



Working from home is really having a moment

The number of telecommuting ¹workers has increased 115% in a decade, according to a new report from Global Workplace Analytics and FlexJobs. That translates to 3.9 million workers, or almost 3% of the total U.S. workforce, working from home at least half the time in 2015, an increase from 1.8 million in 2005.

5 "The impact of remote work is changing; employers really need to pay attention to it and not ignore it any longer," Sara Sutton Fell, CEO of FlexJobs. While more companies are offering telecommuting options, larger companies are the most likely to offer the option to workers. In fact, it's Uncle Sam that has the largest percentage of telecommuters at 3.1%. "The federal government has been a really nice model in terms of setting the tone on why
10 it's a benefit."

Remote working has become more prevalent, specifically in the mortgage and real estate industry, human resources and recruiting, and accounting and finance. Each industry saw remote job listings grow more than 20% last year.(...) The report analyzed Labor
15 Department data and defined a telecommuter as a full-time worker who worked from home at least half the time in the U.S., and does not include freelancers.

New technologies and changing family demographics are big reasons we're seeing a growing remote work force. "The middle class norm changed from one parent working and one staying at home to two working parents being more common and growth in single-parent families are big factors driving telecommuting to save time when and where
20 you can," said Sutton Fell.

The Great Recession also played a role. "We saw a dramatic increase in the types of jobs that employers were hiring for that allowed telecommuting and other flexibility," said Sutton Fell. Telecommuters tend to be a little bit older than the average employee: half are 45 or older. Remote work is gender neutral with 52% of work-at-home employees being female.

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¹ telecommuting :to work at home by the use of an electronic linkup with a central office