

Statistical bulletin

Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 30 April 2020

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the period 9 April to 20 April 2020 to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain. This 11-day collection period is the third to be based wholly after the government's Stay at home measures were introduced on 23 March 2020.

Contact:
Ruth Davies
policy.evidence.analysis@ons.
gov.uk
+44 (0)1633 65 1827

Release date:
30 April 2020

Next release:
7 May 2020

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1 . Other pages in this release

Other commentary on the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the UK economy and society is available on the following page:

- [Coronavirus, UK economy and society, faster indicators: 30 April 2020](#)

2 . Main points

- Levels of concern about the coronavirus (COVID-19) continued to fall this week: 81.7% of adults said they are very worried or somewhat worried about the effect that COVID-19 is having on their life now, compared with 84.8% last week.
- Of the 59.7% of key workers who said their work was being impacted by COVID-19, the most common concern was their health and safety at work.
- Over 8 in 10 adults (83.5%) said they had either not left their home or only left for the permitted reasons (essential shopping, medical reasons, one form of daily exercise and key workers travelling to work) in the past seven days; this is a similar proportion to last week.
- The most common reasons for key worker parents not sending their children to school was the availability of alternative care and being concerned about the health and well-being of the child.

3 . Understanding the impact on society

This weekly bulletin contains data and indicators from a new module being undertaken through the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on British society.

This release updates our statistics on how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting people's lives, within their homes, work and communities, and the impact it is having on their well-being. This week, we have included new estimates on the experiences of key workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Key workers have been identified only if a respondent has self-reported they have been given "key worker status". It has not been defined by an official list of occupations or industries in which people work.

This bulletin contains breakdowns of results for identified "at-risk" groups that have been advised to take additional precautions. This includes those aged 70 years and over, those with certain underlying health conditions, and women who are pregnant. The full list of conditions are included in the [Glossary](#).

This bulletin presents a summary of results, with further data including [confidence intervals](#) for the estimates contained in the [associated datasets](#). Where changes in results from previous weeks are presented in this bulletin, associated confidence intervals indicate their significance. The statistics in this publication are based on a survey of 1,430 adults (71.1% response rate) sampled through the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN), which was conducted online between 9 and 20 April 2020 (inclusive). Throughout this bulletin, "this week" refers to the period 9 to 20 April 2020 and "last week" refers to the period 3 April to 13 April 2020.

4 . Concerns about the coronavirus

Levels of overall concern continued to fall this week. Just over 8 in 10 adults (81.7%) said they were very worried or somewhat worried about the effect that the coronavirus (COVID-19) was having on their life now, compared with 84.8% last week. This decrease was seen among those aged 70 years and over, falling to 81.9% this week from 88.6% last week, and for those with an underlying health condition, falling to 85.4% this week from 87.8% last week.

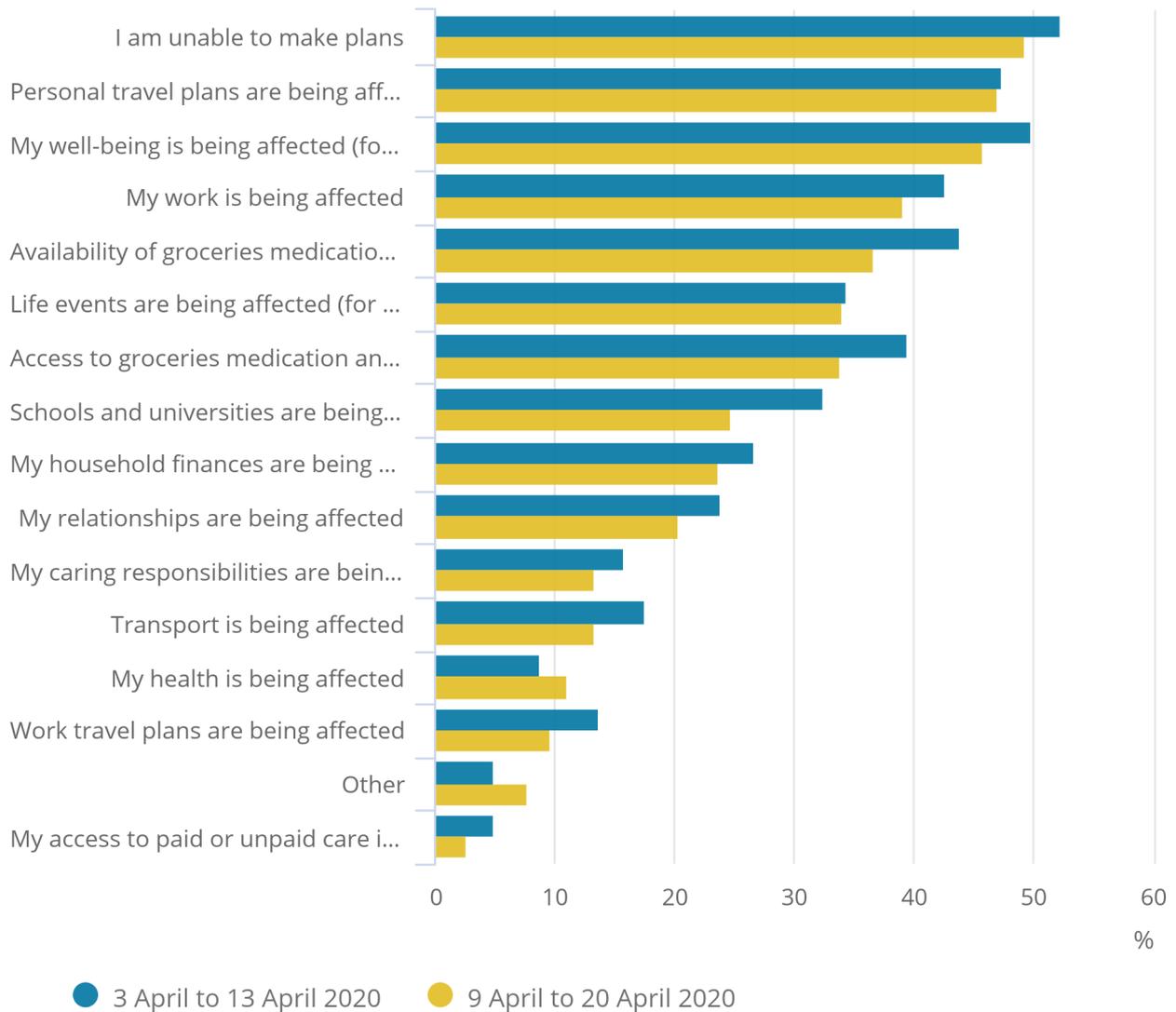
For a second week, the most common way that the COVID-19 pandemic was impacting people's lives was on their ability to make plans, with 49.3% saying this was being affected. The proportion of adults who said their well-being was affected continued to decrease, but nearly half of adults (45.8%) still said this was an issue.

Figure 1: People were most worried about the effect of COVID-19 on their ability to make plans and their personal travel plans

Great Britain, 9 April 2020 to 20 April 2020

Figure 1: People were most worried about the effect of COVID-19 on their ability to make plans and their personal travel plans

Great Britain, 9 April 2020 to 20 April 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

Notes:

1. Question: In which ways is the coronavirus (COVID-19) affecting your life?
2. This question was only asked of those who said they were very worried or worried about the impacts of COVID-19, but the base population for these estimates was all adults aged 16 years or over, to reflect the level of concern among the whole population. These estimates are calculated using Table 2b of the datasets.
3. Respondents were asked to select all that apply.

A higher proportion of [key workers](#) said they were very or somewhat worried about the effect COVID-19 was having on their life (85.3%), and the most common issue was the effect on their work.

Concern over the availability of groceries, medication and toiletries has seen one of the biggest decreases this week with 36.6% of adults saying this was impacting their life compared with 43.8% last week. Alongside this, the proportion of adults who said they had struggled to get groceries in the past week also decreased to 42.5% from 51.6% last week. However, the proportion was higher for key workers, with 47.4% saying they had struggled this week.

Expectations for when life will return to normal were similar to last week. Nearly half of adults (51.4%) expected life to return to normal within the next six months, with a further 31.7% expecting it to be longer than six months. 17.1% of adults were either unsure or said that life would not go back to normal.

More about coronavirus

- Find the latest on [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in the UK](#).
- All ONS analysis, summarised in our [coronavirus roundup](#).
- View [all coronavirus data](#).

Concerns about work

Of the 39.2% of adults who said COVID-19 was affecting their work, the most common reasons were because of homeworking (either being asked to work from home or that people were finding it difficult). Around one in six (16.9%) of these adults also said they were concerned about their health and safety at work.

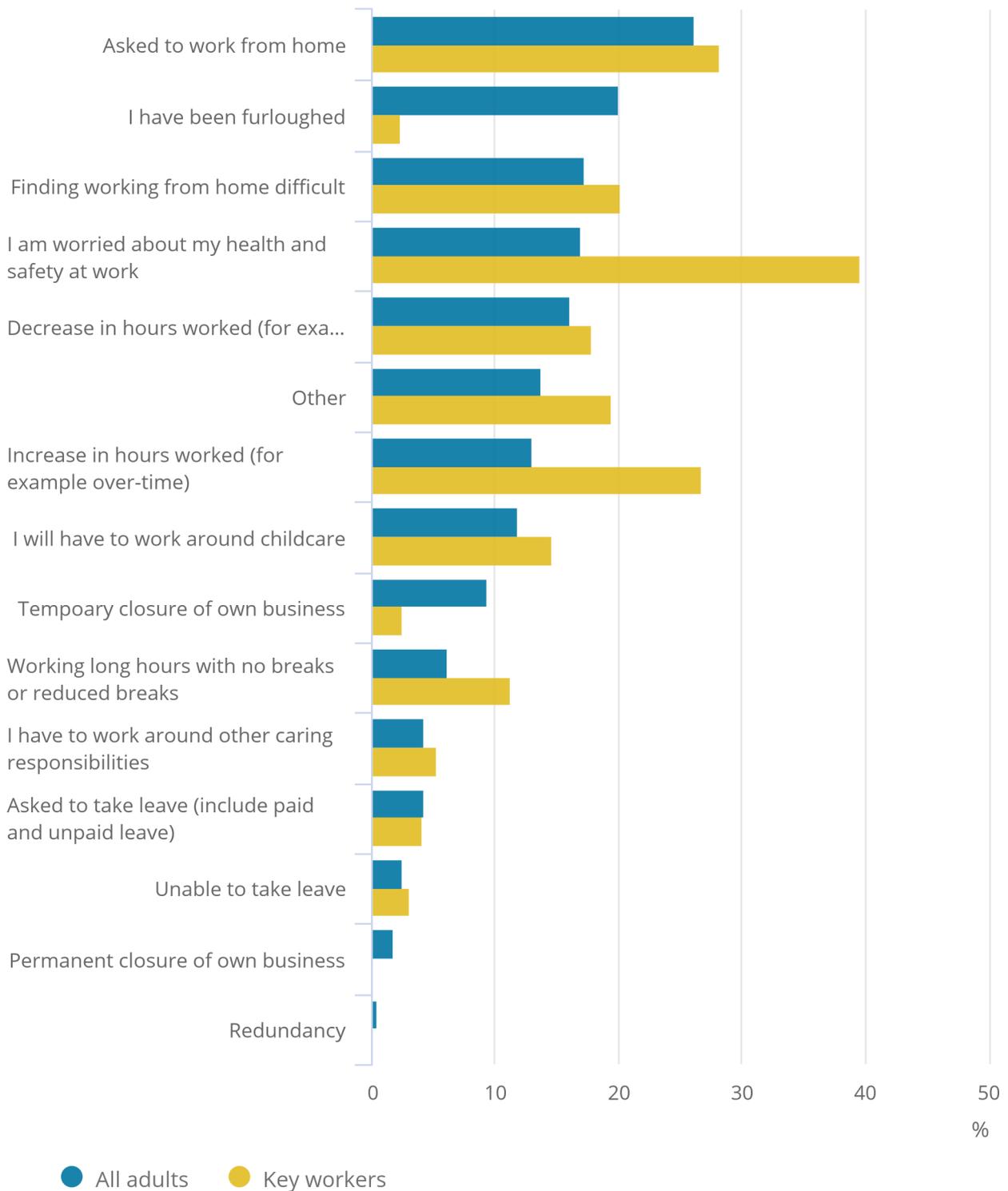
Of the 59.7% of key workers who said their work was being impacted, concerns about their health and safety was the most common reason, with nearly 4 in 10 (39.6%) saying they were concerned about this. Key workers were also more likely to be concerned about increased working hours.

Figure 2: Key workers were more worried about their health and safety at work compared with other adults

Great Britain, 9 April 2020 to 20 April 2020

Figure 2: Key workers were more worried about their health and safety at work compared with other adults

Great Britain, 9 April 2020 to 20 April 2020



Notes:

1. Question: In which ways is your work being affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19)?
2. Base population for percentage: adults aged 16 years or over who said they were very worried or somewhat worried about the effect COVID-19 was having on their life right now and said it was affecting their work.
3. Key workers have been identified if a respondent has self-reported they have been given “key worker status” only. It has not been defined by an official list of occupations or industries in which people work.
4. Respondents were asked to select all that apply.
5. New response categories were added to the survey (9 to 20 April) this week, so data for last week may not be directly comparable.
6. Response category “I have been furloughed” indicates the level of concern with this and should not be interpreted as the overall level of the working population that has been furloughed. [Estimates of levels of furloughing](#) are available.

Further details on changes to labour market participation and the impact on businesses from COVID-19 can be found in [Coronavirus, UK economy and society, faster indicators: 30 April 2020](#).

Concerns about household finances

Just under one in four adults (23.6%) said COVID-19 was affecting their household finances, a decrease from last week (26.7%).

The most common concern among these adults continued to be a reduced income (68.2%), with 23.4% saying they had needed to use savings to cover living costs and 9.5% saying they had to borrow money or use credit (Figure 3).

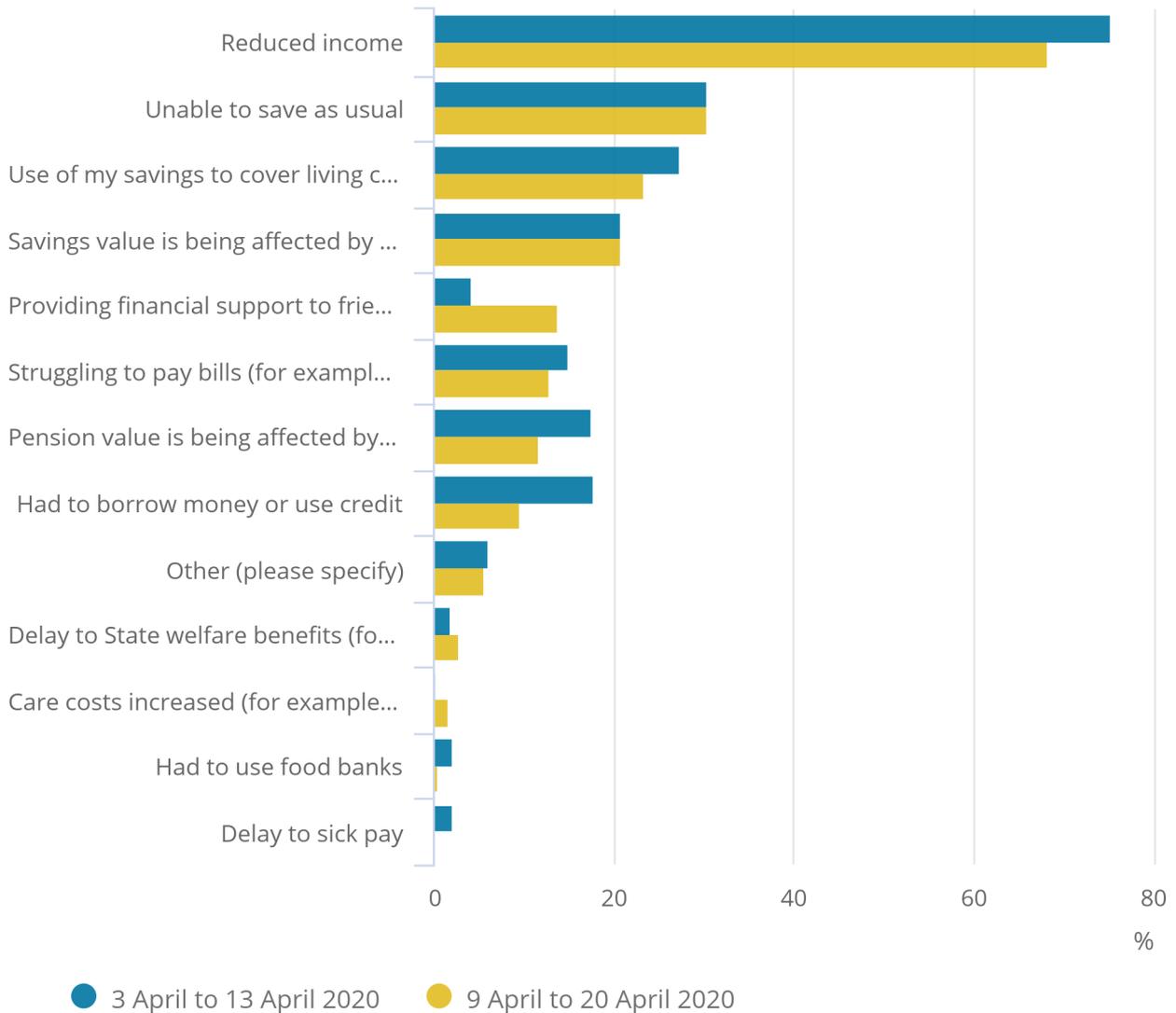
Further analysis on how different people and households are managing financially through the COVID-19 pandemic, with breakdowns by age, household type and sex, will be published on Monday 4 May as part of the [Personal and economic well-being in the UK](#) bulletin.

Figure 3: The main concern about household finances was having a reduced income

Great Britain, 9 April 2020 to 20 April 2020

Figure 3: The main concern about household finances was having a reduced income

Great Britain, 9 April 2020 to 20 April 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

Notes:

1. Question: In which ways are your household finances being affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19)?
2. Base population for percentage: adults aged 16 years or over who said they were very worried or somewhat worried about the effect COVID-19 was having on their life right now and said it was affecting their finances.
3. Respondents were asked to select all that apply.

Similarly to the expectations on how long it will be before life returns to normal, there has been little change in people's expectations for the economic future of the country this week. Over 8 in 10 adults (84.7%) expected the general economic situation in this country to get a little or a lot worse over the next 12 months, compared with 82.9% last week.

5 . Homeschooling

This survey started collecting responses at the end of the third week of school closures and continued through the fourth week. This time also covered what would have been the Easter holiday period, so this may have affected the levels of homeschooling undertaken by parents.

Of those adults who said they had dependent children, 66.4% said they had homeschooled their child or children in the past seven days compared with 70.9% last week. This survey only asks for information from the respondent, so other people within the household may be providing the homeschooling or the dependent children in the household may be of pre-school age. This estimate should therefore not be interpreted as 33.6% of children are not being homeschooled.

A similar proportion of adults who homeschooled their child said they were confident in their abilities to homeschool their child to last week (51.2% compared with 52.0%). Nearly three in four adults (74.7%) said they had access to the resources they needed to homeschool their children well, with 66.2% saying their child or children were continuing to learn.

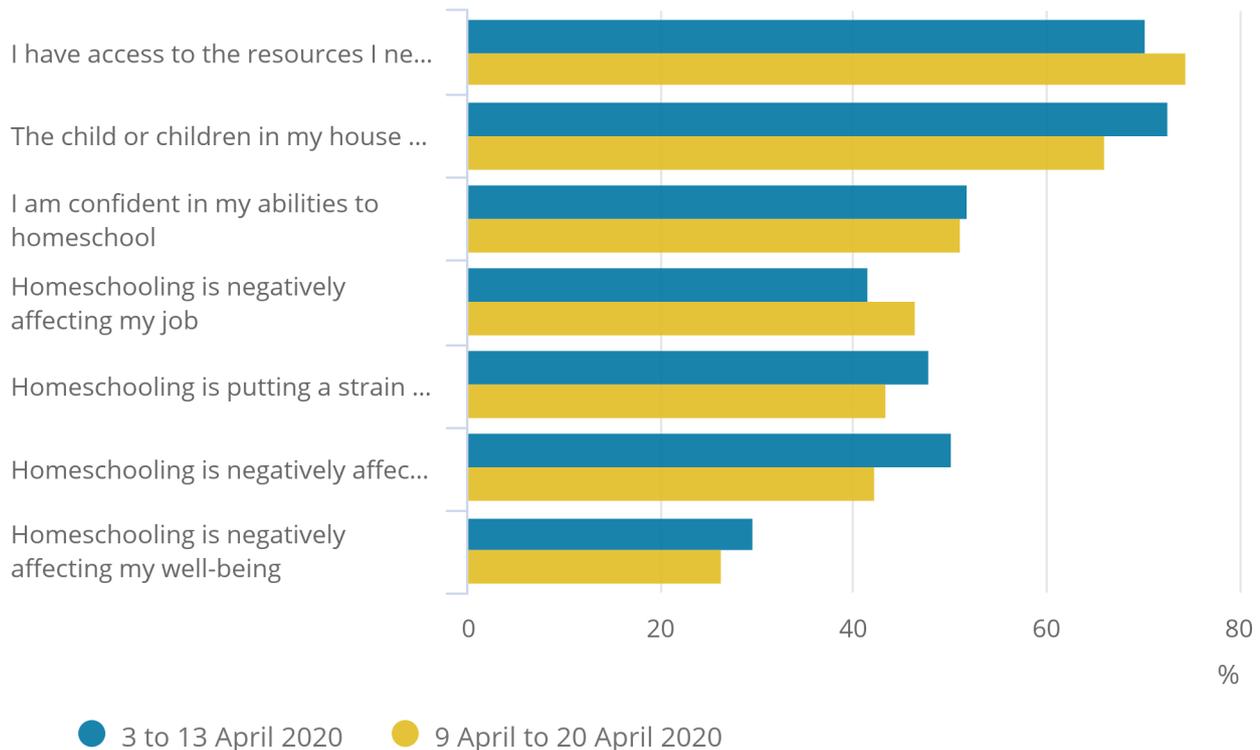
There were lower proportions of parents or guardians reporting negative impacts on well-being and relationships this week. 4 in 10 adults (43.5%) said homeschooling was putting a strain on their relationships in the household, a decrease from 47.9% last week.

Figure 4: About two in three parents said their children were continuing to learn while being homeschooled

Great Britain, 9 April 2020 to 20 April 2020

Figure 4: About two in three parents said their children were continuing to learn while being homeschooled

Great Britain, 9 April 2020 to 20 April 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

Notes:

1. Question: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement on homeschooling?
2. All adults with a dependent child or children who said they strongly or somewhat agree with the statement on homeschooling.
3. Base population for percentage: adults aged 16 years or over who said they had a dependent child or children.

Although schools have been closed to most pupils, they have remained open for vulnerable children and children of [key workers](#). However, a large majority of key workers had not sent their child to school in the past seven days. This survey collection ran over the Easter period. Schools remained open during this time, but it may have affected the proportion of key workers sending their children.

The most common reasons given by key worker parents for not sending their child or children to school were the availability of alternative care (33.5%) and concern for the health and well-being of their child (29.1%).

6 . Actions undertaken to prevent the spread of the coronavirus

Official [government advice](#) is for everyone to stay in their homes apart from for a limited number of reasons such as essential shopping, medical reasons, one form of daily exercise and key workers travelling to work where it is not possible to work from home.

Staying at home

Over 8 in 10 adults (83.5%) said they had either not left their home or only left for one of the permitted reasons listed earlier in the past seven days, a similar level to last week (85.4%). This increased to 88.4% for those aged 70 years and over, and for those with an underlying health condition it was 85.7%.

Of the 16.5% who said they had left their home for something else, the main reason was to run errands.

There continued to be a high level of support for the Stay at home measures, with 84.0% of adults saying they strongly supported the measures and a further 12.5% saying they “tend to support” the measures.

Self-isolation

Alongside the Stay at home guidance, official advice is that people should self-isolate if they or someone in their household experiences symptoms related to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Some people may choose to self-isolate for other reasons, so these results should not be interpreted as an estimate of those with COVID-19 symptoms or those diagnosed with COVID-19.

Just under 3 in 10 adults (29.7%) said they had self-isolated in the past seven days, a decrease from 37.5% last week. For those aged 70 years and over, about half (49.5%) said they had self-isolated, while for those with an underlying health condition (all ages) it was 42.6%.

For those who said they had self-isolated over the past seven days, 23.3% of them said they had not left their home for the full seven days. Someone could have left their home at the start of the week and then started self-isolating or, conversely, completed their self-isolation at the start of the week and then left their home.

Over one in five adults (21.6%) said someone in their household had self-isolated in the past seven days, a decrease from 30.4% last week. For those aged 70 years and over, 3 in 10 adults (30.0%) said someone in their household had self-isolated, while for those with an underlying health condition it was one in four (25.0%).

Working from home

A decreased proportion of adults in employment said they had worked from home at some point this week (44.6%) compared with last week (49.2%).

This consisted of 38.5% of adults who had only worked from home and 6.1% who had both worked from home and travelled to work (both key workers and non-key workers). A further one in four adults in employment (25.7%) said they had travelled to work in the last seven days and had not worked from home. Just under 3 in 10 adults in employment (29.7%) had neither worked from home nor travelled to work; the reason for this is not known but could be that the person was on leave, on sick leave, furloughed or off-shift during the reference seven days.

More detailed information on changes to labour market participation can be found in [Coronavirus, UK economy and society, faster indicators: 30 April 2020](#).

7 . Coping while staying at home and community support networks

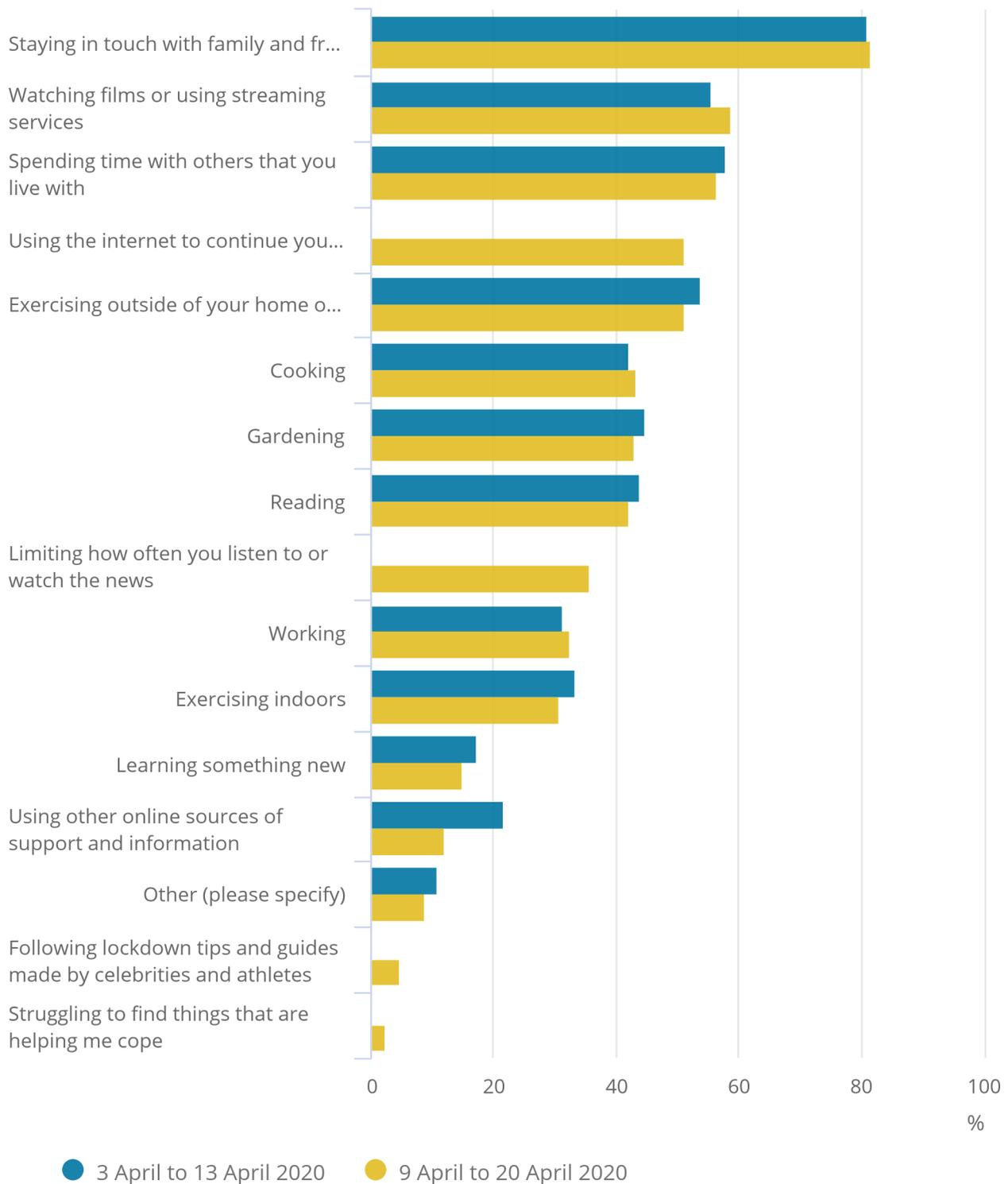
As we continue to stay at home, staying in touch with friends and family remotely remained the most popular action helping people cope while being at home. Over half of adults (56.5%) also said spending time with people they live with was helping. Watching films or using streaming services remained the most popular leisure activity, while over one in seven adults (15.0%) said learning something new was helping them cope. Over one in three adults (35.7%) said limiting the time they spent listening to or watching the news was helping.

Figure 5: Staying in touch with friends and family remained the most common way to help cope while staying at home

Great Britain, 9 April 2020 to 20 April 2020

Figure 5: Staying in touch with friends and family remained the most common way to help cope while staying at home

Great Britain, 9 April 2020 to 20 April 2020



Notes:

1. Question: What is helping you to cope while staying at home?
2. Respondents were asked to select all that apply.
3. New response categories were added to the survey (9 to 20 April). Therefore, there are no data available for the previous week.

Nearly 3 in 10 adults (28.8%) said they had visited a public green space in the past seven days, a decrease from 35.1% last week.

Feelings of community continued to increase this week. Around two in three adults (66.5%) said other local community members would support them if they needed help during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, an increase from 64.1% last week. In addition, over 8 in 10 adults (80.1%) said they thought people were doing more to help others since the COVID-19 pandemic compared with 77.9% last week. Among key workers, there was an even greater sense of community spirit with 85.6% saying they thought people were doing more to help others.

However, in the past seven days a lower proportion of adults (52.0%) said they had checked on neighbours who might need help at least once, down from 62.6% last week. Additionally, just under 3 in 10 adults (28.5%) said they had gone shopping or done other tasks for neighbours at least once, down from 37.5% last week.

8 . Indicators of well-being and loneliness

The proportion of adults who said their well-being was affected continued to decrease this week (45.8%) compared with last week (49.9%). The proportion remained higher for those with an underlying health condition, at 57.7%, and lower for those aged 70 years and over, at 38.2% (Figure 6). A similar proportion of key workers (46.5%) said their well-being was affected to all adults.

The most common issues affecting people's well-being have not changed for the past two weeks of the survey. About 7 in 10 (69.3%) of those who said their well-being was being affected said they were feeling worried about the future, with two in three (65.1%) feeling stressed or anxious. Nearly half (48.4%) also said not being able to exercise as normal was impacting their well-being.

Despite over half of adults saying spending time with others they live with was helping them cope while being at home, over one in five (20.2%) of those concerned about their well-being said they were spending too much time with others in their household.

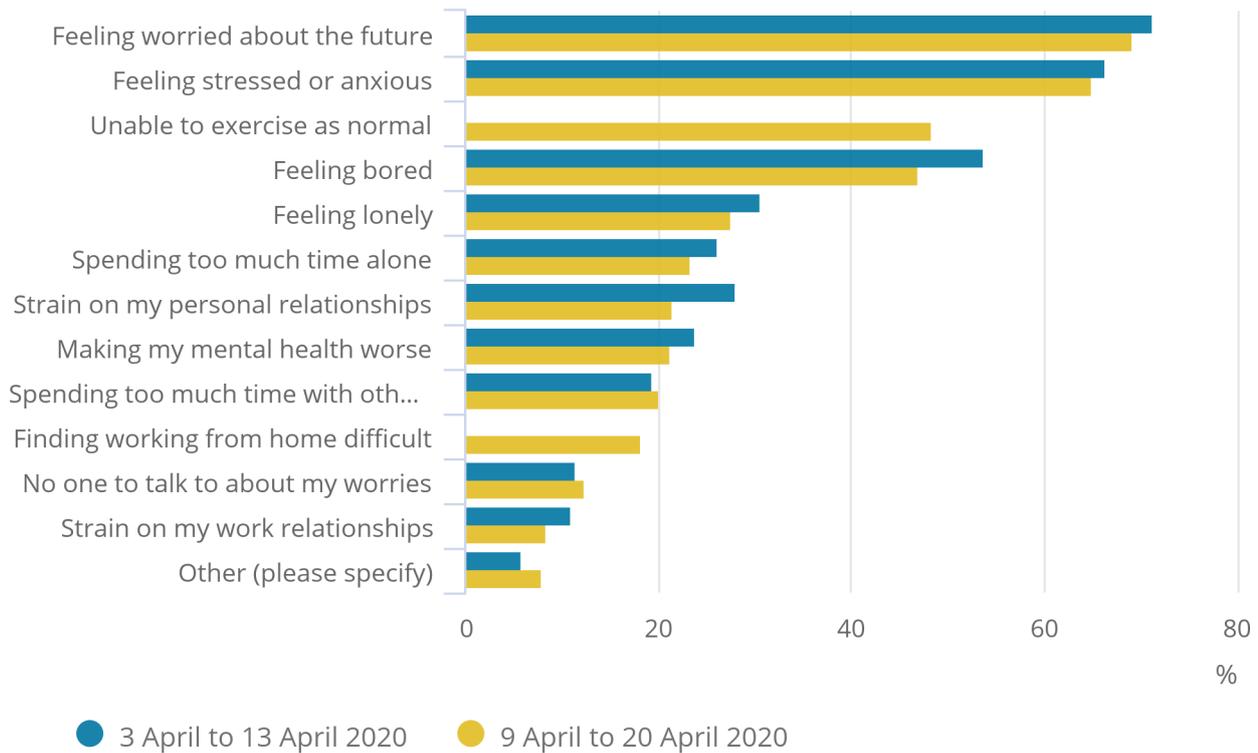
Although it is not known how many people who said their well-being was affected had mental health issues prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, over one in five (21.2%) of those whose well-being has been affected said it was making their mental health worse.

Figure 6: Of those who were concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on their well-being, the majority felt worried about the future, stressed or anxious

Great Britain, 9 April 2020 to 20 April 2020

Figure 6: Of those who were concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on their well-being, the majority felt worried about the future, stressed or anxious

Great Britain, 9 April 2020 to 20 April 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

Notes:

1. Question: In which way is your well-being being affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19)?
2. Respondents were asked to select all that apply.
3. Base population for percentage: adults aged 16 years or over who said they were very worried or somewhat worried about the effect COVID-19 was having on their life right now and said it was affecting their well-being.
4. New response categories added to the survey (9 April to 20 April 2020) this week, so data for last week may not be directly comparable.

Anxiety levels, though higher than before the COVID-19 pandemic, have fallen since last week for most adults.

The full scores for the four measures of personal well-being are included in the [associated datasets](#).

Table 1: Indicators of well-being

	Group	This week (%)	Last week (%)
Wellbeing is being affected	All adults	45.8	49.9
	70 years and over	38.2	45.5
	Underlying health	57.7	55.6
Mean anxiety score*	All adults	4.2	4.9
	70 years and over	4.2	5.0
	Underlying health	4.9	5.4
Percentage with high anxiety (score 6-10)*	All adults	35.7	46.4
	70 years and over	34.6	49.8
	Underlying health	45.7	56.6
Feeling lonely often or always	All adults	3.8	5.8
	70 years and over	3.5	3.6
	Underlying health	8.9	7.3
Feeling lonely some of the time	All adults	16.7	20.5
	70 years and over	13.9	10.9
	Underlying health	22.1	20.4

Source: Office for National Statistics – Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

Notes

- * “On a scale of 0 to 10, how anxious did you feel yesterday?” [Back to table](#)
- “This week” refers to the period 9 April to 20 April 2020, and “last week” refers to the period 3 April to 13 April 2020. [Back to table](#)

9 . Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain data

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain data](#)

Dataset | Released 30 April 2020

New indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain. Includes breakdowns by at-risk age, sex and underlying health condition.

10 . Glossary

Underlying health condition

In this bulletin, adults with an underlying health condition include those with: Alzheimer's disease or dementia; angina or long-term heart problem; asthma; autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or Asperger's (Asperger syndrome); cancer; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or long-term lung problem; diabetes; epilepsy or other conditions that affect the brain; high blood pressure; kidney or liver disease; stroke or cerebral haemorrhage or cerebral thrombosis; and rheumatoid arthritis. This also includes pregnant women.

Dependent children

Questions about homeschooling are asked when the responding individual has a dependent child in their household. A dependent child is defined as someone who is under the age of 16 years or someone who is aged 16 to 18 years, has never been married and is in full-time education.

In employment

For this survey, a person is said to be "In employment" if they had a paid job, either as an employee or self-employed; they did any casual work for payment; or they did any unpaid or voluntary work in the previous week.

Key workers

Key workers have been identified if a respondent has self-reported they have been given "key worker status" only. It has not been defined by an official list of occupations or industries in which people work.

11 . Measuring the data

The Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) is a monthly omnibus survey. In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we have adapted the OPN to become a weekly survey used to collect data on the impact of COVID-19 on day-to-day life in Great Britain. In this wave, 2,010 individuals were sampled, with a response rate of 71.1% (or 1,430 individuals) for the survey conducted from 9 April to 20 April 2020.

The survey results are weighted to be a nationally representative sample for Great Britain, and data are collected using an online self-completion questionnaire. Individuals who did not complete the survey online were given the opportunity to take part over the phone.

Where changes in results from previous weeks are presented in this bulletin, associated [confidence intervals](#), which are included in the [associated datasets](#), indicate their significance.

More quality and methodology information on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in the [Opinions and Lifestyle Survey QMI](#).

Sampling

A sample of 2,010 households were randomly selected from the Annual Population Survey (APS), which consists collectively of those respondents who successfully completed the last wave of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) or the local LFS boost. From each household, one adult was selected at random but with unequal probability. Younger people were given higher selection probability than older people because of under-representation in the sample available for the survey. Further information on the sample design can be found in the [OPN QMI](#).

Weighting

The responding sample contained 1,430 individuals (71.1% response rate). Survey weights were applied to make estimates representative of the population.

Weights were first adjusted for non-response and attrition. Subsequently, the weights were calibrated to satisfy population distributions considering the following factors: sex by age, region, tenure, highest qualification, employment status, National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) group and smoking status. For age, sex and region, population totals based on projections of mid-year population estimates for April 2020 were used. The resulting weighted sample is therefore representative of the Great Britain adult population by a number of socio-demographic factors and geography.

12 . Strengths and limitations

The main strengths of the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) include:

- it allows for timely production of data and statistics that can respond quickly to changing needs
- it meets data needs: the questionnaire is developed with customer consultation, and design expertise is applied in the development stages
- robust methods are adopted for the survey's sampling and weighting strategies to limit the impact of bias
- quality assurance procedures are undertaken throughout the analysis stages to minimise the risk of error

The main limitations of the OPN include:

- the sample size is relatively small: 2,010 individuals per week with fewer completed interviews, meaning that detailed analyses for subnational geographies and other sub-groups are not possible
- comparisons between periods and groups must be done with caution as estimates are provided from a sample survey; as such, confidence intervals are included in the datasets to present the sampling variability, which should be taken into account when assessing differences between periods, as true differences may not exist

13 . Related links

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) product page](#)

Product page | Updated as data become available

Latest data and analysis on the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK and its effects on the economy and society.

[Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional: week ending 17 April 2020](#)

Bulletin | Released 28 April 2020

Provisional counts of the number of deaths registered in England and Wales, including deaths involving COVID-19, by age, sex and region, in the latest weeks for which data are available.

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on disabled people in Great Britain](#)

Article | Released 24 April 2020

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) covering the period 27 March 2020 to 13 April 2020 on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on disabled people in Great Britain.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) roundup](#)

Blog | Updated as and when data become available

Catch up on the latest data and analysis related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our economy and society.

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on disabled people in Great Britain](#)

Article | Released 24 April 2020

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the period 27 March 2020 to 13 April 2020 on the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on disabled people in Great Britain.

[Coronavirus and the economic impacts on the UK: 23 April 2020](#)

Bulletin | Released 23 April 2020

The indicators and analysis presented are based on responses from the new voluntary fortnightly business survey, which captures the views of businesses on the impact of COVID-19 on turnover, workforce prices, trade and business resilience. These data relate to the period 23 March to 5 April 2020.

[Furloughing of workers across UK businesses: 23 March 2020 to 5 April 2020](#)

Article | Released 23 April 2020

Analysis of Wave 2 of the Business Impact of COVID-19 Survey (BICS). This complements the analysis of BICS by focusing on the workforce furloughed across responding businesses.