

National Survey Finds 11 Percent of Employees Telework

Over 10.6 million people - 11 percent of the workforce - telework full or part-time, according to the 2005/2006 National Technology Readiness Survey (NTRS).



The NTRS survey also found that if everyone who had an employer policy allowing them to telework took advantage of it, the share of teleworkers would grow from 11 to 16 percent of the workforce.

The annual survey - sponsored by the Robert H. Smith School of Business' Center for Excellence in Service at the University of Maryland, and technology research firm RockbridgeAssociates Inc. - asked non-teleworkers whose employers give them the option to telework how often they would telework. Like those already teleworking, most indicated they would telework part-time, with 68 percent saying they'd do so one or more days per week and an additional 18 percent indicating they would telework less than one day per week. Only 14 percent said they would not telework.

"With national gas prices hovering near \$3 a gallon, American workers could suffer less pain at the pump if they took advantage of workplace teleworking policies," said Roland Rust, Executive Director of the Center for Excellence in Service. "In addition to saving billions of dollars to the economy, the time and money saved on a long commute - even just two days a week - could significantly increase productivity and employee satisfaction."

Other findings from the 2005/2006 NTRS regarding teleworking - working at home or outside the traditional workplace - include:

- Of those who do not have the option to telework, 13 percent believe they have the kind of job that would allow them to telework at least some of the time without interfering with their productivity.
- The median commuting time reported by U.S. workers with commutes is 20 minutes each way, and the median distance is 10 miles each way.
- Eighty-two percent of full-time American workers have a Web connection at home, 69 percent of which are high-speed.

A summary of the 2005/2006 survey can be found online at www.rhsmith.umd.edu/ntrs/ or by clicking [here](#).

Sources: Telecommute Connecticut!, TELCOA