

Corona's impact on businesses

The global pandemic has shaken up the world of work. A period of unexpected and unprecedented change has prompted many organisations to rethink the way they operate, and the HR function has been catapulted into the spotlight as a result.

The study

To explore the impact of Covid-19 on businesses and their people strategies, we surveyed 500 HR managers in the UK. The research revealed how the Covid-19 crisis has given HR teams a unique opportunity to demonstrate what they're best at: helping businesses make strategic decisions when it comes to their greatest asset, their people.

HR is a company's What's next? backbone

An empowered, strategic HR function is critical to business agility in times of crisis and beyond. But in order to work strategically, HR teams need the right data and systems in place. Only with the right technology are they able to focus on their people and provide valuable insights to management.

HR has demonstrated its value to businesses during this crisis, but it can't stop there. HR teams will be critical to supporting the return to the office and helping their organisations navigate the period after lockdown.

Organisations that have not yet digitised their HR processes should act now to operate effectively and strategically in the post-pandemic workplace.

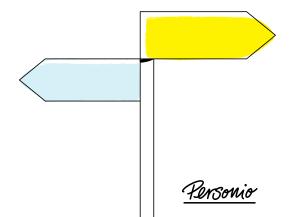


Table of contents



HR's response to Coronavirus

How HR responded to the crisis and which actions they have taken

p. 4-5

Challenges HR faced during Corona

HR tasks that have suffered, challenges and their view on the recovery

p. 6-8

Priorities and plans going forward

How HR can help businesses to recover

p. 9-12

HR's role in the new normal

How HR has changed as a result of Coronavirus and what it needs to focus on to capitalise on its new position.

p. 13-15

Conclusion

p. 16

About the survey

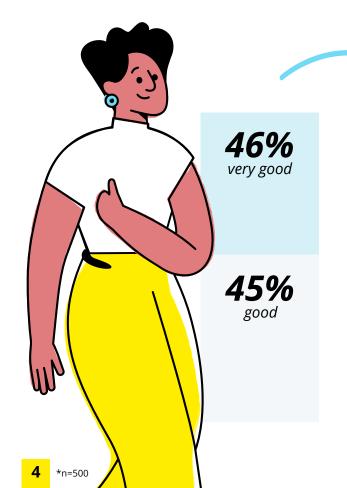
p. 17

#moretime forwhat matters

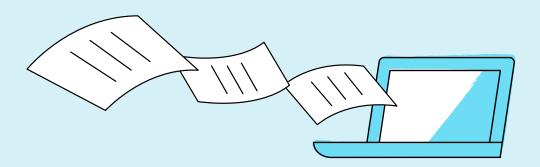


9 out of 10 HR teams say they responded well to Covid-19

"Our HR function's response was:"



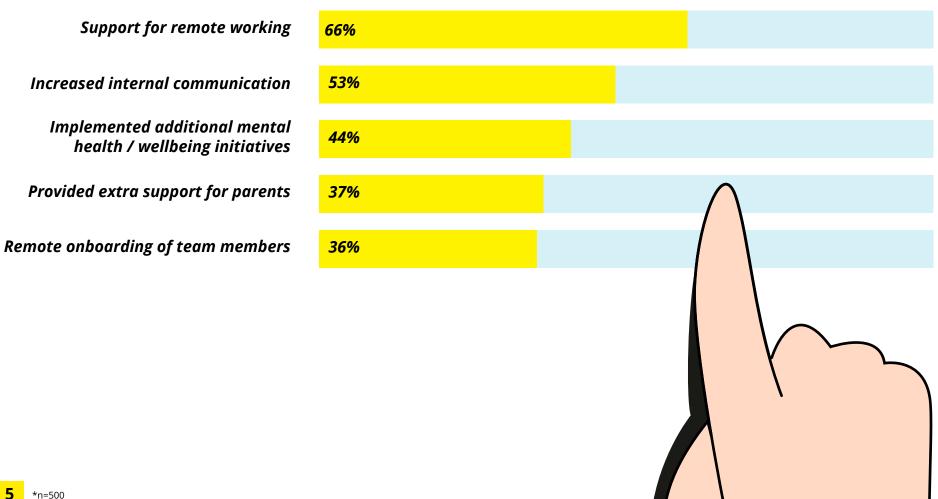
In organisations where all HR processes were digitised, 63% rated the HR function's response as very well.





Actions implemented by HR due to Covid-19

97% have taken action to support the business through the pandemic





Areas that suffered due to Coronavirus

48% **Recruitment**



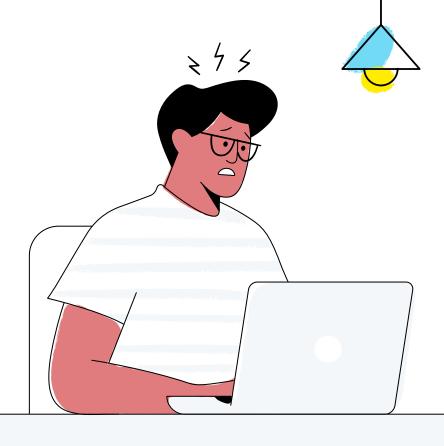
42%

Training & development activities



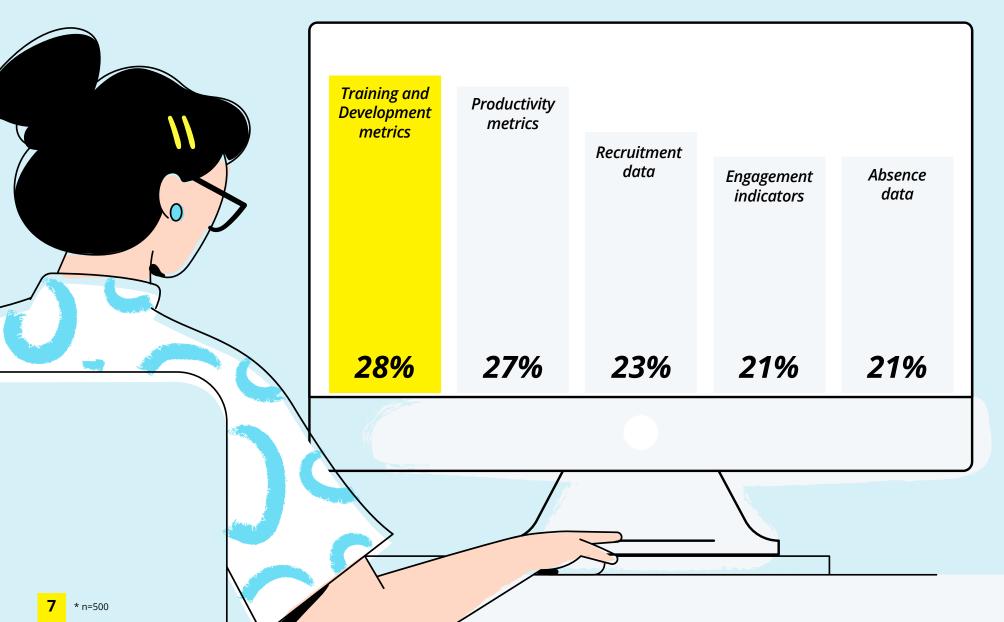
43% Long-term planning







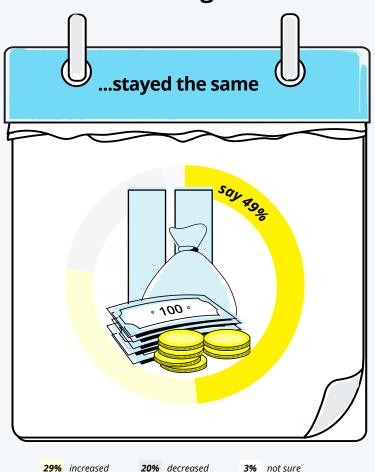
71% of HR professionals have struggled with poor access to people data



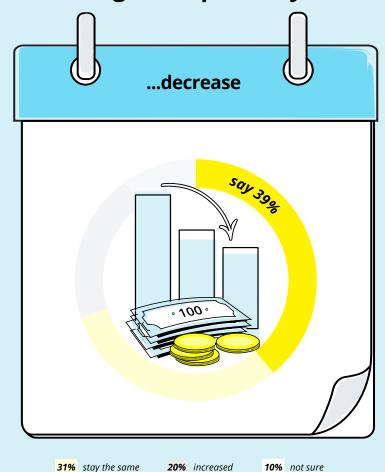


Impact of Corona on HR budgets

Within the last 12 months, our HR budget has...



In the next 12 months, our HR budget will probably...





85% of HR professionals perceive challenges to recovery

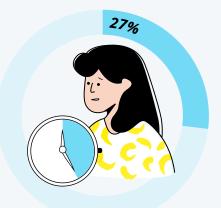
Key challenges HR is facing

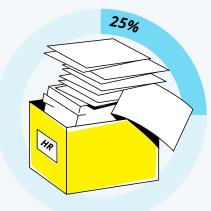
Constrained budgets

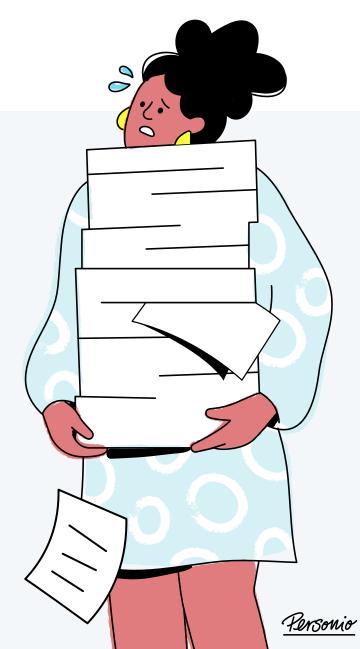
Not enough time or HR resources for strategic work

Too much admin work



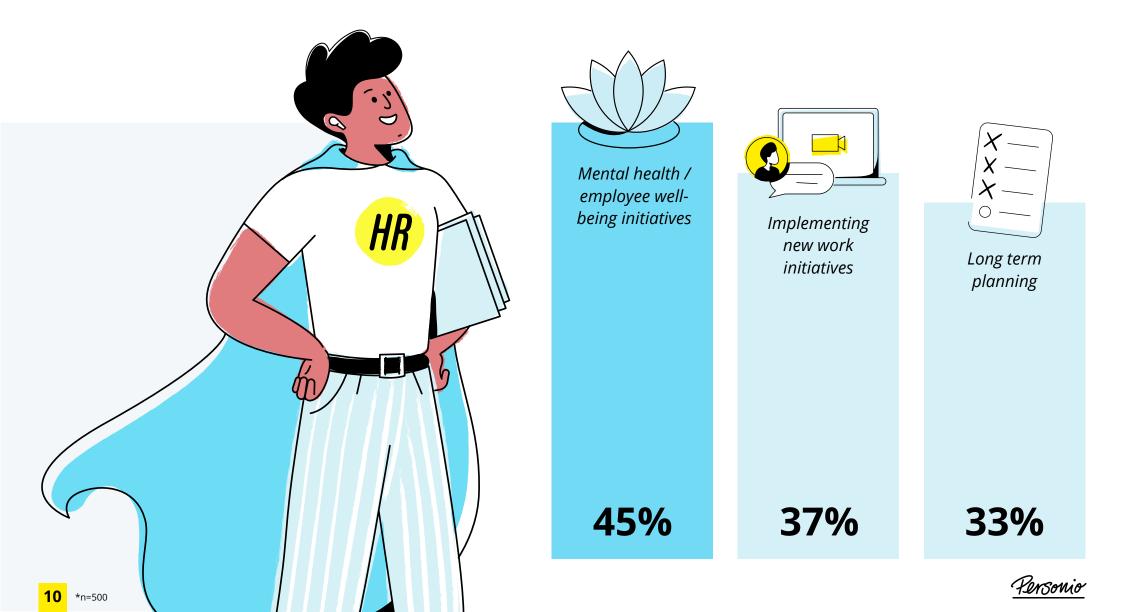






HR can help businesses to recover

HR's most important areas of focus to support the business' recovery:



Digitized HR teams are better prepared



Only 46%
have put a
specific HR
recovery plan
in place



55%

of organisations which have digitised all their HR processes have an HR recovery plan in place.



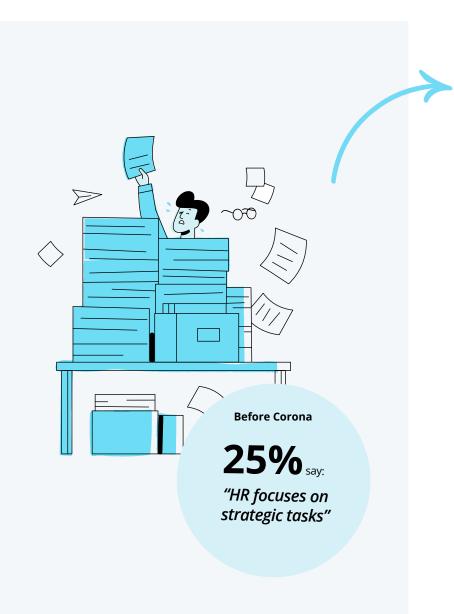
On average, HR managers think it will take 13.4 months for their organisation to recover



HR's response to crisis may impact the duration of the recovery.

Those who rate their HR department's response to Coronavirus as neutral or not good expect it to take up to 18 months.

HR has become more strategic during the outbreak



Completely digitised HR functions were more likely a strategic partner even before the outbreak (37 % vs 25 %).



Digitalization enables strategic HR



79% HR has been integral to helping the business successfully change and adapt

71% HR has added strategic value to the business

71% The HR function has been more closely involved at board level

42%

HR has lacked the data and tools needed to support the business in the best way possible

What's next for HR?

80% say:

"It's important for HR to maintain the strategic role it has played during the outbreak"

68% say:

"HR will have more responsibility after the outbreak has subsided"

67% say:

"Employees will be reluctant to let go of the increased flexibility and remote working practices"

51% say:

"HR cannot continue as it did prior to the outbreak"

63% say: "Our response to the outbreak has improved the internal reputation of the HR function"

Conclusion

The Corona crisis has shown that having a strategic, digitallyenabled HR function has helped businesses keep people connected and motivated during times of crisis.

Going forward, companies and leaders will need to find new ways to connect people and maintain team spirit as more people opt to work remotely. HR professionals have a valuable role to play in finding solutions that work for the employee and the business, and can play a strategic role by providing data and metrics that support data-driven decisions.

About the survey

Survey method:

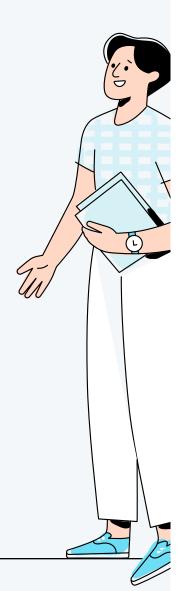
Interviews

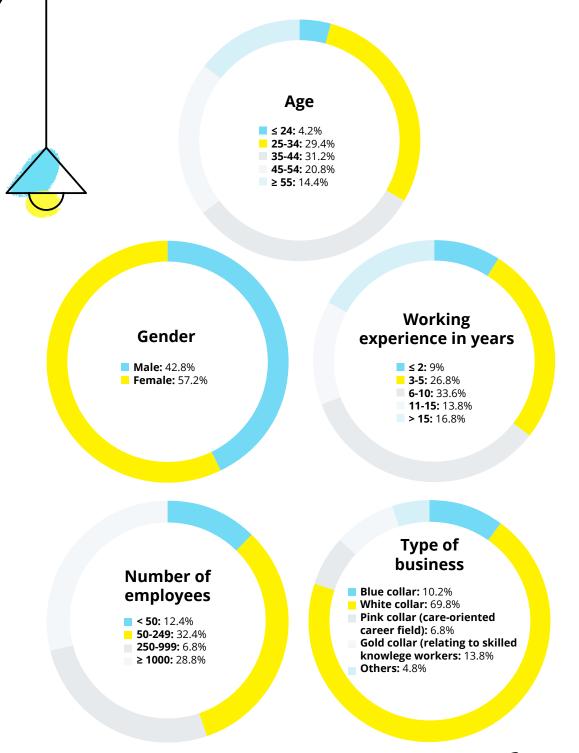
Survey period:

May 2020

Respondents:

500 UK HR managers, across a range of industries and organisation types / sizes







"Personio gives you more time for what matters: people and strategy"

For press inquiries:

Kathrin Kirchler press@personio.de +49 (0) 159 0616 8883 www.personio.de/press For customer enquiries and product demos:

info@personio.de +49 (0) 89 1250 1004 www.personio.com

Follow us on:

in @personio

@personiohr

@personiohr

@personio_hr

