

YouGov survey reveals why people are unhappy with their jobs

Salary, career progression are top concerns for working Britons

A YouGov survey commissioned by Oxford Open Learning has revealed widespread job dissatisfaction in the UK, with only 43 per cent of adults saying their jobs satisfy them.

The survey, which quizzed 2,056 people aged 18 and over on their feelings about their jobs, revealed that in these money-conscious times, salary is still the biggest thing weighing on workers' minds, with 55 per cent of those who were dissatisfied saying they do not feel they are being paid enough. However, it's not all about money: 45 per cent were concerned that their job offers no career progression, suggesting that more people may be more willing to stay in their current jobs if they felt they had somewhere to go.

Job security and stress were also common answers, ticked by 35 per cent of respondents. 30 per cent also said they were unhappy with the level of benefits they receive, and the same proportion said that they felt the work was simply not for them. Long commutes and unpleasant co-workers were notably rare choices.

Interestingly, the younger generation seem to be happier with their work than older folk: only 14 per cent of people aged 18 to 24 said they were dissatisfied with their careers, but this proportion rises sharply to 27 per cent for 25 to 35-year-olds, the age group with the greatest levels of dissatisfaction. This may reflect the optimism and confidence many employees feel after leaving school or university, before the realities of working life set in a few years later and people begin thinking about what they really want to do with their lives.

Levels of job dissatisfaction were highest in London (21 per cent) and Scotland (20 per cent), while workers in Wales were the happiest: just four per cent overall said that they did not find their jobs satisfying. In London, the most common complaints were low pay (59 per cent) and lack of job security (34 per cent), while in Wales the priorities were very different, and people were much more likely to voice dissatisfaction with career progression or the way the job fits in to their general working ambitions.

"There are many reasons people may not feel satisfied with their careers, but in the current economic climate many of us may not feel comfortable with a change in career direction," said **Name, Job Title** at Oxford Open Learning. "It's particularly interesting that so many people are concerned about a lack of opportunities to progress in their current careers - this suggests that employers may be able to retain workers for longer if they can offer clearer paths to promotion.

"However, we'd like to underline that it's never too late to change direction if you're unhappy with your current job. We offer a wide range of courses in a variety of disciplines that can help people to get the qualifications they need to pursue their dream career, and with distance learning there's no need to quit your current job to complete a course."

ENDS

Notes to editors

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 2056 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 26th - 28th March 2013. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+).