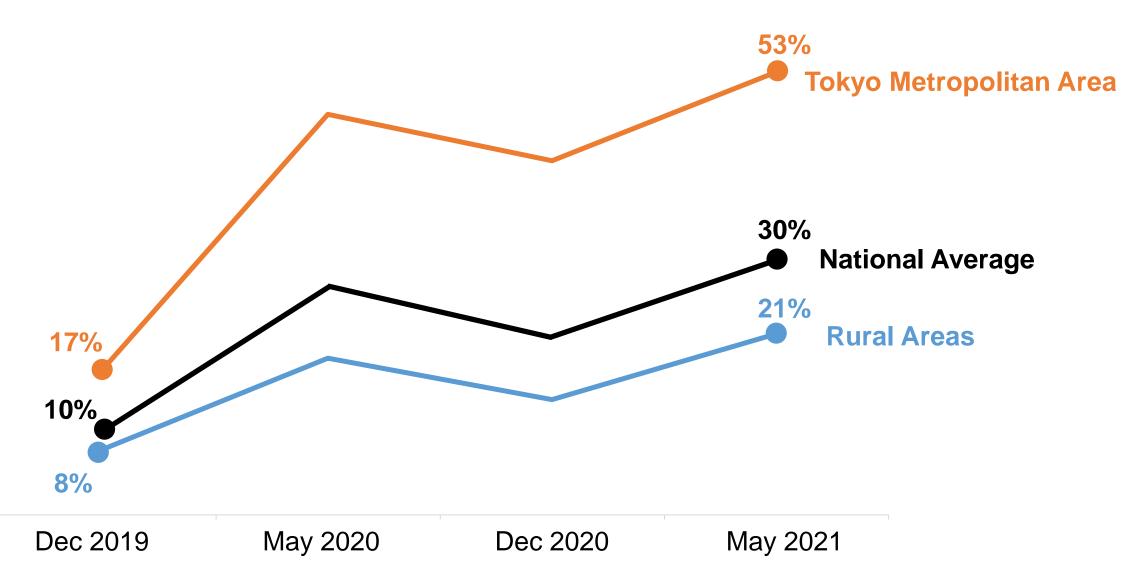


Working from Home in Japan

Daiji Kawaguchi University of Tokyo

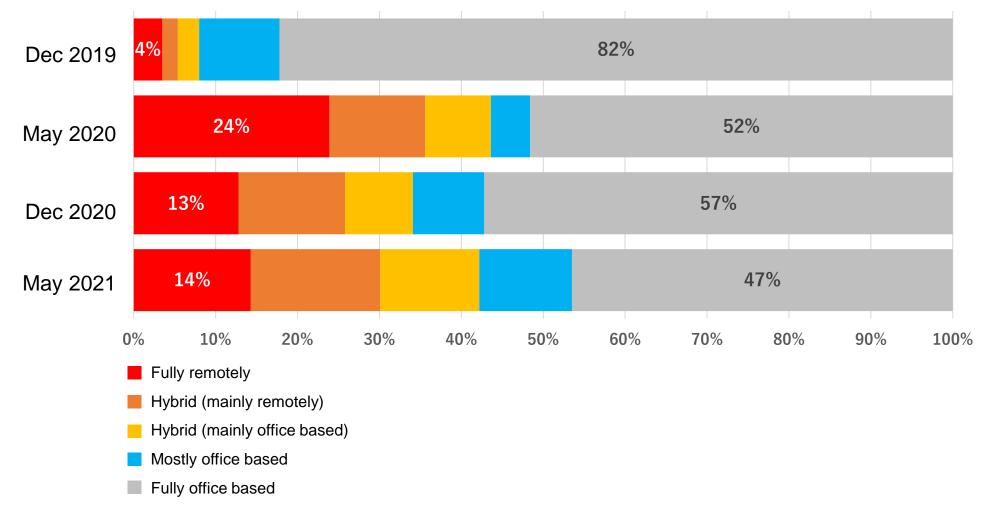
Percentage of workers engaging in WfH



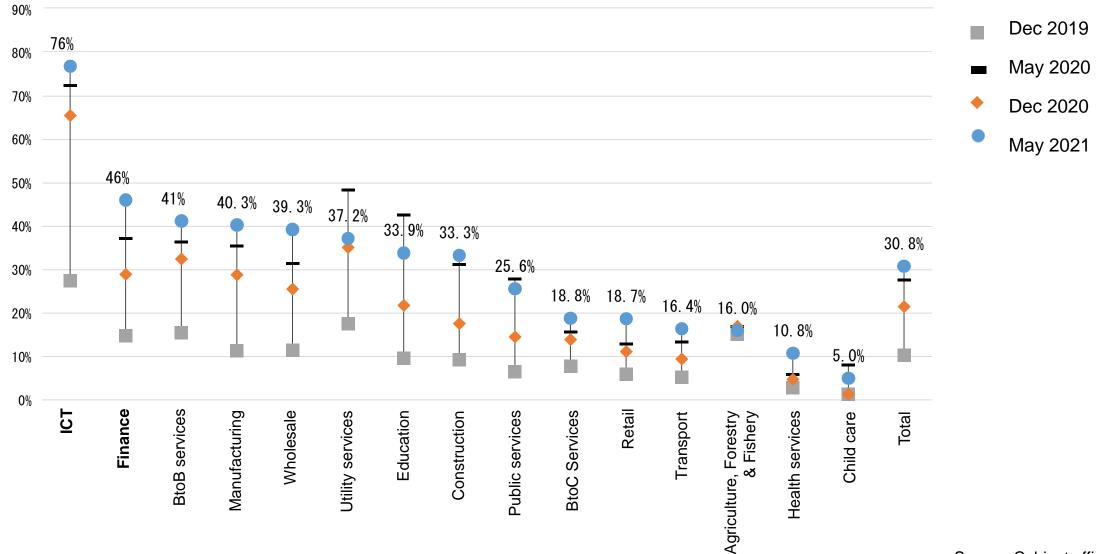
Source: Cabinet office, "Survey on changes in attitudes and behaviors under the COVID-19"

A minority of workers have fully adopted WfH

Workers in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area

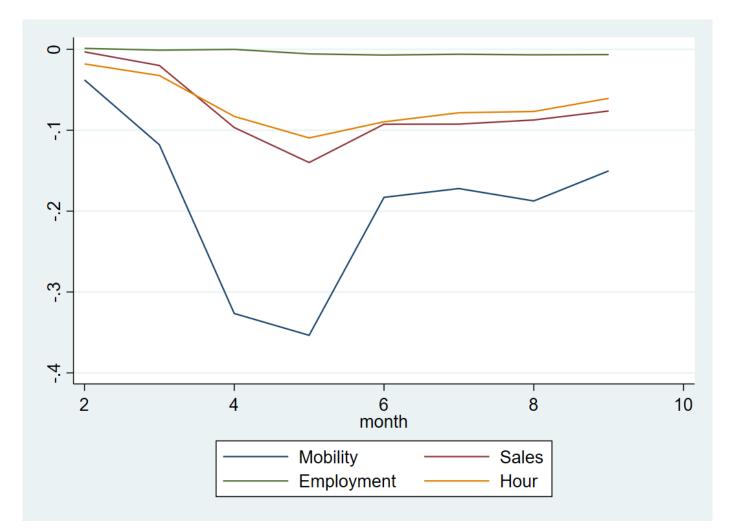


ICT and Finance have adopted WfH more than other industries



Source: Cabinet office survey

People's mobility and corporate results



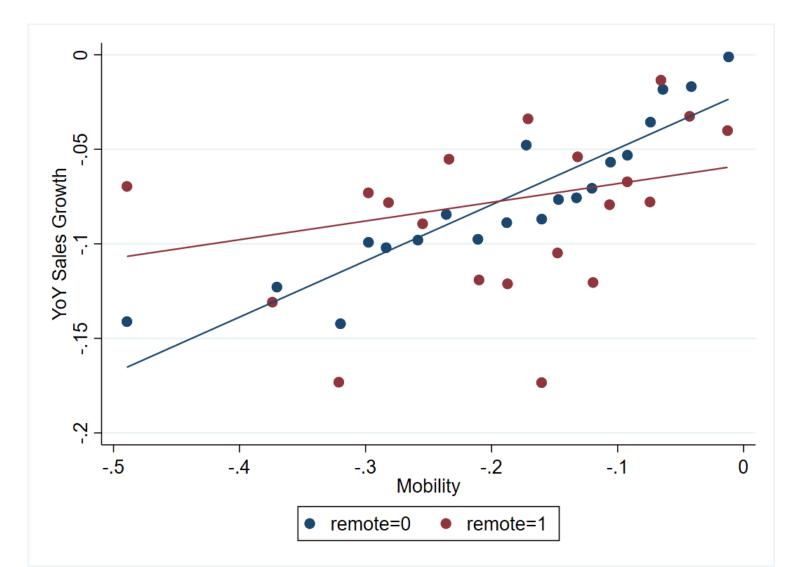
 People's mobility decreased by 30% during the first state of emergency (Apr-May 2020)

• Sales and average hours worked decreased in the same period

• Employment levels did not change

Source: Daiji Kawaguchi, Sagiri Kitao and Manabu Nose, "The Impact of COVID-19 on Japanese Firms: Mobility and Resilience via Remote Work" (CREPEDP-105)

People's mobility and sales growth



- The decrease in mobility led to reduced sales
- Adoption of WfH before the pandemic mitigated the negative impact by 60%
- This impact is almost unchanged when we control for factors including industry, size of company, age of company and past growth rate

Some tendencies of WfH in Japan

- Companies using KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) or MBO (Management by Objectives) systems to manage their employees actively introduced remote working before the pandemic.
- Changes during the pandemic:
 - Communication was an obstacle to WfH in December 2019, but the obstacle had gone by December 2020, thanks to videoconferencing and business chat applications.
 - The larger the company, the more remote working is happening.
 - Remote working is spreading among university graduates.

Source: Daiji Kawaguchi and Hiroyuki Motegi "Who can work from home? The roles of job tasks and HRM practices" Journal of the Japanese and International Economies

WfH will probably stick in Japan. What comes next?

Workers will combine WfH and working in the Office

- \rightarrow Being less frequent allows for longer distance commutes
- \rightarrow Increased demand for larger home offices

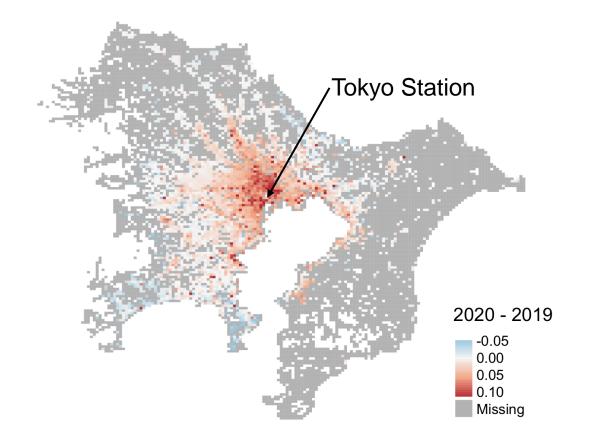
Spread of partial remote working and suburbanisation

The Economist		≡ Menu	
Finance & economics	Apr 10th 2021 edition		
<section-header><section-header><text><text></text></text></section-header></section-header>	are booming		 100% WfH will be rare Living in the suburbs is convenient for those going into the office only a few times a week House prices have risen sharply in developed countries Reversing the normal trend, prices have risen in the suburbs rather than the centre

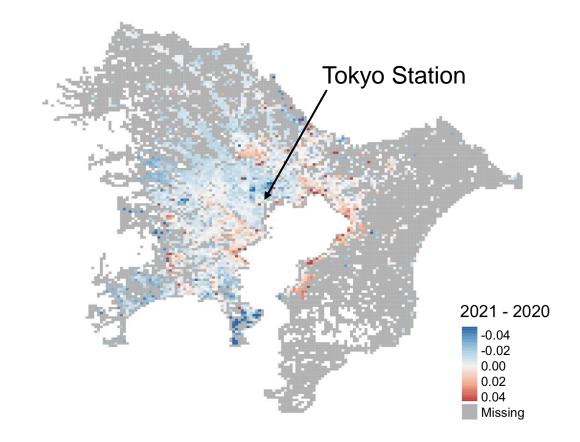


Change in land prices in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area

Before the pandemic (Jan. 2019 to Jan. 2020)



During the pandemic (Jan. 2020 to Jan. 2021)



Source: By Chigusa Okamoto (Chuo University and Utokyo) based on official land prices