

Future-Proofing Work: The Talent Trends Shaping 2025

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Despite the race to attract and retain top talent heating up this year, company financials will still be taking centre stage for many businesses. Concerningly, only 1 in 10 professionals feel like their employer will be listening to what their employees want.

In a recent survey – from global talent solutions business [Robert Walters](#) – 69% of professionals stated that company financials will be the leading factor driving change in their workplace – followed by the wider economy (12%), what workers want (10%) and competitors (8%).

Chris Eldridge – CEO of Robert Walters UK and Ireland said: “The war for talent is intensifying, and businesses can no longer afford to stand still. The most forward-thinking companies are already doubling down on adaptability, digital transformation, and a human-first approach to stay ahead. In an era where workplace change is being shaped by employee demands more than ever, the ability to discern key employee values and apprehend them to create a culture where top talent thrives will define the winners and losers of this evolving landscape.”

As businesses brace for the workforce of tomorrow, the latest [Talent Trends 2025](#) report from Robert Walters reveals the game-changing shifts redefining hiring, leadership, and workplace culture.

From AI-powered recruitment to ‘window working’ and human-centric leadership, here’s what’s shaping the future of talent:

- AI in Hiring – 3 in 10 companies are integrating AI, but while automation accelerates hiring, the human touch remains irreplaceable. Smart businesses will balance tech with human judgment.

- People-First Leadership – Organizations that embrace empathy, flexibility, and purpose-driven leadership are 2.6x more likely to achieve business success.
- Candidate Experience is Everything – 83% of professionals say a poor interview experience can change their perception of a business. Companies must treat applicants like valued customers.
- Hybrid Work Reimagined – As the quest for flexible work continues, a variety of concepts will be trialed and tested from the 4-day week to 'window working' – offering structured flexibility to maintain engagement and productivity.
- Climbing the Career 'Lattice' – The traditional career ladder is out. Employees are opting for lateral moves, cross-functional growth, and skills-based progression over rigid hierarchies.
- The 'Un-Retiring' Boom – Over 2.8m retirees in the UK have re-entered the workforce, bringing invaluable experience to multi-generational teams.
- Future Skills Are Key – 39% of job market skills will change by 2030, with businesses needing to upskill employees in both tech and soft skills to stay ahead.