



2024

Department of Energy  
Project Management Workshop  
*"Beyond Covid, Re-Baselining Project  
Management"*

# Stronger Culture Better Performance

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PROPEL

# the great resignation

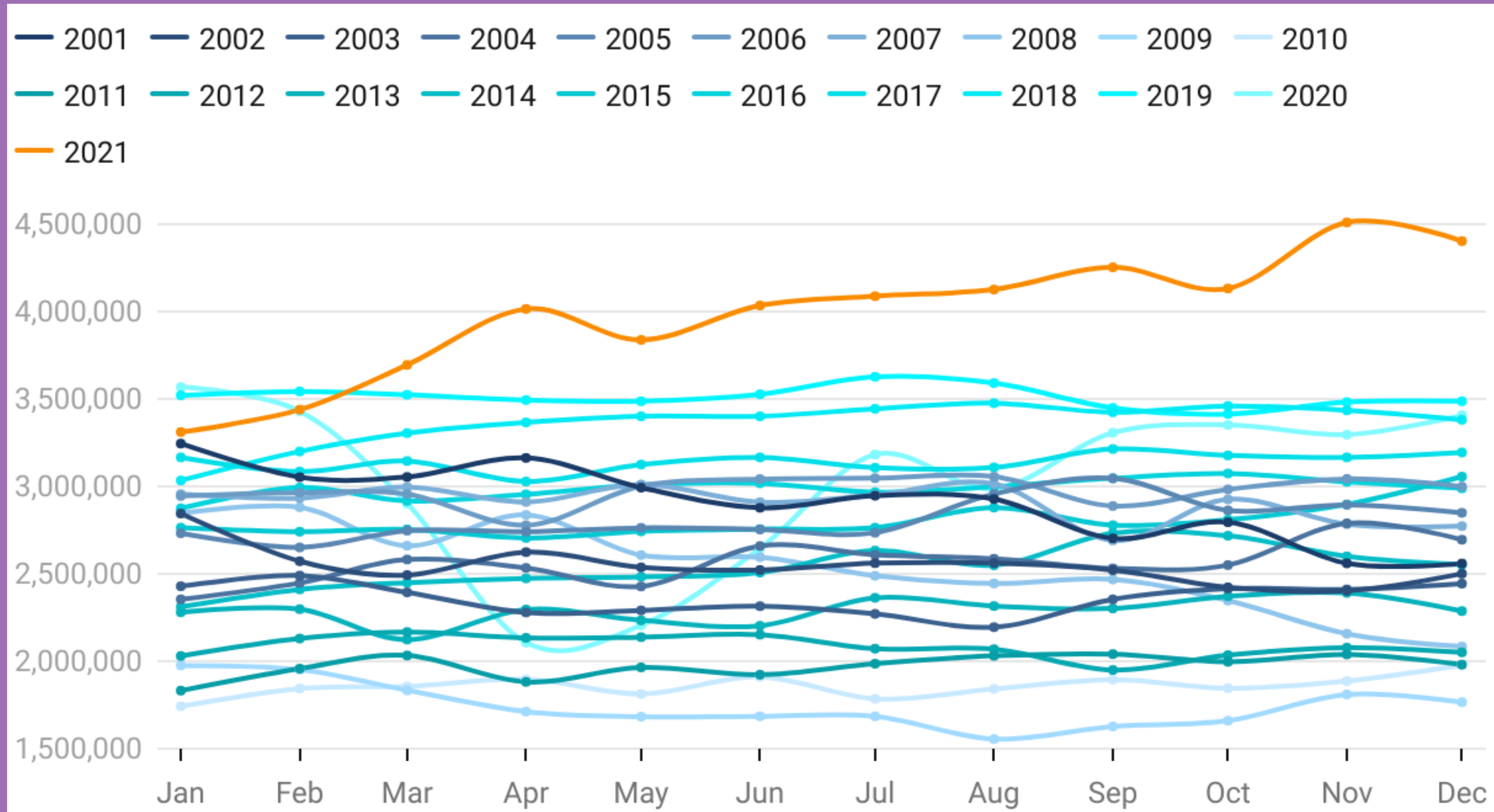


Chart: Mauro Whiteman • Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey. • Created with Datawrapper



**employees have raised the bar**



**employees have raised the bar**

**so raise the bar on culture**



stronger culture  
better  
performance

- culture definition
- culture patterns
- fixing the patterns



# culture:

The collection of words, actions, thoughts, and stuff that clarifies and reinforces what is truly **valued** in an organization.



# culture patterns:

competing commitments inside your culture  
that prevent a cultural value from being lived  
fully or as intended.



# culture patterns:

- transparency





# culture patterns:

- transparency
- reactive v. proactive



# culture patterns:

- transparency
- reactive v. proactive
- “lagging transparency”



# competing commitment



# competing commitment

having a life



# competing commitment

having a life

doing well at work



# culture patterns:

- agility
- collaboration
- innovation
- transparency
- growth
- inclusion
- solutions
- technologies



# culture patterns:

- agility

- collaboration

- innovation

- transparency

- growth

- inclusion

- solutions

- technologies



# INNOVATION (3.69)

## Building Blocks

concepts

3.95

Future focus (N3)

3.89

Inspiration (N4)

3.88

Permission to hack (N7)

3.79

Creativity (N5)

3.61

Continuous improvement (N8)

3.53

Experimentation (N6)

3.49

Risk taking (N1)

3.36

Testing new ideas (N2)

"incomplete innovation"

practices

HIGHER  
AVERAGE  
LOWER





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Testing new ideas (N2)

"incomplete innovation"

HIGHER

AVERAGE

LOWER

# incomplete innovation



# incomplete innovation

creating new value



# incomplete innovation

creating new value

appearing competent



# incomplete innovation

## how it shows up:

- slow growth



# incomplete innovation

## how it shows up:

- slow growth
- higher turnover



# AGILITY (3.52)

forward  
action

“heavy agility”

effective  
action

## Building Blocks

3.80

Quality management (A8)

3.62

Managing change (A1)

3.56

Distribution of power (A2)

3.55

Decision making and prob. solv. (A4)

3.52

Assignment of responsibility (A7)

3.47

Leadership facilitation (A6)

3.34

Efficiency (A5)

3.28

Changing directions (A3)

HIGHER

AVERAGE

LOWER



# heavy agility





**heavy agility**

**adaptability and speed**



# heavy agility

adaptability and speed

novelty and creation



**heavy agility**

**how it shows up:**

- tolerating inefficiencies



# heavy agility

## how it shows up:

- tolerating inefficiencies
- missed opportunities



**how you fix it**



# incomplete innovation

## how you fix it:

- **psychological safety**  
(conflict resolution training)



# incomplete innovation

## how you fix it:

- **psychological safety**  
(conflict resolution training)
- **workplace design**  
(exploration, choice)



# heavy agility

## how you fix it:

- **data**  
(job descriptions, MVPs)





# heavy agility

## how you fix it:

- **data**  
(job descriptions, MVPs)
- **co-creation**  
(client review meetings)



# culture change playbook

**PROCESS**

**STRUCTURE/  
DESIGN**

**TECHNOLOGY**

**TALENT/HR**

**RITUALS/  
ARTIFACTS**

**STEWARDSHIP**



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# culture change playbook

PROCESS

STRUCTURE/  
DESIGN

TECHNOLOGY

TALENT/HR

RITUALS/  
ARTIFACTS

STEWARDSHIP

conflict resolution training



# culture change playbook

PROCESS

STRUCTURE/  
DESIGN

TECHNOLOGY

TALENT/HR

RITUALS/  
ARTIFACTS

STEWARDSHIP

open workspaces



# culture change playbook

**PROCESS**

**STRUCTURE/  
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**TECHNOLOGY**

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**RITUALS/  
ARTIFACTS**

**STEWARDSHIP**

**client review meetings**



stronger culture  
better  
performance

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# culture management



# let's talk

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