Understanding Society

COVID-19 Survey

BRIEFING NOTE

WORKING AT HOME

Contents:

The COVID-19 survey

The Understanding Society COVID-19 study is a survey on the experiences and reactions of the UK population to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 survey is an integral part of Understanding Society: the UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS). Understanding Society surveys individuals in a nationally representative sample of UK households (the sample also includes ethnic minority boost samples), and follows them every year. As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to understand how people's lives were impacted by it, sample members who were 16 year old or above by April 2020 and had been part of households that had responded recently were invited to take part in this COVID-19 survey. Researchers can link the data from the COVID-19 survey to the answers respondents have given in previous (and future) waves of the annual Understanding Society survey thus allowing a more in-depth look at the impact of the pandemic. The COVID-19 survey is funded by the UKRI Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Health Foundation.

Fieldwork and sample size

The COVID-19 survey is an online questionnaire. The first wave of the COVID-19 survey was fielded in April 2020 and 17761 people were interviewed. It was followed by eight more waves: Wave 2 (May 2020, n=14811), Wave 3 (June 2020, n=14123), Wave 4 (July 2020, n=13754), Wave 5 (September 2020, n=12876), Wave 6 (November 2020, n= 12035), Wave 7 (December 2020, n=11968), Wave 8 (January – February 2021, n=12680). Currently, the 9th Wave of the survey is in the field. In some waves a telephone interview was offered to respondents who wished to take part but lived in a household where no-one is a regular internet user. Fieldwork for the telephone interviews was in late-May to early-June 2020 (n=718) and late-November to early-December 2020 (n=391). Fieldwork for the online survey is carried out by Ipsos MORI and for the telephone survey by Kantar.

Survey content

The 20 minute questionnaire includes core content repeatedly at each wave to track changes through the pandemic, plus rotating content that reflects the changing social, economic and policy context. The full content can be found in the Long-Term Content Plan.

The sample

Aim

Our core aim is to explore how the patterns of working at home (WAH, hereafter) changed during the pandemic. After working at home became the official recommendation of the UK and devolved governments, millions of people switched to this mode of working. Job characteristics as well as family and home circumstances facilitated or hindered WAH. After this experience of "imposed" WAH some individuals may have realised that they prefer it while others concluded the opposite. This could be influenced by personal, household as well as job related factors. So, we ask the following questions:

Among those who are in paid employment,

- By how much did rates of WAH increase during the pandemic?
- Did this increase vary by important social and economic characteristics such as job-related ones (industry, type of duties in one's job), household (net income, children in the household, overcrowding, time travelling to work), geographical (country of residence), and individual (gender, ethnicity, and age)?
- Among those who were WAH during the pandemic, what is their preference to continue to do so after the pandemic? How does this preference vary by job-related, household, geographical and individual characteristics?

Please note: WAH is just one of mainly different forms of modern flexible working practices that employers can offer to their workers. Understanding Society's mainstage survey measures whether employers offer different forms of flexible working and whether employees use any of these.

Data and Methodology

The analysis is based on the COVID-19 survey Waves 1, 5, 7, and 8. The sample is restricted to people in paid employment, (i.e. the self-employed have been excluded) and to employees who were not furloughed at the time of the interview. When someone was interviewed for the first time in the Covid survey, they were asked whether they worked at home in January/February 2020. We use that as the baseline pre-pandemic measure of WAH (in this case the sample includes all employees, i.e., even those who were later furloughed). At each wave, interviewees were also asked whether they were currently WAH. In this analysis we are not comparing within person change in WAH but rather change in overall patterns in WAH across the population and various sub-populations. While we provide trends of WAH during the pandemic (April 2020, September 2020, January 2021, March 2021), when looking at the association between current WAH patterns and various characteristics as well as future WAH preferences we use data from Wave 7 (late January to February 2021, n=3925) only.

We use logistic regression to model the likelihood of WAH and future WAH preferences. We included as explanatory variables individual characteristics (age, gender, ethnicity, region of residence), household related characteristics (whether a parent, household income, number of rooms per person at home), job-related characteristics (industry, type of duties, time taken to travel to work). All estimates are weighted by the relevant cross-sectional weights and take into account clustering and stratification of the sample.

We show results in the following section and only highlight those differences that are statistically significant.

Further details about the questions used and their source could be found in the Appendix.

Access these data

The COVID-19 survey data is available to researchers via the UK Data Service, Study Number 8644.

Cite these data

University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020-2021. [data collection]. 10th Edition. UK Data Service. SN: 8644, http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-8644-10

Cite this briefing note

P Marzec, A Nandi and R Patel (2021) Understanding Society COVID-19 Survey Briefing Note: Working at home, Understanding Society Briefing Note, ISER, University of Essex.

Working from home

Piotr Marzec
University of Essex
Institute for Social and Economic Research
Data Analyst and Training Officer

Alita Nandi
University of Essex
Institute for Social and Economic Research
Senior Research Fellow and Associate Director for Understanding Society

Raj Patel
University of Essex
Institute for Social and Economic Research
Impact Fellow and Associate Director for Understanding Society

Key findings

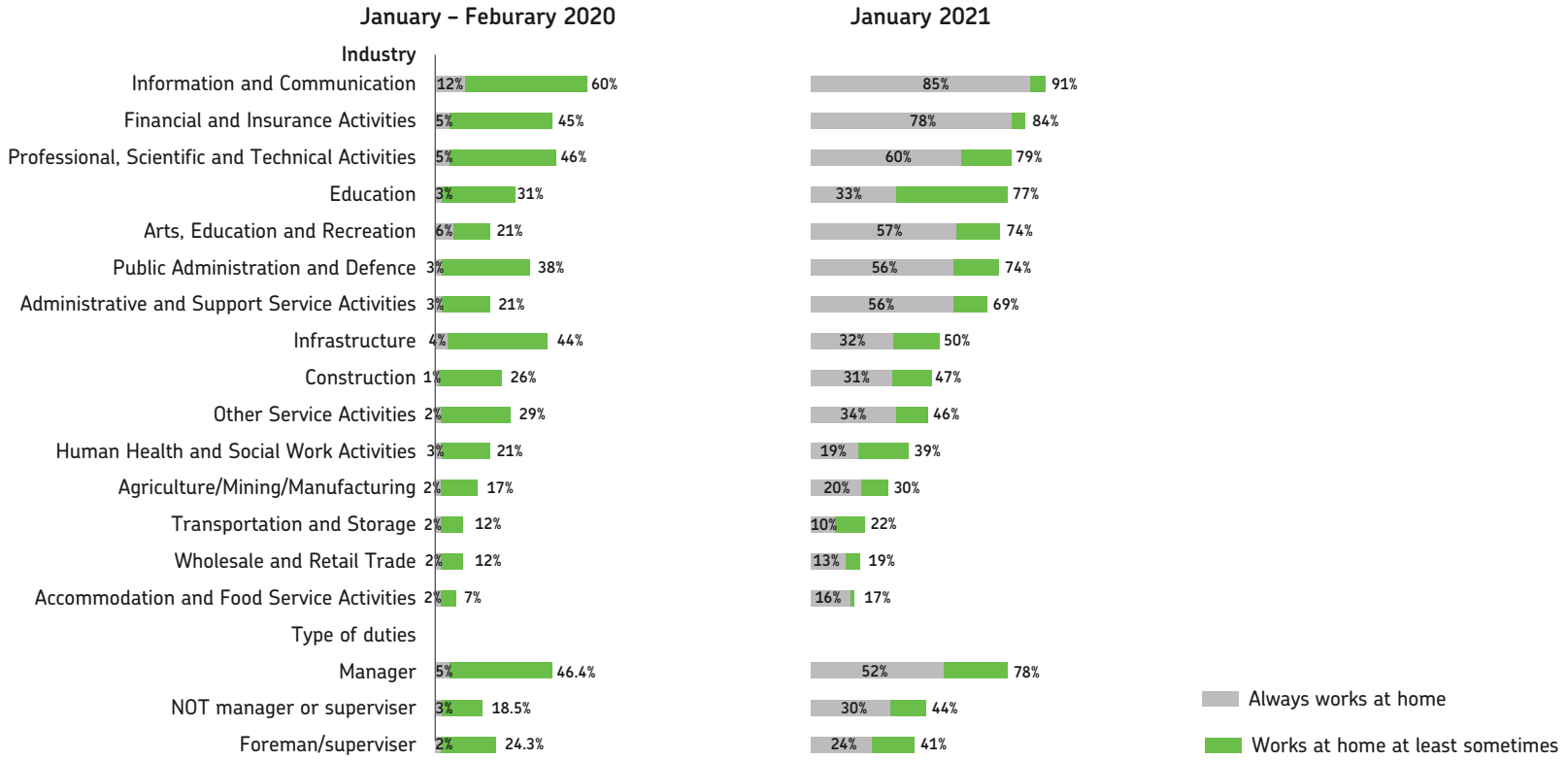
- The number of employees working at home increased significantly in the pandemic, but working at home was not a universal experience – the share of employees working at home exceeded 50 per cent only at two points of the pandemic.
- Industry and type of duties in one's job are the most important factors associated with working at home. This could be explained by the nature of the tasks most people employed in these industries do and/or by established sectoral practices. In some industries, the share of employees working at home was around 85 – 90 per cent (IT, financial and insurance activities), whilst in others, it was as low as roughly 20 per cent (wholesale and retail trade, accommodation and food service activities). In addition, people who have managerial duties are more likely to work at home than those who do not have such duties.
- Some household characteristics are also associated with the likelihood of working at home: having children, higher household income, longer travelling time to the workplace, and more space per person in one's dwelling are positively related to working at home.
- Individual characteristics are overall of lesser importance with some exceptions: female employees and employees below 55 years are more likely to work at home, whilst employees of Bangladeshi-Pakistani and Mixed ethnic background are less likely to always work at home (compared to White UK employees).
- The overwhelming majority of those who worked at home during the pandemic would like to have an opportunity to work at home in future and this preference is largely uniform across different categories of respondents and households.

Figure 1: Working at home before and during the pandemic in England.

Notes: The dates for Baseline (n=5709) refers to the answers given retrospectively by each respondent in the first interview they completed in the COVID-19 survey (that is, when they joined the study which could have been in any of the first four waves of the COVID-19 Survey) about their situation in January/February. The dates presented on the horizontal axis of the figure refer to the fieldwork dates of the subsequent waves of the COVID-19 survey: Wave 1 (24 - 30 Apr, n=4291), Wave 5 (24 Sep - 1 Oct 2020, n=3741), Wave 7 (27 Jan - 3 Feb 2021, n=3187), Wave 8 (24 mar - 31 Mar 2021, n=3395). The category "Working at home at least sometimes" combines the "always", "often", and "sometimes" categories of wah question (see the appendix for the wording). The sample for this figure is limited to England, as the restrictions timeline differed across UK nations, and furloughed employees are excluded. The timeline of lockdown as reported by the Institute for Government (https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/timeline-lockdown-web.pdf).

- The pandemic brought a profound change to the prevalence of working at home.
- The share of employees working at home at least sometimes increased two-fold between January – February 2020 and April 2020.
- The increase of the share of employees always working at home was even more striking – it rose over 10 times.
- However, the data also clearly shows that working at home was not a universal experience as the share of employees working at home exceeded 50 per cent only at two points.
- The share of people working at home in the pandemic fluctuated in conjunction with the official UK Government COVID-19 measures – it decreased when the restrictions were relaxed and increased again when they were re-imposed.

Figure 2: Working at home – industry and type of duties.



Notes: Jan – Feb 2020 n=6586 – 7056, Jan 2021 n= 3877 – 3918.

Working at home – industry and type of duties

- Industry is a dimension related to the highest differentiation of the probability of working at home. This differentiation could be explained by the nature of the tasks most people employed in these industries do and/or by established sectoral practices.
- On the one hand, industries where most employees are required to be physically present to do their jobs have the smallest proportion of people working at home, for instance: manufacturing, transportation and storage, wholesale and retail trade, and accommodation and food service activities.
- On the other, industries involving primarily tasks that could be done away from the workplace and do not necessarily require meeting people physically have the largest proportion of people working at home, for instance: information and communication, financial and insurance activities, professional, scientific and technical activities.
- Having managerial duties in one's job in comparison to positions that either involve foreman/supervision duties, or do not involve any such duties, is also strongly positively related to the probability of working at home.
- The association between industry and type of duties are largely independent of the relationship with each other and other factors that possibly come into a relationship with them – for some categories the size of the association is reduced when the influence of other variables are controlled for, but overall these associations remain strong.
- The share of employees working at home increased in all industries, but some saw a much higher rate of increase than others.
- The highest increase, especially of employees always working at home, was registered in arts and entertainment (3.7 times for always working at home, 9.8 times for at least sometimes), administrative and support service activities (17.9 times for always working at home, 3.5 times for at least sometimes), and public administration and defence/compulsory social security (20.4 times for always working at home, 2 times for at least sometimes). This points to a possibility that the nature of many jobs in these industries allowed for working at home, but this potential was underused before the pandemic.
- Other industries that saw a notable increase include education (11.8 times for always working at home, 2.2 times for at least sometimes) and accommodation and food service activities (10.2 times for always working at home, 2.3 times for at least sometimes).
- Industries in which the rate of increase is lowest largely overlap with industries that have the lowest share of employees working at home – infrastructure (9 times for always working at home, 1.1 times for at least sometimes), wholesale and retail trade (6 times for always working at home, 1.6 times for at least sometimes), and transportation and storage (4.1 times for always working at home, 1.9 times for at least sometimes). A special case are industries where the share of homeworkers was high even before the pandemic, hence the potential for growth was lower, for instance information and communication.
- Industries also differ in regard to how many employees work at home most of the time and how many occasionally. Over 90 per cent of all employees reporting working at home in information and communication, and financial and insurance activities, said that they had been working at home "always" during the pandemic. This is unsurprisingly markedly higher than in other industries, especially in comparison to transportation and storage, education, and human health and social work activities where the same ratio was below 50 per cent.

Working at home – household characteristics and time travelling to work

Table 1: Working at home by children 0-15 in household, household income, rooms per person in household, time travelling to work.

	Always works at home		Works at least sometimes	
	Jan – Feb 2020	Jan 2021	Jan – Feb 2020	Jan 2021
Parent of children aged 0-15 in household				
No	3.0%	32.2%	22.4%	48.2%
Yes	4.1%	39.9%	33.1%	58.4%
Household income quintiles				
below £1731	2.5%	26.3%	14.2%	38.9%
£1731-£2574	3.2%	25.2%	19.2%	40.3%
£2575-£3513	2.9%	34.6%	23.4%	48.6%
£3514-£4820	2.3%	31.9%	27.5%	49.5%
over £4820	5.3%	45.8%	36.9%	67.3%
Rooms per person quartiles				
0-1.2 rooms per person	3.0%	30.7%	21.5%	45.9%
1.3-2 rooms per person	2.6%	35.3%	26.4%	51.8%
2.1-2.6 rooms per person	4.2%	34.4%	30.2%	58.2%
over 2.6 rooms per person	4.7%	39.3%	28.4%	55.0%
Time travelling to work quartiles				
0-10 min	2.5%	19.6%	17.0%	35.8%
11-20 min	1.8%	29.1%	17.4%	47.2%
21-35 min	2.7%	33.9%	25.8%	52.8%
over 35 minutes	1.3%	52.4%	37.1%	68.1%

Notes: Jan – Feb 2020 n= 6700 – 7053, Jan 2021 n= 3634 – 3925. The income quintiles have been calculated on unweighted data. The statistical significance of the differences between a given category and the category of reference (in grey) has been tested using the T-test. Significant differences highlighted in green.

- The share of employees working at home was higher among people who have children in comparison to those who do not, before and during the pandemic. The direct association is attenuated when the role of other variables is controlled for, but stays notable and statistically significant.
- Household income is an important factor related to the probability of working at home - the higher the income, the higher the probability. Importantly, the association stays statistically significant even when the influence of other variables is controlled.
- One could expect that having enough space at home would allow to organise a comfortable working space, what could in turn translate into a higher willingness and/or ability to work at home. This is confirmed by the data – higher number of rooms per person in the household is associated with higher probability of working at home.
- Another factor that could encourage people to work from home is the time needed to get to their workplace. This is also confirmed by the data – the longer the travelling time, the higher the share of people working at home.
- Interestingly, the relationship between the probability of working at home and the space available at home and the time needed to get to one's workplace was observable even during the pandemic, indirectly pointing to a possibility that although a lot of employers followed the government recommendation and made working at home mandatory, there were employers who left their employees some choice in this regard.

Working at home – UK country, gender, age groups, and ethnicity

Table 2: Working at home by UK country, gender, age groups, and ethnicity.

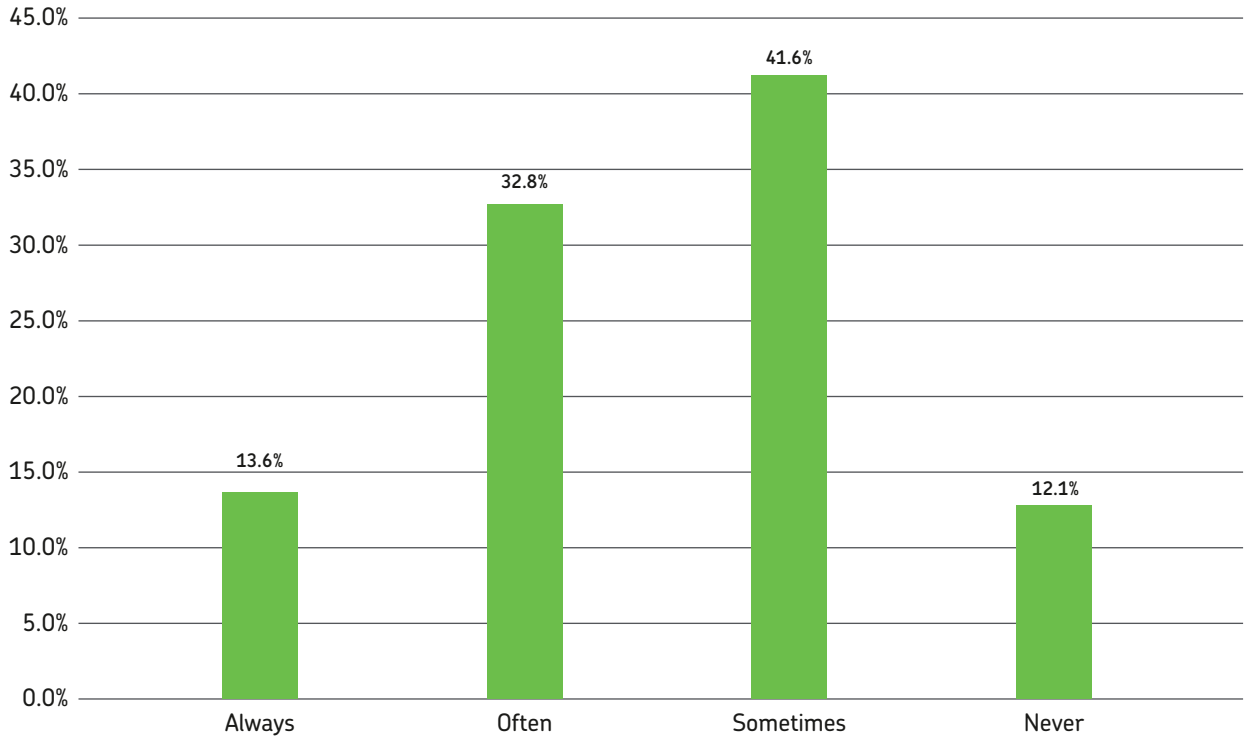
	Always works at home		Works at least sometimes	
	Jan – Feb 2020	Jan 2021	Jan – Feb 2020	Jan 2021
UK country				
England without London	3.4%	32.5%	25.9%	50.1%
London	4.5%	48.6%	35.0%	62.6%
Wales	1.5%	37.2%	18.8%	49.1%
Scotland	2.7%	40.4%	18.5%	55.2%
Northern Ireland	1.6%	19.9%	19.3%	41.1%
Gender				
Male	3.3%	34.9%	26.7%	48.3%
Female	3.4%	34.5%	25.0%	54.4%
Age groups				
Age 16-34	2.5%	34.3%	18.6%	49.5%
Age 35-54	3.6%	37.2%	31.0%	55.5%
Age 55+	3.7%	30.3%	24.3%	45.8%
Ethnicity				
White UK	3.4%	34.7%	25.4%	51.7%
White Other	3.9%	44.8%	36.7%	66.1%
Mixed	2.7%	22.7%	29.0%	40.3%
Indian	2.8%	50.3%	32.7%	61.4%
Bangladeshi-Pakistani	6.4%	21.0%	24.1%	36.4%
Chinese	4.1%	55.2%	33.6%	60.5%
Black Caribbean	4.4%	38.8%	37.3%	47.4%
Black African	1.8%	17.5%	28.1%	29.6%
other	2.4%	42.7%	19.7%	58.4%

Notes: Jan – Feb 2020 n= 6999 – 7058 , Jan 2021 n= 3899 – 3925. The statistical significance of the differences between a given category and the category of reference (in grey) has been tested using the T-test. Significant differences highlighted in green.

- Employees always working at home were over-represented in London and this relationship is notable and statistically significant even when other relevant variables are controlled for (most importantly, industry), all other differences, however, are not.
- Before the pandemic there was no differentiation related to gender, however, during the pandemic employees working at home were slightly over-represented among females in comparison to males.
- In January – February 2020 there was no statistically significant independent effect of age, whilst in January 2021 the share of employees working at home turned out to be slightly lower among the oldest age group (over 55 years old) when the role played by other variables was accounted for.
- Before the pandemic there was no statistically significant differentiation related to ethnic groups. However, during the pandemic, when one controls for other relevant variables, some statistically significant relationships appear – the share of employees always working at home was lower among employees of Bangladeshi-Pakistani and people of mixed ethnic background as compared to White UK employees.

Note: The predicted probabilities of WAH during and before the pandemic are from logistic regression models used to estimate likelihood of WAH after controlling for relevant variables (as mentioned earlier) are provided in Appendix Table A3 & A4.

Figure 3: Intention to work at home in future.



Notes: n=2258.

- The overwhelming majority (88 per cent) of employees who worked at home in January 2021 said that they would like to work at home at least sometimes once social distancing measures are fully relaxed and workplaces fully go back to normal.
- There is much less differentiation of the opinion related to the set of household, socio-demographic and geographical variables.

Those working at home – intention to work at home in future by industry and type of duties

Table 3: Intention to work at home in future by industry and type of duties – adjusted percentages.

	January 2021	
	Always works at home	**Works at least sometimes**
Industry		
Agriculture/Mining/Manufacturing	9.5%	91.7%
Infrastructure	9%	96%
Construction	6%	90%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	18%	94%
Transportation and Storage	9%	94%
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	18%	-
Information and Communication	14%	95%
Financial and Insurance Activities	20%	97%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	11%	96%
Administrative and Support Service Activities	20%	92%
Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security	9%	94%
Education	6%	66%
Human Health and Social Work Activities	11%	86%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	6%	89%
Other Service Activities	14%	93%
Type of duties		
Manager	9.2%	89.9%
Foreman/supervisor	6%	86%
NOT manager or supervisor	13%	85%

Notes: n=2244 – 2256. The adjusted percentages are the predicted probabilities from a logistic regression model (see the appendix for details). The statistical significance of the differences between a given category and the category of reference (in grey) has been tested using the T-test. Significant differences highlighted in green.

- Employees working in education are the least interested in working at home in any form in comparison to other industries given the nature of their work.
- Employees who do not have supervising or managerial duties are slightly less likely to prefer working at home in future than managers.

Those working at home – intention to work at home in future by industry and type of duties

Table 4: Intention to work at home in future by net household income, rooms per person in household, time travelling to work – adjusted percentages.

	January 2021	
	Always works at home	**Works at least sometimes**
Parent of children aged 0-15 in household		
No	11.1%	86.1%
Yes	11.3%	86.9%
Household net income quintiles		
below £1731	19.4%	84.0%
£1731-£2574	12.5%	85.6%
£2575-£3513	16.4%	88.4%
£3514-£4820	9.7%	85.1%
over £4820	7.2%	87.2%
Rooms per person quartiles		
0-1.2 rooms per person	11.1%	83.8%
1.3-2 rooms per person	11.0%	86.2%
2.1-2.6 rooms per person	15.3%	89.0%
over 2.6 rooms per person	8.8%	89.0%
Time travelling to work quartiles		
0-10 min	9.8%	85.9%
11-20 min	12.8%	82.0%
21-35 min	10.0%	86.6%
over 35 minutes	11.3%	91.3%

Notes: n=2074 – 2258. The adjusted percentages are the predicted probabilities from a logistic regression model (see the appendix for details). The income quintiles have been calculated on unweighted data. The statistical significance of the differences between a given category and the category of reference (in grey) has been tested using the T-test. Significant differences highlighted in green.

- There is no statistically significant differentiation related to net household income, rooms per person in household, time travelling to work.

Those working at home – intention to work at home in future by industry and type of duties

Table 5: Intention to work at home in future by UK country, gender, age groups, ethnicity – adjusted percentages.

	January 2021	
	Always works at home	**Works at least sometimes**
UK country		
England without London	10.5%	86.2%
London	15.1%	88.3%
Wales	7.5%	85.4%
Scotland	12.9%	86.3%
Northern Ireland	10.1%	86.1%
Gender		
Male	12.7%	88.5%
Female	10.0%	85.3%
Age groups		
Age 16-34	6.9%	82.6%
Age 35-54	11.5%	87.2%
Age 55+	15.5%	88.4%
Ethnicity		
White UK	11.5%	86.0%
White Other	13.3%	91.5%
Mixed	6.3%	92.3%
Indian	8.3%	81.4%
Bangladeshi-Pakistani	15.1%	98.5%
Chinese	4.3%	-
Black Caribbean	3.6%	94.5%
Black African	7.1%	68.8%
other	4.4%	90.3%

Notes: n=2238 – 2258. The adjusted percentages are the predicted probabilities from a logistic regression model (see the appendix for details). The statistical significance of the differences between a given category and the category of reference (in grey) has been tested using the T-test. Significant differences highlighted in green.

- Employees who would like to work from home permanently are over-represented among the middle and the oldest age groups in comparison to the youngest group.
- Black Caribbean and Bangladeshi-Pakistani employees are also somewhat more likely to prefer working at home after the pandemic than other ethnic groups.

Appendix

Methodological note – logistic regression and multivariate analysis

Logistic regression (also known as logit model) is type of a statistical modelling technique used to estimate the likelihood of an event happening (for instance, working at home in contrast to not working at home).

Multivariate analysis

As various factors may contribute to the phenomenon we are studying, say WAH, those factors are included in the model as explanatory variables. This allows us to estimate the net contribution of each factor considered, that is, its contribution to explaining the likelihood after controlling for other factors included in the model. It is necessary to do this when several factors that explain the outcome, like WAH, are associated with each other. Consider the following example. By examining the association between region of residence and type of industry with WAH separately, we might find out that 1) the share of employees working at home is much higher in London, 2) the share of employees working at home is higher in certain industries. But if individuals working in those industries are also more likely to live in London, then the association between living in London and WAH is, at least partially, reflecting the association between those industries and WAH. So, by including both variables in the logistic regression we are able to estimate the net association of each factor with WAH.

Appendix

Understanding Society Questions related to working at home used:

- working at home baseline: “During January and February how often did you work at home?: Always / Often / Sometimes / Never. The question was asked of all people in paid work or self-employment in Jan/Feb 2020. The question was recoded into a binary “yes, worked at home” vs. “no, didn’t work at home” format. (cw_blwah variable)
- working at home in the pandemic: “During the last four weeks how often did you work at home?”: Always/ Often /Sometimes/Never. The question was asked of all people in paid work or self-employment at the time of the interview. The question was recoded into a binary “yes, worked at home” vs. “no, didn’t work at home” format. (cw_wah variable)
- working at home in future: “Once social distancing measures are fully relaxed and workplaces fully go back to normal, how often would you like to work from home?” The question was asked of all people in paid work or self-employment who worked at home. The question was recoded into a binary “yes, would like to work at home” vs. “no, wouldn’t like to work at home” format. (cw_wahfut2 variable)

Other questions used:

- Industry – baseline: jk_jbsic07, Wave 7: cg_jbindustry;
- Type of duties – baseline: jk_jbmngr, Wave 7: cg_jbindustry;
- Parental status – baseline: jk_nchunder16, Wave 7: cg_parent015;
- Household income – baseline and Wave 7: i_fihhmnnet1_dv;
- Rooms per person – baseline and Wave 7: jk_hsbeds, jk_hsrooms, jk_hhsize_dv;
- Time travelling to work – j_jbttwt, h_jbttwt;
- UK country – cw_gor_dv;
- Age – calculated using doby_dv (xwavedat datafile);
- Gender – sex_dv (xwavedat datafile);
- Ethnicity – racel_dv (xwavedat datafile).

Appendix

Table A1: Working at home in January 2021 by industry and type of duties – adjusted percentages.

	January 2021	
	Always works at home	**Works at least sometimes**
Industry		
Agriculture/Mining/Manufacturing	24.5%	37.9%
Infrastructure	34%	48%
Construction	31%	44%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	16%	24%
Transportation and Storage	12%	30%
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	23%	24%
Information and Communication	79%	88%
Financial and Insurance Activities	69%	77%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	57%	75%
Administrative and Support Service Activities	50%	67%
Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security	50%	71%
Education	32%	67%
Human Health and Social Work Activities	18%	40%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	54%	78%
Other Service Activities	33%	46%
Type of duties		
Manager	42.5%	70.7%
Foreman/supervisor	26%	42%
NOT manager or supervisor	32%	47%

Notes: n= 3877 – 3918.

Appendix

Table A2: Change between January/February 2020 and January 2021.

	Works at least sometimes		Always work at home		Always work at home/Work at home at least sometimes ratio
	Percentage points change	Fold increase compared to baseline	Percentage points change	Fold increase compared to baseline	
Industry					
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	56%	3.7	51%	9.8	74%
Administrative and Support Service Activities	52%	3.5	53%	17.9	76%
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	10%	2.3	15%	10.2	94%
Education	38%	2.2	30%	11.8	48%
Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security	36%	2.0	53%	20.4	75%
Transportation and Storage	10%	1.9	7%	4.1	45%
Financial and Insurance Activities	38%	1.8	73%	14.4	93%
Human Health and Social Work Activities	18%	1.8	16%	6.2	48%
Construction	21%	1.8	30%	21.3	66%
Agriculture/Mining/Manufacturing	13%	1.8	18%	8.3	67%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	32%	1.7	54%	11.3	76%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	7%	1.6	11%	6.0	69%
Other Service Activities	17%	1.6	31%	13.6	73%
Information and Communication	31%	1.5	73%	7.1	93%
Infrastructure	6%	1.1	28%	9.0	64%

Notes: n= 3877 – 3918.

Appendix

Table A3: Working at home by net household income, rooms per person in household, time travelling to work – adjusted percentages.

	January 2021	
	Always works at home	**Works at least sometimes**
Parent of children aged 0-15 in household		
No	32.0%	49.1%
Yes	38.4%	56.6%
Household net income quintiles		
below £1731	27.7%	40.4%
£1731-£2574	28.8%	44.9%
£2575-£3513	36.0%	51.3%
£3514-£4820	32.9%	51.8%
over £4820	39.2%	60.5%
Rooms per person quartiles		
0-1.2 rooms per person	30.0%	45.7%
1.3-2 rooms per person	34.4%	52.3%
2.1-2.6 rooms per person	34.0%	54.9%
over 2.6 rooms per person	41.1%	58.3%
Time travelling to work quartiles		
0-10 min	25.5%	43.5%
11-20 min	32.1%	49.7%
21-35 min	33.5%	53.2%
over 35 minutes	44.1%	60.7%

Notes: n= 3634 – 3925. The adjusted percentages are the predicted probabilities from a logistic regression model (see the appendix for details). The income quintiles have been calculated on unweighted data. The statistical significance of the differences between a given category and the category of reference (in grey) has been tested using the T-test. Significant differences highlighted in green.

Appendix

Table A4: Working at home by UK country, gender, age groups, ethnicity – adjusted percentages.

	January 2021	
	Always works at home	**Works at least sometimes**
UK country		
England without London	32.7%	50.7%
London	41.2%	56.3%
Wales	39.7%	53.3%
Scotland	39.2%	55.7%
Northern Ireland	23.3%	44.9%
Gender		
Male	31.6%	46.7%
Female	36.5%	56.0%
Age groups		
Age 16-34	38.9%	55.9%
Age 35-54	33.6%	51.9%
Age 55+	31.1%	47.4%
Ethnicity		
White UK	34.7%	52.0%
White Other	33.9%	59.7%
Mixed	20.4%	40.8%
Indian	27.3%	42.3%
Bangladeshi-Pakistani	23.4%	44.5%
Chinese	50.2%	57.8%
Black Caribbean	22.6%	38.0%
Black African	24.0%	39.5%
other	43.2%	62.2%

Notes: n= 3899 – 3925. The adjusted percentages are the predicted probabilities from a logistic regression model (see the appendix for details). The statistical significance of the differences between a given category and the category of reference (in grey) has been tested using the T-test. Significant differences highlighted in green.

For more information and to contact the Study

Email: **info@understandingsociety.ac.uk**

Twitter: **@usociety**

Find out more about the Study online at
www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/topic/covid-19

Acknowledgements:

The *Understanding Society* COVID-19 study is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and the Health Foundation. Fieldwork for the survey is carried out by Ipsos MORI and Kantar. *Understanding Society* is an initiative funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and various Government Departments, with scientific leadership by the Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex. The research data are distributed by the UK Data Service.

Published by the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), University of Essex, 2021.