

Seven Impacts of Working From Home

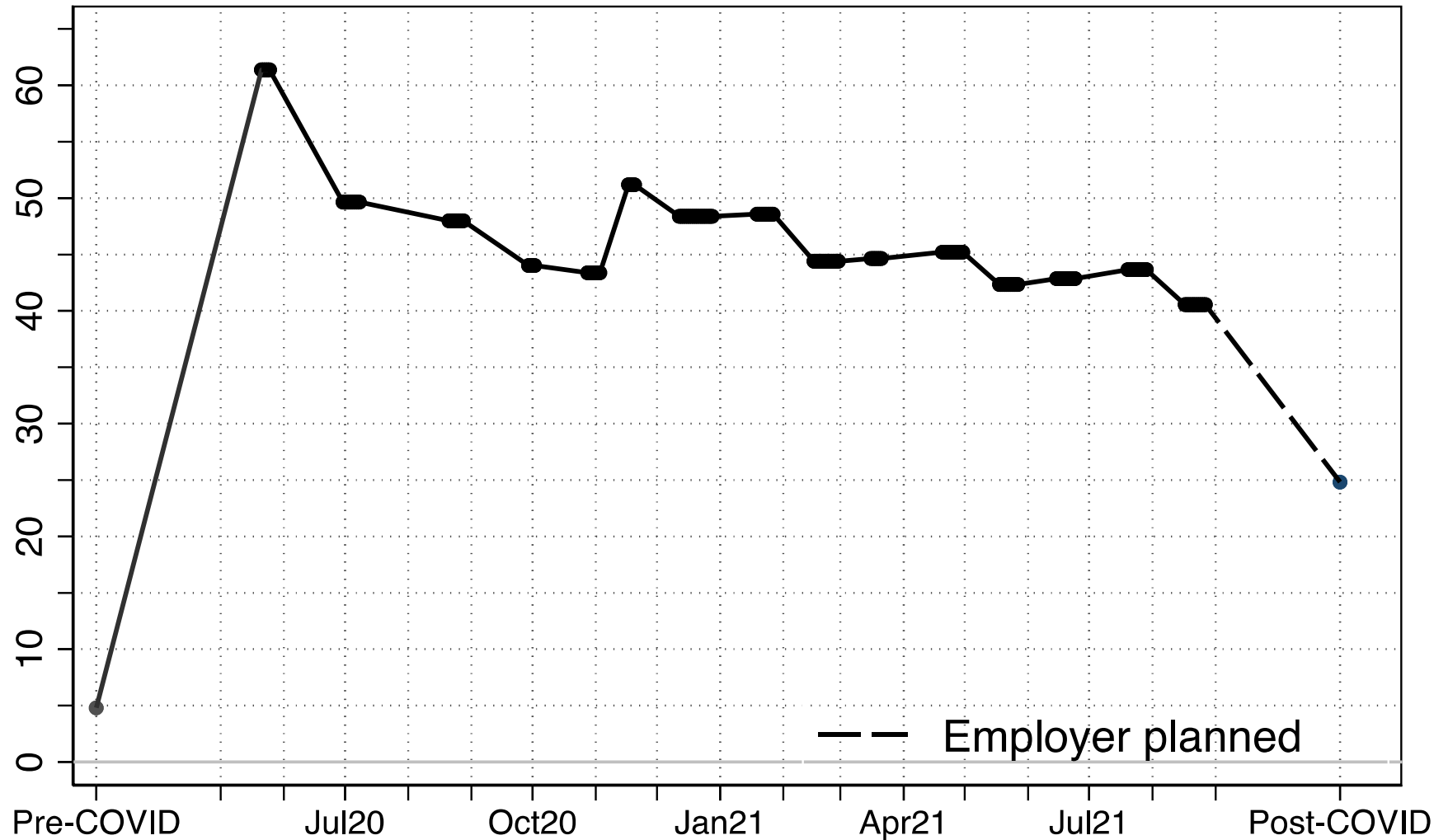
Nick Bloom (Stanford)

October 2021



Days WFH go from 5% (pre-COVID) to 50% (now) to $\approx 25\%$ (post-COVID)

Percentage of paid full days worked from home



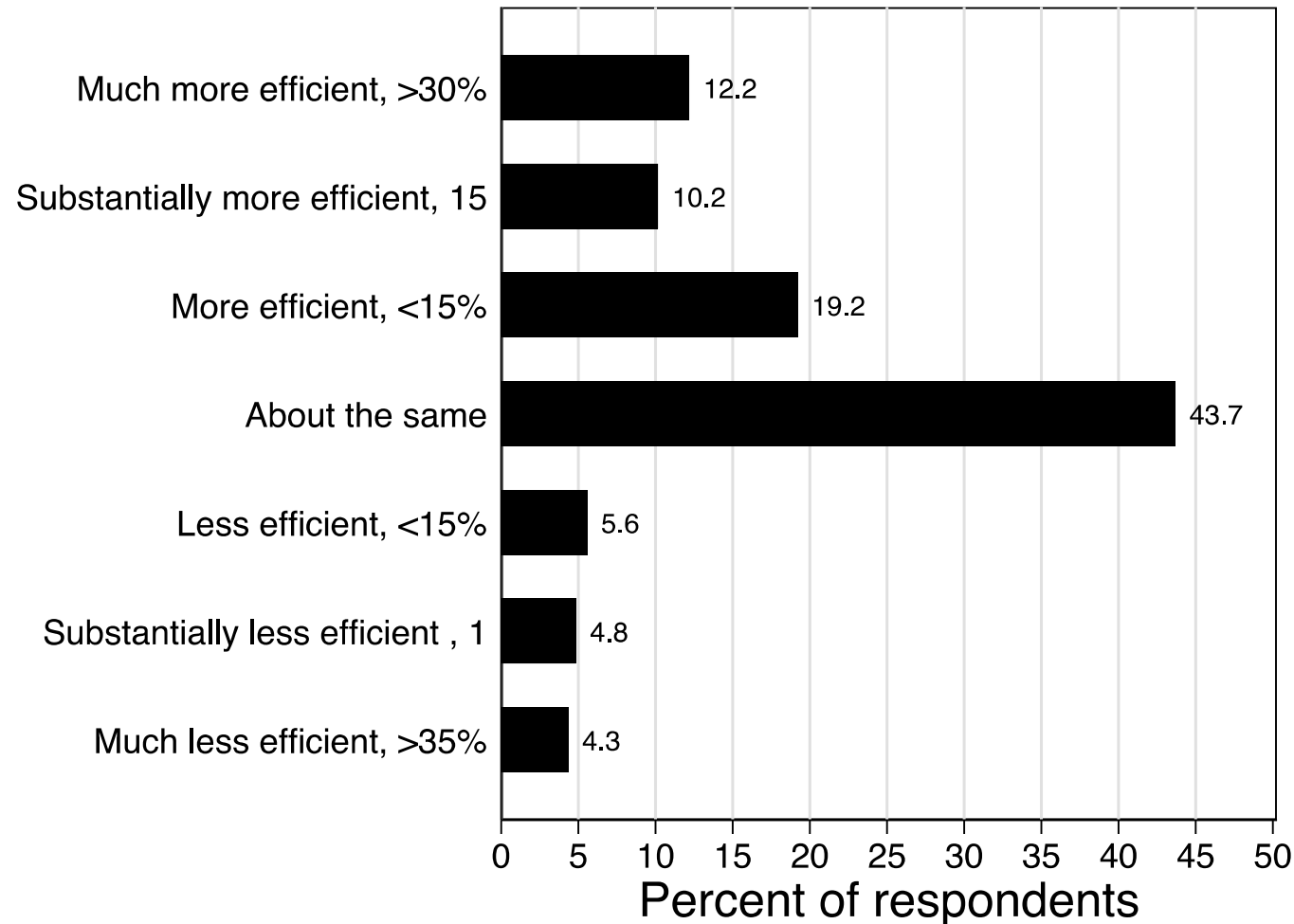
Notes: www.wfhresearch.com survey waves with 5000 responses per month. Re-weight raw responses to match the share of working age respondents in the 2010-2019 CPS in each {industry x state x earnings} cell.

Source: “Why working from home will stick”, Jose Barrero, Nick Bloom and Steve Davis (2021, NBER WP)

*Pre-COVID estimate taken from the 2017-2018 American Time Use Survey

**Post-COVID estimate based on the latest survey wave

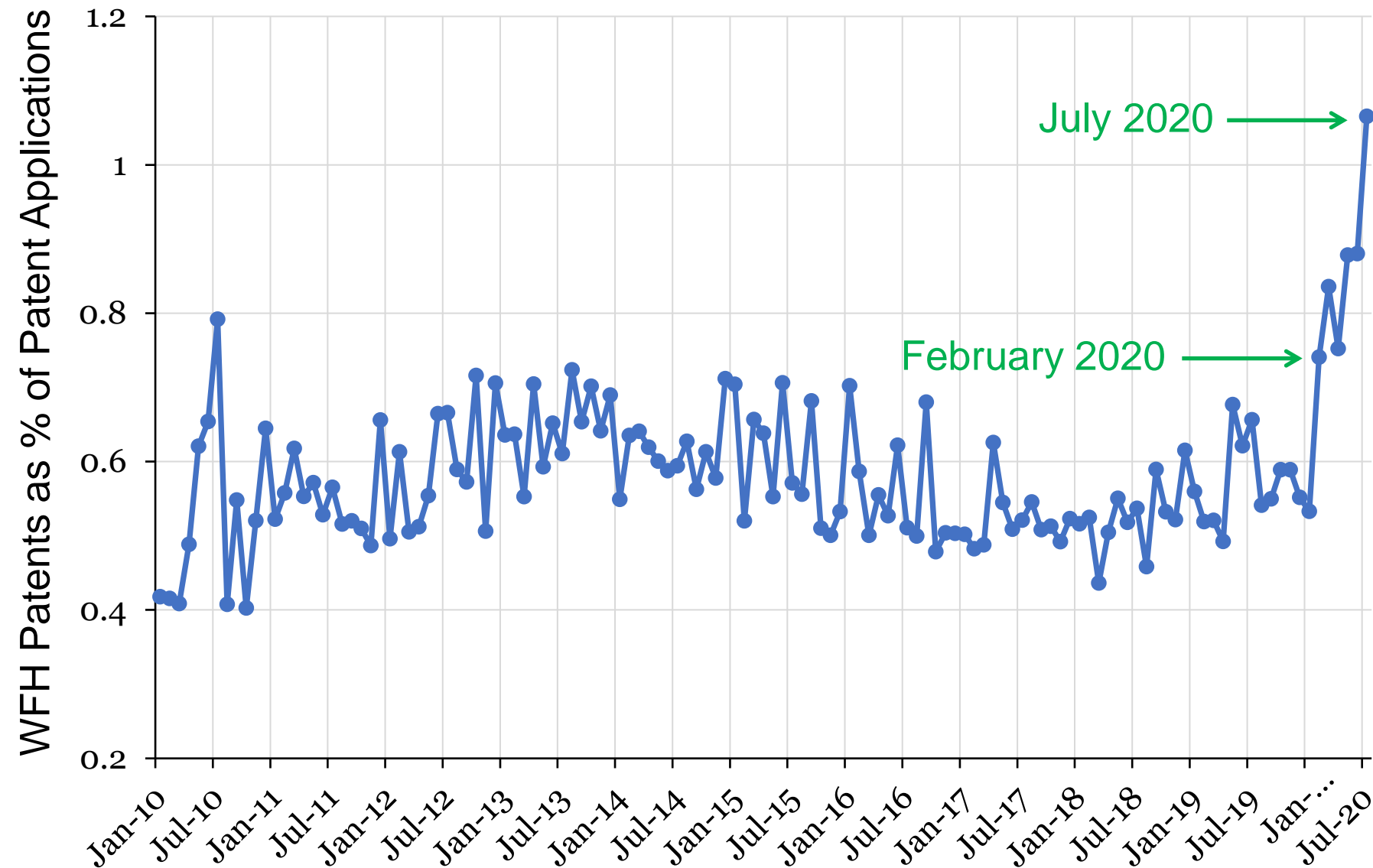
1) Productivity – raise this by $\approx 5\%$, something but not massive



How does your efficiency working from home ***during the COVID-19 pandemic*** compare to your efficiency working on business premises ***before the pandemic?***

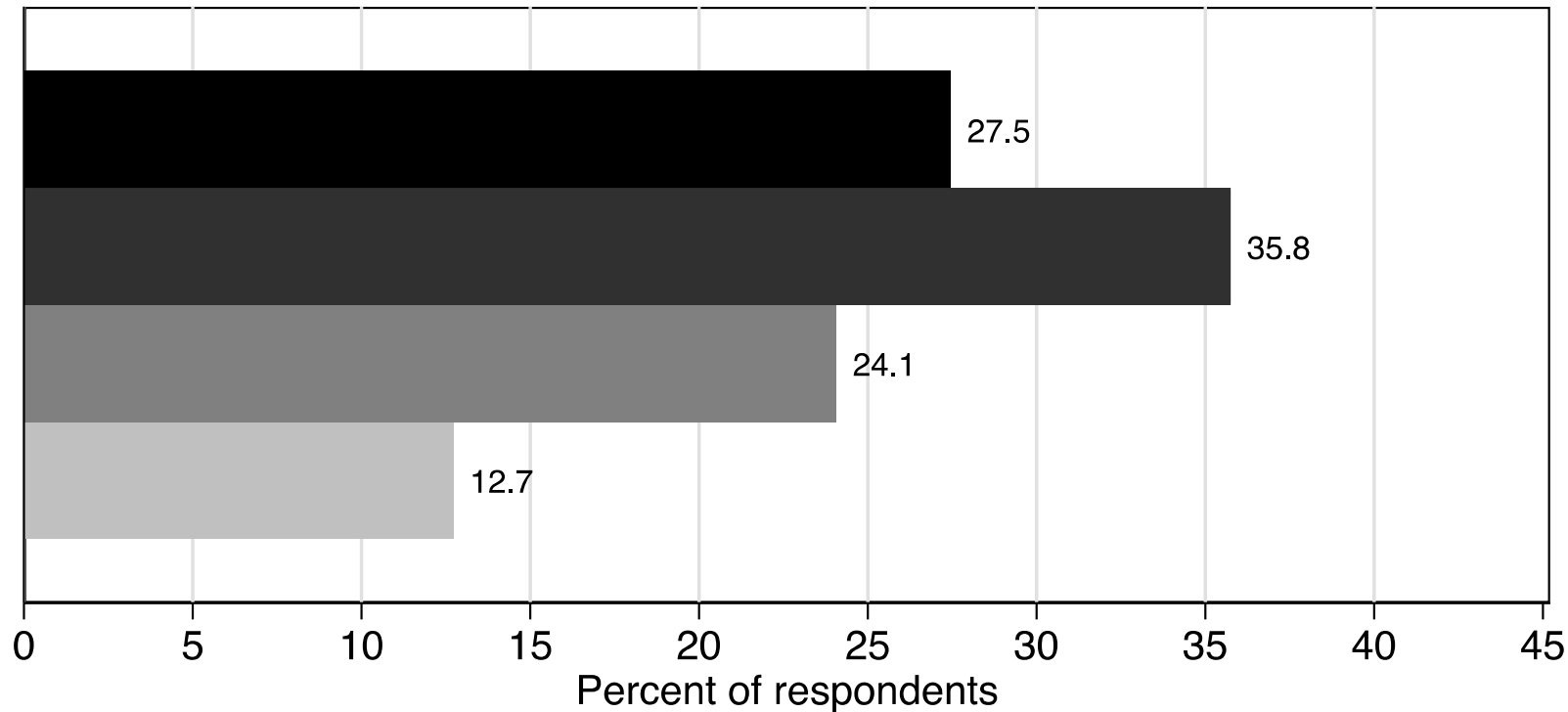
Source: www.wfhresearch.com survey data of 5000 responses per month, re-weighted to match the share of working age respondents in the 2010-2019 CPS in each {industry x state x earnings} cell Source: “Why working from home will stick”, Jose Barrero, Nick Bloom and Steve Davis (2021, NBER WP)

2) Technical change – huge boom in remote technology progress



Source: Bloom, Davis and Zhestkova (2020), “COVID-19 Shifted Patent Applications toward Technologies that Support Working from Home”

3) Density - Fear of Proximity to Other People



Which of the following would best fit your views on return to activity post-pandemic (in 2022+)?

- Completely
- Substantially - I'd avoid the subway, crowded elevators
- Partially - I'd avoid eating out, taxis
- Would not - continued social distancing

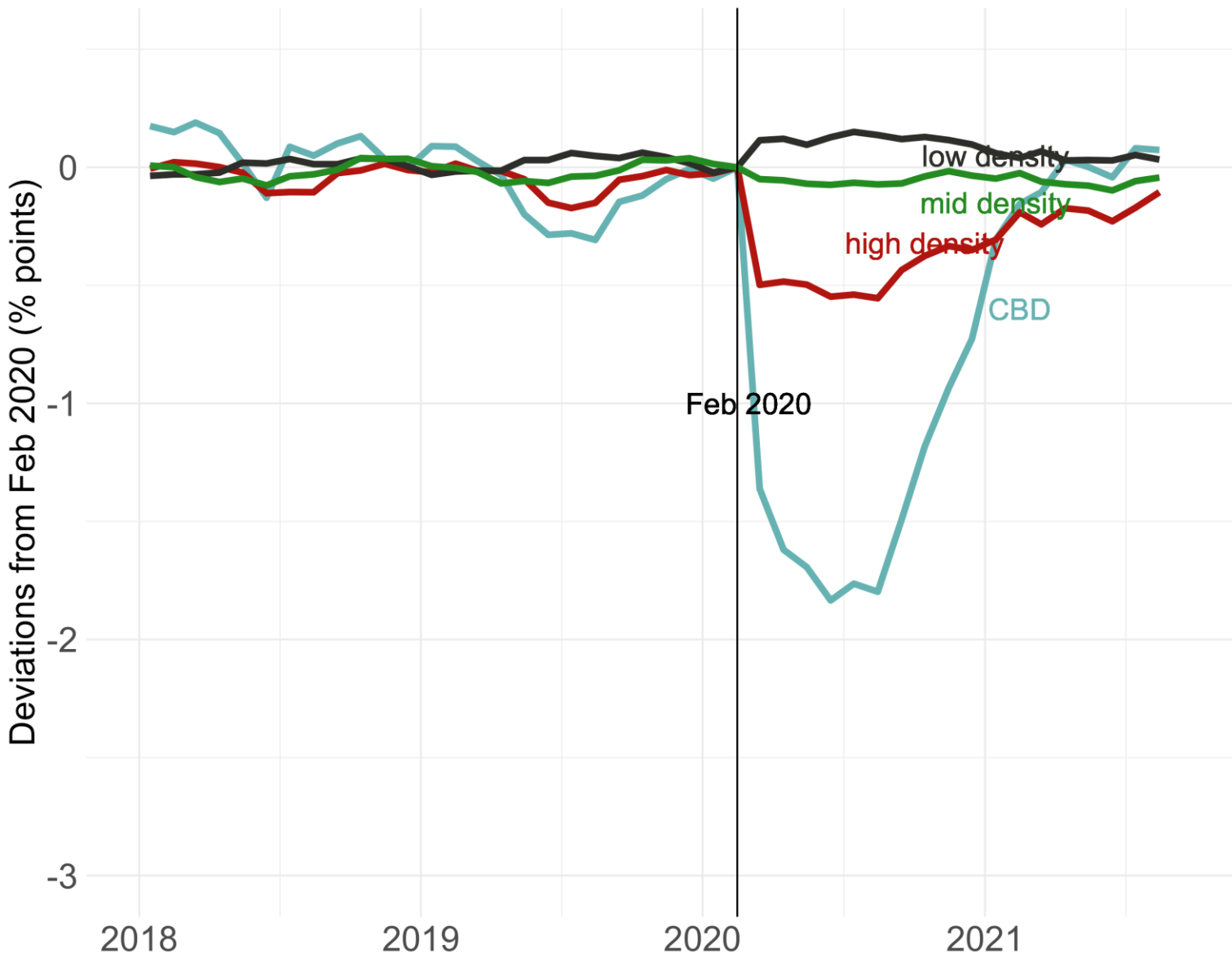
Source: www.wfhresearch.com survey data of 5000 responses per month, re-weighted to match the share of working age respondents in the 2010-2019 CPS in each {industry x state x earnings} cell Source: “Why working from home will stick”, Jose Barrero, Nick Bloom and Steve Davis (2021, NBER WP)

It makes me wonder what activities will fully return



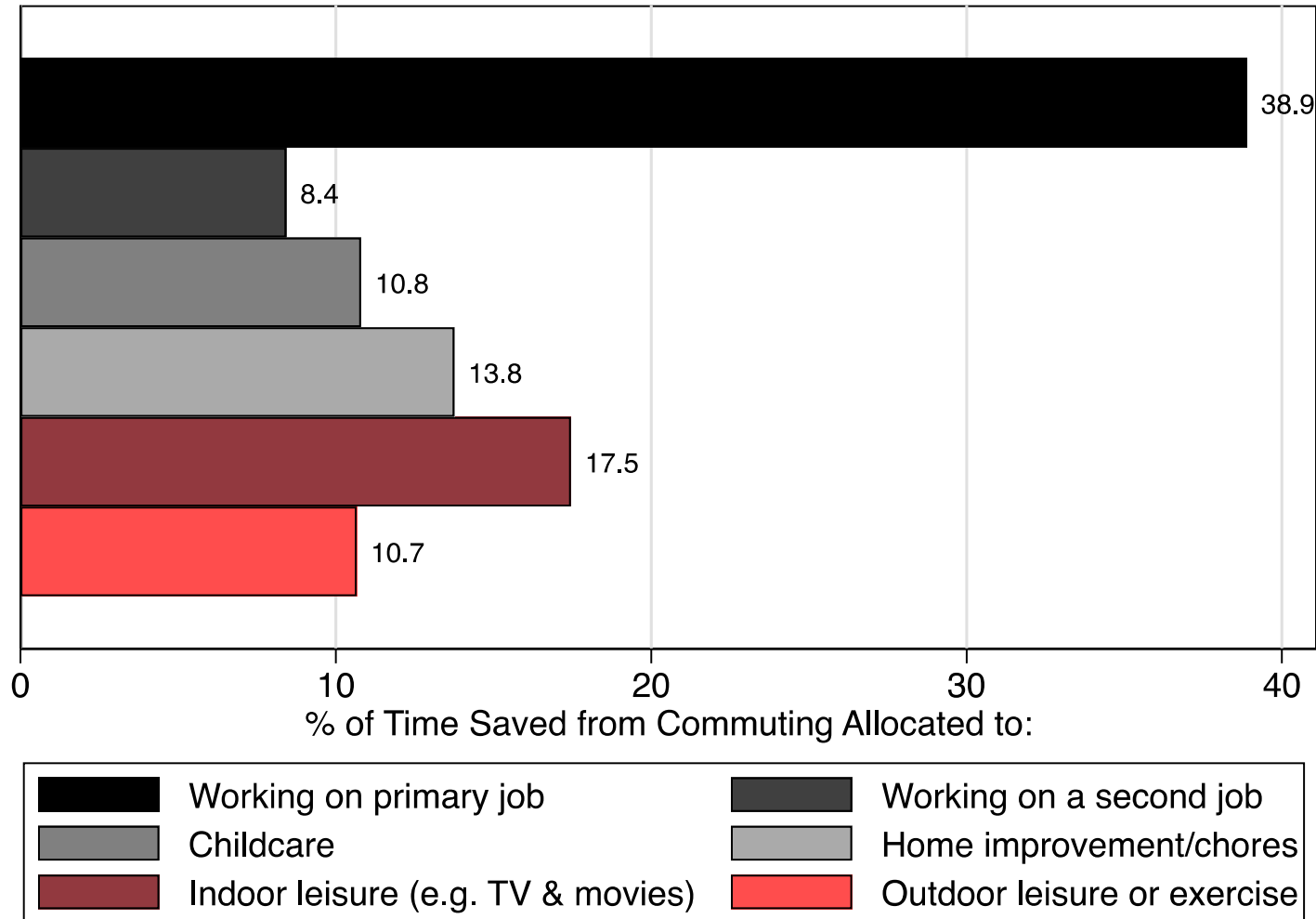
4) City centers – lost about 15% of people (but not necessarily offices)

(a) Monthly net population inflows as a percent of total



Source: Monthly Zip-code data of change of address information from the US Postal Service. Analyzed in “The Donut Effect of COVID-19 on Cities”, Arjun Ramani and Nicholas Bloom
<https://nbloom.people.stanford.edu/sites/g/files/sbiybj4746/f/w28876.pdf>

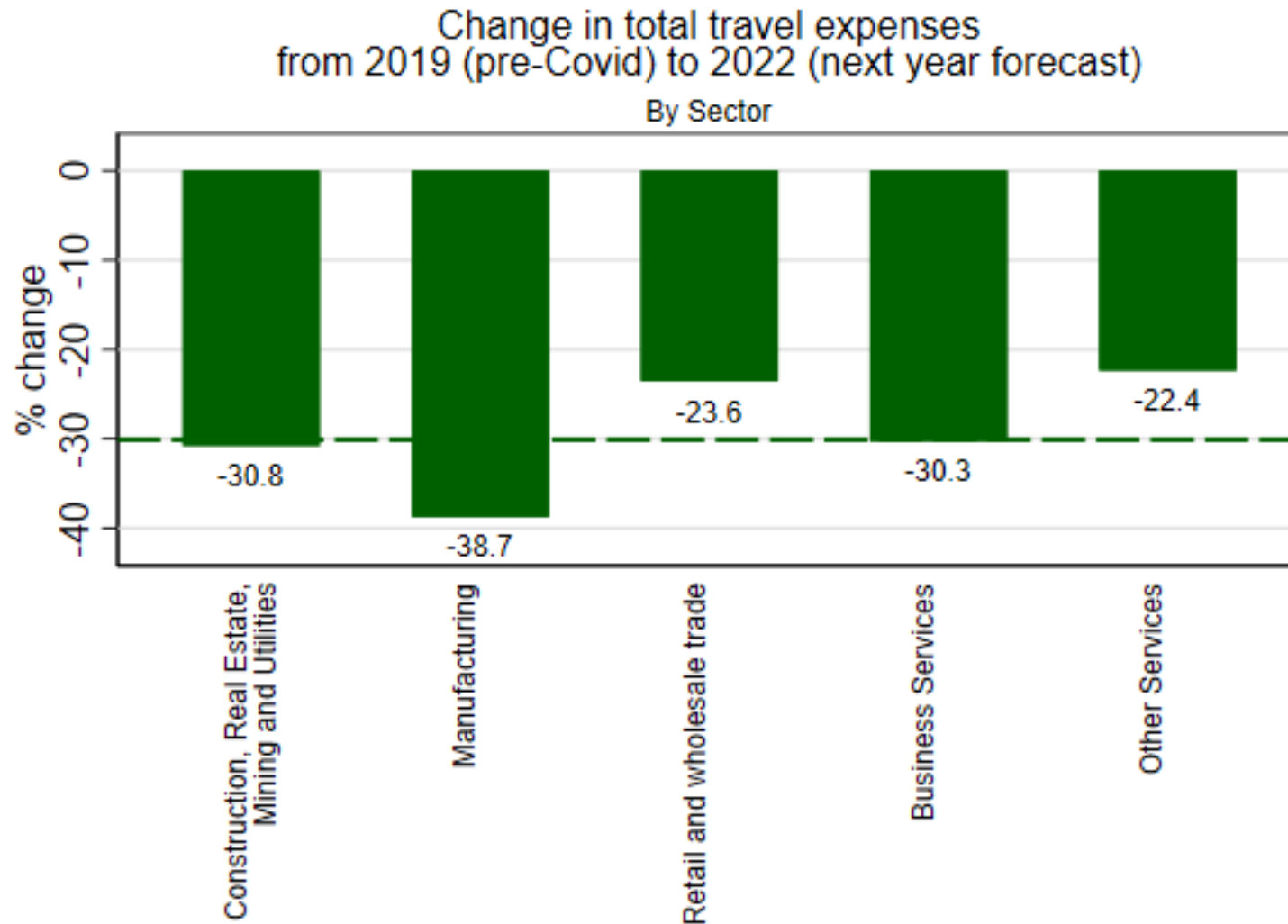
5) Time - WFH will saves Americans about 50 million hours a day



During the COVID-19 pandemic, while you have been working from home, how are you now spending the **time you have saved by not commuting?**

Source: www.wfhresearch.com survey data of 5000 responses per month, re-weighted to match the share of working age respondents in the 2010-2019 CPS in each {industry x state x earnings} cell Source: "Why working from home will stick", Jose Barrero, Nick Bloom and Steve Davis (2021, NBER WP)

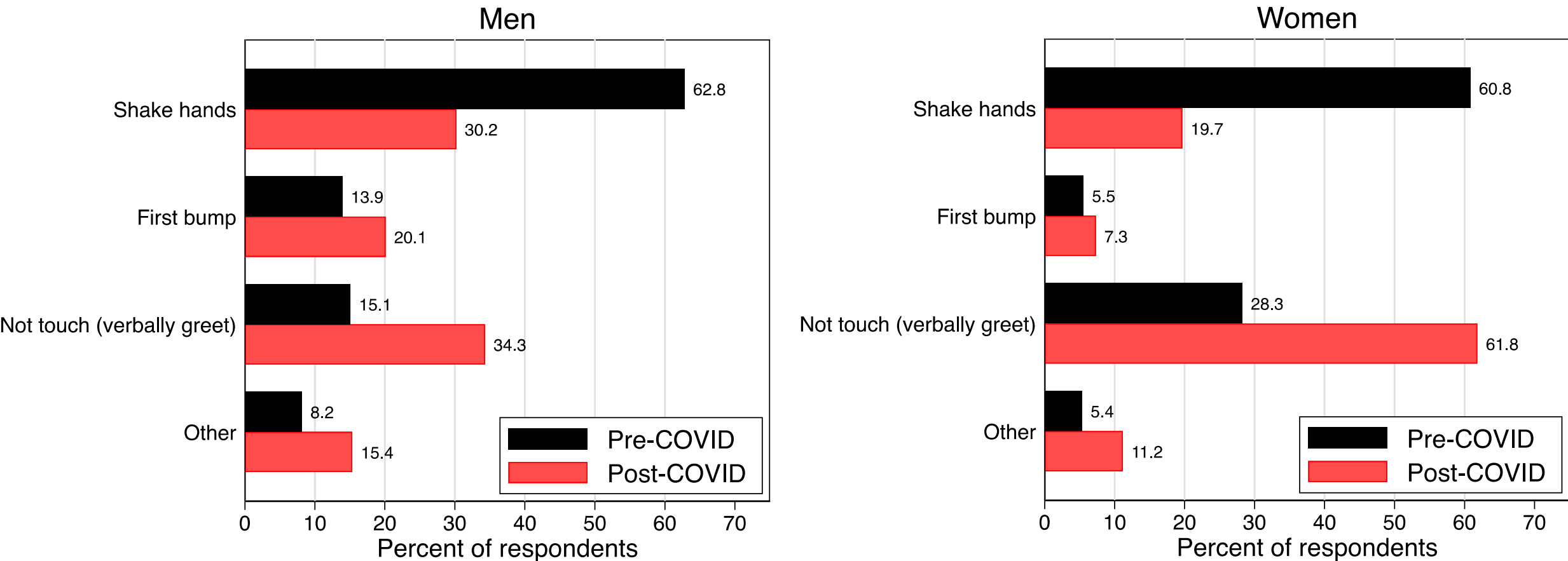
6) Business Travel – surveys consistently report a 30% drop



Notes: Data are from the Survey of Business Uncertainty, sampling 310 US firms from September 13- 24, 2021
<https://www.atlantafed.org/research/surveys/business-uncertainty>

Results are weighted by firm size.

7) Greetings - the handshake is no longer the default greeting



Notes: Data are from the survey waves carried out by IncQuery with 5000 responses during August 2021. Source: “Why working from home will stick”, Jose Barrero, Nick Bloom and Steve Davis (2021, NBER WP)