There's No Place Like Home

A Multi-Survey Perspective on Teleworking in the Post-Pandemic Era

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Triangle Travel Survey

A Recurrent Household Travel Survey (HTS) Program in Raleigh-Durham, NC

- The Triangle Travel Survey collected data from 4,194 households in 2016.
- Since 2016, the program has collected data from 1,100–1,500 households every two years.
- Data collection originally scheduled for fall 2020 was moved to spring 2021 based on COVID-19 travel impacts.
- This presents a great opportunity to view teleworking behaviors before (fall 2018), during (spring 2021), and following (fall 2022) the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.



EXAMPLE DATA COLLECTED IN HOUSEHOLD TRAVEL SURVEYS

Survey Methodology

A Recurrent HTS Program in Raleigh-Durham, NC

- Respondents were sent mailed invitations to take the survey online, by smartphone app (rMove[™]), or through a call center.
- The survey asked for demographic information, typical travel attributes, and at least one full travel diary for each member of the household.
- The resulting dataset was weighted to Census Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) and key demographic attributes.

(Note: All figures in this presentation use weighted data. The 2022 weights are preliminary.)





Key Trends: 2018–2022

Work location, commute frequency, telework frequency, and work arrival flexibility

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Despite a drop in "telework only" since 2021, 2022 rates remain higher than 2018 rates.

Q: "As of today, which of the following best describes your current work location?"



■2018 ■2021 ■2022



Added detail in 2021 and 2022 show that rates of employed adults working from a fixed location changed very little.

Q: "As of today, which of the following best describes your current work location?"





Employed adults who commute 4+ days per week decreased by half in 2021 and remains below 2018 rates in 2022.

Q: "Currently, how often do you typically commute to your workplace?"



Since 2021, the change in telework frequency has been most notable among those who telework at least weekly.

Q: "How many days do you work from home or telework (instead of going to work that day)?"

Sample Universe = Employed adults (excluding those who drive for work)		n	
	2018	1,499	
	2021	1,231	
	2022	1,132	





As temporary teleworkers returned to work, commute flexibility also improved.

Q: "Currently, how flexible is your arrival time at your primary workplace?"



Takeaways & Future Analysis

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Summary of Findings

Key Takeaways: Is there really "no place like home?"

- Teleworking has undoubtedly decreased since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it hasn't yet returned to pre-pandemic rates.
- A similar share of workers were teleworking in 2022 compared to 2021, but they did so less frequently.
- As workers returned to the workplace, commute time flexibility also increased.





Future Analysis: Who has been impacted most by the lasting telework trend?

- Men and women teleworked at similar rates.
- Income, which correlates with race and ethnicity, continues to be a strong predictor of teleworking opportunities.
- All industries saw a rise in teleworking in 2021 and a decrease in 2022. The biggest fluctuations were in professional fields (e.g., management, business, financial, computer, engineering).





Thank you

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