

ABSTRACT:

FERTILITY TAILORED TO JOB DEMANDS: SKILLED SEASONAL JOBS' IMPACT ON FEMALES' FERTILITY DECISIONS

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This paper analyses how job requirements in terms of working hours affect fertility manipulation. We determine the effect of seasonality on fertility decisions across jobs both within the year and over life cycle. A seasonal job is a job that demands employees to concentrate working hours, and thus work long hours, in a particular time of the year. We find that 56% and 63% of occupations have seasonal working hours in France and the UK respectively, and 40% and 46% if we only take into account positive deviations in working hours across all occupations. We also find that the number of occupations presenting returns to long hours in the UK increases over time where the 48 weekly working hours threshold shows to be a determinant feature. Most importantly, we find evidence of some fertility manipulation over the calendar year. In addition, we present evidence indicating that the role of fathers---in particular, their seasonality and returns to long hours---also plays a role in the fertility manipulation along the calendar year.