East Midlands Life & Work Survey 2003
Themed Summary Report – Third Age Respondents

Prepared for the East Midlands Observatory

Market Research UK Limited

February 2004

This document forms part of the *emda* Knowledge Bank

east midlands development agency

EAST MIDLANDS
LIFE & WORK SURVEY 2003

THEMED SUMMARY REPORT
THIRD AGE RESPONDENTS

February 2004

Prepared For: **EAST MIDLANDS OBSERVATORY**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Backgrou nd

The East Midlands Observatory (EMO) represents a network of partner organisations within the East Midlands with an interest and involvement in research and statistics about regional economic, social, environmental and spatial issues. EMO aims to be the primary point of access to research and statistics on the East Midlands.

The purpose of East Midlands Observatory is to enable partners to share research, collaborate on research projects and make findings easily available in order to facilitate the development of evidence based policy.

A key part of the Observatory's activities during 2002 and 2003 has been the commissioning and implementation of a large scale comprehensive Life and Work Survey conducted across the East Midlands Region.

In autumn 2002 Market Research UK Limited (**mruk social research**) was commissioned to design and conduct the survey.

The project builds on the successful collaborative model of research developed through successive household surveys in the region since 1994.

1.2 Changing Context

Since the last Household survey was completed in 2000 by a partnership involving TECs, Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) and East Midlands Development Agency (emda), the institutional context within which the survey was conducted has changed significantly. TECs have been replaced by a local Learning Skills Council and, Sub-regional Strategic Partnerships have been established covering the vast majority of the region. In addition, the Regional Assembly has taken on a more developed role in monitoring the state of the region.

These changes required a fundamental review of both survey context and sample construction/reporting levels with particular consideration to ensuring data collected would inform LLSC strategic plans and emda Regional Employment Strategy (including the

Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action - FRESA). The scope of the research was also broadened to reflect the need to inform the East Midlands Integrated Regional Strategy. In this context it is important to note that the survey did not set out to directly replicate previous household surveys or surveys that may cover similar subject areas.

1.3 Key Objectives

The key objectives of the household survey were (in summary):

- To provide comprehensive and robust data about the working age (and subsequently extended to third age) population of the East Midlands, to inform policy development and monitor regional performance on a number of related themes.
- Support work in relation to strategic planning for the region.
- Provide opportunities for gathering new data, boosting samples in particular localities and benchmarking.
- Ensure core data is statistically robust at county, SSP and Local Authority District (LAD) levels.

1.4 Survey Method

Overall, the survey was designed to collect information from a robust and representative sample of residents including those economically active and economically inactive. Residents from the ages of 16-74 years were interviewed in-home and the inclusion of those aged from 64-74 added a new strata to previous surveys.

The sample itself was selected using a systematic random probability technique to ensure relatively consistent levels of statistical reliability for each County, LSC, SSP and down to LAD level.

A core sample of 14,000 interviews was achieved across the region with samples in Leicestershire and Derbyshire boosted by 2520 and 450 respectively.

More detail on the sampling, survey method including questionnaire design, respondent selection, re-weighting, gathering and processing data is included in the separate comprehensive technical report. However, it is important to highlight that this and other output reports provide summary evaluation of a significant and detailed data set which in turn permits very detailed sub-analysis. Caution must though be exercised in relation to low level sub-analysis where sample sizes may fall outside the parameters of statistical significance.

The Life and Work Survey did not set out to replicate previous household surveys and, whilst some individual questions were framed to replicate previous surveys or other national surveys questionnaire structure was unique to this research project. When aligned with the widened scope of the 2003 survey and change of methodology (compared to previous household surveys) this means direct comparisons with previous (or other) surveys are not always meaningful or in some cases possible.

1.5 Theme of this Report - Third Age Respondents

The evaluative reporting of the survey features a range of report types. Summary reports have been produced that provide key findings for Learning Skills Council and Sub-regional Strategic Partnerships.

In addition a series of 'themed' reports and short précis style reports will examine specific topics and evaluate the associated key findings to emerge from the survey.

The focus of this particular report is on "third age" respondents. It looks at findings to emerge from the survey when the focus is on those respondents aged 45 - 74 years and particularly draws comparison between those within that group who are economically active and those economically inactive.

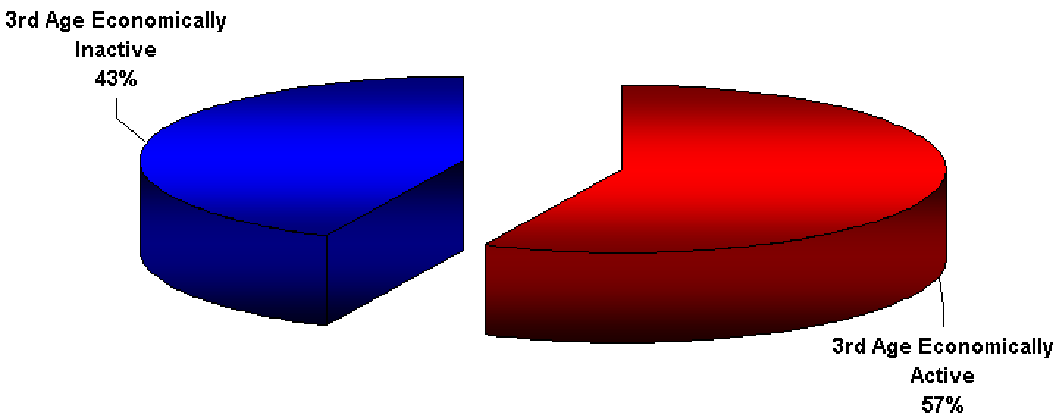
Readers should note that percentages quoted in the report will most often relate to a sub-set of the overall survey sample. Percentage figures quoted and illustrated are rounded up or down to the nearest full percentage point for ease of presentation and interpretation.

2. THIRD AGE - RESPONDENT BASE / ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

2.1 Base Analysis - Economic Activity

Consistent with the criteria used throughout the reporting process in relation to survey findings, third age respondents were analysed comparing those economically active and those inactive. Figure 1 below shows the initial weighted comparison. Respondents who are economically active (ie in employment, unemployed claiming Job Seekers Allowance or unemployed not seeking Job Seekers Allowance - and not retired, long term sick etc) account for 57% (a weighted base figure equivalent of 3,846 respondents) compared to 43% who are inactive (representing 2,917 respondents).

Figure 1: Third Age - Economic Activity



Base: All Third Age Respondents (6,763)

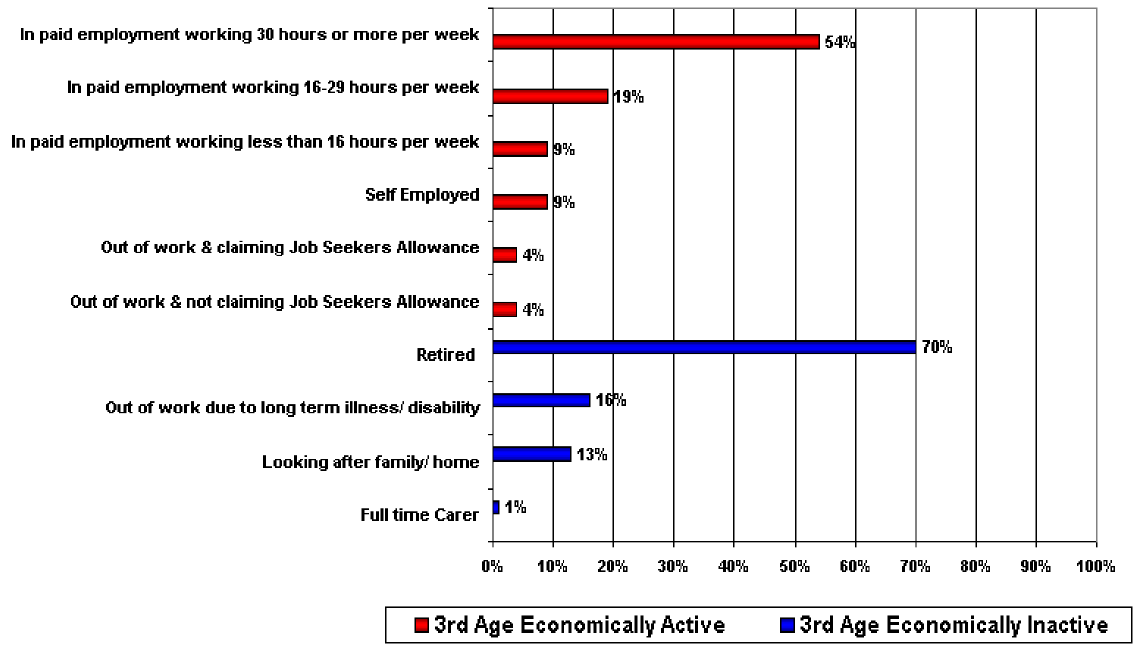
Source: mruk 2003

2.2 Emplo yment Status

Of those third age respondents economically active nearly 92% are in some form of employment. In particular, just over half (54%) are in full time paid employment and a further 9% self employed. Some 8% are out of work.

In comparison Figure 2 below shows that of those economically inactive the majority (somewhat inevitably) are retired from paid work altogether whereas 16% are out of work due to long term illness/ disability. 13% are looking after their family and/ or home.

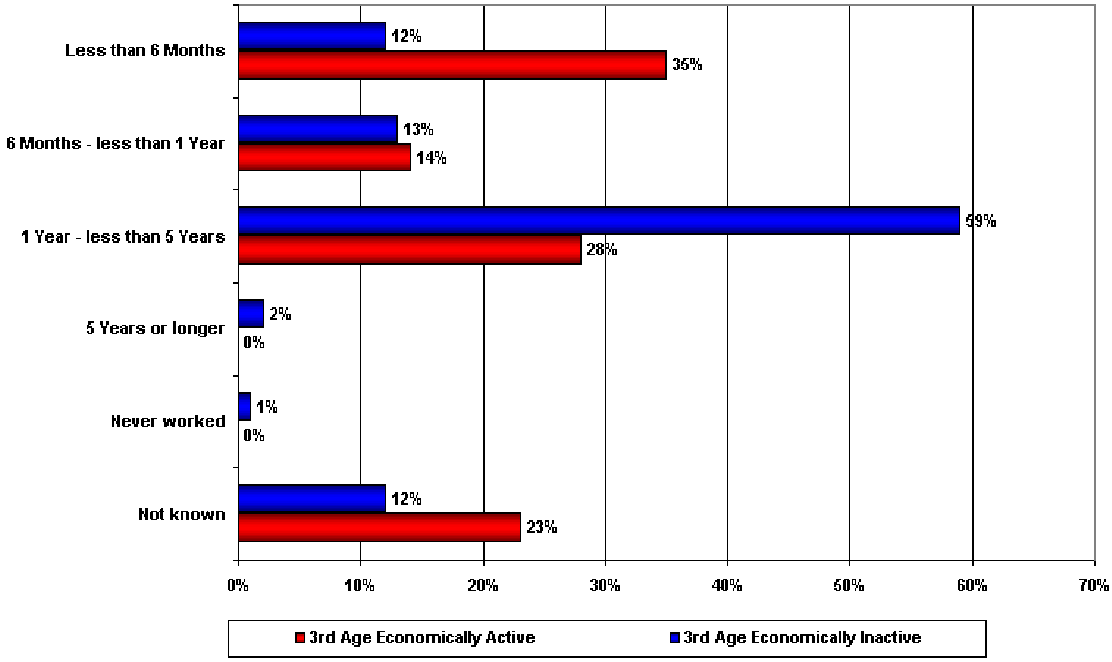
Figure 2: Employment Status



Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917)
Q ref: Q3
Source: mruk 2003

Of the proportion who are economically active but unemployed nearly half have been out of work for less than one year. This compares to one quarter of those now economically inactive.

Figure 3: Length of Unemployment



Base: Economically Active/ Unemployed (337), Economically Inactive (2,036)

Q ref: Q4

Source: mruk 2003

Of those economically active but currently out of work the vast majority (over two thirds) looked for alternative full time work when their last job ended, although less than one third are now currently looking for a full time job and would now like a full time job.

2.3 Employment Characteristics

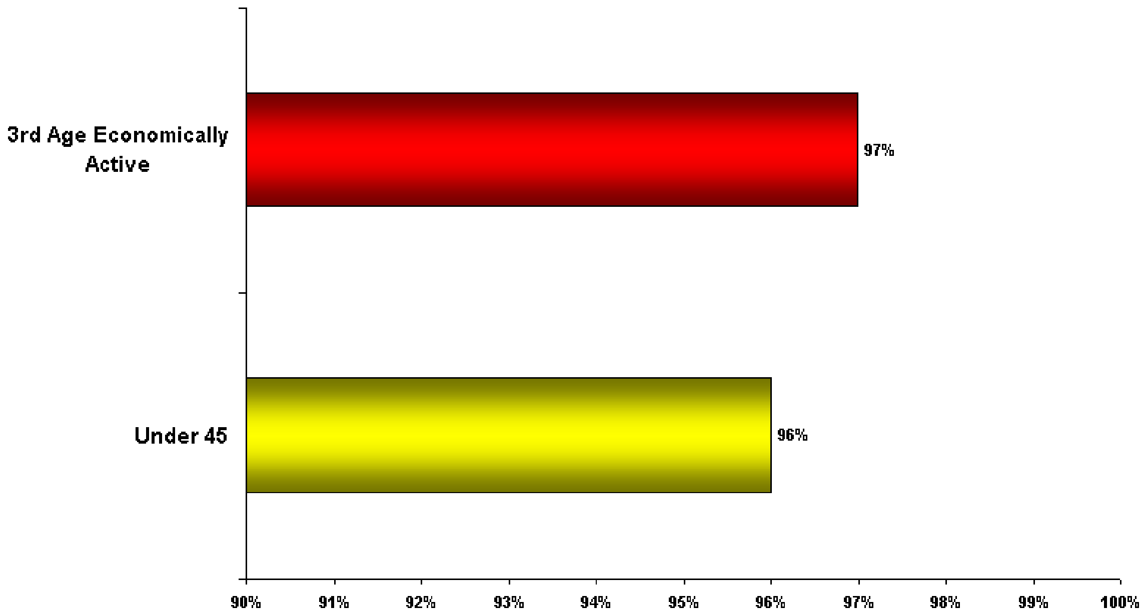
In examining the employment characteristics of economically active third age respondents the profile when compared to respondents aged under 45 and in work varies only marginally.

Using the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) of Economic Activities for example nearly 50% of third age respondents work in the service sector compared to 52% of those under the age of 45. Similarly 18% are in manufacturing and construction compared to nearly 15% of under 45's.

In sub-analysing main place of work nearly 6% of third age respondents work at home as do nearly 4% of under 45's. The equivalent figures for working at a single workplace away from home are 68% and 71% respectively. Modes of transport hardly vary at all with travel by car (nearly two thirds for both groups) by far the most popular.

Figure 4 below illustrates that the vast majority (97%) of third age respondents regard their job as "permanent" (nearly 96% of under 45's hold the same view).

Figure 4: Permanence of Employment



Base: In Employment: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,509), Under 45 (6,946)

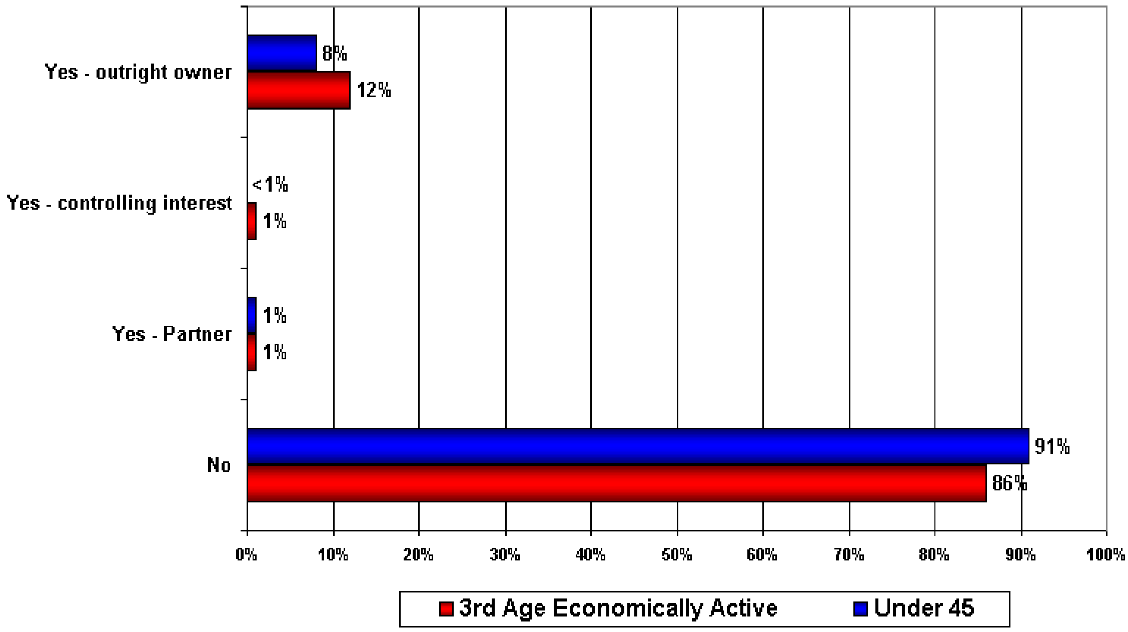
Q ref: Q17

Source: mruk 2003

2.4 Self Employment/ Business Start Up

14% of 3rd age respondents (economically active) are an owner, partner or have a controlling interest in a business enterprise compared to 9% of under 45's.

Figure 5: Owners/ Controlling Interest In Business Enterprise



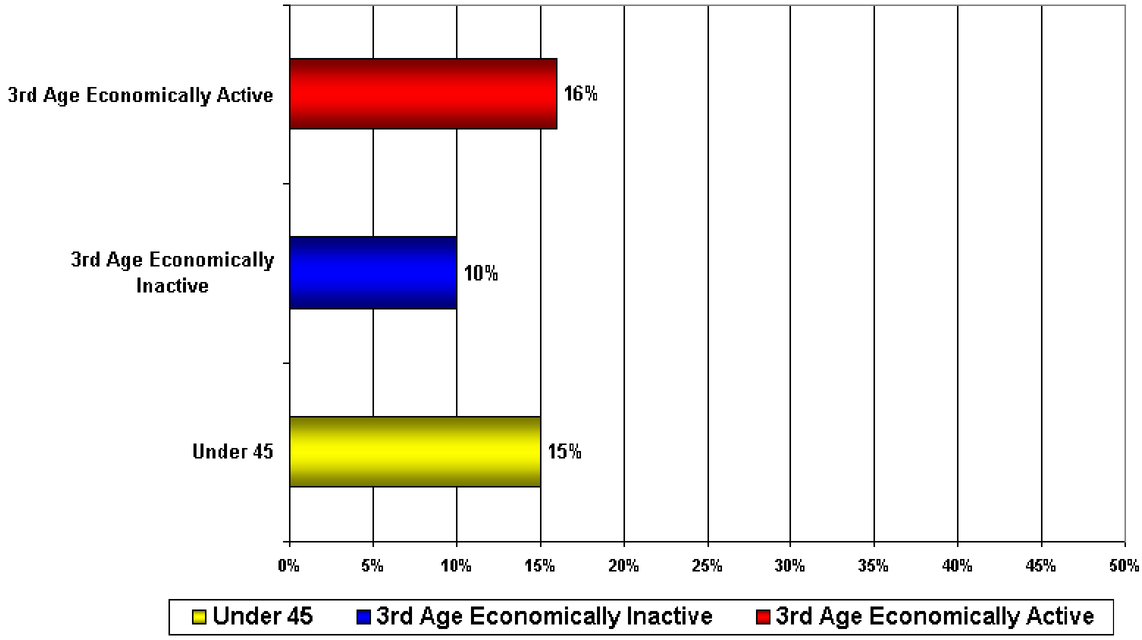
Base: In employment: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,509), Under 45 (6,946)

Q ref: Q19

Source: mruk 2003

Invariably, a higher proportion of those third age respondents economically active (excluding those current owners/ partners) have at some time considered starting up their own business. Only a very small minority of those economically inactive say they could in any way be "encouraged" to think about doing so.

Figure 6: Considered Starting Up Own Business



Base: Do not have own business: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,329), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (9,569)

Q ref: Q21

Source: mruk

3.1 Qualifications For Current Employment

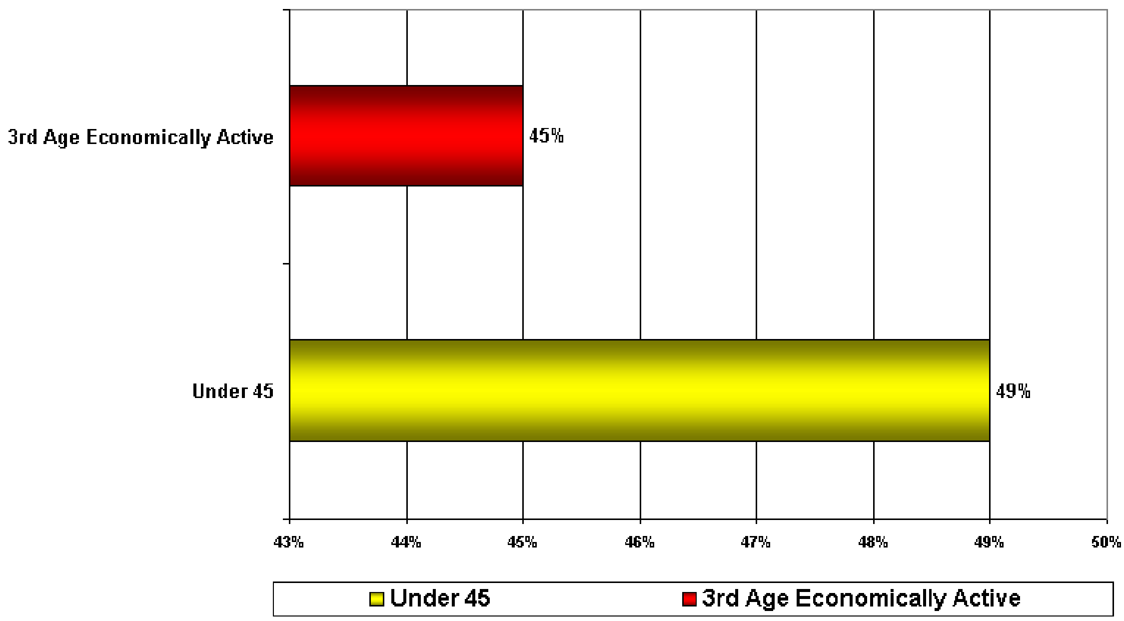
In relation to those in employment at the time of the survey over half (52%) of third age respondents concerned said that no qualifications would be needed to get the type of job they are doing if someone were applying today. This compares to 46% of under 45's who say the same.

Of those specifying qualifications they think are needed to get the kind of job they have at present some 80% of third age respondents consider those qualifications to be "fairly necessary" or "essential" as do 78% of under 45's. Again there appears little difference between the two age groups.

3.2 Training For Current Employment

45% of economically active third age respondents (in employment) have previously had or are currently receiving training for the type of work they do. This compares to 49% of under 45's.

Figure 7: Training Undertaken for Current Type of Work



Base: Have Qualifications: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,509), Under 45 (6,946)

Q ref: Q28

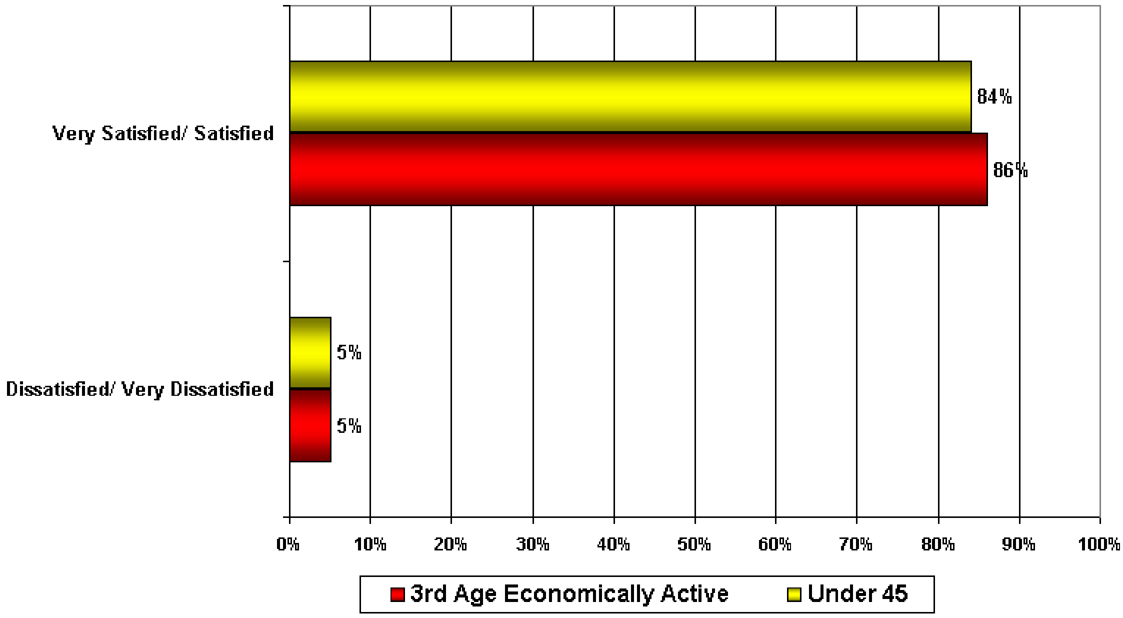
Source: mruk 2003

4. JOB SATISFACTION/ SECURITY

4.1 Satisfaction with Current Job

Overall, 86% of third age respondents who are working say they are satisfied with their job compared to 84% of under 45's. In particular 43% and 40% (respectively) say they are "very satisfied". In comparison only 5% in each case express any form of dissatisfaction.

Figure 8: Job Satisfaction



Base: In Employment: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,509), Under 45 (6,946)
Q ref: Q31
Source: mruk 2003

4.2 Security of Employment

Age clearly plays a part in perceptions of securing an alternative job comparable to current employment. It is notable that 56% of third age respondents believe it would prove difficult to find a job as good as their present one if looking for work today. This compares to 48% of under 45's.

However only 6% - 7% of both groups think there is some chance of losing their job and becoming unemployed within the next 12 months. Of those, just over one third in each think prospects of this happening are " quite" or "very" likely.

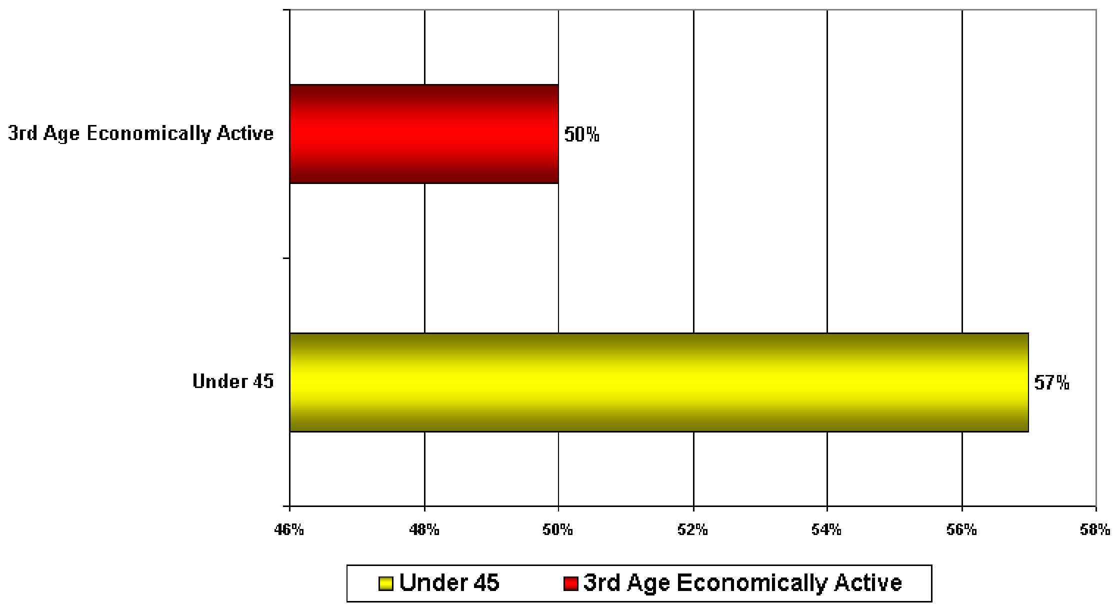
5. USE OF ICT AT WORK

5.1 Use Computer At Work

Just on half (50%) of the third age respondents who are working use a personal computer, or another form of computerised equipment in their job at present. This compares to 57% of under 45's.

However, of those using a computer at work approximately 43% of both age groups say their jobs entail using the internet of which the primary tasks include e-mail, searches for information (about organisations, products and services) and providing information to customers/ clients.

Figure 9: Job Involve Computer Use?



Base: In Employment: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,509), Under 45 (6,946)

Q ref: Q36

Source: mruk 2003

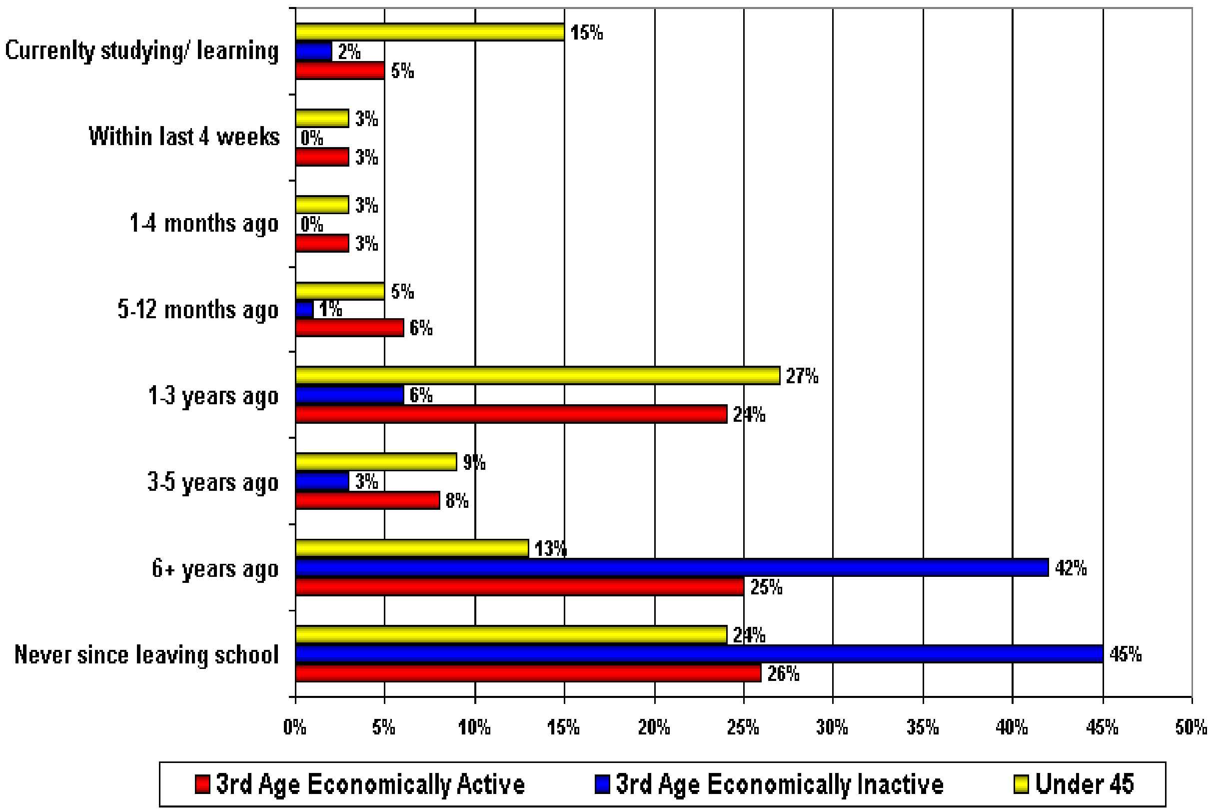
6.1 Training/ Learning Last Undertaken

Figure 10 below illustrates how recently respondents concerned **last** undertook any training or learning (which could include attending classes. Individual tuition, tutoring etc).

Approaching half (45%) of third age respondents who are economically inactive have not undertaken any training/ learning activities since leaving school. This compares to 26% of those economically active (and 24% under 45's).

Approximately 2% of those inactive are currently engaged in some form of training/ learning compared to 5% of those third age respondents active and 15% under 45's.

Figure 10: Most Recent Participation in Training/Learning?



Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

Q ref: Q41

Source: mruk 2003

6.2 Types of Training/ Learning

Of respondents who have undertaken training or learning in the last 12 months by far the highest proportions are those involving courses that lead to a qualification (delivered by a teacher, lecturer, tutor or instructor) and similarly delivered courses designed to help develop work based skills.

Those types of course account for 30% - 50% for third age respondents who are economically active. Inevitably the level leading to a qualification for under 45's is a higher 58%.

Figure 11 provides a comparative profile and also illustrates the extent to which methods such as e-learning, self-teaching and multiple tuition are utilised.

Figure 11: Types of Training/ Learning Undertaken in Past 12 Months

	3rd Age Economically Active	3rd Age Economically Inactive	Under 45
Courses which lead to qualification	30%	39%	58%
Courses designed to help develop skills needed in job	49%	17%	41%
Course/ instruction/ tuition	9%	12%	9%
Evening classes	11%	21%	7%
Learning, involving time with teacher and working on own	23%	19%	18%
Any other course delivered by teacher	13%	11%	9%
Studying for qualifications without taking part in course	3%	0%	7%
Supervised training whilst doing job	21%	3%	20%
Reading books, manuals, journals etc	37%	4%	21%
Deliberately trying to improve knowledge without course	25%	17%	15%
E-Learning	20%	19%	12%

Base: Undertaken Training in Last Year: 3rd Age Economically Active (657), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (118), Under 45 (2,734)

Q ref: Q42

Source: mruk 2003

6.3 Subject of Training/ Learning

Figure 12 below profiles the key subject matter in which training and learning was undertaken.

Notably prominent amongst all age groups is Information Technology. Half of 3rd age inactive respondents have undertaken IT courses in the last 12 months. Amongst those 3rd age active respondents Health and Safety training is the second most popular training/ learning (38%), whilst only 26% of under 45's have undertaken Health and Safety courses.

While less prominent, other notable subjects among third age economically active include personal skills (22%) and professional development (27%).

Figure 12: Subject of Training/ Learning

	3rd Age Economically Active	3rd Age Economically Inactive	Under 45
Health & Safety	38%	4%	26%
Quality standards	15%	2%	11%
IT Skills/ use of computer packages	39%	50%	29%
Developing manual skills but not craft level	8%	8%	10%
Developing manual skills to craft level	5%	4%	5%
Basic literacy skills	2%	1%	7%
Basic numeracy skills	2%	3%	8%
Management training	13%	3%	11%
Supervisory training	8%	0%	7%
Technician training	9%	1%	6%
Business skills	6%	4%	14%
Personal skills	22%	6%	20%
Foreign Language skills	3%	8%	3%
Customer Care skills	16%	2%	11%
Professional Development courses	27%	14%	18%

Base: Undertaken Training in Last Year: 3rd Age Economically Active (657), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (118), Under 45 (2,734)

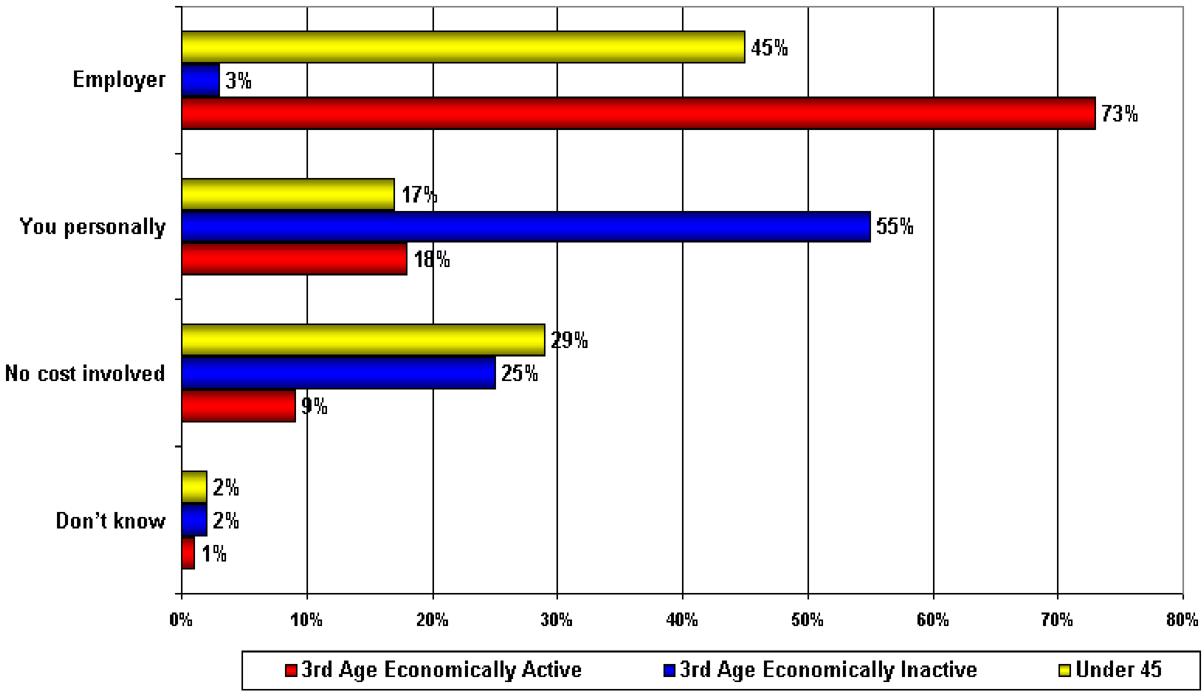
Q ref: Q43

Source: mruk 2003

6.4 Financing Training/Learning

In sub-analysing those who have undertaken training or learning within the last 12 months the survey estimates that nearly three quarters (73%) of third age respondents economically active had their training paid for by the employer, as did 45% of under 45's. The vast majority (55%) of third age inactive respondents paid for the training/ learning personally, while only 18% of active third age respondents paid themselves. Inevitably 29% of under 45's had no cost associated with the training or learning, compared to 9% of active third age respondents and a quarter (25%) of inactive third age respondents.

Figure 13: Who Paid for Training/Learning



Base: Undertaken Training in Last Year: 3rd Age Economically Active (657), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (118), Under 45 (2,734)

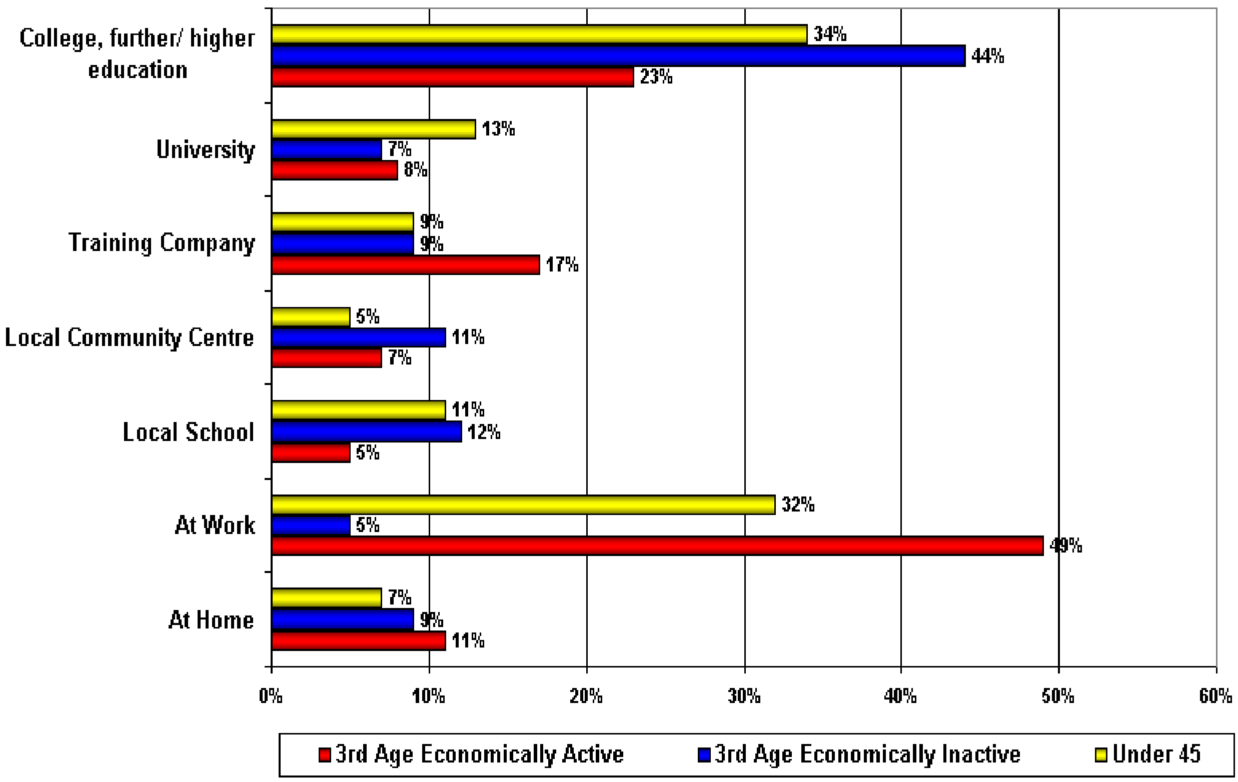
Q ref: Q44

Source: mruk 2003

6.5 Where Training/Learning Undertaken

Just under half (49%) of third age respondents in employment undertook their training/ learning at work compared to only 32% of under 45 respondents. The majority of economically inactive third age respondents carried out their learning at College and a further 12% at the local school. 34% of under 45's received training/ learning at College and 13% at University. 23% (just under a quarter) of economically active third age respondents undertook training at College, while 17% trained through Training Companies.

Figure 14: Where Training/Learning Undertaken



Base: Undertaken Training in Last Year: 3rd Age Economically Active (657), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (118), Under 45 (2,734)

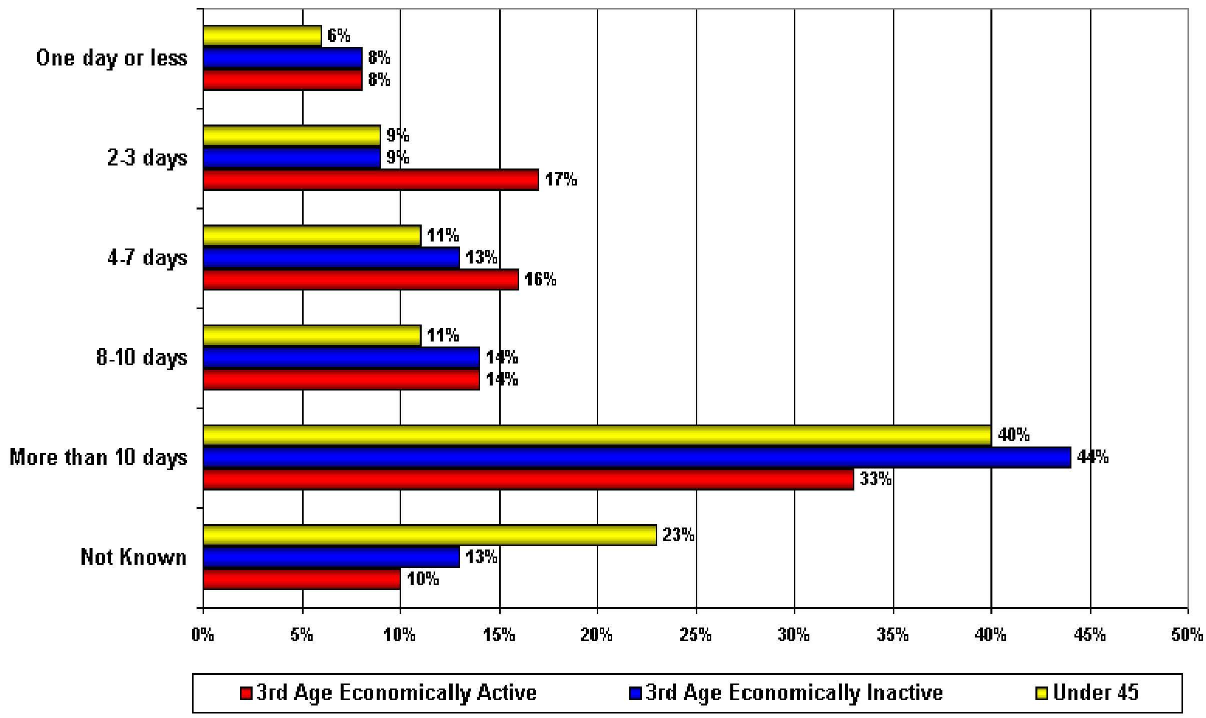
Q ref: Q45

Source: mruk 2003

6.6 Time Spent Training/Learning In Last 12 Months

More than 10 days in training or learning accounts for between 33% (third age active) and 44% (third age inactive) of all respondents concerned. Just under a quarter of under 45's (23%) are unsure as to how many days they have spent training in the last year.

Figure 15: Days Spent Training In Last 12 Months



Base: Undertaken Training in Last Year: 3rd Age Economically Active (657), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (118), Under 45 (2,734)

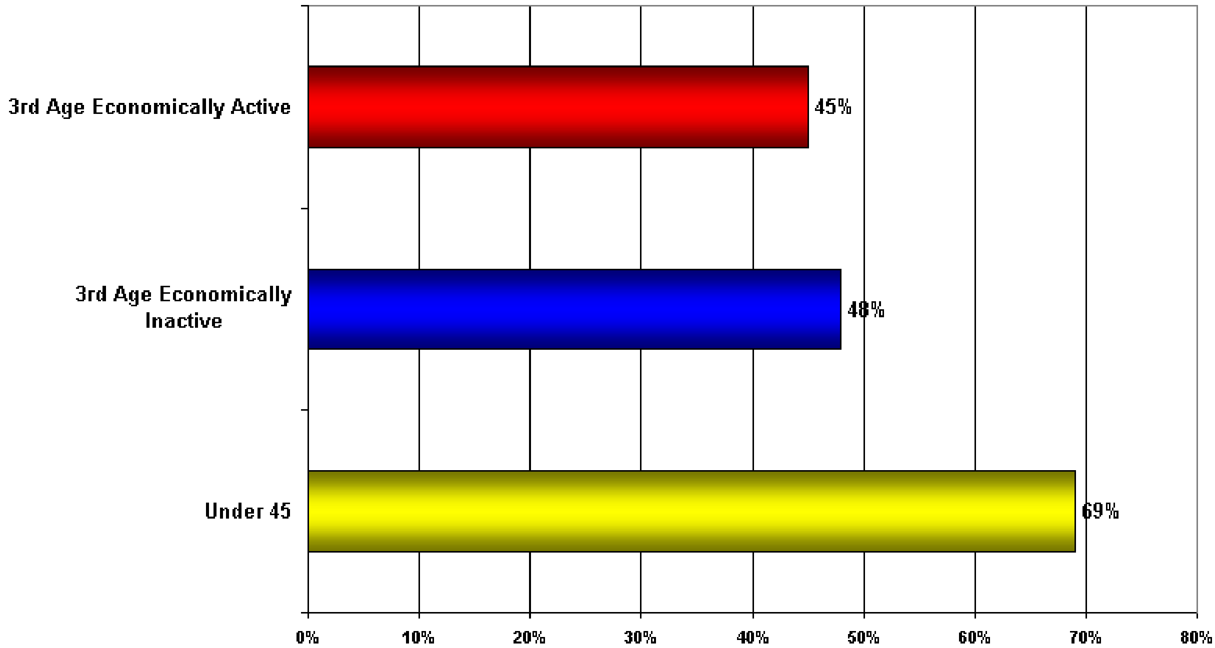
Q ref: Q46

Source: mruk 2003

6.7 Leading to Qualification?

Approaching half (45%) of third age respondents who are economically active who have undertaking training/ learning in the last 12 months say it has been leading to a qualification. This figure increases slightly (to 48%) among third age respondents who are economically inactive. This compares to respondents under 45, where the majority (69%) of training/ learning undertaken is leading to a qualification.

Figure 16: Training/Learning Leading To A Qualification?



Base: Undertaken Training in Last Year: 3rd Age Economically Active (657), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (118), Under 45 (2,734)

Q ref: Q47

Source: mruk 2003

6.8 Skills Needed

At this stage the survey sought to establish from all respondents the type of skills they felt they needed to develop over the next 12 months. The question was designed and framed to examine perceived needs for both work based skills development and personal skills development (ie for leisure or other reasons).

For both 3rd age respondents who are economically active and under 45 respondents, IT skills and use of computer packages was the highest work based skill which respondents needed to develop (11% for both). Work based practical skills were the second highest, with a higher percentage of under 45 respondents than third age (9% and 7% respectively). Third age economically active and under 45 respondents also mentioned Health and Safety skills, Management skills and Business skills as skills needed to develop in the work place.

Respondents' views remained the same regarding personal skills they feel they need to develop. Respondents from all age groups feel IT skills and the use of computer packages is the personal skill which they most need to develop. 7% of both third age categories and 8% of under 45's said this. Other personal skills respondents feel they need to develop include: Foreign language skills, Arts/crafts skills and Sports/ leisure and recreational skills (although no more than 5% specified any of these).

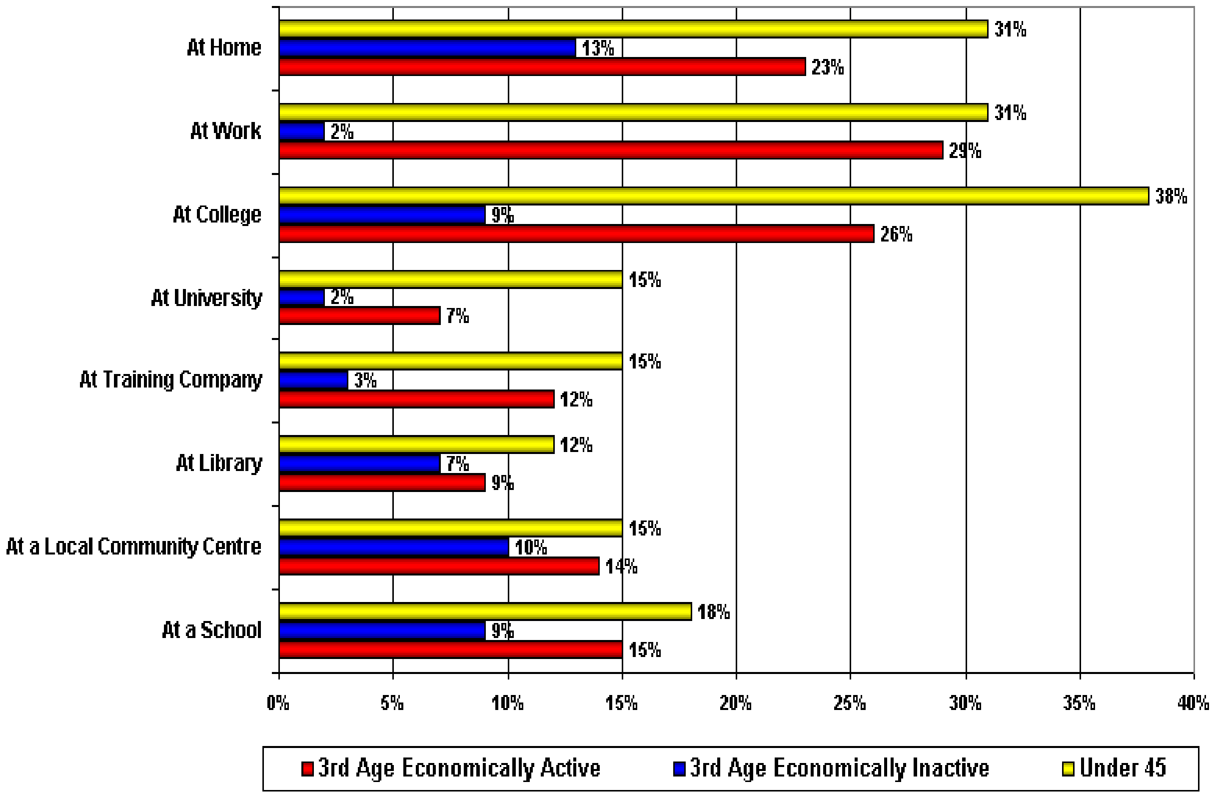
In relation to those who identified the need to develop IT skills/use of computer packages the primary skills requirements are estimated by the survey to include keyboard skills; finding out what computers can do, develop knowledge of operating systems, spreadsheet/accounting packages and database packages.

6.9 Where Prepared To Undertake Training/Learning?

All respondents to the survey were asked (thinking about both work and non-work related training or learning) in which of a series of pre-determined locations would they be prepared to undertake training/learning activities?

Taking account of those who said "none" or "don't know" the most popular locations for economically active third age respondents and under 45 respondents are at work, at a college and at home. Preferences for other locations tend to be less than 18%. The most popular location for economically inactive respondents is to undertake training/ learning at home (13%) with other options attracting no more than 10% support.

Figure 17: Where Prepared To Undertake Training/Learning



Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

Q ref: Q51

Source: mruk 2003

6.10 Methods of Training/Learning

Respondents were also asked in which of those ways described in Figure 18 they would be prepared to undertake training or learning.

The most popular individual methods appear to be part-time courses (day and evening) and "on the job" work based training or learning. "On the job" training and Part time courses during the day account for 24% each of third age economically active respondents. Part time courses in the evening and during the day account for 28% and 26% respectively among under 45 respondents. The single most popular type of training for third age economically inactive respondents is part time courses during the day (18%).

Figure 18: Methods of Training/Learning

	3rd Age Economically Active	3rd Age Economically Inactive	Under 45
Correspondence Course	9%	5%	12%
On Line	9%	4%	14%
Other Computer Based Learning	8%	2%	11%
Short Term, Full Time Course	13%	3%	15%
Full Time Course over longer period	5%	1%	13%
Seminars	8%	2%	8%
Part Time Course during the day	24%	18%	26%
Part Time Course in the evening	23%	7%	28%
Part Time Course at Weekend	7%	2%	10%
One the Job, at Work	24%	2%	25%
None	36%	67%	24%
Don't Know	5%	6%	7%

Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

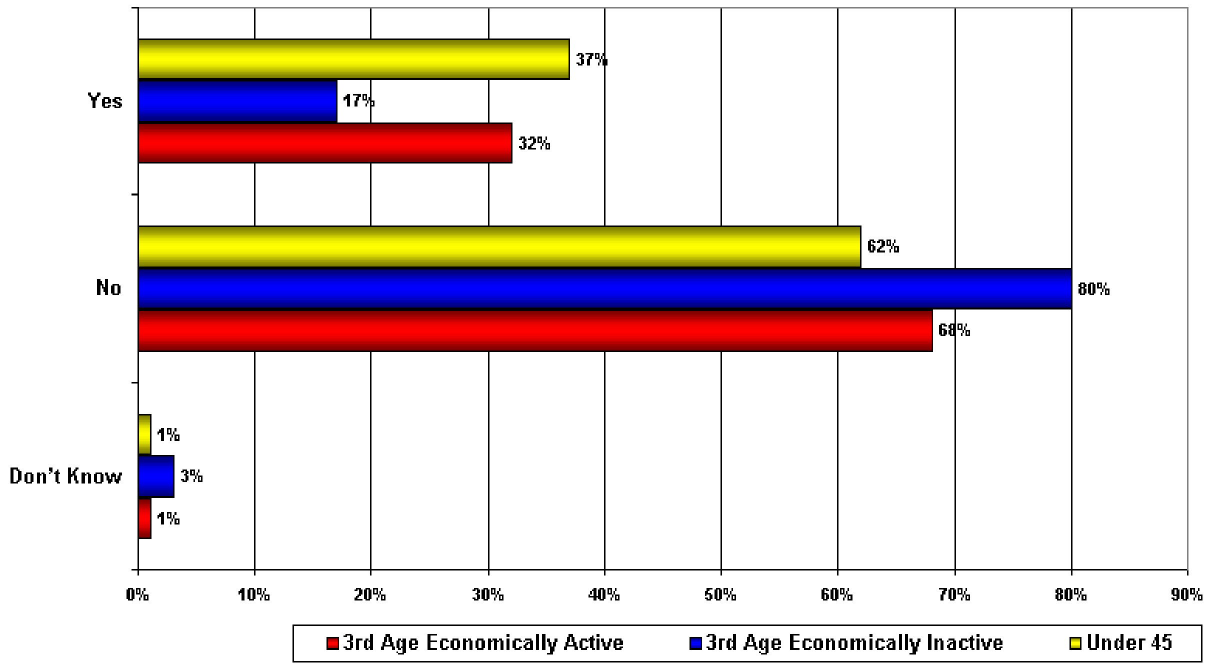
Q ref: Q52

Source: mruk 2003

7.1 Courses of Higher Education

Nearly one third (32%) of third age economically active respondents have at some time started a course of higher education that lasts at least one year full time or two years part time (eg a degree, diploma, HNC or other higher education qualification). This compares to under 45's, where just over one third (37%) of respondents have started a higher education course. The figure drops significantly to 17% for third age respondents who are economically inactive.

Figure 19: Ever Started Course of Higher Education?



Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

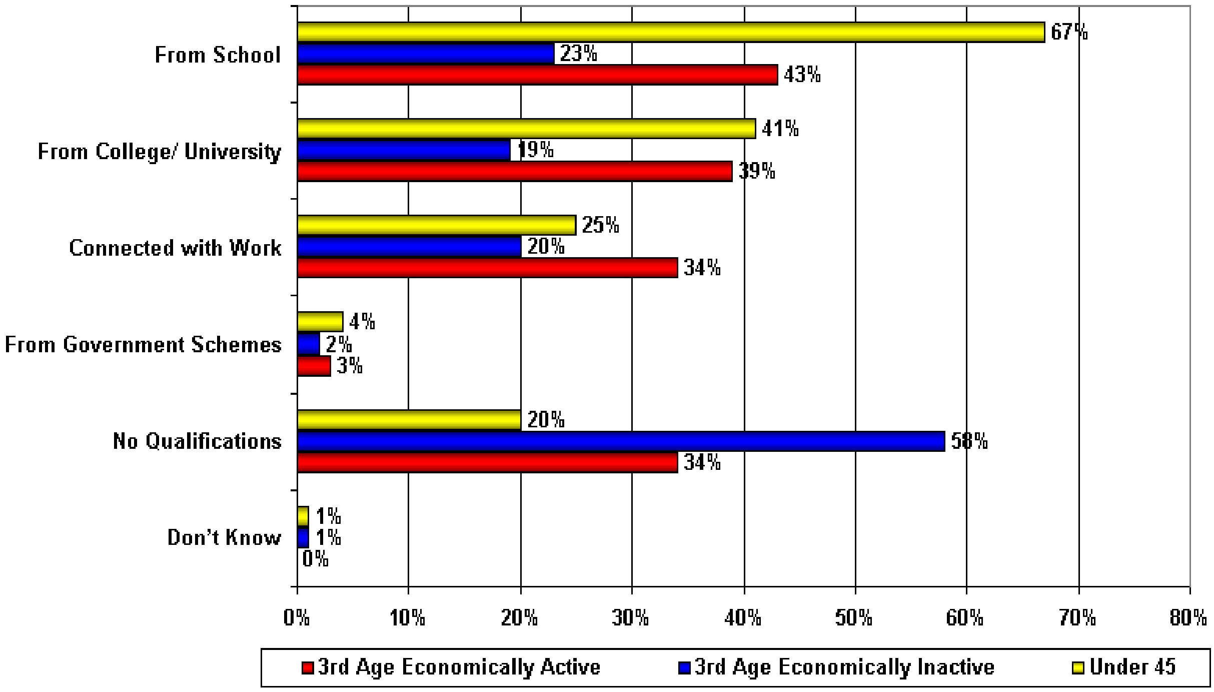
Q ref: Q53

Source: mruk 2003

7.2 Current Qualifications

The majority of under 45's (67%) have a qualification obtained from School, with 41% gained from College or University. This compares with 43% and 39% respectively for third age respondents who are economically active (a further 34% who gained qualifications through work). Under a quarter (23%) of inactive third age respondents obtained qualifications from School, even fewer from College and University (19%) and/or through work (20%). 20% of respondents under the age of 45 say they have no qualifications and this figure rises among third age respondents, with 34% of economically active and 58% of economically inactive respondents saying they have no qualifications at all. Figure 20 illustrates findings accordingly.

Figure 20: Current Qualifications



Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

Q ref: Q54

Source: mruk 2003

Based on those who say they do have qualifications Figure 21 goes on to illustrate the range of qualifications held by those concerned.

Figure 21: Type of Qualifications

	3rd Age Economically Active	3rd Age Economically Inactive	Under 45
Degree Level Qualification	9%	7%	8%
Diploma in higher education	5%	5%	4%
HNC/ HND	7%	7%	4%
ONC/ OND	6%	3%	2%
BTEC, BEC or TEC	5%	2%	8%
Teaching Qualification	8%	8%	2%
Nursing/ other medical qualification	3%	3%	2%
Other higher education qualification	3%	4%	2%
A Level/ vocational A Level or equivalent	19%	17%	25%
SCE Highers	1%	1%	0%
NVQ/ SVQ	14%	4%	19%
GNVQ/ GSVQ	1%	0%	4%
AS Level	1%	1%	4%
Certificate of sixth year studies or equivalent	0%	1%	1%
O Level or equivalent	37%	33%	25%
SCE Standard/ Ordinary grade	2%	1%	1%
GCSE	17%	7%	53%
CSE	13%	6%	20%
RSA	13%	10%	8%
City & Guilds	27%	20%	17%
Any other professional/ vocational/ foreign qualifications	19%	26%	14%
Don't Know	5%	8%	2%

Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

Q ref: Q55

Source: mruk 2003

The analysis of qualifications does to some extent reflect changes in the education system and the type of qualifications it was possible to obtain (particularly over the last twenty years). However, it is notable that for those who have gone on to take a degree (or equivalent) the variation between age groups in relation to their success in achieving that academic level is minimal. The most notable variation (that remains currently comparable) is in relation to 'A' levels with 25% of Under 45's successful in this respect compared to between 17% -19% of 3rd age respondents.

7.3 Language Skills

Overall, between 96% and just over 97% of each age group say they speak English as their first language. However, the table below highlights the most popular other languages spoken, either "fluently" or "quite well" by respondents. French is the single most popular second language overall. However, range of Asian languages are spoken reflecting (to some extent) the range of Asian respondents to the survey (particularly within Leicestershire).

Figure 22: Other Languages Spoken Fluently or Quite Well

Language Spoken	3rd Age Economically Active %	3rd Age Economically Inactive %	Under 45 %
French	5	3	6
German	2	2	3
Gujarti	1	1	2
Urdu	1	1	2
Hindi	1	1	2
Punjabi	<1	1	1

Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

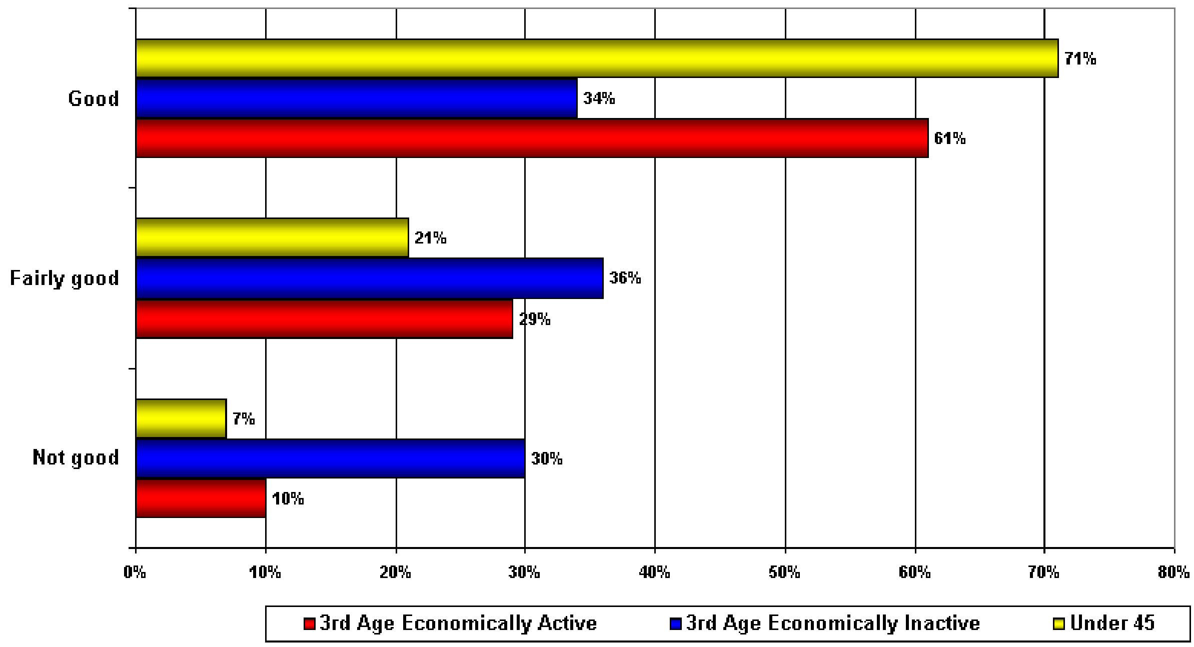
Q ref: Q83

Source: mruk 2003

8.1 Respondent's Health

When asked how their health has been over the past 12 months, the majority of third age economically active respondents and under 45 respondents replied that their health has been 'Good', 61% and 71% respectively. However, only 34% of third age respondents who are economically inactive stated that their health has been "Good" in the last year. 36% of inactive third age respondents replied that their health was "Fairly Good' and 30% replied that it has been 'Not Good', as illustrated below. The older age group (ie 60-74) that is included in the economically inactive 3rd age category and associated health problems will largely account for this variation.

Figure 23: Respondent's Health Over The Past 12 Months



Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

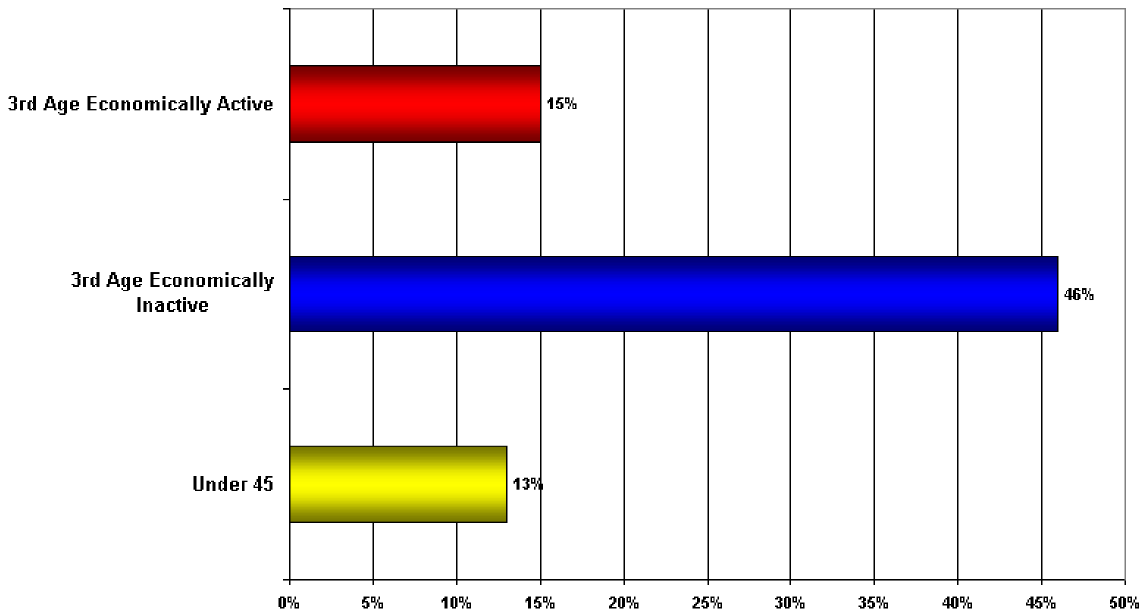
Q ref: Q84

Source: mruk 2003

8.2 How Respondent's Health Affects Daily Activities and Work Undertaken

Respondents were asked if they have any long-term illness, health problems, or disability, which limits their daily activities or the work they can do. Some 46% of the third age economically inactive respondents replied in the affirmative. This response falls to 15% among third age respondents who are economically active. Inevitably the level of long term illness/ disability is lowest in Under 45 respondents (13%).

Figure 24: Long Term Illness or Health Problems that Limits Daily Activities or Work Undertaken



Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)
Q ref: Q85
Source: mruk 2003

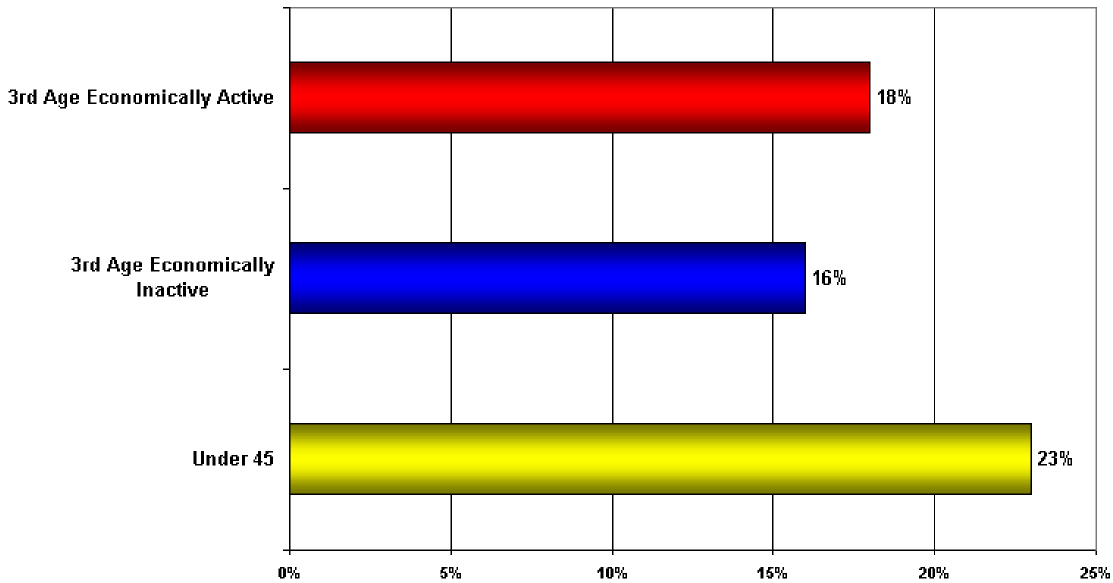
The relationship between the inclusion of the older age group (60-74 years) in the survey and health variations is evident in terms of the type of health problems experienced by respondents.

The survey estimates (for example) that only between 5% - 7% of Under 45's and economically active 3rd age respondents experience problems (in terms of mobility) walking about. However, this figure rises to 37% for 3rd age economically inactive respondents. Similarly only 6% - 7% of the former groups have any problems performing their "usual activities" compared to 29% of the latter.

8.3 Smoking Prevalence

When asked whether they "smoke cigarettes at all nowadays" between 16% - 18% of both 3rd age groups replied in the affirmative. This compares to a higher 23% of Under 45's.

Figure 25: Smoke Cigarettes Nowadays



Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

Q ref: Q88

Source: mruk 2003

8.4 Amount Of Physical Activity Involved In Work

The majority of respondents 'spend most of their time standing or walking at work', this figure is 40% for third age respondents who are economically active in comparison to 29% for respondents under 45. Slightly fewer under 45 respondents (19%)' spend most of their time sitting' compared to a quarter (25%) of third ages respondents in employment. 24% of third age respondents say their work involves 'definite physical effort' while only 18% of under 45's say the same, compared with only 2% undertaking 'vigorous activity' for both age groups. For 9% of third age economically active respondents and 32% of under 45's the question is not applicable as they are not in employment.

8.5 Ph   ysical Exercise/ Activities

Figure 26 below illustrates the level of apparent physical inactivity between the three respondent categories. In all cases except housework/ childcare the economically inactive 3rd age respondents also record the highest level of physical inactivity. Categories for walking and cycling included using those methods for going to and from work, leisure activities and the shops.

Figure 26: Do Not Undertake Any…

Activity	3rd Age Economically Active %	3rd Age Economically Inactive %	Under 45 %
Physical Exercise (such as swimming, jogging, football etc)	72	85	55
Cycling	88	94	80
Walking	6	11	5
Housework/ Childcare	16	12	14
Gardening/ DIY	39	47	53

Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

Q ref: Q93

Source: mruk 2003

9.1 Importance for securing safe community in area

When asked to list criteria in order of importance for securing a safe community in the area, ‘dealing with anti-social behaviour’ is the most commonly stated among all three age groups. ‘Good employment opportunities’ ‘strong sense of community' are also mentioned as important. The following figures provide tabular analysis of respondents for 1st, 2nd and 3rd priorities.

Figure 27: Importance for securing safe community in area - 1st Priority

	3rd Age Economically Active	3rd Age Economically Inactive	Under 45
Good employment opportunities	18%	10%	16%
Strong sense of community	11%	12%	9%
Dealing with Anti Social behaviour	27%	29%	24%
Schooling	8%	6%	13%
Safe well lit streets	9%	11%	8%
Local health provision	5%	8%	3%
Decent housing	5%	6%	7%
Land use and planning decisions	1%	1%	1%
Sport and leisure facilities for young people	6%	6%	8%
Safe roads	7%	7%	9%

Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

Q ref: Q94

Source: mruk 2003

‘Dealing with anti-social behaviour’ was also the most commonly mentioned overall issue relating to the second priority, followed by ‘safe well-lit streets’. Schooling and 'strong sense of community were also regarded as important in relation to the second priority.

Figure 28: Importance for securing safe community in area – 2nd Priority

	3rd Age Economically Active	3rd Age Economically Inactive	Under 45
Good employment opportunities	10%	9%	11%
Strong sense of community	10%	10%	8%
Dealing with Anti Social behaviour	17%	18%	18%
Schooling	10%	7%	13%
Safe well lit streets	10%	14%	12%
Local health provision	7%	9%	6%
Decent housing	9%	9%	7%
Land use and planning decisions	1%	1%	1%
Sport and leisure facilities for young people	8%	8%	9%
Safe roads	9%	9%	9%

Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

Q ref: Q94

Source: mruk 2003

A similar profile emerges for the most common overall 3rd priority, ie dealing with ‘anti-social behaviour’. However, this was 13% for both third age categories followed by ‘sport and leisure facilities for young people’ (12%) and ‘safe roads’ overall. For respondents under the age of 45 years, the most important issue relating to the 3rd priority was ‘sport and leisure facilities for young people' (13%). The second most important third priority was 'Safe roads' and ' dealing with anti social behaviour' (both 12%).

Figure 29: Importance for securing safe community in area – 3rd Priority

	3rd Age Economically Active	3rd Age Economically Inactive	Under 45
Good employment opportunities	11%	8%	11%
Strong sense of community	10%	8%	7%
Dealing with Anti Social behaviour	13%	13%	12%
Schooling	7%	6%	10%
Safe well lit streets	7%	10%	8%
Local health provision	6%	8%	6%
Decent housing	8%	9%	9%
Land use and planning decisions	2%	2%	2%
Sport and leisure facilities for young people	12%	12%	13%
Safe roads	10%	10%	12%

Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

Q ref: Q94

Source: mruk 2003

9.2 Ease of Access To Amenities

The extent to which respondents in each of the age groups find it easy or difficult to access a range of key services and amenities is illustrated in Figure 30 below.

Whilst (inevitably) in each case the 3rd age economically inactive respondents do experience the most difficulty in getting access to the services and amenities concerned, the differential with the other respondent categories is fairly minor. In the broadest terms therefore, findings do indicate that the majority of respondents (in each category) find it relatively easy to access the services/ amenities specified.

Figure 30: Ease of Getting To…

Doctors Surgery	3rd Age Economically Active	3rd Age Economically Inactive	Under 45
Very difficult	1%	3%	2%
Fairly difficult	4%	6%	3%
Neither/ nor	2%	3%	2%
Fairly easy	22%	29%	24%
Very easy	70%	59%	70%
Don't know	0%	0%	1%

Post Office	3rd Age Economically Active	3rd Age Economically Inactive	Under 45
Very difficult	**1%**	**2%**	**0%**
Fairly difficult	**1%**	**4%**	**1%**
Neither/ nor	**1%**	**2%**	**1%**
Fairly easy	**20%**	**25%**	**19%**
Very easy	**77%**	**66%**	**78%**
Don't know	**0%**	**1%**	**0%**

Fresh Fruit & Veg Shop	3rd Age Economically Active	3rd Age Economically Inactive	Under 45
Very difficult	1%	3%	1%
Fairly difficult	3%	6%	2%
Neither/ nor	2%	3%	1%
Fairly easy	20%	27%	21%
Very easy	74%	61%	75%
Don't know	0%	1%	0%

Public Transport	3rd Age Economically Active	3rd Age Economically Inactive	Under 45
Very difficult	3%	3%	2%
Fairly difficult	4%	6%	3%
Neither/ nor	5%	6%	4%
Fairly easy	22%	26%	20%
Very easy	61%	53%	68%
Don't know	5%	5%	4%

Library	3rd Age Economically Active	3rd Age Economically Inactive	Under 45
Very difficult	2%	4%	2%
Fairly difficult	6%	6%	4%
Neither/ nor	4%	6%	4%
Fairly easy	23%	29%	25%
Very easy	63%	50%	61%
Don't know	3%	5%	3%

Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

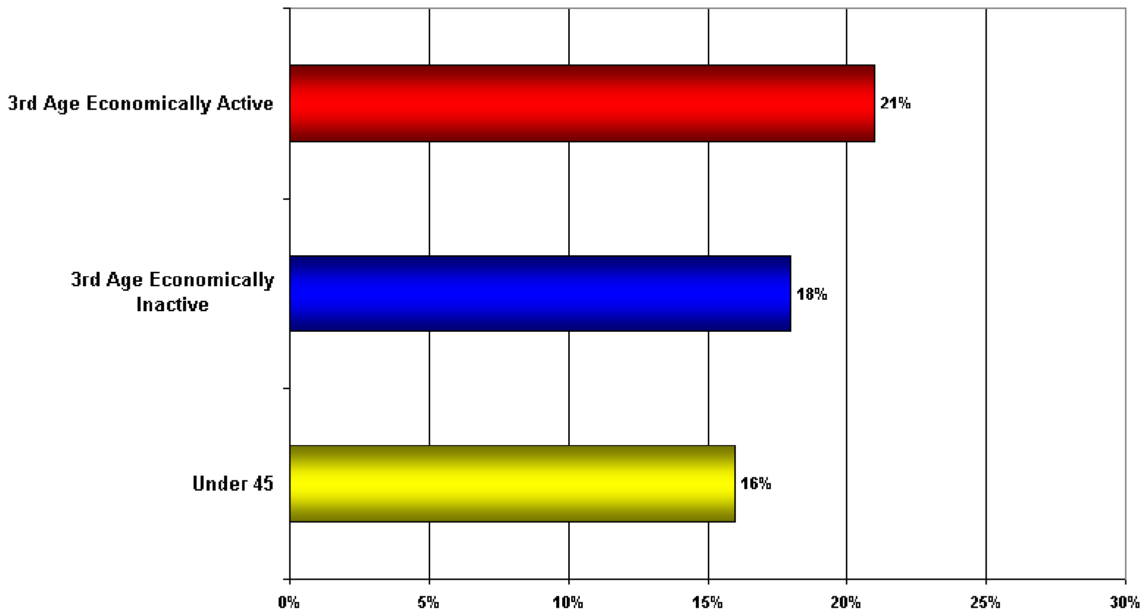
Q ref: Q95

Source: mruk 2003

9.3 Unpaid Voluntary Work

As illustrated below, between 16% and 21% of each of the respondent groups were involved in unpaid, voluntary work during the past year. This figure is the highest amongst third age respondents who are economically active and drops to 16% for under 45's. Voluntary unpaid or community activities were deemed to include charity work, church activities, play groups, resident associations, school related associations or other types of activity for voluntary organisations.

Figure 31: Involved in Unpaid, Voluntary Work Last Year



Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

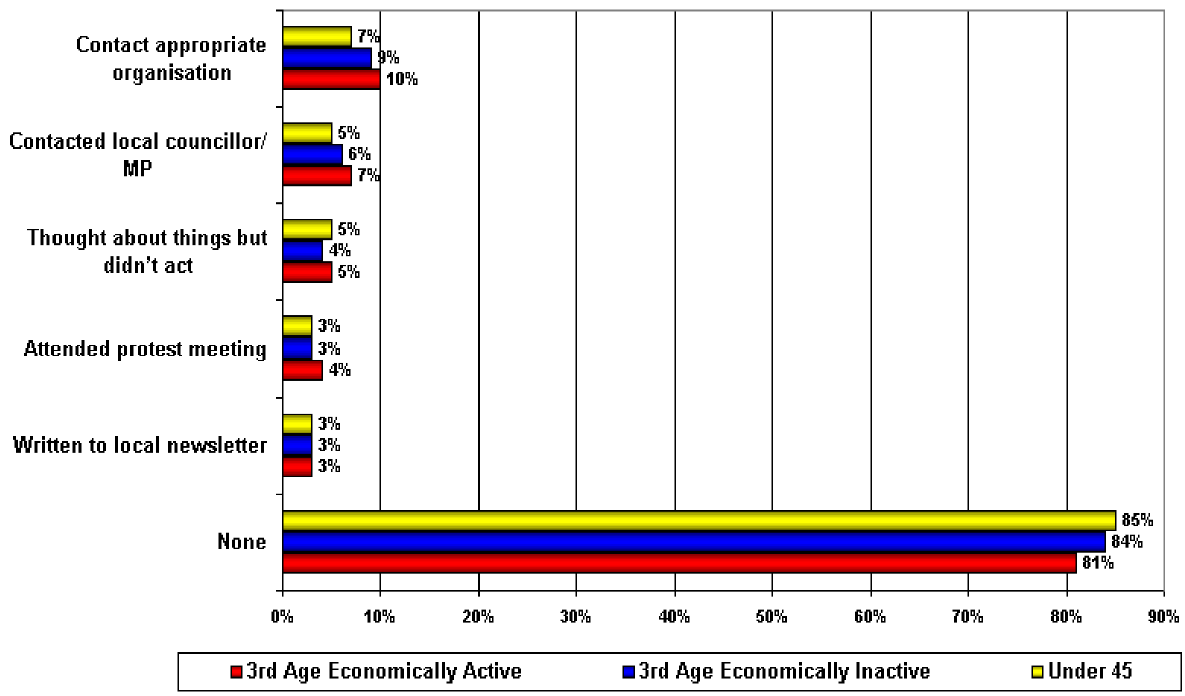
Q ref: Q96

Source: mruk 2003

9.4 Local Problem Solving

Overall the majority of respondents have not taken or considered taking specific actions in an attempt to solve a local problem. The profile between all respondents varies only marginally; between 81% and 85% of respondents did nothing in an attempt to solve a local problem. The figure was highest amongst Under 45's (85%) and slightly less for third age economically active respondents (81%). Of those who have, the most common action is to contact an appropriate organisation. Other actions do not feature so prominently although provide indicators over how respondents do react to local problem solving.

Figure 32: Attempt to Solve Problem



Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

Q ref: Q97

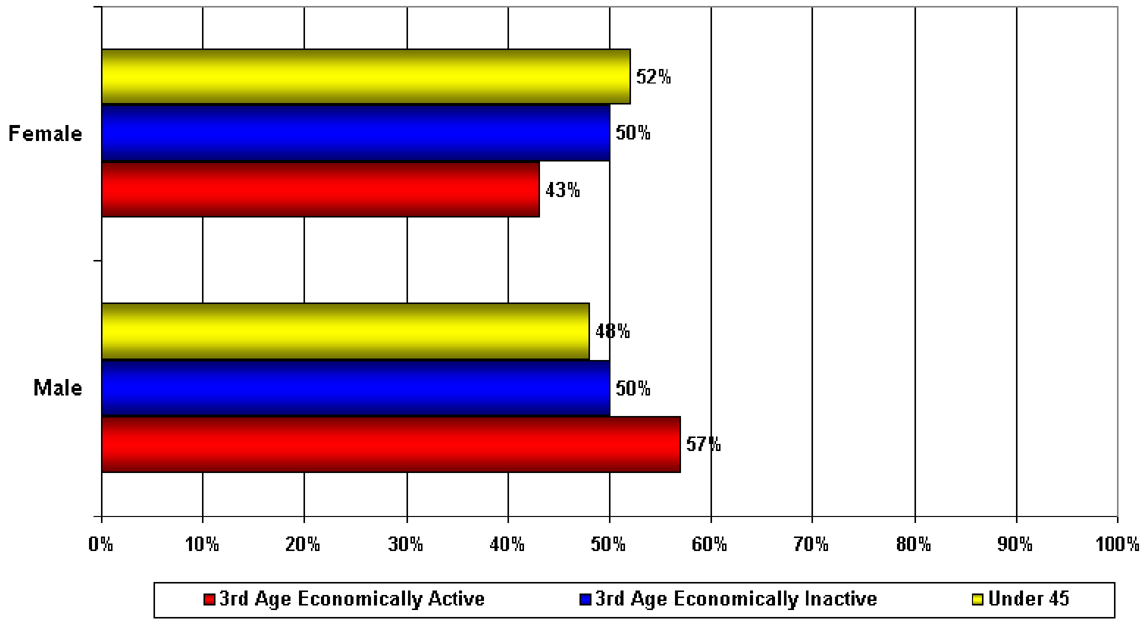
Source: mruk 2003

10.1 Respondent Gender

The key characteristics of survey respondents overall is illustrated in the principal regional summary reports. However, for purposes of comparison between the sub-groups that are the focus of this report are broken down in this section.

The gender of individual respondents varied slightly between each age group. The split between male and female respondents was even at 50/50 for those third age respondents who are economically inactive. More third age economically active male respondents took part in the survey than female. This compares to under 45 respondents, where 52% of the respondents were female and only 48% were male.

Figure 33: Gender of Respondent

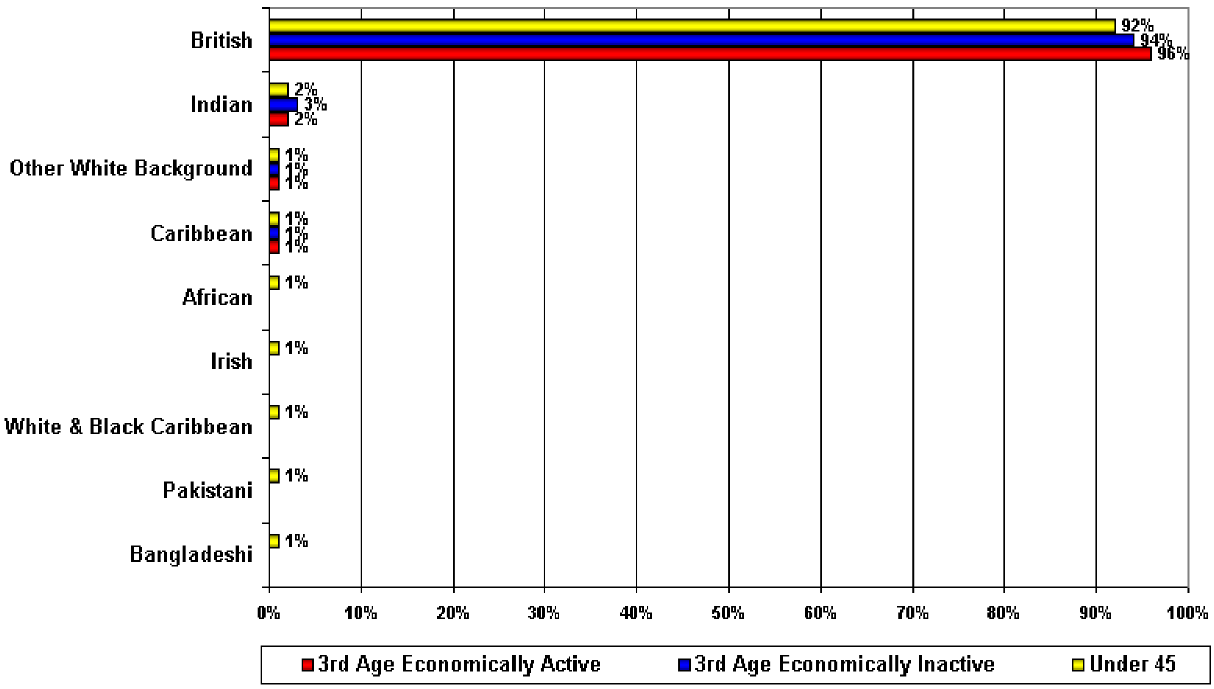


Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)
Q ref: Q100
Source: mruk 2003

10.2 Ethnic Groups

Overall, when respondents were asked which ethnic group they felt they belonged to, the most common answer was White British, as illustrated below. There is very slight variation between respondent groups.

Figure 34: Ethnicity



Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

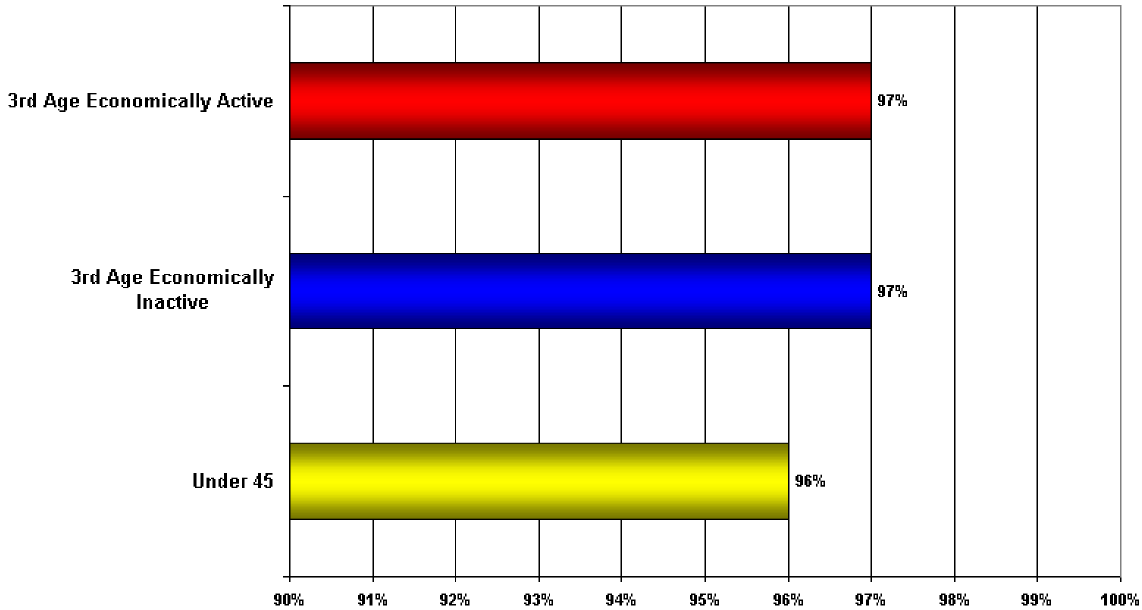
Q ref: Q101

Source: mruk 2003

10.3 Language

Overall, (as indicated earlier in this report) the survey estimates that the vast majority of respondents speak English as their first language. When making comparisons between age groups there is very little difference. A slight variation occurs in Under 45 respondents.

Figure 35: English as First Language



Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

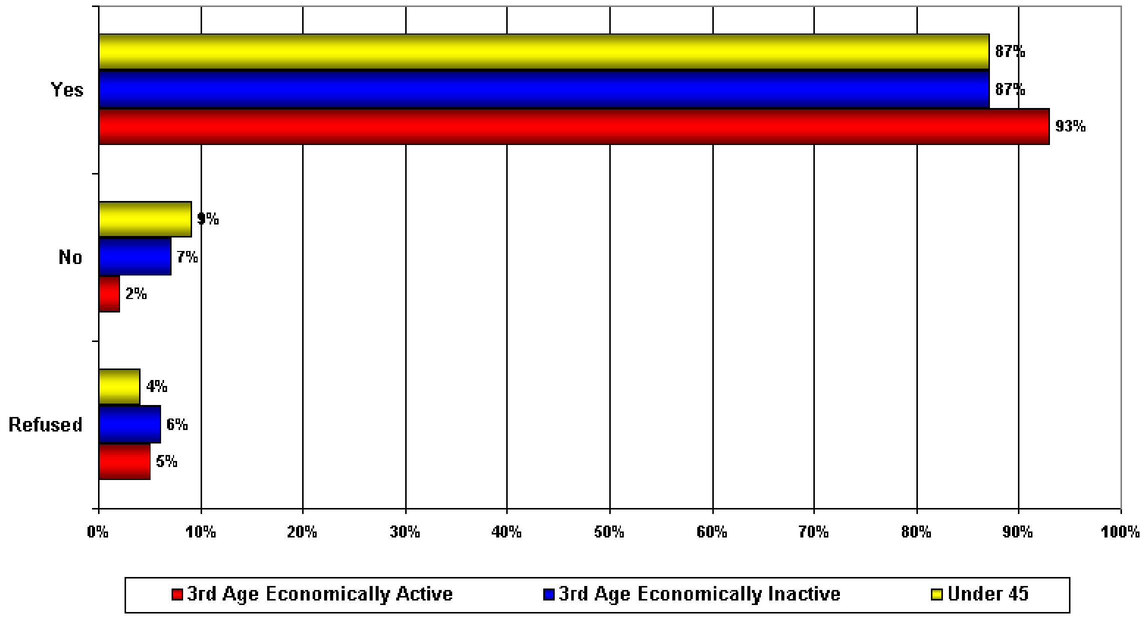
Q ref: Q82

Source: mruk 2003

10.4 Bank or Building Society Account

When asked if they have a bank or building society account of any kind, over 87% of respondents in each age group replied in the affirmative. However, there is some variation, wherein predictably slightly more third age respondents who are economically active have a bank or building society account (93%).

Figure 36: Bank or Building Society Account



Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

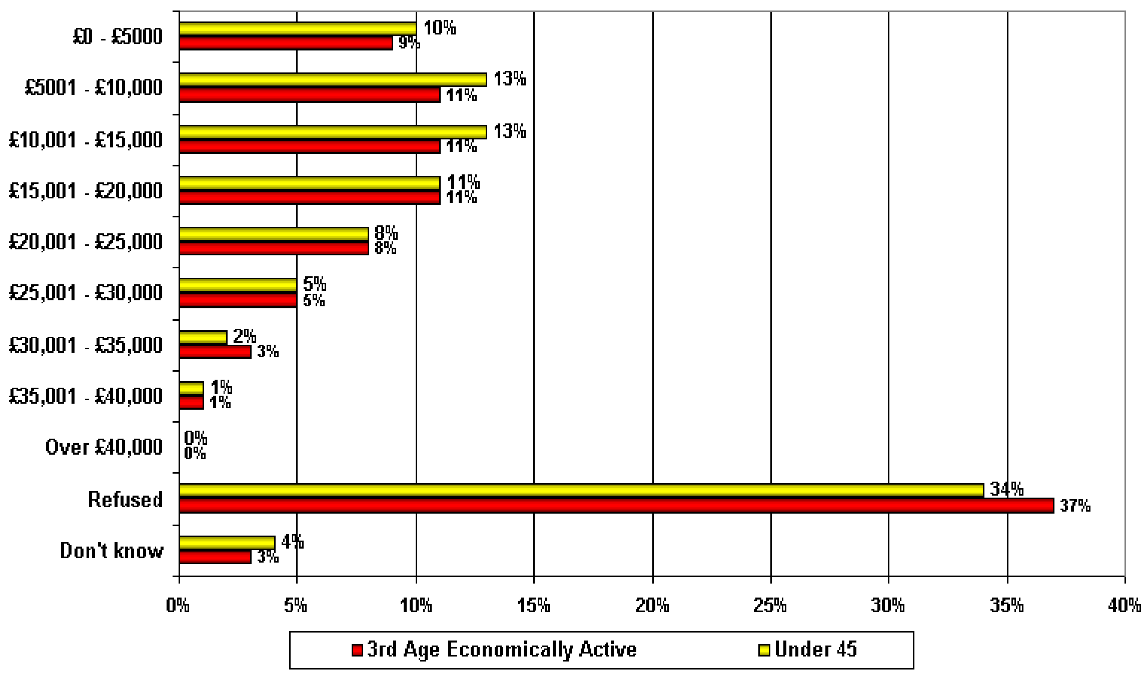
Q ref: Q102

Source: mruk 2003

10.5 Gross Annual Income

In examining the income characteristics of economically active third age respondents in employment, the profile when compared to respondents aged under 45 varies only marginally. The profile of income bands between third age economically active respondents and respondents aged under 45 are illustrated in Figure 37 below. Few respondents actually stated that they earned £35,001 or above, and only 8% of third age respondents economically active say they earn between £25,001 and £35,000, compared to 7% of under 45's. A small percentage of third age and under 45 respondents did not know their gross annual income (3% and 4% respectively). Around one third of respondents in each age group refused to say which income band they fall into. It is our experience in conducting large scale surveys with income questions that reluctance to divulge income is increasing with higher income levels regularly under represented.

Figure 37: Gross Annual Income



Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

Q ref: Q103

Source: mruk 2003

10.6 Sources of Income In Past Month

As illustrated in figure 38 below, the majority of third age respondents who are economically active receive money from paid employment. The next most common source of income is from savings and shares/ dividends. Only 11% of third age economically active respondents receive Child Benefit. As expected, the most common sources of income for those inactive third age respondents is retirement/ widows pension (51%) and a pension from employment (43%).

Figure 38: Sources of Income

	3rd Age Economically Active	3rd Age Economically Inactive	Under 45
Paid Employment	83%	0%	63%
Interest/ Dividends on Savings/ Shares	16%	18%	6%
Pension from Employment	9%	43%	0%
Retirement/ Widows Pension	4%	51%	0%
Jobseekers Allowance	3%	0%	4%
Family Tax Credit	1%	0%	8%
Housing Benefit	4%	17%	12%
Council Tax Benefit	5%	22%	13%
Income Support	3%	13%	10%
Incapacity Allowance	1%	12%	2%
Disability Living Allowance	0%	13%	2%
Disability Working Allowance	0%	0%	0%
Attendance Allowance	0%	2%	0%
Childcare Tax Credit	1%	0%	3%
Child Benefit	11%	4%	33%
Other Benefit/ Allowances	2%	5%	6%

Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

Q ref: Q105

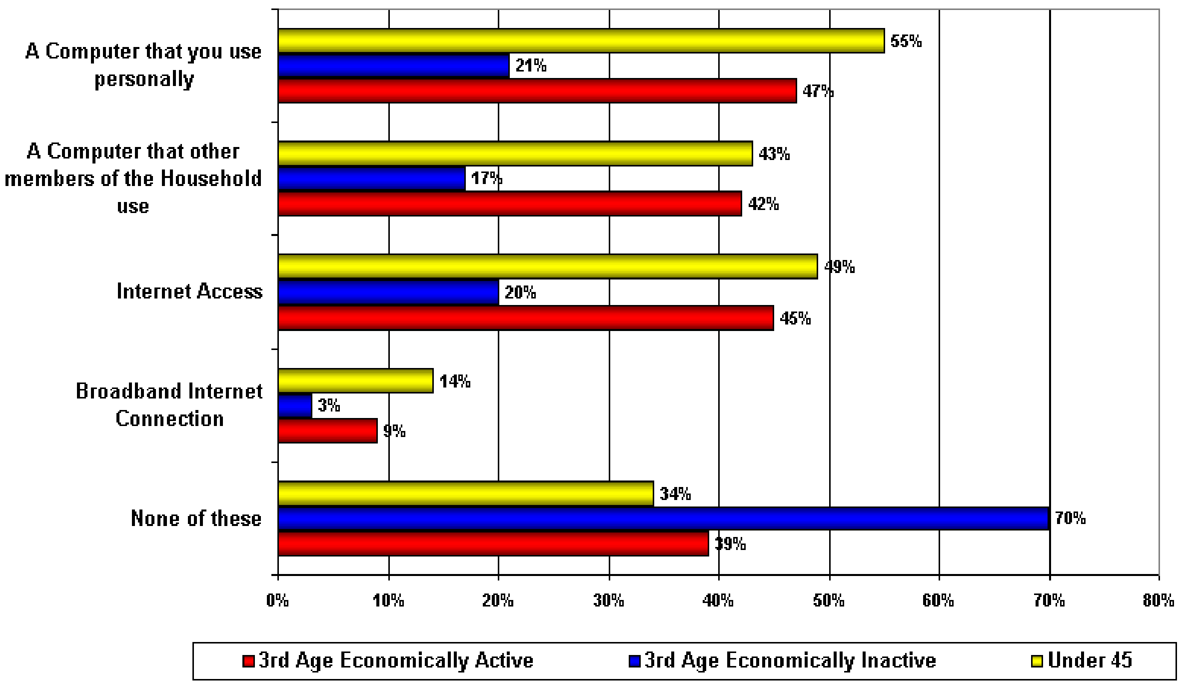
Source: mruk 2003

10.7 Computer/ Internet Access In The Home

Finally, in relation to findings in this particular themed report, there is slight variation between third age economically active respondents and those aged under 45 years when examining computer/ internet access in the home. 47% and 55% respectively said that they have 'a computer that they personally use at home'. Only 21% of third age respondents who are economically inactive have a personal computer at home. The percentage of respondents who have Internet access is highest amongst under 45 respondents (49%). However, 45% of third age economically active respondents also have Internet access. With regard to third age respondents who are economically inactive, this figure drops significantly to 20%. Only a small percentage of respondents have a 'Broadband connection for Internet', however this is not available in large areas of the East Midlands particularly in rural locations.

It is notable that approaching three quarters (70%) of third age respondents who are currently economically inactive do not have any computer based information and communication technology in their homes. This compares to 39% of third age respondents who are economically active and 34% of respondents aged under 45 years.

Figure 39: ICT Items in the Home



Base: All: 3rd Age Economically Active (3,846), 3rd Age Economically Inactive (2,917), Under 45 (6,946)

Q ref: Q106

Source: mruk 2003

11. CONCLUDING COMMENT

The purpose of this themed report has been to draw from the survey and present comparative analysis of findings for third age respondents who are economically active and inactive. In doing so we have also attempted to compare and contrast those findings with the remainder of the respondents aged under 45 years.

Within the context of employment status the comparison is directly between economically active third age respondents and those under 45 where to a large extent variations are self-explanatory.

The findings otherwise highlight many inevitable consequences of the inclusion of an extended "third age range" (45 years to 74 years) where the upper age range impacts on many issues including health, physical activities and physical exercise.

However, the analysis also provides a useful breakdown of the levels of recent training/ learning being undertaken in each category (which appears relatively encouraging for economically inactive 3rd age respondents), the extent to which it is leading to a qualification (ditto), personal development aspirations and use of access to ICT in the home.