Mailbutler

How fast are emails replied to?
Data from 1.6M emails

What 1,616,281 replied emails sent between May and October 2026 tell us about waiting for an answer.

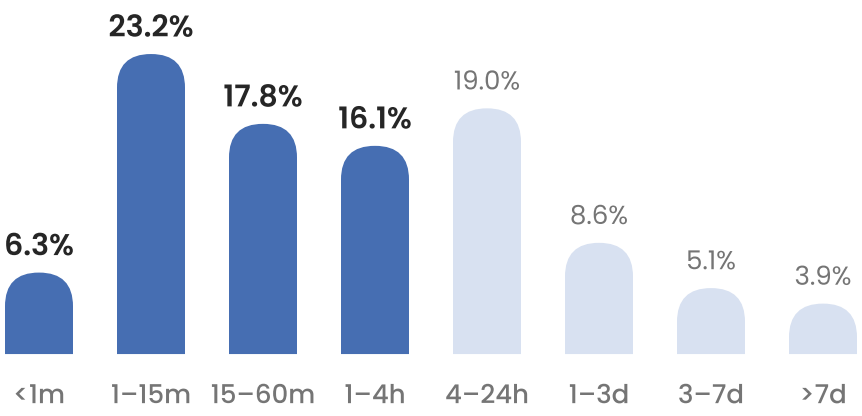
47%
of replies arrive within an hour

74 min
median time to the first reply

82%
of replies arrive within a day

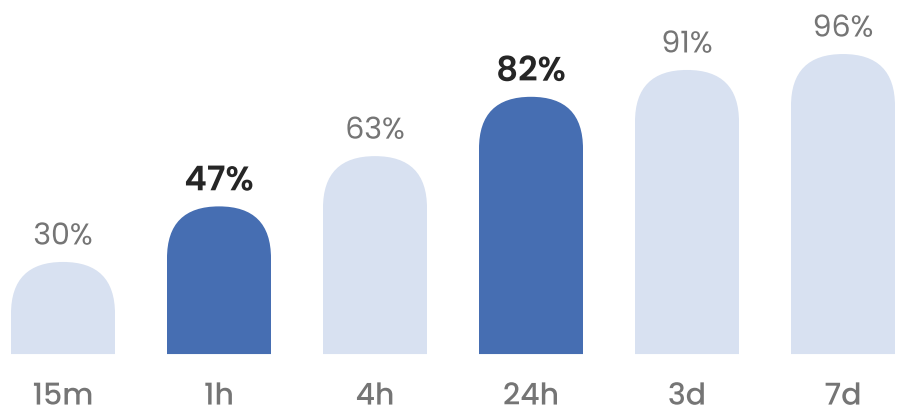
Replies cluster in the first hours

Share of replies by time to first reply



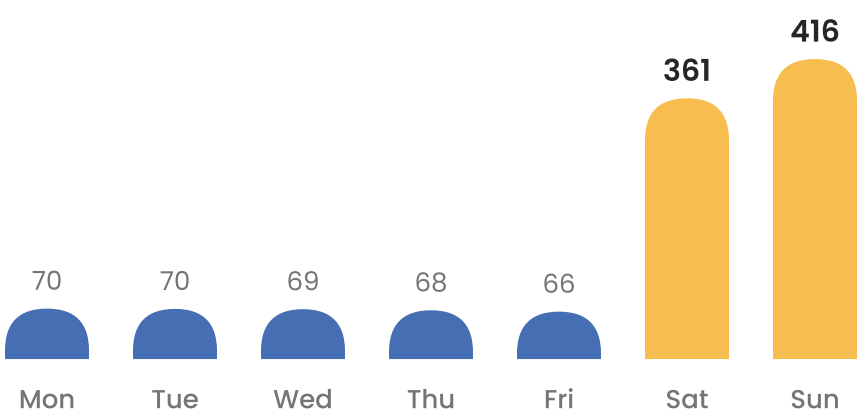
Four in five arrive within a day

Cumulative share of replies by time since delivery



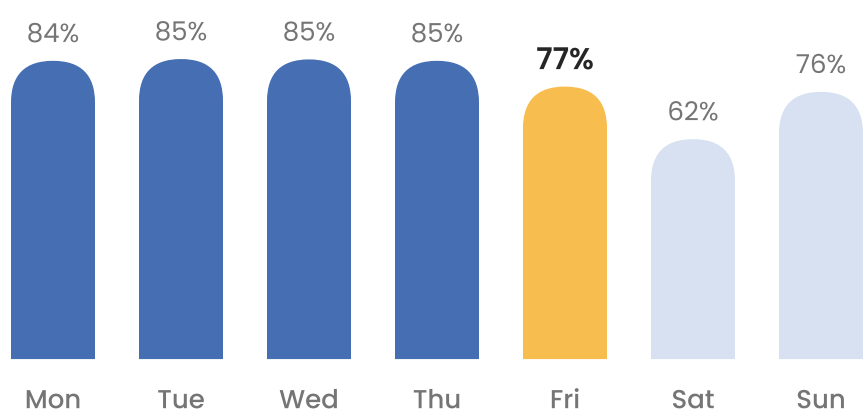
Weekend emails wait far longer

Median minutes to first reply, by day sent



Friday emails often wait for Monday

Share of replies within 24 hours, by day sent



What this means for your emails

Give replies a day

82% of replies arrive within 24 hours, so a day is a fair wait before you follow up.

Check opens first

Email Tracking shows whether your email was opened, so you know whether to wait or nudge.

Start the week early

Weekend emails wait almost six times longer. Schedule them for the start of the working day.

Don’t read silence too soon

One in ten replies takes almost three days or longer.

Know when to wait and when to follow up.

Mailbutler’s Email Tracking and Tailored Sending work in Gmail, Apple Mail, and Outlook.

mailbutler.io

Source: Mailbutler, 1,616,281 emails with a reply, sent May–Oct 2026, aggregated and anonymized; internal accounts excluded. Time is measured from delivery to first reply; only emails that received a reply are counted, so this is not a reply rate. Auto-replies may be included. Day sent is based on Berlin time.