

Publication: Annanova

Date: 27th June 2006

Headline: Moving Back In With Mum And Dad

Subject: European research

Adults are being forced to move back in with their parents because of rising house prices and soaring levels of debt, it is claimed.

An estimated 4.3 million single people aged between 25 and 50 have moved back to the family home after being unable to afford to live alone, according to dating firm Parship.com.

Four out of 10 single people said high house prices meant they were unable to buy their own place.

Meanwhile "unrealistic" rents on one-bedroom apartments meant they could not even afford to rent.

Others cited the amount of unsecured debt they had taken on as being the main obstacle to their independence.

More than half of all single people who live with their parents owe between £10,000 and £20,000 in unsecured debt.

Some 21% owe between £20,000 and £50,000 through credit cards, overdrafts and loans.

The research found that just 42% of single people in the UK lived by themselves, compared with an average of 56% across Europe - and 81% in Switzerland.

A further 3% of single Britons admitted that financial constraints were forcing them to continue living with former partners.

Men are more likely to live at home than women, with 26% living with their parents, compared with just 15% of women.

Tony Blin-Stoyle, UK director of Parship.co.uk, said: "For many singles, particularly between the ages of 25 and 50, renting never mind buying a property is just a pipe dream."