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Fewer Government Workers Say They Are Late to Work This Year Than Last Year, Finds New CareerBuilder Survey

- Hiring Managers Share Most Outrageous Tardiness Excuses -

CHICAGO, March 17, 2010 – A tighter job market may be contributing to increased punctuality at work. A new CareerBuilder survey reveals that 18 percent of government workers said they arrive late to work at least once a week, down from 21 percent in last year’s survey. One-in-ten (10 percent) said they are late at least twice a week, down from 12 percent last year. This survey was conducted among more than 450 government workers between November 5 and November 23, 2009.

Government workers shared a variety of reasons for being tardy, led by traffic (29 percent) and lack of sleep (23 percent). Eleven percent said getting their kids ready for school or day care was the cause of their lateness, while 7 percent said bad weather was the culprit. Other common reasons included public transportation, wardrobe issues or dealing with pets.

“Government workers are making a greater effort to get to work on time these days, as illustrated by the fewer number who said they were late to the office this year as compared to last,” said Chuck Loehner, vice president of Government Solutions at CareerBuilder.

While some government employers may be lenient with punctuality, other can be much stricter. Seventeen percent of government employers said they have fired an employee for being late to work.

Hiring managers across all industries surveyed provided the following examples of the most outrageous excuses employees offered for arriving late to work:

- I got mugged and was tied to the steering wheel of my car.
- My deodorant was frozen to the window sill.
- My car door fell off.
- It was too windy.
- I dreamt I was already at work.
- I had to go to the hospital because I drank antifreeze.
- I had an early morning gig as a clown.
- A roach crawled in my ear.
- I saw an elderly lady at a bus stop and decided to pick her up.
- My dog swallowed my cell phone.

Survey Methodology

This survey was conducted online within the U.S. by Harris Interactive® on behalf of CareerBuilder.com among 3,018 hiring managers and human resource professionals (employed full-

time; not self-employed; with at least significant involvement in hiring decisions; government and nongovernment); and 487 U.S. government employees (employed full-time; not self-employed) ages 18 and over between November 5 and November 23, 2009 (percentages for some questions are based on a subset US Employers or Employees, based on their responses to certain questions). With a pure probability sample of 3,018 and 487 one could say with a 95 percent probability that the overall results have a sampling error of +/- 1.78 percentage points and +/- 4.44 percentage points, respectively. Sampling error for data from sub-samples is higher and varies.

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