

Reporting the effect of coronavirus on household finances:

Evidence from a range of surveys, both old and new

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Current context for ONS

- Fast shift to online and telephone collection
- New surveys
- Thinking about new ways of using existing data
- Amending or adding questions to surveys
- Making the data available

Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN)

Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

- Weekly surveys
- Sample: 2,500 cases (originally 2,010) from Great Britain
- Online collection with a telephone element
- Field period: 4 days (originally 10 days)

Question content - finances

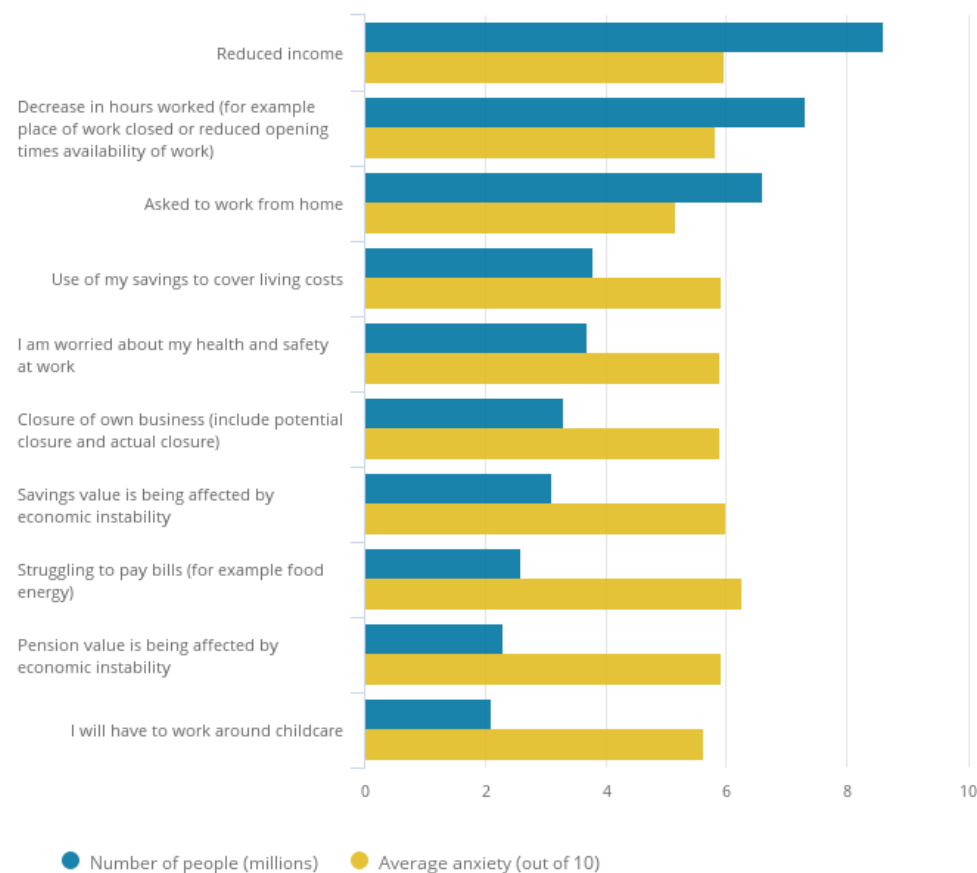
- Current impacts and expectations for the future
- Ability to save and afford a one-off expense
- Impact on work

Results

- People who had experienced a reduction in household finances because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) reported 16% higher anxiety on average.

Figure 6: 8.6 million people reported reduced household income as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19)

Merged top responses to the questions "In which way is your work being affected?" and "In which way are your household finances being affected?", Great Britain, 27 March to 6 April 2020

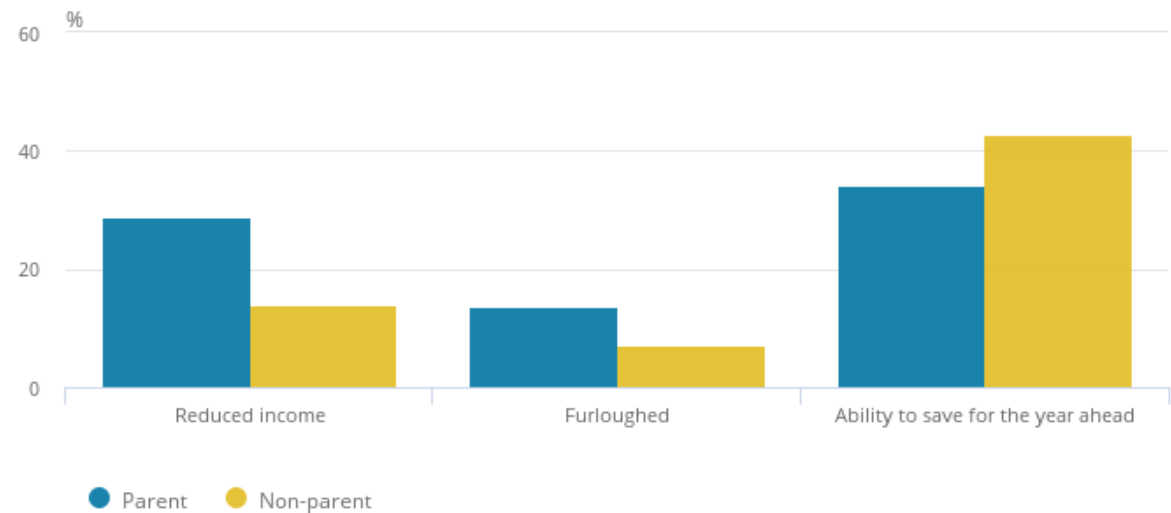


Results

- Parents were more than twice as likely to report reduced income, and were more likely to have been furloughed than adults without children in the house
- Over 20% found childcare impacting their work

Figure 6: Parents' economic well-being has been affected more than those without children in the house

Comparisons of economic well-being between parents and non-parents, Great Britain, 3 April 2020 to 10 May 2020



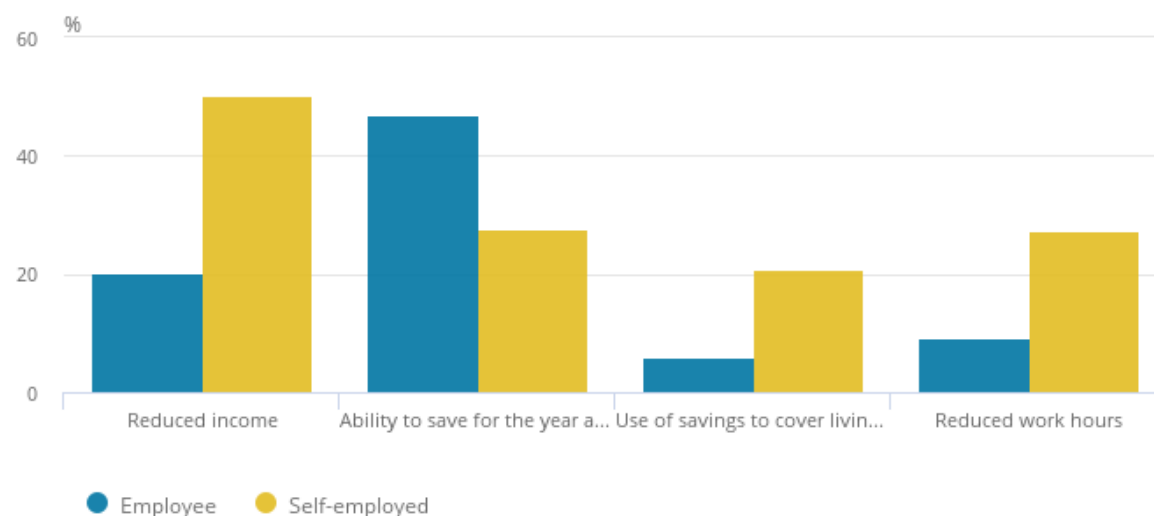
Source: Office for National Statistics – Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

Results

- Half of self-employed people reported having reduced financial income, more than twice as likely as employees.
- This was likely driven by the higher percentage of self-employed (27.2%) who reported a reduction of hours
- A third of self-employed had experienced temporary closures to their businesses

Figure 7: One in two self-employed have reduced household income, more than twice the proportion of employees

Comparisons of economic well-being between employee and self-employed, Great Britain, 3 April 2020 to 10 May 2020



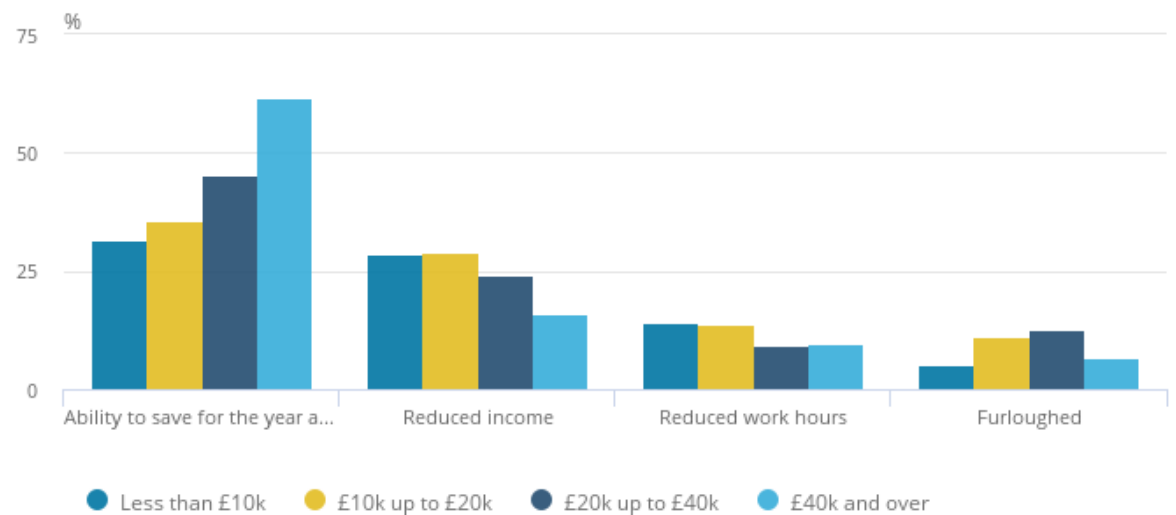
Source: Office for National Statistics – Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

Results

- People on lower personal incomes were more likely to report reduced income in the household, working fewer hours, and being less able to save for the future.

Figure 8: People with up to £20,000 in overall personal annual income are most likely to have reported a loss of income

Economic well-being income band comparisons, Great Britain, 3 April 2020 to 10 May 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

Availability of data

- Reference tables for key findings are published each week on [ONS website](#).
- Data is available in the [ONS Secure Research Service](#).
- Search for “Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain”
- Available in STATA and SPSS format

New survey: Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey (BICS)

Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey

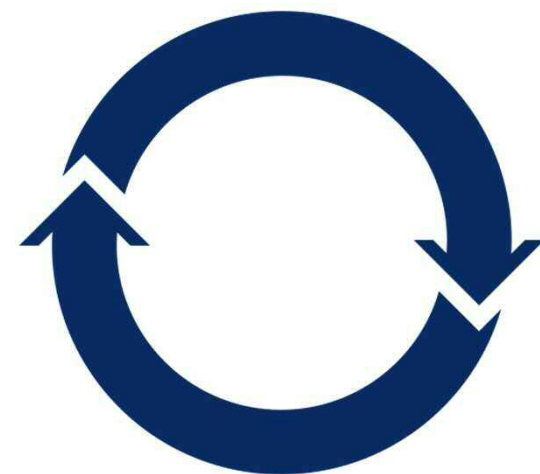
- Fortnightly survey
- Sample: 20,000 cases from Great Britain, based on the Monthly Business Survey sample
- Online collection with a telephone element
- Response rate: Between 25% and 35%

Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey

- Mainly unweighted results at the moment
- Different routing depending on trading status
- Questions relating to turnover, cashflow, employment, CJRS, and exporting / importing etc.

Data requirements and question design

- Question requirements: government departments, universities and advisory groups
- Core questions and rotated questions
- Expertise in online question design

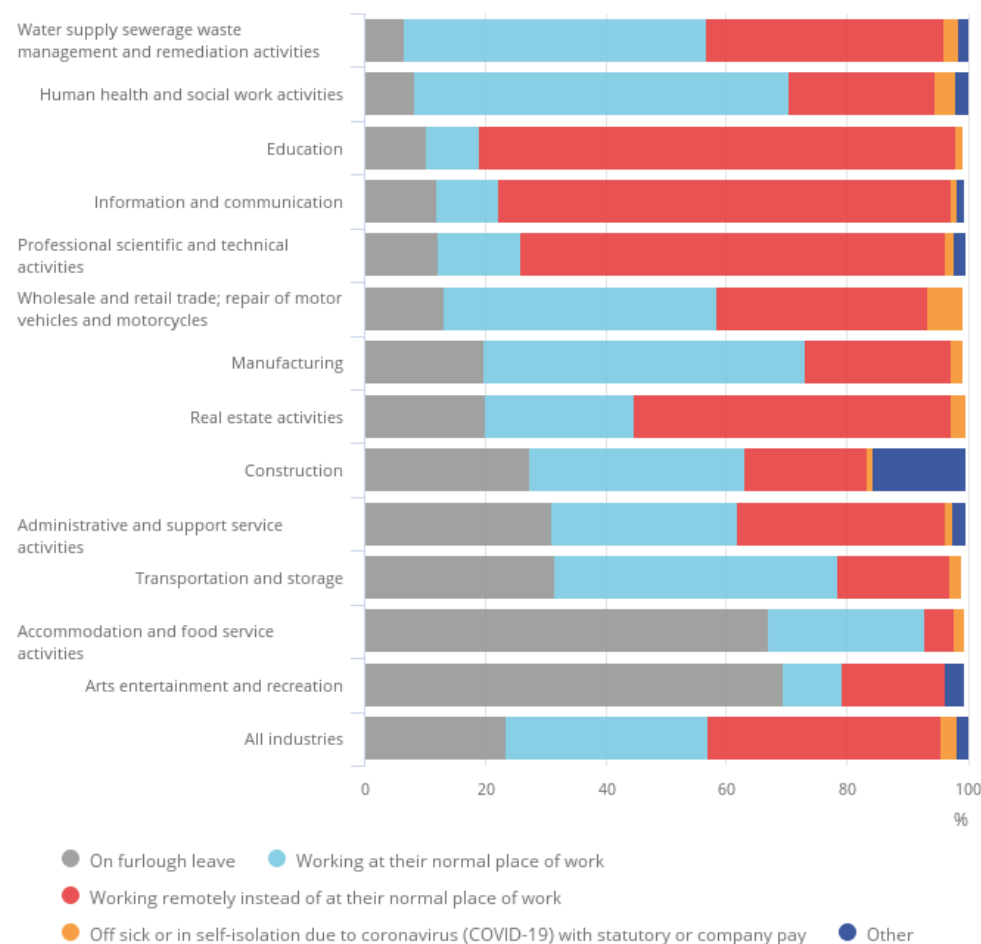


Results

- Across all industries, of all businesses who have not permanently stopped trading, 23% of the workforce had been furloughed under the terms of the UK Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) (apportioned by employment size).
- The arts, entertainment and recreation sector and the accommodation and food services sector had the highest proportions of furloughed workers – 70% and 67% respectively.

Figure 4: The arts, entertainment and recreation sector had the largest proportion of the workforce furloughed, at 70%

Working arrangements, businesses that have not permanently stopped trading, broken down by industry, apportioned by workforce, UK, 1 June to 14 June 2020

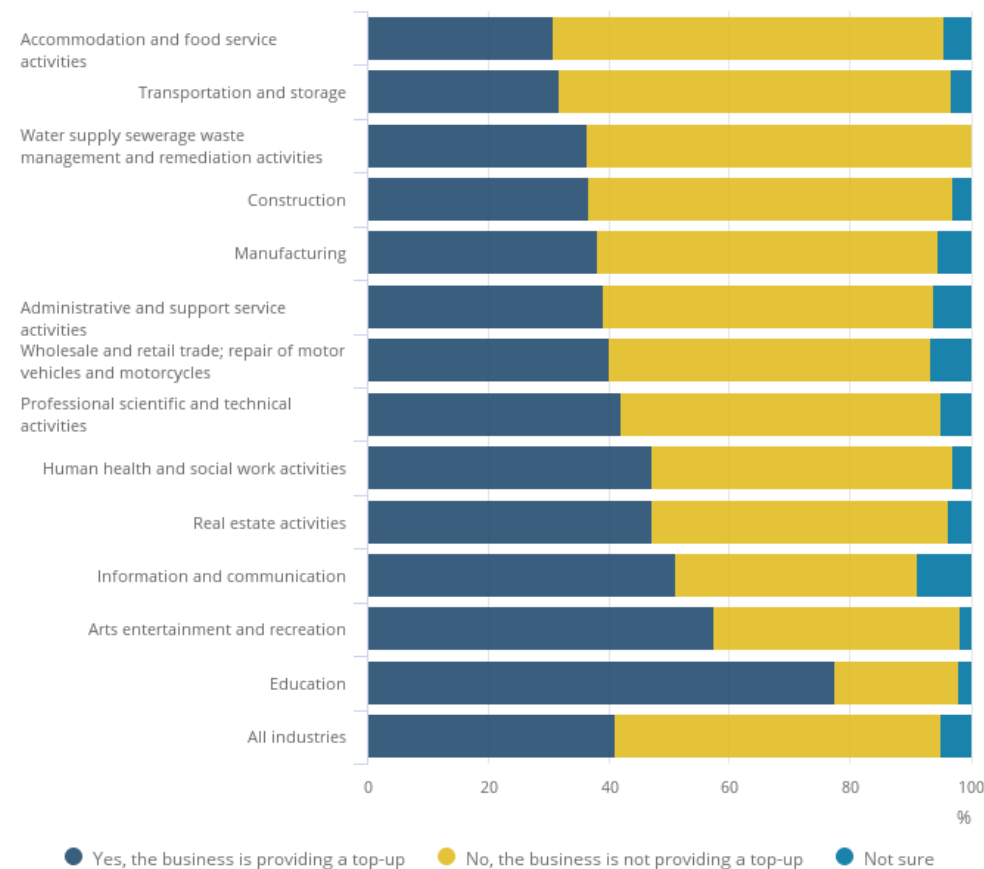


Results

- Of those businesses with a proportion of their workforce furloughed, 41% of businesses reported providing top-ups to furloughed workers' pay on top of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS).

Figure 6: 41% of businesses that have a proportion of their workforce furloughed are providing top-ups to furloughed workers on top of the CJRS payments

Percentage of businesses with a proportion of the workforce furloughed, businesses not permanently stopped trading, UK, 1 June to 14 June 2020



New survey: Online Time Use

Project

- Kicked off in 2017 following the Bean Review
- Designed with a focus on digital activities, sharing economy, equalities and well-being – it's unique as it's a data source that serves as a complete record of economic activity, leisure time and personal care – 24 hours, 7 days a week.
- Online tool has been tested in 5 in-depth user testing rounds
- Format: initial questionnaire on demographics, including well-being, income, loneliness and carer status + 2 days of 24-hours of time use from 72 pre-set activities (main, secondary and device use)

Structure of waves

- Wave 1 ran from 28 Mar to 26 April 2020
- Currently preparing for Wave 2, starting on 25 July and ending on 30 August
- Wave 3 planned for late Autumn time

Opportunities for time use survey

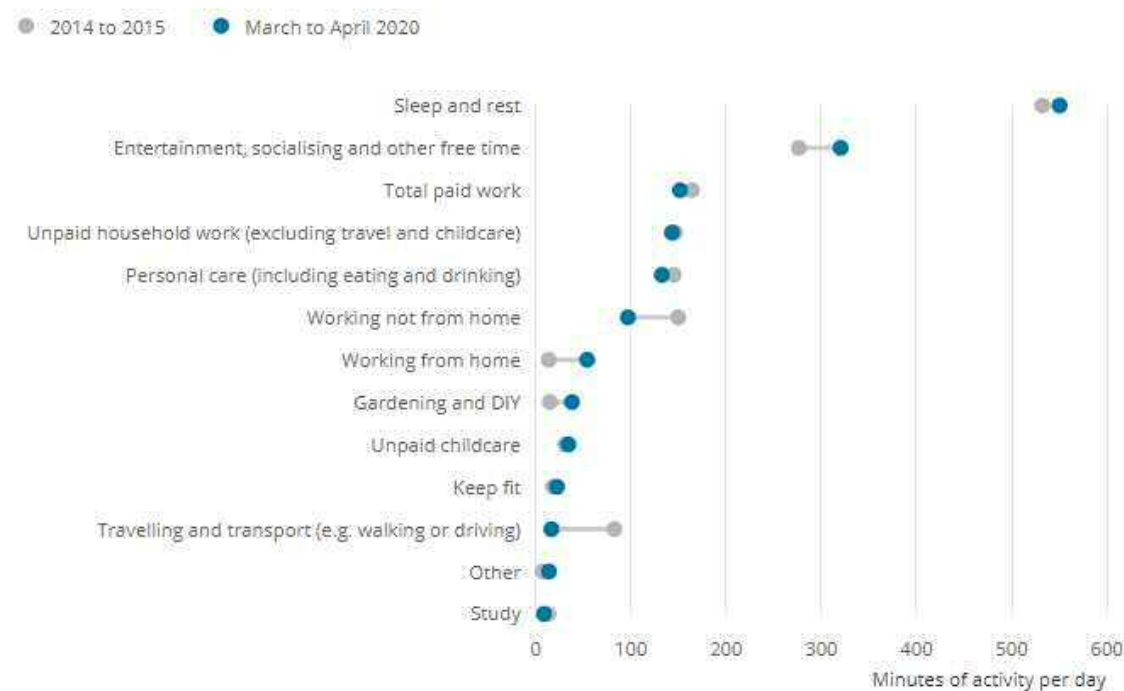
- Increase frequency of measuring people's time-use
- Modify sampling strategy for fast response e.g. increase incentive, cut out telephone collection, cut out re-issue, extend number of diary days per individual
- Interested in user feedback / access requests and analysis requests.

Results

- There was a substantial reduction in the amount of time we spent travelling, compared with 2014 to 2015
- This was less pronounced for people in households with lower incomes, who saw a smaller increase in time spent on a range of leisure activities when compared with households with higher incomes.

Figure 1: We are spending less time on travelling and work and more on free time, gardening and DIY, and sleep and rest

Minutes of main activity a day for adults aged 18 years and over, 2014 to 2015 for the UK and 28 March to 26 April 2020 for Great Britain



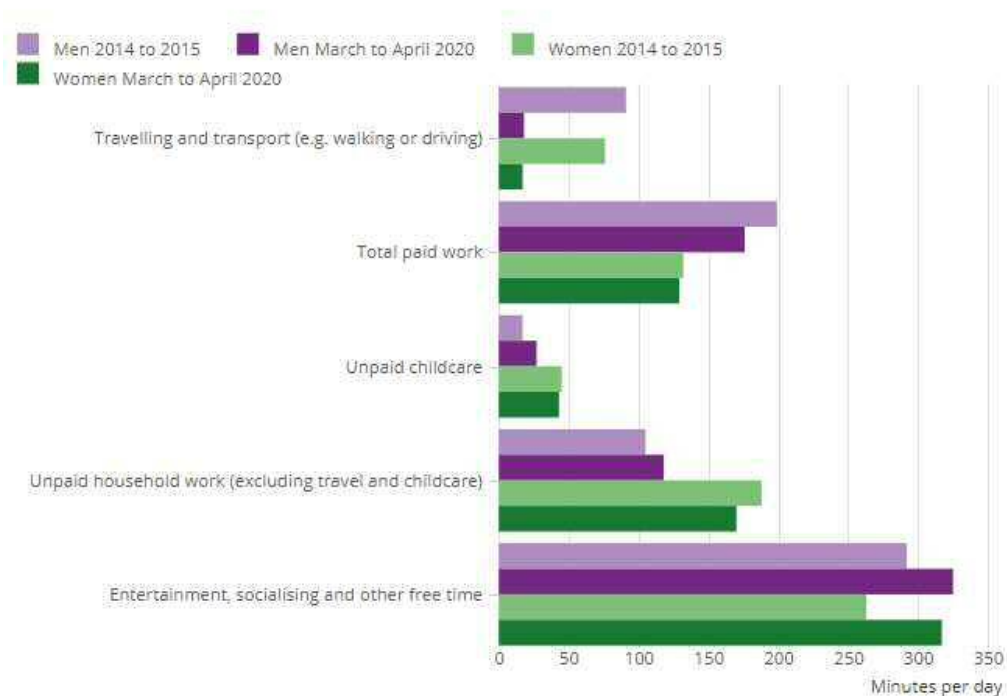
Source: Office for National Statistics

Results

- The gap in unpaid work (activities such as childcare, adult care, housework and volunteering) between men and women reduced slightly during lockdown but remained large, at 1 hour and 7 minutes a day.
- This was a result of women reducing time spent doing unpaid work by 20 minutes a day, while men increased their time on this activity by 22 minutes.

Figure 2: The gap in unpaid work between men and women remains large at over an hour per day

Minutes of main activity a day by sex for adults aged 18 years and over, 2014 to 2015 for the UK and 28 March to 26 April 2020 for Great Britain



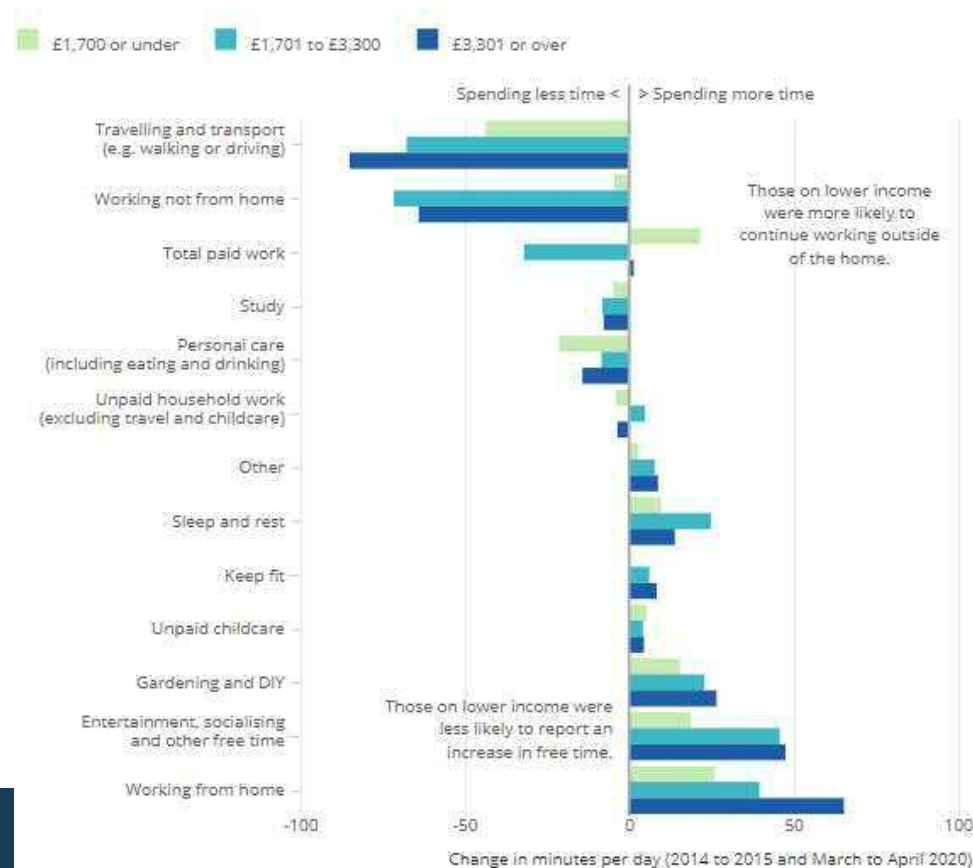
Source: Office for National Statistics

Results

- People with the highest household incomes continued to work the same amount on average, as they made a greater switch towards homeworking time.

Figure 3: Those on monthly household incomes up to £1,700 were more likely to work away from home and had no more free time than in 2014 to 2015

Difference in minutes of main activity a day by net household income group for adults aged 18 years and over, 2014 to 2015 for the UK and 28 March to 26 April 2020 for Great Britain



Source: Office for National Statistics

Future work plans

Survey of Living Conditions

- Long-running longitudinal survey
- Data available with a 1 month lag
- Opportunity to amend questions
- Currently investigating matched pairs analysis to create timely monthly indicators of living standards

Upcoming work

- More granular analysis with pooled OPN data
- Potentially expanding matched pairs analysis to the Wealth and Assets Survey
- Thinking about coherence of our statistics and synthesis.

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