

Then and Now:

What impact has Covid-19 had on UK businesses and their employees?

With Covid-19 pandemic still ongoing, it seems a world away since the UK first locked down in March. But, with a long way still to go before the country reaches some form of "normality", what has been the impact of Covid-19 on businesses and their employees?



Then

The UK first went into lockdown on 16th March 2020.

A total fall in production output (4.2%)¹ during March 2020 is the largest monthly fall since January 1979.



By April, 90% of businesses had remote working in place.

The UK workforce was experiencing a disruption like never before. So how did they cope?

Businesses evolved to stay afloat.

51% of businesses evolved their product offerings in May to cope with changes.

70% of businesses were dealing with the same amount of suppliers by June.



How did businesses react to changes?

Remote working

In May, 83.3% of companies expected remote working to change the way they work:

34.2% On a large scale. 49.1% On a small scale.

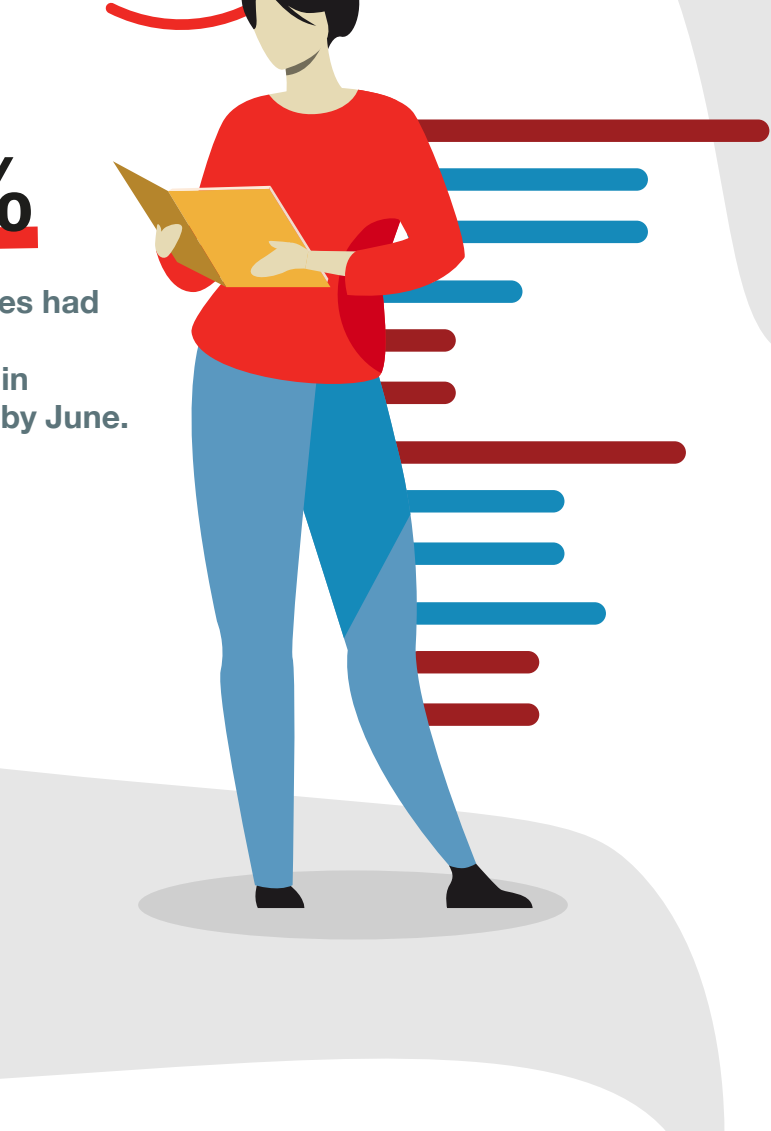


Technology

Technology use skyrocketed, with many businesses adopting tech to support new working practices.

28%² of the UK stated they had taken part in a video call in April when they wouldn't have previously.

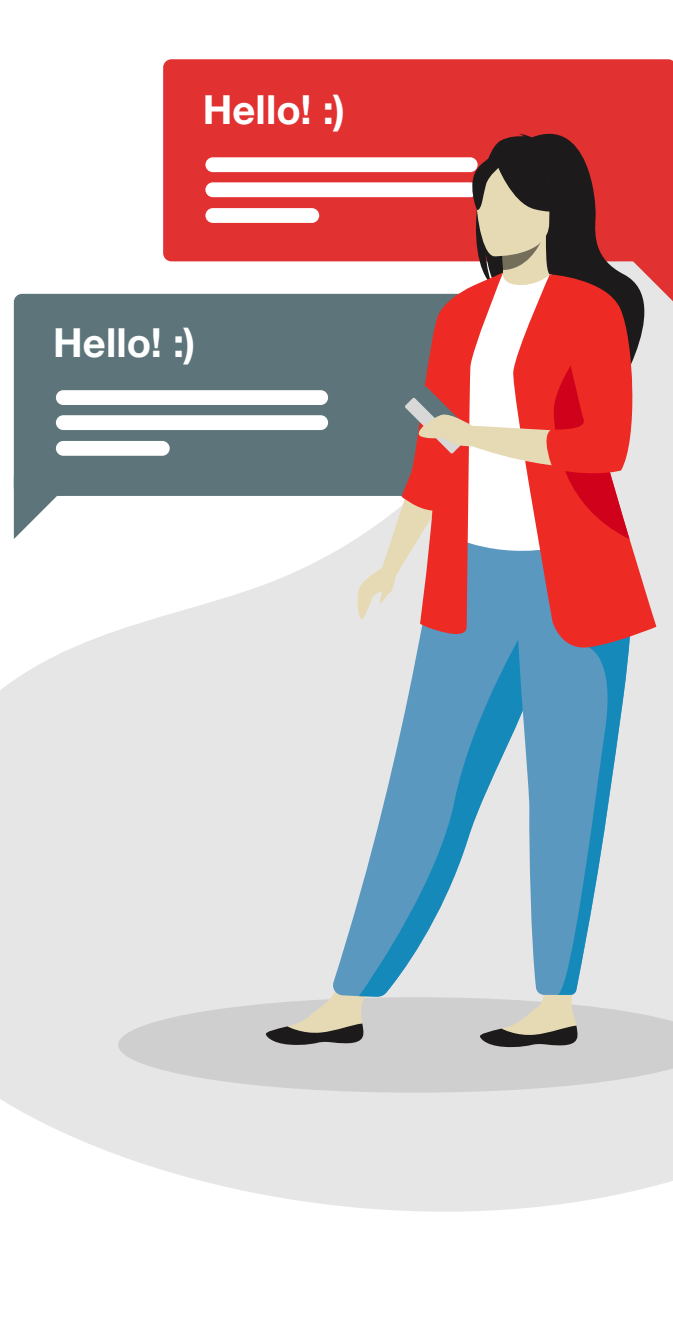
58% of businesses had increased confidence in technology by June.



Communication

90%

of businesses used individual and group chats, internal social networks, email and phone calls to communicate with colleagues.



Now

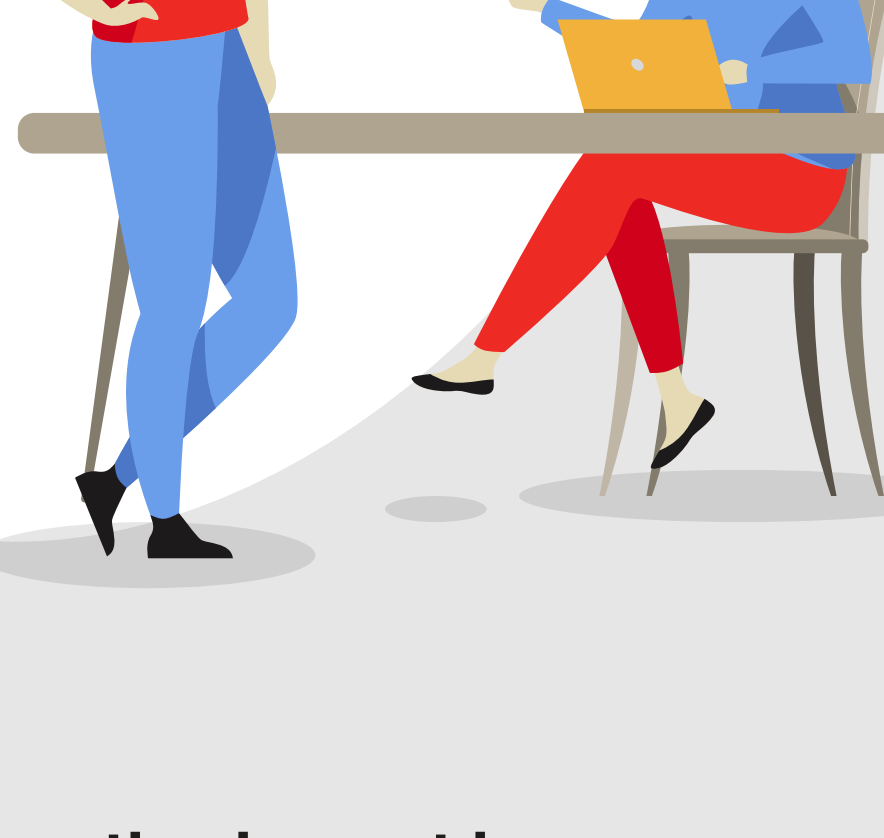
It's clear that some businesses have responded well to the Covid-19 pandemic.

69.7%

of businesses identified more efficient ways of working.

39%

saw an increase in demand for their products/services.



But - what negative impact has Covid-19 had on their employees?

According to the October survey conducted by the Office for National Statistics³:

47% of people say the Covid-19 pandemic is impacting their work.

49% of people say the Covid-19 pandemic is impacting their mental wellbeing.

60% said that they felt stressed or anxious, with life satisfaction scores falling to their lowest since records began.



While businesses have adapted well to change, employees continue to feel the strain of Covid-19. So, what can business leaders do to help them moving forward?

Get practical advice on how to support your employees as we move through the pandemic.

[Check out our free resources hub](#)

Sources

1. Richmond Events, The Impact of COVID-19 on UK Business (April - June)
 2. <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/health/articles-reports/2020/03/27/video-calls-corner-shops-and-board-games-what-are->
 3. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthand-socialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandthesocialimpactsongreatbritain/23october2020#impact-on-work>