

Employees eligible for Automatic Enrolment - Pension Participation by Region within Private Sector

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Background

The following statistics, derived from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), highlight pension participation in Great Britain for the group eligible for automatic enrolment. These are employees who usually work in Great Britain, are not already in a qualifying pension arrangement, are aged 22 or over but under State Pension age, and earn more than the qualifying earnings threshold for that year.

These are broken down by region, and restricted to the private sector only.

Results

These results highlight the overall declining trend of pension participation, as seen in other sources such as the Family Resources Survey (FRS), the General Lifestyle Survey and the Occupational Pension Schemes Survey (OPSS).

Scotland, London and the South East have consistently had the highest pension participation across the regions, despite the GB wide decline. In 2011, all regions were at 45 per cent, which favourably compares to the overall GB figure of 42 per cent.

The North West, North East, Yorkshire & Humber and West Midlands however, have consistently lower participation, with all regions currently at a level of 39 per cent.

Figure 1: Eligible employees participating in workplace pension schemes, in private sector, by region

	North East	North West	Yorkshire & Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	South West	East	London	South East	Wales	Scotland
1997	55	54	54	51	55	55	55	56	56	56	58
1998	54	55	53	49	56	53	53	57	55	54	57
1999	53	55	53	50	54	53	53	57	54	54	57
2000	56	55	54	48	54	53	53	57	54	54	56
2001	56	55	54	50	54	54	52	57	55	54	56
2002	57	57	57	53	57	57	54	58	57	57	59
2003	55	54	56	50	56	55	54	56	55	54	56
2004	51	53	50	49	52	51	50	55	53	53	54
2005	49	49	49	48	48	49	50	52	51	48	52
2006	49	50	48	49	49	49	49	51	51	50	52
2007	45	48	46	45	46	48	47	50	49	47	51
2008	44	46	44	44	46	46	46	49	48	45	49
2009	44	44	41	44	44	45	45	47	47	44	47
2010	41	41	40	42	42	42	43	46	45	43	47
2011	39	39	39	40	39	41	41	45	45	41	45

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), 1997 to 2011

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