

# Discussion

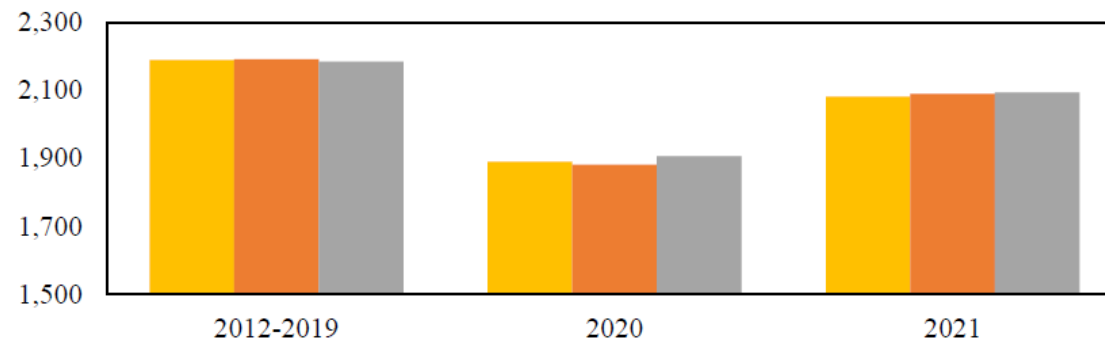
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- 2 papers that are Interesting, clearly written, and policy-useful
- 4 years after pandemic's onset, there is a sense that some things have changed in the labor market
- 2 papers provide insights on the changes that occurred up to 2 years after the onset of the pandemic
  - Where Have the Workers Gone since the COVID-19 Pandemic?
    - Local labor market adjustments mainly took the form of adjustment in working hours
    - Relatively limited employment movement across sectors and occupations during the pandemic
  - School Closures and Parental Labor Supply
    - School closures had a negative impact on the probability of paid employment of women with school-age children, but not men

# Comments: *Where Have the Workers Gone since the COVID Pandemic?*

1. COVID pandemic affected employment through 2 separate but related channels: (i) economic downturn; (ii) lockdown. Useful to try and separate the two effects to the extent possible.
2. Paper highlights some items it would be useful to add to the LFS questionnaire.
  - i. Place of work (work-at-home and work at the office)
  - ii. Gig work/Platform work
  - iii. Informal economy and informal employment
3. Check computation of average annual hours of work per person, particularly the one by gender (Figure 3). Probability of employment of women is much lower than men's so it seems unlikely that the average annual of hours of work will be almost the same for men and women.

**Figure 3. Average annual hours of work per person**



# Comments: *School Closures and Parental Labor Supply?*

1. Strange result: the effect of remote learning of children on the probability of paid employment of their parents is positive.

**Table 1. Results of probit model—probability of paid employment**

|  | (1)       | (2)       | (3)       | (4) |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| Independent variable   | All       | Male      | Female    |     |
| <i>School status (base: F2F learning)</i>                      |           |           |           |     |
| Academic break   | -0.088*** | -0.222*** | -0.042*** |     |
|  | (0.013)   | (0.023)   | (0.016)   |     |
| Remote learning  | 0.082***  | 0.069**   | 0.085***  |     |
|  | (0.016)   | (0.028)   | (0.020)   |     |
| Partial remote learning/partial F2F                            | 0.137***  | 0.101***  | 0.160***  |     |
|  | (0.018)   | (0.033)   | (0.023)   |     |
| Presence of school-age children                                | 0.085***  | 0.099***  | 0.136***  |     |
|  | (0.009)   | (0.017)   | (0.011)   |     |
| <i>Interaction terms</i>                                       |           |           |           |     |
| Academic break * with school-age children                      | -0.017    | -0.017    | -0.024*   |     |
|  | (0.011)   | (0.020)   | (0.014)   |     |
| Remote learning * with school-age children                     | -0.028**  | -0.014    | -0.042*** |     |
|  | (0.012)   | (0.023)   | (0.015)   |     |
| Partial remote learning/partial F2F * with school-age children | -0.013    | 0.014     | -0.042*** |     |
|  | (0.012)   | (0.022)   | (0.015)   |     |

## Comments: *School Closures and Parental Labor Supply?*

2. Need to figure out what is driving this result. Two possible explanations:
  - i. Multicollinearity? - remote learning is highly correlated with community quarantine index, so including both might be driving the strange result.
  - ii. Omitted variables? – the regression models should include a time (survey round) dummy, which would represent the net effect of the time period, including the economic condition during the period.

Some recasting of the model or explanatory variables should be able to address the issue, and the important take-away that the employment of women with school-age children were affected more will likely hold.

3. Novel findings, which if supported by the appropriate conceptual or theoretical framework should be a possible journal publication.

Thank you.