

Saga / Populus Panel

July 2015

Populus interviewed 9,521 Saga respondents, all aged 50+, online between 21 and 27 July 2015. Populus is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules; for more information see www.populus.co.uk.

Landlords

- 99% of Saga respondents did not let out a room in their property, 1% did.
- Of those people who let out a room in their property, 52% did so to earn some extra money, while 27% did so because a relative or friend needed somewhere to stay.
- Of those Saga respondents not currently renting out a room, 64% said that they wouldn't consider doing so, regardless of recent announcements made by the Chancellor increasing the tax break for renting a room from £4,520 to £7,500. 13% said they did not have a spare room to rent out.
- 5% said the increased tax break would make them more likely to consider renting out a room in their property.

Motor

- Nine in ten (89%) of Saga respondents regularly drove a motor vehicle (at least once a week). Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to regularly drive (94% vs. 82% respectively).
- 68% of regular drivers agreed that the roads were in a bad state, 72% agreed that the roads have got worse over the last few years and 77% agreed that roads weren't maintained as well as they used to be.
- Regular drivers in London (26%) and Wales (29%) were more likely than average (17%) to agree that roads were in a good state.
- 45% of Saga respondents supported the recent announcement made by the Chancellor to increase Vehicle Excise Duty (car tax) for those who buy new cars registered after 1st April 2017. 29% opposed this proposal.
- Respondents in the AB social grade were more likely than those in the DE grade to support this proposal (50% vs. 33% respectively).
- 88% of regular drivers thought that funds raised from an increased Vehicle Excise Duty would be best spent on fixing pot holes. 73% thought that it would be best spent on improving local road networks and 48% thought it would be best spent on improving main roads (e.g. motorways).
- 35% of Saga respondents who were regular drivers said that they would buy a second hand car so that changes to road tax charges would not apply to them. 31%

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said they would buy the car they wanted, regardless of the road tax charges and 27% said they would choose a car with low emissions to get a cheaper tax rate.

Share dealing

- Half (50%) of Saga respondents owned shares in a company. Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to own shares (56% vs. 41% respectively) and those in the AB social grade were more likely than those in the DE social grade to own shares (56% vs. 24% respectively).
- Of those respondents who owned shares, seven in ten (71%) bought them. 8% inherited them and the same proportion were given them through an employer.
- 77% of respondents with shares did not regularly or occasionally trade them. One fifth (20%) traded occasionally (e.g. once or twice a year) and 3% traded regularly (e.g. every day or every week).
- When asked their motivations for investing in shares, 52% said they did so because interest rates were poor on savings and they thought they could get a higher return on shares. 28% bought shares to help fund retirement, and 18% did so to give them regular income.
- Saga respondents with shares spent an average of 20 minutes a week trading shares. The majority (65%) did not spend any time trading.

Health

- Six in ten (59%) said it was easy to book a GP appointment in advance, but half (51%) of Saga respondents said it was difficult to get a GP appointment for the same day.
- Respondents aged 80-89 were more likely than those aged 50-59 to say it was easy to get an appointment the same day (43% vs. 31% respectively). They were also more likely to say it was easy to book an appointment in advance (66% vs. 53% respectively).
- When thinking about the last time they had to book a GP appointment, 44% of Saga respondents got an appointment on the same or next day as booking. In February 2014, this proportion was 46%.
- Saga respondents had to wait, on average, 5 days for the next available GP appointment.

Falls

- 16% of Saga respondents said they had had a fall in the last 12 months, 84% said they had not. Respondents aged 80-89 were more likely than those aged 50-59 to have had a fall in the last year (22% vs. 13% respectively).
- Of those people who had had a fall in the last year, one fifth (19%) needed hospital treatment; 80% did not.
- 42% of Saga respondents who had a fall needing hospital treatment said they fell whilst out and about. 37% fell at home and 10% fell while on holiday.

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- Of those Saga respondents who had fall that required hospital treatment, 41% said the most severe injury they sustained was light bruising. One quarter (24%) sustained severe bruising and 12% said they suffered a sprain or twist.
- Saga respondents who had had a fall took, on average, 24 days to recover.
- One in ten Saga respondents (10%) said they thought they were likely to have a fall in the next 12 months. More respondents aged 80-89 said they were likely to have a fall in the next 12 months than those aged 50-59 (23% vs. 7% respectively).
- The mean age at which Saga respondents said people were most likely to have a fall was 79. 23% were unsure.

News Publications

- 23% of Saga respondents said they read the Daily Mail in print form, and 13% read the Mail Online.
- The second most read print news publications were the Mail on Sunday and the Daily Telegraph (both 15%).
- The second most read online news publications were the Guardian (9%) and the Daily Telegraph (9%).
- 31% did not read any print newspapers and 67% did not access any online news sources.

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