



2018 Survey Results

Introduction

In June 2018, the fourth edition of PM Summit, Ireland's most inclusive conference for project, programme and portfolio management professionals, revealed the results of their annual survey.

This year's edition involved the participation of 437 project management professionals in Ireland from a broad range of sectors and was carried out with the assistance of Pan Research.

All responses were anonymous, spanning absolute beginners to seasoned veterans. Participants were asked to report on their ten most recent projects. Displaying a very clear gender split within the area of project management, a staggering 76% of participants were male, with the majority working in medium (50-500 employees) or extra-large companies (5000+ employees). 45% of participants come from the IT and AEC (architecture, engineering and construction) sectors, with finance, operations & logistics, manufacturing and production making up the rest.

Fail to Prepare...

85%
had formal training and education in project management

Project Management has become an increasingly vital element of working life. This covers a spectrum from large construction and engineering projects to IT, software and app development, right through to smaller boutique, niche projects. The need for trained and experienced specialists capable of initiating, planning, executing, controlling, and closing the work of a team becomes more and more vital.

The ability to achieve specific goals and hit milestones under the criteria indicating the success of a project within a specified timeframe and structure, and within budget, becomes increasingly desirable, particularly under the increasingly scrutiny of transparency both in public and private industry.

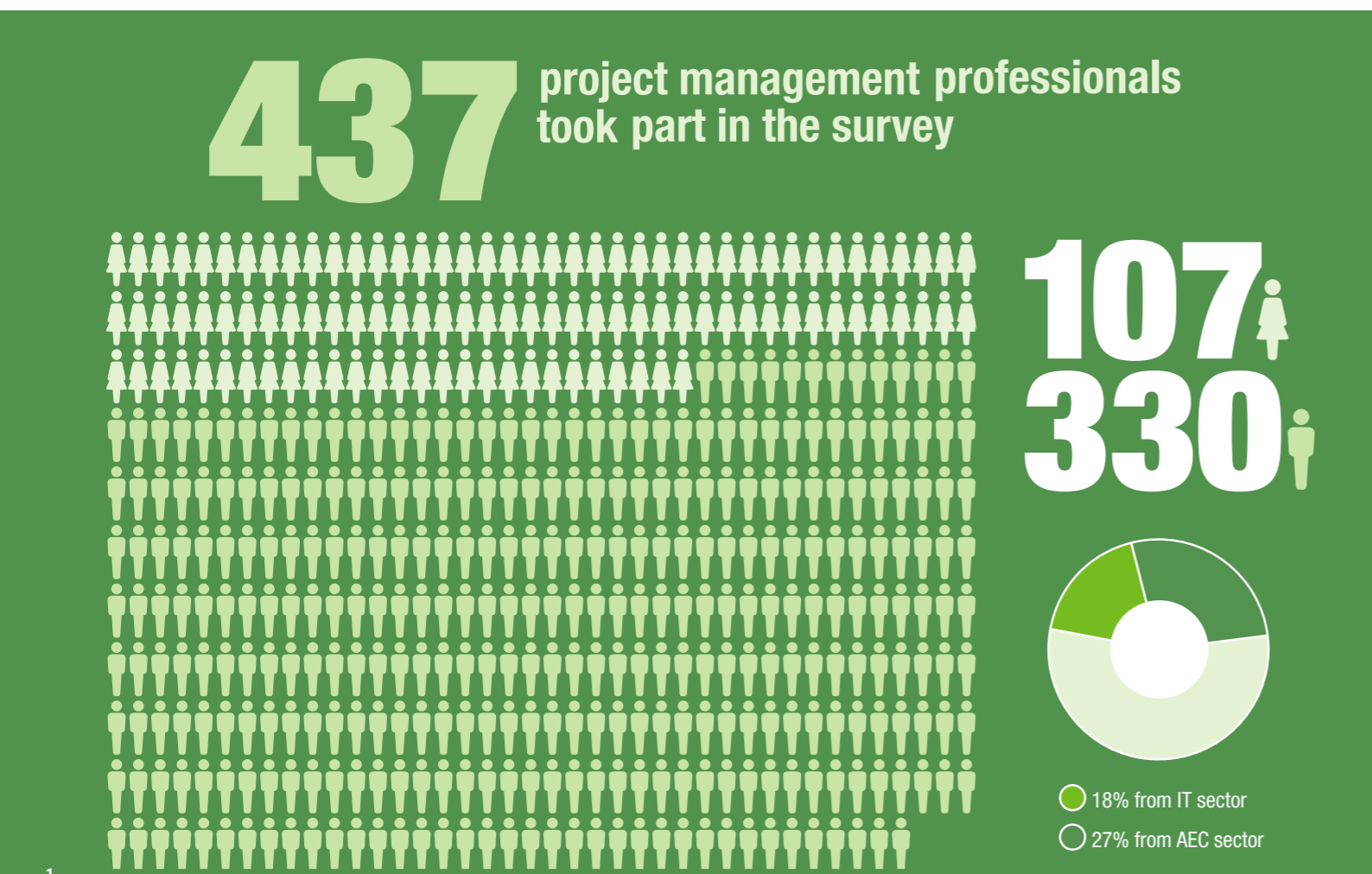
The temporary nature of projects contrasts with regular business operations, which rely on repetitive, permanent, or semi-permanent functional activities. The project management of specific approaches requires the development of distinct technical and management skills and strategies.

One conversation piece to be taken from the survey shows that 85% of participants at all levels, from junior to the most senior, have undergone formal training and education in project management.

16%
Average extra spend on training this year compared to last

It's no surprise to discover that 68% - or fractionally over two out of every three companies - plan to increase funding in project management training and education for employees. In the past year the spend on training increased by 16% compared to last year.

68%
2 out of every 3 businesses
are planning to increase investment in project management training this year

...Prepare to Fail



The PM Summit 2018 survey also brings to light the failure rates in professional industrial and commercial projects, revealing that on average failed projects cost Irish companies €580,000 per project.

All projects, regardless of size and value, need a clearly defined cross-team briefing, along with open communications throughout the lifespan of the project to overcome any roadblocks or misunderstandings that can crop up.

Our participants indicated that too many scope changes, communication and organisational problems, and poorly defined objectives were the most common issues to put them under pressure and cause failure. The lack of involvement of all team members in project decisions and poor resource planning were behind problems with poor costing or running over budget.

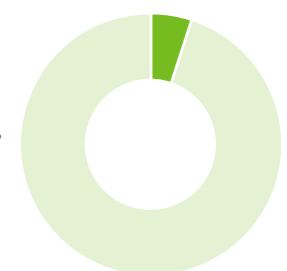
Stress Levels and the Need for Changes

With workplace stress levels on a general upward curve globally, the results of the PM Summit 2018 survey reveal no great surprises with stress levels widespread across project managers in a variety of industries, regardless of age, experience, and even across different phases of the project in hand. It's clear that some sort of change is needed.

Worryingly, 83% of respondents have received no formal training in managing mental health issues, including stress, within their project teams.

A more detailed analysis shows that 2 out of every 5 people in project management suffers from prolonged levels of stress, suggesting there are some serious issues to be tackled in project environments and in the training and handling of these situations.

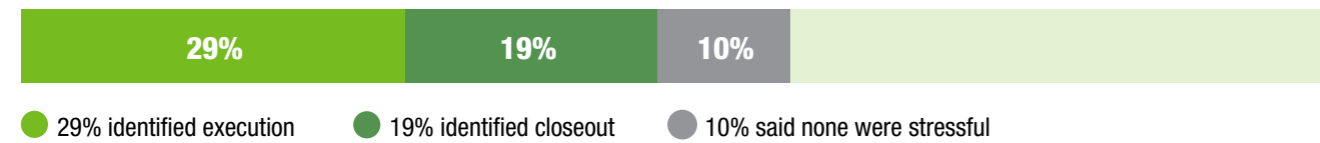
Giving credence to all the clichés, respondents from IT sectors suffer most from stress, with 44% reporting that they have suffered from prolonged work-related stress. This is followed by members of the Architectural, Engineering and Construction fields, who fall marginally below the overall average uncovered by our survey - 39% report long term stress levels in the workplace. Interestingly, the stress levels of project managers in operations and logistics environments were the lowest with only 5% suffering from prolonged stress.



Most stressed aged groups



Most stressful phase

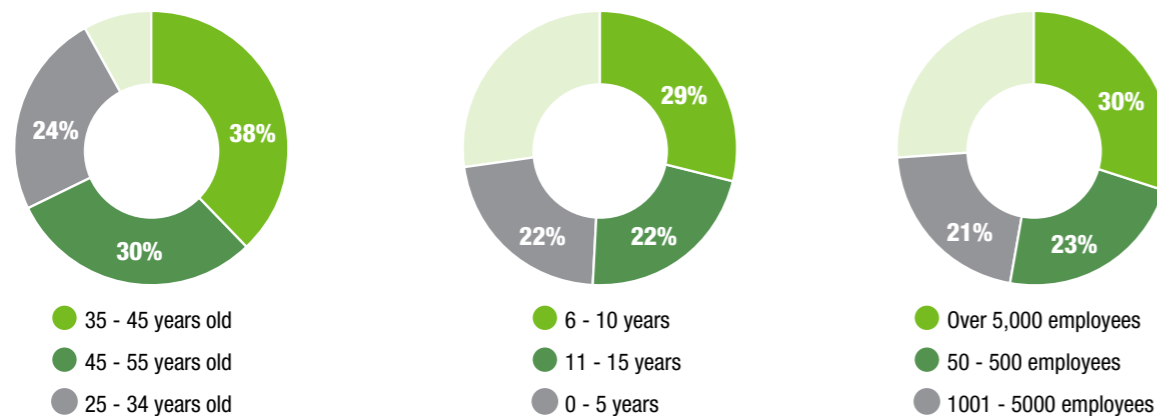


Our survey indicated that the grouping of project managers aged 35-55 suffer the most, with 43% saying they've suffered with prolonged stress over an extended period of time. In contrast, less than a third (31%) of project managers aged over 55 reported prolonged work-related stress.

Another aspect to affect the stress levels of project managers are project phases. With 29% the largest segment of respondents, the execution stage was identified as the most stressful, typically being the longest and most demanding phase of a project. Project managers in IT roles in particular found this phase challenging, with 37% identifying it as the most stressful.

The close-out phase of projects was recognised as the most stressful by almost one-fifth of project managers. 30% of project managers in architectural, engineering and construction (AEC) roles identified this to be the most stressful stage.

Age bracket of PMs Years managing projects Size of organisation



Project Management is increasingly a younger man or woman's game, with a cumulative 62% of respondents falling into the 25-45 year old categories. Over half of those who took part work for large companies, 51% clocking in at companies of 1000+ employees.

Raymond's Thoughts

Raymond Poole, CEO of PM Summit, shares his personal insights and learnings from the 2018 industry survey, and asks Where Are We Now?

TRAINING & EXPERTISE

"Inadequate or ill-prepared project management is costing Irish organisations millions and causing a great deal of stress to those involved. This research highlights that more investment, in terms of both time and money, is required to increase the success rate and reduce the huge expense of failed projects.

"While it is positive to see that businesses are planning to put more money towards project management training and education this year, events such as the PM Summit are of great value in terms of sharing experiences, ideas and strategies.

"Effective project management is pivotal within all industries and with approximately 52,000 project managers in Ireland alone, there is a wealth of expertise on our doorstep that can be utilised to help ensure the fulfilment of objectives and completion of projects."

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

"When it comes to managing mental health issues within their project team, training is critical and this is borne out in the survey, which found that the least stressed category of project managers – the over 55s – have received the most training, with 31% of these having received some formal training. This contrasts with the biggest sufferers of prolonged stress – the 35-55 year olds – of whom only 17% have received some formal training."





The Last Word

Vicky Poole, Co-Founder PM Summit

The importance and visibility of Project Management has never been higher. We established the PM Summit in 2015 in response to the growing trend in all business sectors towards incorporating project management into their organisations. Our aim is to deliver an event different than any other, where PM professionals from all industries can network and grow their knowledge together, adding real value to their professional development. The PM Summit is an unique event insofar as it is not aligned with any one institution, professional body or for that matter methodology.

PM Summit caters to all sectors of industry, from engineering to pharmaceutical, from government bodies to IT. We are a gathering of eclectic project managers looking beyond our industries to experience and explore new ideas from other sectors. By bringing together as diverse a group as possible of project management professionals, we create a unique opportunity for true

knowledge transfer and maturing of ideas. In its simplest term the PM Summit is a community of practice.

WOMEN IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

We have noticed over the past 4 years a substantial increase in the number of women attending our event. Indeed we have also seen an increase in presentation proposals submitted by women.

Project Management is a profession that is capable of gender balance due to the attributes one requires to perform the role. In addition to female attendance at the PM Summit increasing over the past four years we have also noticed through our sister company, PMIS Ltd. - www.pmis.ie - an increase in the number of females attending our training courses. This is a green shoot indication of the equalisation of gender balance within the profession that we hope continues into the future.



OUR LOGO EXPLAINED

The chameleon within our logo reflects the reality that project managers play multiple and diverse roles in projects, always changing to satisfy project needs.

Just like chameleons, project managers have to adapt very quickly to their surroundings, no matter if the project is traditional waterfall project or an agile one. We are continuously looking for excellent presenters to speak at our event, so if you have worked on an interesting project and feel you could add value to the general project management community please watch out for our Call for Speakers, we would be delighted to hear from you. In meantime please feel free to follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#)