

Chicago Returns Back-to-the-Office Survey Results

February 2022



Main Takeaways

- The majority of respondents to this survey believe their employees will be back in the office before the end of the March 2022.
- Employers believe that the majority of their workforce will return to the office in person and that they will return for a majority of days in a week.



Survey Methodology

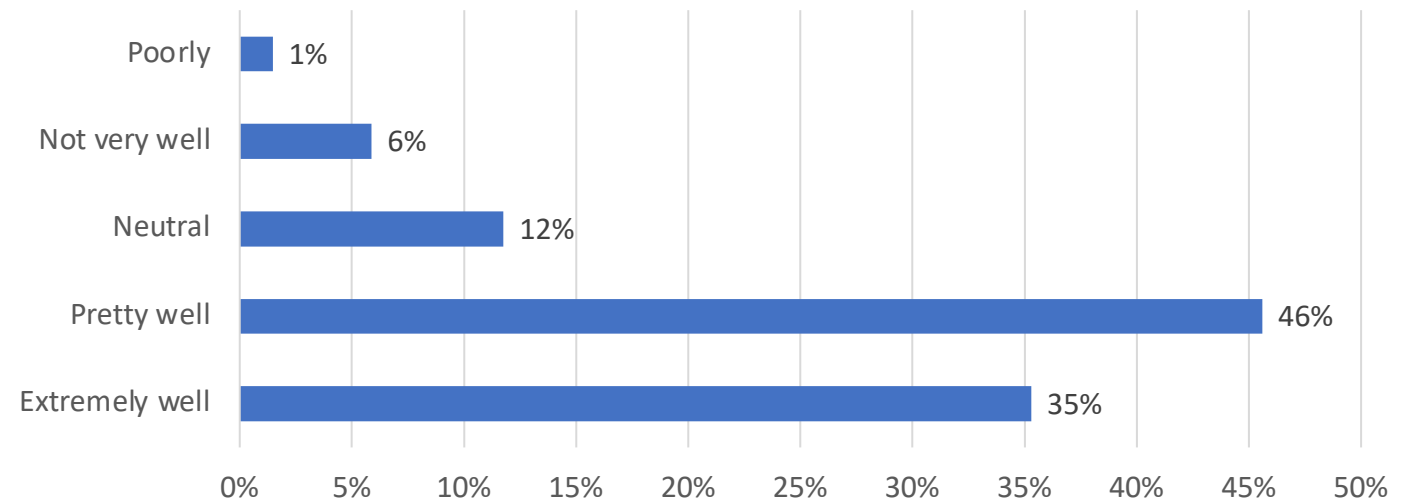
- This survey was distributed by members of the Chicago Returns coalition, a group dedicated to helping people find their way back to the office and eliminating the obstacles that stand in their way.
- The survey was sent exclusively to C-suite level leadership or market-level leads at companies across Chicago (either based in Chicago or with a presence in Chicago).
- Respondents filled out the survey in December 2021 with the majority of responses in the final two weeks of the month.
- The survey garnered 68 responses from these executives. Eighty-four percent of respondents had offices in the Central Business District of Chicago. The survey had widespread responses across industries and company sizes.
 - Industries polled include: banking, healthcare, professional sports, beverage manufacturers, consultancies, tech, fitness, and more.



Question 1: Post Pandemic, how well do your office spaces support your needs?

81% of respondents agreed that their office will serve their needs **Pretty Well** or **Extremely Well**.

This data suggests that the companies surveyed believe that their current office spaces are sufficient to meet their needs. Office quality and offerings are currently adequate for these companies.



Question 2: With the knowledge you have today, what is your prediction for what percentage of your company will likely return to the office?

Respondents agreed that the majority of their workforce will return to the office.

Mean: 82%

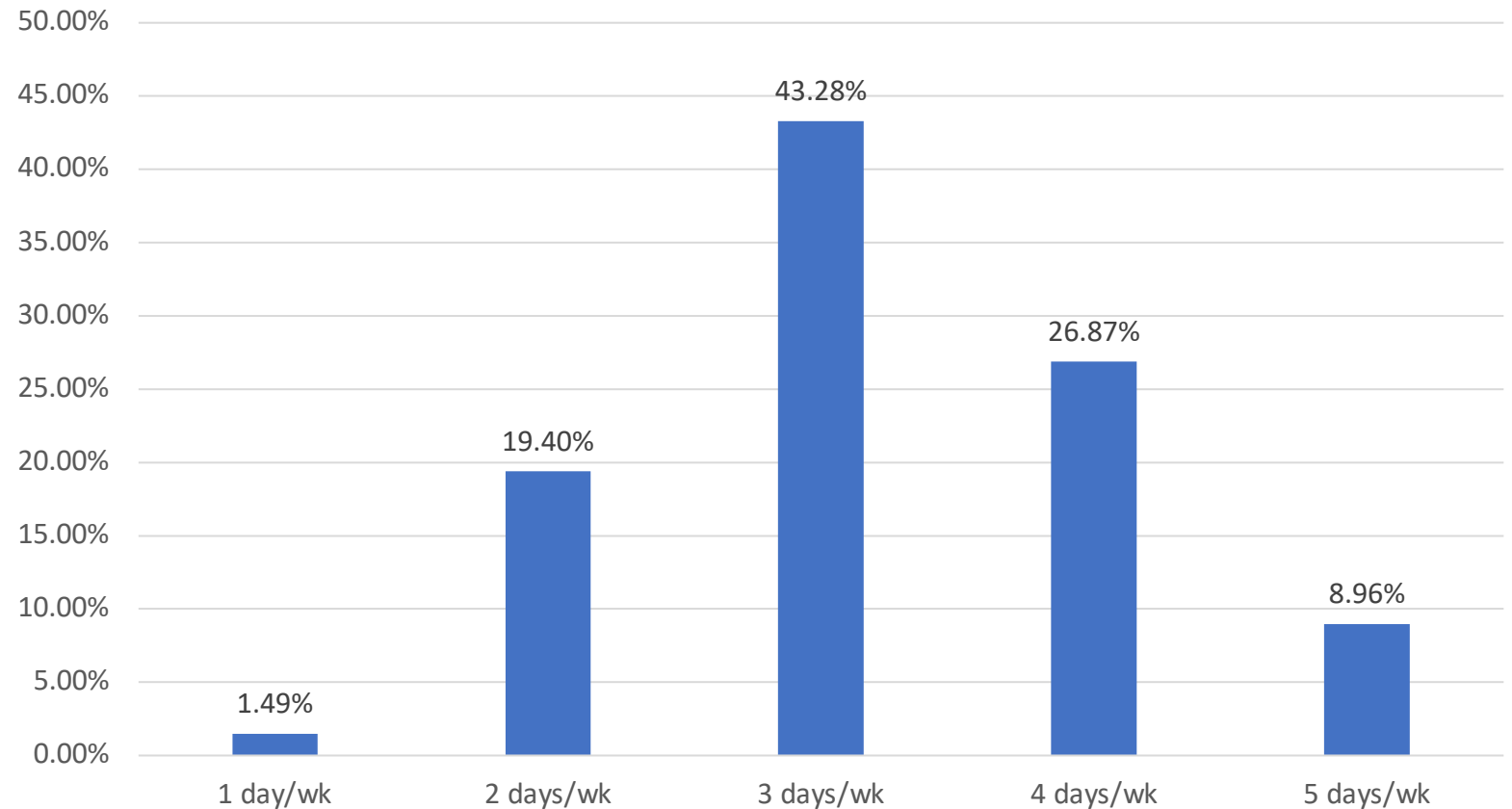
Median: 85%

Only **4.5%** of respondents thought that **fewer than half of their employees would return to the office.**



Question 3: With the knowledge you have today, what is your prediction for how many days a week do you anticipate each employee will work from the office?

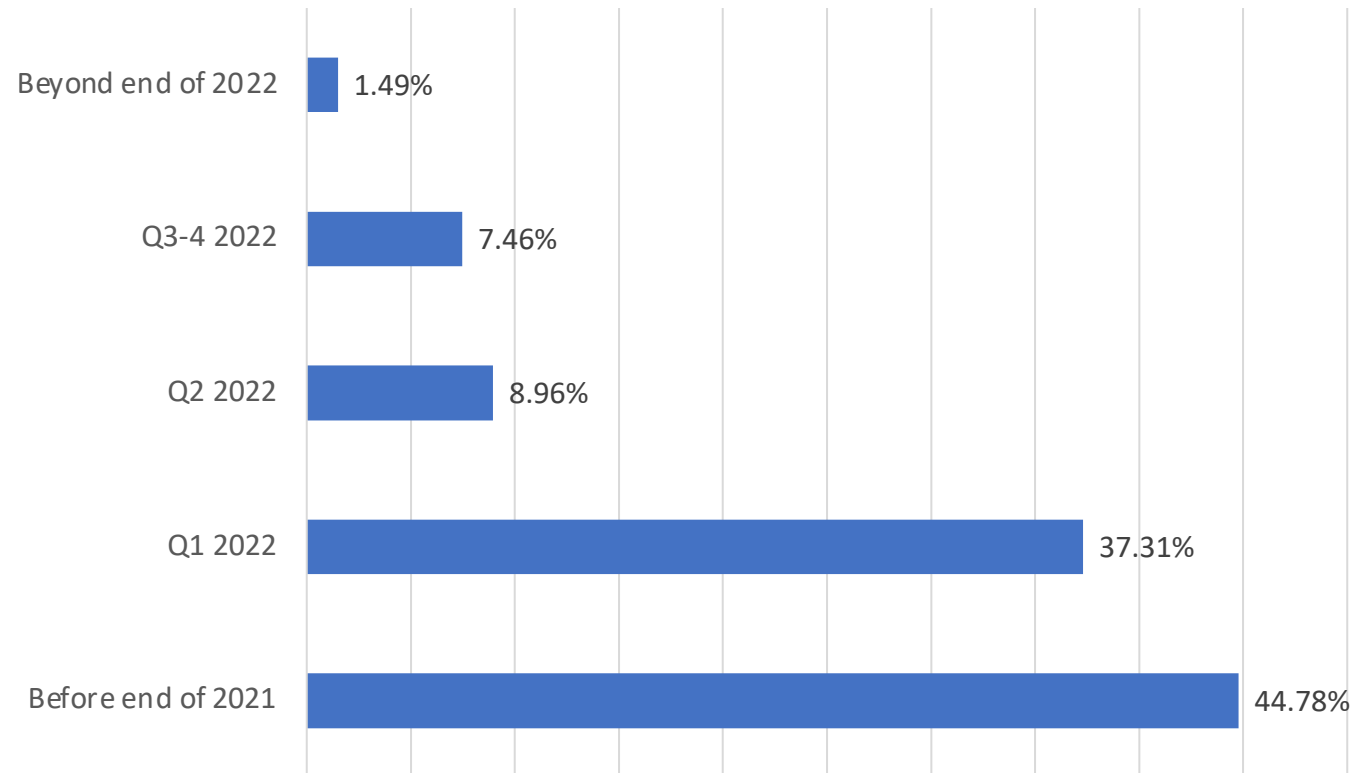
79.1% of respondents believe that their employees will be in the office for **3 or more days every week**.



Question 4: With the knowledge you have today, what is your prediction for when your company will return to the office?

82% of respondents believe that they will be **back in the office by the end of Q1 2022**.

Several respondents wrote in and noted that they were already back in the office, and that data is captured in the “before the end of 2021” figure.



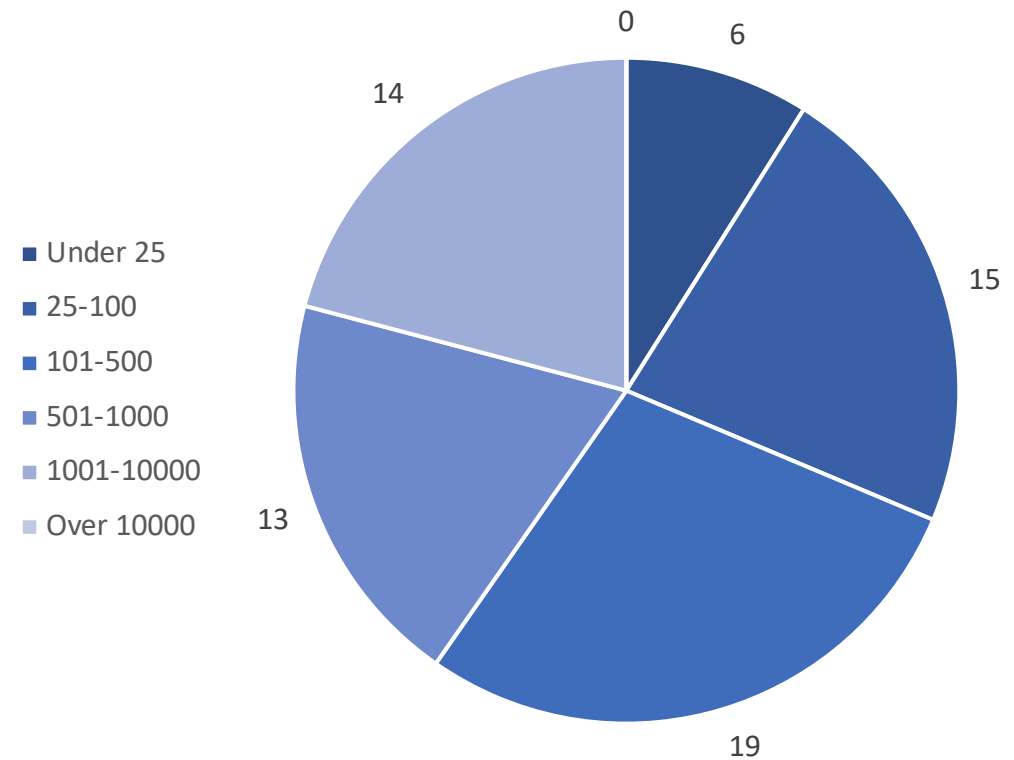
Question 5: Please rank the following in terms of largest obstacle to returning to the office down to smallest obstacle to returning to the office.

Respondents did not arrive at a consensus on the biggest obstacles to coming back to the office.



Demographic Information: What is the size of your Chicago Metro area population?

Companies of all sizes responded to this survey.



Selected Representative Comments

“Our office is currently open on a voluntary basis. We expect to remain operating in a hybrid environment post pandemic. The percentage prediction above relates to estimated percentage that will return on a regular basis.”

“We have largely been in the office since regulations allowed return.”

“In 5 above, we rated ‘other’ as the largest obstacle to returning to work. That “other” is simply that our employees have grown accustomed to working from the comfort of their own homes. They know what their jobs are, by when their work product is expected and they can successfully do their work while taking care of their families, working in pajamas, getting up from their work stations to eat when and as they please, etc.”

“We returned to the office March 2021.”

“ We have been 75-80% office since late 2020, and 100% since fall 2021. Oddly, this survey is not written to even allow answering this way and assumes not back in office.”

