

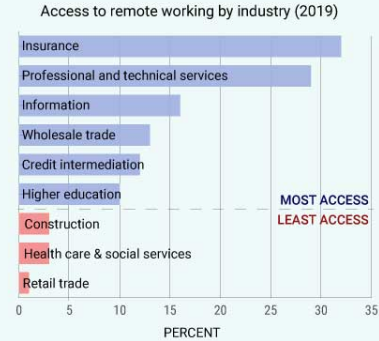
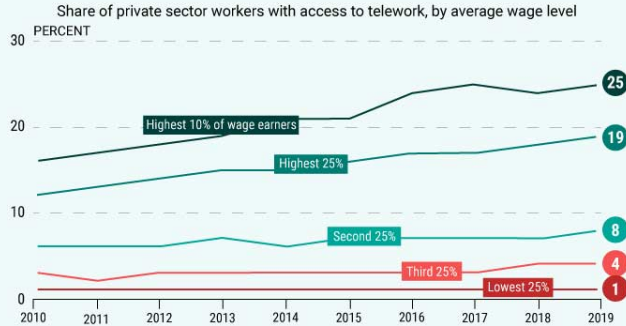
Happier at Home: The Rise in Telecommuting

by Geopolitical Futures - June 26, 2020

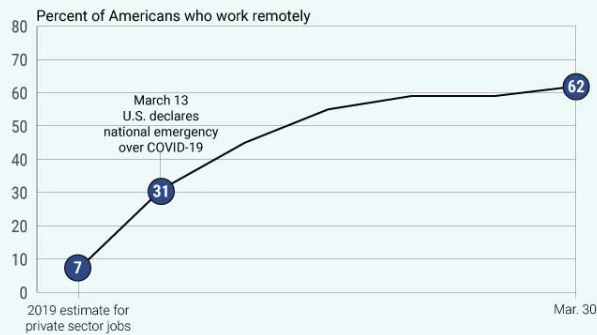
Happier at Home

More American workers want to work from home instead of from the office

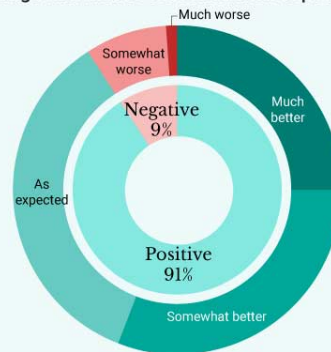
Over the past decade, remote working has become more popular, particularly among high-income earners in specific industries



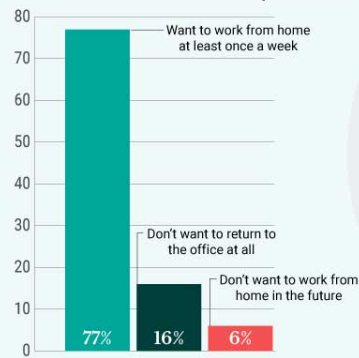
As the coronavirus outbreak forced offices to close around the world, the number of Americans working remotely doubled in March 2020



When asked to evaluate their experience with telecommuting, the vast majority of managers said the change had met or exceeded their expectations



A majority of workers said they wanted to continue working from home at least once a week after the pandemic



A recent University of Chicago study estimated that up to 37% of American jobs can be done remotely.



Sources: Wall Street Journal, Global Workplace Analytics, Gallup, Pew Research Center, Forbes

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Since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, and the subsequent imposition of lockdown and social distancing measures, employee behavior in the United States has changed dramatically. Much attention has been paid to the rise in telecommuting, and indeed, working from home was becoming increasingly popular even before the pandemic. But this applies only to a select group of workers who represent a minority of the U.S. workforce.

Employees who are able to work from home tend to be high-income earners in industries often described as “white collar.” But for those employed in industries that require workers to be physically present, many of whom are considered essential workers, telecommuting is not an option. This category includes first responders, power plant operators, food industry workers and those employed in logistics.

There’s a third group of workers who have been affected by the pandemic: namely, those who have lost their jobs. In the past 14 weeks, some 47 million Americans filed for unemployment. While some have managed to find other jobs as economies have slowly started to open up, many remain out of work. The differences in the socio-economic status of those who can work from home and those who either can’t or have lost their jobs help to explain in part the competing views on how the country should pursue economic recovery.

Author: Geopolitical Futures

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