



AFB MEMBER SURVEY: PLANS FOR RETURNING TO THE OFFICE DURING 2021

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OVERVIEW

During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the AFB surveyed members on various occasions to assess their plans for returning to working from the office. Most of the responses to those surveys stated that planning would be driven by the UK government's requirements to 'Work from home if you can'. As the Government has now removed that specific requirement, the AFB felt that it would be of interest to members to conduct a new survey to again assess the extent of plans to move staff back to working from the office.

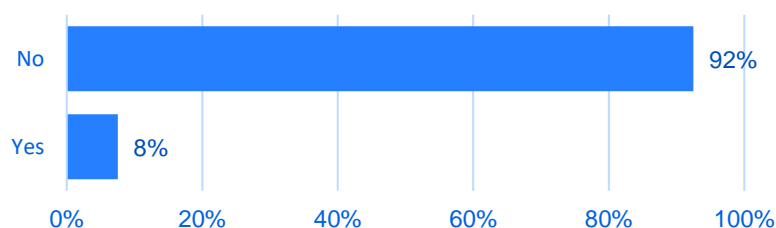
The survey was conducted between 16 August and 3 September, and we are grateful to the 93 member firms who responded. The survey was designed to be quick and easy to both complete and interpret and therefore the scope of the questions was focused on the most salient points. The headline results of the survey show that whilst the majority of respondents are not working from the office currently, around two-thirds are planning to ask staff to return for 2 or 3 days or more a week during September. Additionally, more than half of those questioned will encourage/allow staff to travel off-peak, more than half will have a rotation of teams present at any one time and close to half have made permanent changes to office layouts to increase distancing. A requirement to be vaccinated was only noted by a small portion of members.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

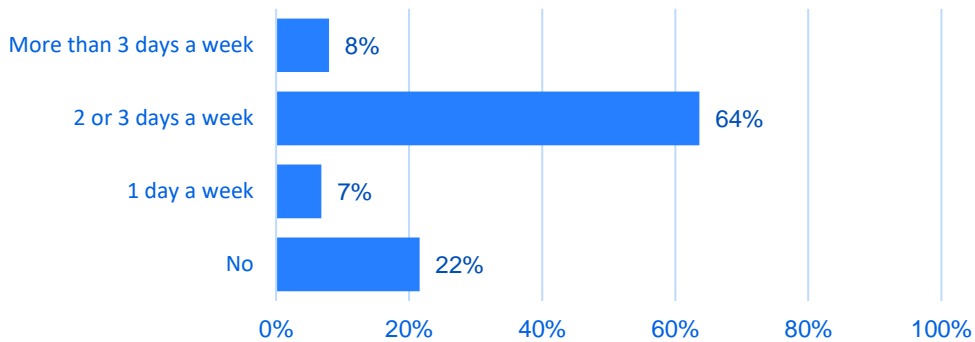
Below, we show the answers to the individual questions that were asked of members. In all cases percentages are shown to the nearest whole number. Where questions were a follow-on to a previous question and therefore not applicable to some, the percentages shown are for those who did have a response to the question.

The make-up of the survey, in terms of the size of the firm of the respondents, is considered by which membership tier they belong to. On this basis, the responses were split as follows; Tier 1 - 42%, Tier 2 - 38%, Tier 3 - 19% and Tier 4 - 1%. This is reasonably in line with the general split of our overall membership.

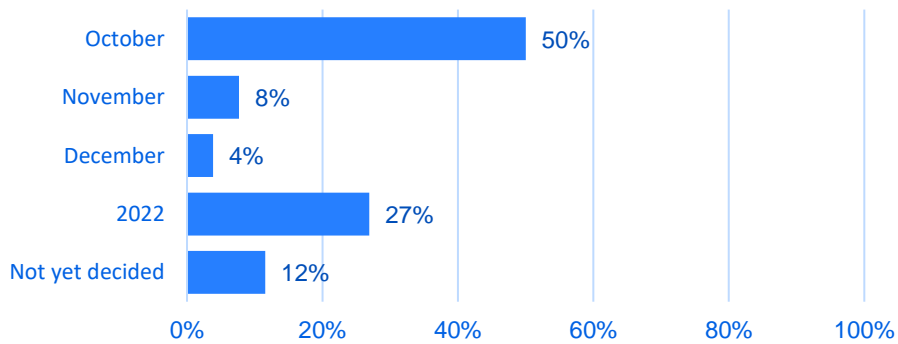
A. ARE A MAJORITY OF YOUR EMPLOYEES ALREADY WORKING FULL-TIME FROM YOUR OFFICE?



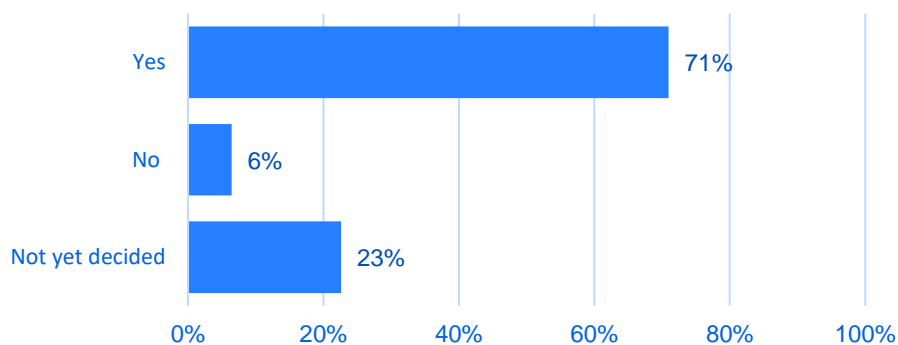
B. IF NO, ARE YOU PLANNING TO ASK A MAJORITY OF STAFF TO RETURN BEFORE THE END OF SEPTEMBER?



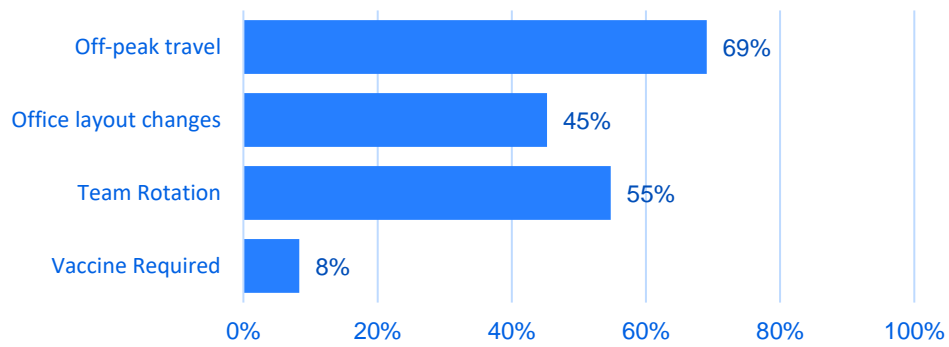
C. IF YOU ARE NOT PLANNING FOR STAFF TO RETURN IN SEPTEMBER, ARE YOU PLANNING FOR ANOTHER DATE?



D. ONCE STAFF HAVE RETURNED WILL YOU ALLOW FACE TO FACE MEETINGS WITH PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE YOUR COMPANY?



E. WILL YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WHEN STAFF RETURN TO THE OFFICE?



QUERIES AND FOLLOW-UP

If you wish to speak to one of the AFB team, please feel free to contact us here:
secretariat@foreignbanks.org.uk

September 2021

