

Advanced Analytics: 8 Metrics HR Leaders Should Track

Until recently, talent management rarely involved the use of advanced software or complex data analysis. The shift from the mostly administrative role of recruiting and HR teams to a strategic one happened rapidly. Now, business leaders are looking to HR leaders for deeper insights into the workforce, increased goal alignment, and data-driven decision-making.

This new demand means that as HR and recruiting leaders, you need to understand and track key HR metrics — including some that may not seem so crucial at first glance. Then, you can leverage advanced analytics to gain a clearer picture of talent dynamics, empowering you to make smarter decisions about your strategies.

Let's take a look at some of the HR metrics that you should be aware of and the data analytics capabilities you need to boost performance, foster innovation, and propel your company forward.

The Power of HR Data Analytics

Human resource management looks quite a bit different from when its primary focus was essentially hiring, payroll, and terminations. Although your team still handles those essential administrative HR tasks, many are now hands-off, thanks to technology. As we've automated our workflows, we also started collecting lots of people data. But accessing and learning from that historical data has always required the expertise of data analysts — until now.

In today's digital world, advanced [HR analytics](#) tools give you direct access to meaningful data insights, making it possible to easily stay on top of workforce dynamics. You don't need to make guesses or assumptions about whether employee turnover is rising in one department or if one of your hiring managers is slowing down the recruiting process. You can check out the data and quickly see patterns and trends.

Talent analytics, HR analytics, people analytics, and workforce analytics are terms often used interchangeably to refer to analyzing data about your employees, HR processes, and talent management outcomes.

The best talent analytics software goes a step further, uncovering the “why” behind those patterns and trends — and even predicting what might happen next. New, AI-powered [people analytics](#) tools can instantly connect the dots between your data to show what’s causing those outcomes and use predictive models to forecast possible future outcomes. You can use this information to stay agile and quickly make strategic changes based on real information instead of gut instinct or guesswork.

Let’s say the time-to-hire for mid-level sales roles at your organization has spiked, leaving some roles vacant for too long and impacting sales revenue. Predictive HR analytics factors in that data, along with other relevant metrics like average tenure and turnover, to show you what to expect if historical trends continue — more vacant positions and a continued decrease in sales revenue.

With that information, you can make the case for more resources to target those candidates and beef up your sales recruiting efforts. And without it? The writing’s on the wall.

8 Essential Metrics for HR Leaders

If they have the right software tools, it’s likely that your team of HR professionals is tracking lots of valuable metrics, like time-to-hire and turnover rate. Those are important, but as an HR leader, keeping your eye on some less conventional metrics gives you an edge. You’ll get a different perspective of your workforce, which leads to more opportunities for creative problem-solving and informed decision-making.

Try tracking these eight HR metrics to better understand your employees and processes so you can fine-tune your talent management strategies.

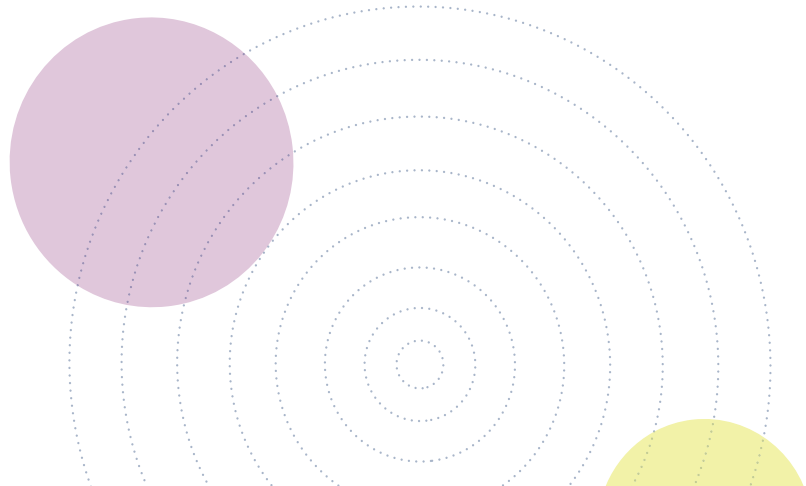
1. Qualified Applicants per Open Position

It’s common to keep track of the number of applicants for every open position, but that doesn’t always tell you an accurate story. You might have 500 applicants for a role, but what if only 25 of them meet its minimum requirements? Tracking qualified applicants per open position gives you a much more accurate picture of the effectiveness — or ineffectiveness — of your current recruiting strategy.

2. Offer Acceptance Rate

It’s not easy to find top talent, especially if you’re looking for a specialized skill set or hiring in a competitive job market. You need a streamlined, engaging candidate experience and an employer brand that stands out. But even if you build a strong pool of qualified candidates, are they accepting your offers?

Monitoring job offer acceptance rates tells you if your recruitment strategies are helping secure signatures or costing you great people. Understand how often candidates are saying “yes” — or “no” — to help you spot potential issues with compensation, benefits, or the overall hiring process.



3. Internal Mobility Rate

Your internal mobility rate shows how often employees are hired into new roles within the company. This metric is comprised of promotions, lateral moves, and transfers to different departments or locations. [Internal hiring](#) is an excellent strategy for [boosting employee engagement](#) — while also saving time and money spent on recruiting. Internal hires also take less time to onboard, keeping productivity loss to a minimum.

Your internal mobility rate helps you see if your organization is providing enough growth opportunities to keep top talent. Check out your competitors' rates to set a benchmark for your organization. If your rate is high, that shows your company is offering clear career paths and development opportunities. On the other hand, a low rate points to a lack of opportunities, which might mean your ambitious high performers are at risk of leaving for a company that invests in their growth.

4. Leadership Development Rate

Leadership development rate takes internal mobility metrics a step further. Instead of measuring all internal promotions and lateral transitions, this metric solely focuses on employees promoted into leadership positions. When you track the leadership development rate, you can prove that your organization is one that creates leaders.

That's highly motivating for your employees, especially high performers, and has a big impact on your employer brand. When companies invest in [employee training and development](#), 94% of workers say they'd stay with those companies longer. Imagine if your recruiters could tell candidates that 75% of company leadership was promoted from within.

5. Compensation Competitiveness Ratio (CCR)

To attract and win over top talent, you need to offer salaries that measure up to the competition. In many cities and states, companies are now required to list a salary range in their job descriptions, which makes it easy for job seekers to determine if applying is worth their time.

Calculate and track Compensation Competitiveness Ratios (CCR) regularly for both open and occupied roles to see if your salaries stack up. If not, it's time to adjust your compensation packages to bring in the best applicants and retain your people.

Make data analysis easy when you unstack your HR software tools. Get our [Guide to Optimizing Your HR Tech Stack](#).

Get the guide



6. High Performance Retention Rate

Retaining your best employees is just as important as recruiting and hiring them. High performer retention rate shows whether you're holding on to your star employees or if they're jumping ship for better opportunities elsewhere. You don't want to keep these employees just because they're productive. They also have a wealth of knowledge and depth of understanding of your company that's impossible to replicate — and if you lose them, you lose all of that expertise, too.

It's easy to track the different types of data to monitor this metric with talent management software with advanced analytics. The system can reference employees' historical performance data, including performance review scores, to determine the average tenure of high performers.

This metric gives you the ability to take proactive steps to ensure your top talent feels valued and engaged, whether that's through better development plans, leadership opportunities, or rewards for outstanding performance. If you aren't retaining your best employees, it's only a matter of time before it starts affecting business performance.

7. Employee Referral Rate

Does your organization have an [employee referral program](#)? If you do, do you know if it's successful? The employee referral rate measures how often your current employees are bringing in new talent. They're not likely to refer their family and friends if they're unhappy with the company culture or work environment, so this metric also gives you some insight into employee engagement.

High referral rates typically correlate with an overall positive work experience and stronger employee engagement and satisfaction. On the other hand, if referral rates are low, you might have some culture or engagement issues to address. It could also mean your organization isn't doing enough to spread the word about the referral program.

Referred candidates can reduce your hiring costs and boost retention since their 46% retention rate is much higher than the 33% rate for candidates hired from job boards. With a great company culture and a strong referral program, you can build a pipeline of quality candidates and reinforce that positive culture.

8. Hiring, Pay Equity, and Promotion Rates by Demographic

Maintaining [diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging \(DEIB\)](#) is an ongoing commitment, one that's important to your people and beneficial to your business. Three out of four job seekers and employees [prefer to work at diverse companies](#) — which are 36% more likely to financially outperform less diverse companies. Part of this commitment includes the need to ensure fair, equitable practices in hiring, pay, and promotions.

When you track hiring, pay equity, and promotion rates by demographic, you can identify whether any groups of people are underrepresented, undervalued, or lacking advancement opportunities. This data can highlight gaps in your hiring processes, compensation structures, and career pathways so you can ensure that all employees, regardless of their background, have equal opportunities for success.

If the data reveals disparities, it's a clear signal to take action. Addressing these gaps helps create a more inclusive workplace and improves overall employee morale, trust, and retention.



Advanced Analytics for HR and Recruiting

You can start tracking and analyzing the HR metrics that matter to your organization with advanced analytics software. With the right tech tools, these key HR metrics become accessible — a nearly unlimited resource you can draw on to inform your people policies and initiatives. That data becomes, in turn, accessible to other parts of the business and an equally valuable resource for just about everyone.

When you can decode and utilize all of this data using software with [workforce analytics](#), your team solidifies its position as an essential contributor to business strategy.

ClearCompany's cutting-edge, [AI-powered HR analytics sidekick, ClearInsights](#), is a first-of-its-kind solution that makes in-depth analysis possible — no special skills required. With ClearInsights, you can dig into your data in ways you never thought possible.

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Learn more about how ClearInsights can change the way you see your data.

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