

Age may weigh against advertising, marketing, PR professionals

New research, from the new YouGov 'Age in the Workplace', commissioned by MEC and Campaign, indicates that people in the media, marketing, PR and advertising industry may experience higher rates of ageism compared with those in the general workplace.



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The research shows that 42% of respondents, working in media and advertising, have witnessed ageism towards others in the workplace and 32% have experienced ageism towards themselves. This is more than twice the average for the workers across Britain, where 19% of people say they have seen ageism towards others and 11% towards themselves.

The research also suggests that people in advertising, media, marketing or PR are more likely to feel that ageism impacts on job prospects, 40% of those aged 45 and over say that they have missed a job, because they were too old – double the average among workers nationally.

Overall, one in five respondents in these industries have felt they had lost out on a job, because they were too old.

- 56% were told they were 'overqualified' when being turned down for a job they feel they did not get because of their age
- 25% were actually told that they were 'too old' when being turned down for a job

The research shows that 37% of people surveyed in media, marketing, PR and advertising see themselves in their current sector past the age of 50, compared to 63% of workers across Britain. Almost half (49%) of male respondents see themselves in media and advertising past the age of 50, but this falls to 30% for women.

In terms of the portrayal of people over 50 in media and advertising, the research shows that 31% of British adults would like to see older people featured in ads more often, with 44% stating they'd like to see 'about the same' amount and 37% of adults aged 45 and over would like to see older people featured in ads more often.

Moreover, 72% of British workers feel they have not missed a job, because of their age, either too young or too old. Showing that overall, we try to hire people based on their skills.

Jason Dormieux, the chief executive of MEC, said, "Diversity continues to be a big issue for the advertising and media industries, and rightly so. However, age and ageism have yet to form a part of this debate. Our 'Age in the Workplace' research and initiative, aims to highlight the positive power of embracing diversity in all its forms, including age, to ensure our people, our clients and our industry benefit."

Methodology

The YouGov survey had a total sample size of 2,125 GB adults, including a base of 831 workers within business sizes of two or more, the figures have been weighted allowing for a nationally representative and reliable insight on age and the workplace. The MEC/Campaign industry survey, hosted by YouGov, achieved 253 completed responses among workers in media/marketing/advertising/PR.

The research was commissioned as part of MEC and Campaign's Age in the Workplace initiative to raise awareness of ageism as an industry diversity issue. An event will follow on Monday 28 November.

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