

Life and job satisfaction highest for those working mostly from home

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Workers who were working “mostly from home” or “completely from home” were almost equally satisfied with both their job and life as a whole during 2021, according to a new survey.

The majority (94.2%) of those who worked mostly from home with a mix of office, hub or travel were most satisfied with both their job and life as a whole, just ahead of those who worked only at home were (93.6%).

The survey is the third and final publication on the results of the CSO’s Personal and Work-Life Balance Survey, which was carried out in Quarter 3, 2021.

Almost four in ten (39%) employees were remote working at some stage during 2021, while one in twelve (8%) had availed of some form of remote working pre COVID-19.

Full-time workers in large organisations were most likely to have worked remotely in the 12 months prior to interview - nearly half (49%) of full-time employees working in organisations of 100 people or more had worked remotely at some point during the previous year, compared with just over three in ten (31%) full-time workers in organisations of less than 20 people.

PROFESSIONALS – HIGHEST UPTAKE

Professionals were most likely to have worked remotely (63%), followed by Managers, directors & senior officials and Associate professional & technical in joint second place (51%) while by comparison, skilled trade workers had the lowest level of uptake of remote working (3%).

Pre COVID-19, Information & communication sector workers had availed most of working remotely (30%), compared to employees in Human health & social work activities (2%).

One in seven Managers, directors & senior officials and Professionals, and one in eight (12%) of Associate professional & technical workers worked remotely to some degree pre pandemic compared with only 1% of Skilled trade workers.

Of those working remotely, more than four in ten (41%) had worked on-site most of the previous four weeks (17 days or more). Of these, nearly four in five (79%) worked completely from home, compared with just over 2% pre COVID-19. The most commonly used remote working space was the home.

Workers reported high job and life satisfaction levels, with little difference in satisfaction levels based on employee's working arrangements.

Commenting on the report, Maureen Delamere, Statistician, said the survey was carried out in Quarter 3 2021, "when varying levels of COVID-19 related restrictions would have been in place".

Analysis of the survey data shows that the size of the organisation where the employee works and whether the employee is working full-time or part-time impacts on their availing of remote working.