

## Saga / Populus Panel Results, February 2011

Populus received 12,939 responses from Saga members aged 50 and over to its online poll for Saga between 11th and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011. Populus is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules, for more information see [www.populus.co.uk](http://www.populus.co.uk).

### Employment

- 32% of respondents are in full time employment, three out of five (60%) are retired.
- 16% of female respondents are working part time, compared to 9% of men.
- 65% of AB respondents have retired, the same is true of half (50%) of all C2 and DE respondents.
- Over a quarter of respondents from London (27%) are in full time paid employment; the same is true of less than one in five respondents from the South East and South West.
- 60% of men would like to stop work before they reach the state retirement age.
- The older the respondent, the less likely they were to want to stop work before the state retirement age, with 73% of 50-54 year olds in full time work agreeing, compared to 8% of 70-74 year olds also in full time work.
- Amongst different socio-economic groups of full time workers, a quarter (27%) of AB respondents would like to stop work completely when they eventually retire, compared to two in five DE respondents (43%).
- 78% of respondents in the South West would welcome the opportunity to work part time with their current employers compared to three in five respondents from Northern Ireland (60%).
- Of those currently in full time work, 30% of AB respondents think it is not likely or not at all likely that they will be able to work part time with their currently employer before retirement. The same is true of 44% of DE respondents.
- Half of all respondents (50%) want to keep working after the state retirement age because they cannot afford to stop. This is true for two in five (40%) AB respondents and three in five (61%) DE respondents.
- 70% of AB full time employed respondents who want to continue working after retirement age wish to do so because they enjoy working. The same is true of less than half (46%) of respondents in the DE group.
- 65% of respondents would feel comfortable discussing the day they wish to retire with their employees.
- A third of respondents (33%) do not feel their employer is doing anything to prepare them for retirement.

### Forests

- Three quarters (75%) of respondents somewhat or strongly oppose the selling of some of Britain's Government-owned forests.

### Finance

- 83% of respondents think an increase in interest rates would make little difference or leave them better off.
- One in five (18%) respondents from Wales would be left a little or much worse off if interest rates were increased.
- Half (49%) of 50-54 year olds are still paying off their mortgage.
- One in five (18%) of those DE respondents still paying off a mortgage think they will be doing so until after they are 75.
- Three in five (58%) of respondents have no debts.
- 47% of women are worried about their level of debt, compared to 37% of men.
- 35% of those in group AB are worried about their level of debt; the same is true of three in five (60%) of those in DE.
- The lifestyle of over 75s is least affected by their debt, with 66% saying 'not at all.' 66% of 50-54 year olds do think their lifestyle is affected by their debt.

### **Healthcare**

- Over a quarter of respondents (27%) think GPs taking on the role of commissioning healthcare for their patients will have little impact as they will do no better or worse than primary health trusts.
- Over two thirds (67%) of respondents aged over 75 would be happy about their GP having a greater role in supervising their treatment.
- Over half (51%) of AB respondents think shared NHS / local authority responsibility for care in the home hampers its provision. The same is true of 34% of DE respondents.
- 85% of respondents think GPs should be able to prescribe home-care services.
- 70% of respondents had been treated by the NHS in the last year. 80% of them rated the service received as good or very good. Over half of those aged 75 or over (52%) rated their service as very good.
- A quarter of respondents (25%) think the NHS has got better or much better over the last two years. A third (32%) believe it will be worse in two years' time.

### **Social Media**

- 38% of respondents have used Facebook at least once.
- 95% of respondents email regularly however almost three quarters (72%) of respondents have no interest in using email on their phone.
- Over a third (36%) of those aged 75 or over buy goods online regularly.

### **Perceptions of over 50s**

- Around half of all respondents think younger people perceive the over 50s as 'old' (49%) and 'past it' (52%).
- Most respondents felt turning 50 was 'just another birthday' (69%).
- Almost a quarter of respondents (23%) report feeling proud to be over 50.