

More Than One-Third of Companies Report That Less Business Travel has Adversely Affected Their Business, Finds New CareerBuilder Survey

--Respondents Share the Most Unusual Experiences on Business Trips--

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CHICAGO, Feb. 16, 2011 /[PRNewswire](#)/ -- As companies carefully watched their budgets in 2010, many were reluctant to send their employees on planes, trains and automobiles. A new CareerBuilder survey reports that three-in-ten (30 percent) companies said they cut back on business travel last year, and of those companies, more than one-third (37 percent) said it negatively affected their business. The nationwide survey was conducted among more than 2,400 U.S. employers and more than 3,900 U.S. workers between November 15 and December 2, 2010.

When asked how fewer business trips affected their bottom lines, companies reported the following:

- Less effective internal communication – 12 percent
- Fewer sales – 11 percent
- Less effective execution on internal business initiatives – 10 percent
- Less customer loyalty – 8 percent

When it comes to business travel in 2011, the majority of companies (77 percent) report that business travel levels will stay the same as last year. Eleven percent said they will their companies will take more business trips this year, while 13 percent said business travel will decrease.

"Business travel is an important part of many companies' operations as it lets them stay connected with clients and employees across the globe," said Rosemary Haefner, vice president of human resources for CareerBuilder. "Some companies are revisiting their policies, though, to ensure they're maximizing the effectiveness of their business travel initiatives."

In addition to keeping a close eye on how much travel is taking place, nearly one-third (32 percent) of companies said they are also placing specific restrictions on business travel for employees since the recession, asking them to fly coach, lowering entertainment budgets, and having them only travel domestically.

Web conferencing is another way companies are keeping business travel budgets in check. Forty-two percent of companies said they rely more on phone/Web conferencing now to conduct business with clients, with 31 percent saying they get just as much out of virtual meetings as face-to-face meetings.

The majority of workers (68 percent) surveyed said they never travel for business, while 6 percent said they travel every other week or more. Five percent said they travel every other month. In addition, 19 percent of those who travel for business said the amount they travel negatively affects their home life.

When asked what most unusual experience they've had on a business trip, respondents reported the following:

- Woman next to me asked me for a drink from my water bottle.
- Our plane was stormed by the Columbian military who thought there was a drug lord on board.
- A client mooned the plane.
- A naked guy tried getting in my cab in Indonesia.
- A drunken passenger next to me insisted my headphones were a bomb.
- U.S. marshals arrested a passenger when the plane landed.
- A guy next to me had a carry-on bag filled with candy, which he kept offering me over and over and over again.
- A woman gave birth on the flight.
- After waking up, I accidentally walked into the hotel's hallway instead of the restroom in my underwear. Got locked out and could be viewed by the elevator which was all glass windows.
- Manager punched a co-worker on the plane.
- Fell asleep in the airplane restroom.

Survey Methodology

This survey was conducted online within the U.S. by Harris Interactive© on behalf of CareerBuilder.com among 2,482 U.S. employers and 3,910 U.S. employees (employed full-time; not self-employed; non-government) ages 18 and over between November 15 and December 2, 2010 (percentages for some questions are based on a subset, based on their responses to certain questions). With pure probability samples of 2,482 and 3,910 one could say with a 95 percent probability that the overall results have a sampling error of +/- 1.97 and +/- 1.57 percentage points, respectively. Sampling error for data from sub-samples is higher and varies.

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