

Some persons, particularly the self-employed and family workers, may not have regular or ‘usual’ hours, in the sense that their hours vary considerably from week to week or month to month. When the respondent is unable to provide a figure for usual hours for this reason, the average of the hours actually worked per week over the income reference period (or months with any work) is used as a measure of usual hours. Usual hours may also include work done at home, such as planning, record-keeping and so on.

Persons who usually work at home

This concept applies to those who work wholly or partly at home, often in a part of their living accommodation set aside for the purpose. However, if the place of work comprises a separate unit (for example, a doctor’s surgery or tax consultant’s practice) which is adjacent to the person’s home but contains a separate entrance, then work performed there should not be considered to be conducted ‘at home’. Similarly, a farmer is not to be regarded as working ‘at home’ when they are working in fields or buildings adjacent to their house. For employees, ‘working at home’ should be interpreted strictly in terms of formal working arrangements, where it is mutually understood by the employee and the employer that a certain part of the work is to be conducted at home. Such an arrangement may be included in the terms of employment, or may be recognised in other ways (for example, if the employee explicitly notifies the employer of this work by completing a timesheet, or by requesting additional payment or other form of compensation). This arrangement is also recognised if an employee is equipped with a computer in their home in order to perform their work. Other typical examples of ‘working at home’ include travelling salespeople who prepare at home for appointments with clients which are then held at the clients’ offices or homes, or persons who do typing or knitting work which on completion is sent to a central location.

‘Working at home’ does not cover cases where employees carry out tasks at home (because of personal interests or time constraints), which under their working arrangements might equally have been performed at their place of work.

Suggested question:

FILTER: If PL211A to PL211L≠1-4 >> Go to the next question

If at least one of PL211A-L=1,2,3,4 >> then go to PL260_Q1

PL260_Q1: How many hours did you usually work per week last year?

[This question includes hours of work in your main, second, third (and subsequent) jobs that you have held during the income reference period. This covers all hours including overtime, either paid or unpaid, which you usually work, but excludes the travel time between your home and place of work as well as the main meal break (usually taken at midday)].

Please write the number of hours: _____