2020 Workforce Survey Results

Midwest Results

Total responses: 386, but number varies by question.

1. How has your firm’s headcount changed as a result of the pandemic? (Mark all that apply) Responses: 383

- Furloughed or terminated employees: 30%
- Terminated employees: 19%
- Furloughed employees: 20%
- Recalled or added employees: 34%
- Added employees: 27%
- Recalled employees: 11%
- No change: 48%

2. By what percentage has your firm’s headcount changed in the past 12 months? Responses: 385

- Reduced headcount: 42%
- Increased headcount: 29%
- No change: 29%
3. Did you furlough employees and then recall any? (Mark all that apply) Responses: 384

- No, did not furlough any employees: 57%
- Have not tried to recall furloughed employees: 6%
- Tried to recall furloughed employees: 27%

4. Among firms that tried to recall employees; Response: 102

- All furloughed employees reported when recalled: 62%
- Some recalled employees have refused to work: 38%
- Some cited preference for unemployment benefits: 38%
- Some cited virus concerns or family responsibilities: 31%
- Some cited other reasons (or unknown): 12%

5. How would you describe your current situation in filling hourly craft or salaried positions? Responses: 384
   - Salaried: 386 Craft

- We are having a hard time filling some or all positions: 55% Craft 27% Salaried
- We are having no difficulty filling any positions: 22% Craft 15% Salaried
- We have no openings for positions: 23% Craft 58% Salaried
6. How many unfilled hourly craft or salaried positions did you have on June 30, 2020? Responses: 385 Salaried; 385 Craft

7. Has your firm added or increased use of the following to provide workers in the last 6 months? (Mark all that apply) Responses: 381
8. Has your firm made changes in hiring, training or scheduling in the last 6 months? (Mark all that apply) Responses: 382

- Increased use of learning program with a strong online/video component (e.g., held classes using Zoom and Teams) 25%
- Initiated or increased online or mobile training options 23%
- Initiated or increased spending on training and professional development 16%
- Augmented/mixed/virtual reality training devices 16%
- Overtime 15%
- Lowered hiring standards (e.g., education, training, employment or arrest record) 9%
- Trained personnel in Lean construction methods 8%
- Raised hiring standards 6%
- Decreased or eliminated spending on training and professional development 5%
- Added Lean construction personnel 3%
- Other 1%
- No changes 32%
- Have not tried to hire 17%
If your firm is having trouble filling salaried positions, please indicate all the position types you are having trouble filling (Mark all that apply): 138

- Project managers/supervisors: 78%
- Engineers: 30%
- Safety personnel: 17%
- Quality control personnel: 13%
- BIM personnel: 9%
- IT personnel: 6%
- Lean construction professionals: 4%
- Software/database personnel: 3%
- Environmental compliance professionals: 2%
- Architects: 1%
10. If your firm is having trouble filling hourly craft positions, please indicate all the position types you are having trouble filling (Mark all that apply). Responses: 247
11. Has your firm adjusted pay and/or benefits for hourly craft or salaried personnel in the last 6 months? (Mark all that apply) Responses: 378

- Increased base pay rates: 38%
- Provided incentives/bonuses: 19%
- Increased our portion of benefit contributions and/or improved employee benefits: 8%
- Reduced base pay rates: 5%
- Reduced our portion of benefit contributions and/or scaled back employee benefits: 2%
- No change: 47%

12. What technologies (hardware or software) have you employed recently to help alleviate any labor shortages your firm has experienced? (Mark all that apply) Responses: 364

- Project Management: 17%
- Field Collaboration: 17%
- Estimating: 16%
- Workforce Management: 13%
- Document / File Management (e.g., high school, college, career & technical education): 11%
- Adopted or increased Lean construction methods: 10%
- Bidding: 10%
- Site Safety: 9%
- Virtual/Augmented/Mixed Reality: 8%
- Cost Management/ ERP: 7%
- Reality Capture: 4%
- Other: 2%
- No changes: 56%
13. What impact, if any, has the pandemic had on your firm's projects? (Mark all that apply) Responses: 379

- Some projects have been halted, postponed or canceled: 68%
- Scheduled projects have been postponed or canceled: 62%
- Projects under way have been halted: 37%
- We have won additional projects or add-ons to current projects: 8%
- No impact: 12%
- Projects have taken longer than we anticipated: 1%
- Costs have been higher than we anticipated: 32%
- We have put longer completion times into our bids or contracts: 17%
- We have put higher prices into our bids or contracts: 17%
- Projects have taken less time or cost less than we anticipated: 1%
- Other: 8%

14. What impact, if any, has the pandemic had on your firm's safety and health program or performance? Responses: 380

- More reportable injuries and illness: 7%
- More jobsite hazards (physical and or behavioral) identified in inspection reports: 7%
- More workers compensation claims: 2%
- No change: 76%
- Fewer reportable injuries and illnesses: 7%
- Fewer jobsite hazards (physical and/or behavioral) identified in inspection reports: 1%
- Fewer workers compensation claims: 1%
15. If Congress takes further action to address the economic fallout from the coronavirus, which of these measures would be helpful to your business? (Mark all that apply) Responses: 376

- Larger federal investment in infrastructure (e.g. transportation, schools, water, etc) 59%
- Enact a “safe harbor” set of protocols to provide firms with protection from tort or employment liability for failing to prevent a covid-19 infection 55%
- Addressing federal unemployment benefits that serve as artificial barriers to returning people to work 43%
- Funding for state departments of transportation to help prevent project delays as a result of lost revenue from the pandemic 32%
- Multi-year surface transportation reauthorization with higher funding levels 29%
- More funding for loan programs to maintain cash flows 27%
- Funding for direct federal and federal-aid construction projects to compensate employers during project delays or shutdowns due to coronavirus 25%
- Enact a pandemic risk insurance/covid-19 business and employee continuity and recovery fund 25%
- Addressing the funding shortfalls for multi-employer pension plans 23%
- No additional legislation is needed 10%
- Other 1%

16. When do you expect your firm’s volume of business will return to its normal level relative to one year earlier? Responses: 376

- Volume of business already matches or exceeds year-ago level 30%
- 1-6 months 10%
- More than 6 months (or never) 42%
- Don’t know 18%
17. How do expect your firm’s headcount to change in the next 12 months? (Mark all that apply). Responses: 383

- Expect to furlough and or terminate employees: 25%
- Expect to terminate employees to reduce headcount: 15%
- Expect to furlough employees temporarily: 13%
- Expect to recall and or add employees: 42%
- Expect to add new employees: 38%
- Expect to recall employees: 6%
- No net change: 36%

18. How many total employees did your firm employ at all of its locations as of June 30, 2020? Responses: 386

- 1-49: 31%
- 50-249: 45%
- 250-499: 14%
- 500 or more: 11%
19. Estimate the total dollar amount of work your firm performed during the past 12 months. Responses: 386.

- $10 million or less: 24%
- $10.1 million-$50 million: 33%
- $50.1 million-$500 million: 39%
- Over $500 million: 5%

20. Please indicate which of the following types of construction projects your firm performs (Mark all that apply). Responses: 386

- Building construction: 72%
- Utility infrastructure: 37%
- Highway and transportation: 32%
- Federal and heavy: 32%
- Other: 7%
21. When you self-perform construction work, do you operate as a union contractor or an open-shop contractor? 
Responses: 376

We always operate as a union contractor: 52%
We primarily operate as a union contractor but not always: 11%
We primarily operate as an open-shop contractor but not always: 2%
We always operate as an open-shop contractor: 29%
We do not self-perform or directly hire craft personnel: 6%