

23 January 2013

Under-30s Feel The Pinch as Oldies Continue to Spend

Under-30s spending on cinema and theatre tickets, overseas travel, food, eating out and driving and petrol has fallen dramatically over the past 10 years whilst grey spending has increased significantly, according to new research from the Intergenerational Foundation (www.if.org.uk).

Under-30s spending on cinema and theatre tickets fell by a third in real terms between 2000 and 2010, whilst 50-64 year olds enjoyed a 16% increase, the 65-74 age group spent 52% more, and the over-75s enjoyed an increase of 115%. In real terms spending by the over-75s more than doubled, while among the under-30s it fell by a third.

Overseas travel also saw significant shifts in generational spending with the under-35s spending £922 million less and the over-65s spending £1.3billion more. All ages over 55 years were spending more in real terms on overseas travel in 2011 than they did in 1999.

After taking agricultural commodity prices, high oil prices and high rates of inflation into account, the over-65s saw the biggest increase of any age group in the amount they spent on food at supermarkets between 2000 and 2010. People aged 65-74 saw the largest per capita annual increase on food to be eaten at home with £69 per capita whilst the average annual spend by the under-30s increased by less than half at £33 per capita.

Eating out has also seen a generational shift with under-30s spending 18% less per capita at restaurants over this period whilst 65-74 year olds were spending 33% more and over-75s spending 30% more.

Angus Hanton, IF Co-founder comments, "The popular misconception of an impoverished older generation and a spendthrift younger generation no longer rings true. The young are the new poor and these spending patterns are the proof."

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Note to Editors:

- Data from Annual ONS *Family Spending* Publications for the years 2000-2010.
- Theatre and Cinema data is not separated by the ONS.
- Travel stats taken from the ONS Travel Trends 2011 publication, compiled using data from the International Passenger Survey

Other intergenerational figures:

- Average age of a first time buyer is now 37 years of age
- Average time it would take to save average deposit requirement of £24k @ £250 a month – 8 years
- Average monthly rent demand in London - £988
- No of public sector retirees collecting in excess of £50k annual pension: 12,082
- No of public sector retirees collecting in excess of £100k annual pension: 148
- Of those collecting over £50k per annum, doctors dominate with 8,714 (72%) irrespective of private practice work undertaken
- Average number of pensioner millionaires over 60 years of age – 2 million
- Average number of pensioner millionaires over 65 years of age – 1 million
- Universal benefit bill to the UK - £2.7 billion
- Public Sector Pension liability (i.e. what the nation needs to find but has already spent – £3.8 TRILLION

Angus Hanton, Co-founder is available for interview.

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