



UNDER EMBARGO TILL MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

## Women let men sort finances when moving

New research from Halifax Estate Agents reveals that when moving, men with a partner or spouse are more likely to be solely responsible for sorting the finances than women. 48% of men in a relationship will typically manage the finances for moving, compared to 34% of women. However, when it comes to deciding when and where to move, results show it is a joint decision.

The key findings were:

- 65% of UK couples will make a joint decision to move
- 48% of men will sort out the finances alone
- We are less likely to consult with our partners as we get older, 69% of those under 35 make a joint decision to move compared to 58% of the over 65s
- The Welsh are the most likely region to jointly agree when to move (77%)

**Most UK couples make a joint decision to move** – The majority of UK adults (65%) who live with their spouse or partner will make a joint decision when deciding to sell or move. Furthermore, just over two thirds of Brits (69%) will make a joint decision when it comes to buying or renting a new property. Typically, UK adults are less likely to sort out the finances jointly when moving, with just 36% sharing the responsibility.

### A battle of the sexes?

**Marginal differences between the sexes when deciding to move** – When moving and then choosing a new home, there is little difference between men and women in the decision-making. 19% of men and 21% of women said they act alone when choosing to move. Additionally, there is only a marginal difference between men and women who say they make the decision to move jointly with their partner, with men at 64% and women at 66%.

**Half of men will sort out the finances alone** – The gender gap may be small when deciding to move, but when it comes to sorting out the finances for a new home, nearly half of men (48%) will sort the finances out alone. In comparison, only a third of women (34%) will be solely responsible for getting the books in order before the move. 26% of women will let their spouse or partner make financial preparations, compared to just 17% of men.

## Across the ages

**Joint decisions to move decreases with age** – Younger generations are most likely to make a joint decision with 72% of 16 – 24 year olds, not wanting to decide alone. In contrast, only 58% of the over 65s will involve their partner or spouse when deciding to move.

**Big difference in younger generations' financial organisation** – 50% of 25 – 34 year olds say they alone sort the finances when moving house. In comparison, only a quarter (23%) of 16 – 24 year olds would make independent preparations, with 51% preferring to share the responsibility.

## Geographical differences

**The Welsh think two minds are better than one when moving** – Regionally, the Welsh are the most likely to make a joint decision with nearly four fifths (77%) agreeing two minds are better than one. Conversely, those in Yorkshire and Humber prefer to go it alone, with only 53% making a joint decision to move.

**Half of the North will sort the finances jointly** – The North is the highest region when sorting finances jointly (51%). With only a quarter (24%), the East Midlands is the lowest region for arranging the finances together.

Gordon Edwards, managing director, Halifax Estate Agents, commented:

"Buying a house is the biggest purchase most of us are likely to make. If you are deciding to sell your home, purchase a new property or sorting the finances for a move, it's important to involve your partner in the decision-making process."

## Editor's Notes

The survey was carried out by GfK NOP in September 2007 using a nationally representative sample of 1002 adults aged 16 and over.

Table 1: When it comes to moving home, who would you say typically makes the decision to sell or move?

	Male	Female	UK Average
Both	64%	66%	65%
You	19%	21%	20%
Partner/ Spouse	14%	9%	12%
None of these	2%	4%	3%
Don't Know	1%	-	1%

Table 2: Who would you say typically sorts the finances for a move?

	Male	Female	UK Average
You	48%	34%	41%
Both	34%	38%	36%
Partner/ Spouse	17%	26%	22%
Don't Know	2%	2%	2%

Table 3: When it comes to moving, who typically makes the decision to move?

<b>Age</b>	<b>Joint decision to move</b>
16 – 24	72%
25 – 34	63%
35 – 44	69%
45 – 54	69%
55 – 64	64%
65+	58%

Table 4: When it comes to buying or renting a new property who makes the decision to do so?

<b>Region</b>	<b>Joint decision</b>
Wales	81%
West Midlands	75%
Scotland	74%
East Midlands	72%
South West	72%
South East	72%
Anglia	70%
North West	69%
North	66%
London	65%
Northern Ireland	61%
Yorkshire & Humberside	56%