

U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board
2008 Federal Human Capital Survey

Background

In 2008 the US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) completed the biannual Federal Human Capital Survey (FHCS). The survey was administered by OPM and included 74 questions. The data are used to assess Federal employees' perceptions about how effectively agencies are managing their workforces.

1. Interpretation of Results:

Overall, the responses to the 2008 FHCS were mostly positive (favorable), 60 out of 74 (81%) responses scored 50% or better. Forty-five (45) questions out of 74 (61%) received favorable scores of 60% or higher.

Ninety percent (90%) of employees responded that they feel the work they do is important; 90% of employees felt they were held accountable for achieving results; 96% of employees felt they are protected from health and safety hazards on the job; 96% of employees use information technology to perform work; and 85% of the employees felt positive about the overall quality of the work done by their work group.

The areas showing the greatest overall increase in positive responses include employees feeling encouraged to come up with new and better ways of doing things (13 % increase); work gives employees a feeling of personal accomplishment (16% increase); agency support of work and life balance (10% increase); employees have opportunities to demonstrate leadership skills (13% increase); agency does important work (15% increase); six performance culture questions increase between 16 to 23%; and four job satisfaction questions increased more than 10%, including a 14% increase of how satisfied employees are with their job.

During 2009, the Agency plans to continue its supervisory training initiatives to ensure managers have the necessary tools to meet their human capital management responsibilities. In addition, we plan to continue our ongoing communication strategies to ensure all employees are provided information on a timely basis.

2. How the survey was conducted: The survey was conducted online from August 1, 2008, until September 26, 2008.

3. Description of sample: All full time permanent CSB employees were surveyed.

4. Survey items and response choices: See the tables on the following pages.

5. Number of employees surveyed, number responded, and representativeness of respondents: Of the sample of 32 employees, 27 responded for an overall response rate of 84.4%. While demographic questions were included in the OPM requirements, agencies with 800 or fewer employees were exempt from this requirement. The CSB decided not to ask these questions in order to foster a sense of confidentiality and anonymity for respondents.

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD
2008 FEDERAL HUMAN CAPITAL SURVEY RESULTS
(Survey Administration Period 8/1/08 to 9/26/08)

			Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Do Not Know/ No Basis to Judge	Percent Positive	Total
*1.	The people I work with cooperate to get the job done.	N	9	13	2	2	1	NA		27
		%	33.3	48.8	7.1	7.1	3.7	NA	82.1	100
*2.	I am given a real opportunity to improve my skills in my organization.	N	8	12	5	2	0	NA		27
		%	29.4	45.7	18.1	6.8	0.0	NA	75.1	100
3.	I have enough information to do my job well.	N	8	12	3	3	1	NA		27
		%	29.3	45.0	10.8	11.1	3.7	NA	74.3	100
4.	I feel encouraged to come up with new and better ways of doing things.	N	12	7	5	2	1	NA		27
		%	44.3	26.7	18.0	7.3	3.7	NA	71.0	100
*5.	My work gives me a feeling of personal accomplishment.	N	12	9	3	3	0	NA		27
		%	43.0	34.0	11.6	11.3	0.0	NA	77.0	100
*6.	I like the kind of work I do.	N	13	10	2	2	0	NA		27
		%	46.8	38.6	7.1	7.6	0.0	NA	85.3	100
*7.	I have trust and confidence in my supervisor.	N	12	7	4	4	0	NA		27
		%	44.3	27.0	14.4	14.3	0.0	NA	71.3	100
8.	I recommend my organization as a good place to work.	N	5	8	8	5	1	NA		27
		%	18.5	30.5	29.3	18.0	3.7	NA	49.0	100
			Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Do Not Know/ No Basis to Judge	Percent Positive	Total
*9.	Overall, how good a job do you feel is being done by your immediate supervisor/team leader?	N	14	4	8	0	1	NA		27
		%	51.7	15.1	29.4	0.0	3.7	NA	66.9	100
10.	How would you rate the overall quality of work done by your work group?	N	17	6	4	0	0	NA		27
		%	62.4	22.9	14.7	0.0	0.0	NA	85.3	100

			Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Do Not Know/ No Basis to Judge	Percent Positive	Total
*11.	The workforce has the job-relevant knowledge and skills necessary to accomplish organizational goals.	N	5	12	4	4	1	1		27
		%	19.2	44.2	15.4	14.3	3.7	3.1	63.5	100
*12.	My supervisor supports my need to balance work and other life issues.	N	15	6	3	3	0	0		27
		%	54.3	24.3	10.9	10.5	0.0	0.0	78.6	100
13.	Supervisors/team leaders in my work unit provide employees with the opportunities to demonstrate their leadership skills.	N	12	8	3	3	1	0		27
		%	43.2	31.4	11.3	10.3	3.7	0.0	74.6	100
*14.	My work unit is able to recruit people with the right skills.	N	6	6	5	7	3	0		27
		%	21.5	22.9	18.2	26.3	11.2	0.0	44.3	100

* AES prescribed items.

Percentages are weighted to be representative of the Agency's population.

Sample or Population: Population

Surveys Completed: 27

Number in Population: 32

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Response Rate: 84.4%

			Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Do Not Know/ No Basis to Judge	Percent Positive	Total
15.	The skill level in my work unit has improved in the past year.	N	7	8	7	3	2	0		27
		%	25.3	30.3	26.5	10.4	7.5	0.0	55.7	100
16.	I have sufficient resources (for example, people, materials, budget) to get my job done.	N	5	7	7	5	3	0		27
		%	18.2	26.5	26.8	18.0	10.4	0.0	44.7	100
*17.	My workload is reasonable.	N	2	11	4	5	5	0		27
		%	7.1	42.7	14.5	17.5	18.3	0.0	49.8	100
*18.	My talents are used well in the workplace.	N	7	10	8	1	1	0		27
		%	25.2	37.0	29.5	4.5	3.7	0.0	62.2	100
*19.	I know how my work relates to the agency's goals and priorities.	N	13	10	3	1	0	0		27
		%	46.7	39.4	10.1	3.7	0.0	0.0	86.1	100
*20.	The work I do is important.	N	15	9	2	0	0	1		27
		%	53.7	35.8	6.8	0.0	0.0	3.7	89.5	100
*21.	Physical conditions (for example, noise level, temperature,	N	14	9	1	2	1	0		27

	lighting, cleanliness in the workplace) allow employees to perform their jobs well.	%	51.3	33.0	3.7	7.5	4.5	0.0	84.2	100
*22.	Promotions in my work unit are based on merit.	N	8	6	7	5	1	0		27
		%	28.8	22.8	27.2	17.4	3.7	0.0	51.7	100
*23.	In my work unit, steps are taken to deal with a poor performer who cannot or will not improve.	N	6	5	7	5	3	1		27
		%	21.3	19.1	26.2	17.5	12.0	3.8	40.4	100
*24.	Employees have a feeling of personal empowerment with respect to work processes.	N	6	11	7	3	0	0		27
		%	21.3	42.2	26.0	10.6	0.0	0.0	63.5	100
25.	Employees are rewarded for providing high quality products and services to customers.	N	7	10	4	5	0	1		27
		%	25.1	38.1	13.9	18.3	0.0	4.5	63.2	100
*26.	Creativity and innovation are rewarded.	N	8	7	4	6	1	1		27
		%	28.8	26.3	13.9	22.7	3.7	4.5	55.1	100
*27.	Pay raises depend on how well employees perform their jobs.	N	6	8	6	5	2	0		27
		%	22.3	29.8	22.7	18.1	7.1	0.0	52.1	100
28.	Awards in my work unit depend on how well employees perform their jobs.	N	8	11	3	4	1	0		27
		%	28.8	42.5	10.5	14.4	3.7	0.0	71.3	100
*29.	In my work unit, differences in performance are recognized in a meaningful way.	N	8	5	5	7	1	1		27
		%	28.8	19.2	18.4	26.1	3.7	3.7	48.1	100
*30.	My performance appraisal is a fair reflection of my performance.	N	11	10	4	0	1	1		27
		%	39.6	39.2	13.6	0.0	3.7	3.8	78.8	100
*31.	Discussions with my supervisor/team leader about my performance are worthwhile.	N	9	9	4	2	1	2		27
		%	33.0	34.6	14.3	6.8	3.7	7.5	67.6	100

* AES prescribed items.

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			Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Do Not Know/ No Basis to Judge	Percent Positive	Total
*32.	In my most recent performance appraisal, I understood what I had to do to be rated at different performance levels (for example, Fully Successful, Outstanding).	N	11	10	3	2	0	1		27
		%	39.6	38.8	10.3	7.5	0.0	3.8	78.4	100
33.	I am held accountable for achieving results.	N	11	13	3	0	0	0		27

		%	39.5	50.3	10.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	89.8	100
34.	Supervisors/team leaders in my work unit are committed to a workforce representative of all segments of society.	N	9	9	5	1	1	2		27
		%	32.2	34.9	18.2	3.5	3.7	7.5	67.0	100
35.	Policies and programs promote diversity in the workplace (for example, recruiting minorities and women, training in awareness of diversity issues, mentoring).	N	7	8	5	3	1	3		27
		%	24.8	31.2	18.3	9.9	3.7	12.1	55.9	100
*36.	Managers/supervisors/team leaders work well with employees of different backgrounds.	N	8	8	4	5	1	1		27
		%	28.4	31.3	13.9	18.9	3.7	3.8	59.7	100
*37.	I have a high level of respect for my organization's senior leaders.	N	5	7	8	5	2	0		27
		%	18.2	26.3	30.4	17.8	7.3	0.0	44.5	100
*38.	In my organization, leaders generate high levels of motivation and commitment in the workforce.	N	3	6	6	11	1	0		27
		%	10.8	22.5	22.0	40.9	3.7	0.0	33.3	100
39.	My organization's leaders maintain high standards of honesty and integrity.	N	4	10	9	2	2	0		27
		%	14.6	37.8	32.4	8.1	7.1	0.0	52.4	100
*40.	Managers communicate the goals and priorities of the organization.	N	4	10	5	7	1	0		27
		%	14.6	36.1	19.4	26.4	3.5	0.0	50.7	100
*41.	Managers review and evaluate the organization's progress toward meeting its goals and objectives.	N	6	9	6	4	1	1		27
		%	21.7	33.5	21.9	15.4	3.7	3.7	55.2	100
*42.	Employees are protected from health and safety hazards on the job.	N	14	12	1	0	0	0		27
		%	51.1	44.3	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	95.5	100
*43.	My organization has prepared employees for potential security threats.	N	4	15	4	2	1	1		27
		%	15.1	54.3	15.9	7.1	3.7	3.8	69.4	100
44.	Complaints, disputes or grievances are resolved fairly in my work unit.	N	4	9	6	2	2	4		27
		%	14.1	33.6	22.1	7.9	7.5	14.8	47.7	100
45.	Arbitrary action, personal favoritism and coercion for partisan political purposes are not tolerated.	N	6	9	7	4	1	0		27
		%	21.7	33.2	26.3	14.2	4.5	0.0	55.0	100
46.	Prohibited Personnel Practices (for example, illegally discriminating for or against any employee/applicant, obstructing a person's right to compete for employment, knowingly violating veterans' preference requirements) are not tolerated.	N	9	11	4	1	0	2		27
		%	33.4	39.4	17.1	3.3	0.0	6.8	72.8	100
47.	I can disclose a suspected violation of any law, rule or regulation without fear of reprisal.	N	5	11	7	1	1	2		27
		%	17.9	40.1	26.8	3.3	3.7	8.1	58.1	100

* AES prescribed items.

			Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Do Not Know/ No Basis to Judge	Percent Positive	Total
48.	Supervisors/team leaders provide employees with constructive suggestions to improve their job performance.	N	7	8	7	3	0	2		27
		%	25.5	30.1	25.0	12.0	0.0	7.3	55.6	100
*49.	Supervisors/team leaders in my work unit support employee development.	N	11	10	2	4	0	0		27
		%	39.7	39.4	6.8	14.1	0.0	0.0	79.1	100
50.	Employees have electronic access to learning and training programs readily available at their desk.	N	5	13	4	3	0	2		27
		%	17.9	48.8	14.0	11.1	0.0	8.3	66.7	100
*51.	My training needs are assessed.	N	5	14	3	5	0	0		27
		%	17.6	53.0	10.1	19.3	0.0	0.0	70.6	100
52.	Managers promote communication among different work units (for example, about projects, goals, needed resources).	N	6	7	6	4	4	0		27
		%	21.3	27.2	21.4	14.9	15.1	0.0	48.5	100
53.	Employees in my work unit share job knowledge with each other.	N	14	7	3	0	3	0		27
		%	51.3	27.6	10.1	0.0	11.0	0.0	78.9	100
54.	Employees use information technology (for example, intranet, shared networks) to perform work.	N	15	11	0	1	0	0		27
		%	53.9	42.4	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	96.3	100
			Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Strongly Dissatisfied	Do Not Know/ No Basis to Judge	Percent Positive	Total
*55.	How satisfied are you with your involvement in decisions that affect your work?	N	7	9	5	3	3	NA		27
		%	25.0	34.7	18.1	11.4	10.8	NA	59.7	100
*56.	How satisfied are you with the information you receive from management on what's going on in your organization?	N	6	8	4	6	3	NA		27
		%	21.5	30.1	14.9	22.7	10.8	NA	51.6	100
*57.	How satisfied are you with the recognition you receive for doing a good job?	N	7	10	4	4	2	NA		27
		%	25.1	38.2	15.5	14.3	6.8	NA	63.3	100
*58.	How satisfied are you with the policies and practices of your senior leaders?	N	6	7	5	8	1	NA		27
		%	21.7	27.3	17.6	30.0	3.3	NA	49.1	100
*59.	How satisfied are you with your opportunity to get a better job in your organization?	N	4	9	8	4	2	NA		27
		%	14.0	34.0	29.4	15.2	7.5	NA	48.0	100
*60.	How satisfied are you with the training you receive for your	N	6	14	4	3	0	NA		27

	present job?	%	21.2	52.8	14.9	11.2	0.0	NA	73.9	100
*61.	Considering everything, how satisfied are you with your job?	N	6	13	4	3	1	NA		27
		%	21.5	50.5	13.9	10.4	3.7	NA	71.9	100
*62.	Considering everything, how satisfied are you with your pay?	N	3	11	8	4	1	NA		27
		%	11.1	41.1	28.6	15.4	3.8	NA	52.2	100
63.	Considering everything, how satisfied are you with your organization?	N	5	12	4	5	1	NA		27
		%	17.9	46.1	14.1	18.3	3.7	NA	63.9	100

* AES prescribed items.

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			Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Strongly Dissatisfied	Do Not Know/ No Basis to Judge	Percent Positive	Total
64.	How satisfied are you with retirement benefits?	N	3	13	6	5	0	0		27
		%	10.8	48.6	22.9	17.7	0.0	0.0	59.4	100
65.	How satisfied are you with health insurance benefits?	N	3	18	3	2	1	0		27
		%	10.8	67.5	10.9	7.1	3.7	0.0	78.3	100
66.	How satisfied are you with life insurance benefits?	N	2	17	5	2	0	1		27
		%	7.1	64.0	17.9	7.3	0.0	3.8	71.1	100
67.	How satisfied are you with long term care insurance benefits?	N	1	10	8	2	1	5		27
		%	3.7	36.4	28.7	8.1	3.7	19.3	40.1	100
68.	How satisfied are you with the flexible spending account (FSA) program?	N	6	13	4	1	0	3		27
		%	21.2	48.5	14.7	3.7	0.0	11.9	69.7	100
69.	How satisfied are you with paid vacation time?	N	10	11	2	1	3	NA		27
		%	36.4	40.0	6.6	4.5	12.4	NA	76.5	100
70.	How satisfied are you with paid leave for illness (for example, personal), including family care situations (for example, childbirth/adoption or eldercare)?	N	9	15	1	2	0	NA		27
		%	32.7	55.9	3.1	8.3	0.0	NA	88.7	100
71.	How satisfied are you with child care subsidies?	N	0	3	9	1	0	14		27
		%	0.0	10.0	34.4	3.7	0.0	51.9	10.0	100
72.	How satisfied are you with work/life programs (for example, health and wellness, employee assistance, eldercare, and support groups)?	N	1	6	7	2	1	10		27
		%	3.7	20.4	27.1	8.1	3.7	37.0	24.1	100

73. How satisfied are you with telework/telecommuting?	N	5	8	8	2	2	2	46.7	27
	%	18.6	28.1	29.6	8.3	7.8	7.6		100
74. How satisfied are you with alternative work schedules?	N	2	7	5	4	5	4	32.9	27
	%	7.5	25.4	18.4	13.5	20.3	15.0		100

* AES prescribed items.