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NEWS RELEASE

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Carry on commuting – British workers miss the daily journey to the office

- Nearly half of non-essential workers miss their commute, with one in ten missing it ‘a lot’
- Those with children at home, those in urban areas, and the under-35s miss commuting the most
- This affection for the commute is despite the cost: respondents estimate saving £110 a month if they can work from home more

It is not just the functioning internet and water-cooler camaraderie that Brits are missing about the office – it’s the journey to and from work, according to new research from **Just Group**.

The study found that more than four in ten (43%) of non-essential and furloughed workers are missing their daily commute over lockdown, with a tenth saying they miss it ‘a lot.’

Having children living at home drastically increases how much you miss your commute – news which will doubtless be unsurprising to many parents around the country. Only a quarter (25%) of those without children at home miss their commute at all – a figure which more than doubles to 58% with one child in the house.

The younger generations are even more inclined to like their commute, with nearly six in ten (57%) 18 to 35-year-olds missing it. Men, at 53%, miss it more than women, of whom only 31% do.

There is also an urban divide, as two-thirds (63%) those in towns and cities said they miss commuting, while the figure more than halves to just three in ten (29%) of those in suburban and rural areas.

“We tend to think of the journey to and from work as a grind rather than a pleasurable part of the day, but a large proportion do miss it,” said **Stephen Lowe, group communications director at Just Group**. “It might be as simple as having the time to prepare for, and unwind from, the day – or the chance to have some time alone – but it’s clearly a valuable period to many of us.”

These figures are in spite of the substantial savings to be made from avoiding the commute. When asked how much respondents thought they would save in travel costs every month if they could work from home more often, 91% of respondents confirmed they would save money, and the average sum came to £110. This rose to £134 for those living in London.

Stephen Lowe added: “It will be interesting to see if employers offer much more flexible working, and how much employees take advantage of it. The savings from home-working are substantial for most people’s budgets, so perhaps that will create an increased appetite for flexible working even among those who miss the commute.”

Enquiries

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Notes to Editors:

Footnotes

1. Research conducted by Opinium via a survey of 1,293 UK homeowners aged 18+ between 19th and 21st May 2020

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