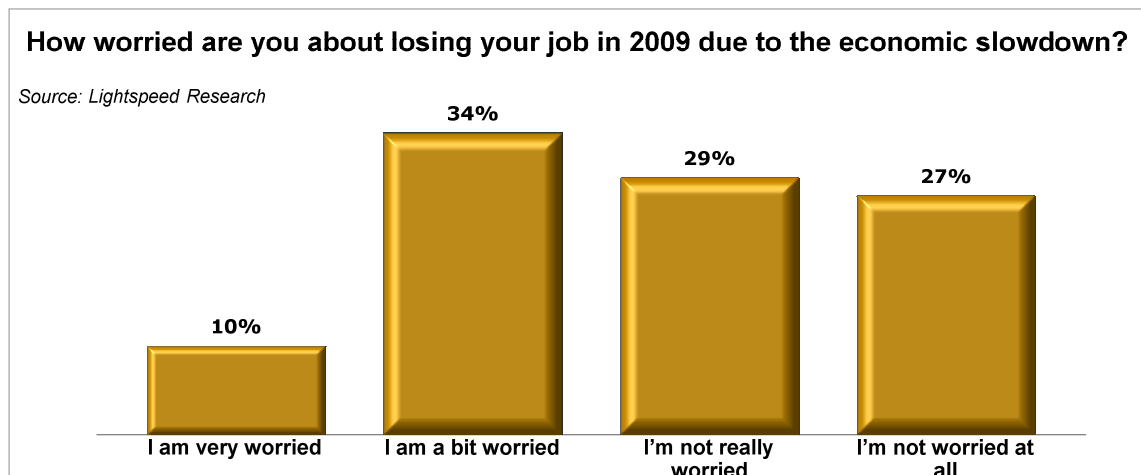


Unemployment 2009: UK employees fear the worst is yet to come

London 4th March 2009: According to the latest survey by Lightspeed Research (www.lightspeedresearch.com), a leading online market research company, 44% of UK employees fear they may lose their job in 2009.



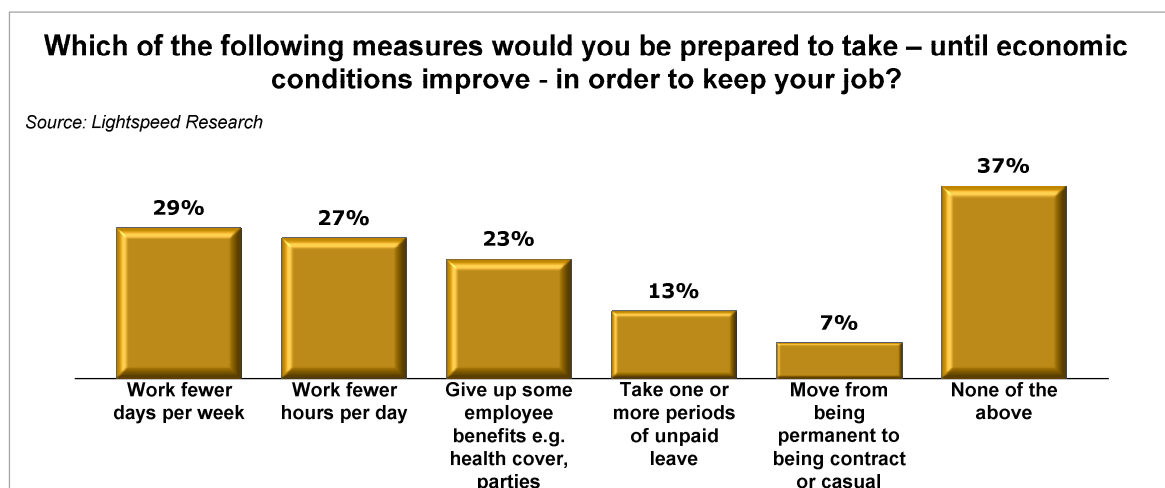
Although UK employees have already experienced the negative effects of the economic slowdown (21% of survey respondents said there had already been redundancies at their work place in the last six months), just under half of respondents (44%) expect to be further affected by the financial crisis.

25 – 34 year olds are the most concerned about losing their jobs, followed by those under the age of 25, who can suffer from the 'last in, first out' rule, so often quoted at the workplace. Older employees (over 55s) however are the most confident and are more likely than other age groups to say that they are not at all worried about losing their jobs (36%). This may be because they are also more likely to be debt free, to have paid off their mortgage or are closer to retirement age and taking their pension.

Almost a half of respondents would take voluntary redundancy

43% of respondents said they would be prepared to take voluntary redundancy. However, employees are very cautious about the minimum amount of money they require for leaving. 57% of employees said they would ask for a minimum of a year's salary to leave their job. Older employees are more likely to take voluntary redundancy than other age groups with half of being prepared to do so.

With the current economic climate, UK employees are ready for more flexibility at work



Until economic conditions improve, the majority of respondents (63%) would be prepared to accept more flexibility at work in order to keep their job.

The youngest employees and 35–44 year olds are most prepared to be flexible and adopt some of the measures mentioned in Chart 1, whereas older employees, aged 45 – 54 and 55+ are less likely to accept these measures: 43% and 40% respectively would be opposed to any of these suggested changes.

David Day, Lightspeed Research CEO Europe said, “The key to beating a recession is consumer confidence and the indication from these results is it wont be any time soon. It is clear that people in the UK are worried about their job security. This is translated into a more pragmatic outlook when it comes to the workplace. Many employees are prepared to adopt a flexible approach to

working practices rather than lose their jobs altogether. In particular, 21% had the experience of seeing redundancies at their place of work in the last six months which will have encouraged them to take a more open attitude”

- Ends -

For press enquiries please contact:

Geraldine Gitel, PR Consultant Greenfields Communications

ggitel@greenfieldscommunications.com Tel: +44 (0) 7917 885380

Ralph Risk, Marketing Director Europe – Lightspeed Research

Tel office +44 (0)20 7896 1950 mobile +44 (0)787 650 7689

rrisk@lightspeedresearch.com

Note to editors

The survey has been carried out among 1000 UK employees working full-time or part-time in February 2009.

About Lightspeed Research

Lightspeed Research is a global interactive data solutions provider delivering market research results through global panels. Lightspeed Research provides access to household members across 34 countries in Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific. Lightspeed Research's proprietary panels are recruited and maintained to ensure quality and representative sampling — supporting studies that range in scope and complexity across most industry sectors. The company operates panels covering healthcare, financial services, automotive, B2B, telecommunications, family and more. Lightspeed Research is a member of Kantar and WPP (LSE: WPP) (NASDAQ: WPPGY), one of the world's leading communications services companies. For more information, please visit www.lightspeedresearch.com.