

SWAA January 2022 Updates (preliminary)

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Latest survey wave included: December 2021

To sign up for regular results updates, please sign up [here](#).

- **Source of all data (unless noted):** Survey of Working Arrangements and Attitudes (SWAA), see www.wfhresearch.com

- **When referring to these results please cite:**

Barrero, Jose Maria, Nicholas Bloom, and Steven J. Davis, 2021. “Why working from home will stick,” National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 28731.

www.wfhresearch.com

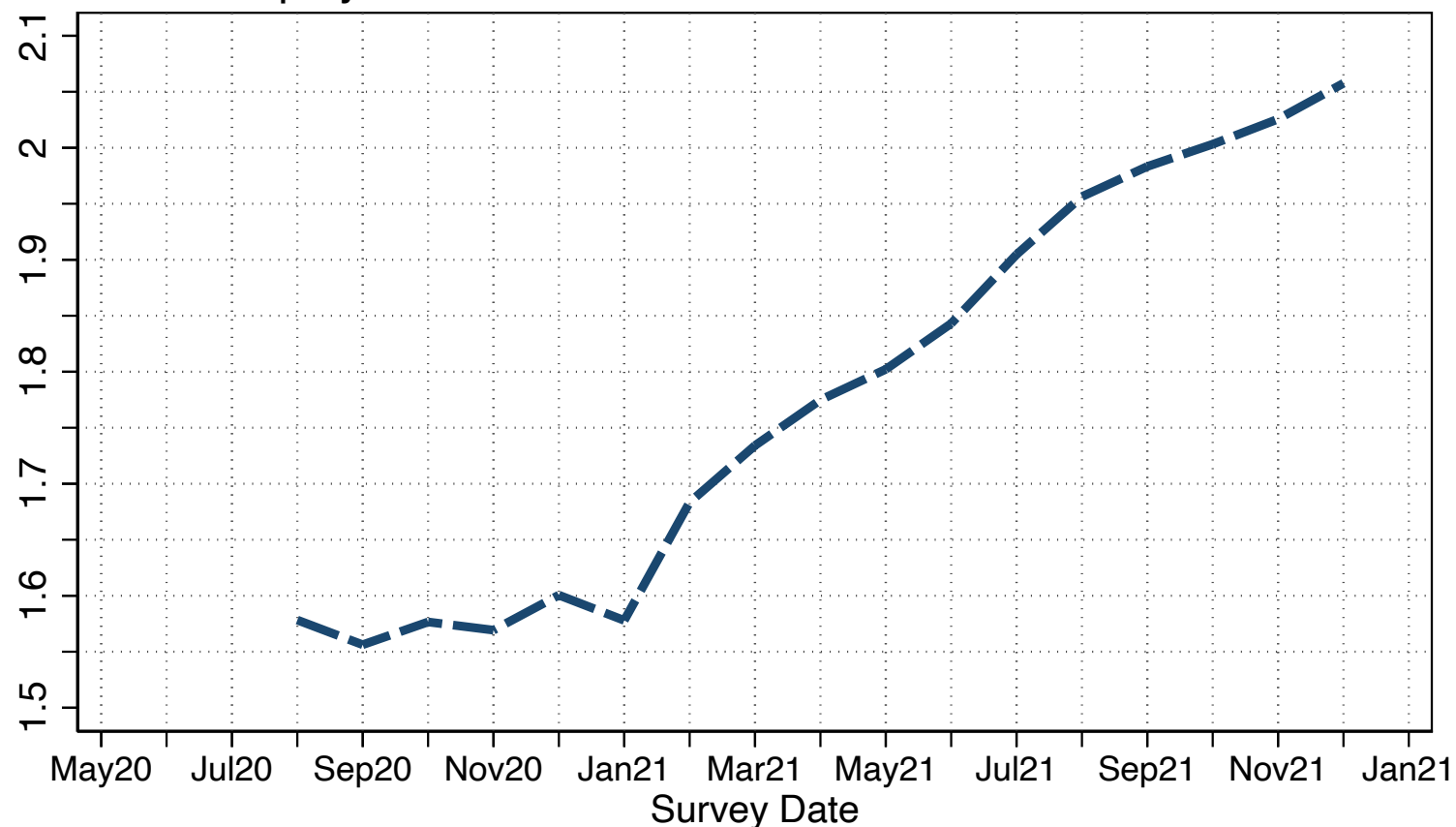
Introduction & Methodology (2/2)

- **Target population:** US residents aged 20 to 64 who earned \$20k or more in 2019. Between April and September 2021 we gradually moved to include individuals who earned \$10k to \$20k in 2019.
 - Each survey wave goes into the field on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and data collection typically takes 10 to 12 days.
 - Each wave collects 2,500 or 5,000 responses.
 - April 2021 and later waves collect 5,000 responses
 - Prior to April 2021 most waves collected 2,500 responses, but August 2020, December 2020, and January 2021 collected 5,000.
 - We drop respondents who “speed” through the survey, so the actual usable number of responses in each wave is somewhat less than the number we collect.
- **Representativeness:** Commercial providers field the survey on our behalf, drawing from a variety of sources for potential respondents.
 - We reweight the raw survey data to match the share of the population in a given {age x sex x education x earnings} cell in a pooled sample of 2010-2019 Current Population Survey data. See Figure 2 in Barrero, Bloom, and Davis (2021).
 - Unless noted, all statistics and charts use reweighted data.

Respondents who have worked from home during the pandemic now expect to do so 2 days/week on average after the end of the pandemic



Average Days per Week Working From Home
After the Pandemic Ends:
Employer Plans for Workers Able to Work From Home



Responses to the question:

- *After COVID, in 2022 and later, how often is your employer planning for you to work full days at home?*

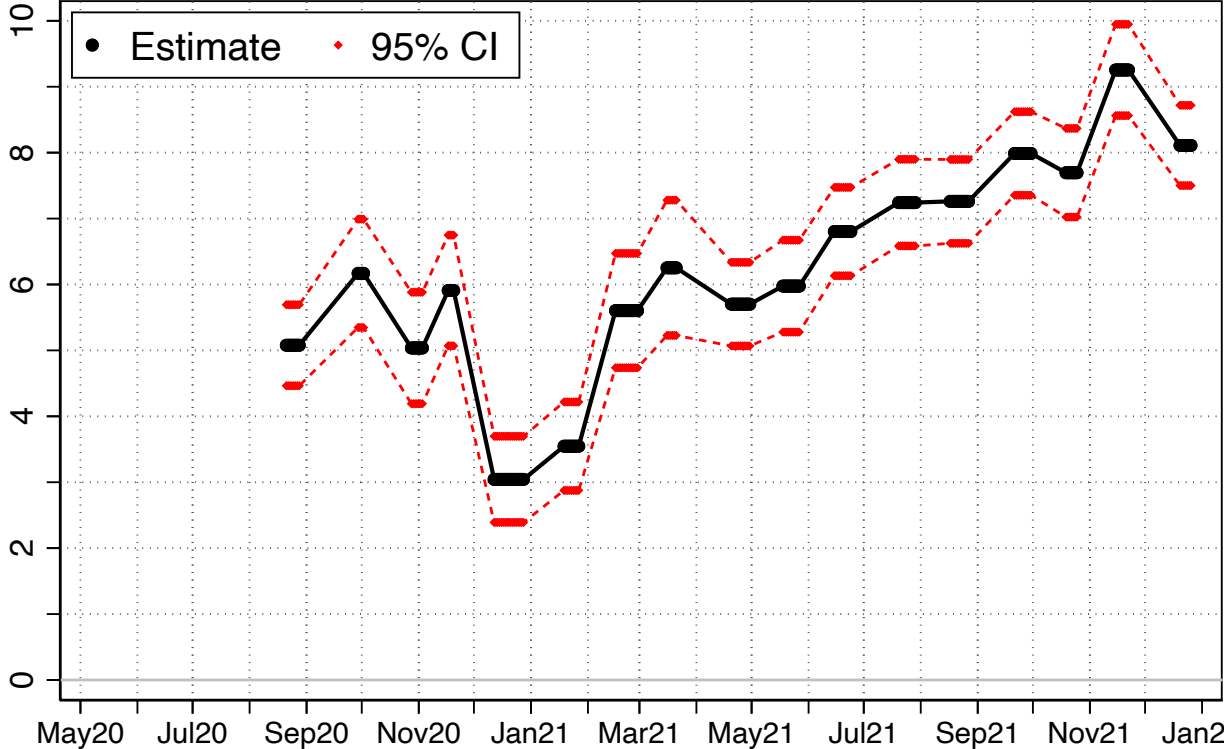
Sample: Data are from all SWAA waves, covering July 2020 to December 2021. The sample includes all respondents who reported their employer's plans for post-COVID WFH and who have work-from-home experience during the pandemic. In particular, we exclude respondents who report having no employer.

N = 42,501

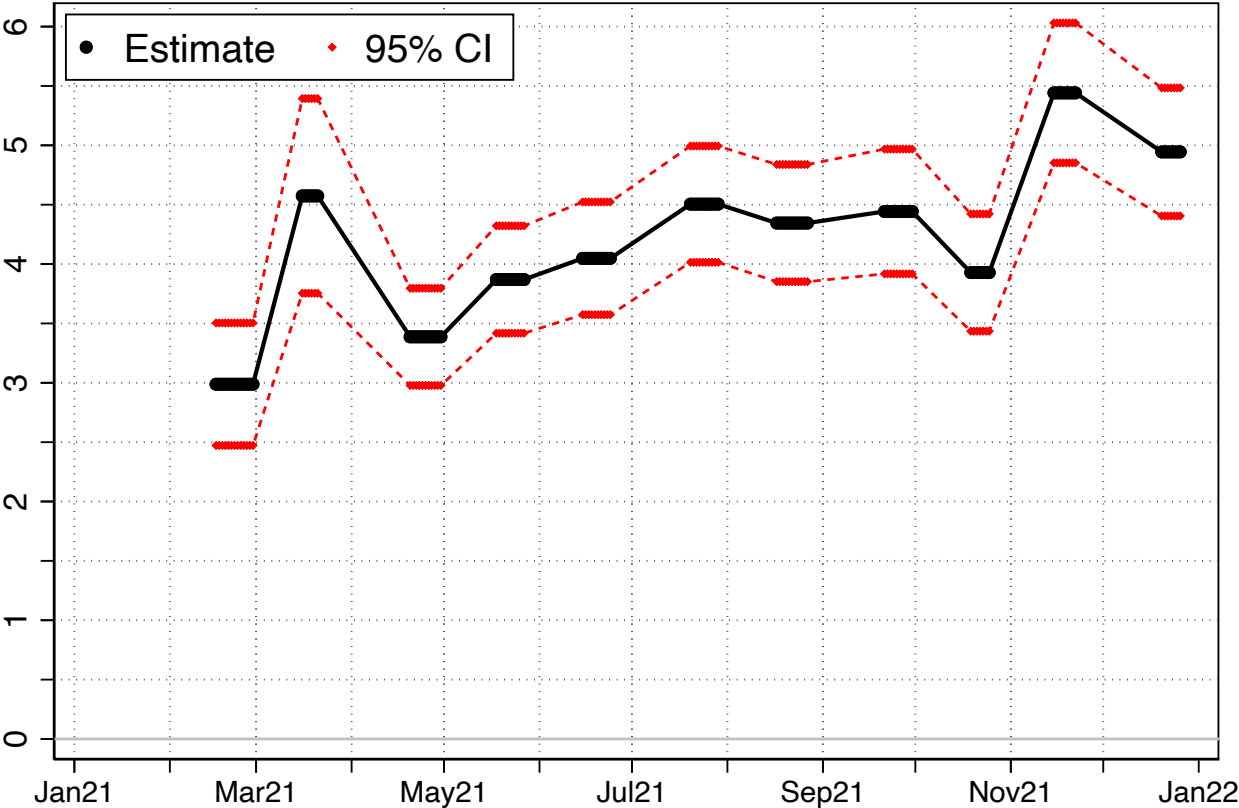
Work-from-home efficiency has risen since the start of the pandemic (raw data)



Relative Efficiency of Working From Home (%) in Comparison with Working on Business Premises



True Productivity Gain (%): Efficiency + Commuting Time

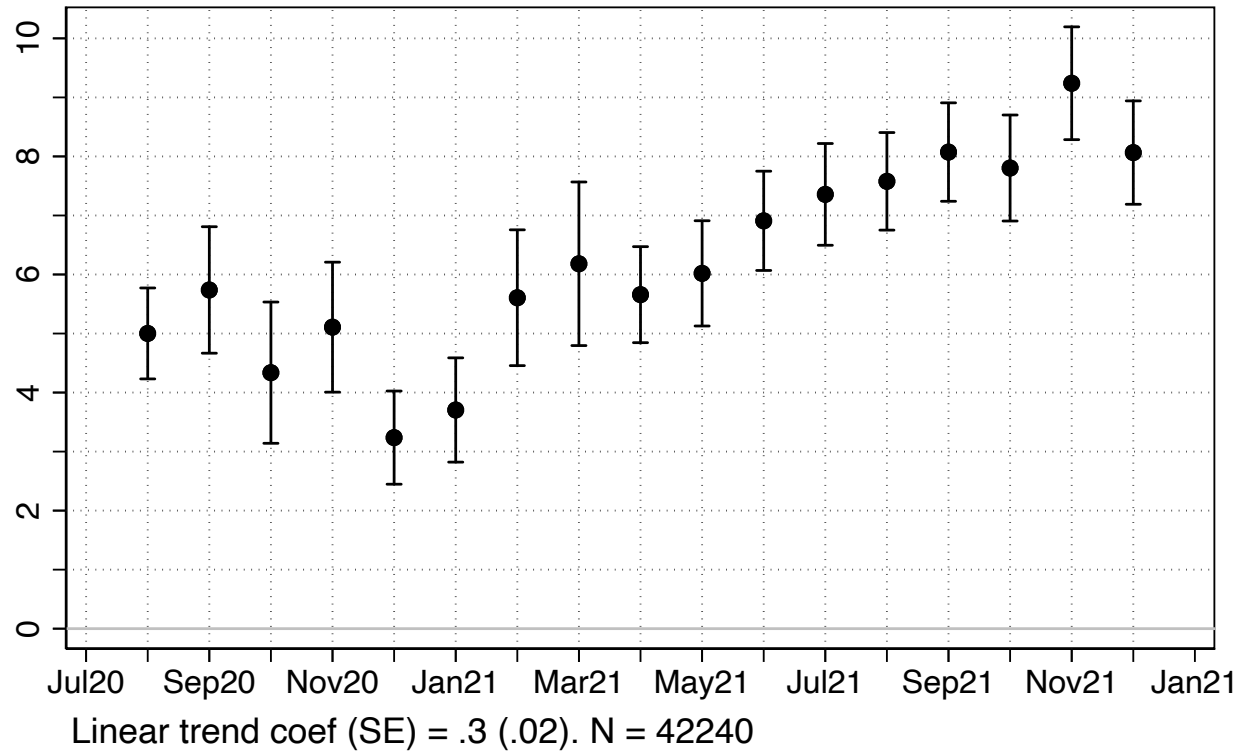


Notes: The figures show time series of means and 95% confidence intervals of the evolution of work-from-home productivity across survey waves. The left figure shows self-reported efficiency of working from home relative to working on business premises for those with work-from-home experience during the pandemic. The right figure shows projected true productivity gains from the shift to work-from-home, which we estimate from self-assessed relative efficiency, the projected amount of post-COVID work-from-home for each respondent, and savings in commute time, if those are not already included in the self-assessed relative efficiency. **N = 42,333 (left) and 15,589 (right)**

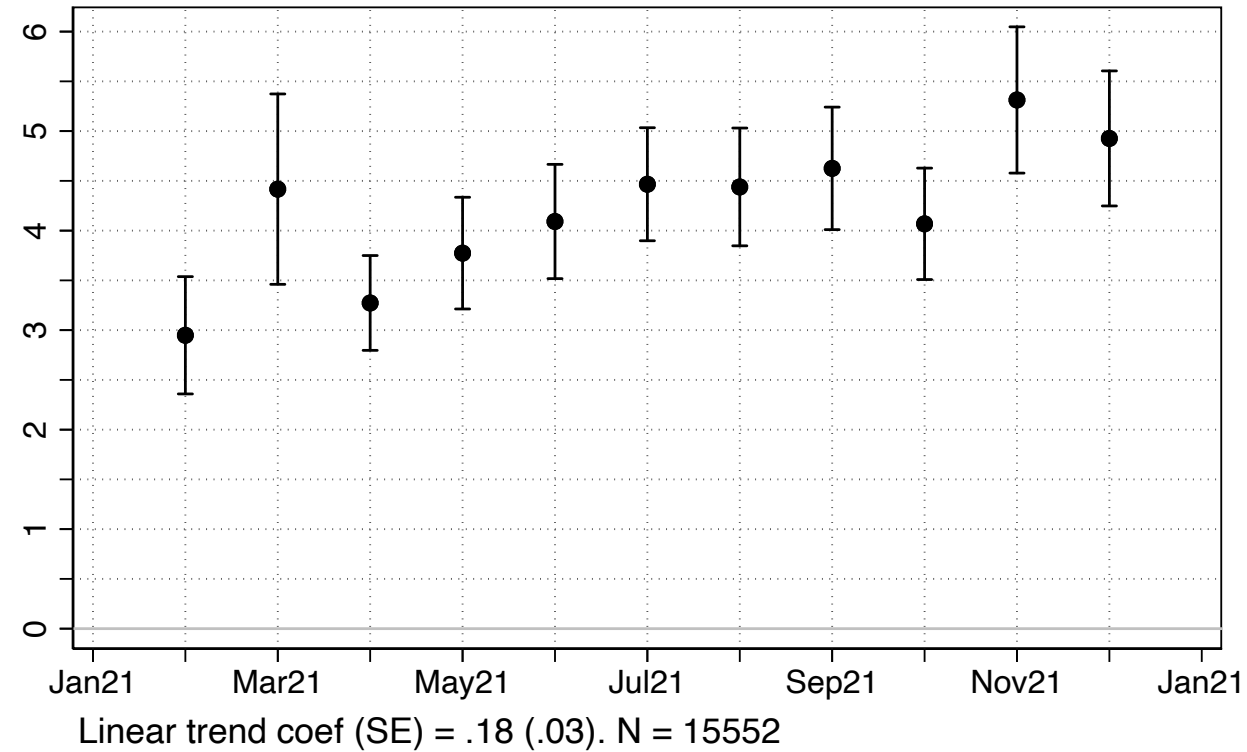
Work-from-home efficiency has risen since the start of the pandemic (controlling for respondent characteristics)



Efficiency of Working From Home
Relative to Working on Business Premises (%)



True Productivity Gain (%):
Projected Efficiency + Commuting Time Gains



Notes: The figures show binned scatter plots and 95% confidence intervals of the evolution of work-from-home productivity across survey waves, after controlling for age, gender, the presence of children, industry of current (or most recent) job, race/ethnicity, log(2019 earnings) and years of education. The dependent variables are self-reported efficiency of working from home relative to working on business premises for those with work-from-home experience during the pandemic (left), and projected true productivity gains from the shift to work-from-home, which we estimate from self-assessed relative efficiency, the projected amount of post-COVID work-from-home for each respondent, and savings in commute time, if those are not already included in the self-assessed relative efficiency.

References



- Barrero, Jose Maria, Nicholas Bloom, and Steven J. Davis, 2021. “Why working from home will stick,” National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 28731.