

Nomadic Lifestyle

Baby Boomers as Entrepreneurs

Sherry Cooper, a preeminent Canadian economist, writer, and retirement researcher, states:

"Pre-retirees expect to spend less time around the house than previous generations did and spend more time working. They say the primary reason for working is to remain mentally active, to keep in touch with people, and, only thirdly, to earn money."

Will Baby Boomers Continue to Work After They "Retire"?

Baby Boomers might not have an option as to whether they continue working after they retire. Study after study shows that boomers who are retiring over the next 5 to 10 years run an extreme risk of outliving their assets. It's a good thing, then, that at least 58% of working boomers said they would like to continue working after retirement, with many indicating their preference for self-employment.

In the United States, 60% of all entrepreneurs are baby boomers and seniors, with baby boomers and baby boomers' babies (also know as Generation Y) being overrepresented in the statistics on entrepreneurs.

But Baby Boomers don't want to spend all of their time working. They also want to spend time pursuing community interests, returning to school or self-educating, traveling, and pursuing leisure activities during their retirement.

Employee or Self-Employed

Corporations and other employers who want to retain baby boomers as employees will need to provide a fairly high level of flexibility so that boomers can blend working with the other activities they want to pursue. This isn't new for baby boomers – boomer women were the feminists that persuaded employers to become more flexible so that women could both work and raise children. Job shares, flex-time and tele-working are a few options already under consideration by employers as a means of enticing baby boomers to remain employed. Until the recent economic downturn.



Nervi, Italy The Italian Riviera, along the Mediterranean Coast

Boomers' Experiences

Baby Boomers have lived through several economic downturns and experienced numerous rounds of corporate restructurings followed by employee redundancies. It's no wonder that baby boomers and their kids are keen to be self-employed.

Back to Sherry Cooper again who states, "So for both want and need, boomers will work longer and more flexibly. Thanks to major technological advances, *many boomers can work from home or virtually anywhere else.*" (emphasis added)

Nomadic Entrepreneurship is an Increasingly More Significant Part of a Baby Boomer's Life.

The ability to pursue income-generating opportunities over the Internet underscores a huge part of the quality of life for Baby Boomers. Having lived through decades of the 9-5 grind, fighting rush-hour traffic and the endless business meetings Boomers are looking for something else.

Mind you, this nomadic entrepreneurship work-style is available to anyone who is interested in developing a lifestyle that allows them the freedom and flexibility that working from home provides ... regardless of where 'home' is.

So What Types of Careers Best Suit the Nomadic Entrepreneur Work–style?

Probably the most easily identifiable nomadic career is that of the writer. Freelance writing can be done anywhere in the world and the finished product is easy to ship to a buyer. But depending on the type of writing career you choose, writing can either pay really well (for example: copywriting) or really poorly (for example: travel writing). Fortunately, writing lends itself really well to any number of niches, so how well writing can support a nomadic lifestyle depends upon the type of writing career you develop and the niche you focus on.

But writing isn't the only way to make a living as a location independent professional. The Internet, new communications technologies, the Information Economy have increased the number of careers that suit the nomadic lifestyle exponentially. Today, any job that is not based on face-to-face encounters between people can be turned into a virtual career. Even this restriction is disappearing as technologies improve. The technology to perform both medical and psychological diagnosing and treatment are becoming increasingly more sophisticated. Most office jobs today are based on processing information – which can be done virtually.

In fact, the biggest restriction to working virtually is not technology – its attitude. Finding an employer that will allow employees, even contract workers, to work remotely 100% of the time is rare, for now. But as people become more used to these technologies and begin working remotely themselves, this attitude will relax. And as more baby boomers request this degree of flexibility, working remotely from a different city or different country will become more commonplace.

Some informative and easy to use tutorials on dealing with some of the basic technologies necessary to become a Location Independent Professional can be found here on the Location Independent Blog:

<http://locationindependent.com/blog/free-resources/tech-tutorials/>

More information on developing an online, nomadic, location independent, virtual enterprise can be found on the **Nomadic Entrepreneur** page of this website, located at: <http://www.agelessnomads.com/nomadic-entrepreneur/>