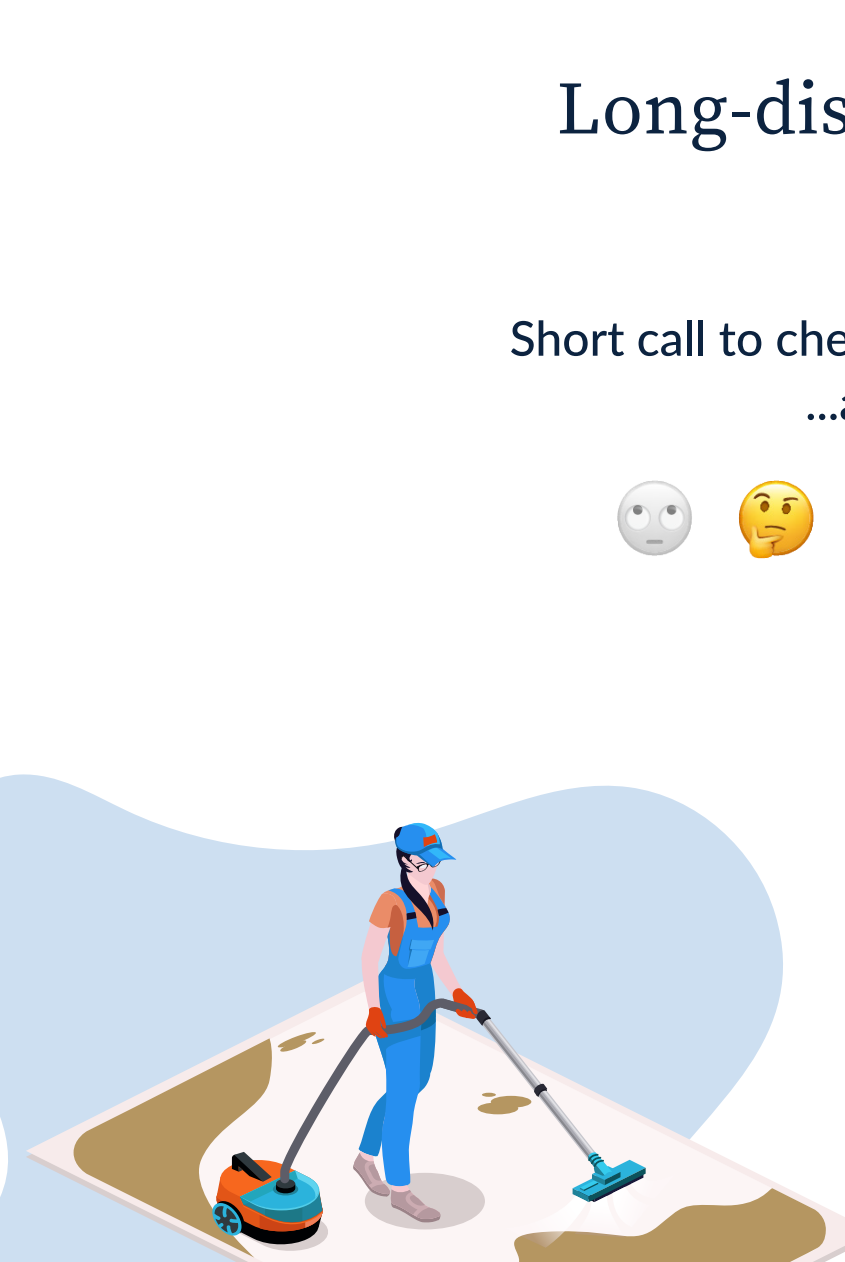
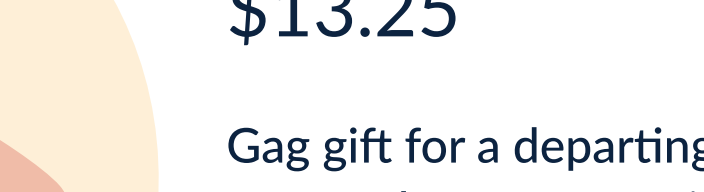


2021 Craziest expenses

Expense policies, like the organizations who develop them, are wildly unique and evolve to reflect shifts in the culture of spend. Emburse asked for the craziest expenses that submitters and finance professionals encountered throughout the year. They did not disappoint.

See where 2021's best of the worst landed on our scale between eye rollers and mind blowers.



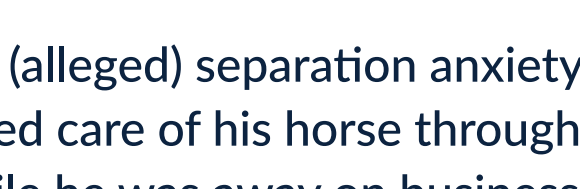
Speedo
\$13.25

Gag gift for a departing coworker to ensure they went out in style



Long-distance call
\$0.14

Short call to check in on a client ...a very short one



White carpets
\$11,297

Dress up a tradeshow booth and threw out the same day when they got too dirty



What the hay?!
\$1,250

Due to its (alleged) separation anxiety, a GM hired care of his horse through PetSitter.com while he was away on business



Survey says...

How does your organization currently manage expense reporting?

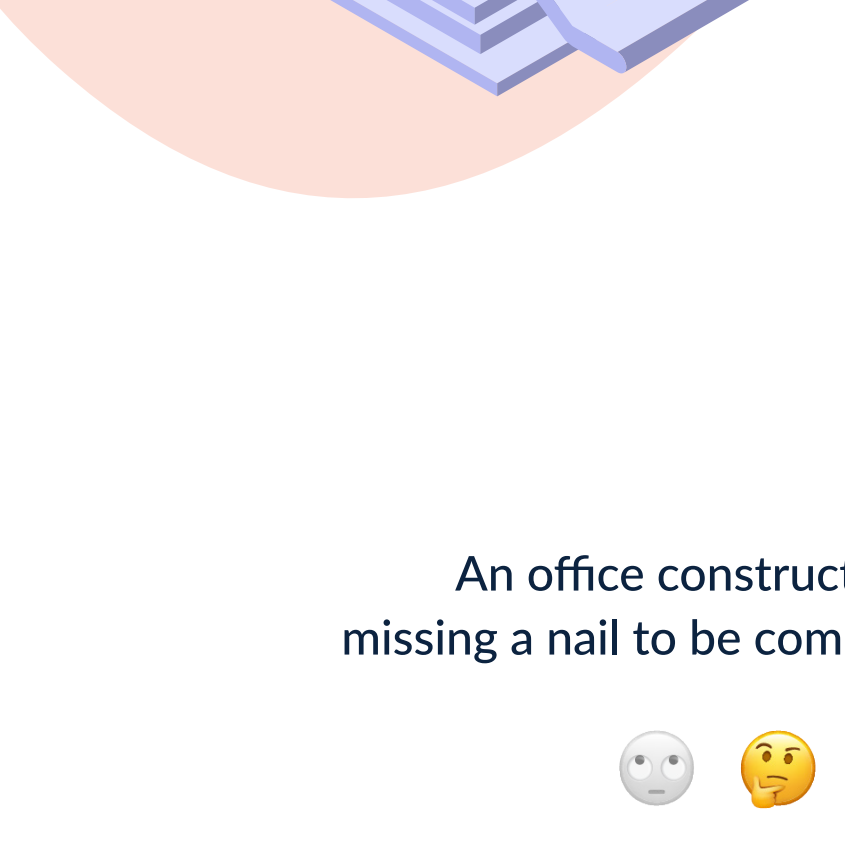


Dedicated solution

Manual process

ERP

Homegrown solution



Facelift
\$10,000

Categorized as "repair and maintenance" by the company's owner



Nail
\$0.53

An office construction project was missing a nail to be completed...just one



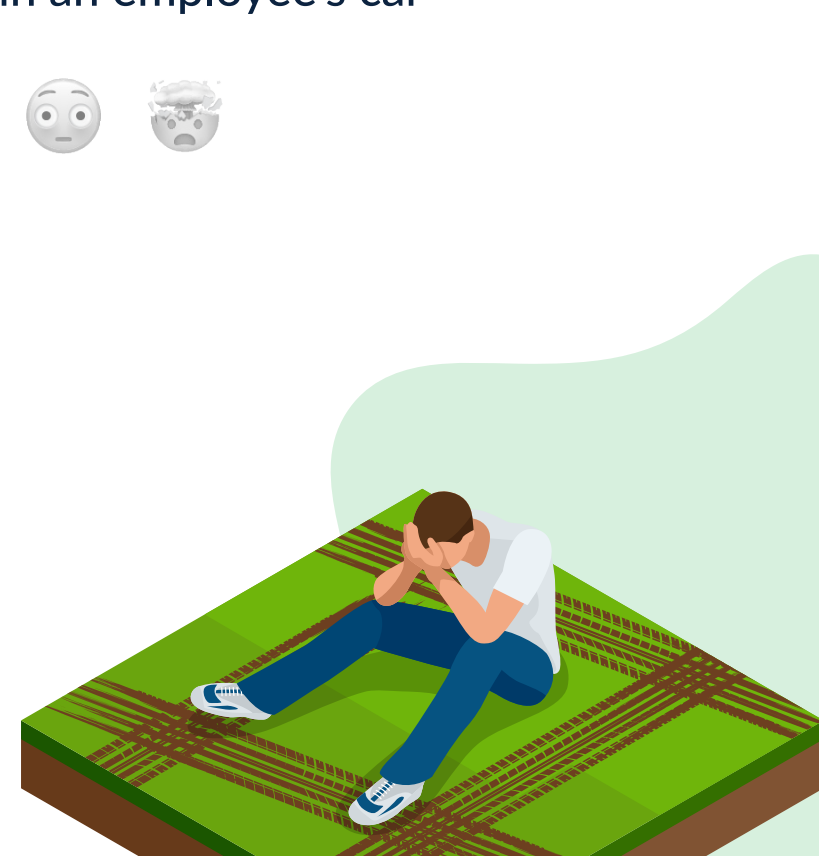
Tattoo removal
\$1,000

De-inked an incoming employee's skin art (we didn't dare ask where or what) before they started



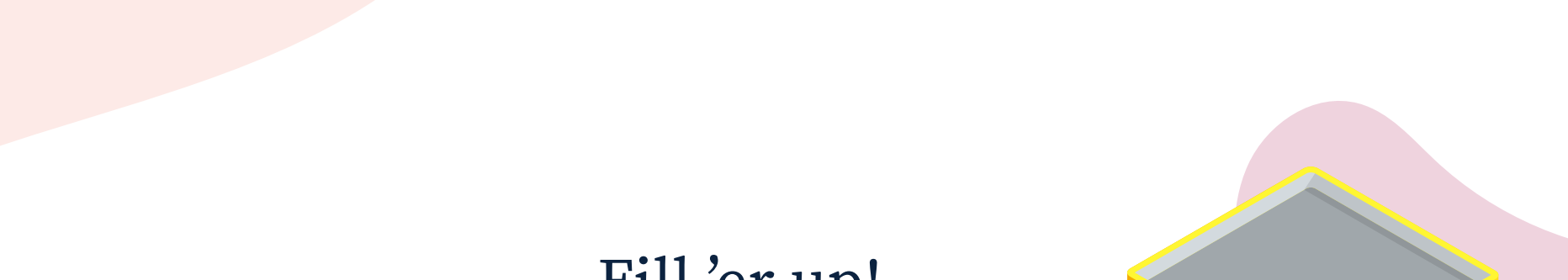
A wheel deal
\$25,000

With the promise of a company car, a new hire visited a dealership and charged a new ride to his corporate card



Survey says...

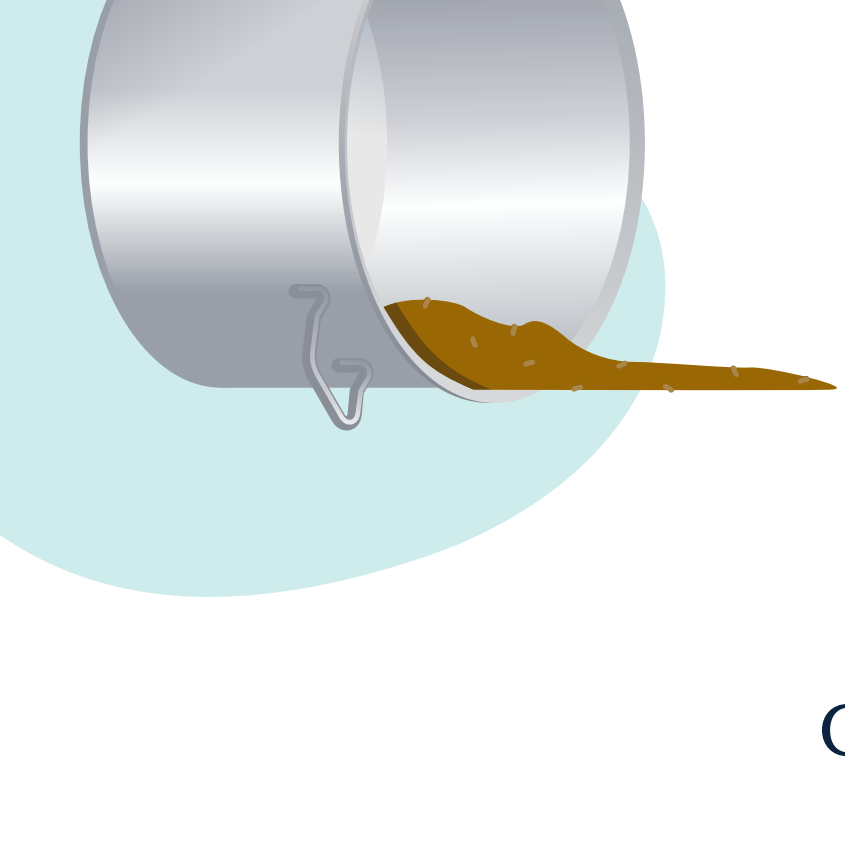
Has your organization revised its T&E policy in response to Covid-19?



NO

YES

I DON'T KNOW



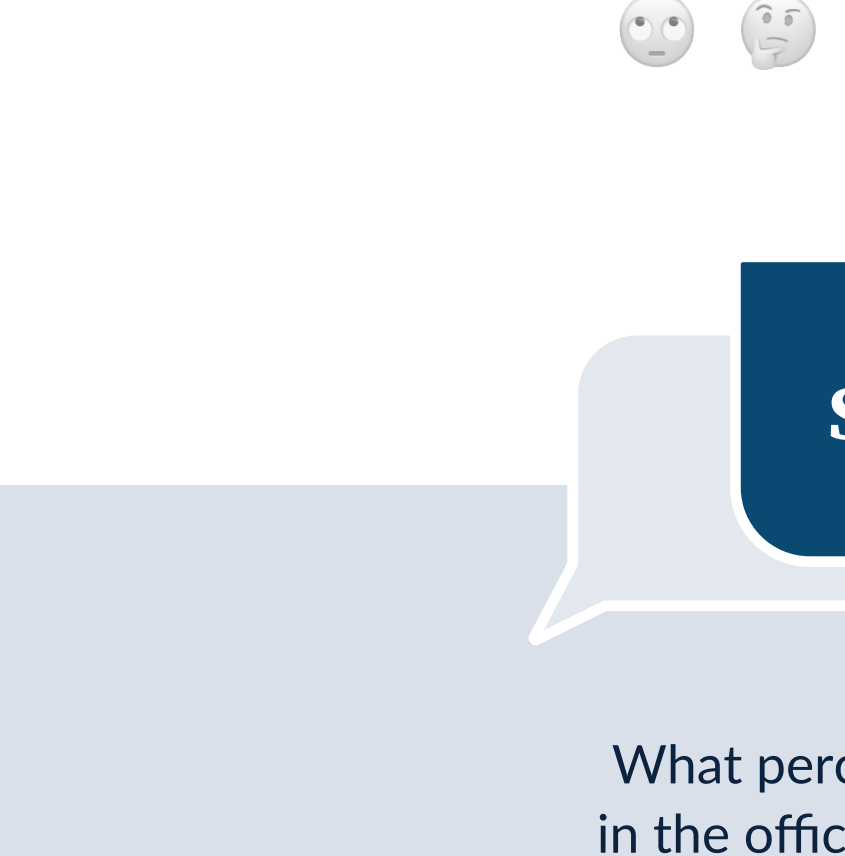
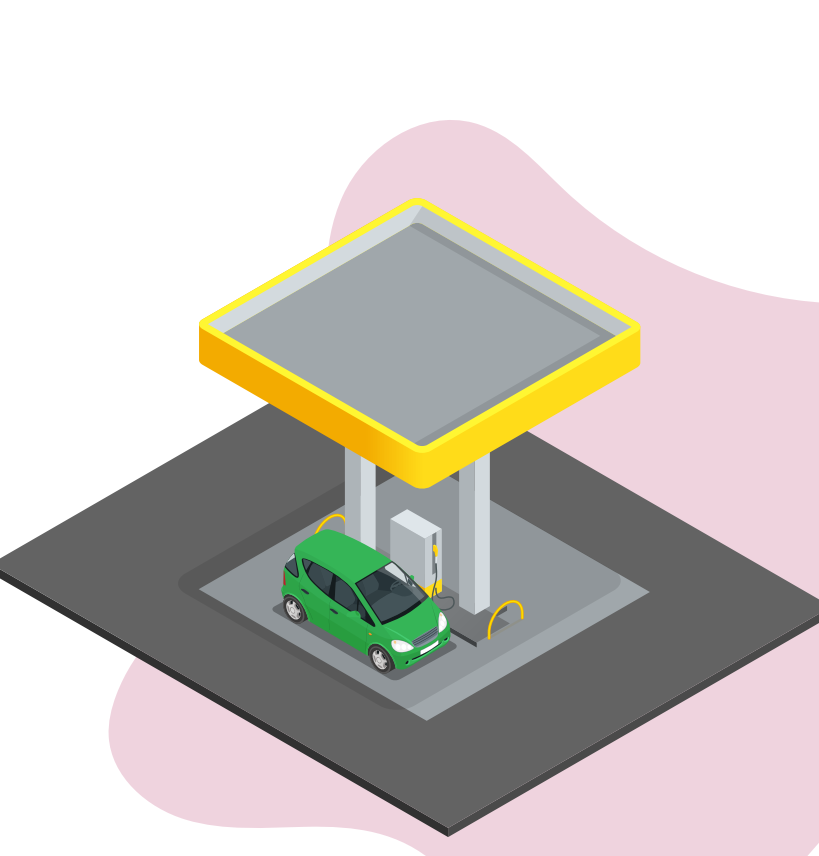
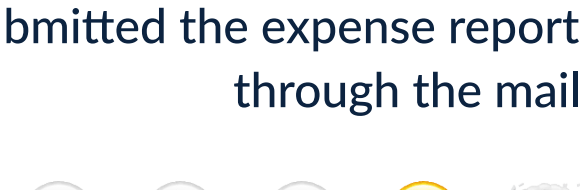
Carpet cleaner
\$100

A tray of baked beans headed for a work function spilled in an employee's car



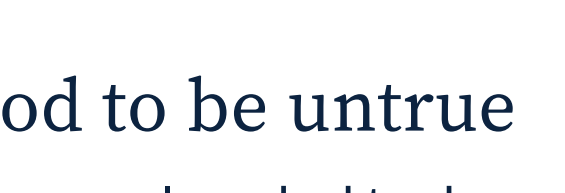
Grass seed
\$85

Repair lawn damage caused by a visiting coworker attending a private dinner party



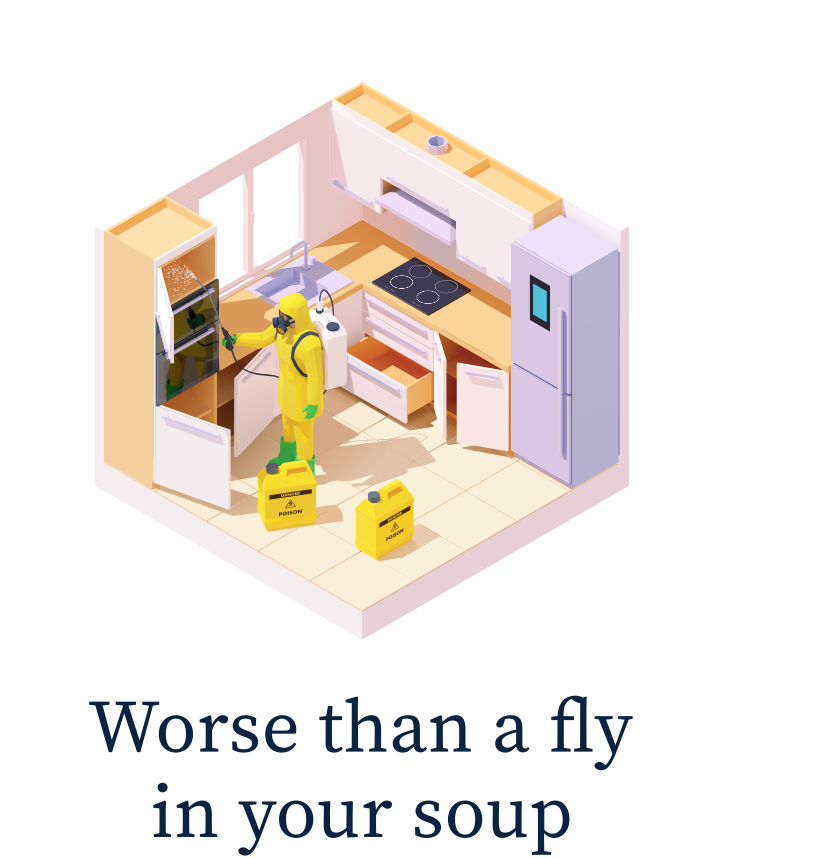
1960's railroad carriage
\$45,000

Purchased to showcase at an event with the intent to sell afterward



Fill 'er up!
\$0.31

In error, an employee topped off their gas tank with the personal card, then submitted the expense report through the mail



Survey says...

What percent of your week was spent in the office over the last three months?

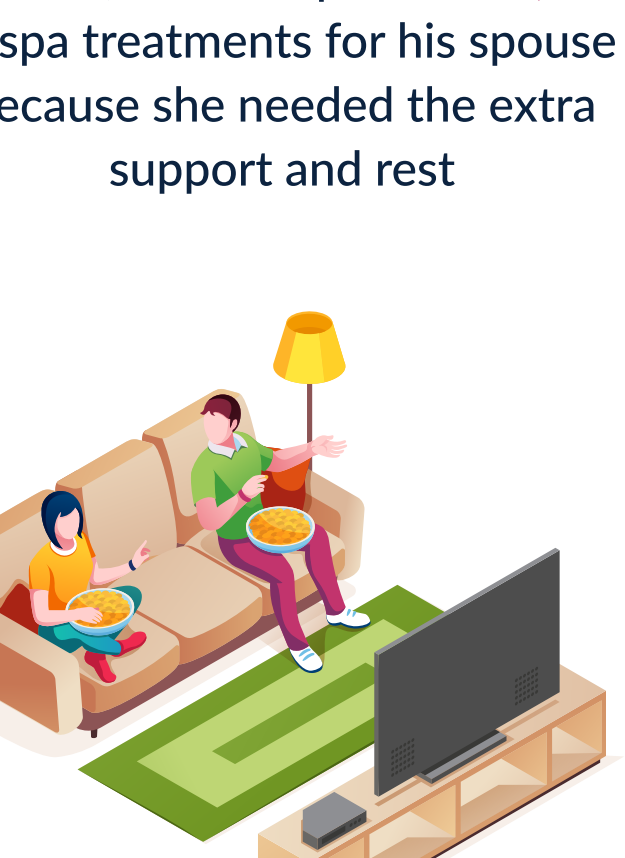


In-office

Work-from-home

Too good to be untrue

Participants were also asked to share some of the most legendary expense submissions they may have heard about. Would you have approved these?



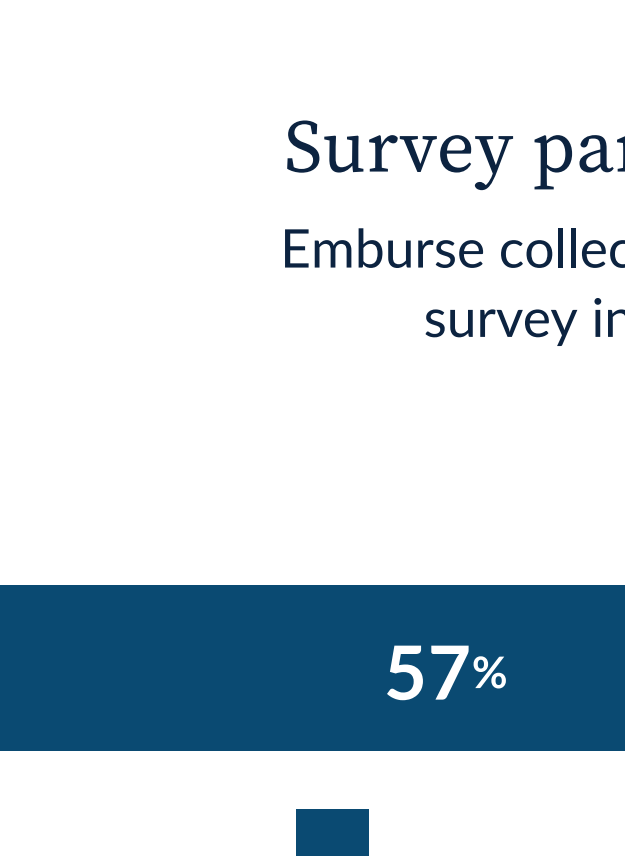
Steam away the stress

During his onboarding for a new position, a man expended **\$5,000** in spa treatments for his spouse because she needed the extra support and rest



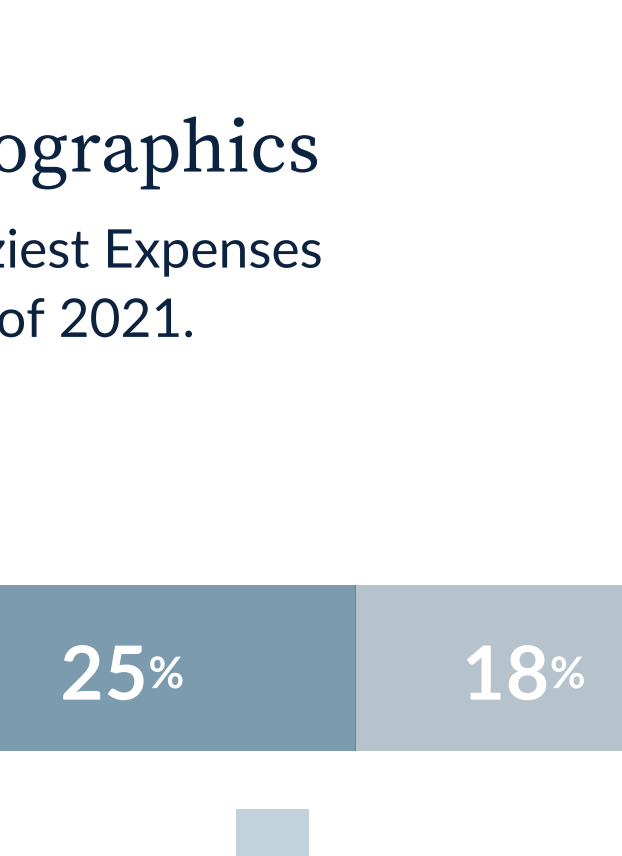
Worse than a fly in your soup

After seeing a cockroach climb out of her purse at home, an employee expended **\$500** for pest control services to spray her house



1000 watts of bass...and shame

Over two years and piece by piece, an employee expended **\$75,000** of home theater system components; he was fired but not asked to repay



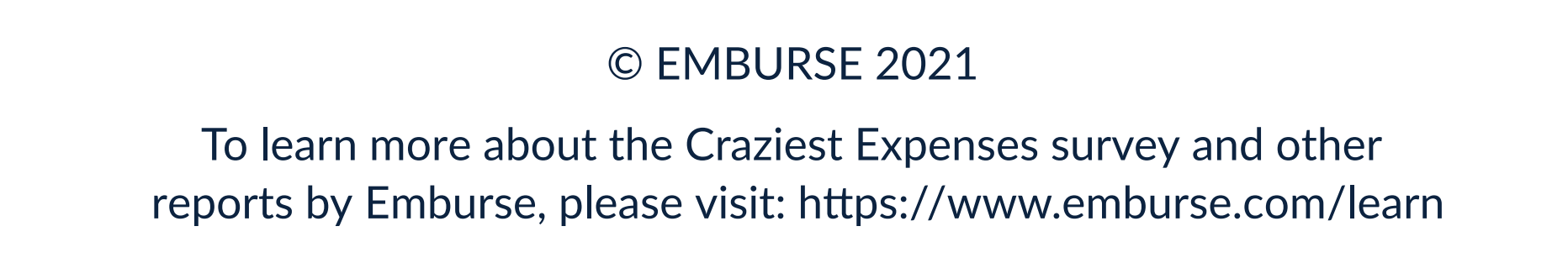
Put it on my corpse-rate card

In preparation for an upcoming study, a bioresearch facility employee expended **\$15,000** to purchase human cadavers

Survey participant demographics

Emburse collected data for its Craziest Expenses survey in the fourth quarter of 2021.

Organization size



101-999 Employees

<100 Employees

1000+ Employees

Role in expense processing

Accountant

Combination of all

Approver

Submitter

Existence of a written T&E policy

YES

NO