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## What is MB Pulse?

MB Pulse is a subscription-based community insights and polling platform intended to strengthen our members' collective voice, while providing the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce with point-in-time trends data and opinion snapshots.

The data derived from our topical and timely surveys will support our efforts to influence business-friendly government policy and decision-making on emerging issues of relevance.

Through quick polls, short surveys, and questionnaires that we send MB Pulse members by email, we invite you to contribute confidentially to our advocacy efforts, and serve as the province's key drivers of the economy.

## INSIDE THIS SURVEY REPORT... RETURNING TO THE OFFICE: THE FUTURE OF WORK

APRIL 2022



# Returning to the Office: The Future of Work

A REPORT BY THE MANITOBA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

## OVERVIEW

At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, public health officials recommended that in-office workers who were able to transition to remote work should do so as part of a massive effort to reduce virus transmission.

In 2020, workers departed the workplace in droves. However, as we move beyond the active pandemic, some employers are calling employees back to the workplace, while some will continue offering and supporting remote options and hybrid models. In this MB Pulse survey, the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce delved into the experiences and opinions of Manitoba's leaders, exploring their thoughts on returning to the workplace.

Business leaders and representatives of Manitoba employers were invited to share their insights and plans on the topics of work location, flexibility, and the future of work. This survey was open to all members of the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, MB Pulse members, as well as to interested members of the public from March 31 to April 6, 2022. A total of 176 surveys were completed.

**Here is what respondents had to say...**

**40%**

of survey respondents are currently working in a hybrid arrangement (combination of in office and at home)

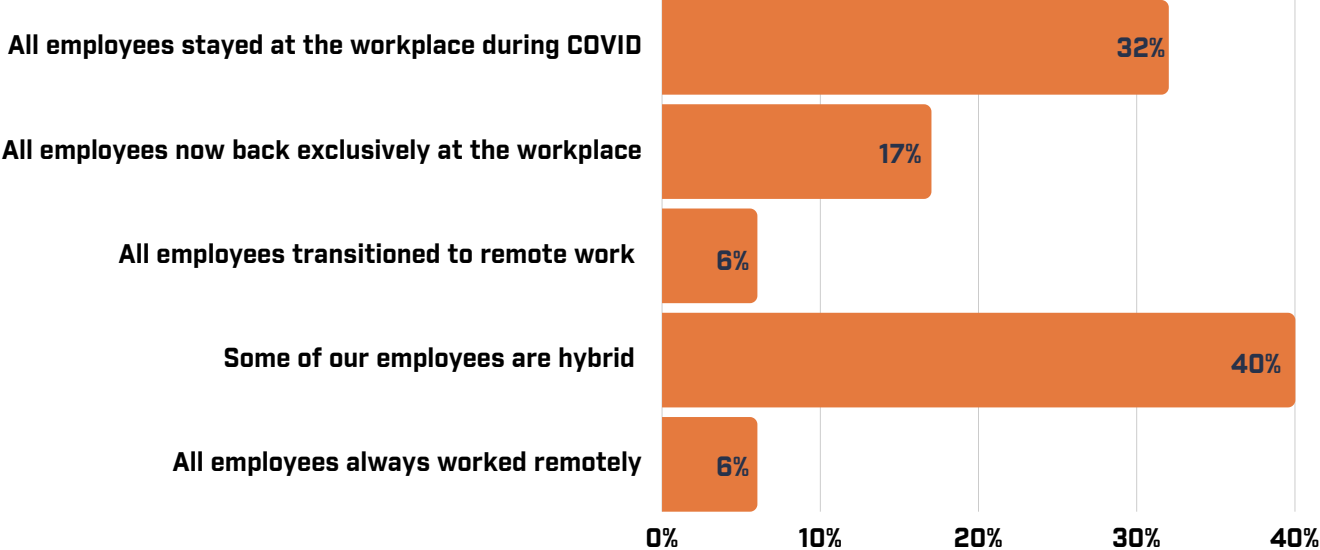
**55%**

of survey respondents intend to return to the office full time.

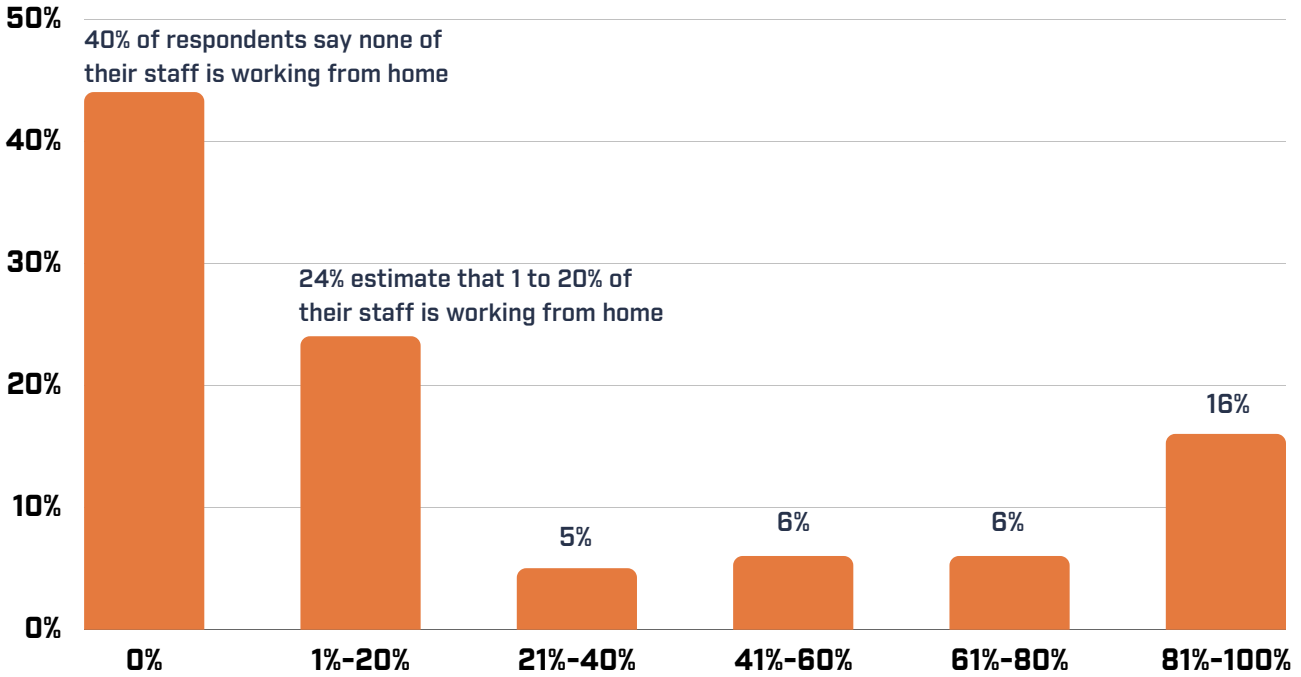
**71%**

of survey respondents say the predominant reason employees have not yet returned to the office is that hybrid/remote work is more productive.

**QUESTION 1: WHAT STATEMENT BELOW BEST DESCRIBES YOUR EMPLOYEES' CURRENT WORK LOCATIONS?**

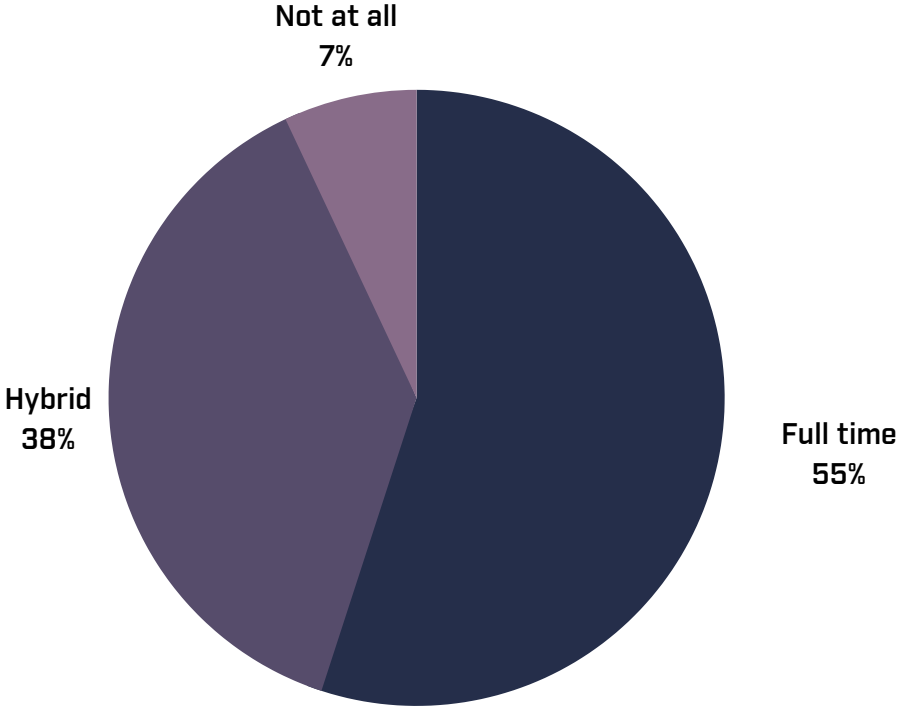


**QUESTION 2: WHAT PROPORTION OF YOUR WORKFORCE IS STILL WORKING FROM HOME PREDOMINANTLY?**

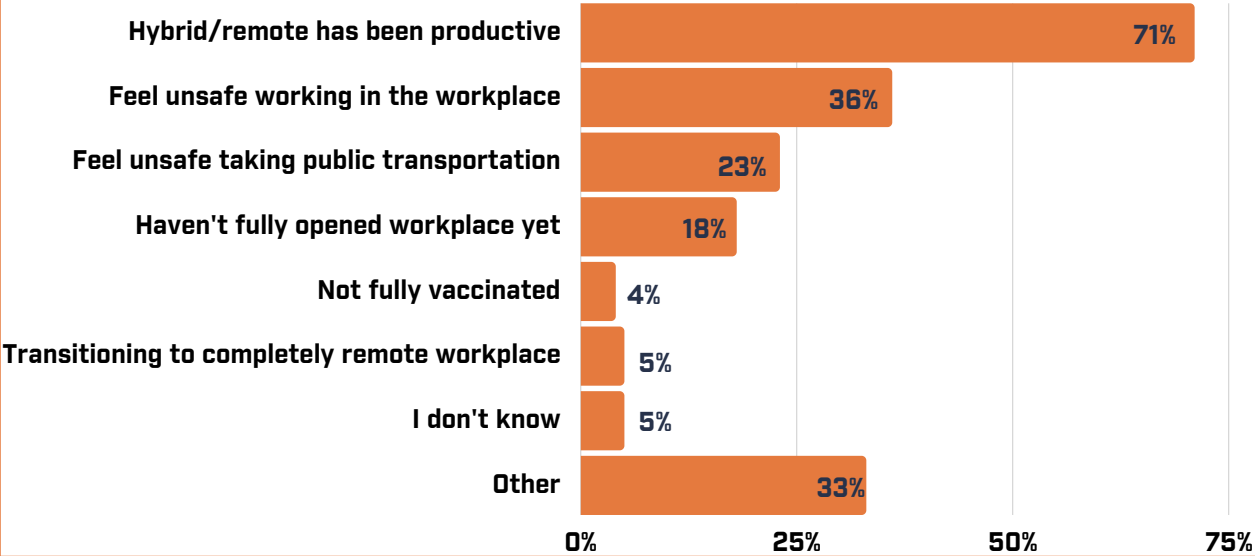


**QUESTION 3: ARE YOU/YOUR EMPLOYEES RETURNING TO THE WORKPLACE?**

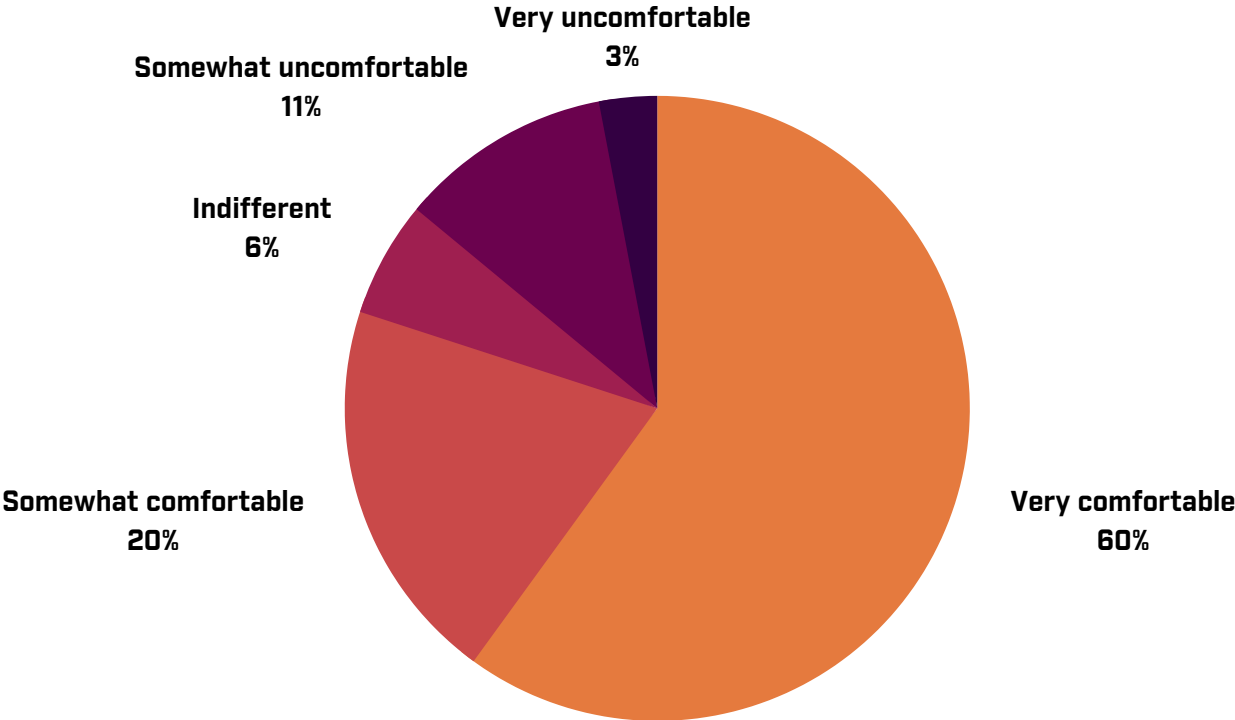
**More than half of survey respondents plan to return to the office full time.**



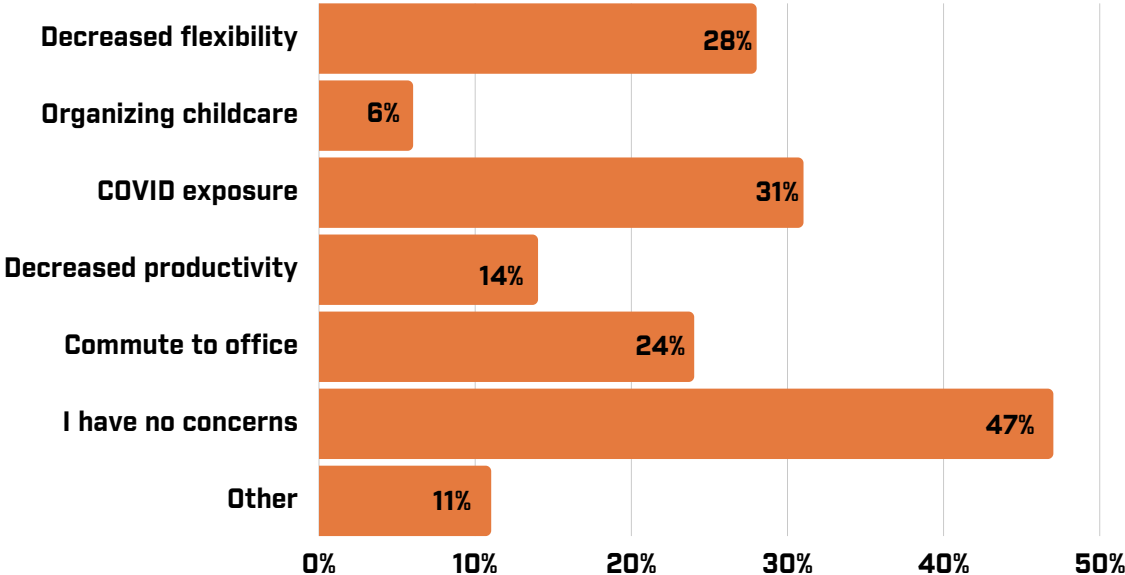
**QUESTION 4: IN YOUR OPINION, WHY HAVE SOME/ALL OF YOUR ORGANIZATION'S EMPLOYEES NOT RETURNED TO THE WORKPLACE? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.**



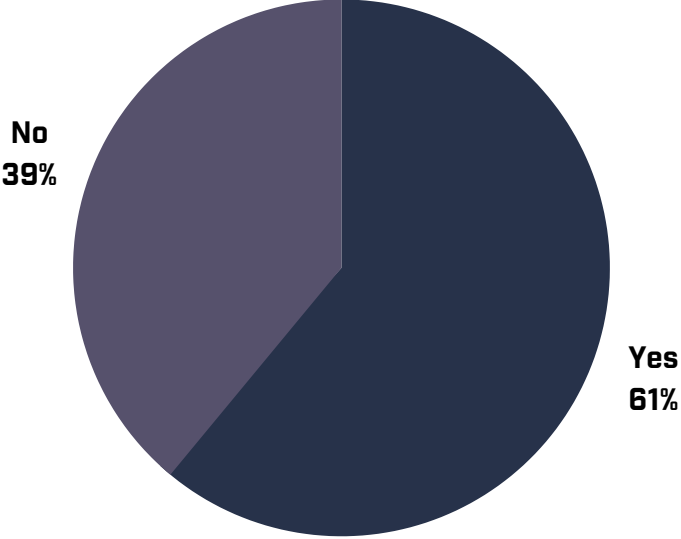
**QUESTION 5: IF YOU ARE ALREADY WORKING IN A WORKPLACE, OR YOU ARE PLANNING TO RETURN TO THE WORKPLACE SHORTLY, HOW COMFORTABLE DO YOU FEEL?**



**QUESTION 6: DO YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT RETURNING TO A SHARED WORKPLACE FULL TIME? IF SO, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING CONCERNS YOU? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.**

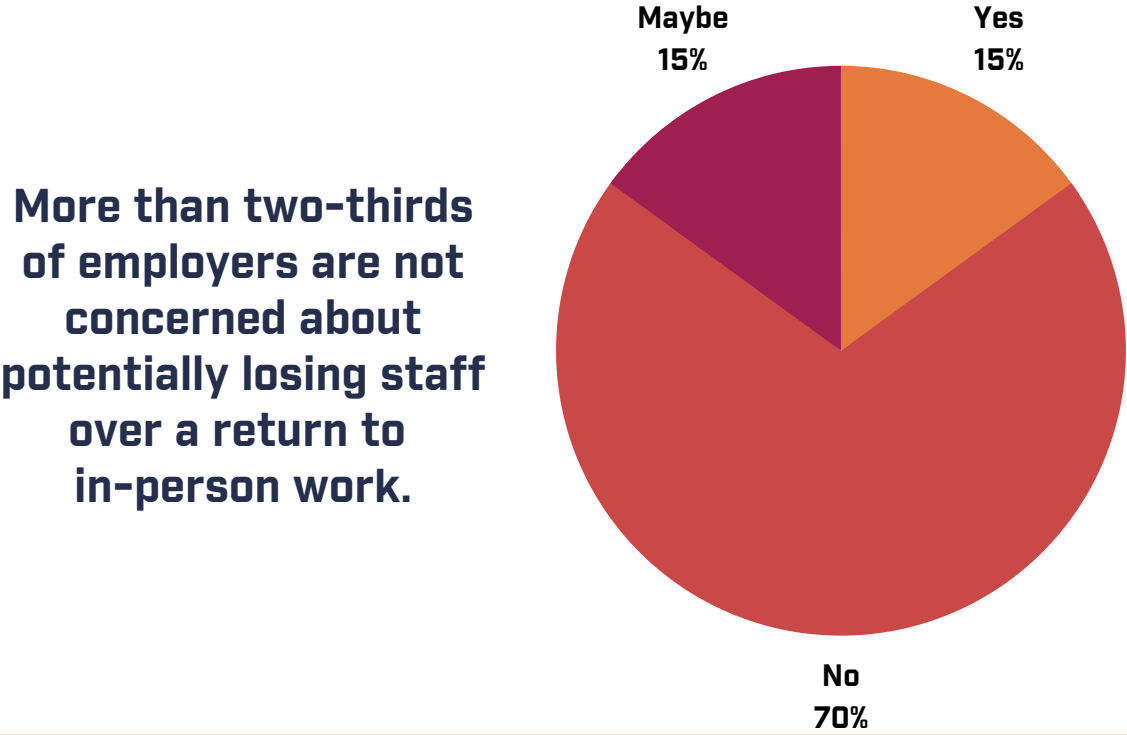


**QUESTION 7: AS A BUSINESS LEADER IN MANITOBA, HAVE YOU POLLED YOUR STAFF ABOUT THEIR WORKPLACE PREFERENCES?**



**Three out of five employers polled their staff about their workplace preferences.**

**QUESTION 8: AS AN EMPLOYER, ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT POTENTIALLY LOSING STAFF BECAUSE OF A RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORK?**



**More than two-thirds of employers are not concerned about potentially losing staff over a return to in-person work.**

**QUESTION 9: IF YOU ARE PLANNING A RETURN TO THE WORKPLACE, WHAT IS YOUR ANTICIPATED TIMELINE FOR DOING SO?**

