



Productivity levels fall as 38% of office workers call on their employers to do more

New research shows 60% believe their business has productivity issues with the average worker losing an hour and a half a day.

Productivity levels in offices across the UK have fallen to a dramatic low, with a quarter of workers admitting they are unproductive for up to 2 hours a day, adding up to a staggering 40 million* hours lost across the UK every week. Worryingly, compared to 2017 the average office worker has lost an extra 30 minutes a day to productivity issues.

Fellowes, office product specialists, released their second Productivity in the UK report today to help businesses understand what their employees need to increase output and the tools that can help.

The study found that over a third (38%) of office workers felt their employers weren't doing enough to help their productivity and nearly half (40%) even went as far as to say they were more productive than their boss.

The report questioned 1,250 office workers from legal, education, finance, IT & telecoms and marketing industries across the UK. Findings include:

- A third of UK office workers (30%) admitted to only completing 1-4 tasks every day
- On average Brits failed to meet deadlines at least once a week
- When asked if a four-day week would help workers be more productive, 65% agreed

A recent report from the Bank of England found that Britain has endured the worst decade for productivity growth since the 18th Century¹, whilst the Office of National Statistics have announced that between January 2018 we saw just 0.1% growth in GDP, the slowest recorded since 2012².

So, what is holding the UK workforce back?

The biggest causes of distraction for respondents included:

- Talking to colleagues (47%)
- Emails (29%)

¹ Bank Underground, John Lewis, Bitesize: The past decade's productivity growth in historical context, 25.04.18

² Office of National Statistic, Economic Review, 26.04.18

- Mobile phones (24%)

Although chatting with colleagues was also the number one distraction in 2017, social media and mobile use has climbed to the top distractions this year.

Bosses across the country have an obligation to help their employees, with a quarter of office workers claiming having less meetings would help them be more productive, as well as 17% saying that taking more breaks would increase output and 16% looking for better management.

Over a third (36%) complained they were faced with not having the right office equipment more than once a week, compared with 1 in 5 in 2017. A quarter (19%) agreed that better office equipment would make them feel more productive in the office and 95% agreed that good office equipment improves output.

Fellowes UK & Ireland Sales and Marketing Director, Darryl Brunt, added:

“The makeup of every workforce is different but it’s clear that employers need to do more to help get the best from their employees. With only 59% of UK office workers saying they are quite productive its key for solutions to be implemented quickly.

To unlock people’s productivity, workers must not only have the right equipment but they must feel valued and supported. By establishing smarter ways of working, employers can build an empowered workforce which best serves its customers.”

To help get those lost hours back Fellowes have pulled together their top tips for staying productive:

- 1. Get your files in order:** Knowing exactly where all the documents you need are frees up time and helps you be more productive. Having an effective records management solution, such as the Bankers Box® Premium and System Range, helps you access files with ease. It’s always best practice to use a shredder to safely and confidently dispose of any documents you no longer need
- 2. Set up to succeed:** Prepare yourself to be productive by making sure you are comfortable at your desk. Bad working habits when using computers, laptops and tablets are a major cause of distractions in the workplace. Fellowes intuitive range of ergonomic workplace solutions, including back, foot and wrist supports as well as sit stand work stations, help you adopt the correct posture, sit comfortably and ultimately upgrade your working environment to get more done
- 3. Be creative:** 1 in 5 people believe they would be more productive if they had a better office environment, and even the smallest changes can help increase output. Using binding

machines, laminators and trimmers you can transform your work materials and office spaces to increase motivation and achieve more

- 4. Talk to your team:** Communication is key in any business, whether that is with your immediate team or the company boss. Ensure you understand the tools your team needs to succeed. Reliable, fast and efficient business machines are essential for optimising productivity in the workplace. Fellowes business machines are well known for their quality of build, their cutting-edge features and their time-saving performances

As part of its Productivity in the UK 2018 report, Fellowes aims to make workers thrive thanks to over 100 years of experience helping businesses work better. Fellowes believe that the workplace should be the optimal environment for everyone to be the best they can. Our century-long commitment to creating workspace solutions helps workers make an impact every day. We know that with the right tools, everyone has the ability to fully harness their potential.

Find out more at www.fellowes.com

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*Stats based on 16million office based workers in the UK.

Notes to editors:

Censuswide survey of 1250 office workers conducted in April 2018.

About Fellowes Brands

Fellowes is a global manufacturer and market leader of products for improving life at work, at home and on the go, including business machines, Bankers Box records storage solutions, workplace management products, home and commercial air purification and mobile technology accessories. For more information, visit: www.fellowes.com