

GET THE JOB

Pros and Cons of Remote Work

During the pandemic, remote work became necessary for many who had never considered it before.

While some corporations are mandating returns to the office, others are now more willing to hire people to work remotely, especially in a tight job market where qualified employees are scarce.

Data scientists at Ladders have been tracking remote work since the pandemic began, according to Forbes.com. They project that 25% of all professional jobs in North America will be remote by the end of 2022 and that number will increase in 2023.

Remote work is not for everyone or for every job, but some have found it creates a better work environment and they accomplish more.

PROS OF REMOTE WORK

The primary advantage to remote work that many adults cite is increased productivity.



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We Work Remotely cited a survey that 86% of adults said they feel most productive when working alone and that 65% of those surveyed thought a remote work schedule would increase their productivity.

Researchers for the Harvard Business Review found that remote workers usually made more of an effort to have meaningful conversations with each other rather than just engage in small talk.

Other advantages to remote

work are:

- You don't have to relocate.
- You save money and time on commutes.
- You save money on the costs of working, from lunches to parking.
- You can create your own work environment and control the noise levels.
- You can engage in more physical activity at home.
- You are more independent.
- You'll become a communications expert.

CONS OF REMOTE WORK

However, even with all the advantages, it isn't all roses. Those who have been working from home share some warnings about the downsides and point out that it isn't for everyone.

Some disadvantages to remote work are:

- It can be lonely.
- There is a tendency to overwork and get burned out. The lines between work and family life blur and the workday can be never-ending.

- You lose the water cooler moments that can inspire creativity when your co-workers give you ideas during impromptu discussions.

- Your work may not be seen as often, leading employers to pass you over for promotions or plumb job assignments.

- You may not have full access to the technological or other resources of the workplace.

MAKING THE BEST OF A REMOTE JOB

Once you land the remote job, make sure you've created an environment that works for you. Will you be productive in your pajamas or do you need to create a separate office in your home where you won't be disturbed?

Monster.com gives the following tips for working from home:

- Communicate often and create as many opportunities for face time as you can.

- Stay professional. Don't have your work calls interrupted by barking dogs, screaming kids or ringing doorbells.

- Be responsive. Return calls and reply to emails quickly so no one thinks you are slacking. Be available for meetings and collaborations.

- Set specific times each day or week to check in with your colleagues.