

## CareerBuilder Reveals This Year's Most Outrageous Excuses for Being Late to Work

PR Newswire  
CHICAGO

CHICAGO, Jan. 28, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- Getting in to work on time is not always an easy task. You never know what will get in the way of your morning routine – and it's not always traffic delays, missed alarms and bad weather, either. According to a new survey from CareerBuilder, Homeland Security, Vaseline and lizard surgeries are just a few of the things workers claim prevented them from getting to work on time this year.

When asked how often they come in late to work, 1 in 4 workers (25 percent) admitted they do it at least once a month, and 13 percent say it's a weekly occurrence for them — on par with last year.

More than 2,500 hiring and human resource managers (of which, more than 2,300 are in the private sector) and more than 3,200 workers across industries participated in the nationwide survey, conducted online by Harris Poll from November 4 and December 1, 2015.

### Most Bizarre Late-to-Work Excuses

Instead of blaming tardiness on typical traffic problems or public transportation woes, some employees are getting more creative with their justifications. When asked about the most outrageous excuses employees have given them for being late, employers shared the following:

- I thought of quitting today, but then decided not to, so I came in late.
- My hair caught on fire from my blow dryer.
- I was detained by Homeland Security.
- I had to chase my cows back into the field.
- A black bear entered my carport and decided to take a nap on the hood of my car.
- My lizard had to have emergency surgery in the morning and died during surgery. I had to mourn while deciding whether to have the lizard disposed of by the vet or bring the lizard corpse with me to work.
- There was fresh powder on the hill. I had to go skiing.
- There was a store grand opening and I wanted to get the opening day sales.
- I had to finish watching "My Name is Earl."
- All of my clothes were stolen.
- I was confused by the time change and unsure if it was "spring forward" or "fall back."
- A Vaseline truck overturned on the highway and cars were slipping left and right.

### Goodbye 9 to 5

Excuses might not be necessary as organizations move toward more flexible schedules. Approximately 2 in 3 employers (67 percent) and employees (66 percent) believe the concept of "working 9 to 5" is an antiquated practice, but more than half of employers (51 percent) expect employees to be on time every day, and 4 in 10 (41 percent) have fired someone for being late.

Some employers are more lenient than others, however. One third of employers (33 percent) say they have no problem with the occasional late arrival, as long as it doesn't become a pattern, and 16 percent say they don't need employees to be punctual if they can still get their work done. To that end, 62 percent of workers who arrive late will stay later to make up for it.

In general, the usual suspects are to blame for why employees are late to work: Traffic (53 percent),

oversleeping (33 percent), bad weather (28 percent), lack of sleep (23 percent) and needing to get kids to daycare or school (15 percent).

### **Survey Methodology**

These surveys were conducted online within the U.S. by Harris Poll on behalf of CareerBuilder among 2,595 hiring and human resource managers ages 18 and over (employed full-time, not self-employed, including 2,338 in the private sector) and 3,252 employees ages 18 and over (employed full-time, not self-employed, non-government) between November 4 and December 1, 2015. With pure probability samples of 2,595 and 3,252, one could say with a 95 percent probability that the overall results have sampling errors of +/- 1.92 and +/- 1.72 percentage points, respectively. Sampling error for data from sub-samples is higher and varies.

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