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Saturday, December 26, 2009 | Modified: Monday, December 28, 2009

## DBJ Business Pulse: One-third of readers wouldn't hire worker with tattoos

Denver Business Journal

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One-third of DenverBusinessJournal.com readers who responded to our latest Business Pulse question said they wouldn't hire a worker with tattoos -- even if they were small.

In our unscientific online opinion survey, near one-fourth of readers said they would hire a tattooed worker only for non-public-contact jobs, and 12 percent said only in the employee's tattoos were small.

"A tattoo reflects on the personality and judgment of the individual. I look at someone with a visible tattoo and I ask why that person was compelled to make a statement to the public by essentially drawing on themselves," one reader said in a comment.

Only 17 percent said they would hire a tattooed worker for any job.

"I hire based on whether or not the person is qualified to do the job," another reader commented. "... The state or color of one's skin should not be a determining factor."

Nearly 40 percent of adults ages 18 to 40 now have a tattoo or non-earlobe piercing, according to a recent **Pew Research Center** survey.

As the DBJ's Ed Sealover reported in the newspaper's Dec. 4-10 edition, more companies are coming up with personal-appearance policies that include rules about tattoos and piercings.

There were 1,462 responses to our informal survey, which asked: "Would you hire a worker with visible tattoos?"

Your answers:

- "Yes, for any job." -- 17%.
- "Yes, but only if the tattoos are small" -- 12%.
- "Yes, but only for non-public-contact jobs." -- 23%.
- "No." -- 34%.
- Other -- 5%.
- Not sure -- 9%.

This week's Business Pulse question: "Will your business be hiring in 2010?" [Click here to respond](#), and please leave a comment explaining your answer.

The deadline for replies to this question is Tuesday at 10 a.m. MST.

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**Ron Rizzo** 8 months ago

Walked into an adult beverage store tonight. Cashier was wearing a short sleeve shirt and his arms were covered in tattoos. All I could think, this is how whites become black.



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### Business Pulse Survey

What should be the top priority for America's energy future?

- Find more oil/gas/coal.
- Develop more hydroelectric power.
- Get back into nuclear.
- Develop more solar/wind/geothermal energy.
- Make more fuel-efficient vehicles.
- Find other ways to cut energy use.
- Other (leave a comment)

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