



Telework trending upward

The number of Americans whose employer allows them to work remotely at least one day a month increased 63% between 2004 and 2006, from 7.6 million to 12.4 million, according to a WorldatWork report. The total number of employed and self-employed people teleworking at least one day a month rose 10% between 2005 and 2006, from 26.1 million to 28.7 million.

Based on government estimates of 149.3 million workers in the U.S. labor force, the 2006 data means that roughly 8% of workers have an employer that allows them to telecom-

mute one day a month, and roughly 20% of the total workforce engages in telework.

Likely reasons for the rising trend in the past two years include the proliferation of high-speed/broadband and other wireless Internet access, and the willingness of more employers to embrace flexibility and work-life balance.

The number of telecommuters using a broadband connection at home rose more than 45% in the 2006 survey, following a 65% rise in the 2005 survey. These huge increases are logical given the explosion in broadband and high-speed Internet usage in the past few

years. Increased use of broadband has helped employees more productively work from a distance, especially in accessing corporate networks. In 2006, 19.1 million home-based employed telecommuters used broadband, compared with 8 million in 2004.

WorldatWork estimates that 100 million U.S. workers will telework by 2010, in part because more and more companies will realize the cost benefits from telework and will see it as a tool to attract and retain employees.

To access the full survey report, visit www.workingfromanywhere.org.