

How did the COVID-19 Recession Impact People with Disabilities in Rural America?

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RTC:Rural

Rural Institute
Research & Training Center
on Disability in Rural Communities



University of
New Hampshire
Institute on Disability

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- NIDILRR is a Center within the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents do not necessarily represent the policy of NIDILRR, ACL, or HHS, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

Outline

- Setting the stage for exploring rural and urban Covid-related employment trends
 - Geographic distribution of employment by industry
 - Internet connectivity and access
- Covid related rural and urban employment trends
 - For people with and without disabilities
- Rural and urban trends in remote work during Covid – 19
 - Paid for hours not-worked, if business closed
 - Remote work for people with and without disabilities in rural and urban
- Data interpretations and caveats
 - Changing composition of rural workers and perhaps disability (long COVID)?

Distribution of employment by industry – industry level location quotients

Predominantly Rural Jobs

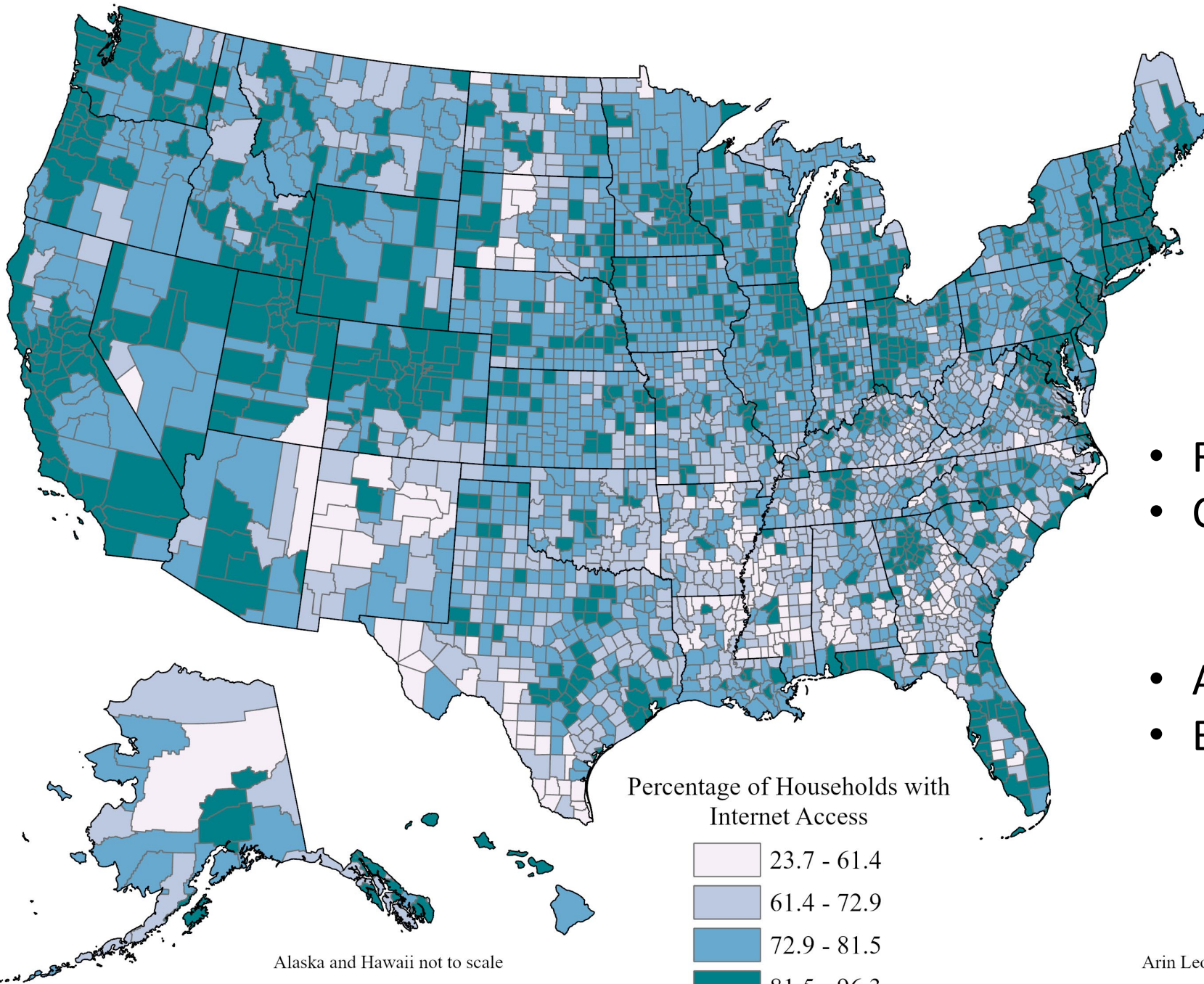
- Farming, fishing, and forestry
- Production/manufacturing
- Installation, maintenance, repair
- Transportation and material moving
- Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance
- Construction and extraction

Predominantly Urban Jobs

- Computer and mathematical
- Legal
- Business and Financial Operations
- Art, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media
- Architecture and Engineering
- Life, Physical, and Social Science

Mapping the digital divide

- At this house, apartment, or mobile home, do you or any member of this household have access to the internet?”
 - (1) yes, by paying a cell phone company or internet service provider
 - (2) yes, without paying a cell phone company or internet service provider
 - (3) no access to internet at this house, apartment, or mobile home
- Respondents answering 1 or 2 are counted as having access



Alaska and Hawaii not to scale

Counties with Limited Coverage

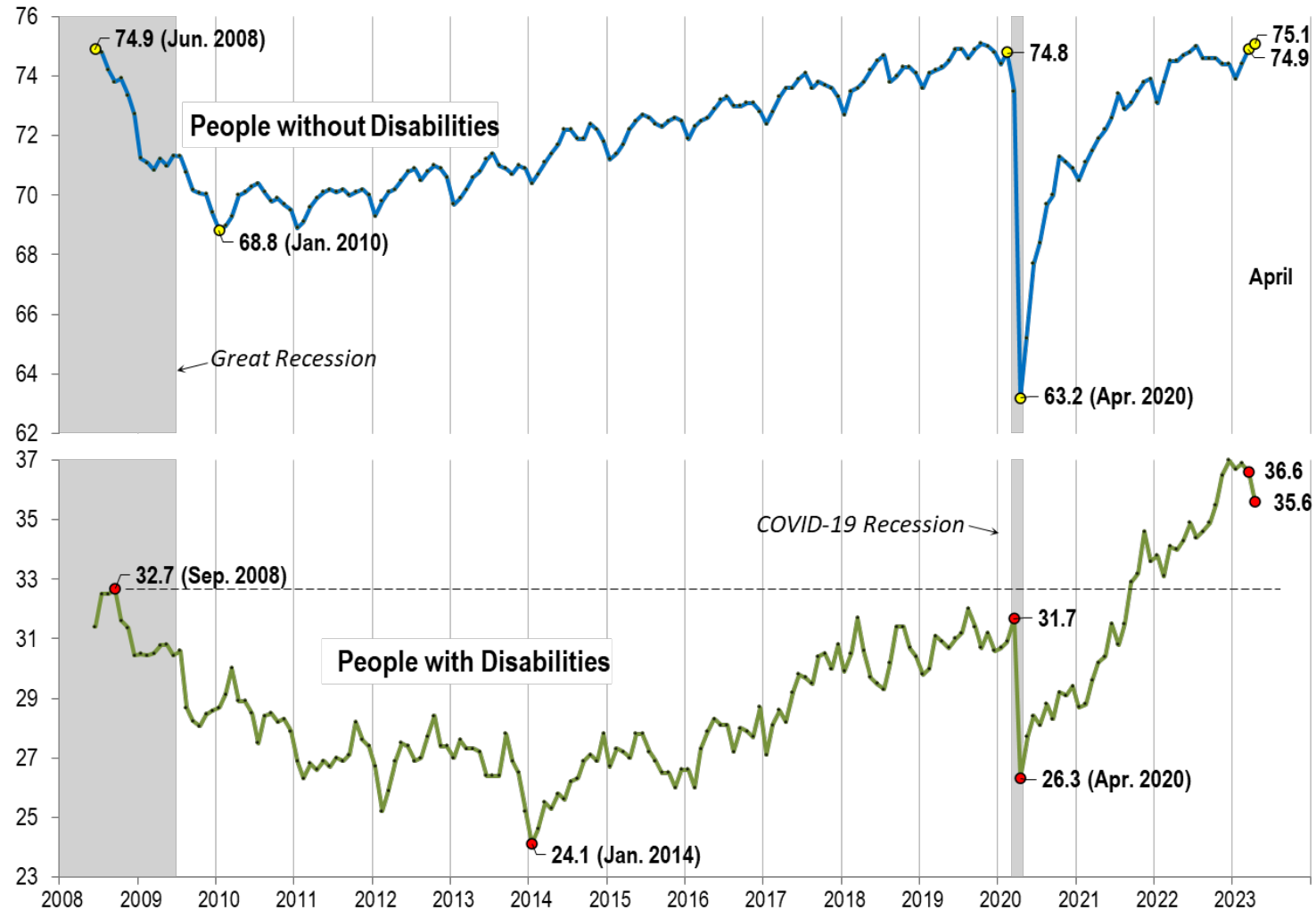
- Rural counties
- Counties with AI/AN reservations
 - Four corners
 - MT, ND, SD
- Appalachia region and Southeast
- Border communities

Andrew Houtenville
University of New Hampshire

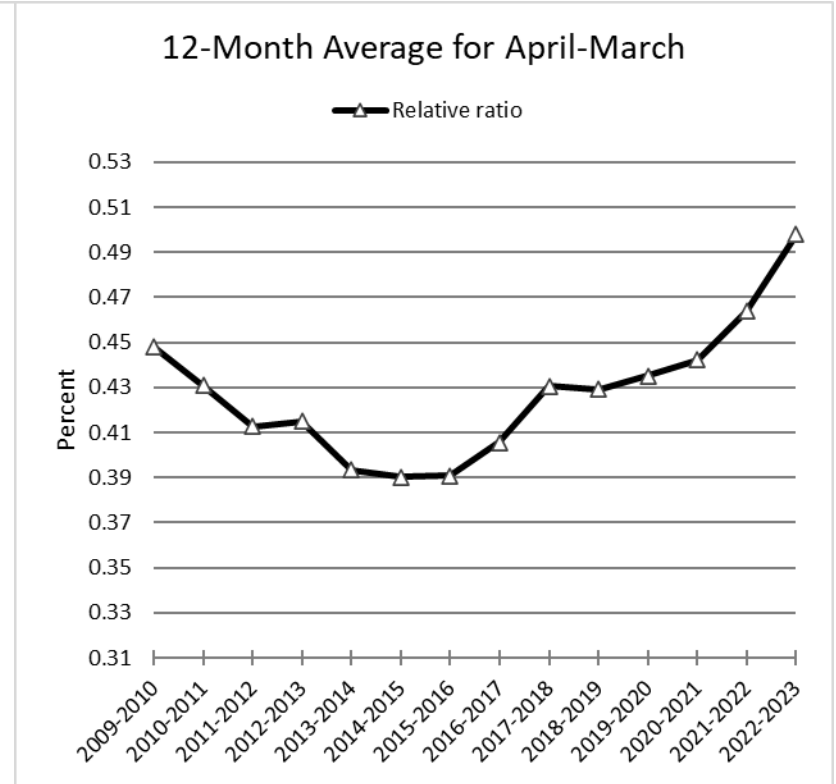
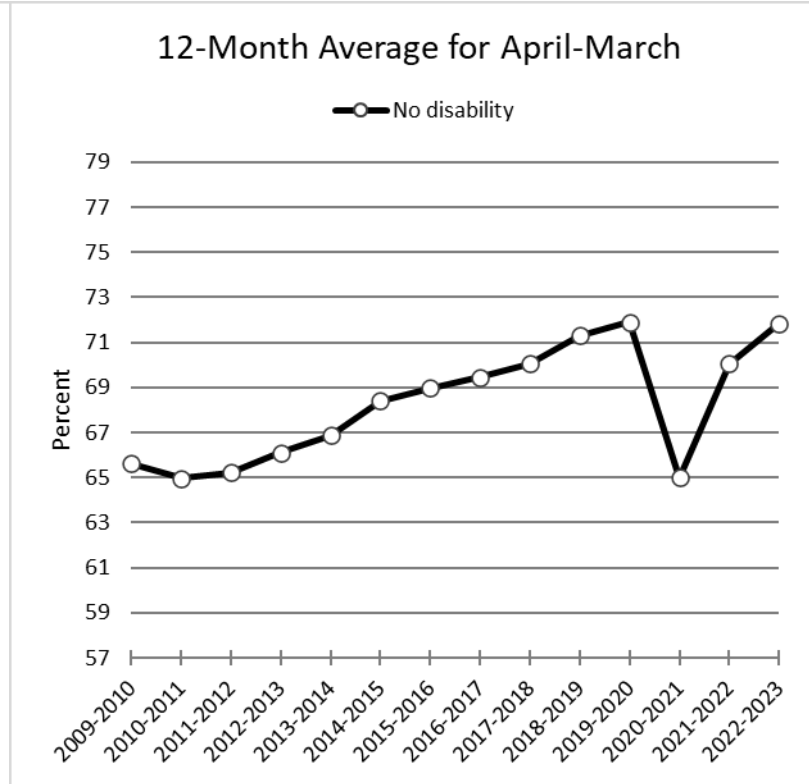
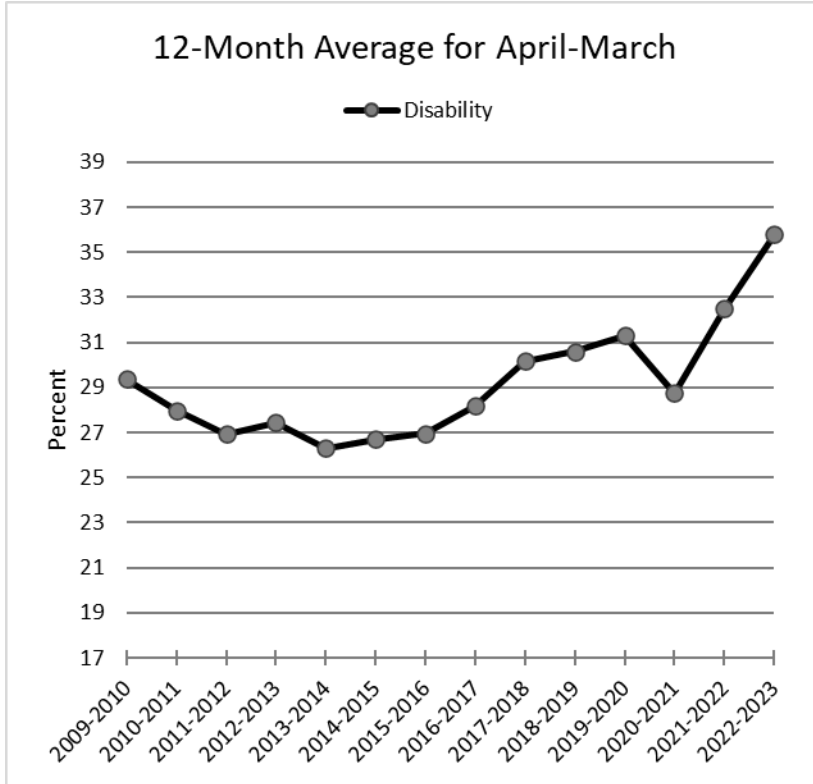
Source of the Data

- Part of Kessler/UNH National Trends in Disability Employment (nTIDE)
- U.S. Bureau of labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (CPS).
 - Source of the “official” unemployment rate.
- Civilians, ages 16-64, not living in institutions.
- Available September 2008 onward.

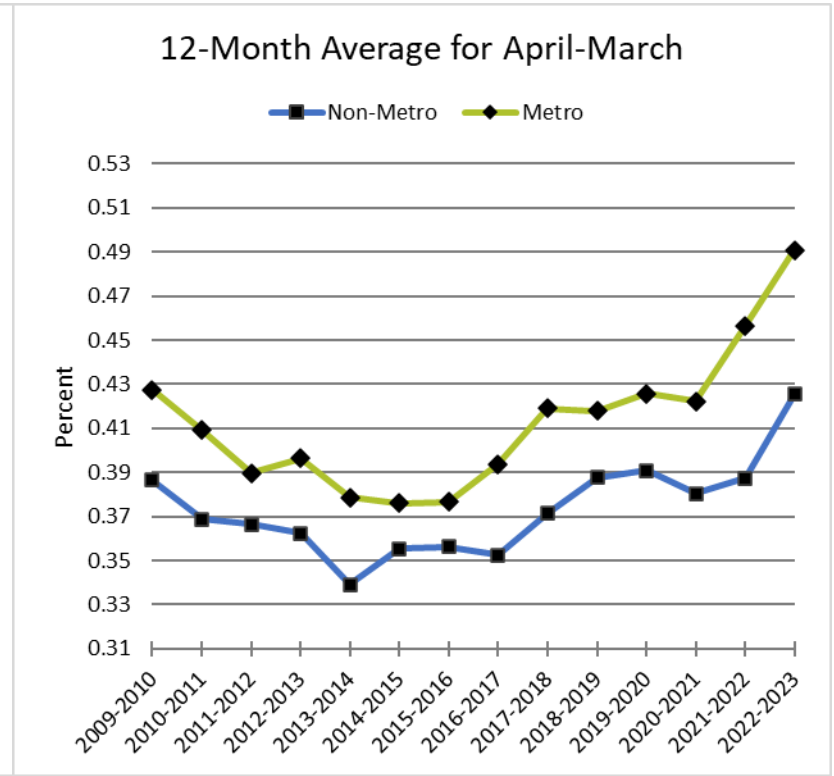
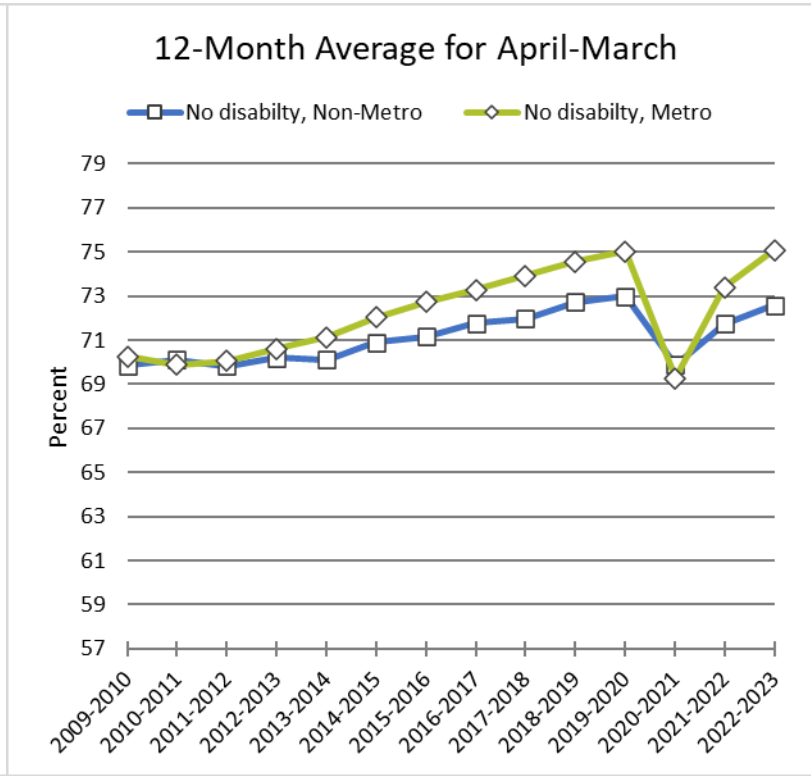
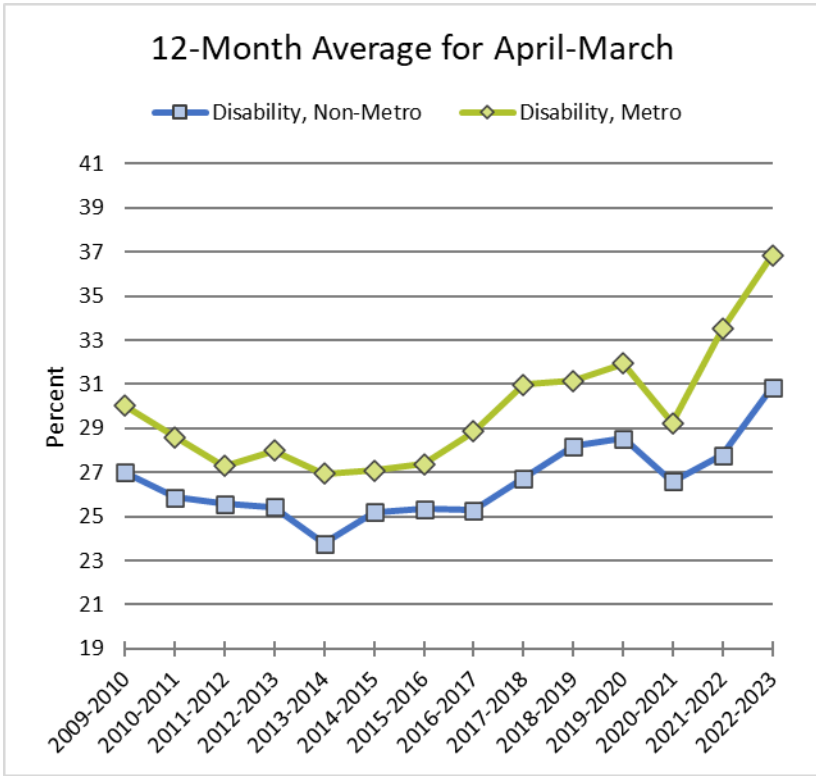
Employment-to-Population Ratio: nTIDE Chart



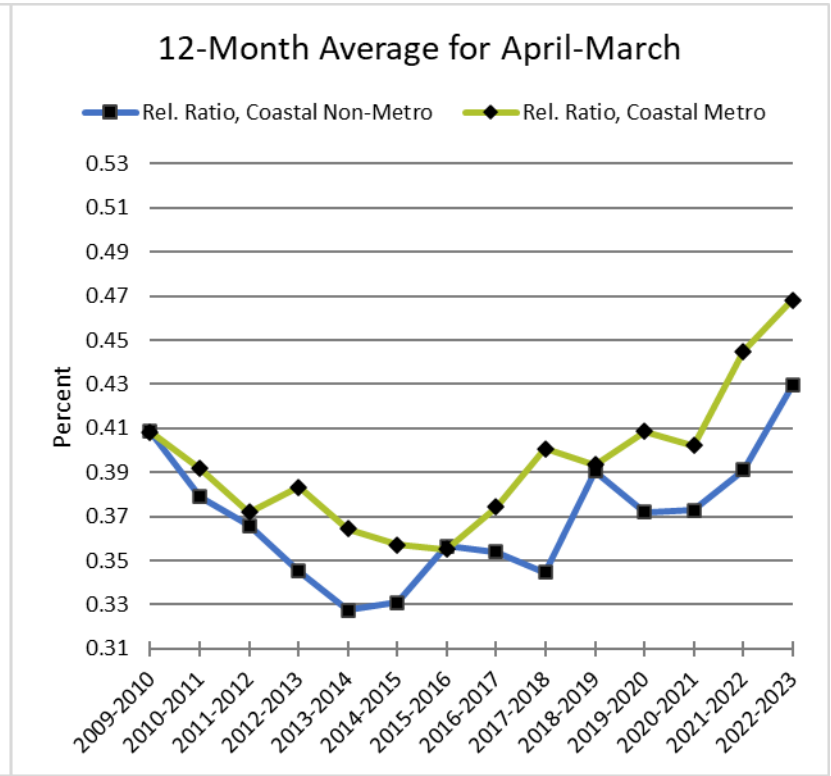
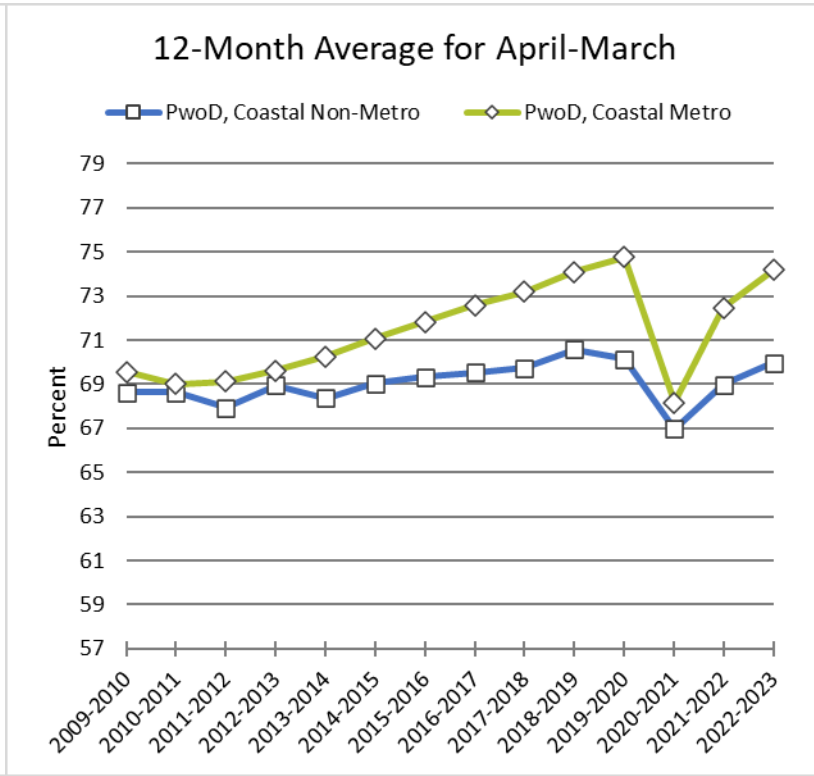
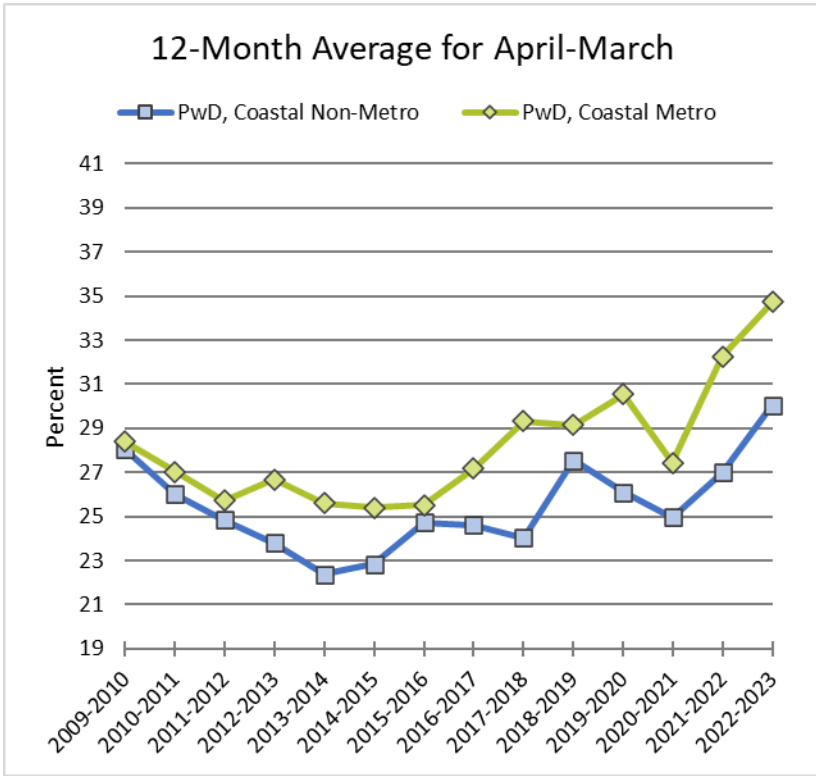
Employment-to-Population Ratio : 12 mth avg



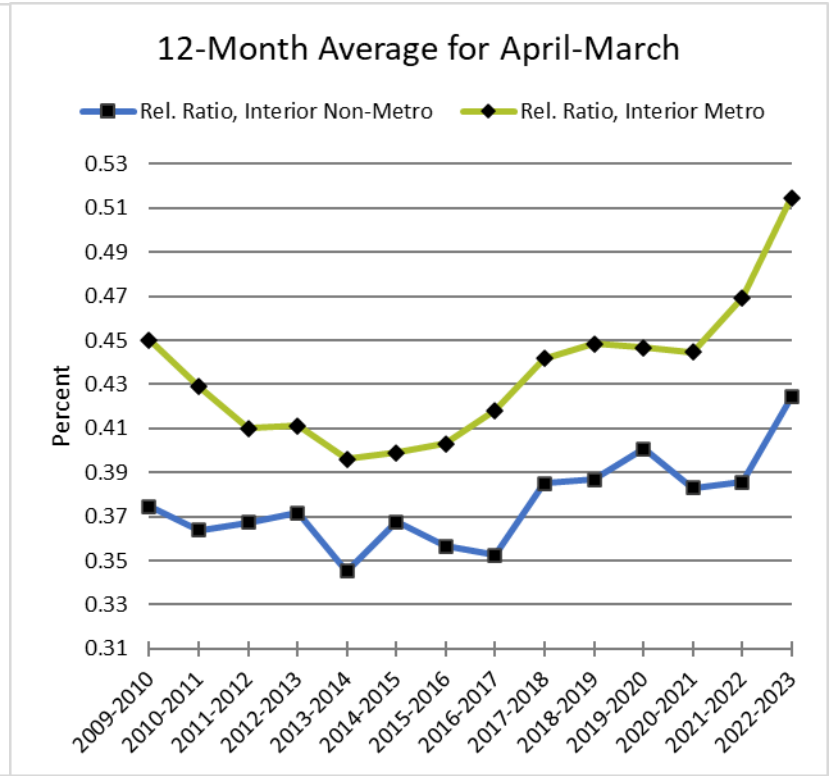
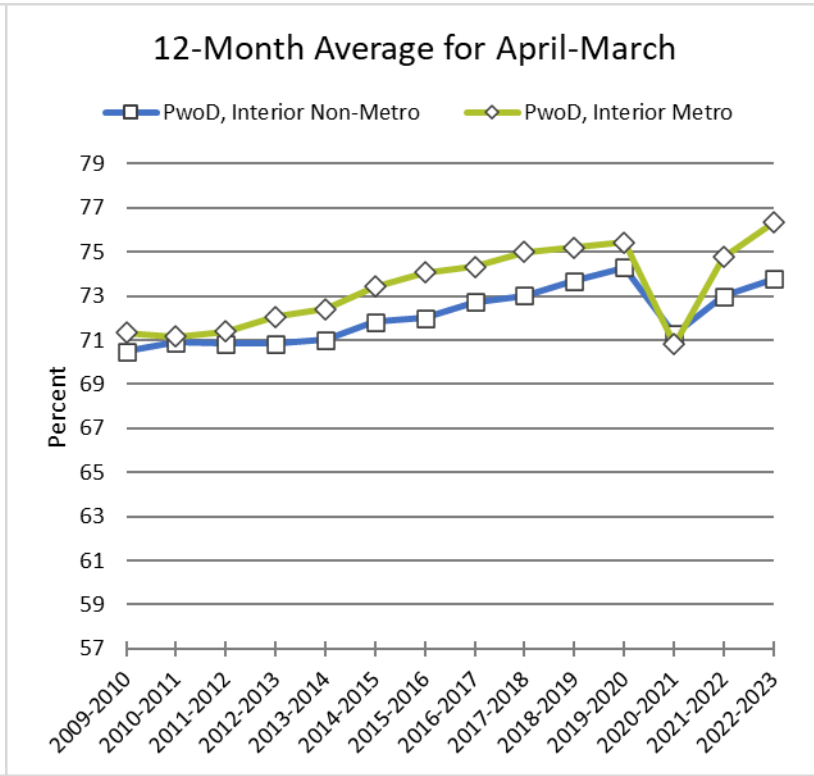
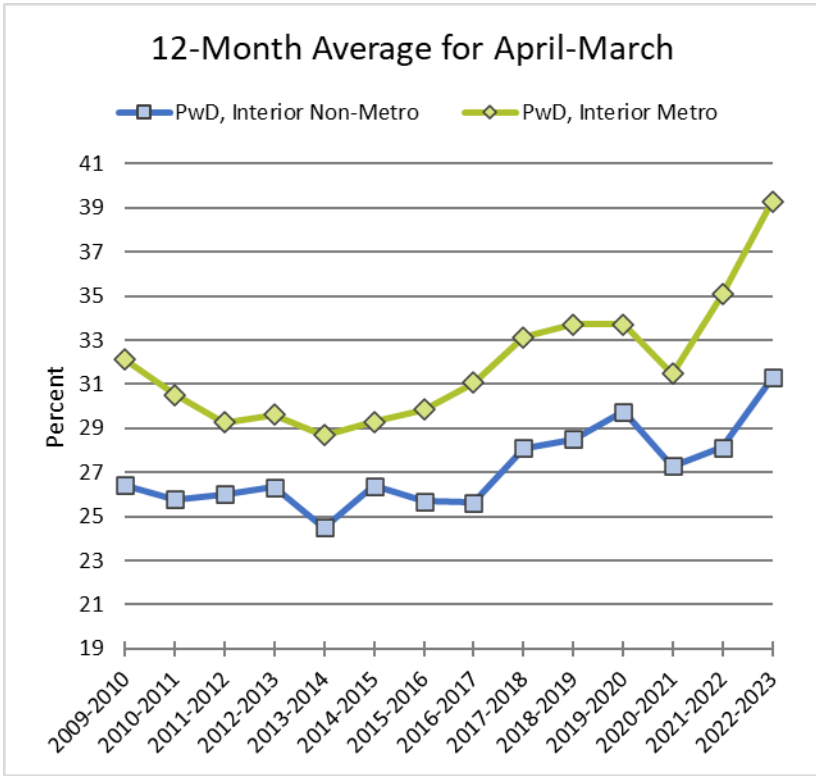
Employment-to-Population Ratio: Non-Metro/Metro



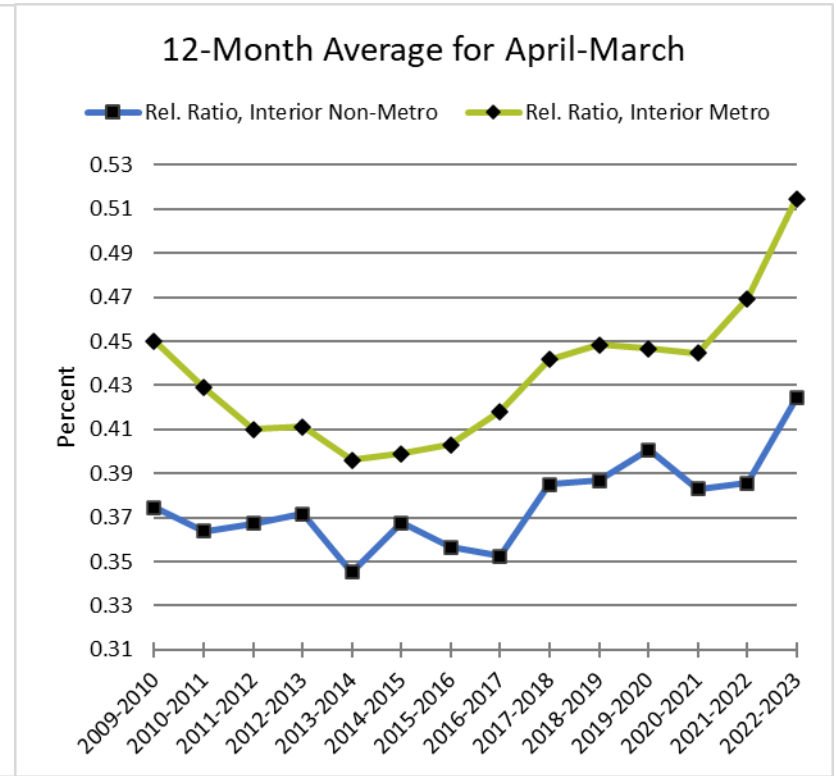
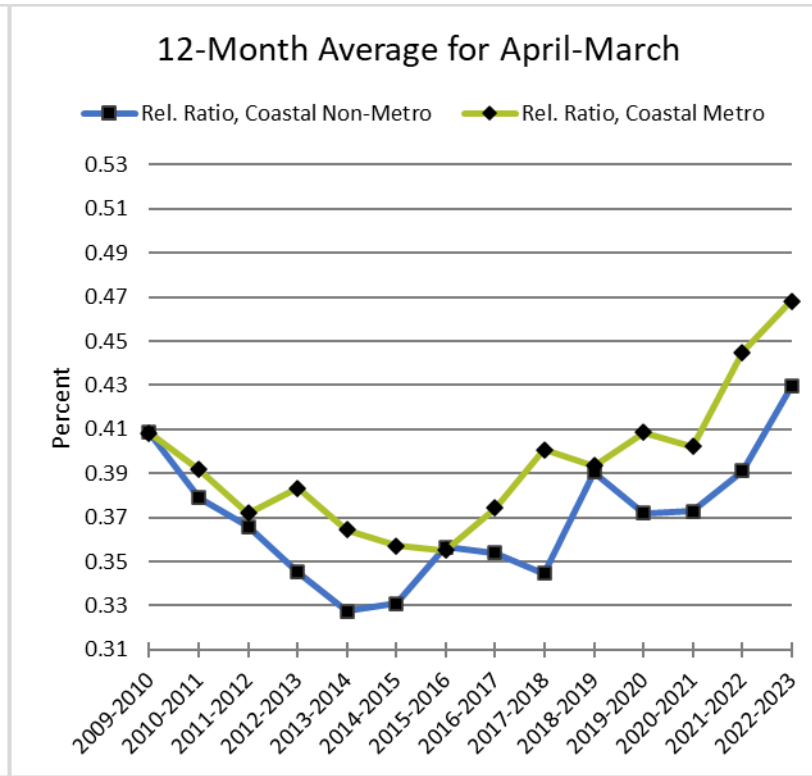
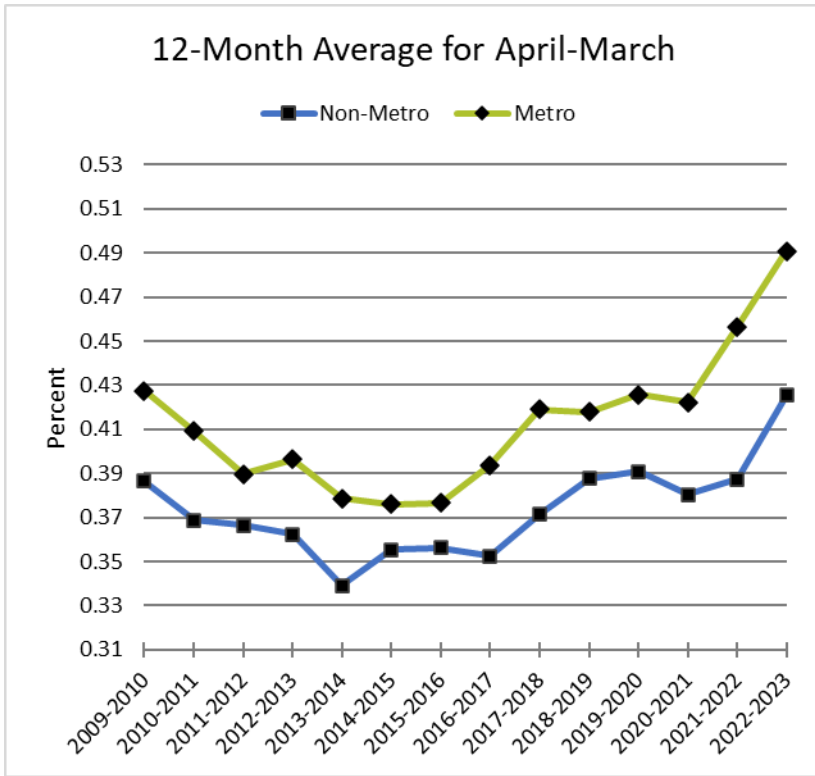
Employment-to-Population Ratio: Coastal



Employment-to-Population Ratio: Interior



Employment-to-Population Ratio: Compare RR



How did the pandemic impact labor force characteristics?

Andrew Myers

COVID-19 Timeline

- Dec 2019: First cases of sickness reported in Wuhan
- Jan 2020: First confirmed U.S. case
- Mar 2020: WHO declares global health emergency (pandemic)
- **Mar 2020: The world begins to shut down**
- May 2020: Some states begin to ease COVID restrictions
- Dec 2020: Vaccinations begin
- Jun 2021: Delta variant is dominant
- Jan 2022: Omicron variant is dominant
- May 2023: WHO declares end to global health emergency

CPS COVID Supplement

May 2020 – Sep 2022 (began as some places re-opened)

In the last 4 weeks, because of the coronavirus pandemic...

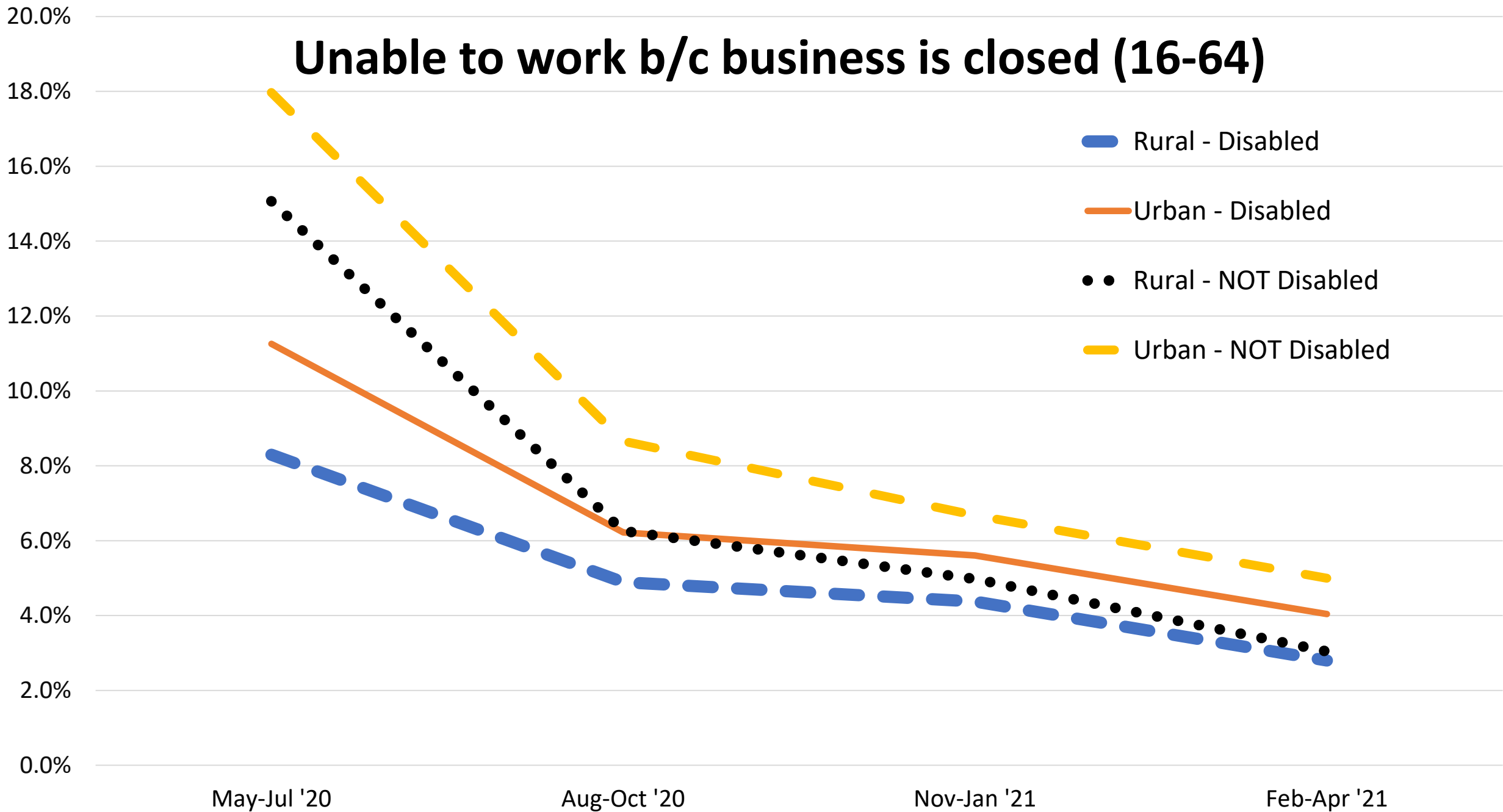
All respondents 16+

- Were you unable to work because employer closed or lost business?
- If so, were you paid for hours you were unable to work?
 - Indirect way of observing impacts of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

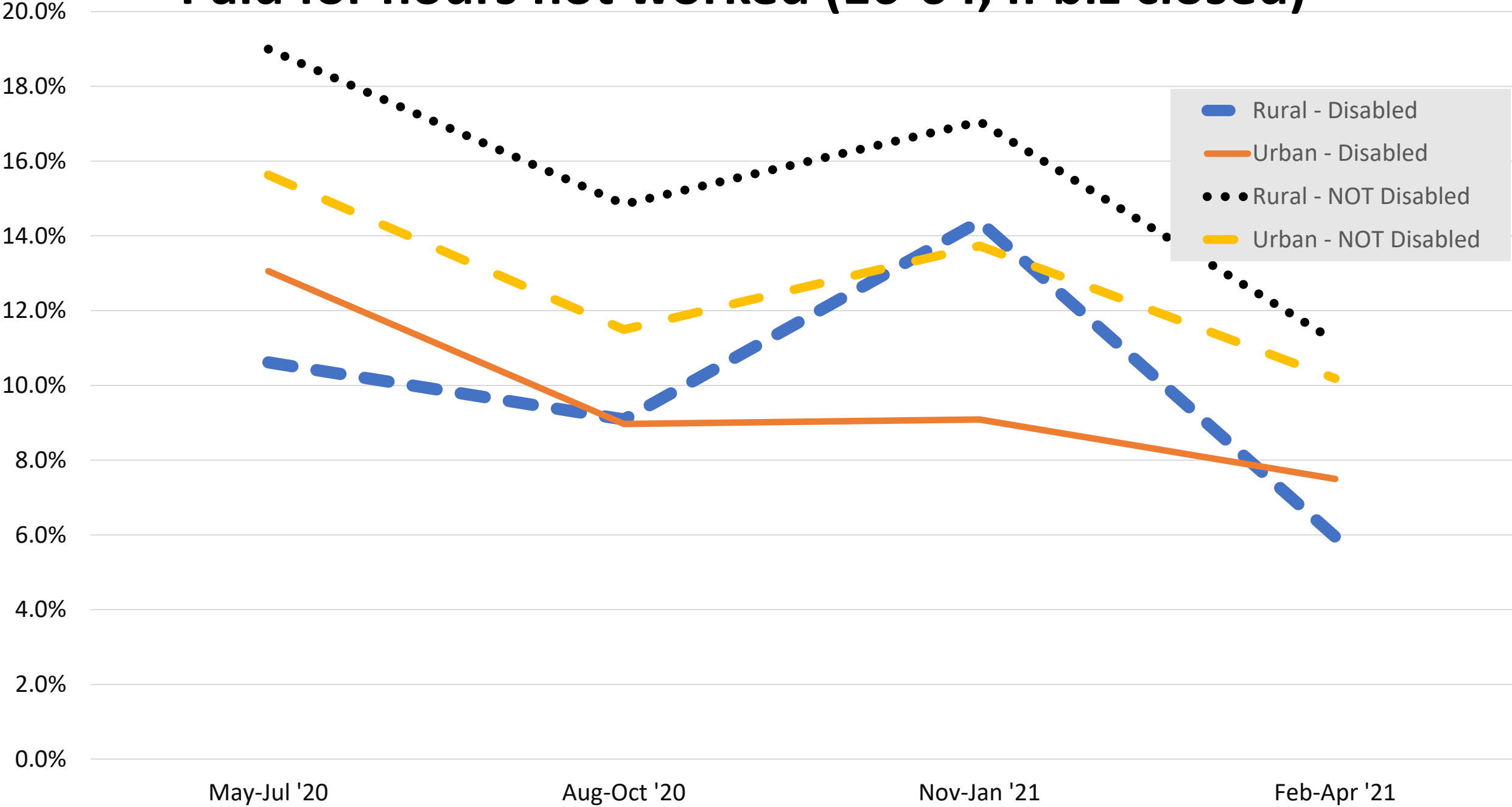
All employed respondents 16+

- Did you telework or work at home, at any time?

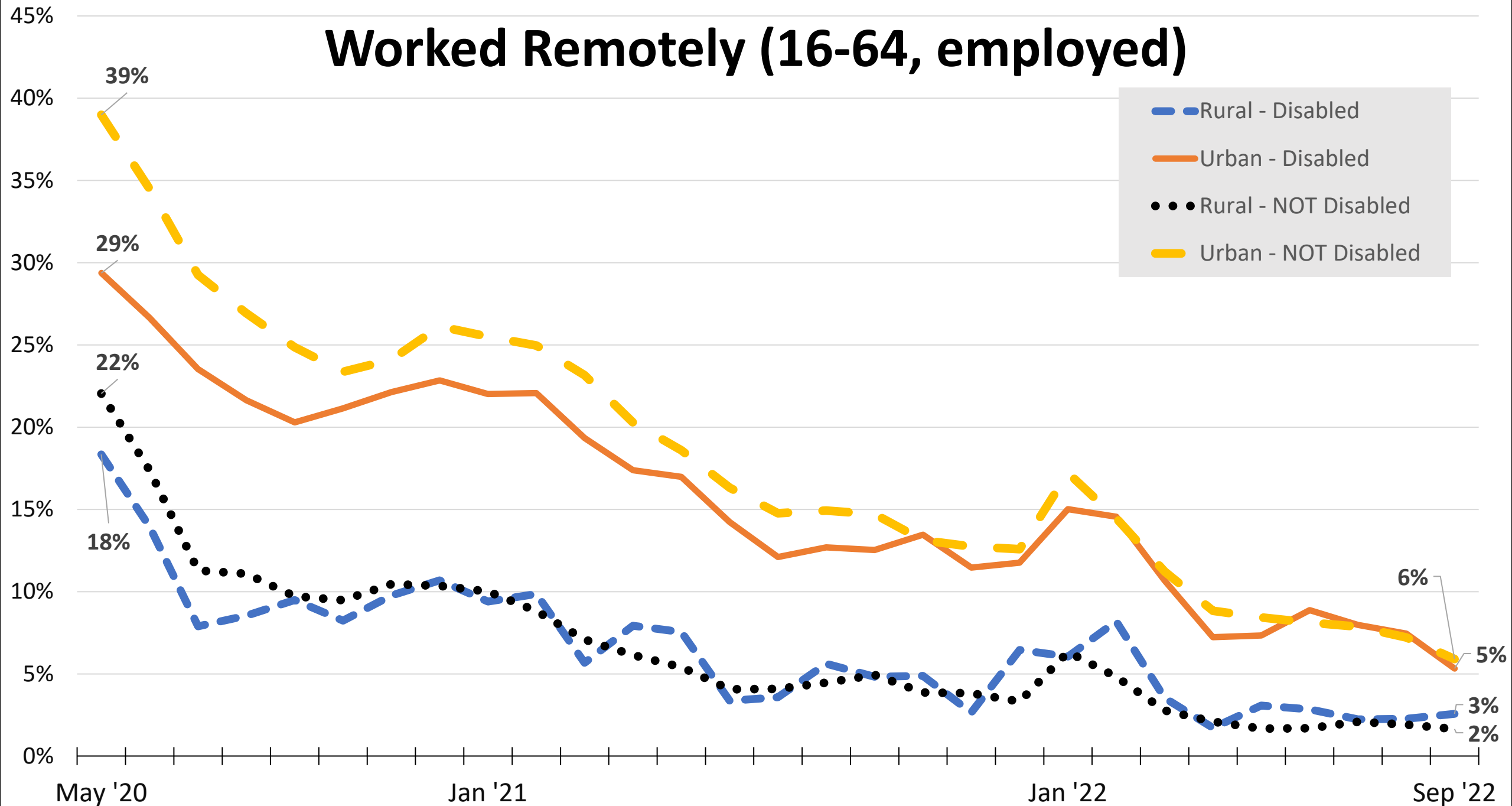
Unable to work b/c business is closed (16-64)



Paid for hours not worked (16-64, if biz closed)

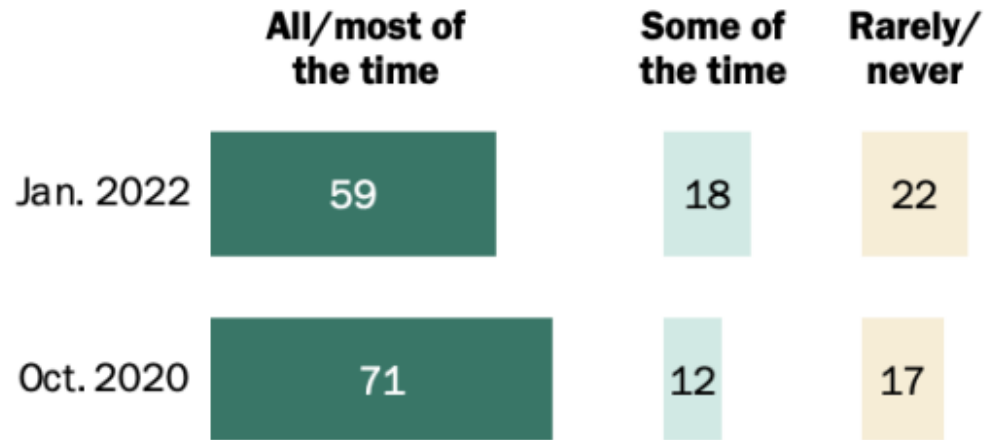


Worked Remotely (16-64, employed)

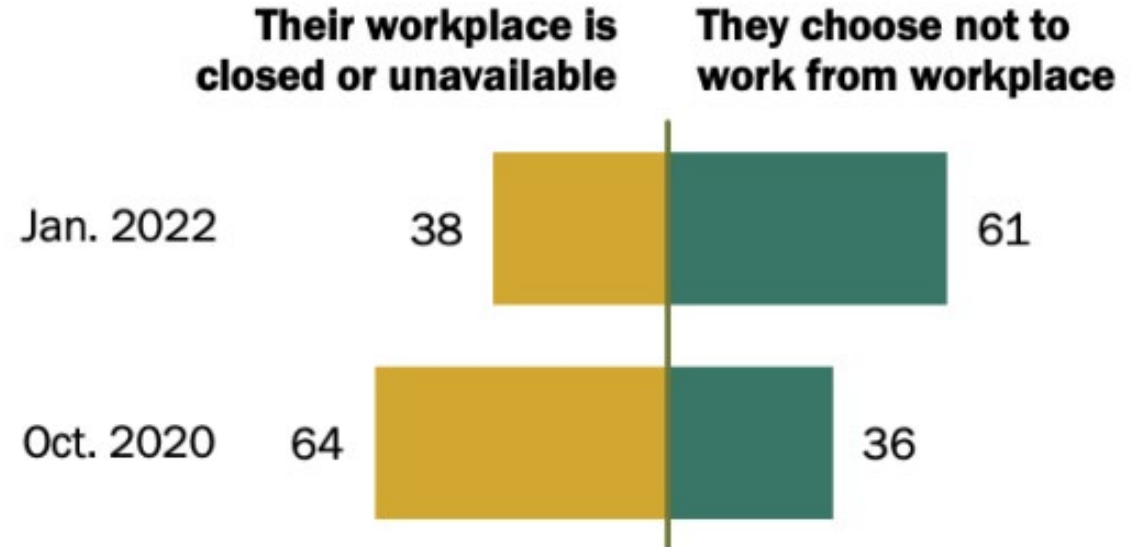


Majority of workers with jobs that can be done from home are teleworking, even as more workplaces have become available

Among employed adults who say, for the most part, the responsibilities of their job can be done from home, % saying they are currently working from home ...



Among employed adults with a workplace outside their home who are working from home all or most of the time, % saying they are doing so because ...



Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.
"COVID-19 Pandemic Continues To Reshape Work in America"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Figure 1.
Domestic Migration Rate for Regions and Divisions by County Size: 2021



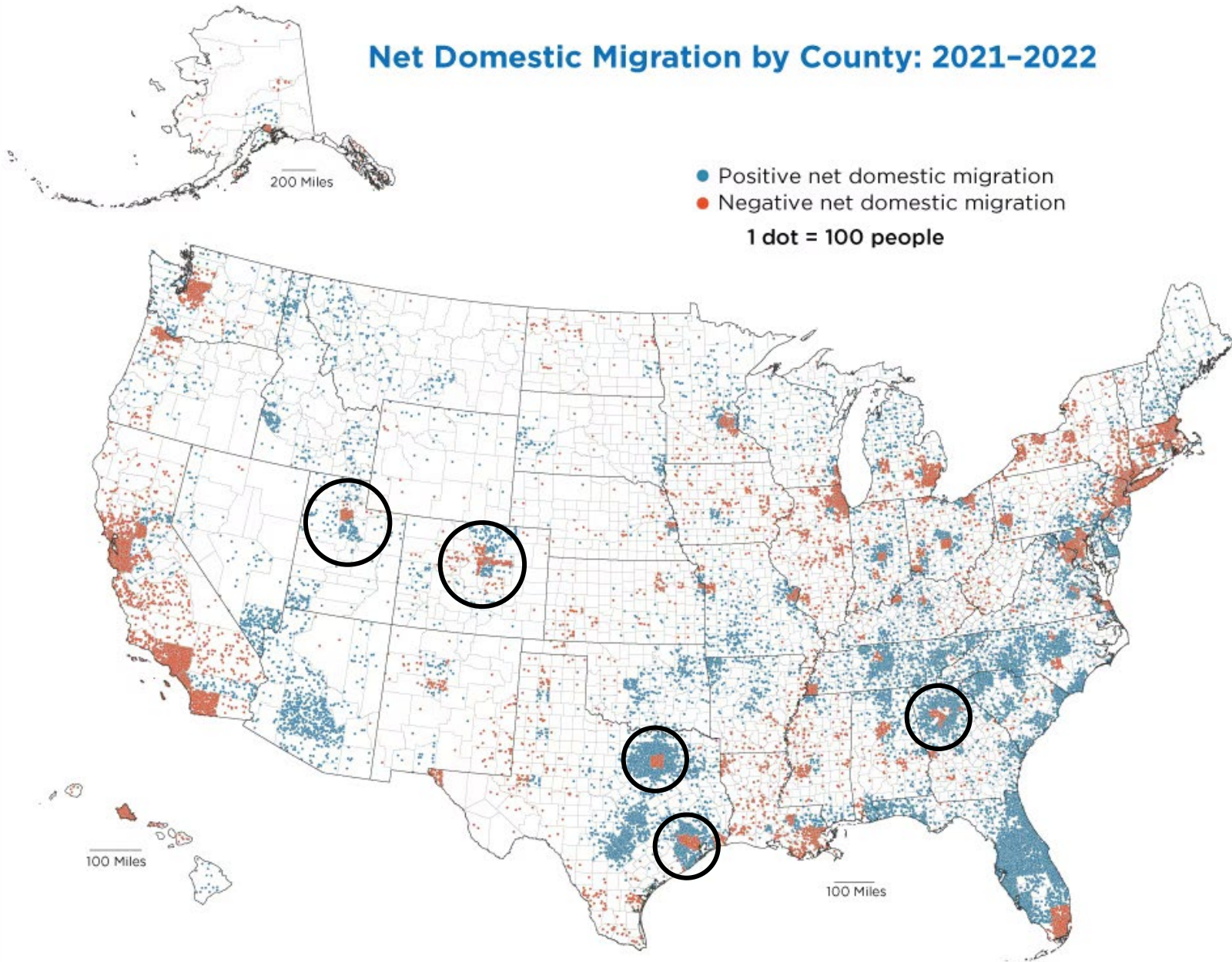
Note: Group quarters change omitted.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2022 Population Estimates.

Is the demographic composition of rural America changing?

- Rural areas experienced significant in-migration during COVID-19
- New England
- South Atlantic
- Mountain West
- Pacific
- How might this impact employment rates and telework?

Net Domestic Migration by County: 2021-2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2022 Population Estimates.

Urban flight during COVID-19?

- Migration to suburbs?
 - SLC
 - Denver
 - Dallas/Houston
 - Atlanta
- Migration to rural places?
- Early retirement?
- ...something else?

Thank you!

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