



The effects of Coronavirus on working patterns and employment

Key findings

30 March 2020

Changing working patterns

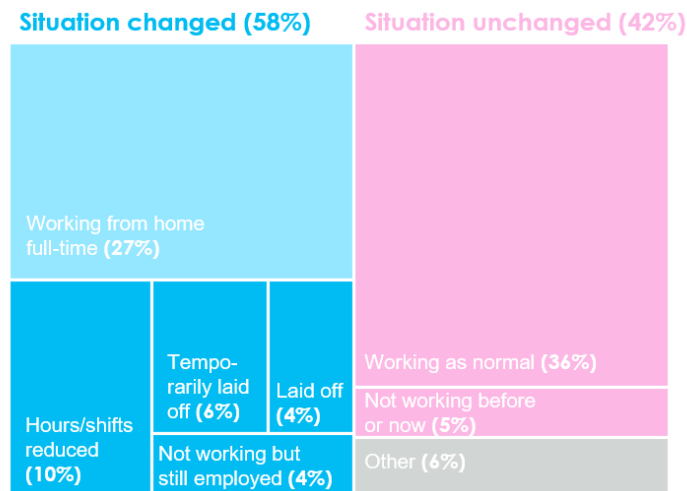
The Coronavirus pandemic is already having effects on both the UK economy and our working patterns and behaviours.

According to our research, over a quarter (27%) of workers are now working from home full time. However, this is only an option for a certain section of the workforce; a third (36%) are continuing to work as normal, and a further 10% have had their hours/shifts reduced. The chart below shows the way that working patterns have been altered by the outbreak.

Nearly a quarter have experience a significant change to their employment situation as a result



Changes in working situation as a result of the coronavirus outbreak (% of those working and unemployed)

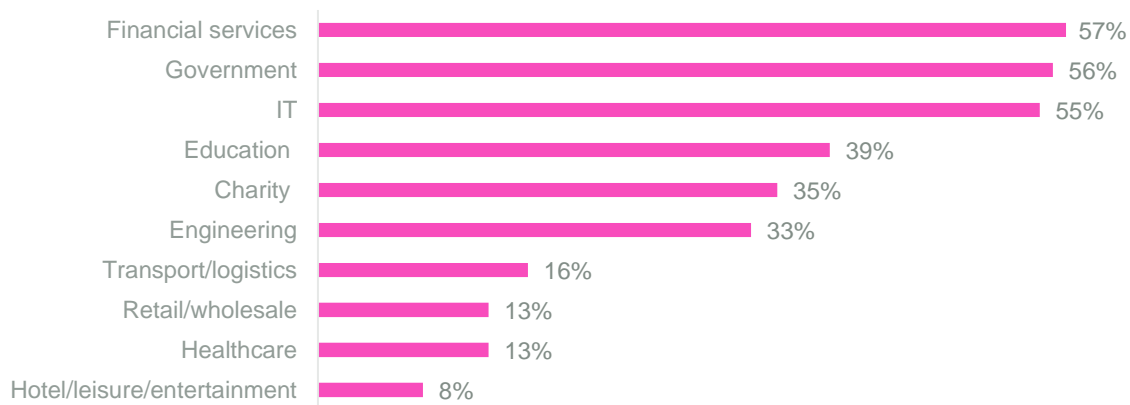


Has the current Coronavirus outbreak affected your working life in any of the following ways?
 1,295 workers and unemployed UK adults

Working from home only an option for some

Looking more closely, it is clear that the type of employment workers are in is related to their ability to work from home. For example, in the chart below, it is clear that those in industries like IT, Financial Services, and Government are more likely to be working from home than those in Hospitality, Retail, and unsurprisingly, Healthcare.

Percentage working from home by industry

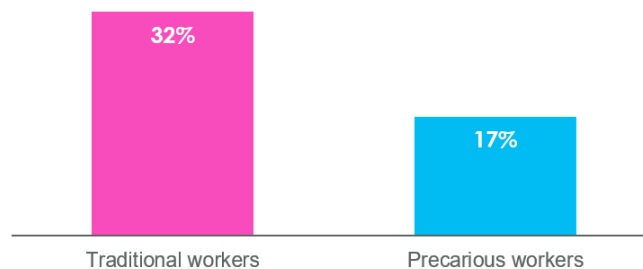


Similarly, those we define as precarious workers (the self-employed, freelance workers, or gig-workers) are much less likely to be working from home than those who are employed in a more 'traditional' way; directly by a company or an organisation.

Those in traditional employment are nearly twice as likely to be working from home



Percentage working from home by employment type



Which, if any of the following descriptions apply to you and how you work?; Has the current Coronavirus outbreak affected your working life in any of the following ways? 274 precarious workers and 929 traditional employees

Some workers are more vulnerable to an economic downturn than others

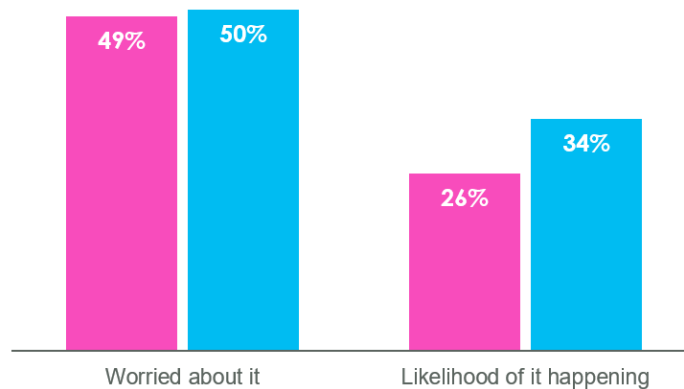
Those in a precarious employment position are just as worried as their counterparts in ‘traditional’ employment about losing their job; 49% and 50% respectively, but more of them believe that losing their job is a likelihood of a Coronavirus-initiated economic downturn (34% vs 26%).

While concern is widespread, precarious workers tend to feel losing their job is more likely



Concern about and likelihood of losing job, by type of worker

■ Traditional workers ■ Precarious workers



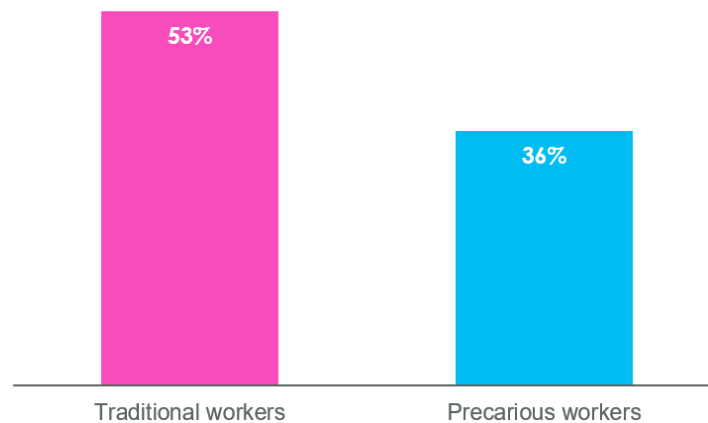
Which, if any of the following descriptions apply to you and how you work?; Are you at all worried about any of the following scenarios occurring as a result of the coronavirus outbreak? Losing my job; How likely do you think it is that the following scenarios will occur as a result of the coronavirus outbreak? Losing my job 274 precarious workers and 929 traditional employees

In the event of this happening, only a third (36%) of precarious workers say they have savings to fall back on compared to half (53%) of those in traditional employment. Two-in-five (39%) of precarious workers say they would have to turn to government support.

While concern is widespread,
precarious workers tend to feel losing
their job is more likely



**Proportion who have savings to rely on in the
event of losing their job, by type of employment**



Which, if any of the following descriptions apply to you and how you work?; If, as a result of coronavirus, you were to lose your job how would you get by financially? If you have already out of work, please select what you are planning to or have already done. Please select all that apply 274 precarious workers and 929 traditional employees

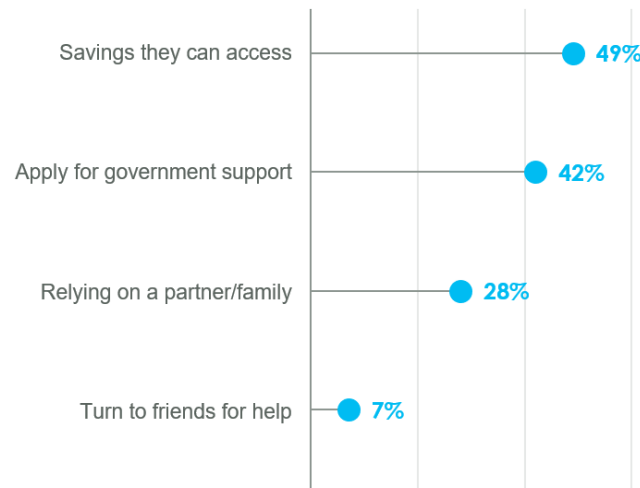
Half of workers say they don't have savings that can be accessed if they lose their job

In terms of the working population more generally, half (49%) say they have savings to fall back on if they were to lose their job due to an economic downturn. Two-in-five (42%) say they would need to apply for government support in the form of Job Seekers Allowance or other benefits, and 28% would need to rely on a partner or family member.

More than half of UK workers do not have savings they could fall back on if they lost their job



Sources that will allow people to get by financially in the event they lose their job



If, as a result of coronavirus, you were to lose your job how would you get by financially?
Please select all that apply; 1,247 UK workers

Biggest worries and predictions

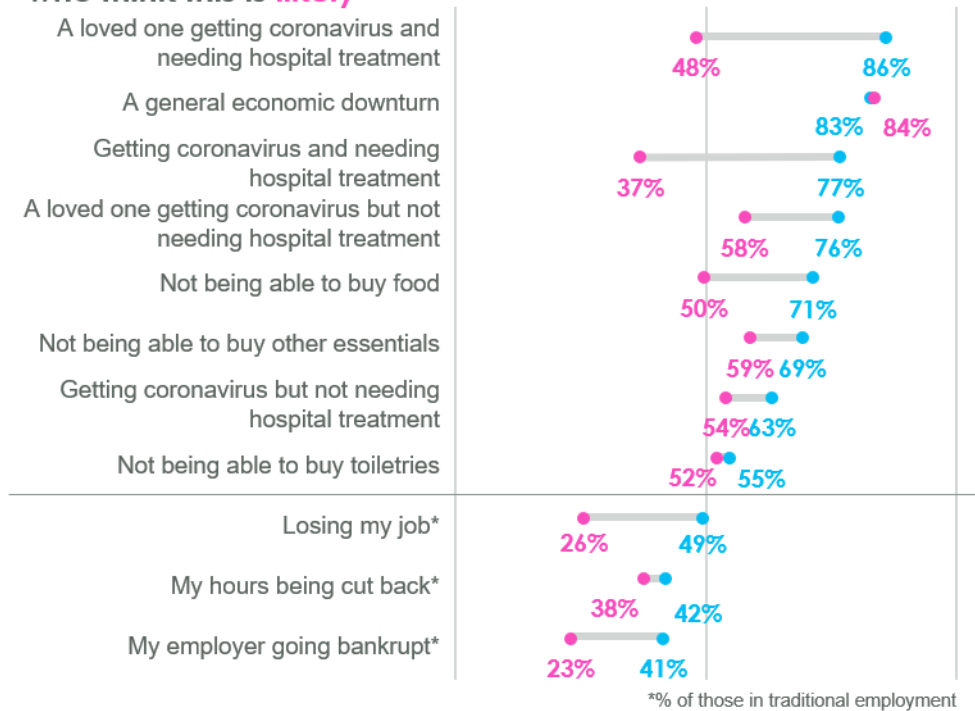
We asked the public to consider which potential scenarios worry them the most but also how likely they think such scenarios are.

In the chart below we can see that, unsurprisingly, people are most worried about a loved one being hospitalised by the virus (86%). That said, only 48% think this is likely to happen. Compare that to an economic downturn where 83% are worried about it happening and 84% think it is likely to happen. On the other end of the scale, only 28% are worried about missing social events but 70% think it is likely to happen.

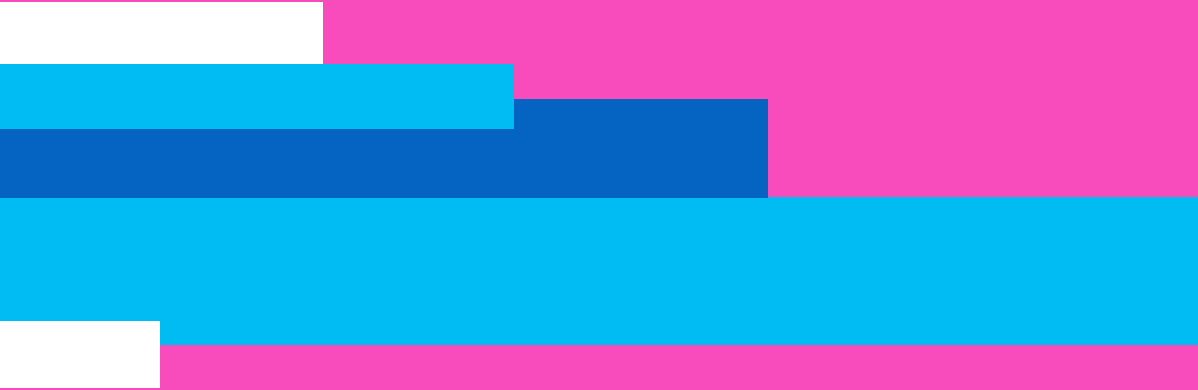
A general economic downturn is the consequence that UK adults think is most likely and are most worried about



Consequences of coronavirus by % who are worried and % who think this is likely



Are you at all worried about any of the following scenarios occurring as a result of the coronavirus outbreak?; How likely do you think it is that the following scenarios will occur as a result of the coronavirus outbreak? 2,005 UK adults *991 UK workers in traditional employment



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