Remote work and geographic implications

Where remote work is going and a few implications, including geography

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Gap between remote work plans for firms and workers

Source: Barrero, Bloom, Davis, 2021
Who is in the driver’s seat though?

Please indicate the level of agreement with the following statement: If I have to go to the office I will consider looking for another job

- Definitely
- Probably
- Unsure
- Probably not
- Definitely not
Remote work implication #1: geography

As a result of more ability to work from home (WFH) post COVID, for yourself or someone in your household, are you planning to move out of the area?

- Yes, because I can WFH more now
- Yes, because someone in my household can WFH
- Yes, because of overall WFH job prospects
- We moved already in 2020 because of WFH

Survey 1  Survey 2  Survey 3

October 2020 surveys
Remote work implication #1: geography

Percent moving due to greater WFH

- In a major city: 25.0%
- In the suburbs surrounding a major city: 20.0%
- In a mid-sized city or surrounding suburb: 10.0%
- In a small city, town, or other suburbs: 5.0%
- In a rural area: 2.5%
Remote work implication #1: geography

How far away are you considering moving?

- A few minutes drive away: 20%
- Within a 2 hour drive: 15%
- More than 2 hours and less than 4 hours: 10%
- More than 4 hours away: 55%
Remote work implication #1: geography

Compared to where you currently live, what kind of place are you planning on moving to? Somewhere....

- Density: Lower (30%), Higher (10%)
- Housing costs: Lower (20%), Higher (5%)
Remote work implication #1: geography

Source: ApartmentList
Remote work implication #2: more dynamism

New business registrations

Index: 2019 = 100
Remote work implication #2: more dynamism

Upwork freelancers and business registrations
By state, 2020

% change in non-wage business registrations
% change in freelancer registrations
Remote work implication #2: more dynamism

If you were to start a company today, where would be the most beneficial place to found it in the interest of the company’s long-term success?

2020

- **41.6%** San Francisco Bay Area
- **13.5%** New York
- **13.5%** Los Angeles
- **10.1%** Seattle
- **9%** Other: A major city inside of the United States
- **6%** Other: A major city outside of the United States
- **6%** Distributed or remote from Day 1

2021

- **42.1%** Distributed or remote
- **28.4%** San Francisco Bay Area
- **6.8%** Austin
- **6.8%** New York
- **4.6%** Other: A major city outside of the United States
- **3.4%** Los Angeles
- **3.4%** Other: A major city inside of the United States
- **2.3%** Denver
- **1.1%** Miami
- **1.1%** Seattle

Source: Kim Mai Cutler, Jan 2021