

**ZA4883**

**Flash Eurobarometer 247  
(Family life and the needs of an ageing population)**

**Country Specific Questionnaire  
United Kingdom**

# 2008 EUROBAROMETER ON FAMILIES, AND ADAPTING TO THE NEEDS OF AN AGEING POPULATION

## BACKGROUND VARIABLES

### D1. Gender

[DO NOT ASK - MARK APPROPRIATE]

- [1] Male
- [2] Female

### D2. How old are you?

- [ ][ ] years old
- [00] [REFUSAL/NO ANSWER]

### D3. How old were you when you stopped full-time education?

[WRITE IN THE AGE WHEN EDUCATION WAS TERMINATED]

- [ ][ ] years old
- [00] [STILL IN FULL TIME EDUCATION]
- [01] [NEVER BEEN IN FULL TIME EDUCATION]
- [99] [REFUSAL/NO ANSWER]

### D4. As far as your current occupation is concerned, would you say you are self-employed, an employee, a manual worker or would you say that you are without a professional activity? Does it mean that you are a(n)...

[IF A RESPONSE TO THE MAIN CATEGORY IS GIVEN, READ OUT THE RESPECTIVE SUB-CATEGORIES]

#### - Self-employed

- i.e. :
  - farmer, forester, fisherman.....11
  - owner of a shop, craftsman.....12
  - professional (lawyer, medical practitioner, accountant, architect,...) .....13
  - manager of a company .....14
  - other .....15

#### - Employee

- i.e. :
  - professional (employed doctor, lawyer, accountant, architect).....21
  - general management, director or top management .....22
  - middle management .....23
  - Civil servant.....24
  - office clerk .....25
  - other employee (salesman, nurse, etc...).....26
  - other .....27

<b>- Manual worker</b>	
→ i.e. :	- supervisor / foreman (team manager, etc...).....31
	- Manual worker.....32
	- unskilled manual worker.....33
	- other .....34
<b>- Without a professional activity</b>	
→ i.e. :	- looking after the home.....41
	- student (full time).....42
	- retired .....43
	- seeking a job .....44
	- other .....45
	- [Refusal].....99

**D6. Would you say you live in a ...?**

large city .....	1
other town/urban centre.....	2
rural zone.....	3
[Refusal] .....	9

**THEME 1: FAMILIES**

**Satisfaction with family life & Importance of family**

**Q1. Now, we are going to talk about family life and work, and policy actions in these areas. How satisfied would you say you are with...**

Very satisfied.....	1
Fairly satisfied.....	2
Not very satisfied .....	3
Not at all satisfied .....	4
[DK/NA] .....	9
a) Your family life.....	1 2 3 4 9
b) Public support for families with children .....	1 2 3 4 9
c) Public support for people caring for dependent older relatives .....	1 2 3 4 9

## Difficulties in daily life faced by families

**Q2. I am going to read out a list of difficulties which families could face. In your opinion, from this list, what are the two main difficulties?**

**[ROTATE ITEMS - READ OUT - ONLY TWO ANSWERS ARE POSSIBLE!]**

High cost of raising children .....	1
High cost of housing.....	2
Difficulty of combining work and family life .....	3
Too little support from employers .....	4
Unequal sharing of household tasks between partners .....	5
Arranging good childcare.....	6
Burden of caring for ageing parents or relatives.....	7
The quality of schooling.....	8
The level of public financial support for families .....	9
[None].....	10
[Other] .....	11
[DK/NA] .....	99

## Work life balance

**Q3. Do you personally find it very difficult, fairly difficult, fairly easy or very easy to combine work and family life?**

**[READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY]**

Very difficult.....	1
Fairly difficult .....	2
Fairly easy .....	3
Very easy .....	4
[[DK/NA] .....	9

**Q4. Combining work and child care can be organised in different ways. I am going to read out several possible options, please tell me which one you believe is most practicable and realistic, taking into account the need to earn a living?**

**[READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY]**

Both parents working full time .....	1
Both parents working part time.....	2
One parent working full time, the other one working part time.....	3
One parent working full time, the other one looking full time after the children.....	4
[DK/NA] .....	9

**Q5. Various policy measures can help improve life for families. For each of the measures I am going to read out, would you say it should receive high, medium or low priority for policy action in the United Kingdom?**

**[ROTATE ITEMS – ONE ANSWER PER LINE]**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| High priority .....   | 1 |
| Middle priority ..... | 2 |
| Low priority .....    | 3 |
| [DK/NA] .....         | 9 |
- 
- |                                                                                                   |   |   |   |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| a) Longer paid parental leave .....                                                               | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| b) Incentives for fathers to take parental leave .....                                            | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| c) Easier access to part-time work .....                                                          | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| d) Access to more flexible childcare arrangements .....                                           | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| e) Increased child allowances .....                                                               | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| f) Implementing the right of paid leave to care for dependent elderly parents and relatives ..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| g) Increased tax advantages for families with children .....                                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 |

**Q6. Childcare for pre-school children can be organised in different ways, sometimes combining several options, sometimes relying on only one option. In your opinion, what is the best way of organising childcare for pre-school children? A combination of these options is possible.**

**[READ OUT – MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE]**

- |                                                                                                                |   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Public or private crèche /day care centre /nursery .....                                                       | 1 |
| In-house child minder or au pair .....                                                                         | 2 |
| Certified child minding in a private home i.e. by a person who is registered/certified for child minding ..... | 3 |
| Childcare by mother .....                                                                                      | 4 |
| Childcare by father .....                                                                                      | 5 |
| Childcare by grand-parents or other relatives .....                                                            | 6 |
| [Other] .....                                                                                                  | 7 |
| [None] .....                                                                                                   | 8 |
| [DK/NA] .....                                                                                                  | 9 |

**THEME 2: THE NEEDS OF AN AGEING POPULATION**

**We are now going to talk about the needs of people as they get older.**

**SPLIT BALLOT**

**IF NOT RETIRED [OTHER ANSWER THAN 43 IN D4]**

**Q7a. Thinking of the time when you retire, would you consider...?**

- Yes ..... 1
- No.....2
- [DK/NA] .....9

- a) Enrol(ling/led) in educational courses..... 1 2 9
- b) Participat(ing/ed) in community work or volunteering ..... 1 2 9
- c) Seek(ing/sought) a job for extra income ..... 1 2 9
- d) Invest(ing/ed) in some property ..... 1 2 9
- e) Sell(ing/sold) some property or other assets to have cash available ..... 1 2 9
- f) Borrow(ing/ed) against your home or sell/sold it while keeping the right to live in it ..... 1 2 9
- g) Sav(ing/ed) money or tak(ing/en) up insurance in case you become dependent ..... 1 2 9
- h) Adapt(ing/ed) your home to account for a loss of mobility ..... 1 2 9
- i) Stop(ping/ped) driving ..... 1 2 9
- j) Mov(ing/ed) to a different home..... 1 2 9

**IF RETIRED [D4=43]**

**Q7b. Since you retired, have you already or are you planning to...?**

- Yes, I have done this ..... 1
- Yes, I am planning to do this .....2
- No.....3
- [DK/NA] .....9

- a) Enrol(ling/led) in educational courses..... 1 2 3 9
- b) Participat(ing/ed) in community work or volunteering ..... 1 2 3 9
- c) Seek(ing/sought) a job for extra income ..... 1 2 3 9
- d) Invest(ing/ed) in some property ..... 1 2 3 9
- e) Sell(ing/sold) some property or other assets to have cash available ..... 1 2 3 9
- f) Borrow(ing/ed) against your home or sell/sold it while keeping the right to live in it ..... 1 2 3 9
- g) Sav(ing/ed) money or tak(ing/en) up insurance in case you become dependent ..... 1 2 3 9
- h) Adapt(ing/ed) your home to account for a loss of mobility ..... 1 2 3 9
- i) Stop(ping/ped) driving ..... 1 2 3 9
- j) Mov(ing/ed) to a different home..... 1 2 3 9

[IF Q7a\_j OR Q7b\_j = YES]

**Q8. What type of home?**

[READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY]

Smaller house / flat in the same city/location.....	1
Mov(ing/ed) to the country side .....	2
Mov(ing/ed) to an urban area .....	3
Mov(ing/ed) to sheltered housing .....	4
Mov(ing/ed) abroad .....	5
Mov(ing/ed) in with family members .....	6
Mov(ing/ed) closer to family members.....	7
[Other] .....	8
[DK/NA] .....	9

**Policy actions**

(ASK ALL)

**Q9. For each of the following possible policies in the United Kingdom, would you say it is very important, fairly important, not very important or not at all important to implement them?**

[ROTATE – ONE ANSWER PER LINE]

Very important .....	1
Fairly important.....	2
Not very important .....	3
Not at all important .....	4
[DK/NA] .....	9

a) Encouraging people to lead healthy lifestyles.....	1	2	3	4	9
b) Forcing employers to offer easier access to working part time for older employees.....	1	2	3	4	9
c) Giving people the right to combine paid activity and receiving a pension .....	1	2	3	4	9
d) Using public budgets to provide financial assistance for home adaptation.....	1	2	3	4	9
e) Shifting public investment towards more accessible public transport .....	1	2	3	4	9
f) Using public budgets to support services allowing older people to stay longer in their homes .....	1	2	3	4	9
g) Encouraging older people to get involved in senior volunteering.....	1	2	3	4	9
h) Using public budgets to support initiatives and projects which bring together young and older people.....	1	2	3	4	9

**Q10. Which of the following best describes your household composition?**

**[READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY]**

Single person household .....	1
Married or cohabiting couple, no children or no children living at home .....	2
Single parent, one or more children living at home.....	3
Married or cohabiting couple, with one or more children living at home .....	4
Other .....	5
[DK/NA] .....	9

**Q11. How many children do you have...**

a. younger than 6 years old? .....	.....
b. between the ages of 6 and 15? .....	.....
c. older than 15 years of age? .....	.....

**Q12. How would you describe the current financial situation of your family?**

**[READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY]**

Very comfortable .....	1
Comfortable.....	2
We have to be careful, but we manage .....	3
We have difficulties making ends meet .....	4
Things are very difficult .....	5
[DK/NA] .....	9