Changes in UK Self-employment in April-June 2020

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The purpose of this report is to provide an early assessment of the scale of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the self-employed in the UK. The self-employed are a significant group of workers in the UK economy. Their proportion in the workforce had grown to 15.3% in 2019 (ONS, 2020a). The self-employed are heterogenous in terms of industry, occupation and social characteristics. However, because of their relatively high concentration in services that are dependent on face-to-face contact (including arts and entertainment), early projections had identified the self-employed as a high-risk group of workers – and self-employed women in particular (Henley and Reuschke, 2020).

Data presented in this report are based on the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Two-Wave Longitudinal LFS. These are datasets by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) that are used to inform on the official labour market situation in the UK, and its regions and nations. The second quarter of the LFS 2020 covers April-June and hence the period of the full national lockdown. We compare what happened to self-employment during these three months with the previous quarter (January-March 2020) as well as with the previous year (April-June 2019) to provide an early assessment of changes to self-employment in the COVID-19 crisis, with a focus on social characteristics of the self-employed and regions. Key Tables are included in the text and additional material is added in the Appendix.

When interpreting the presented data, it has to be noted that the employment status in the Labour Force Survey is self-reported. Self-reported changes, as per the LFS survey methodology, may reflect individual's views on their status rather than formal tax de-registration as self-employed. The ONS note in their report from August 2020 (ONS, 2020b), that the employee counts from the Labour Force Survey and the HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) data show discrepancies which relate to how employees who were temporarily away from work but were still paid reported their employment status. Discrepancies in how the self-employed reported their employment status when they did not work, were not reported by the ONS.

Executive Summary

- The strong rise in self-employment in the UK has reversed back four years to 2016 levels.
- Almost half of the total reduction in self-employment in the UK in April-June 2020 compared to Jan-March 2020 happened in London (47% or 109,000 people).
- The dramatic reduction in self-employment is due to more people leaving and fewer people entering self-employment in April-June 2020 compared to previous years. Those who were part-time self-employed or were only self-employed for a short period of time in January-March 2020, were more likely to exit self-employment in April-June 2020.
- Self-employment was most resilient to the crisis in real estate, health and social work and information and communication, that are sectors that were not affected by social distancing measures or were essential sectors. However, there are substantial variations by gender.
- The number of self-employed men decreased proportionately more than the number of self-employed women between Jan-March 2020 to April-June 2020: by -6% versus -0.3%. In some industries, however, women had a greater decrease in self-employment compared to men such as in information and communication and other services.
- Self-employment dropped most in April-June 2020 compared to the previous quarter (Jan-March 2020) in London. London, however, had still the highest self-employment rate in April-June 2020 at 17.3%.
- Compared to the previous year (April-June 2019), Wales experienced the greatest drop in self-employment (by 12% from 14.8% to 12.7% in April-June 2020), but most of this took place before the Covid-19 lockdown.
- Counter to the national decline, self-employment grew in Scotland and the West Midlands between the first and second quarters of 2020, and Northern Ireland remained largely unchanged.
- Eligibility for SEISS has impacted on exits from self-employment which explains some of the disproportionate drop of self-employment in London.

Change in number of the self-employed

The number of self-employed workers was 232,000 lower in April-June 2020 compared to the previous quarter (January-March 2020) and 210,000 lower than the previous year (April-June 2019), reversing the strong rise in self-employment back four years to 2016 levels (Table 1). The number of employees, to contrast, was unchanged in April-June 2020 compared to the previous quarter; hence, the largest quarterly decrease in employment in the UK since 2009 during the Great Recession, was solely due to a reduction in self-employment, according to the Labour Force Survey. Almost half of the total reduction in self-employment in the UK in April-June 2020 compared to Jan-March 2020 happened in London (47% or 109,000 people).

Table 1. Numbers of self-employed 16 years and older, January-March 2015 to April-June 2020

Quarterly Labour Force Survey	Self-employed (Thousands)
Jan-Mar 2015	4,528
Apr-Jun 2015	4,524
Jul-Sep 2015	4,568
Oct-Dec 2015	4,682
Jan-Mar 2016	4,714
Apr-Jun 2016	4,793
Jul-Sep 2016	4,779
Oct-Dec 2016	4,806
Jan-Mar 2017	4,795
Apr-Jun 2017	4,816
Jul-Sep 2017	4,801
Oct-Dec 2017	4,781
Jan-Mar 2018	4,744
Apr-Jun 2018	4,779
Jul-Sep 2018	4,752
Oct-Dec 2018	4,844
Jan-Mar 2019	4,919
Apr-Jun 2019	4,968
Jul-Sep 2019	4,950
Oct-Dec 2019	5,025
Jan-Mar 2020	4,990
Apr-Jun 2020	4,758

Source: ONS Table EMP14: All self-employed by industry sector: People (not seasonally adjusted).

Table 2. Self-employment in UK by regions in absolute numbers, all self-employed 16 years and older, in thousands (rounded)

	April-June 2020	Jan-March 2020	April-June 2019	% Change April-June 2020 to Jan-March 2020	% Change April-June 2020 to April-June 2019
North East	135	148	145	-8.8%	-6.9%
North West	440	466	472	-5.5%	-6.9%
Yorkshire and Humberside	334	356	363	-6.2%	-7.9%
East Midlands	322	330	310	-2.4%	3.7%
West Midlands	386	376	417	2.7%	-7.6%
East of England	470	488	492	-3.7%	-4.5%
London	805	914	859	-12.0%	-6.3%
South East	705	756	721	-6.7%	-2.2%
South West	453	467	468	-2.9%	-3.2%
Wales	185	182	211	1.6%	-12.3%
Scotland	320	309	331	3.6%	-3.3%
Northern Ireland	136	137	131	-0.8%	3.8%
United Kingdom (Total)	4691	4929	4920	-4.8%	-4.7%

Note: Quarterly Labour Force Surveys, weighted data. Excluding full-time students. Unpaid family members are not counted as self-employed.

The reduction in self-employment began in April 2020, i.e. soon after the lockdown laws became effective (Brown, 2020). There was a clear and distinctive drop in the self-employment rate the week beginning 04th April. There was also a rise in self-employment the week beginning 10th May 2020, the same week that the SEISS scheme for the self-employed first opened to applicants (Appendix, Figure 1). This may suggest that some self-employed workers reported in the LFS that they were 'temporarily' not self-employed when they did not have work or income.

Changes in exits and entries into self-employment

The Two-Quarter Longitudinal LFS from January-June 2020 allows us to look directly at changes between the first and second quarters of 2020. This analysis suggests that the dramatic reduction in self-employment is due to more people leaving but also fewer people entering self-employment in April-June 2020 compared to previous years (Table 3).

Multivariate model of self-employment exits

We further explored with the microdata who was more likely to leave compared to remain in self-employment between the first and second quarters of 2020. The findings of the multivariate analysis are presented in full in the Appendix, Table 1. In a nutshell, we find that those who were part-time self-employed in Jan-March 2020 were significantly more likely to exit self-employment in April-June 2020. Those who were self-employed only since 2019 were also more likely to exit self-employment in April-June 2020. This could be related to eligibility for SEISS, as those who traded for less than one year were not eligible for income support.

To contrast, those in skilled trades occupations and process and plant workers were less likely to leave self-employment, even when controls for industrial sector are applied. This may indicate cross-sectoral resilience in specialist roles and activities, particularly where social distancing can more easily be implemented (i.e. non-human facing). Furthermore, many process and plant workers involved in production would have been considered key or essential workers during lockdown, and allowed to continue to work. A further relevant finding is that women were less likely to exit self-employment over this period, when other factors are controlled for. Personal services are also related with a decreased likelihood of exits from self-employment which may be because there were few alternative choices in this sector, encouraging people to remain in self-employment.

Table 3. Flows out and into self-employment from Jan-March to April-June, population 16-69-years-old, by survey year

Type of flow	2020	2019	2018
From self-employment into (% self-employed in Q1):			
Inactivity	4.3%	3.5%	3.4%
Paid employment	5.3%	3.9%	3.6%
Unpaid family worker	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
Into self-employment from (% self-employed in Q2):			
Inactivity	2.8%	3.3%	3.3%
Paid employment	3.1%	4.3%	3.5%
Unpaid family worker	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%
% self-employed in Q2 who were self-employed in Q1	93.7%	91.9%	92.9%

Source: LFS Two-Quarter Longitudinal Dataset January-June 2020, 2019, 2018; weighted data.

Due to low numbers in the data it is unfortunately not possible to further investigate entries into self-employment using multivariate analysis, the other side of the coin in explaining the overall decline in self-employment.

Industries

Industries were affected differently by the crisis with numbers of workers dropping sharply in accommodation and food services, as expected, as this sector was most affected by the shutdown. In some sectors, however, on aggregate the number of self-employed workers shrunk whereas the number of employees rose: agriculture, energy and water; transport and storage; financial and insurance activities; administrative and support services, professional services and education. The rate of contraction in self-employed work was highest in administrative and support services. Self-employment was most resilient to the crisis in real estate, health and social work and information and communication, although with variations by gender (Table 4).

Table 4. Percentage change in number of self-employed and employees Jan-March 2020 to April-June 2020, workers 16 years and older, total and by gender

	Self-employed			All workers		
	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women
Total	-4.65	-6.91	-0.34	-0.66	-0.81	-0.49
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, energy & water	-3.28	-6.35	13.16	0.54	0.52	0.61
Manufacturing	-9.92	-15.18	6.23	-2.40	-3.89	2.07
Construction	-6.24	-6.78	7.17	-3.53	-4.03	-0.07
Wholesale, retail & repair of motor vehicles	-3.46	-5.81	1.31	-1.85	0.53	-4.47
Transport & storage	-4.30	-4.09	-6.86	-0.69	-0.58	-1.11
Accommodation and food services	-12.12	-30.30	7.17	-8.82	-6.99	-10.24
Information & communication	0.00	8.00	-22.09	-2.28	-1.56	-4.04
Financial & insurance activities	-6.80	-14.88	21.02	7.90	6.54	9.66
Real estate activities	8.39	8.30	8.49	5.26	10.83	0.60
Professional, scientific & technical activities	-8.32	-10.20	-5.00	0.03	0.99	-1.26
Administrative & support services	-14.28	-15.84	-12.39	-3.20	-1.25	-5.33
Public admin & defense; social security	-3.68	-4.12	-3.25	6.53	5.85	7.14
Education	-1.88	-6.80	1.42	0.59	-2.92	1.94
Human health & social work activities	6.89	0.33	10.01	0.20	2.17	-0.39
Other services	-3.97	-4.73	-3.46	-2.84	-4.02	-1.83

Source: ONS Table EMP14: All self-employed by industry sector: People (not seasonally adjusted), own calculations.

Based on the Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey (BICS), the Office for National Statistics reported that businesses in arts, entertainment and recreation experienced the greatest negative impact of the crisis in terms of turnover decrease and temporary business closures (ONS, 2020c). The ONS data used in the calculations for Table 4 do not disaggregate ‘arts, entertainment and recreation’ from ‘other services’, which also include personal services such as hair salons and cleaning services. This combined category had an overall smaller decrease in self-employment but women experienced here a greater decrease compared to the average.

Gender

We find big differences by gender in the changes to self-employment during the national lockdown. While we expected previously that women would be more affected as they were more likely to work in sectors that were required to shutdown than men (Henley and Reuschke, 2020), the number of self-employed men decreased proportionately more than the number of self-employed women in the second quarter 2020 to the previous quarter: by -6% versus -0.3% respectively. One reason for this is that not only 'shutdown' sectors were affected that employ more women than men, but also 'male-dominated' sectors such as manufacturing and the construction sector (Table 4).

The distinct drop in weekly self-employment data which occurred shortly after the UK went into lockdown, was also much more pronounced for men than for women (Appendix, Figure 1).

Table 5. Social characteristics of self-employment in 2020 to 2019, self-employment rates

	April-June 2020	Jan-March 2020	April-June 2019
Proportion female workers who are self-employed	11.19	11.28	11.12
Proportion male workers who are self-employed	18.14	19.30	19.68
Self-employed by age bands			
16-29 years	6.48	7.30	7.33
30-44 years	13.29	14.01	14.11
45-54 years	17.32	16.97	17.68
55+ years	22.65	24.20	24.03
Self-employed by ethnic group			
White	14.87	15.53	15.65
Asian	16.44	16.78	16.99
Black/African/ Caribbean/Black British	10.43	11.98	12.38

Note: Quarterly Labour Force Surveys, weighted data. Persons 16 years and older excluding full-time students. Unpaid family members are not counted as self-employed.

The self-employment rate among women remained almost unchanged in April-June 2020 to the previous year (April-June 2019): 11.2% and 11.1% respectively (Table 5). However, compared to the previous year, the number of self-employed women had increased by 2.3% whereas the number of self-employed men had decreased by -7.5% to April-June 2019. The lower likelihood of women to exit self-employment compared to men is also confirmed when industry and occupation are controlled for.

Reductions in male self-employment were pronounced in manufacturing (-15.2%), accommodation and food services (-30.3%) and in financial and insurance activities (-14.9%). Reductions in female self-employment were noticeable in information and communication (-22.1%). Self-employed men and women were equally badly affected in administrative and support services, with declines in employment by -15.8% and -12.4% to the previous quarter respectively (Table 4).

Female self-employment was most resilient in April-June 2020 in agriculture; financial and insurance activities and human health and social work, with increases by 10% or more compared to the previous quarter. These are sectors where the work is located outdoors or are 'essential' sectors that were unaffected by social distancing measures. Male self-employment was most resilient in real estate and information and communication, with increases by 8% on the previous quarter (Table 4).

Strikingly, in information and communication, male self-employment grew strongly but female self-employment declined strongly, producing a huge gender divergence. It may be that women work in very different roles and occupations within information and communication industries. However, compared to the previous year, the number of self-employed women in this sector was still higher.

Although overall employment in accommodation and food services contracted significantly, female self-employment did not decrease in this sector in April-June 2020 to Jan-March 2020. Self-employed men, in contrast, were badly affected in this sector.

Age and ethnicity

Self-employment decreased significantly among both older and younger people. Despite the proportionate decrease among older people 55+, this age group had still by far the highest self-employment rate in April-June 2020 (22.7%). Self-employment was low among young workers <30 years old before the pandemic but the proportions of workers under 30 in self-employment has substantially decreased from 7.3% in April-June 2019 to 6.5% in April-June 2020 (Table 5).

Decreases in self-employment varied by ethnic group and was greatest among Black/African/Caribbean/Black British people. Their self-employment rate decreased from 12.4% in April-June 2019 to 10.4% in April-June 2020 (Table 5).

Region

Self-employment dropped most in April-June 2020 compared to the previous quarter (Jan-March 2020) in London, although London had still the highest self-employment rate in April-June 2020 at 17.3% (Table 6). While the UK as a whole experienced a distinct drop in self-employment in the week of the 04th April, the decrease in self-employment began earlier in London, in the week of the 29th March 2020. However, compared to the previous year (April-June 2019) rather than the previous quarter (January-March 2020), Wales experienced the greatest drop in self-employment (by 12% from 14.8% to 12.7% in April-June 2020) (Table 2). This means that most of the reduction in self-employment in Wales took place before the Covid-19 lockdown while London was more directly affected by the pandemic and the lockdown itself. The drop of self-employment in London was disproportionate to their self-employment stock before the pandemic (in January-March 2020 18.55% of the UK self-employed were located in London).

Counter to the national decline, self-employment grew in Scotland and the West Midlands between the first and second quarters of 2020 (Table 6). Northern Ireland remained largely unchanged which reflects the rurality and size of agriculture in the region.

The substantial drop in self-employment in London is likely to be influenced by a number of factors. London had a relatively high proportion of the self-employed in personal services and a relatively low proportion in public administration and health (Appendix, Table 3). However, differences to other regions are not stark. The social composition of the self-employed may be an important factor. London had an exceptionally high self-employment rate among younger people (16-34-years-old) in 2019 (25% compared to 16% in the South West) (Annual Population Survey 2019). The SEISS take-up rates were slightly lower among younger people (Brewer and Handscomb, 2020) which is likely to relate to shorter periods in self-employment.

Table 6. Self-employment rates in regions

	April-June 2020	Jan-March 2020	April-June 2019
North East	11.49	12.70	12.72
North West	13.01	13.64	14.10
Yorkshire and Humberside	13.45	14.30	14.81
East Midlands	14.26	14.50	13.74
West Midlands	14.17	13.85	15.40
East of England	15.72	16.14	16.16
London	17.34	19.43	19.13
South East	15.81	16.69	16.30
South West	16.98	17.39	17.18
Wales	12.70	12.87	14.75
Scotland	12.65	12.29	12.87
Northern Ireland	16.38	16.39	15.65
UK TOTAL	14.85	15.51	15.66

Note: Quarterly Labour Force Surveys, weighted data. Excluding full-time students. Unpaid family members are not counted as self-employed.

A further difference between London and other UK regions relates to the types of self-employment. In particular, London had a much higher proportion of the self-employed who classified themselves as employment agency workers than in all other regions in 2019 (7.3% versus 3.2% in UK as a whole), down by -58.4% in the April-June quarter of 2020 from the previous year. Table 4a in the Appendix shows how the self-employed classified themselves, averaged over 2019. Table 4b shows the proportionate change between 2019 and the second quarter of 2020. The largest proportion of the self-employed in 2019 classified themselves as ‘working for themselves’. The large decrease in agency (‘temp’) workers among the self-employed in London suggests that firms shed the self-employed who worked as flexible labour. The proportion of freelance workers was also much higher in London in 2019 (8.1% versus 4% in the UK as a whole). However, their proportion increased (by 4.3%) in

April-June 2020 compared to the previous year, and was still substantially higher than in the UK on average (4.3% in April-June 2020) (Appendix Table 4b).

Those with trading profits of more than £50,000 were not eligible for SEISS. Even though they are more likely to have financial buffers, some might have exited self-employment (temporarily) for a well-paid job. The opportunities for this transition will be greater in London which might have contributed to the substantial drop in self-employment numbers in London. On the other hand, this group of the self-employed may have more often reported in the LFS that they 'temporarily' left self-employment when they did not have work. The LFS excludes the self-employed from their question on gross and net earnings, thus we are unable to confirm this with our own analysis.

Graduate self-employment

Other aspects of self-employment in London rather hint at a greater resilience. Graduate self-employment was much higher in London than in other regions of the UK before the COVID-19 crisis (Table 7). It has been reported that graduates are more likely to work from home and were therefore less affected in this crisis (Blundell et al., 2020). Overall in the UK, graduate self-employment declined less than non-graduate self-employment between the first and second quarter of 2020 (Table 7).

The drop in non-graduate self-employed in London is particularly striking. However, in London (as well as in Northern Ireland), graduate self-employment was also declining between the first and second quarter of 2020. In other parts of the UK, graduate self-employment has not declined over this period. Our multivariate model of exits from self-employment (p. 4) did not show a difference between the likelihood of graduates and non-graduates exiting self-employment between the first and second quarters of 2020 (Table 1 in Appendix).

Table 7. Graduate Self-Employment, self-employed 16 years and older, row percentage shares and absolute figures

Country	Proportion of self-employed who are graduates		Apr-Jun 2020 % Change from Jan-March 2020	
	Apr-Jun 2019	Apr-Jun 2020	Graduate	Non-Graduate
London	48.86	50.00	-5.84	-17.64
England (without London)	26.46	28.95	0.38	-5.93
Wales	25.53	23.51	0.24	1.70
Scotland	29.91	31.93	11.57	-2.16
Northern Ireland	19.32	21.56	-5.32	1.14
United Kingdom (Total)	30.38	32.71	-0.84	-6.73

Note: Graduate defined as those who hold a degree level qualification or equivalent professional qualification at NVQ level 6 or higher. Quarterly Labour Force Surveys weighted data. Excluding full-time students. Unpaid family members are not counted as self-employed.

Summary and outlook

Self-employment underwent dramatic changes between April and June 2020. In October 2020, the ONS released early estimates for the most recent LFS data – the period June to August – which indicate that self-employment has continued to decline (ONS, 2020d). These figures are alarming about the future development of self-employment in the UK.

Our weekly analysis suggests that the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) which opened for applications in mid-May, may have had an impact on how the self-employed reported their employment status in the LFS. Some may have reported that they were not self-employed when they temporarily were not working but then reported they were self-employed once it was confirmed that they were eligible for SEISS. Furthermore, SEISS will have impacted on self-employment exits which we investigated in this report using the length in self-employed. This analysis showed that the recent self-employed exited quicker. This may mean for the future of self-employment that they will also remain out of self-employment for longer.

The regional variation in the impact on self-employment is striking. London stands out as losing the largest proportion of its previously self-employed compared to other regions. Wales also stands out with high drops in self-employment but this change happened before the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, in both regions the decreases in self-employment are alarming, but London is more directly affected by the crisis and the lockdown. This renders necessary policy attention that focuses on how to support self-employment against the background of COVID-19 mitigation measures, whilst in Wales, more broader approaches to the shrinkage of self-employment are also needed.

Our analysis also revealed big gender differences in the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, with female self-employment having been so far more resilient to the economic shock than male self-employment. The differences in the experience of men and women among the self-employed will be the subject of further analysis. However, a preliminary conclusion is that we need to look at women's and men's different roles and occupations within industries rather than on industry segregation per se.

Data Acknowledgement

Annual Population Survey, January – December, 2019 (UKDS 8632)
Quarterly Labour Force Survey April-June 2020 (UKDS 8671)
Quarterly Labour Force Survey April-June 2019 (UKDS 8672)
Quarterly Labour Force Survey January-March 2020 (UKDS 8639)
ONS Table EMP14: All self-employed by industry sector: People (not seasonally adjusted)
LFS Two-Quarter Longitudinal Dataset January-June 2020 (UKDS 8672)
LFS Two-Quarter Longitudinal Dataset January-June 2019 (UKDS 8564)
LFS Two-Quarter Longitudinal Dataset January-June 2018 (UKDS 8382)

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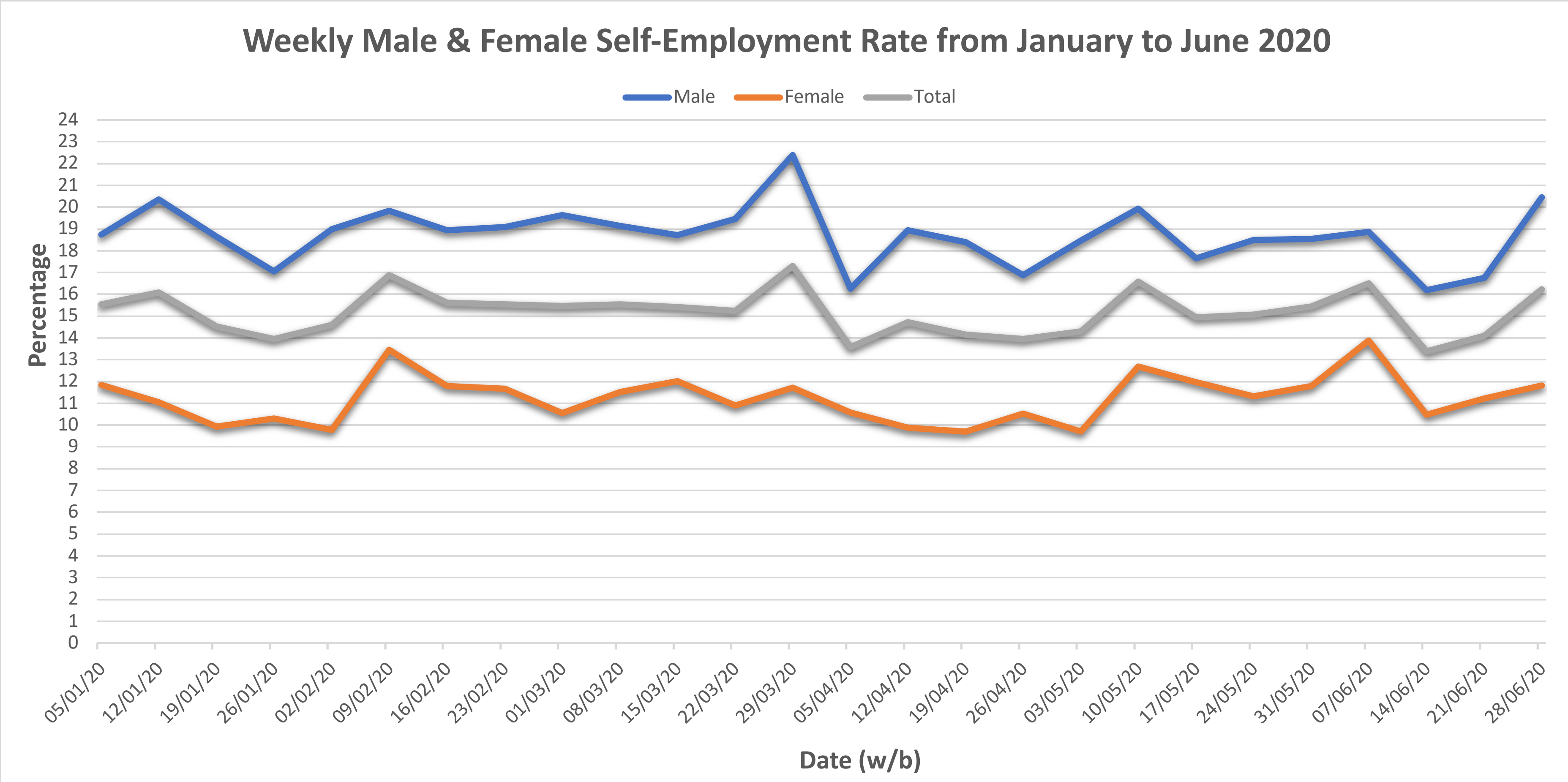
Appendix

Figure 1. Weekly Self-Employment Rate for Men & Women from January to June 2020



Note: Quarterly Labour Force Surveys Jan-Mar & Apr-Jun 2020, weighted data. Self-employed persons aged 16 or older. Excluding full-time students. Unpaid family members are not counted as self-employed.

Multivariate Model of Exits from Self-employment

Table 1. Exit from Self-Employment versus Remaining Self-Employed between first and second quarters 2020, Odds Ratios

Co-variates	Model 1 (only London)		Model 2 (full model)	
	OR	SE	OR	SE
London (Ref Cat. All Other Regions)	1.548*	0.325		
Region (Ref Cat. North East)	-	-		
London	-	-	0.867	0.369
North West	-	-	0.563	0.256
Yorkshire and Humberside	-	-	0.782	0.352
East Midlands	-	-	1.096	0.475
West Midlands	-	-	0.662	0.302
East of England	-	-	0.703	0.304
South East	-	-	0.613	0.257
South West	-	-	0.963	0.399
Wales	-	-	0.984	0.506
Scotland	-	-	0.472	0.245
Northern Ireland	-	-	0.154**	0.089
Works in Own Home or Grounds (Ref Cat. Works Outside Home)	-	-	1.173	0.208
Female (Ref Cat. Male)	-	-	0.688*	0.123
Ethnicity (Ref Cat. White)	-	-		
Asian	-	-	0.897	0.340
Black	-	-	1.545	0.779
Other	-	-	1.256	0.572
Age (16-29)	-	-		
30-44	-	-	0.599	0.207
45-54	-	-	0.743	0.253
55+	-	-	0.762	0.256
Degree Level Qualification or Equivalent (Ref Cat. No Degree)	-	-	1.118	0.196
Usual Hours Part-Time (Ref Cat. Usual Hours Full-Time)	-	-	1.624**	0.276
Self Employed Since 2019 (Ref Cat. Self-Employed Before 2019)	-	-	1.808**	0.387
Employer (Ref Cat. Non-Employer)	-	-	0.984	0.226
Occupation Type (Ref Cat. Managers, Directors and Senior Officers)	-	-		
Professional Occupations	-	-	0.935	0.232
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	-	-	0.920	0.242
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	-	-	1.131	0.433
Skilled Trades Occupations	-	-	0.357***	0.110
Caring Leisure and Other Service Occupations	-	-	0.974	0.356
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	-	-	0.908	0.589
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	-	-	0.397*	0.160
Elementary Occupations	-	-	0.458	0.216
Industry Section (Ref Cat. Manufacturing)	-	-		
Primary Industry, Energy & Water (ABDE)	-	-	0.817	0.450
Construction (F)	-	-	1.087	0.438
Wholesale, Retail, Accommodation & Food Services (GI)	-	-	0.878	0.350
Transport & Communication (HJ)	-	-	0.984	0.405
Real Estate, Professional, Financial & Admin	-	-	0.796	0.292

Co-variates	Model 1 (only London)		Model 2 (full model)	
	OR	SE	OR	SE
Services (KLMN)				
Public Admin, Education & Health (OPQ)	-	-	0.828	0.323
Other Services (RSTU)	-	-	0.350*	0.157
Pseudo R2	0.003		0.073	
N	2,477		2,424	

*Note: Self-employed persons aged 16 or older in the LFS Two-Quarter Longitudinal Dataset, January-June 2020, unweighted analysis. Significance level: *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001.*

Industry Sectors & Gender

Table 2. Percentage change in number of self-employed and employees in April-June 2020 to previous year, workers 16 years and older, total and by gender

	Self-employed			All		
	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women
Total	-4.23	-7.52	2.26	0.44	-0.18	1.12
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, energy & water	-12.58	-13.11	-10.14	-2.73	-2.36	-3.87
Manufacturing	-5.77	-11.31	11.28	-3.45	-3.81	-2.45
Construction	-8.11	-7.95	-11.25	-5.56	-5.86	-3.59
Wholesale, retail & repair of motor vehicles	-8.91	-13.23	0.56	-3.79	-1.76	-6.04
Transport & storage	-23.04	-21.81	-35.85	-2.42	-3.98	4.39
Accommodation and food services	-13.47	-34.97	12.12	-8.08	-13.35	-3.35
Information & communication	14.42	13.42	18.46	11.89	9.92	17.14
Financial & insurance activities	7.23	10.09	0.88	6.47	6.08	6.96
Real estate activities	27.82	32.56	23.00	3.77	10.15	-1.49
Professional, scientific & technical activities	-6.48	-9.39	-1.17	5.39	9.08	0.71
Administrative & support services	-11.50	-11.74	-11.22	-4.48	-5.02	-3.87
Public admin & defence; social security	-3.28	-12.31	7.31	10.07	9.60	10.49
Education	13.81	4.42	20.51	2.60	-0.56	3.82
Human health & social work activities	7.93	38.13	-1.42	4.63	11.33	2.71
Other services	-0.75	-6.47	3.41	-3.28	-3.45	-3.14

Source: ONS Table EMP14: All self-employed by industry sector: People (not seasonally adjusted), own calculations

Region

Table 3. Industry break down by region, gender and age, annual population survey Jan-Dec 2019, self-employed 16 years and older, proportions

Industrial Sector	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Energy and water	Manufacturing	Construction	Distribution, hotels and restaurants	Transport and communication	Banking and finance	Public admin, education and health	Other services
	A	B, D, E	C	F	G, I	H, J	K, L, M, N	O, P, Q	R, S, T, U
North East	2.41	0.98	4.99	18.07	15.26	11.24	22.4	11.16	13.49
North West	3.39	0.45	5.36	18.91	12.5	11.77	20.94	14.09	12.28
Yorkshire and The Humber	4.84	0.24	6.02	17.46	13.8	9.48	21.95	13.59	12.23
East Midlands	3.64	0.33	5.14	21.23	13.06	8.58	21.98	14.18	11.68
West Midlands	3.89	0.55	5.32	24.03	10.61	11.61	22.24	11.33	10.22
East of England	2.37	0.91	3.94	18.97	10.13	11.36	27.38	14.78	9.93
South East	2.14	0.96	4.31	19.92	9.22	10.51	24.36	15.59	12.95
South West	5.24	0.33	5.32	18.58	14.5	6.98	23.34	13.33	12.33
London	0.07	0.28	2.7	17	9	15.96	28.95	12.63	12.83
England (without London)	3.41	0.62	4.94	20	12	10.18	23.37	13.94	11.86
Wales	10.19	0.57	5.64	19.63	13.55	6.57	18.34	12.93	12.29
Scotland	5.57	1.8	6.18	16.38	11.94	10.24	20.53	12.99	14.14
Northern Ireland	11.32	0.91	6.2	20.77	13.36	7.05	14.21	9.84	12.87
TOTAL	3.48	0.64	4.7	19.06	11.52	10.94	23.68	13.49	12.22

Annual Population Survey, weighted data. Excluding full-time students. Unpaid family members are not counted as self-employed.

Table 4a. Type of Self-Employment, Jan-Dec, 2019, self-employed 16 years and older, row percentage shares

Country	Employment Agency	Sole Director of Own LTD Business	Running a Business or Prof. Practice	Partner in Business or Prof. Practice	Working for Self	Subcontractor	Freelance Work
London	7.32	16.7	8.33	5.69	47.28	5.44	8.14
England (without London)	2.3	11.94	13.33	7.84	54.96	5.51	3.31
Wales	2.05	11.1	13.1	12.02	53.97	3.5	3.53
Scotland	2.56	15.71	13.71	10.19	51.19	3.86	1.7
Northern Ireland	0.49	9.75	9.68	11.7	62.65	2.99	1.19
United Kingdom (Total)	3.12	12.92	12.38	7.91	53.56	5.23	3.99

Note: Annual Population Surveys, weighted data. Excluding full-time students. Unpaid family members are not counted as self-employed. Those who did not answer, or answered "other" are excluded. First recorded self-employment type per person only, any additional self-employment types are not included in counts or calculations.

Table 4b. Types of Self-Employment, self-employed 16 years and older, percentage change April-June 2020 on January-December 2019.

Country	Employment Agency	Sole Director of Own LTD Business	Running a Business or Prof. Practice	Partner in Business or Prof. Practice	Working for Self	Subcontractor	Freelance Work
London	-58.42	-1.77	12.52	21.18	-3.42	-13.97	4.25
England (without London)	-23.49	-10.39	-8.08	11.75	-3.61	-5.32	-9.01
Wales	38.27	-31.26	-15.85	-24.49	-7.95	34.92	0.20
Scotland	5.33	-12.58	28.83	-13.17	2.10	-51.21	-7.72
Northern Ireland	*	-1.13	21.49	-42.33	6.00	15.18	44.32
United Kingdom (Total)	-34.66	-9.22	-2.73	6.30	-3.11	-7.63	-3.53

*Note: Quarterly Labour Force Survey, weighted data. Excluding full-time students. Unpaid family members are not counted as self-employed. Those who did not answer, or answered "other" are excluded. First recorded self-employment type per person only, any additional self-employment types are not included in counts or calculations. *Numbers are too small to report.*