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Does becoming a father affect the working life of men?

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Becoming a parent is an important transition in the life course. Yet most research does not consider how becoming a father changes men's lives. This paper focuses on the employment trajectories of men before and after the birth of their first child. Most research that considers differences between fathers and non-fathers examines differences cross-sectionally, and typically this research finds that fathers work longer hours than men who are not fathers. However, that research is limited due to selection effects. This paper utilizes longitudinal methods to control for selection effects and assess changes in employment characteristics as men transition into fatherhood. Using four waves of *Negotiating the Life Course*, the paper examines transitions between pre-fatherhood and fatherhood levels of employment, hours worked, workplace satisfaction and gender-role attitudes. Further, using a life course perspective, the analysis also considers the importance of partner characteristics in understanding the experiences of fathers.