

# The Future of Retirement

The new old age

## Germany

HSBC's third annual global survey of older people, work and retirement, reveals a 'new-old age' in Germany and dispels the myth that old people are a burden to society. Older people contribute €16.6 billion in income tax and €16.6 billion in voluntary work. In Germany, we find a picture of health, control and quality of life during later life. Older people are active, highly contributory adults, and without them our families, communities, and work places, could not flourish. In Germany, a total of 1021 people aged 40-79 years were interviewed.

### Older people make an enormous contribution to society as volunteers, workers and family members

#### Voluntary Work

In Germany, over a third (35%) of people aged 40-79 provide voluntary contribution to communities, with around one in eight (13%) being involved in some form of voluntary work during their retirement. The amount of time Germans spend each week on voluntary work ranges from 3.3 hours for 40-49 year olds up to 4.1 hours for 70-79 year old. It is the 60-69 year olds who spend the most time on voluntary work with an average of 5.6 hours per week.

#### Financial Support

Almost a third (31%) of 40-49 year olds and half (50%) of 60-69 year olds have **provided** financial support to a relative or friend during the previous 6 months. However, the proportions of the HSBC age groups in Germany **receiving** such support are minimal, ranging from just one in a hundred (1%) of the oldest age group to just over one in twenty (6%) of the youngest.

#### Practical Support

Over a quarter (27%) of 70-79 year olds and almost half (49%) of 50-59 year olds have **provided** practical support to a relative or friend during the previous 6 months. The proportions of older people in Germany **receiving** practical support are more modest, ranging from just over one in ten (14%) of 40-69 year old to almost one in five (19%) of 70-79 year olds.

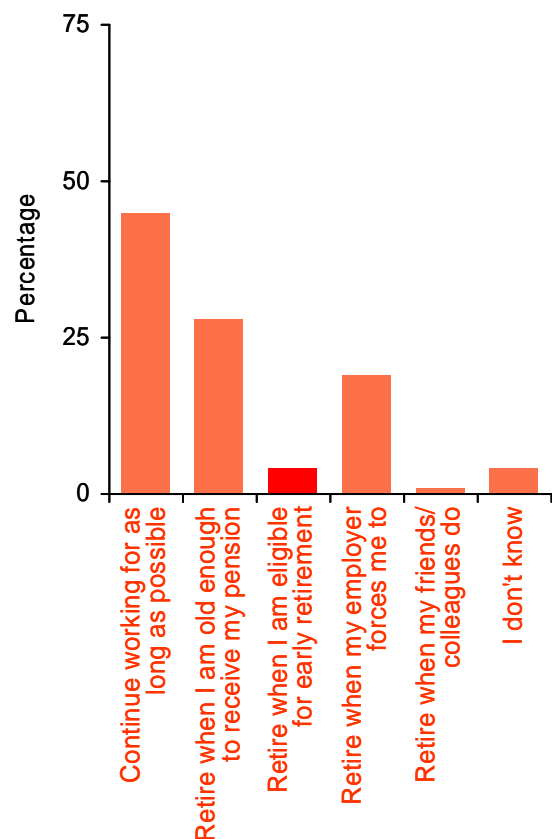
#### Personal care

In Germany, only one in a hundred (1%) people across the age groups have received personal care in the last six months, with one in ten (10%) providing such support.

### Working past traditional retirement age

One in ten (10%) of those aged 70-79 has some form of paid work (full-time, part-time or once in a while) and this is true for over a third (35%) of 60-69 year olds, four in five (80%) of 50-59 year olds and more than nine in ten (92%) of the youngest age group

**Globally, early retirement is not an option many working people aged 40-59 expect to take**



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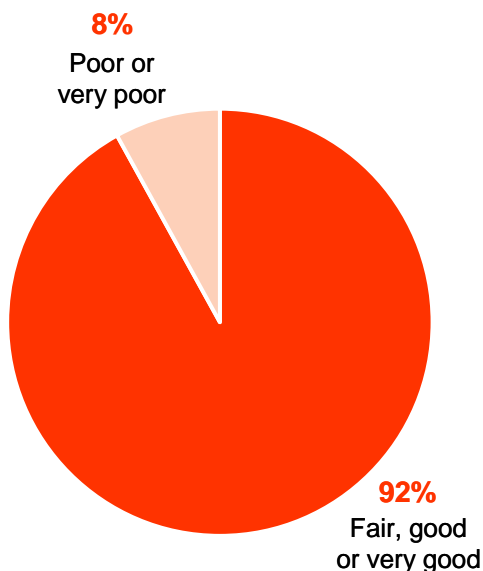
*The new old age*

**70 is the new 50 – older people are healthy, active and in control of their own lives to a much later age**

## **“In good health”**

In Germany, over half (52%) of 70-79 year olds and four in five (80%) 40-49 year olds feel in good or very good health.

**Those aged 60-79 years old predominantly describe themselves as being in fair, good or very good health**



## **“Life is full of opportunities”**

The majority of all age groups in Germany feel that *life is full of opportunities*, with over half (59%) of 70-79 year olds and over three quarters (77%) of 60-69 year olds feeling that this is often the case.

## **“I feel able to do the things I want to”**

The majority of all age groups often *feel able to do the things they want to do* with proportions ranging from three in five (61%) of 40-49 year olds to two thirds (66%) of 70-79 year olds.

## **“Everything is too much effort”**

Almost two thirds (62%) of 40-49 year olds *feel almost none of the time or never that everything is too much effort* compared with over three quarters (76%) of 60-69 year olds.

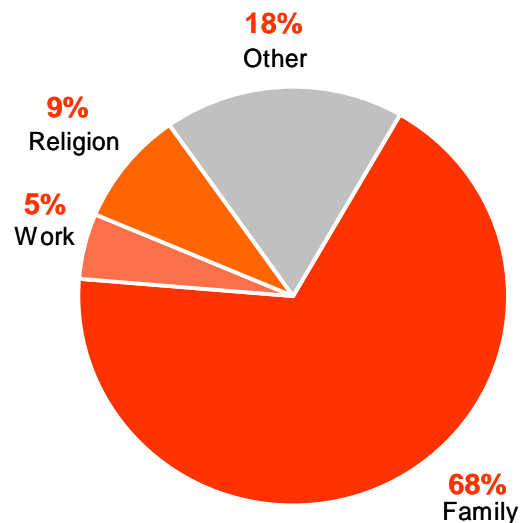
## **“Looking forward to the future”**

In Germany, more than three in five (64%) of 40-49 year olds are almost all of the time/most of the time *looking forward to the future* compared with over half (58%) of 50-59 year olds, more than two thirds (68%) of 60-69 year olds and three in five (59%) of the 70-79 year olds.

## **Families define who we are**

In every age group, when asked “when you think of who you are, you think mainly of...” the largest response was my family, with three in five (61%) of 70-79 year olds stating that family is the main thing they think of.

**When people are asked what they think in terms of who they are, a large majority say ‘my family’**



Three quarters (75%) of all cohorts agree that it is the duty of a parent to do their best for their children, but when it comes to the duty of grandparents to be there for their grandchildren in times of difficulty, over half (55%) of 40-49 year olds and approximately four in five (86%) of 70-79 year olds agree that it is their duty.

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## The retirement experience exceeds expectations

**Missing colleagues** is the biggest concern for people both before and after retirement. In Germany, four in ten (43%) pre-retirees expect to miss colleagues once they retire but less than a third (31%) of the post-retirees actually do so.

**Missing feeling useful** is a fear before retirement, but this does not manifest itself to the same extent after retirement. In Germany, over a third (35%) of pre-retirees expect to miss the feeling of being useful compared with just a quarter (24%) of post-retirees who actually do so.

**The fear of not being able to cope financially** after retirement is felt by only a relatively small proportion of pre-retirees, and the same is true for post-retirees. In Germany, three quarters (75%) of those in pre- and post-retirement are not worried.

**Workplace factors** that individuals state they will miss on retirement can be compared pre and post retirement. We can draw up an index of expectation versus experience. If the index is greater than 1, then experience is better than expectation. In Germany (index 1.5) experience is more positive than expectation in respect of missing aspects of the workplace and of work.