

Worldatwork

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New Report Shows Teleworking Increases Productivity by 20%

July 1, 2011 — UK Transport Secretary Philip Hammond recently called for employees in London to work from home during the Olympics in 2012. The move is intended to ease transport congestion. However, in the latest CBI/Pertemps Employment Trends Survey, almost half of all employers (46%) said they now offered teleworking to staff, which is a dramatic increase from 14% three years ago and 11% in 2006.

Bosses believe that staff may be trying to cut their carbon footprint, or are avoiding a troublesome commute and poor transport infrastructure. Employers also understand that by using teleworking, productivity will not suffer if staff are not in the office.

British Telecom began a telework program in 1986, and now has 15,000 teleworkers out of 92,000 employees. The company argues that teleworkers save it an average of £6,000 a year each, are 20% more productive and take fewer sick days.

"Using teleworking to take work out of the workplace has become very popular, and is also a useful way to avoid a laborious commute, balance family commitments, and even reduce carbon emissions," said John Cridland, CBI deputy director-general. "As technology becomes more reliable and widely available, this trend can only grow."

Andrew Pearce, CEO of leading Teleconferencing Company [Powwownow](#), said: "For the last three decades flexible working has been the principle backbone of the UK's productivity. Our strength has not been achieved solely by efficient plant and machinery, but through having a flexible and talented workforce which works to the advantage of both the employee and employer."

When [Telework Association](#) and Wisework Ltd. surveyed 350 people asking how confident they were about their productivity when working from home, more than half were definitely sure they were more productive.

Participants were also asked whether they agreed with statements on a list of possible reasons for increased productivity; almost all agreed that the elimination of commuting was a contributor.

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