

Older Workers:
Statistical Information Booklet
Quarter Two (Apr-Jun) 2007

DWP Department for
Work and Pensions

DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS

OLDER WORKERS: STATISTICAL INFORMATION BOOKLET QUARTER TWO 2007

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'Employer responses to an Ageing workforce'

The aim of this study was to investigate how employers were responding to an ageing workforce, particularly in response to the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 implemented in October 2006. It sought to add qualitative depth to the quantitative findings of the study conducted for DWP by Metcalf and Meadows in 2004-5¹. Interviews were conducted in summer 2006 with 70 employers, drawn from 9 sectors, and with a broadly representative mix of small, medium and large firms across England. In each firm one individual was interviewed – generally either a general manager/chief executive or a senior HR professional. The study focused principally on older, rather than younger, workers.

- The employment prospects of older workers, who have historically been a marginal group, are inevitably affected by the overall state of the market, and the interviews showed evidence of an overall tightening. Although most respondents did not identify skills gaps and shortages as a direct and immediate problem, the difficulty of finding appropriately skilled people was a theme of many interviews. These pressures appear to be encouraging employers to adopt more age friendly HR practices, especially around retention and flexible working, both of which were reported to be increasing. However, if this apparently positive climate is to survive an economic downturn, it may be necessary to reinforce messages about age discrimination in areas like redundancy and early retirement.
- Discrimination against workers over 50 is not an issue for many firms, who have none, and for whom retirement policy is thus not a practical concern. Furthermore, some smaller firms are relatively isolated from the current labour market and unaware of future demographic pressures. It may be important to raise awareness among such firms.
- The evidence on retention of older workers is generally positive. Most employers saw them as an asset, and professed to be sympathetic to allowing those employees who reach normal retirement age to stay on. However, this appeared to be a response particularly to those who survive in work into their 60s, and suggests that the focus of discrimination over exits lies at an earlier point, with those who leave through less formal routes in their mid 50s.
- The evidence on recruitment practice is more mixed. Most employers had taken steps to eliminate formal age discrimination, but this did not appear to have led to increased recruitment of older people. The processes of indirect discrimination at the level of line managers may need further attention.
- The mismatch between these findings and previous research into discrimination suggests that the potential of older workers is being underdeveloped through failures of communication. Employers report a willingness to provide training and to adapt working patterns to make jobs more attractive to older workers, which employees fail to perceive or request. If such communication could be improved it might lead to a more productive, satisfied and long serving workforce.
- A key issue is the concern of managers to avoid conflicts and complexity. This drives a range of management practices, and produces a resistance to flexible working and extending working life. Providing managers with models of successful and economical practice, and training managers to handle difficult conversations with employees (including saying no) might improve communication and the use of the skills and talents of older people.

This report is a DWP Research Report no. 455 and is available at:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrs-index.asp>

¹ Metcalf, H. and Meadows, P (2006) Survey of employers' policies, practices and preferences relating to age, DWP Research Report no 325, CDS: Leeds'.

Labour Force Survey Quarter 2 2007

The majority of the results presented in this booklet are based on Labour Force Survey data for Great Britain in Quarter 2 (Apr-Jun) 2007.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a sample survey of households living at private addresses. Some of the results in the tables that follow have been omitted where the sample on which they are based is small and the estimates derived are likely to vary considerably from one quarter to another due to sample variation. None of the estimates presented here are seasonally adjusted.

Calendar Quarters

This and subsequent editions of the booklet will be based on calendar year quarters. The Spring (Mar-May) edition has been replaced by this quarter two (Apr-Jun) edition, whilst the following quarter four (Oct-Dec) 2007 edition will replace the Autumn (Sep-Nov) 2007 edition. This issue has arisen due to a change in the data provided by the Office for National Statistics and a discontinuation of the provision of seasonal quarter data from Spring 2006 onwards. A more detailed discussion of the switch from seasonal to calendar quarters can be viewed at the below link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/labour_market_trends/CQ_article.pdf

Incorporation of mid-year 2005 population results

Only the LFS estimates contained within table 1 of this publication have been adjusted to take account of 2005 mid-year population results by applying Office for National Statistics (ONS) re-weighting factors¹. LFS estimates in subsequent tables are based on 2003 population results and are therefore consistent with editions of this publication from Autumn 2003 onwards. However, they are not consistent with published ONS estimates which incorporate 2005 mid-year population results.

This process has led upward revisions to be made to level estimates of employment, unemployment and inactivity in table 1, but has had a negligible impact on the corresponding rate estimates. Adjustments to the results in subsequent tables have not been made as the re-weighting process has accuracy limitations and in the case of table 7 no household level re-weighting factors were available from the ONS.

The DWP is expected to have access to 2005 mid-year population adjusted datasets from October 2007, subsequent editions of the booklet will therefore take account of these revised results.

¹ Calculated by dividing revised 2005 mid-year population estimates by sex and age band by 2003 mid-year population estimates for the same sex and age band.

Further discussion around the latest re-weighting exercise can be obtained at the following link:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/2006_SAR_POP.pdf

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON OLDER WORKERS QUARTER 2 2007

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey (Qtr 2 2007 - Great Britain¹)

There are 19.7 million² people aged 50 and over in Great Britain. 8.9 million are aged between 50 and State Pension Age³ (SPA) and account for 25.1% of people aged 16 to SPA.

71.6% of those aged 50 to SPA are in employment. This is lower than the employment rate for people aged 25 to 49 (81.5%) but higher than those aged 16 to 24 (56.0%).

1.22 million individuals aged 50 to SPA are claiming Incapacity Benefits⁴, and 152,000 are on benefits relating to unemployment.

The difference between the employment rates of those aged 50 to SPA and all people aged 16 to SPA has decreased 0.7 percentage points to 2.6%, since Quarter 2 2006.

Older workers are more likely to be working part-time than the 25 to 49 age group. 24.6% of those in work in the 50 to SPA age group are working part-time compared to 20.8% in the 25 to 49 age group.

Variations in older workers' employment rates across English Government Office Regions and countries range from 77.8% in the South East Region to 64.9% in the Inner London Region.

Self-employment is more common amongst older workers compared to the younger age groups. 17.8% of those in work in the 50 to SPA age group are self-employed, which is higher than the 25 to 49 age group (12.3%) and those aged 16 to 24 (3.8%).

Older workers have spent, on average, 13.3 years in their current employment, which is longer than the younger age groups.

Older people have fewer qualifications than their younger counterparts. 20.1% of the 50 to SPA age group have no formal qualifications.

Older people's ILO unemployment⁵ rates are lower than those of their younger counterparts. The ILO unemployment rate for those aged 50 to SPA is now 3.3% and for the 25 to 49 age group it is 3.9%, whilst for the 16 to 24 age group it is 14.5%.

Variations in older workers' ILO unemployment rates across English Government Office Regions and countries range from 2.7% in both the East Midlands and South East Regions to 4.9% in the Greater London Region.

Older people who are unemployed are much more likely to be long-term unemployed. 36.5% of the unemployed 50 to SPA age group have been unemployed for a year or more.

¹ Figures quoted in this document are not seasonally adjusted. Annual comparisons should be made with the same quarter of previous years.

² Figures within this bullet point have been re-weighted to reflect the latest 2005 population estimates.

³ Currently 60 for women and 65 for men. From 2010 the female State Pension Age will be gradually increased to 65 by 2020.

⁴ Claimants of Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disability Allowance. DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) – February 2007 provided by the DWP Information Directorate.

⁵ ILO unemployment is the internationally agreed definition of unemployment. It is recommended by the International Labour Organisation - an agency of the United Nations. Under ILO guidelines, all people aged 16 and over can be classified into one of three states: in employment; ILO unemployed; or economically inactive. ILO unemployed people are:

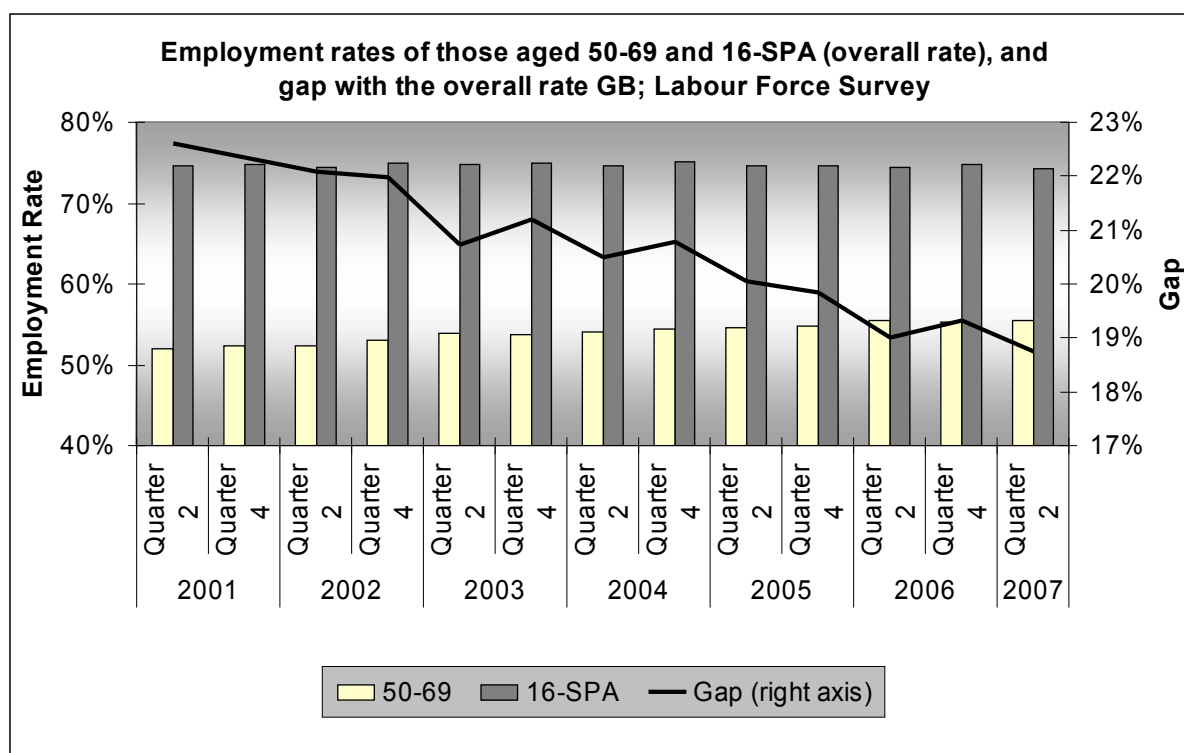
Out of work, want a job, have actively sought work in the last 4 weeks and are available to start work in the next 2 weeks or,

Out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start it in the next 2 weeks.

TRENDS IN THE ACTIVITY STATUS OF OLDER WORKERS

Chart 1:

The Department for Work and Pensions has a Public Service Agreement (PSA) target relating to the employment of over 50s¹. Whereas the previous targets for older workers looked at 50 to State Pension Age (SPA) employment rates, this target looks at the employment rate of those aged 50 to 69. The chart below gives the recent changes in the employment rate of the 50 to 69 group.



Employment rate amongst 50 to 69 year olds and overall rates, GB Source: LFS, GB

		50-69	16-SPA	Gap between the two
2001	Quarter 2	51.9%	74.5%	22.6%
	Quarter 4	52.4%	74.7%	22.3%
2002	Quarter 2	52.4%	74.5%	22.1%
	Quarter 4	53.0%	75.0%	22.0%
2003	Quarter 2	54.0%	74.7%	20.7%
	Quarter 4	53.7%	74.9%	21.2%
2004	Quarter 2	54.2%	74.7%	20.5%
	Quarter 4	54.4%	75.1%	20.8%
2005	Quarter 2	54.6%	74.7%	20.0%
	Quarter 4	54.9%	74.7%	19.8%
2006	Quarter 2	55.4%	74.4%	19.0%
	Quarter 4	55.4%	74.7%	19.3%
2007	Quarter 2	55.5%	74.3%	18.7%

¹ See the DWP Departmental Report 2007, p45. **PSA 4d**: "Increase the employment rate of people aged 50 and over and significantly reduce the difference between the employment rate of this group and the overall rate".

TABLE 1: HISTORICAL SERIES – QUARTER 2 KEY INDICATORS OF CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE IN THE GB LABOUR MARKET

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey¹ (2nd Qtrs 2007 – Great Britain) (thousands, column per cent)

Background Details:	Gender	Qtr 2 1999 ²	Qtr 2 2003	Qtr 2 2004	Qtr 2 2005	Qtr 2 2006	Qtr 2 2007
In employment:							
Number of people: (000s)							
16-24	Male	1,888	1,980	2,034	2,014	1,966	1,966
	Female	1,766	1,843	1,889	1,886	1,905	1,873
25-49	Male	8,761	8,794	8,788	8,825	8,824	8,898
	Female	7,534	7,674	7,721	7,795	7,815	7,803
50-SPA	Male	3,278	3,622	3,632	3,678	3,738	3,834
	Female	2,204	2,504	2,513	2,543	2,568	2,611
SPA+	Male	278	323	335	349	385	391
	Female	517	582	657	688	747	784
Proportion of age group in employment:							
16-24	Male	63.4%	61.8%	62.3%	60.6%	58.3%	57.3%
	Female	58.6%	57.8%	58.1%	57.0%	56.7%	54.9%
	Total	61.0%	59.8%	60.2%	58.8%	57.5%	56.1%
25-49	Male	88.0%	88.5%	88.3%	88.4%	88.3%	88.9%
	Female	73.5%	74.3%	74.5%	74.9%	74.9%	74.4%
	Total	80.6%	81.3%	81.3%	81.5%	81.4%	81.5%
50-SPA	Male	68.7%	72.4%	72.0%	72.4%	72.7%	72.8%
	Female	63.4%	67.7%	67.6%	68.4%	68.9%	70.1%
	Total	66.5%	70.4%	70.2%	70.7%	71.1%	71.7%
SPA+	Male	7.6%	8.5%	8.6%	8.9%	9.7%	9.9%
	Female	8.1%	9.0%	10.1%	10.5%	11.2%	11.7%
	Total	7.9%	8.8%	9.5%	9.9%	10.7%	11.0%

ILO unemployed:							
Number of people: (000s)							
16-24	Male	327	302	288	320	373	379
	Female	211	208	221	228	261	275
25-49	Male	481	379	357	333	404	356
	Female	344	264	280	272	339	324
50-SPA	Male	185	142	134	122	130	148
	Female	76	62	52	60	69	69
SPA+	Male	*	*	*	*	10	13
	Female	10	*	*	*	15	14
Proportion of age group ILO unemployed:							
16-24	Male	11.0%	9.4%	8.8%	9.6%	11.1%	11.1%
	Female	7.0%	6.5%	6.8%	6.9%	7.8%	8.1%
	Total	9.0%	8.0%	7.8%	8.3%	9.4%	9.6%
25-49	Male	4.8%	3.8%	3.6%	3.3%	4.0%	3.6%
	Female	3.4%	2.6%	2.7%	2.6%	3.2%	3.1%
	Total	4.1%	3.2%	3.1%	3.0%	3.6%	3.3%
50-SPA	Male	3.9%	2.8%	2.7%	2.4%	2.5%	2.8%
	Female	2.2%	1.7%	1.4%	1.6%	1.9%	1.9%
	Total	3.2%	2.3%	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	2.4%
SPA+	Male	*	*	*	*	^	^
	Female	^	*	*	*	^	^
	Total	^	^	^	^	^	^

*Fewer than 10,000 estimate not shown.

^Less than 0.5%.

¹ The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a representative sample survey of 60,000 private households in Great Britain & Northern Ireland.

² 1999 is used as a base year here as it encompasses previously published Statistical Information Booklets. In the Pre-Budget Report 2005 it was concluded that the economy was close to trend in 1999.

TABLE 1: (continued) HISTORICAL SERIES – QUARTER 2 KEY INDICATORS OF CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE IN THE GB LABOUR MARKET

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey¹ (2nd Qtrs 2007 – Great Britain) (thousands, column per cent)

Background Details:	Gender	Qtr 2 1999 ²	Qtr 2 2003	Qtr 2 2004	Qtr 2 2005	Qtr 2 2006	Qtr 2 2007
Inactive:							
Number of people: (000s)							
16-24	Male	763	923	945	989	1,033	1,083
	Female	1,037	1,136	1,141	1,197	1,193	1,267
25-49	Male	712	765	811	830	765	759
	Female	2,377	2,391	2,359	2,343	2,283	2,355
50-SPA	Male	1,307	1,237	1,277	1,279	1,272	1,287
	Female	1,194	1,135	1,151	1,115	1,089	1,046
SPA+	Male	3,359	3,490	3,531	3,566	3,568	3,561
	Female	5,873	5,876	5,854	5,879	5,885	5,907
Proportion of age group inactive:							
16-24	Male	25.6%	28.8%	28.9%	29.8%	30.6%	31.6%
	Female	34.4%	35.7%	35.1%	36.2%	35.5%	37.1%
	Total	30.0%	32.2%	32.0%	33.0%	33.1%	34.3%
25-49	Male	7.2%	7.7%	8.1%	8.3%	7.7%	7.6%
	Female	23.2%	23.1%	22.8%	22.5%	21.9%	22.5%
	Total	15.3%	15.6%	15.6%	15.6%	14.9%	15.2%
50 - SPA	Male	27.4%	24.7%	25.3%	25.2%	24.7%	24.4%
	Female	34.4%	30.7%	31.0%	30.0%	29.2%	28.1%
	Total	30.3%	27.3%	27.7%	27.2%	26.6%	25.9%
SPA+	Male	92.1%	91.3%	91.1%	90.9%	90.0%	89.8%
	Female	91.8%	90.9%	89.8%	89.4%	88.5%	88.1%
	Total	91.9%	91.0%	90.3%	90.0%	89.1%	88.7%
Inactive due to sickness, disability or injury: (000s)							
16-24	Male	52	54	56	65	71	78
	Female	46	59	57	62	59	51
25-49	Male	431	445	466	485	456	438
	Female	462	479	467	478	451	487
50-SPA	Male	766	683	690	676	650	654
	Female	489	478	504	464	480	437
... as a percentage of the age group:							
16-24	Male	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%	2.0%	2.1%	2.3%
	Female	1.5%	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%	1.8%	1.5%
	Total	1.6%	1.8%	1.7%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%
25-49	Male	4.3%	4.5%	4.7%	4.9%	4.6%	4.4%
	Female	4.5%	4.6%	4.5%	4.6%	4.3%	4.6%
	Total	4.4%	4.6%	4.6%	4.7%	4.4%	4.5%
50-SPA	Male	16.1%	13.7%	13.7%	13.3%	12.6%	12.4%
	Female	14.1%	12.9%	13.6%	12.5%	12.9%	11.7%
	Total	15.2%	13.3%	13.6%	13.0%	12.8%	12.1%
Inactive due to retirement: (000s)							
50-SPA	Male	339	375	395	401	403	418
	Female	157	171	177	182	142	150
... as a percentage of the age group:							
50-SPA	Male	7.1%	7.5%	7.8%	7.9%	7.8%	7.9%
	Female	4.5%	4.6%	4.8%	4.9%	3.8%	4.0%
	Total	6.0%	6.3%	6.5%	6.6%	6.2%	6.3%

*Fewer than 10,000 estimate not shown.

^Less than 0.5%.

¹ The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a representative sample survey of 60,000 private households in Great Britain & Northern Ireland.

² 1999 is used as a base year here as it encompasses previously published Statistical Information Booklets. In the Pre-Budget Report 2005 it was concluded that the economy was close to trend in 1999.

TABLE 2: CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE IN THE GB LABOUR MARKET

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey (Qtr 2 2007 – Great Britain) (thousands, column per cent)

Background Details:	All aged between 16-SPA	16-24	25-49	50-59/64 (SPA)	SPA and over ¹
Total population (000s)	35,639	6,667	20,043	8,928	10,735
per cent of all 16+	76.9%	14.4%	43.2%	19.3%	23.1%
per cent from ethnic minorities	10.9%	13.8%	12.2%	5.8%	3.7%
per cent women	48.5%	49.9%	51.1%	41.4%	62.8%
per cent with no qualifications ²	13.3%	13.7%	10.1%	20.1%	26.9%
per cent claiming IB or SDA ³	7.3%	2.4%	6.2%	13.7%	0.4%

In employment:

Total (000s)	26,473	3,735	16,342	6,397	1,182
per cent of age band	74.3%	56.0%	81.5%	71.6%	11.0%
per cent of all in employment who are:					
- self-employed	12.4%	3.8%	12.3%	17.8%	24.8%
- working part-time	23.9%	36.3%	20.8%	24.6%	69.4%
- in a permanent job	94.3%	87.1%	95.6%	95.8%	89.7%
proportion of those with no qualifications who are in employment ⁴	46.6%	26.9%	51.8%	50.8%	no data
average time in current job (yrs)	7.8	1.7	7.0	13.3	15.4
average gross hourly wage (£)	11.80	6.78	12.64	12.35	9.65

ILO unemployed:

Total (000s)	1,516	636	664	217	27
per cent of age band	4.3%	9.5%	3.3%	2.4%	^
ILO unemployment rate ⁵	5.4%	14.5%	3.9%	3.3%	2.2%
per cent of all ILO unemployed who are unemployed for a year or more	24.0%	15.7%	27.9%	36.5%	*

Inactive:⁶

Total (000s)	7,650	2,297	3,037	2,315	9,525
per cent of age band	21.5%	34.5%	15.2%	25.9%	88.7%
would like work (000s)	2,037	624	973	440	128
per cent of population	5.7%	9.4%	4.9%	4.9%	1.2%
... and available to start work in a fortnight (000s)	572	188	251	133	69
per cent of age band	1.6%	2.8%	1.3%	1.5%	0.6%
retired (000s)	564	*	*	564	8,851
per cent of age band	1.6%	*	*	6.3%	82.5%

*Fewer than 10,000 estimate not shown.

^Less than 0.5%.

¹ Just over 5% of the SPA and over live in medical and care institutions. They are not included in these estimates.

² Of those aged SPA and over only individuals in employment are asked to provide details of their educational qualifications.

³ DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) - February 2007 provided by the DWP Information Directorate.

⁴ No data available for those aged SPA and over because only individuals in employment are asked to provide details of their educational qualifications.

⁵ The unemployment rate is the number of ILO unemployed (unemployed, ready to start work in a fortnight, having looked for work in the last four weeks) as a percentage of the total labour force (the sum of all persons in employment or ILO unemployed).

⁶ Not in employment and either not seeking work or not available for work.

TABLE 2a: CHARACTERISTICS OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE GB LABOUR MARKET

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey (Qtr 2 2007 - Great Britain) (thousands, column per cent)

Background Details:	16-24		25-49		50-59/64 (SPA)		SPA and over ¹	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total population (000s)	3,340	3,328	9,792	10,252	5,229	3,699	3,989	6,746
per cent of all 16+	14.9%	13.9%	43.8%	42.7%	23.4%	15.4%	17.8%	28.1%
per cent from ethnic minorities	14.0%	13.6%	12.0%	12.4%	5.3%	6.5%	4.0%	3.5%
per cent with no qualifications ²	14.9%	12.4%	9.7%	10.5%	18.0%	23.2%	24.4%	28.1%
per cent claiming IB or SDA ³	2.6%	2.3%	6.9%	5.6%	14.8%	12.2%	0.2%	0.5%

In employment:

Total (000s)	1,911	1,824	8,702	7,640	3,805	2,592	393	789
per cent of age band	57.2%	54.8%	88.9%	74.5%	72.8%	70.1%	9.9%	11.7%
per cent of all in employment who are:								
- self-employed	6.1%	1.5%	16.4%	7.6%	22.9%	10.2%	43.4%	15.5%
- working part-time	28.3%	44.6%	4.5%	39.4%	12.0%	43.0%	66.3%	70.9%
- in a permanent job	87.1%	87.1%	96.5%	94.6%	95.7%	95.9%	84.6%	91.3%
proportion of those with no qualifications who are in employment ⁴	30.3%	22.7%	67.0%	38.3%	54.3%	47.0%	no data	no data
average time in current job (yrs)	1.8	1.6	7.5	6.5	14.4	11.7	18.3	13.9
average gross hourly wage (£)	6.88	6.68	14.14	11.17	13.72	10.72	11.17	9.17

ILO unemployed:

Total (000s)	368	267	348	316	147	69	13	14
per cent of age band	11.0%	8.0%	3.6%	3.1%	2.8%	1.9%	^	^
ILO unemployment rate ⁵	16.2%	12.8%	3.8%	4.0%	3.7%	2.6%	3.2%	1.7%
per cent of all ILO unemployed who are unemployed for a year or more	19.6%	10.2%	34.0%	21.1%	39.8%	29.5%	*	*

Inactive:⁶

Total (000s)	1,061	1,236	742	2,295	1,277	1,038	3,583	5,943
per cent of age band	31.8%	37.2%	7.6%	22.4%	24.4%	28.1%	89.8%	88.1%
would like work (000s)	297	327	306	667	259	181	60	68
per cent of population	8.9%	9.8%	3.1%	6.5%	4.9%	4.9%	1.5%	1.0%
... and available to start work in a fortnight (000s)	97	91	71	180	77	56	36	33
per cent of age band	2.9%	2.7%	0.7%	1.8%	1.5%	1.5%	0.9%	^
retired (000s)	*	*	*	*	415	148	3,402	5,449
per cent of age band	*	*	*	*	7.9%	4.0%	85.3%	80.8%

*Fewer than 10,000 estimate not shown.

^Less than 0.5%.

¹ Just over 5% of the SPA and over live in medical and care institutions. They are not included in these estimates.² Of those aged SPA and over only individuals in employment are asked to provide details of their educational qualifications.³ DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) - February 2007 provided by the DWP Information Directorate.⁴ No data available for those aged SPA and over because only individuals in employment are asked to provide details of their educational qualifications.⁵ The unemployment rate is the number of ILO unemployed (unemployed, ready to start work in a fortnight, having looked for work in the last four weeks) as a percentage of the total labour force (the sum of all persons in employment or ILO unemployed).⁶ Not in employment and either not seeking work or not available for work.

TABLE 2b: OLDER MEN AND WOMEN – 5 YEAR AGE BANDS BETWEEN 50-69
Source: ONS Labour Force Survey (Yearly data: Qtr 3 2006– Qtr 2 2007 - Great Britain)
(thousands, column per cent)

Background Details:	50-54		55-59		60-64		65-69		Ethnic minorities 50-SPA ¹	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total population (000s)	1,773	1,823	1,833	1,895	1,597	1,664	1,262	1,352	281	229
per cent of all 16+	8.0%	7.6%	8.2%	7.9%	7.2%	6.9%	5.7%	5.6%	1.3%	1.0%
per cent from ethnic minorities	7.8%	7.0%	4.5%	5.3%	3.8%	4.4%	4.6%	4.2%	n/a	n/a
per cent with no qualifications ²	14.8%	20.1%	17.7%	27.5%	22.1%	8.5%	3.9%	3.6%	26.2%	35.1%
per cent claiming IB or SDA ³	11.0%	11.0%	13.6%	13.4%	21.1%	0.8%	0.2%	0.4%	no data	no data

In employment:

Total (000s)	1,501	1,366	1,375	1,211	895	550	258	153	183	120
per cent of age band	84.7%	74.9%	75.0%	63.9%	56.0%	33.1%	20.4%	11.4%	65.0%	52.6%
per cent of all in employment who are:										
- self-employed	21.5%	9.2%	22.5%	10.6%	28.3%	12.4%	37.9%	22.0%	26.6%	9.7%
- working part-time	5.7%	39.8%	11.1%	47.3%	21.2%	66.7%	62.1%	82.9%	10.8%	31.6%
- in a permanent job	96.9%	95.9%	95.6%	95.8%	94.2%	92.7%	85.4%	85.5%	95.3%	95.7%
proportion of those with no qualifications who are in employment ⁴	61.5%	51.5%	58.4%	44.7%	44.7%	no data	no data	no data	47.2%	25.8%
Average time in current job (yrs)	13.7	10.8	14.4	12.6	15.1	13.3	15.9	13.5	11.6	11.0
Average gross hourly wage (£)	14.79	10.70	13.25	10.03	11.41	9.62	11.21	8.73	11.40	11.11

ILO unemployed:

Total (000s)	50	41	61	31	32	11	8	*	16	8
per cent of age band	2.8%	2.2%	3.3%	1.6%	2.0%	0.7%	0.7%	*	5.8%	3.4%
ILO unemployment rate ⁵	3.2%	2.9%	4.2%	2.5%	3.4%	2.0%	3.1%	*	8.2%	6.1%
per cent of all ILO unemployed who are unemployed for 1 year or more	41.3%	27.6%	41.9%	26.2%	34.5%	*	*	*	48.5%	*

Inactive:⁶

Total (000s)	222	416	397	653	671	1,102	995	1,195	82	100
per cent of age band	12.5%	22.8%	21.6%	34.5%	42.0%	66.2%	78.9%	88.4%	29.2%	43.9%
would like work (000s)	75	91	99	101	105	64	63	20	22	16
per cent of population	4.2%	5.0%	5.4%	5.3%	6.6%	3.8%	5.0%	1.5%	7.7%	7.0%
... and available to start work in a fortnight (000s)	16	29	26	28	38	32	36	11	6	7
per cent of age band	0.9%	1.6%	1.4%	1.5%	2.4%	1.9%	2.8%	0.8%	2.3%	3.0%
retired (000s)	15	24	90	132	306	798	814	1,095	15	6
per cent of age band	0.8%	1.3%	4.9%	7.0%	19.2%	48.0%	64.5%	81.0%	5.3%	2.8%

*Fewer than 6,000 estimate not shown.

^Less than 0.5%.

¹ This group contains those who classify themselves to an ethnic background that is non-white.

² Of those aged SPA and over only individuals in employment are asked to provide details of their educational qualifications.

³ DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) - February 2007 provided by the DWP Information Directorate.

⁴ No data available for those aged SPA and over because only individuals in employment are asked to provide details of their educational qualifications.

⁵ The unemployment rate is the number of ILO unemployed (unemployed, ready to start work in a fortnight, having looked for work in the last four weeks) as a percentage of the total labour force (the sum of all persons in employment or ILO unemployed).

⁶ Not in employment and either not seeking work or not available for work.

TABLE 3: OLDER PEOPLE IN THE GB LABOUR MARKET BY COUNTRY

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey (Yearly data: Qtr 3 2006 – Qtr 2 2007 - Great Britain)

(thousands, column per cent)

Background Details:	ENGLAND		SCOTLAND		WALES		GB	
	50-59/64 (SPA)	SPA and over	50-59/64 (SPA)	SPA and over	50-59/64 (SPA)	SPA and over	50-59/64 (SPA)	SPA and over ¹
Total population (000s)	7,640	9,124	803	944	478	593	8,921	10,661
per cent of all 16+	19.1%	22.8%	19.7%	23.2%	20.1%	24.9%	19.2%	23.0%
per cent from ethnic minorities	6.4%	3.9%	1.3%	*	*	*	5.7%	3.5%
per cent women	41.6%	62.6%	42.3%	64.1%	41.5%	62.6%	41.7%	62.8%
per cent with no qualifications ²	20.3%	25.3%	21.8%	34.6%	23.1%	35.8%	20.6%	26.6%
per cent claiming IB or SDA ³	12.8%	0.4%	17.2%	0.5%	20.6%	0.6%	13.7%	0.4%

In employment:

Total (000s)	5,464	1,021	575	86	308	64	6,348	1,171
per cent of age band	71.5%	11.2%	71.7%	9.1%	64.4%	10.8%	71.2%	11.0%
per cent of all in employment who are:								
- self-employed	18.3%	24.8%	13.5%	19.6%	19.3%	29.9%	17.9%	24.7%
- working part-time	24.7%	70.9%	22.1%	67.3%	21.4%	61.0%	24.3%	70.1%
- in a permanent job	95.8%	88.8%	96.5%	92.1%	96.4%	94.1%	95.9%	89.3%
proportion of those with no qualifications who are in employment ⁴	51.9%	no data	49.3%	no data	39.2%	no data	50.9%	no data
Average time in current job (yrs)	13.1	15.1	13.8	15.4	13.9	17.8	13.2	15.3
Average gross hourly wage (£)	12.11	9.73	11.77	9.52	11.20	7.77	12.04	9.61

ILO unemployed:

Total (000s)	191	22	12	*	11	*	214	26
per cent in age band	2.5%	^	1.5%	*	2.3%	*	2.4%	^
ILO unemployment rate ⁵	3.4%	2.1%	2.1%	*	3.4%	*	3.3%	2.1%
per cent of all ILO unemployed who are unemployed for a year or more	36.5%	*	*	*	*	*	35.7%	*

Inactive:⁶

Total (000s)	1,984	8,081	215	856	160	528	2,358	9,464
per cent of age band	26.0%	88.6%	26.8%	90.7%	33.3%	89.1%	26.4%	88.8%
would like work (000s)	395	124	48	15	29	*	471	146
per cent of age band	5.2%	1.4%	5.9%	1.6%	6.0%	*	5.3%	1.4%
... and available to start work in a fortnight (000s)	115	66	14	*	*	*	136	79
per cent of age band	1.5%	0.7%	1.7%	*	*	*	1.5%	0.7%
retired (000s)	495	7,590	41	798	30	491	566	8,879
per cent of age band	6.5%	83.2%	5.1%	84.5%	6.4%	82.9%	6.3%	83.3%

*Fewer than 10,000 (or equivalent threshold for wages results), estimate not shown.

^Less than 0.5%.

¹ Just over 5% of the SPA and over 65 live in medical and care institutions. They are not included in these estimates.² Of those aged SPA and over only individuals in employment are asked to provide details of their educational qualifications.³ DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study - February 2007 provided by the DWP Information Directorate.⁴ No data available for those aged SPA and over because only individuals in employment are asked to provide details of their educational qualifications.⁵ The unemployment rate is the number of ILO unemployed (unemployed, ready to start work in a fortnight, having looked for work in the last four weeks) as a percentage of the total labour force (the sum of all persons in employment or ILO unemployed).⁶ Not in employment and either not seeking work or not available for work.

TABLE 4: EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATES OF PEOPLE AGED 50-SPA (60 FOR WOMEN/65 FOR MEN) BY ENGLISH GOVERNMENT OFFICE REGION AND COUNTRY

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey (Qtr 2 2007 - Great Britain)

	Total number of people aged 50-59/64 (SPA) (000s)	% of local population aged 50-59/64 (SPA) ¹	Total number of people in employment aged 50-59/64 (SPA) (000s)	Employment rate ² (%)	Total number of people unemployed aged 50-59/64 (SPA) (000s)	ILO unemployment rate ³ (% of labour force)	% of inactives who are inactive due to sickness, disability or injury
Great Britain	8,928	19.3%	6,397	71.6%	217	3.3%	46.7%
England	7,644	19.1%	5,496	71.9%	201	3.5%	44.9%
North East	399	20.0%	263	65.7%	12	4.3%	56.7%
North West and Merseyside	1,040	19.5%	703	67.5%	30	4.0%	51.9%
Yorkshire and the Humber	774	19.4%	533	68.8%	20	3.6%	47.4%
East Midlands	681	19.9%	485	71.2%	13	2.7%	45.6%
West Midlands	825	19.6%	595	72.2%	24	3.9%	47.5%
Eastern	867	19.6%	657	75.8%	23	3.3%	37.9%
South East	1,278	19.5%	995	77.8%	28	2.7%	35.5%
South West	823	20.2%	617	74.9%	19	2.9%	41.4%
Greater London	956	16.2%	650	67.9%	33	4.9%	43.0%
Inner London	328	14.2%	213	64.9%	15	6.5%	50.8%
Outer London	629	17.4%	437	69.5%	18	4.0%	38.5%
Wales	481	20.2%	313	65.1%	*	2.6%	56.7%
Scotland	804	19.8%	587	73.1%	*	1.2%	56.4%

*Fewer than 10,000 estimate not shown.

^Less than 0.5%.

¹ Expressed as a proportion of the population aged 16 and over.

² Expressed as a percentage of the total number aged 50-59/64.

³ The unemployment rate is the number of ILO unemployed (unemployed, ready to start work in a fortnight, having looked for work in the last four weeks) as a percentage of the total labour force (the sum of all persons in employment or ILO unemployed).

TABLE 5: CLAIMANTS OF INCAPACITY BENEFIT (IB) OR SEVERE DISABLEMENT ALLOWANCE (SDA) BY AGE GROUP, GENDER, ENGLISH GOVERNMENT REGION AND COUNTRY

Source: DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS), 100% sample at February 2007

	16-49			50-59/64 (SPA)		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
Great Britain (000s)¹	1,445	790	655	1,217	761	456
% of all in age band on IB/SDA	5.3%	5.8%	4.8%	13.7%	14.8%	12.2%
England (000s)¹	1,175	648	528	972	609	363
% of all in age band on IB/SDA	4.9%	5.4%	4.5%	12.8%	13.9%	11.4%
North East (000s)¹	84	46	38	80	51	29
% of all in age band on IB/SDA	7.1%	7.9%	6.3%	19.9%	22.0%	16.9%
North West and Merseyside (000s)¹	217	119	98	191	120	71
% of all in age band on IB/SDA	6.9%	7.6%	6.1%	18.2%	19.6%	16.1%
Yorkshire and Humberside (000s)¹	124	68	56	113	72	41
% of all in age band on IB/SDA	5.3%	5.8%	4.7%	14.6%	16.1%	12.5%
East Midlands (000s)¹	93	50	43	86	54	32
% of all in age band on IB/SDA	4.7%	5.0%	4.3%	12.6%	13.5%	11.2%
West Midlands (000s)¹	128	71	57	112	71	42
% of all in age band on IB/SDA	5.2%	5.7%	4.7%	13.7%	14.7%	12.3%
Eastern (000s)¹	98	52	45	79	48	31
% of all in age band on IB/SDA	3.9%	4.1%	3.6%	9.1%	9.6%	8.3%
South East (000s)¹	134	74	61	103	64	39
% of all in age band on IB/SDA	3.6%	3.9%	3.3%	8.1%	8.8%	7.3%
South West (000s)¹	110	61	49	85	54	31
% of all in age band on IB/SDA	5.0%	5.5%	4.4%	10.2%	11.2%	8.9%
Greater London (000s)¹	187	106	81	123	74	49
% of all in age band on IB/SDA	4.5%	5.1%	4.0%	13.9%	14.9%	12.5%
Inner London (000s)¹	93	54	39	55	34	22
% of all in age band on IB/SDA	5.1%	5.8%	4.3%	18.7%	20.5%	16.5%
Outer London (000s)¹	95	52	42	68	41	27
% of all in age band on IB/SDA	4.1%	4.4%	3.7%	11.5%	12.2%	10.5%

¹ All thousands rounded.

TABLE 5: (continued) CLAIMANTS OF INCAPACITY BENEFIT (IB) OR SEVERE DISABILITY ALLOWANCE (SDA) BY AGE GROUP, GENDER, ENGLISH GOVERNMENT REGION AND COUNTRY

Source: DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS), 100% sample at February 2007

	16-49			50-59/64 (SPA)		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
Wales (000s) ¹	100	52	48	99	63	37
% of all in age band on IB/SDA	7.7%	8.1%	7.2%	20.6%	22.4%	18.2%
Scotland (000s) ¹	166	89	78	138	84	54
% of all in age band on IB/SDA	7.0%	7.5%	6.4%	17.2%	18.1%	15.9%
Comparator						
England (000s) ¹	1,175	648	528	972	609	363
% of all in age band on IB/SDA	4.9%	5.4%	4.5%	12.8%	13.9%	11.4%

¹ All thousands rounded.

TABLE: 5a. WILLINGNESS AND AVAILABILITY FOR WORK OF PEOPLE IN RECEIPT OF IB, SDA AND STATE BENEFITS WITHIN GREAT BRITAIN

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey (Qtr 2 2007 - Great Britain)

Total GB Population	16-49		50-59/64 (SPA)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
on IB/SDA:				
IB/SDA recipients Great Britain (000s) ¹	424	352	594	342
per cent of all not in work and would like work	42.1%	32.3%	27.0%	23.4%
per cent of all not in work and would like work and are available to start work in a fortnight	15.0%	8.4%	5.1%	5.0%
on state benefits:²				
Great Britain (000s) ³	13,132	13,579	5,229	3,699
on state benefits and not in work and would like work (000s)	671	741	279	143
per cent of all on state benefits and not in work and would like work	50.9%	34.3%	30.4%	22.3%
... and available to start work in a fortnight (000s)	448	376	121	52
per cent of all on state benefits and not in work and would like work and available to start work in a fortnight	34.0%	17.4%	13.2%	8.1%

¹ DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) - February 2007 provided by the DWP Information Directorate.

² Excluding Child Benefit

³ GAD 2001 principle projections (000s).

TABLE 6: GB WORKFORCE BY OCCUPATION (SOC2000)¹, AGE AND GENDER

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey (Qtr 2 2007 – Great Britain) (thousands, per cent of all employed in age group)

	16-24			25-49			50-59/64 (SPA)			SPA and over		
	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women
All in Employment thousands=100%	3,735	1,911	1,824	16,342	8,702	7,640	6,397	3,805	2,592	1,182	393	789

Split by occupation:												
Managers and Senior Officials	3.6%	3.8%	3.4%	17.5%	21.3%	13.3%	16.7%	20.6%	11.0%	12.4%	16.6%	10.4%
Professional	4.4%	5.1%	3.7%	14.4%	15.2%	13.5%	15.0%	15.1%	14.8%	11.4%	15.6%	9.3%
Associate Professional and Technical	10.6%	10.3%	10.9%	16.3%	14.3%	18.4%	11.9%	11.4%	12.5%	10.8%	11.3%	10.6%
Administrative and Secretarial	12.1%	7.2%	17.3%	11.4%	4.2%	19.5%	12.1%	4.5%	23.3%	17.9%	5.2%	24.3%
Skilled Trades	11.5%	21.4%	1.2%	10.6%	18.4%	1.8%	12.5%	19.4%	2.3%	8.6%	18.3%	3.8%
Personal Service Occupations	9.6%	3.4%	16.1%	7.9%	2.0%	14.6%	7.1%	2.5%	13.9%	8.7%	2.7%	11.7%
Sales and Customer Service	21.6%	16.3%	27.0%	5.5%	3.0%	8.4%	4.9%	2.6%	8.4%	8.0%	4.1%	10.0%
Process, Plant and Machine Operators	4.6%	7.3%	1.9%	7.3%	11.9%	1.9%	9.7%	14.5%	2.7%	5.4%	12.3%	1.9%
Elementary Occupations	22.0%	25.4%	18.4%	9.1%	9.6%	8.6%	10.1%	9.5%	11.0%	16.6%	13.9%	18.0%

*Fewer than 10,000 estimate not shown.

^Less than 0.5%.

¹ Standard Occupational Classification SOC2000 was first used in Labour Force Survey in Spring 2001.

TABLE 6a: GB WORKFORCE BY INDUSTRY (INDSECT), AGE AND GENDER

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey (Qtr 2 2007 – Great Britain) (thousands, per cent of all employed in age group)

	16-24			25-49			50-59/64 (SPA)			SPA and over		
	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women
All in Employment thousands=100%	3,735	1,911	1,824	16,342	8,702	7,640	6,397	3,805	2,592	1,182	393	789

Split by industry:												
Agriculture and Fishing	1.2%	1.7%	0.6%	1.1%	1.5%	0.6%	1.5%	1.9%	1.0%	3.8%	6.5%	2.4%
Energy and Water	0.8%	1.0%	0.6%	1.2%	1.7%	0.8%	1.4%	2.0%	0.6%	*	*	*
Manufacturing	9.4%	13.0%	5.7%	13.4%	18.5%	7.5%	14.5%	19.5%	7.3%	8.5%	13.5%	5.9%
Construction	8.8%	16.0%	1.3%	8.1%	13.5%	1.8%	8.5%	13.2%	1.5%	4.7%	9.8%	2.2%
Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants	38.9%	35.9%	42.1%	15.8%	15.0%	16.7%	14.6%	13.3%	16.7%	20.0%	17.5%	21.2%
Transport and Communications	4.7%	5.6%	3.7%	7.1%	10.0%	3.9%	7.5%	10.6%	3.1%	4.7%	9.2%	2.4%
Banking, Finance and Insurance	12.8%	11.2%	14.6%	18.3%	19.2%	17.3%	13.9%	15.0%	12.3%	15.1%	17.3%	14.0%
Public Administration, Education and Health	14.7%	8.0%	21.6%	29.4%	15.6%	45.0%	32.0%	18.7%	51.4%	33.3%	14.5%	42.6%
Other services	8.6%	7.6%	9.8%	5.7%	4.9%	6.5%	5.9%	5.8%	6.2%	9.5%	10.8%	8.8%
Workplace outside UK	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

*Fewer than 10,000 estimate not shown.

^Less than 0.5%.

TABLE 6b: GB WORKFORCE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, AGE AND GENDER

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey (Qtr 2 2007 – Great Britain) (thousand, per cent of all employed in age group)

	16-24			25-49			50-59/64 (SPA)			SPA and over		
	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women
All in Employment thousands=100%	3,735	1,911	1,824	16,342	8,702	7,640	6,397	3,805	2,592	1,182	393	789

Split by Educational Attainment:												
Degree or equivalent	12.4%	10.8%	14.0%	27.0%	26.3%	27.8%	19.6%	20.3%	18.7%	13.6%	18.5%	11.1%
Higher Education	4.7%	4.0%	5.5%	10.6%	9.3%	12.0%	11.4%	9.4%	14.3%	11.4%	9.2%	12.6%
GCE A level or equivalent	35.8%	35.1%	36.6%	21.2%	24.3%	17.7%	23.8%	30.6%	13.9%	15.6%	26.1%	10.4%
GCSE grades A-C or equivalent	31.8%	31.3%	32.2%	22.2%	18.5%	26.4%	16.5%	11.9%	23.3%	14.5%	8.1%	17.7%
Other qualifications	8.8%	10.9%	6.5%	12.6%	14.2%	10.7%	14.4%	14.4%	14.3%	18.0%	13.6%	20.2%
No qualifications	6.5%	7.9%	5.1%	6.4%	7.3%	5.4%	14.3%	13.4%	15.6%	26.9%	24.4%	28.1%

*Fewer than 10,000 estimate not shown.

^Less than 0.5%.

TABLE 7: HOUSEHOLDS WITH OLDER PEOPLE BY TENURE AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey (Qtr 2 2007 - Great Britain) not seasonally adjusted

	At least one household member aged 50-59/64 (SPA)	At least one household member aged over SPA
Number of Households (000s)	6,502	7,946
Percentage with:		
Dependent child(ren) aged under 19	16.0%	2.2%
Owner/occupiers	79.9%	74.7%
owning outright	38.5%	65.0%
with mortgage	41.1%	9.5%
part rent/part mortgage	^	^
Renting:	20.1%	25.3%
from Local Authority/Housing Association	14.4%	20.6%
rent free	0.7%	1.7%
Working households		
....as a percentage of total households	81.6%	25.8%
Household composition¹:		
Single, not in work	8.0%	41.6%
Single, in work	13.0%	3.3%
Two or more adults, none in work	10.4%	32.6%
Two or more adults, all in work	39.8%	5.4%
Two or more adults, one or more in work but not all in work	28.7%	17.1%

*Fewer than 10,000 estimate not shown.

^Less than 0.5%.

¹ Single households are households consisting of one adult or one adult with dependent children; households with two or more adults also include lone parents with non-dependent children.

TABLE 8: GB WORKFORCE BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey (Qtr 2 2007 – Great Britain) (thousands, per cent of all employed in age group)

Background Details:	All aged between 16-SPA	16-24	25-49	50-59/64 (SPA)	SPA and over
Total population (000s)	35,639	6,667	20,043	8,928	10,735
as a proportion of 16+ population	76.9%	14.4%	43.2%	19.3%	23.1%
Proportion of age group in employment	74.3%	56.0%	81.5%	71.6%	11.0%
Proportion in each age group out of the total working in:					
the public sector	95.9%	6.5%	62.6%	26.9%	4.1%
the private sector	95.7%	15.6%	58.1%	22.0%	4.3%
self-employed	91.8%	4.0%	56.1%	31.7%	8.2%
a workplace of less than 25 employees	94.2%	17.2%	54.4%	22.6%	5.8%
a workplace of 25 to 49 employees	96.7%	15.9%	57.7%	23.1%	3.3%
a workplace of 50 or more employees	97.5%	11.7%	63.9%	21.8%	2.5%
Proportion of employees in age group who have received work training in the last three months	28.7%	33.6%	29.3%	24.3%	15.2%

TABLE 9: STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON SELECTED PROGRAMMES

Table 9a: Participants in and job entries from the New Deal and Employment Zones programmes

		Total		Those aged under 50		Those aged over 50	
		Individual starts	Individual jobs	Individual starts	Individual jobs	Individual starts	Individual jobs
New Deal 25 plus Enhanced	Apr 2001 – Feb 2007	498,080	222,000	381,420	189,960	116,660	32,040
New Deal for Lone Parents	Oct 1998 – Feb 2007	745,210	506,320	728,190	495,500	17,020	10,820
New Deal for Disabled People	Jul 2001 – Feb 2007	242,260	140,920	167,090	97,160	75,170	43,760
Employment Zones	Apr 2000 – Feb 2007	162,120	79,110	139,460	70,850	22,660	8,260
Total		1,647,670	948,350	1,416,160	853,470	231,510	94,880

Source: DWP Information Directorate

Notes:

1. All figures have been rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Totals in this table include people for whom age is not recorded. Because of this, and due to rounding, components will not necessarily sum to totals.
3. Data is cumulative up to the end of February 2007. The New Deal 25 plus Enhanced programme started in April 2001; New Deal for Lone Parents started in October 1998; New Deal for Disabled People started in July 2001 and Employment Zones started in April 2000.
4. Prior to 1 June 2007, New Deal 25 plus participants who were aged 50-59 were not mandated to the full programme, they were only mandated to the Gateway and had voluntary access to the rest of the programme. Since June this difference in treatment has been removed and now all customers aged 25-59 are mandated to the Intensive Activity Period of the New Deal 25 plus. Therefore care should be taken when making comparisons between those aged under and over 50.

TABLE 9: STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON SELECTED PROGRAMMES

Table 9b: New Deal 50 plus statistics

	Total	Ages 50-54	Ages 55-59	Ages 60+	Disabled	Ethnic Minorities
Employment Credit starts Apr 2000 - Mar 2003	98,040	55,940	37,110	4,830	33,190	4,520
Individuals gaining jobs Apr 2003 – Feb 2007	74,760	38,830	31,740	4,160	27,670	4,520
Individual starts Jan 2004 - Feb 2007	80,940	43,870	31,320	3,560	27,480	6,360

Source: DWP Information Directorate

Notes:

1. More statistics on New Deal 50 plus are available from the DWP Tabulation Tool, http://83.244.183.180/new_deals/nd50plus/live/tabtool.html
2. Information on New Deal 50 plus caseload starts is now available from January 2004 onwards.
3. Information on the numbers of Employment Credit starts is available for the period April 2000 to March 2003. In April 2003, the Employment Credit was replaced by the 50 plus return to work element of the Working Tax Credit. Data is now available on the number of individuals gaining jobs through New Deal 50 plus from April 2003 to date, but these figures are not closely comparable with Employment Credit figures as indicators of programme outcomes.
4. Disabled is defined as those recorded by Jobcentre Plus as having a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.
5. Jobs gained from April 2006 onwards may be underestimated due to changed recording procedures in Jobcentre Plus as a result of the introduction of the Job Outcome Target.

KEY INDICATORS: OLDER WORKERS IN GREAT BRITAIN - UP TO QUARTER 2 2007 nsa						
Subject	Older Workers			All of Working Age		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Population	5,229,301	3,698,996	8,928,297	18,360,961	17,278,240	35,639,201
Employment (Apr-Jun 2007)						
-level	3,804,872	2,591,632	6,396,504	14,417,318	12,055,839	26,473,157
-change on previous year	+52,891 +1.4%	+14,267 +0.6%	+67,158 +1.1%	+81,802 +0.6%	-59,286 -0.5%	+22,516 +0.1%
-rate	72.8%	70.1%	71.6%	78.5%	69.8%	74.3%
-change on previous year	+0.0%	+1.1%	+0.5%	+0.0%	-0.4%	-0.2%
Claimant Count¹ (August 2007)						
-level	92,575	39,510	132,085	593,900	234,980	828,875
-change on previous year	-11,965 -11.4%	-3,715 -8.6%	-15,680 -10.6%	-75,940 -11.3%	-20,295 -8.0%	-96,240 -10.4%
-1 year plus unemployment as a % of all unemployed in age group	36.5%	26.1%	33.4%	17.6%	12.3%	16.1%
-2 year plus unemployment as a % of all unemployed in age group	19.6%	12.0%	17.3%	5.6%	3.5%	5.0%
ILO unemployment² (Apr-Jun 2007)						
-level	147,490	69,067	216,557	864,162	652,337	1,516,499
-change on previous year	+16,344 +12.5%	-190 -0.3%	+16,154 +8.1%	-26,817 -3.0%	-1,873 -0.3%	-28,690 -1.9%
-1 year plus unemployment as a % of all unemployed in age group	39.8%	29.5%	36.5%	28.8%	17.5%	24.0%
-2 year plus unemployment as a % of all unemployed in age group	21.0%	15.8%	19.4%	13.2%	10.2%	11.9%
Economic Activity (Apr-Jun 2007)						
Activity Rate	75.6%	71.9%	74.1%	83.2%	73.6%	78.5%
Inactivity Rate	24.4%	28.1%	25.9%	16.8%	26.4%	21.5%
Key Benefit Claimants by Client Group³ (Feb 2007)						
Total	1,073,000	757,000	1,830,000	2,662,000	2,691,000	5,353,000
Job Seeker	109,000	44,000	152,000	685,000	252,000	936,000
Incapacity benefits of which:	761,000	456,000	1,217,000	1,551,000	1,111,000	2,662,000
Incapacity Benefit	727,000	414,000	1,140,000	1,441,000	993,000	2,433,000
Severe Disablement Allowance	34,000	43,000	77,000	110,000	119,000	229,000
Lone Parent	4,000	18,000	22,000	35,000	736,000	771,000
Carer	55,000	89,000	143,000	109,000	265,000	374,000
Other on Income Related Benefit	86,000	13,000	99,000	112,000	51,000	163,000
Disabled	51,000	66,000	117,000	155,000	174,000	330,000
Bereaved	9,000	71,000	79,000	15,000	102,000	117,000
Workless Households (Quarter 2 2007)⁴						
-proportion of households in age group with no members working	n/a	n/a	19.3%	n/a	n/a	16.1%

Country Analysis	England			Scotland			Wales		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Employment Rates (Quarter 2 2007)									
16-59/64	78.6%	69.5%	74.2%	79.7%	73.8%	76.8%	75.2%	68.2%	71.8%
50-59/64	73.1%	70.3%	71.9%	73.9%	71.9%	73.1%	66.0%	63.8%	65.1%
ILO Unemployment Rates (Quarter 2 2007)									
All 16 and over	5.7%	5.1%	5.5%	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%	6.1%	5.4%	5.8%
50-59/64	4.0%	2.8%	3.5%	0.9%	1.5%	1.2%	3.3%	1.6%	2.6%

¹ Claimant count figures relate to all aged 50 and over and all aged 16 and over.

² In each case households are selected for analysis if they have at least one member who falls into the relevant age band. Note that these figures can be affected by household composition, such as the number of single person households. Figures are adjusted for households of unknown economic activity (LFS household datasets).

³ The Key Benefit Claimants section now uses 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) data, covering some groups of benefit claimants not included in the previous Key Indicators tables. Individuals are placed in the first relevant group. More information on this data may be found at: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/guidance.pdf>

⁴ n/a = sample size too small.

ANALYSIS

- Based on the Quarter 2 2007 Labour Force Survey, a survey primarily of private households, there were 8.9 million people aged between 50 and the State Pension Age (SPA), currently 60 for women and 65 for men.
- At the same time this survey shows there were 19.7 million people aged 50 and over in Great Britain, making up 42.4% of the adult population.
- Projections from the Government Actuary's Department indicate that people aged 50 or over in Great Britain will rise to 24.5 million by 2020 and 28.4 million by 2041.

Employment Rate

- There are around 6.4million older workers in employment – this accounts for 71.6% of the age group and is an increase of +0.5 percentage points in the employment rate for the group since Quarter 2 2006.
- The employment rate increased for women, but remained stable for men leaving a relatively small number of the age group claiming JSA (132,085). Since Quarter 2 2003, the 50-SPA employment rate for both men and women has been higher than any time since the early 1980s.
- The gap in the employment rate of older workers and the working population as a whole has reduced to 2.7 percentage points, with the gap between the employment rate of 50-SPA men and 25-49 year old men close to that seen 20 years ago.
- In recent years the employment rate for the over 50s has tended to increase faster than the overall employment rate.

Claimant Count

- The number of older JSA claimants has fallen by 15,680 (-10.6%) in the year to August 2007. Older claimants are more likely to be long term unemployed than the average. Amongst JSA claimants aged 50 and over, 33.4% have been claiming for 1 year or more and 17.3% for 2 years or more.
- Older claimants account for 15.9% of the total claimant count in August 2007.

ILO Unemployment

- ILO unemployment is the internationally agreed definition of unemployment. The International Labour Organisation - an agency of the United Nations, recommends it. Under ILO guidelines, all people aged 16 and over can be classified into one of three states: in employment; ILO unemployed; or economically inactive.
- ILO unemployed people are:
Out of work, want a job, have actively sought work in the last 4 weeks and are available to start work in the next 2 weeks; or
Out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start it in the next 2 weeks.
- The ILO unemployment level of those aged 50 to SPA rose by 8.1% in the year to Quarter 2 2007, compared to a decrease of 1.9% for all of working age.

Economic Inactivity Rate

- A person is economically inactive if they are not in work and are not actively seeking work.
- 25.9% of people between 50 and SPA are economically inactive, around 2.3million people.

Sickness and Disability Benefits

- There are 1.22 million claimants of incapacity benefits aged 50 to SPA, accounting for 45.7% of all working age sick and disabled claimants. The number of people aged 50 to SPA receiving Incapacity Benefit (IB) in February 2007 was 1.14million (46.9% of all working age claimants) and 77,000 (33.6% of all working age claimants) were receiving Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA).

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These statistics are compiled by the Department for Work and Pensions, Extending Working Life Division's Economist Team, and as part of the Government's commitment to provide information on the position of Older Workers in the Labour Market.

Information is from the ONS (Office for National Statistics) Labour Force Survey data for Quarter 2 (Apr-Jun) 2007.

If you require further information, please write to:

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DWP Department for
Work and Pensions

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