

Housewives worth £30,000 a year (...but they do it all for free)

AN AVERAGE DOMESTIC DAY

Daily task	Time spent (mins)	Wage*
Making beds (Chambermaid)	14	£1.29
Looking after the children (Nanny)	273	£36.40
Washing up (Kitchen Assistant)	28	£2.57
Cooking (Head Chef)	63	£17.30
Driving (Taxi Driver)	23	£2.53
Cleaning (Cleaner)	71	£7.10
Family finances (Accountant)	39	£12.50
Food shop (Mystery Shopper)	18	£2.10

* Wages based on the current average hourly rate for each equivalent job title.

TOTAL POSSIBLE EARNINGS

£81.79 per day, £572.53 per week

£29,771.56 per year

THE average housewife works her fingers to the bone for 8.8 hours a day, seven days a week – and all for no pay.

But if she went out to work and did exactly the same chores, she would earn almost £30,000 a year, a survey has revealed.

Household errands, childcare and cooking mean that hectic housewives have little time to themselves.

The poll of 4,000 women – carried out by the social networking site www.alljoinin.com – revealed that childcare takes up most of their time.

The average housewife spends 4.55 hours a day getting her children dressed, feeding them, entertaining them after school, helping with homework and getting them ready for bed.

A nanny working the same hours would be paid a healthy £36.40, based on an average hourly wage of £8.

A further 71 minutes a day is spent tidying, for which a cleaner would get £7.10, while the 14 minutes a day spent making the beds would earn a chambermaid £1.29. Cooking is another big chore, taking up 63 minutes of a house-

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Consumer Editor

wife's day. By comparison, a head chef on £16.48 an hour would get £17.30.

A further 28 minutes a day is spent washing up, for which a qualified kitchen assistant would be paid £2.57. Paying the bills and sorting out the finances takes up a further 39 minutes, work that would earn £12.50 for an accountant on an average wage.

Housewives also spend 23 minutes a day driving their children to school or the shops. The average taxi driver would earn £2.53 for the same trips.

And finally, the 89-minute weekly shop means women spend the equivalent of 18 minutes a day trawling supermarkets for food – for which a mystery shopper would be paid £2.10.

Unsurprisingly, 71 per cent of the women polled say theirs is a full-time job and 66 per cent feel unappreciated by partners and children.

Carolyn Morris, from www.alljoinin.com, said: "Women wish they had more time to meet friends away from unfulfilling tasks like ironing and washing."

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TIDY SUM: Poll reveals true value of household chores