

Workers Share Their Most Unusual Coffee Break Activities in CareerBuilder.com Survey

Nearly Half of Workers Surveyed Take a Coffee Break at Least Once During Workday

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When you have project files piled so high on your desk that you can't see your neighbor in the next cubicle, what's the only thing that gets you through the day? For many workers, it's their daily coffee break. According to a new CareerBuilder.com survey, 49 percent of workers take a coffee break at least once during the workday and 32 percent take a coffee break twice a day or more.

However, not all workers are merely drinking java during these breaks, and CareerBuilder.com has named the top 10 most unusual activities workers did on their coffee breaks in this year's survey:

1. Proposed marriage
2. Judged a "Best Legs" contest
3. Shrink wrapped a co-worker's new car
4. Did step aerobics by his cubicle
5. Left the office to chase a weasel outside
6. Had a burping contest
7. Ran a race in a wedding dress
8. Kissed another employee in the stairwell
9. Did a fast re-enactment of the "Rocky Horror Picture Show"
10. Walked a new-born turkey around the building

When asked if workers search for jobs during their coffee breaks, only 15 percent said yes. However, when broken down by industry, banking and finance workers are the most likely to search for a job during their coffee breaks at 29 percent followed by healthcare at 21 percent.

Survey Methodology

This survey was conducted online within the US by Harris Interactive on behalf of CareerBuilder.com among 5,600 US employees, (employed full-time; not self-employed; with no involvement in hiring decisions), ages 18 and over within US between June 1 and June 13, 2007. Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region and household income were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. The data have been weighted to reflect the composition of U.S. employers, and propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

With a pure probability sample of 5,600, one could say with a ninety-five percent probability that the overall results have a sampling error of +/-1.3 percentage points. Sampling error for data from sub-samples is higher and varies. However that does not take other sources of error into account. This online survey is not based on a probability sample and therefore no theoretical sampling error can be calculated. A full methodology is available upon request.

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