

Company founders quit the office for a leisurely life

Company founders are selling up in droves after pandemic-driven lifestyle shifts prompted them to quit the office in favour of a leisurely life.

Emma Keeling, COO of Corbett Keeling, which helps sell private [companies](#), said the volume of enquiries from sellers had reached an all-time high.

She told the Standard: “Many CEOs have spent the last 20 to 30 years building their business – they’ve come through Covid and that was hard.”

“There may be another recession – and they’re thinking, ‘have I got the energy for that?’”

GlobalScope, a group of M&A firms including Corbett Keeling, completed 225 deals in 2021 with a total value of over \$8 billion.

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It comes after [labour market data released](#) by the [Office for National Statistics](#) showed over-50s had the largest increase

of people leaving employment among all age groups since the start of the pandemic, with retirement being the most common reason for quitting.

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Almost half a million over-50s left the workforce in the fourth quarter of 2021, almost double the number leaving over the same period in 2020.

Over 80% of those who lost or left their job during the pandemic had not returned to work, according to the ONS Over 50s lifestyle study.