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**Coverage**  
United Kingdom  
**Theme**  
Population



## Increasing employment among older people

### *Population Trends 137*

An article published today by ONS in *Population Trends* looks at economic activity among older people in the UK over the last 12 years, to see how experiences have changed over time and between the constituent countries of the UK.

There is increasing interest in whether people are extending their working lives in response to increased life expectancy and more years in good health, as well as fears about adequate pension provision. The article examines how these factors have affected trends among older workers in the UK in recent years.

There was an increase in employment rates among adults aged 50 and over during the last 12 years. Economic activity varied according to socio-economic status, qualifications, marital status and caring commitments. People aged between 50 and State Pension Age (SPA) – 60 for women and 65 for men - who were in managerial, professional or intermediate occupations, and who had a degree or equivalent qualification, were more likely to be in employment.

Married men aged 50 to SPA, and SPA to 69 who were living with a spouse were more likely to be employed and less likely to be economically inactive due to sickness or disability. Women aged between SPA and 69 who were separated or divorced were more likely to be in employment.

Men aged between 50 and SPA were also more likely to be in employment if they were buying their house with a mortgage or loan, or if they were living in households with dependent children.

Other articles in *Population Trends* include:

- '2011 UK Census Coverage Assessment and Adjustment Methodology'. This article explains how ONS will assess the success of the 2011 Census in covering all sections of the population.

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- ‘Older International Migrants: who migrates to England and Wales in later life?’. This article creates a profile of those individuals who migrate to England and Wales from outside the UK after retirement age.
- ‘Sex ratio patterns in population estimates’. This article examines patterns in the sex ratio in England and Wales in population estimates since the 2001 Census. The sex ratio is defined as the number of men per 100 women.

Reports include:

- Civil Partnerships during 2008: United Kingdom
- Live births in England and Wales, 2008: area of residence
- Death registrations in England and Wales, 2008: area of residence
- Internal migration estimates for local and unitary authorities in England and Wales, year to mid-2008.

*Population Trends 137* is available at  
[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=6303&Pos=  
&ColRank=1&Rank=422](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=6303&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422)

## **BACKGROUND NOTES**

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