

Tesla's hard-line on return-to-office leads to hiring spree for competitors

Article

The news: Amazon, Apple, Lucid Motors, and Rivian are some of the companies snapping up laid-off Tesla employees after the company cut 3.5% of its total workforce, including 10% of

its salaried staff, [per](#) Insider.

Hiring frenzy for ex-Tesla workers: Tesla's [hard-line](#) return-to-office mandate has opened the floodgates of hiring in Silicon Valley. **LinkedIn** data tracked by **Punks & Pinstripes**, revealed that over 450 Tesla employees were autopiloted out of the company over the past 90 days as of June 30.

- 100 ex-Tesla employees now work at Apple or Amazon. The former has long been rumored to be working on its "[Project Titan](#)" EV, while the latter has various [self-driving](#) technologies under development.
- 28 employees went to **Google**, 25 to **Meta**, and 23 to **Microsoft**.
- 90 ex-Tesla workers were hired by EV rivals Rivian and Lucid Motors, while eight moved to traditional carmakers **Ford** and **GM**.
- EV-battery-recycling company **Redwood Materials** and Amazon-backed AV company **Zoox** also hired Tesla workers in that period.

What this means for Tesla? Experts have [said tumultuous times](#) and [staffing issues](#) could have many of Tesla's 100,000 employees weighing their options after CEO **Elon Musk's** return-to-office [ultimatum](#).

- A staffing upheaval or Great Resignation within Tesla's ranks would come at a time of intensifying competition: EV makers in the [US](#) and [overseas](#) are starting to ramp up production.
- Not only could an exodus of employees contribute to brain drain within the company, it could keep away potential hires. In context, **Tesla reportedly rescinded job offers to new hires in late June**, [per](#) MarketWatch—a red flag for any job seeker aspiring to build a career with Tesla.
- Layoffs will likely continue, especially with Musk himself [saying](#) new factories in Texas and Berlin have become "gigantic money furnaces."
- Tesla isn't alone in shedding headcount, Meta recently [slashed](#) its hiring plans, and Intel similarly [stopped hiring](#) for its chip division as the PC market faced a 8.2% YoY decline.
- Regarding return-to-office mandates, **76% of Apple workers** said they're [dissatisfied](#) with that company's return-to-work policy. **Fifty-six percent** said they're thinking about leaving the company because of it.

What's the catch? Other Big Tech companies are taking a different approach to retaining talent by adopting flexible work arrangements and increasing salaries and incentives, a stark contrast to Tesla's "my way or the highway" stand. Raises are a cheaper option than recruiting and training new talent, especially in a tight labor market.