

American Companies Lose 86 Workdays A Year Being Unproductive

(NAPSA)—When managers don't manage, workers often produce less. That's a key finding of a recent study on global productivity and lost employee time.

This second annual study observed the managerial practices and operating systems used by over 1,350 managers and workers of large global companies from the U.S., Germany, Austria, Australia, France, U.K., and South Africa.

The study also found that U.S. companies work at an average rate of 62 percent of total productivity and waste 86 workdays a year. Germany was the only country with a higher rate of productivity. There, workers were productive 63 percent of the time, wasting 83 workdays a year.

Globally, there was actually a modest rise in productivity of two percent since the previous survey. The average rate of productivity was 59 percent, with 92 working days lost per person, per company, per year. This is five fewer days lost than in 2001.

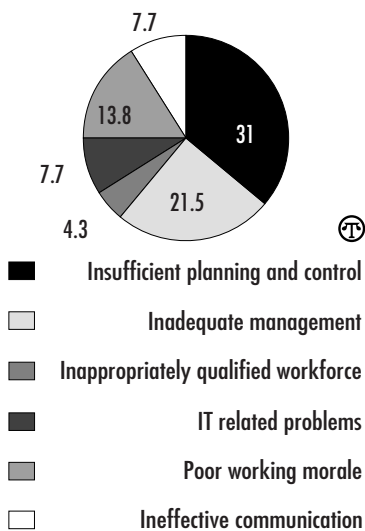
According to this year's study, the key contributing causes behind lower worker productivity are:

- insufficient planning and control,
- inadequate management, and
- poor working morale.

According to Alan Steelman, executive vice president, North America, of Proudfoot Consulting—the firm that conducts the yearly study—managers just do not spend enough time thinking ahead. “Instead,” said Steelman, “most managers spend far too much time putting out fires that proper planning could have prevented.”

Steelman advocates the man-

Reasons for Wasted Workdays in the US
2002 Total Workdays Wasted = 86



A recent study claims that U.S. workers waste 86 workdays a year.

agement principle of “plan your work, work your plan” as a way managers can increase worker productivity.

The study also contends that insufficient planning and control on the part of managers accounted for 31 percent of the wasted days. What the survey referred to as inadequate management was the second leading cause of lost productivity, accounting for 22 lost workdays per year.

Other factors cited for low productivity were an inappropriately qualified workforce, information technology related problems, poor working morale and ineffective communication between workers and managers.