Lardly worth it: Overweight women and short men are paid LESS

**Fat female workers get £1,500 less a year while men measuring 5ft6 lose £3,000**

**By NICK McDermott, Health Editor**

00:01, 9 Mar 2016

**OVERWEIGHT women can end up getting paid thousands a year less in wages, a study claims.**

A woman a stone heavier than another of the same height gets on average around £1,500 a year less — double that if she weighs 2st more, the findings suggest.

The study also found short men similarly get paid less than their taller colleagues.

A man of 5ft 9in earns on average £1,500 a year less than one who is 6ft. Someone of 5ft 6in is short-changed by £3,000.

The Exeter University study compared the height and weight of thousands of workers to measure the impact on income.

Lead researcher Professor Tim Frayling said: “This is the best available evidence to indicate that your height or weight can directly influence your earnings and other socioeconomic factors throughout your life.”

Research shows people from poorer backgrounds are less likely to grow tall and more likely to pile on the pounds.

It is partly due to poorer education and childhood nutrition.

In the latest study, published in the British Medical Journal, scientists looked at 120,000 adults aged 40 to 70, comparing body shape and size with income.

*Their results showed a woman lost £28 a week in earnings for each extra stone she weighed compared to someone of the same height.*

Men lost a similar amount for every 3ins they lost in height to a male worker.

Prof Frayling said: “This won’t apply in every case. Many shorter men or overweight women are very successful.

“But science must now ask why we are seeing this pattern. In a world where we are obsessed with body image, are employers biased?”

Experts said low self-esteem or depression may play a role and harm career prospects.

But they suggested that overweight or short employees may also face workplace discrimination.

Prof Frayling added: “Taller men are perceived to be better leaders.

“One Dutch study showed volunteers a photo of a man and then blew it up to make him look taller.

“Even though it was the same man, they thought the one in the taller photo looked a better leader.”