

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [Working Remotely? Selection, Treatment, and the Market for Remote Work](#)

**Article Link:** [https://www.newyorkfed.org/medialibrary/media/research/staff\\_reports/sr1061.pdf?sc\\_lang=en](https://www.newyorkfed.org/medialibrary/media/research/staff_reports/sr1061.pdf?sc_lang=en)

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**Tweet:** Using evidence from call center workers @NataliaHEmanuel @emma\_k\_h find that remote work lowered workers' productivity, but the majority of the gap between onsite and remote work was driven by negative worker selection into remote work. @NewYorkFed

**Summary:** We ask two questions: how does remote work affect productivity, and how productive are the workers who choose remote jobs? To quantify each factor, we use data from an American Fortune 500 firm that hired both remote and on-site workers prior to Covid-19. Around the office closures of Covid-19, the hourly calls of on-site workers going remote fell by 4% relative to that of already-remote workers, indicating that negative treatment effects accounted for one third of the productivity gap. After the offices were closed, workers who initially chose remote jobs were 8% less productive than those who initially chose on-site jobs, even though all workers were working at home. Thus, two thirds of the initial productivity gap was due to worker selection.

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**Primary Topic:** High vs Low Skill

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