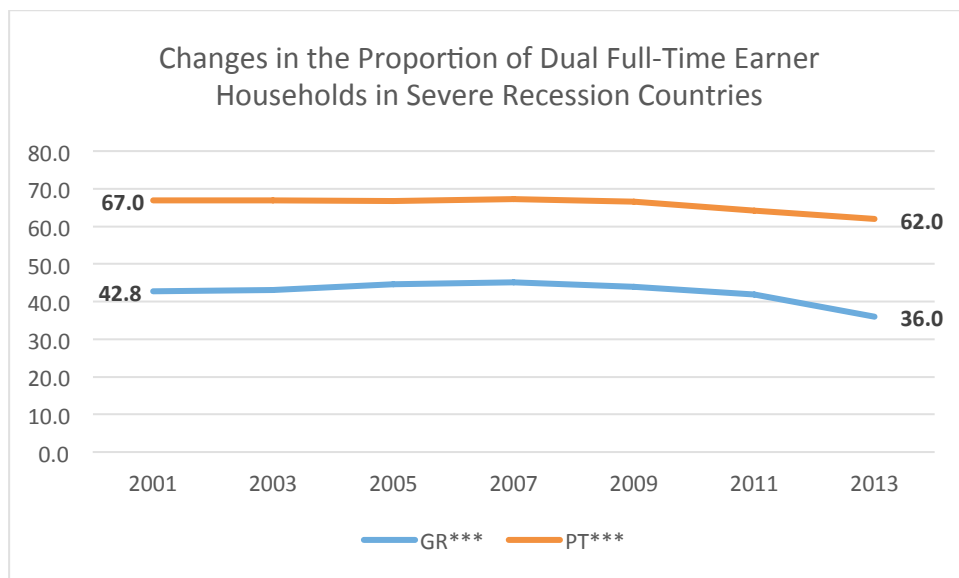
There are four significant trends over this period. Firstly, across 16 of the 17 countries, we observe a decline in the proportion of sole male breadwinner households (the exception being the Slovak Republic). This is most noticeable in the *Severe Recession* countries (e.g. Spain and Greece), where it had accounted for almost half of all households. Secondly, there are growing numbers of dual-earning couple households in Europe, especially dual *full-time* earners, this is most noticeable in countries which were less adversely affected by the recession (e.g. Poland and Belgium). Thirdly, whilst still a minority, there is a significant growth in the use of non-standard working patterns – with varied use of part-time work across both parents and significant increases in female breadwinning models in *Severe Recession* countries. Finally, the share of workless households has fallen or remained broadly stable in countries that were less adversely affected by the recession but rose significantly in the *Severe Recession* countries (e.g. from 4% to 10% in Ireland and Spain).

Dual Full Time Earner Households

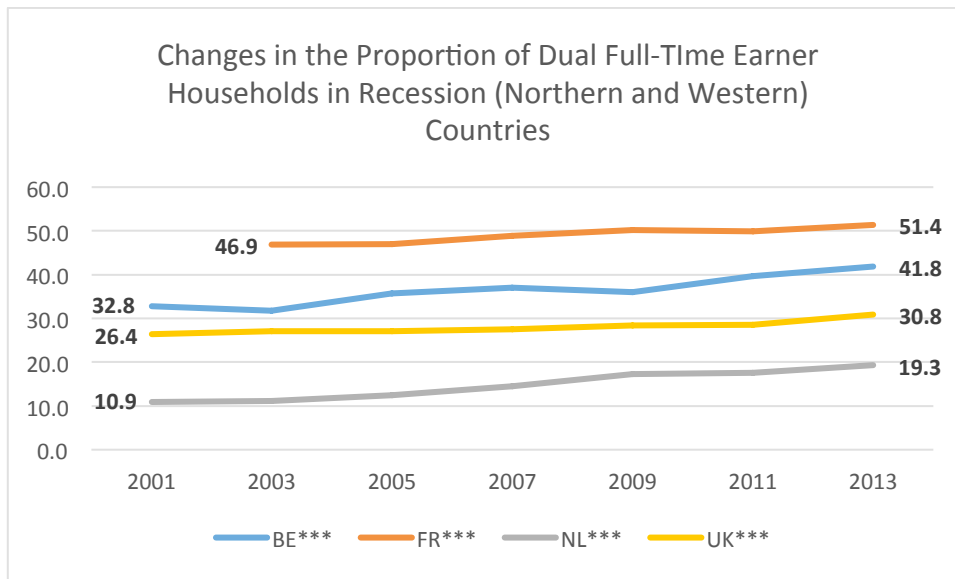
There have been significant increases in the proportion of dual full-time earner households in Germany and Poland – countries that have experienced sustained economic growth over the time period.



However Greece and Portugal – *Severe Recession* countries, have seen significant falls in the proportion of dual full-time earner households.

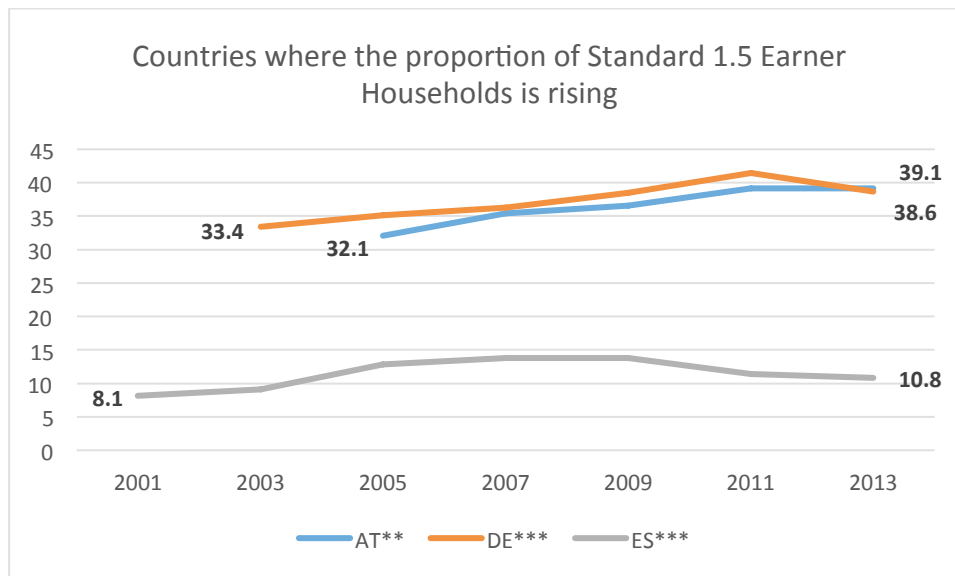


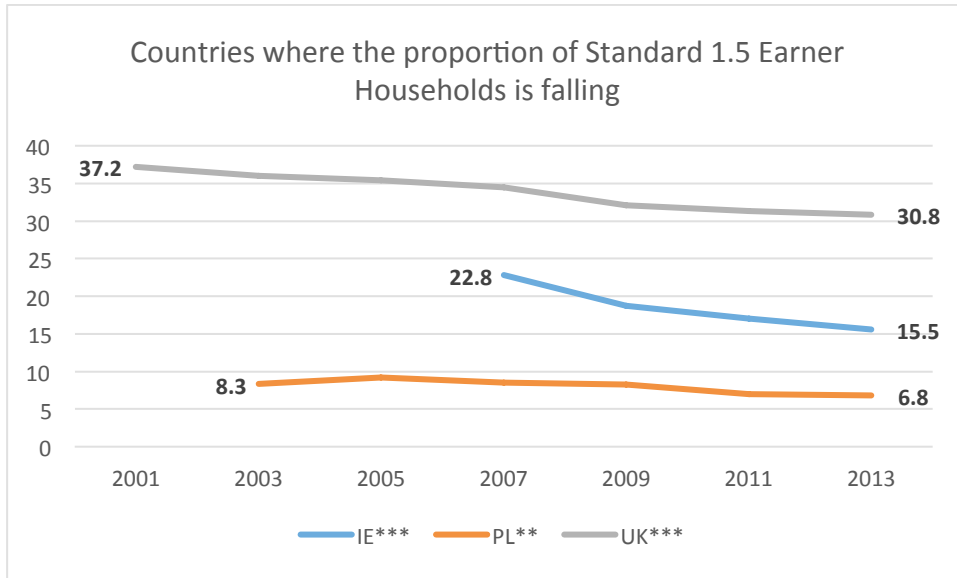
Countries from *Recession (Eastern)* did not experience significant changes in the proportion of dual full time earner households. However countries in *Recession (Northern and Western)* experienced significant increases in the proportion of dual full time earner households.



Standard 1.5 Earner Households

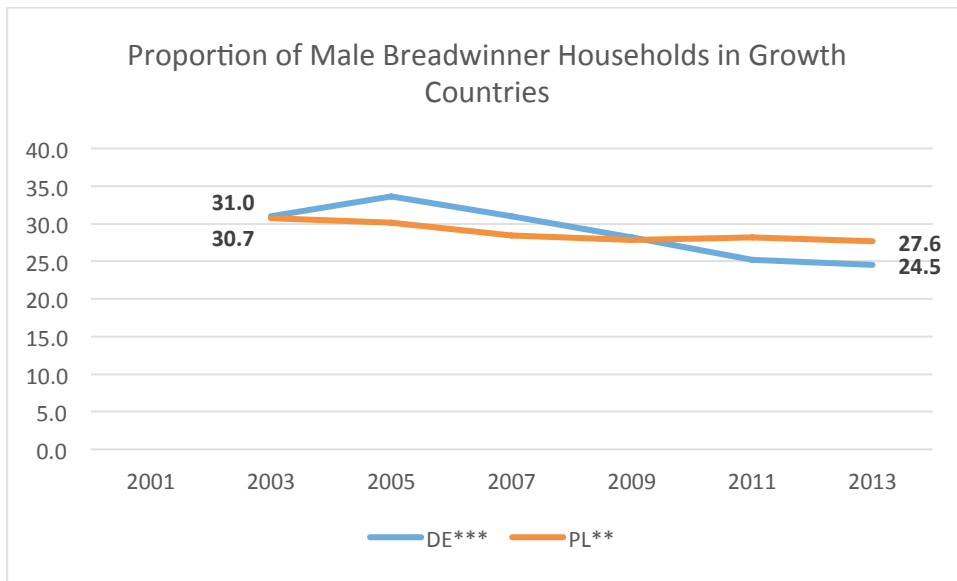
There are no clear patterns within country groupings for changes in the proportion of standard 1.5 earner households. The proportion of 1.5 earner households increased in Austria (*Recession (Northern and Western)*), Germany (*Growth*) and Spain (*Severe Recession*), whilst the proportion fell in Ireland (*Severe Recession*), Poland (*Growth*) and the United Kingdom (*Recession (Northern and Western)*).



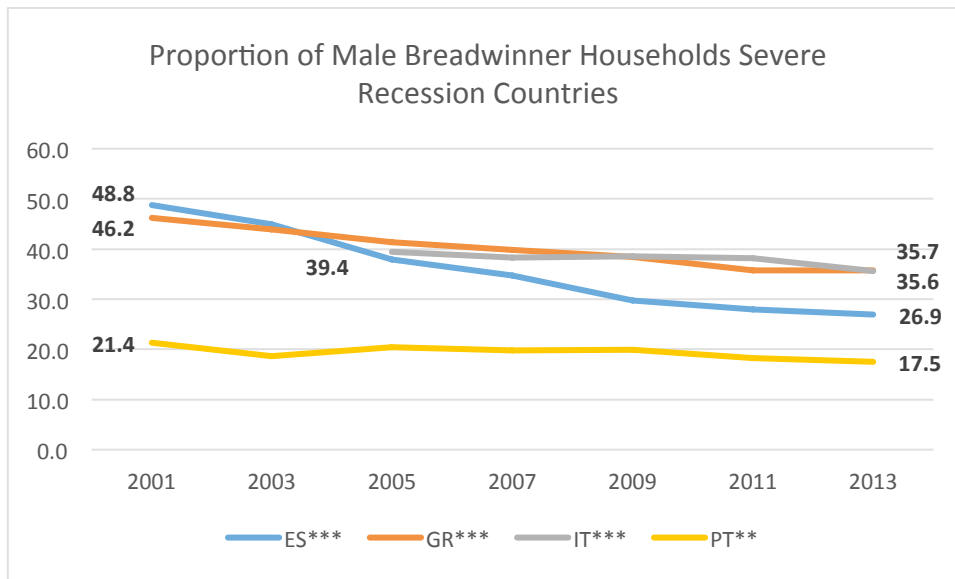


Male Sole Breadwinner Households

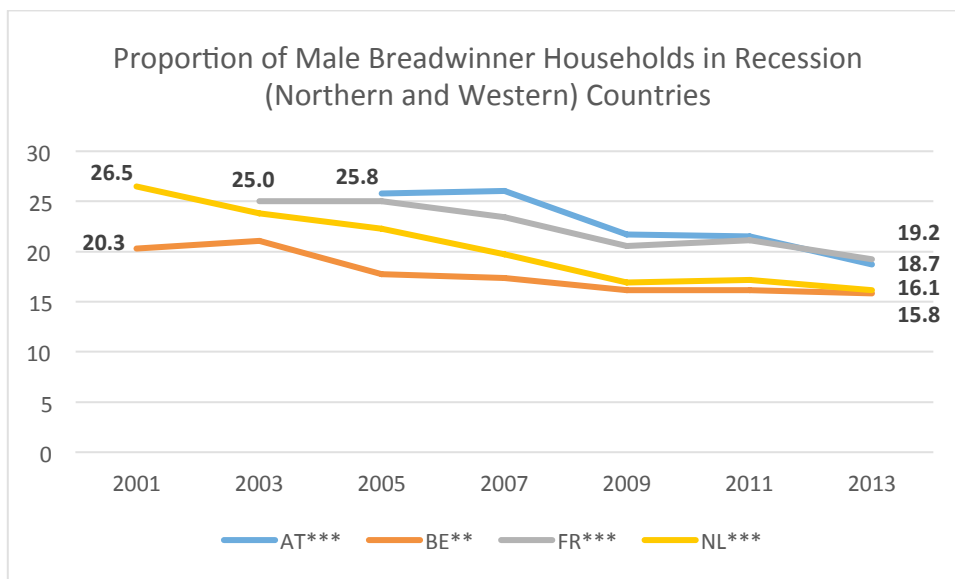
The proportion of male sole breadwinner households has declined in the *Growth* countries, Germany and Poland.



The proportion of male breadwinner households also declined significantly within *Severe Recession* countries: Spain, Greece, Italy and Portugal.



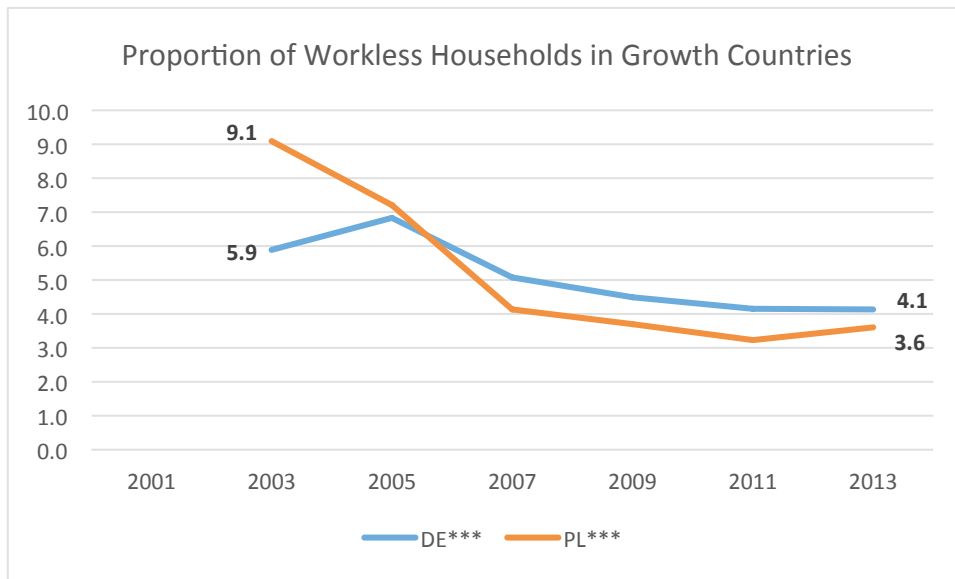
The proportion of male breadwinner households declined significantly within *Recession (Northern and Western)* countries. The countries from this group that have experienced a significant decline are Austria, Belgium, France and the Netherlands.



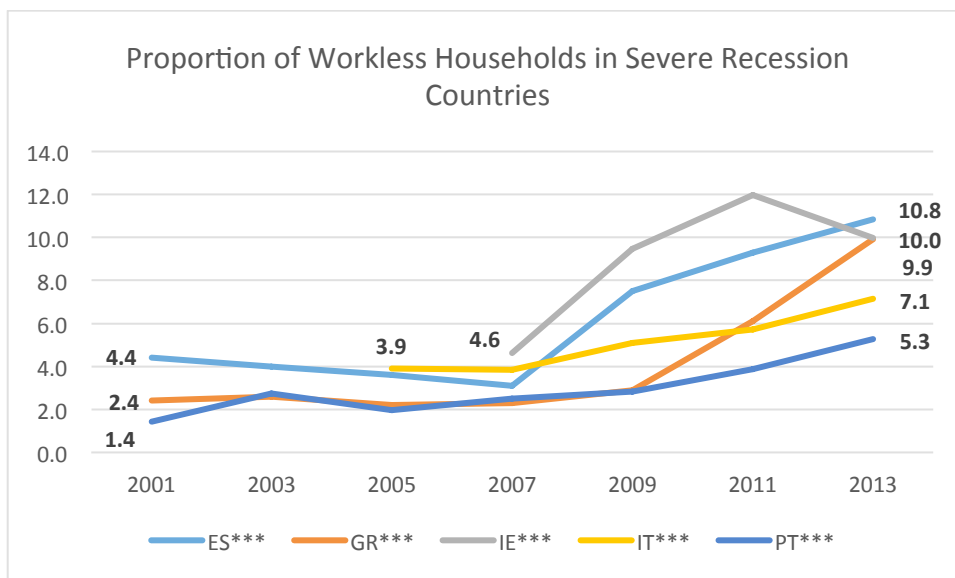
The only country in which the proportion of male sole breadwinner households increased was in the Slovak Republic, from 30.3% in 2003 to 39.1% in 2013 (significant at the 5% level). No other *Recession (Eastern)* country experienced a significant change in the proportion of male breadwinner households.

Workless Households

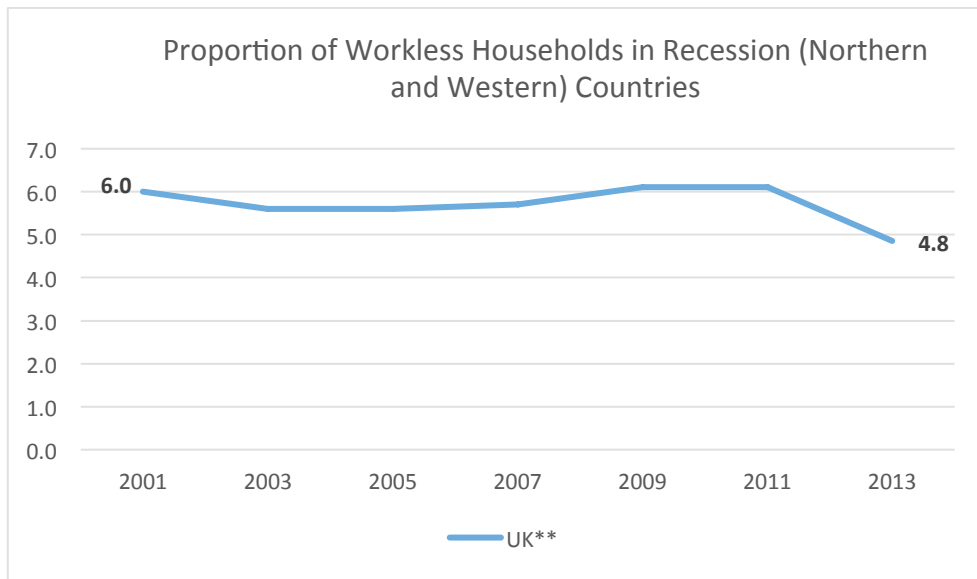
The proportion of workless households has fallen significantly in the *Growth* countries, Germany and Poland.



As expected, the proportion of workless households in *Severe Recession* countries has increased significantly. The biggest increase in the proportion of workless households is in Greece, from 2.4% in 2001 to 9.9% in 2013.



The proportion of workless households has also fallen in the UK over the 12 year period. However there were no significant changes in the proportion of workless households in any of the other *Recession (Northern and Western)* countries.

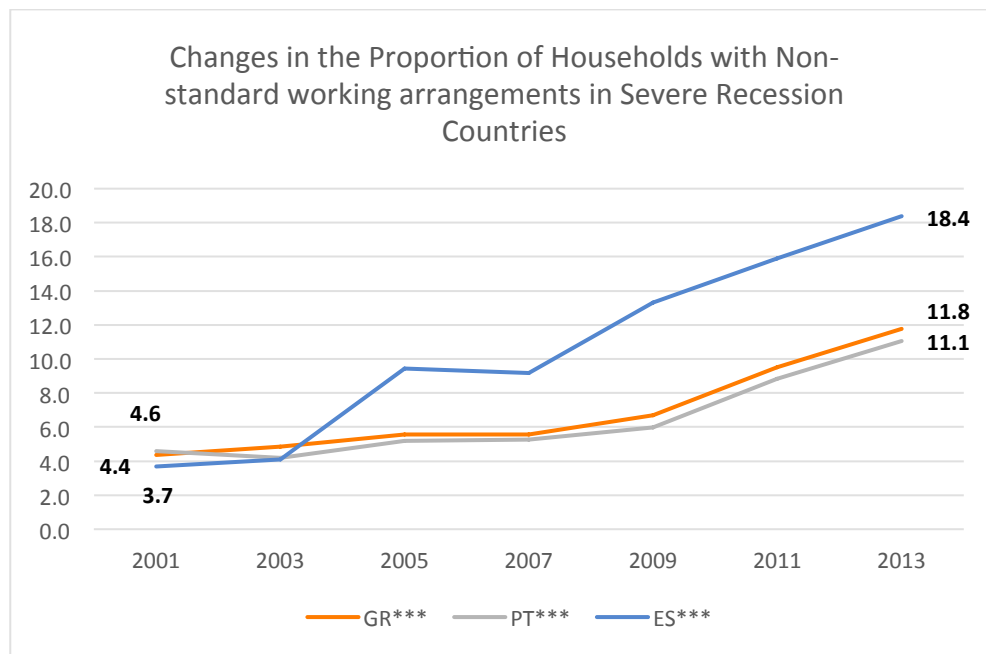


There were no significant changes in the working patterns of *Recession (Eastern)* countries.

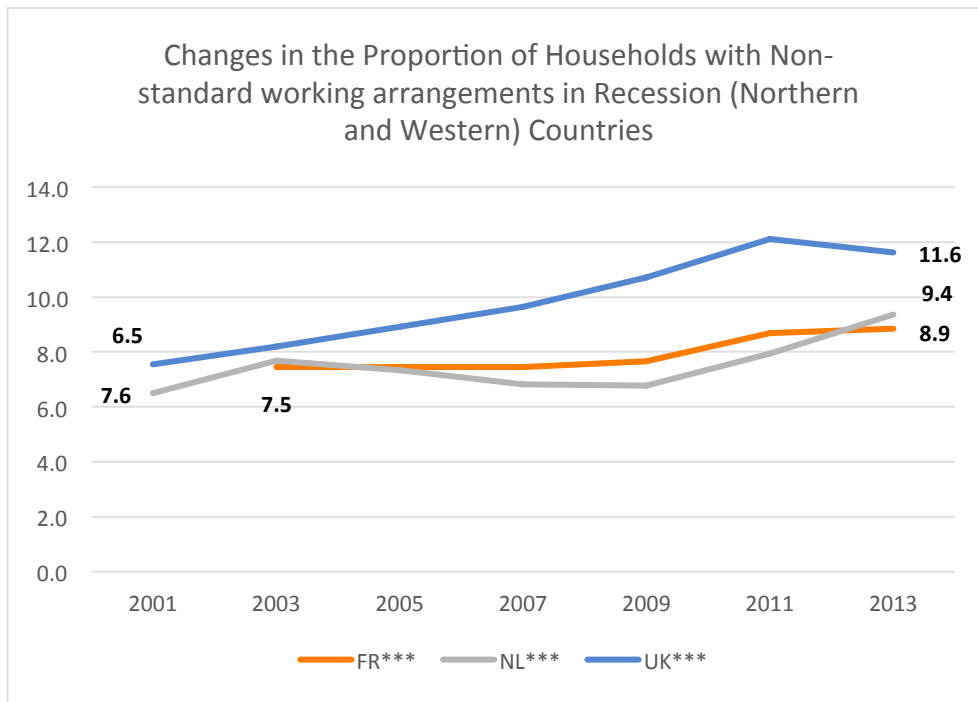
Non-standard working arrangements

The proportion of households engaging in non-standard working arrangements fell significantly in Poland, from 10.8% to 6.9% of households, whereas in Germany it remained stable.

However, in the *Severe Recession* countries there was a significant increase in non-standard working arrangements, particularly over the recessionary period. Ireland showed the largest proportion of households with non-standard working in the EU, rising from 22.0% in 2007 to 28.0% in 2013, but this was only significant at the 10% level.



There were also significant increases in non-standard working arrangements for France, the Netherlands and the UK.



In the *Recession (Eastern)* countries, the proportion of non-standard working arrangements fell for Romania and Hungary.

