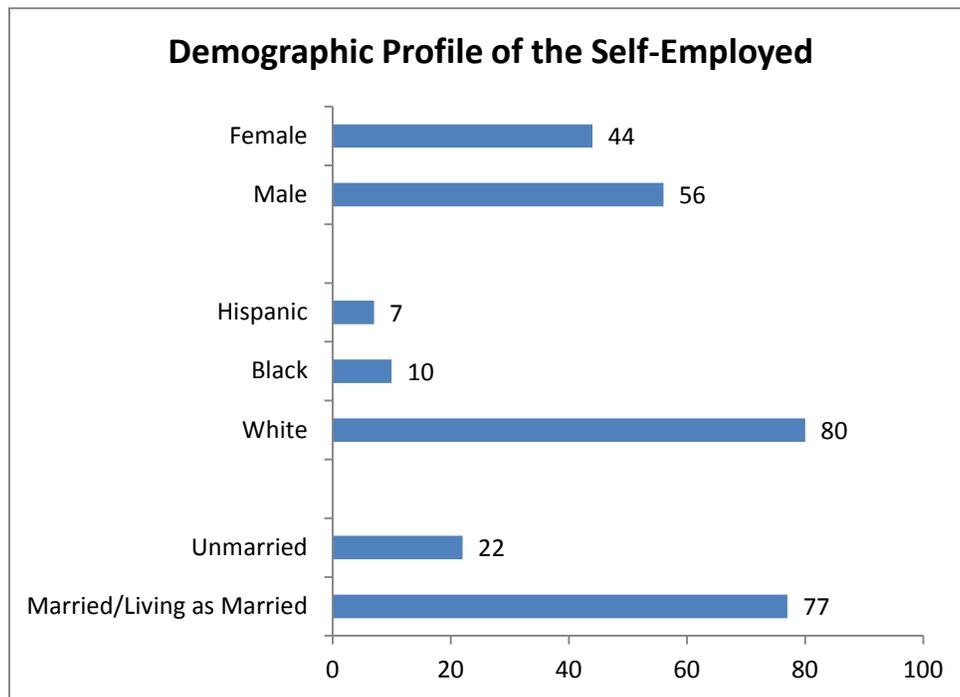


**Staying Ahead of the Curve 2013:
AARP Multicultural Work and Career Study
Snapshot of the Self-Employed¹**

- **Fifteen percent of workers ages 45-74 are self-employed.** Additionally, 11 percent of those who are not currently self-employed say they plan to start a business once they retire. Who are the self-employed? They are on average 55 years old, married or living with a partner (77%), white (80%), and more likely to be male (56%).



*In percent; Sample: Self-Employed, n=231

- **Some start a business as a result of job loss.** More than three in ten (33%) of the self-employed report starting their business because of job loss. In fact, two in ten (20%) of the self-employed lost a job within the past five years. Additionally, 15 percent describe themselves as retired but working.
- **Nearly two decades of self-employment is the average.** The average self-employed adult ages 45-74 has been self-employed for 17 years. More than four in five (83%) have small businesses – fewer than 10 employees. It is a relatively even split as to the location of the business: home (48%) versus elsewhere (49%).

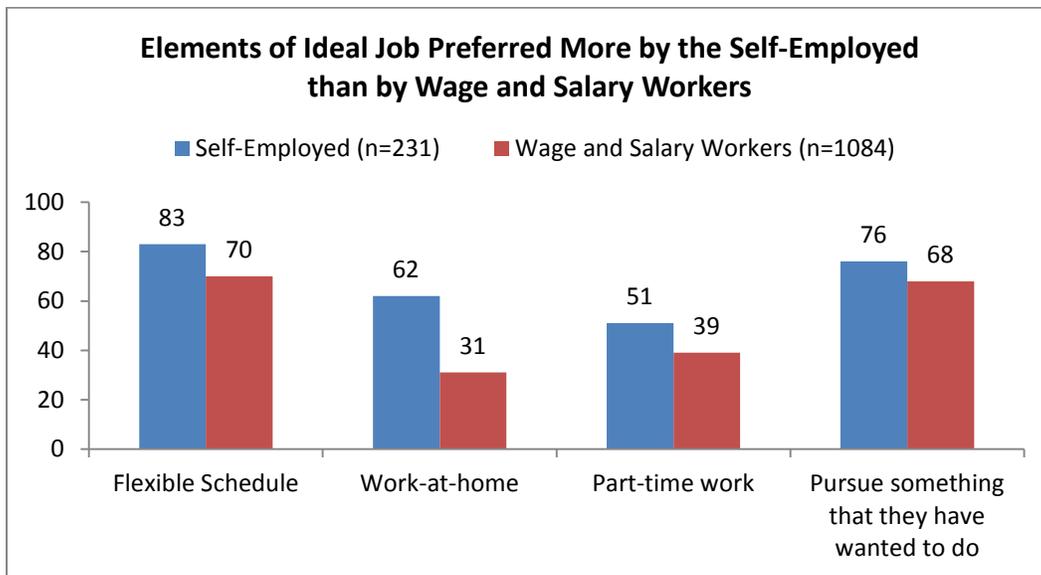
¹ This fact sheet focuses primarily on the self-employed. While the overall sample for this survey is 1,502, the self-employed represent 231 respondents.

- **Older self-employed workers make a profit.** More than seven in ten indicate that their business made a profit in 2011 (71%). This may explain why nearly nine in ten (88%) self-employed older workers believe it is not likely that they will have to give up working for themselves in the next year.

Differences Between the Self-Employed and Wage and Salary Workers²

- **The self-employed are more likely than other employed workers to identify essential job elements related to flexibility and following one’s dreams.** Compared to wage and salary workers, the self-employed ages 45-74 are more likely to identify a flexible schedule (83% vs. 70%), ability to work at home (62% vs. 31%), part-time work (51% vs. 39%), and the chance to pursue what they’ve always wanted to do (76% vs. 68%) as elements of an ideal job.

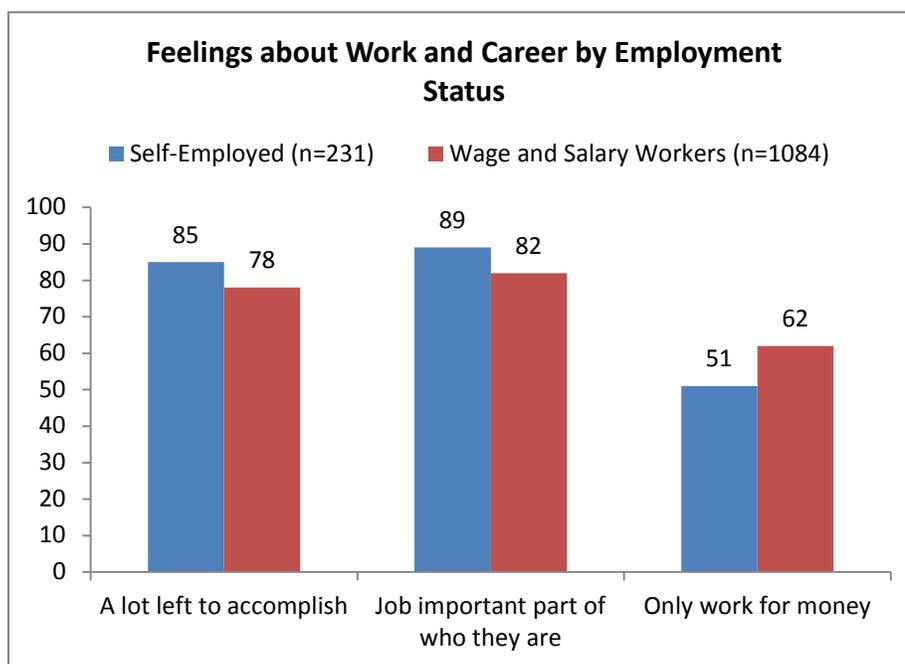
Conversely, wage and salary workers are more likely to cite benefits and interpersonal elements of a job as ideal – on-the-job training (60% vs. 36%), good pension benefits (70% vs. 41%), a 401(k) plan (60% vs. 36%), adequate paid time off (81% vs. 56%), feeling respected by the boss (85% vs. 59%) and coworkers (84% vs. 73%), health benefits (79% vs. 52%), competitive pay (81% vs. 68%), and the opportunity to learn something new (75% vs. 68%).



In percent. “Now, I’d like you to think about your IDEAL job . . . For you personally, which of the following things, if any, are absolutely essential parts of your IDEAL job?”

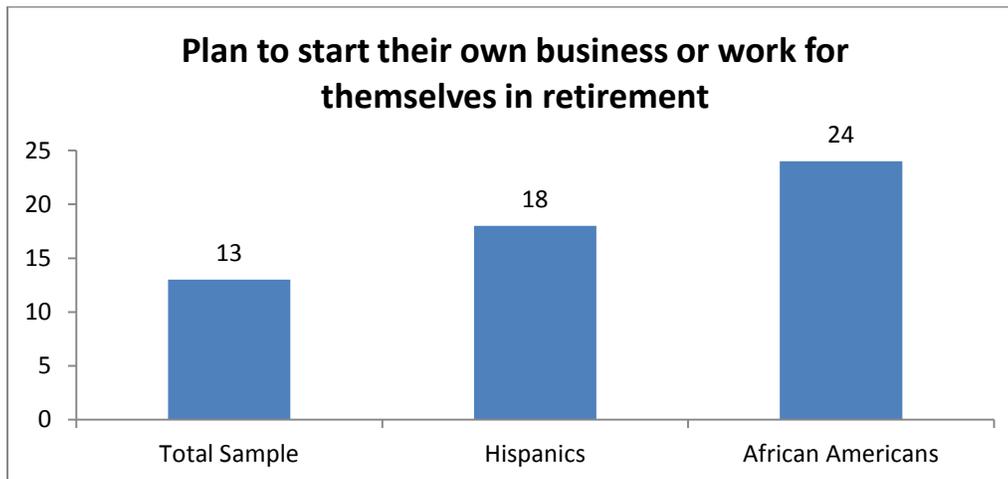
² “Workers” refers to those respondents currently employed.

- **When considering how they feel about their job or career, the self-employed appear to connect more with their careers and what the future holds.** Compared to wage and salary workers, self-employed older workers are more likely to say they have a lot they still plan to accomplish in their careers (85% vs. 78%) and that their job is an important part of who they are (89% vs. 82%). On the other hand, wage and salary workers are more likely than the self-employed to report that they only work because they need the money (62% vs. 51%).



In percent; "Now, I would like you to think about where you are in your work-life. I am going to read you some statements about working and your career. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement." Chart displays percent selecting "strongly agree" or "somewhat agree."

- **Among the total sample, a small percentage plan to start their own business or work for themselves, once they retire.** Including those already self-employed, 13 percent of the full sample say they plan to start their own business or work for themselves once they retire. Both Hispanics and African Americans are more likely than the total sample to say they plan to do so (African Americans 24%; Hispanics 18%; total sample 13%).



In percent. Total sample: n=1,502; Hispanics: n=410; African Americans: n=402.
Which of the following, if any, best represents what you plan to do during your retirement?"

This telephone survey was fielded in November 2012 and December 2012 with a national sample of 1,502 adults ages 45-74 who were working full-time or part-time, self-employed, or looking for work. Oversamples were also collected in order to yield a total of 402 African Americans and 410 Hispanics. This fact sheet focuses on only general sample results (n=1,502) and is among a series of fact sheets that will be released through 2013. A full report of all results, including results for the national sample, African Americans, and Hispanics, inclusive of data from surveys conducted in 2002 and 2007, as well as in 2012 is anticipated in late 2013. All fact sheets and full reports are available at www.aarp.org/StayingAheadoftheCurve2013.

For any questions about this fact sheet or *Staying Ahead of the Curve 2013: AARP Multicultural Work and Career Study*, please contact AARP Media Relations (202-434-2560 or media@aarp.org) or Rebecca Perron (rperron@aarp.org).

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