

AMA 2004 Summer Vacation Plans Survey

As signs of the economy continue to improve and hiring appears to be on the upswing, U.S. employees are planning to take more time away from the office this summer. According to an American Management Association (AMA) survey, 28 percent of respondents plan to take more vacation days this summer than they did in 2003; 55 percent plan to take the same number of vacation days this summer; while 17 percent plan to take fewer days off than this time last year. The survey also shows that 39 percent of employees plan to be away from the office for more than a week at a time, up from 33 percent in 2003.

Q. *Number of planned vacation days from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2004:*

	<u>Total Number of Days</u>	<u>Highest Number of Consecutive Days</u>
None	2%	3%
1 to 5 days	27%	58%
6 to 10 days	45%	32%
11 to 15 days	21%	5%
16 to 20 days	3%	1%
More than 20 days	2%	1%

Q. *How does this compare to last year?*

More days off	28%
Same number of days off	55%
Fewer days off	17%

AMA conducted its 2004 Summer Vacation Plans Survey among 335 executive members and corporate customers from May 3 through May 13 to determine how the business climate is affecting employees' ability to get away. Almost half—45 percent of respondents—plan to take between 6 and 10 days off; 27 percent are planning between 1 and 5 days off; 21 percent plan to take between 11 and 15 days off; 3 percent plan between 16 and 20 days off; and 2 percent plan to take more than 20 days off. Another 2 percent will forgo a summer vacation this year.

According to AMA's survey, 58 percent of respondents plan to be in contact with their office at least once a week while on vacation (down from 64% in 2003); 37 percent will do some office-related work at least once a week (down from 40% last year); and 13% plan to be in contact with their clients or customers at least once a week (down from 17% at this time last year).

Q. What is the frequency of office-related activities while on vacation:

	Contact with Office	Do Office Work	Client Contact
Daily	24%	13%	2%
Every 2-3 days	28%	18%	8%
Once a week	6%	6%	3%
Less than once a week	2%	4%	5%
Not at all	32%	46%	69%
Unsure	8%	13%	13%

The survey also shows that 46 percent of respondents are required to leave behind their travel itineraries and/or their contact phone numbers while away (up from 44 percent in 2003). And 20 percent of respondents are required to be in contact with their office (up from 17 percent last year).

Q. Does the organization require you to be in contact while on vacation?

Yes, on a daily basis	2%
Yes, on a regular basis	18%
Not at all	78%
Unsure	2%

Q. Does the organization require your travel itineraries and/or contact numbers?

Yes	46%
No	52%
Unsure	2%

Q. Are you planning to combine a vacation with a business trip?

Yes	13%
No	77%
Maybe	10%

**Q. Have your vacation plans been affected by any of these conditions?
(Select all that apply)**

War with Iraq	2%
Terrorism	10%
Other world conflicts	4%
Not affected	89%