SWAA January 2022 Updates (preliminary)

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Latest survey wave included: December 2021

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Introduction & Methodology (1/2)

• **Source of all data (unless noted):** Survey of Working Arrangements and Attitudes (SWAA), see [www.wfhresearch.com](http://www.wfhresearch.com)

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

  [www.wfhresearch.com](http://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)

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 (%)

Linear trend coef (SE) = .3 (.02). N = 42240

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.

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

Linear trend coef (SE) = .18 (.03). N = 15552
References