



## **53% of employees experience decreased productivity in coworking environments**

UNITED KINGDOM (November 2023) - *In the ever-evolving landscape of modern work, businesses are faced with a pivotal choice – traditional private offices or the dynamic world of coworking spaces. Capterra's two part survey delves into the factors influencing this decision, providing insights into what UK employees prefer, how SMEs can adapt to meet their needs and shedding light on the evolving dynamics of productivity and security in the workplace.*

### **The Shifting Tides of Workspaces: Coworking spaces occupancy rates at 83%**

As flexible working models gain momentum, Capterra explores the preferences and challenges faced by UK employees in choosing between private offices and coworking spaces. According to the first part of the survey, 83% of UK flexible office spaces are currently occupied, marking a significant rise. Companies are drawn to [coworking spaces for cost reductions \(38%\), flexibility \(30%\), and shared amenities \(27%\)](#).

35% of respondents who work in flexible offices appreciate the collaborative atmosphere and the locations and facilities these spaces can provide. On the other hand 38% of these respondents raise concerns about confidentiality and privacy. These advantages and disadvantages can affect overall productivity and employee comfort.

### **Decoding the Workspace Dilemma: Private Offices vs. Coworking Spaces**

Despite distractions, 66% of employees working in shared workspaces prefer private offices. Safer IT security (47%) and enhanced privacy (40%) are cited as key advantages. Here are five considerations before choosing workspaces:

1. **Optimise Workspace Dynamics:** Businesses must conduct a thorough analysis of their specific needs, considering factors such as cost reduction, flexibility, collaboration, and networking opportunities.
2. **Foster Agile, Collaborative Environments:** Coworking spaces excel in creating agile, collaborative environments, ideal for innovative and diverse businesses seeking cost savings.
3. **Private Offices for Concentration and IT Security:** Ideal for roles demanding concentration and confidentiality, private offices offer enhanced IT security and consistent routines.

4. Prioritise Employee Satisfaction: Employee satisfaction plays a crucial role in workspace decisions. Shared workspaces should focus on amenities, while private offices need solutions for collaboration and flexibility.
5. Balance Diverse Needs: Private spaces should enhance collaboration, while coworking spaces must cater to privacy needs with smaller meeting rooms and increased cybersecurity.

## **Productivity Paradigm: The Dual Realities of Remote and On-Site Work**

The modern work landscape is undergoing a profound transformation, with [36% of respondents expressing equal productivity whether working remotely or on-site.](#)

However, not all respondents shared the same sentiments. For the 23% who felt less productive when working alone remotely, challenges were diverse. Distractions at home (56%), lack of social interaction and collaboration (45%), and the difficulty of establishing a work routine (32%) were identified as the primary impediments to productivity. This finding emphasises the need for businesses to provide support and resources for employees adapting to remote work.

While coworking spaces are championed for fostering collaboration, our survey reveals that they can also present challenges to productivity. Among the 53% who felt less productive in coworking environments, distractions in the office were cited as the main issues. This includes noise concerns (52%), privacy challenges (39%), and difficulties accessing meeting rooms (14%). Striking a balance between collaboration and individual focus becomes crucial for businesses considering or already implementing coworking solutions and software.

## **Security Satisfaction in the Workplace and Measures**

On a positive note, 83% of employees expressed satisfaction with security in the workplace. Businesses can deploy various [security measures to enhance the safety of their workspaces.](#) Simple actions such as locking laptops when not at desks, implementing a clear policy for reporting security incidents, and ensuring employees follow a clean desk policy contribute significantly to creating a secure work environment. Additionally, to safeguard sensitive data businesses can benefit from using software tools like antivirus software, password management software, two step authentication software, network security software and VPN (Virtual Private Network).

The findings from both surveys highlight the dynamic nature of today's work landscape. Businesses must recognize the diversity in employee preferences and challenges, striking a balance between remote and on-site work.

## **Eduardo Garcia, Content Analyst for Capterra UK, comments:**

*“Choosing workspaces isn’t merely a preference but a strategic decision. Decision-makers must understand specific business needs - whether it’s cost reduction, flexibility, or fostering collaboration - to ensure that their technology investments align with their operational objectives.*

*Similarly, businesses should address the challenges of different office spaces to ensure they drive productivity and deliver appropriate security and privacy.”*

**About Capterra:**

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**Survey methodology:**

*To collect this data, Capterra interviewed 1018 UK citizens in August 2023. The candidates had to fulfil the following criteria:*

- *UK resident*
- *Employed full-time or part-time in a company with more than one employee*
- *Aged between 18 and 65 years*
- *Always uses a computer or laptop to perform their daily tasks at work*
- *Work in either a hybrid work model or fully physical workplace*