



Expedia.com – 2007 International Vacation Deprivation™ Survey Results

History:

- This is the seventh year of the annual Expedia.com Vacation Deprivation™ survey which spotlights the growing trend of employed American workers not taking all of their vacation days. Starting in 2005, Expedia expanded the survey globally to compare and contrast vacationing habits internationally. In the 2007 Vacation Deprivation™ survey, vacation habits are analyzed among employed workers in the United States, Great Britain, Germany, France and Spain.

Why does Expedia.com care?

- Expedia.com believes that everyone deserves and needs a vacation. Regardless of the number of days people receive or how they want to take them, Expedia.com is a key vacation resource that connects travelers around the globe with great selection and prices for all of their vacation needs.

Please note: This document provides key international and domestic stats that should be credited to Expedia.com if used in the media. Please contact Erin Krause at 425.679.4317 or press@expedia.com to request an interview or clarify any of this information.

All surveys were conducted online by Harris Interactive®.

United States

Many U.S. employed adults may not be making full use of their vacation days and may not be getting sufficient time away from work. A substantial minority may be sacrificing vacation time for work. And work has gotten in the way of vacationing for some.

- 51.2 million Americans are vacation deprived, earning (14 days) and taking (11 days) the least amount of vacation days among their international counterparts.
- About one-third of employed U.S. adults (35%) usually do not take all of the vacation days they receive each year – representing a continued directional increase from 33 percent reported in 2006 and 31 percent in 2005. Possible barriers to full use of vacation days include:
 - The need to schedule vacation time in advance (13%);
 - Getting money back for unused vacation days (12%); and,
 - Work is life and it's too hard to get away (10%).
- About two in five employed U.S. adults (41%) report regularly working more than 40 hours per week.
- As in 2006, a sizable minority – 23 percent – of employed adults check work email or voicemail while vacationing, compared to only 16 percent in 2005.
- About one in five employed adults also reported that they've cancelled or postponed vacation plans because of work (19%).
- Nearly two in five employed U.S. adults (39%) reported feeling better about their job and feeling more productive upon returning from vacation.
- Employed U.S. adults most commonly anticipate using the majority of their vacation time for 2007 by taking a power week (40%) (taking at least one full week of vacation and using the remaining time here and there); a much smaller number (14%) plan to take a full 2 week vacation in 2007.
- One-third of employed U.S. adults (33%) often have trouble coping with stress from work at some point during the vacation cycle.

Employed U.S. Men VS Employed U.S. Women

Summary: While employed men are still more likely than their female counterparts to work more than 40 hours per week, this year, men and women receive about the same number of vacation days from their employer. However, men are more likely than women to leave some vacation days on the table, and to feel guilty about taking time off from work.

- Men are more likely than women to regularly work more than 40 hours per week (51% men vs. 30% women).
- Men and women, on average, receive about 14 vacation days per year (14.3 men, 13.8 women).
- However, men are more likely than women to have vacation time for calendar year 2007 (87% men vs. 81% women).
- Men are more likely than women to take a 2-week vacation (17% men vs. 11% women), while women are more likely than men to take a power weekend (14% women vs. 10% men).
- About two in five men (39%) usually don't take all of their vacation days, compared to less than one in three women (31%). In fact, women are more likely than men to take more vacation than they receive (13% women vs. 8% men).
- Men are more likely than women to cite the following as reasons why they wouldn't take all of their vacation days:
 - The need to schedule vacation time in advance (15% men vs. 10% women);
 - Getting money back for unused vacation days (14% men vs. 9% women); and,
 - Work is life and it's too hard to get away (12% men vs. 7% women).
- In addition, men are more likely than women to feel guilty about taking time off from work (39% men vs. 30% women).

Key Regional Findings in the U.S.:

- Employed workers from the West are more likely than those residing in other regions of the country to plan to take a full 2-week vacation in 2007 (24% West vs. 14% Northeast, 9% Midwest, and 13% South).

International Stats

- **Employed adults on average will earn the following number of vacation days in each country in 2007**

(Note: based upon the mean of results including people who did not receive vacation days)

- Employed adults in the United States on average receive about 14 vacation days per year, compared to 14 days in 2006 and 12 days in 2005.
- Employed adults in Great Britain on average receive about 24 vacation days per year, compared to 24 days in 2006 and 23 days in 2005.
- Employed adults in France on average receive about 36 vacation days per year, compared to 39 days in 2006.
- Employed adults in Germany on average receive about 26 vacation days per year, compared to 27 days in 2006.
- Employed adults in Spain on average receive about 30 vacation days per year.

- **Each employed adult on average will not take or will “leave on the table” the following number of days per country** *(Note: based upon the mean of results including people who did not take vacation days)*

- Employed adults in the United States on average leave 3 vacation days per year on the table, compared to 4 days in 2006 and 3 days in 2005.
- Employed adults in Great Britain on average leave 3 vacation days per year on the table, compared to 1 day in 2006.
- Employed adults in France on average leave 3 vacation days per year on the table, compared to 2 days in 2006 and 1 day in 2005.
- Employed adults in Germany on average leave 1 vacation day per year on the table (also 1 day in 2006).
- Employed adults in Spain on average leave 2 vacation days per year on the table.

- **Percentage of employed adults who usually don't take all of their vacation days in each country**

(Note: based upon the mean results including people who did not receive vacation)

- Percentage of employed adults in the United States that usually don't take all of their vacation: 35%.
 - 33% in 2006; 31% in 2005
- Percentage of employed adults in Great Britain that usually don't take all of their vacation: 24%
 - 19% in 2006; 21% in 2005
- Percentage of employed adults in France that usually don't take all of their vacation: 19%
 - 20% in 2006; 17% in 2005
- Percentage of employed adults in Germany that usually don't take all of their vacation: 17%
 - 21% in 2006; 18% in 2005
- Percentage of employed adults in Spain that usually don't take all of their vacation: 24%

Global Primary Statistics					
<i>Based upon the mean of all employed adults</i>	USA	Great Britain	France	Germany	Spain
Amount of Vacation Days Received	14	24	36	26	30
Average Amount of Vacation Days Each Employed Person Gives Back	3	3	3	1	2
Estimated Vacation Days Each Country Gives Back Each Year	438.9 Million Vacation Days (3 * 146,300,000 employed Americans - Bureau of Labor & Statistics)				
Estimated Value of Vacation Days Given Back	\$60.46 billion (438.9 million days * 8 hours * avg hourly wage of \$17.22 from the Bureau of Labor & Statistics)				

Who Vacations The Best? And the Worst?

The Best:

- France wins the distinction for receiving and taking the most vacation days out of those countries surveyed.
- Employed adults in France receive an average of 36 days of vacation each year, compared to 14 days for U.S. employed adults.
- And French workers take an average of 34 vacation days per year, compared to 12 days for U.S. employed adults and 22 days for employed adults in Great Britain.

The Worst:

- Throughout the seven years that the Vacation Deprivation survey has been conducted, the U.S. has long-held the dismaying distinction of being the country with the worst vacationing habits. Employed adults in the United States receive the least vacation days per year (14 days), and they are also most likely to leave vacation days on the table (35%).

How did the countries fare overall?

United States – Still gets the least and takes the least vacation.

- **Supporting Statement:** Even though U.S. employed adults gained an average of 2 vacation days since 2005 (14 vacation days received on average in 2007 and in 2006, versus 12 days in 2005), they still received the least amount of vacation days among the countries surveyed. In fact, about one-third (35%) do not always take all of their vacation days and it's estimated that U.S. employed adults will be giving back a total of 438.9 million vacation days in 2007. *(Note – see above chart for calculation.)*

Great Britain – The most under vacationed country in Europe.

- **Supporting Statement:** On average, employed adults in Great Britain receive less vacation days (24 days) than employed adults in the other European countries surveyed (France – 36 days, Germany – 26 days, and Spain – 30 days).

France – The reigning vacation champions – receives and takes the most vacation days.

- **Supporting Statement:** In 2007, employed French adults on average receive 36 vacation days (including both Conge payes and RTT days) and take 34 vacation days.

Germany – Vacation lovers, with the majority of employed adults leaving no vacation days on the table.

- **Supporting Statement:** 79% of employed German adults leave zero vacation days on the table, more than employed adults in any other country surveyed.

Methodology Statements

All Countries

Harris Interactive® fielded the online survey on behalf of Expedia.com between March 28 and April 12, 2007 among nationwide cross-sections of 4,123 adults aged 18+ in the United States, 2,144 adults aged 16+ in Great Britain, 2,138 adults aged 16+ in France, 2,121 adults aged 16+ in Germany, 1,968 adults aged 16+ in Spain. The European data were weighted to be representative of the total adult populations of each country on the basis of region, age, sex, education, income and propensity to be online. The U.S. data were weighted to be representative of the total U.S. adult population on the basis of region, age within gender, education, household income, race/ethnicity and propensity to be online.

In theory, with probability samples of this size, one can say with 95 percent certainty that the results for the U.S. sample have a sampling error of plus or minus 2 percentage points, the results for the British, French, German, and Spanish samples have a sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. Sampling error for the following sub-sample results – U.S. employed adults (2,792), British employed adults (1,124), French employed adults (1,345), German employed adults (1,357), Spanish employed adults (1,403)– may be higher and would vary. This online sample is not a probability sample and therefore no theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

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