



Hostelworld US Survey Results: Remote Work

July 2017

// Methodology

Hostelworld conducted an online survey via SurveyMonkey of over 1,300 US citizens in June 2017. Respondents were between the ages of 18 and 100 and lived in the United States.

// Data & Results

Remote Work General Findings

- On average, 47.06 percent of US citizens require physical access to co-workers, paperwork or equipment that is only available in office.
- Nearly half of US citizens (48.78 percent) work from home or remotely at least once per month. Of those that work from home, the majority (22.38 percent) work remotely and/or from home an average of 1-4 times per month.
- The vast majority of US citizens (71.26 percent) report that they are equally as productive or more productive when working remotely and/or from home than they are when working in an office. Only 17.24 percent report being less productive when working remotely and/or from home.
- Only 26.1 percent of survey respondents travel for business. Of those that do travel for business, the majority (18.98 percent) take 1-2 business trips per month.
- Only 16.5 percent of survey respondents have traveled abroad for personal reasons while working, however; nearly 40 percent (39.10 percent) said they would consider doing so in the future. Meanwhile, a quarter (25.42 percent) of respondents said they have not worked while traveling because it is not something their company would support.
- Respondents who have worked remotely while traveling abroad report a number of benefits. Top benefits include the ability to work and explore a new place (56.64 percent), the ability to work and develop personally / professionally (44.06 percent), the ability to work and learn a new culture (43.36 percent), the ability to work and meet new people (39.16 percent)
- The majority (68.53 percent) of respondents who have worked remotely while traveling said they were just as productive if not more productive during that time period — 29.37 percent report an increase in productivity, while 39.16 percent report no change in productivity. Just 18.18 percent report a decrease in productivity.
- Although the majority (81.12 percent) of US citizens have not participated in remote work programs — such as Remote Year, Hacker Paradise, Roam, etc. — 48.95 percent would consider doing so in the future. The most popular of these programs is Remote Year, with 6.29 percent of US citizens reporting that they have participated in the program in the past.
 - Of those who have participated in a remote work program, respondents cite a number of benefits including the ability to work and explore a new place (29.63 percent), the ability to meet new people (25.93 percent) and the ability to learn about a new culture (14.81 percent).
- Of those that are not interested in working remotely while traveling abroad, the majority (43.11 percent) report that they simply aren't interested in the concept. Other deterrents include not wanting to be away from home long term (30.54 percent), having friends and family at home

(29.34 percent), having other commitments at home (25.15 percent) and not having the financial resources necessary to do so (17.37 percent).

- 61.99 percent of US citizens would consider working remotely while traveling abroad if their company allowed it. Meanwhile 39.43 percent of US citizens would work from an international office if offered the opportunity and 29.95 percent would consider doing so.
- 31.06 percent of US citizens said it is important to them that their company is supportive of remote work, and would impact their decision to accept a job offer.

Age

- US citizens between the age of 18 and 29 are most likely to consider working remotely while traveling. However, those between 45 and 59-years old are most likely to consider participating in a remote work program such as Remote Year, Hacker Paradise, Unsettled, Roam or Nomad List (63.64 percent).
- The majority (78.79 percent) of US citizens between the age of 18 and 29 said they would consider working remotely while traveling abroad if their company supported it. This age group is also most likely to express interest in working from an international office if they had the opportunity to do so — 80.41 percent said they would seriously consider such an opportunity.
- Those between the age of 18 and 29 are least likely to take weeklong vacations intermittently (38.95 percent), but are most likely to have taken a gap year (8.14 percent) or studied abroad during college (15.70 percent) than those 30-years or older.

Gender

- Female respondents are less likely to work from home than their male counterparts — 55.05 percent of women never work from home, compared to the 47.21 percent of men that never work from home. However, women are more likely to report an increase in productivity when working from home than men.

Propensity to Work from Home

- US citizens that work remotely and/or from home an average of 15-19 times per month are most likely to travel while working — 55.55 percent of this group reports that they have worked remotely while traveling for personal reasons on at least one occasion. Interestingly, this group is more likely to travel while working than those that work remotely and/or from home every day.
- Those that work remotely at least once per month are more likely to have a variety of travel experiences under their belt than counterparts that always go into the office — this group is more likely to take a gap year, travel for a month or more at a time and take weeklong vacations intermittently.
- US citizens that never work remotely and/or from home are least likely to mention travel experiences during a job interview — 87.84 percent said they have never mentioned travel during the interview process.

Travel Experiences

- US citizens that studied abroad in college are most likely to express interest in working from an international office if given the opportunity — 62 percent said they would make the move if their company supported it.
- Those with long term travel experiences (gap year, study abroad, long term trips) are most likely to take a company's policy on remote work into consideration when accepting a job offer. Nearly half (49.77 percent) of this group said they would turn down a job offer if the company wasn't supportive of remote work.

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Employability General Findings

- Nearly half (47.31) of US citizens said they take weeklong vacations intermittently — this is the most commonly reported type of travel experience. Meanwhile, 32.13 percent of US citizens report that they have taken time off from school or work to travel, 21.50 percent have traveled for a month or more at a time, 8.76 percent studied abroad during college and just 4.56 percent have taken a gap year to travel.
- The majority (72.78 percent) of US citizens believe traveling makes you more employable. The top reasons cited are that travel helps you adapt to unknown situations (49.77 percent), it increases your communication skills (48.48 percent) and it improves people skills (45.79 percent).
- The majority (78.33 percent) of US citizens do not list travel experiences on their resume or mention those experiences in job interviews. However, 73.23 percent of those that did bring up travel experiences during the interview process report that it had a positive impact on the recruiter's decision.

Employer

- 32.73 percent of US citizens who play a role in hiring at their company said they would support remote work / travel programs and an additional 34.85 percent said they would consider it depending on the situation. Still, 32.42 percent of employers would not allow employees to work remotely while traveling for personal reasons.
- In the US, 60.31 percent of those that play a role in hiring at their company consider travel experiences when assessing a job candidate, but the weight of those experiences often depends on the situation.

Age

- US citizens between the age of 18 and 29 are most likely report that travel experiences make people more employable — the majority (82.56 percent) said travel helps with people skills, communication, confidence and beyond. This group is also most likely to share their travel experiences during the interview process, with the majority (59.09 percent) stating that this had a positive impact on the recruiter's decision.

Travel Experiences

- US citizens who have long term travel experience (gap year, study abroad, trip for a month or more) are more than 3 times as likely to list travel experiences on their resume or mention those experiences in an interview.