

## What is STREAM?

STREAM is a **four-year longitudinal study** with annual measurements among **persons aged 45-64** in the Netherlands. Participants fill in an online questionnaire on topics such as: health, work, knowledge and skills, social circumstances, and financial situation. See the **STREAM Research Framework** for an overview of constructs measured.

More than **12,000 employees, 1,000 self-employed persons, and 2,000 non-employed persons** participated in the first measurement. In the second measurement 82% of the original participants participated, in the third measurement this was 80%. In the fall of 2013 the last measurement will be conducted.

For data collection an existing Intomart GfK internet panel is used. For 89% of baseline participants, **data linkage** with information from **Statistics Netherlands** is possible.

To obtain additional insight, **qualitative studies** have and will be conducted among STREAM participants.

STREAM is being conducted by **TNO**, in close collaboration with the **VU Medical Center** and the **Erasmus MC**.

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# STREAM Newsletter

Issue 1

## Study on Transitions in Employment, Ability and Motivation

This is the first of a series of newsletters to keep you updated on new findings, upcoming events, and recent publications within the STREAM cohort.

With the ageing of the population, it is essential to keep older employees working longer. The goal of STREAM is to study under which circumstances persons aged 45 and older can continue participating in paid employment in good health and with a high productivity.

## Psychosocial Determinants of Early Exit from the Workforce

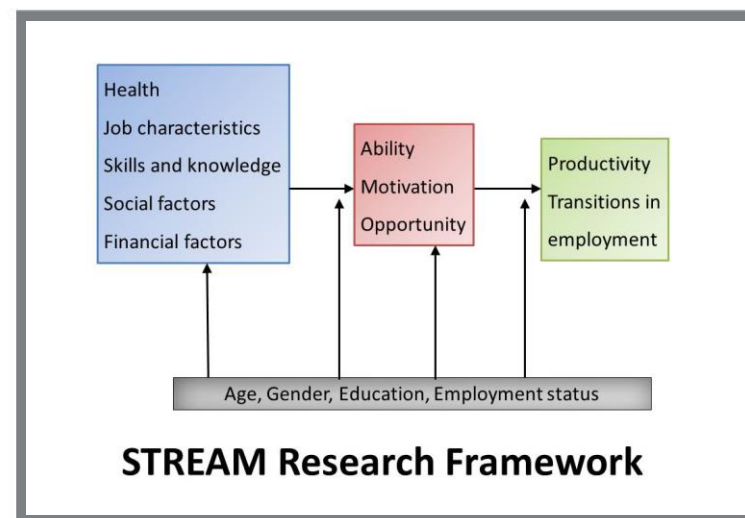
A recent STREAM study investigated the influence of psychosocial job characteristics on early exit from the work force due to work disability, unemployment, and retirement before the age of 65. The STREAM data from 9,310 employees, who participated in 2010 and 2011, was used.

We found that poor health predicted all types of early exit routes from the workforce--most strongly work disability and unemployment. With regard to psychosocial job characteristics, employees with higher autonomy less often left the workforce via work disability as compared to those with lower autonomy. Employees that experienced higher social support from colleagues and their supervisor, on the other hand, less often retired early and became unemployed less often.

These results were based on a one year follow-up period (STREAM 2010-2011) and suggest that policies and interventions aimed at the prolongation of working life need to take the psychosocial work environment into account.

See reference De Wind et al., 2013 in Recent Publications below.

**STREAM is interested in (inter)national and multidisciplinary collaborations to conduct innovative research with practical implications. Contact us for possible partnerships!**



# Employment Status

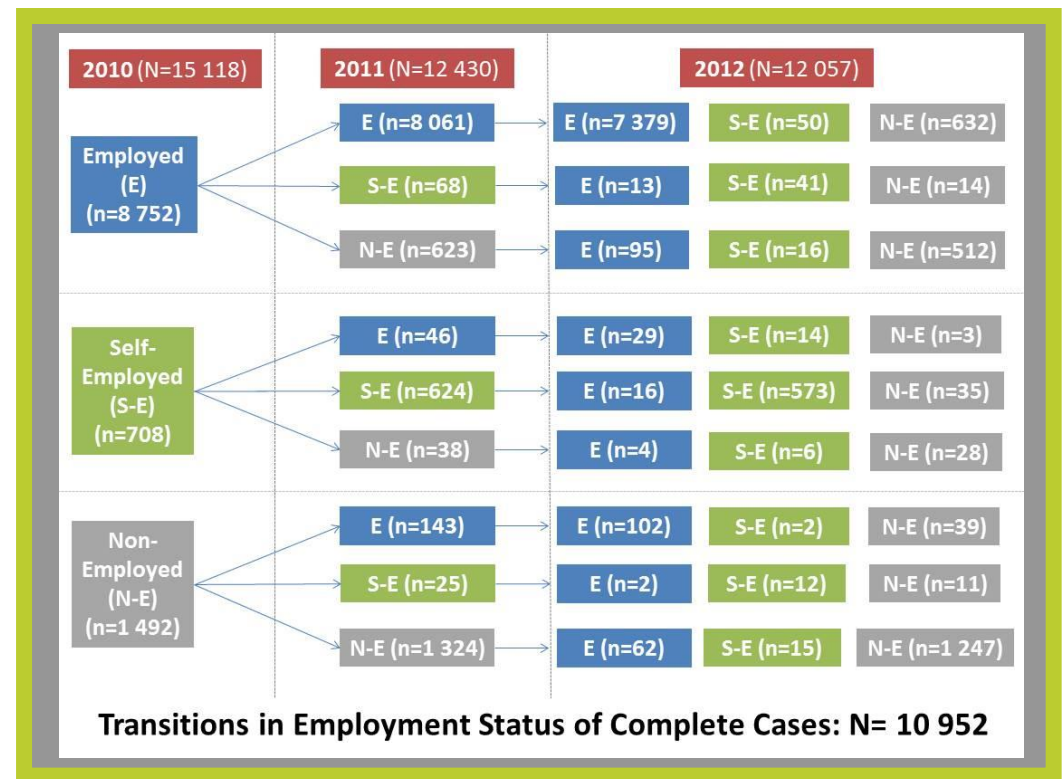
## Transitions in STREAM 2010-2012

Participants' work status can be categorized into three mutually exclusive groups in STREAM: **employed**, **self-employed**, or **non-employed** (i.e. unemployed, (early) retired, housewife/man, in school, or disability pension). In total, 84% of STREAM respondents that participated in all three measurements (10 952) did not change work status throughout the three measurements.

Of the complete case sample (10 952), 67% was **employed** at each measurement. Five and eleven percent of the complete case sample was **self-employed** and **non-employed**, respectively, in 2010, 2011, and 2012.

About 13% and 9% of persons **employed** and **self-employed**, respectively, at baseline were **non-employed** in 2012. Of those persons **non-employed** at baseline, about 13% were either **self-employed** or employed in 2012.

Of those persons **employed** at baseline, the largest majority of those who were **non-employed** in 2012 (1 158), retired (810 persons). Of unemployed persons (a subgroup of **non-employed** persons) at baseline, about 35% was (**self-**)**employed** in 2012.



## Upcoming Events

- WEON 2013. Epidemiology in Global Health: Challenges and Methods. Utrecht, the Netherlands June 6-7, 2013. *Contribution STREAM: Presentation Fenna Leijten.*
- EPICOH 2013. The 23rd International Conference on Epidemiology in Occupational Health. Utrecht, the Netherlands June 18-21, 2013. *Contribution STREAM: Presentation Fenna Leijten.*
- Work, Well-being and Wealth: Active Ageing at Work. Helsinki, Finland August 26-28, 2013. *Contribution STREAM: Presentations Astrid de Wind & Swenneke van den Heuvel; Poster Goede Geuskens.*
- European Cohort Studies on Healthy Ageing at Work Symposium. Hoofddorp, the Netherlands October 24-25. *Organized by STREAM.*

## Contact Information

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## Recent Publications

- De Wind A, Ybema JF, Van der Beek AJ. "Psychosocial job characteristics and older persons' early exit from the workforce" [Psychosociale werkkenmerken en vervroegde uittreding ouderen]. *Economische Statistische Berichten*. **2013**;98(4655):152-155. [Dutch]  
Link: [Economisch Statistische Berichten](#)
- De Wind A, Geuskens GA, Reeuwijk KG, Westerman MJ, Ybema JF, Burdorf A, Bongers PM, van der Beek AJ. "Pathways through which health influences early retirement: a qualitative study". *BMC Public Health*. **2013**;13:292.  
Link: [PMID: 23551994](#)
- Leijten F, Van den Heuvel S, Geuskens G, Ybema JF, de Wind A, Burdorf A, Robroek S. "How do older employees with health problems remain productive at work?: a qualitative study". *Journal of Occupational Rehabilitation*. **2013**;23(1):115-24.  
Link: [PMID: 23054226](#)
- Leijten FRM, Van den Heuvel SG, Ybema JF, Robroek SJ, Burdorf A. "Do work factors modify the association between chronic health problems and sickness absence among older employees?" *Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health*. **2013** [Epub ahead of print]  
Link: [PMID: 23440271](#)
- Sanders J, Van Wijk E, Boneschansker O, Ybema JF. "From employment to employment mobility among low educated persons aged 45 and above" [Van baan naar baanmobiliteit bij laagopgeleide 45-plussers]. *Tijdschrift voor Arbeidsvraagstukken*. **2012**;28: 474-490. [Dutch]  
Link: [Boom Lemma tijdschriften](#)