



**Management Services Journal**

**Summer journal  
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**AGM**

The forty eighth  
Annual General Meeting  
of the Institute will be held at

Charter Room, The George Hotel,  
Bird Street, Lichfield,  
Staffordshire WS13 6PR

on  
**Friday 18th October 2013**  
at 10:30 am

All Members are invited to attend

**Danish Productivity needs to increase**

The Danish economy is still limping forwards after the 2008 financial crisis brought it crashing to the ground. After initially regaining most of the lost ground, economic growth over the past three years has stalled and 100,000 jobs seem permanently lost.

Five years on from the crisis, strategies to reignite the economy seem evasive and think-tanks and economic experts cannot agree on which path Denmark should take.

Increasing productivity and competition in the domestic market could play an important role in its recovery, and many experts consider that the government's so-called 'investment window' is a useful tool to encourage businesses to invest in technology that increases their productivity.

**INSTITUTE ELECTIONS 2013**

Elections to the IMS Council of Management are now taking place. Completed ballot papers should be returned to Lichfield by 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

All Corporate members are urged to vote using the ballot paper sent with your Summer journal. Additional ballot papers are available by emailing Head Office at Lichfield. email [admin@ims-stowe.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:admin@ims-stowe.fsnet.co.uk)

**Flexible Working Can Increase Productivity**



The latest research on flexible working has shown this method has a positive effect on the day-to-day productivity of employees. New figures from HR recruitment firm Ortus revealed 96 per cent of people said they felt their work levels would rise if they were allowed to operate on a flexible basis.

Flexible working can include allowing members of staff to complete their duties from home or at unusual hours to suit both the worker and the company.

Some 59 per cent of respondents also said being allowed to work from home would mean their productivity staying exactly the same as it is in the office. Clearly home working would have great benefits for companies by reducing costs if workers were allowed the flexibility to work from home.

Stephen Menko, UK director of Ortus, said: "Getting the most out of the workforce is a core function of the HR profession and attitudes have changed about how to achieve this. The focus is more on the health and happiness of staff. He went on to suggest that there is now a strong case for flexible working being allowed in businesses.

**Hungry workers are less productive**

Over half of UK workers (59 per cent) admit to not having breakfast - costing their employers millions every year in time lost when workers fail to focus. Research from Weetabix on the Go reveals 56 per cent of Brits are too rushed to eat first thing in the morning, while ten per cent do not feel there is a suitable on the go option.

The research found that workers skipping breakfast are costing the British economy £300 million a year. Those who miss the morning meal lose 82 minutes of the working day due to poor productivity levels, which is having a direct result on UK businesses.

## Mexico tops worker productivity study

Mexico has the most productive workforce, as measured by time on task, according to research by the iOpener Institute for People and Performance. Mexican workers spend an average of 73.2% of their time actively producing outputs that make a tangible contribution to their organisation.

This compares favourably with UK workers, who spend 57.6% of their time

being productive — placing them 14th in an analysis of 37 countries.

After Mexico, South Africa and Colombia (both 66.2%), Denmark (65.6%) and the Netherlands (65%) had the most productive workers. Employees in Portugal (43.3%), Czech Republic (44.5%), Japan (44.7%) and Argentina (46.3%) were least productive, according to the report. The international average

for time on task was 58.8%. - See more at:

The study, Happiness at Work – Maximising Your Psychological Capital for Success, analysed responses from more than 30,000 professionals. It revealed different productivity levels across industry sectors and a clear relationship between worker happiness and personal productivity.

## Industrial internet promises “productivity revolution



The so-called Industrial Internet could increase productivity growth in Europe by 0.75 percentage points above the baseline, according to the report produced by GE, entitled The Industrial Internet – Pushing the Boundaries of Minds and Machines, A European Perspective.

“The Industrial Internet is the next wave of innovation in a cycle that started a long time ago with the Industrial Revolution,” the report’s author, Marco Annunziata, GE’s chief economist, told the audience at a GE-hosted event at the Battersea Power Station in London.

This new wave “is bringing the power of the Internet into the industrial world...to bring enormous improvements in efficiency,

## Australian Productivity

Australian productivity as a whole is far more nebulous as a concept. But almost nothing in economics is as important. In the short term, productivity is an abstract series of measurements.

In the long run, it is everything. Productivity is why some countries are richer than others, why their citizens live in more comfort, and why you’re paid what you are.

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## Crop yields inadequate to feed the world by 2050

If the world is to grow enough food for the projected global population in 2050, agricultural productivity will have to rise by at least 60%, and may need to more than double, according to researchers who have studied global crop yields.

The study’s findings are also likely to fuel debate over the efficacy of genetically modified crops, which some scientists have argued may be needed in future to feed the rapidly growing global population, which is expected to reach at least 9 billion by 2050.

The situation on crop productivity varies country to country. In Guatemala, the productivity of the maize agriculture is declining, while the population is growing.

## Productive Print Facility

Brazilian label printer Mack Color has bought its 3rd FB-3300 flexo press. Founded in 1984, the Sao Paulo-based company prides itself on having developed an advanced printing facility, operated by highly qualified staff and focused on fulfilling current and future customer needs through constant investment in technology.

It is anticipated that the new print facility will increase production capacity by 100%, and, most importantly reduce production costs.



Brooke House  
24 Dam Street  
Lichfield  
Staffordshire WS13 6AA

Tel: +44 (0) 1543 266909  
Fax: +44 (0) 1543 257848  
E-mail: [admin@ims-stowe.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:admin@ims-stowe.fsnet.co.uk)  
Website: [www.ims-productivity.com](http://www.ims-productivity.com)

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