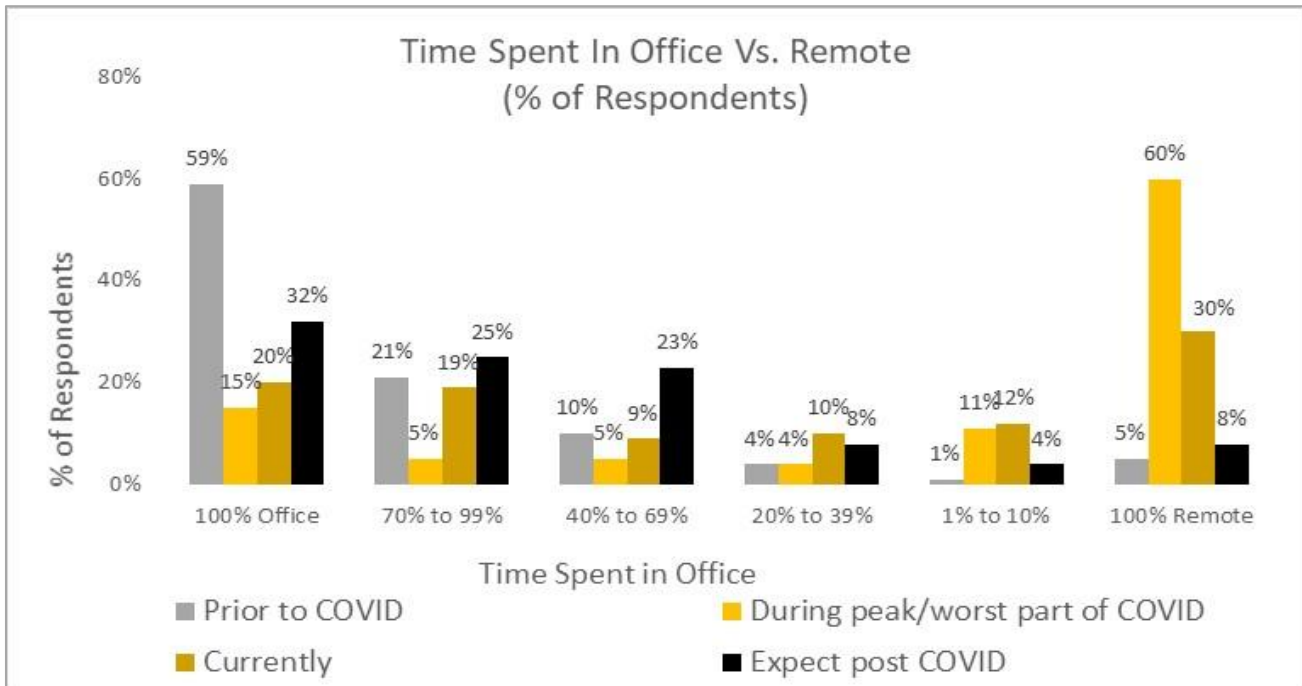


While the majority of building professionals worked remotely during the peak of the pandemic, many do not anticipate returning to spending 100% of their time in the office post-COVID.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected the time you spend in the office versus working remotely?



Sample Verbatim Comments

- The advantages were no commute and more free time. The problems include less interaction with peers, harder to stay focused for long periods of time, no set end to work day.
- Working remotely has given me flexibility in my personal life; however distance from coworkers, teammates, and the materials library has proven difficult. All communication turned to online platforms which is not as easy as a conversation face-to-face.
- The advantage is realizing it's doable; discovering new technologies/tools in the process to improve workflows (both for remote purposes and in general). More flexibility. The problem is loss of "team/camaraderie" feel with in-person collaboration; casual in-passing communication whether for social and for work-flow. Even with video-chat check-ins, it's easy for things to fall through the cracks.

TAKE AWAY: Building professionals see both advantages and disadvantages to working remotely. While working remotely provides more flexibility, it can severely hinder communication and valuable interaction with associates. Manufacturers will need to use a variety of communication channels to stay connected.



No. 2020.24
Released: 9/2020

Purpose:

To understand how building professionals time spent in the office verses remotely has changed due to COVID-19.

Methodology:

AIM surveyed architects, interior designers, engineers and facility managers. The survey was conducted on-line in August, 2020. Overall response was 156 completed surveys.

Conclusion:

While many building professionals indicated they spent some time working remotely even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the percent of time they spent working remotely increased substantially during the peak of the pandemic. In addition, only 32% indicate they will return to spending 100% of their time in the office post-COVID. Designers and facility professionals indicate there are both advantages and disadvantages to working remotely. In open-ended comments many professionals indicated they liked the flexibility of working offsite often with less interruptions, the elimination of a commute and the ability to spend more quality time with family. The biggest issues were the lack of interaction and collaboration with associates, less or no access to office resources and issues with communication and connectivity. Since building professionals will most likely not return to 100% office work, product manufacturers need to make every effort to enhance and maximize their communication channels and make it easy for their target audience to get the product information they need.

Note: Data is based on research conducted by Accountability Information Management, Inc. (AIM). Total response=156. AIM is a business-to-business marketing communications company, ©August, 2020. For additional information including a more in-depth analysis, contact AIM or visit our website. Phone 847-358-8558, Email inquiries@a-i-m.com. Website: www.a-i-m.com. Thank you.