

BTS Négociation et Digitalisation de la Relation Client

ANGLAIS OBLIGATOIRE

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A hundred UK companies sign up for four-day week with no loss of pay

A hundred UK companies have signed up for a permanent four-day working week for all their employees with no loss of pay, a milestone in the campaign to fundamentally change Britain's approach to work.

5 The 100 companies employ 2,600 staff – a tiny fraction of the UK's working population – but the 4 Day Week Campaign group is hoping they will be the vanguard of a major shift.

Proponents of the four-day week say that the five-day pattern is a hangover from an earlier economic age. They argue that a four-day week would drive companies to improve their productivity, meaning they can create the same output using fewer hours. For some early adopters the policy has also proven a useful way of attracting and retaining employees.

10 “Over the course of the last year and a half, we have not only seen a tremendous increase in employee wellness and wellbeing but concurrently, our customer service and relations, as well as talent relations and retention also have benefited.”

15 In September, 88% of those companies in a survey at the middle of the trial said the four-day week was working “well” for their business at that stage of the trial. About 95% of the companies surveyed said productivity had either stayed the same or improved since the introduction.

Joe Ryle, the UK campaign's director, said there was increasing momentum in the adoption of the four-day week, even as companies brace for a long recession.

20 “We want to see a four-day week with no loss of pay become the normal way of working in this country by the end of the decade” he said.

“With many businesses struggling to afford 10% inflation pay rises, we're starting to see increasing evidence that a four-day week with no loss of pay is being offered as an alternative solution.”

25 Most of the companies that have officially adopted the four-day week are in the services sector such as technology, events or marketing companies. However, the campaign said that some manufacturing and construction employers had also signed up.

Some historians have said the debate over the introduction of the four-day week has many similarities with the 19th-century campaign for a two-day weekend.

The Guardian, 27 November 2022