Section 5: Groups Excluded from the Previous Analysis

This section looks at groups which are excluded from the main Pensioners' Incomes analysis, namely mixed status pensioner couples where one member is above State Pension Age (SPA) and the other is below.

Mixed Status Couples

All the tables in the publication so far have related to 'pensioner units' defined as single (non-cohabiting) people over SPA and couples (married or cohabiting) where the man is over SPA. Historically the Pensioners' Incomes Series has excluded couples with the woman over state pension age but the man under from the analysis and this 2003/4 edition has continued with the convention.

This section looks at summary results for mixed status couples i.e. those couples where strictly one partner is above state pension age and one below.

Figure 25 shows the mean income for mixed status couples and the sources of it for a number of pensioner groups, namely:

- Couples with the women above state pension age but the man below (currently excluded from the main analysis).
- Couples with the man above state pension age but the woman below (currently included within 'Pensioner Couples' in the main analyses).
- Couples with both members above state pension age, and
- Pensioner Couples as defined for use in the main tables in this publication.

Figure 25: Sources of gross income for different types of pensioner couples, 2003/04

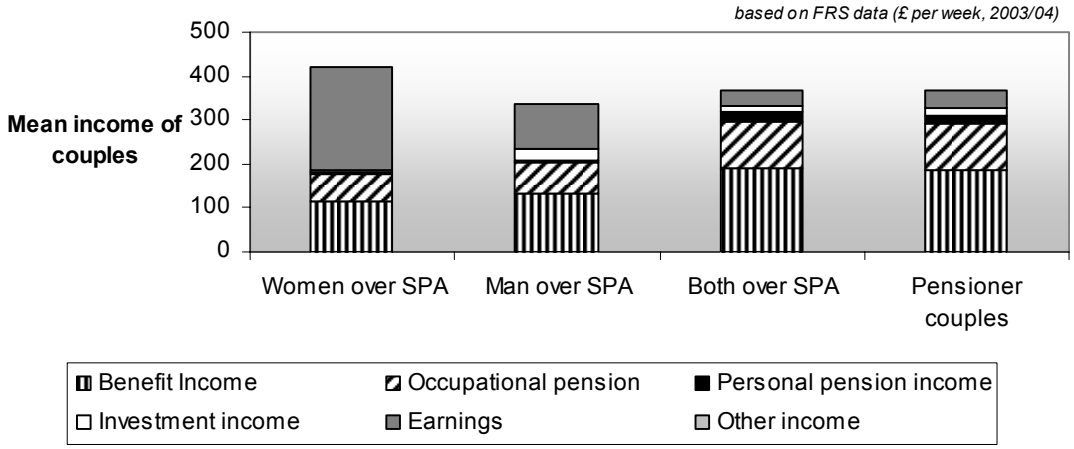

Figure 25 shows that pensioner couples with one member over state pension age and one below had, on average, much higher earnings, and this had also resulted a higher overall income for pensioner couples whereby the woman was over State Pension age and the man was under it. Traditionally couples with only the woman over SPA have been excluded from the analysis within the Pensioners' Incomes Series on the grounds that they had very different characteristics from other pensioner couples.

It is also clear from Figure 25 that couples where the man was over SPA but the women was below it also had different characteristics from couples where both members were above SPA, for example the former group had higher income from investments.

Table 23 shows the average income of couples where one partner was over SPA but the other was not (most of the couples within this group are excluded from the Pensioner Income Series definition of pensioner couples).

Table 23: The average incomes of couples where only one partner is over state pension age , 2002/03-2003/04

Results based upon data from the FRS — *Incomes in £ per week, 2003/04 prices*

	FRS		
	2002/03	2003/04	As a % of gross income in 2003/04
Couples where one partner is over state pension age but the other is not			
Gross Income	387	404	100%
Of which:			
Benefit income	124	118	29%
Occupational pension	72	64	16%
Personal pension income	17	4	1%
Investment income	24	9	2%
Earnings	148	209	52%
Other income	2	1	0%
Net Income BHC			
Mean	325	340	84%
Median	275	298	
Net Income BHC			
Mean	309	325	81%
Median	253	263	

Notes:
(1) Couples where the woman is over the state pension age and the men under, are excluded from the definition of a pensioner unit (and hence from all other tables in this publication) for historical reasons.
(2) Estimates of less than £0.50 or 0.5% are labelled.*
(3) BHC stands for 'before housing costs' and AHC for 'after housing costs'.

Mixed Status couples are a relatively small group, and so their inclusion or exclusion makes little difference to the overall results for 'Pensioner Couples' or pensioner units as a whole. However, for some sub-groups, and analysis of some components of income, for instance earnings, inclusion or exclusion of these mixed status couples will make a difference.

Table 24 looks at the income from earnings for various groups of pensioner couples; couples where the man is over State Pension Age (SPA) but the woman is below SPA, couples where the woman is above SPA but the man is not, couples in which one partner is over SPA but the other is not and those couples where both are over SPA.

Table 24: The proportion of different groups of pensioner couples with income from earnings and the average amounts for those in receipt, 2003/04

Results based upon data from the FRS *Incomes in £ per week, 2003/04 prices*

	Proportion in receipt of income from earnings (%)	Average amount of income from earnings for those in receipt (£pw)	
		Mean	Median
Published results (table 16)	6%	296	167
Man over SPA, Woman under SPA	42%	246	265
Woman over SPA, Man under SPA	46%	504	418
Strictly one member over SPA, one under SPA	45%	459	401
Both Members over SPA	10%	349	167

Notes:
(1) Earnings refers to earnings from employment and self-employment.
(2) SPA stands for State Pension Age (65 for men, or 60 for women)

The groups of pensioner couples in **Table 24** are based on a small sample of pensioner units and so the results are subject to relatively large levels of uncertainty.