## Gender differences and the impact of the pandemic

August 2020

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# Half of Brits are finding staying positive harder during COVID – although on some measures (being able to work) life *is* becoming easier

At the moment, are you finding each of the following easier, harder, or about the same compared with before the Coronavirus outbreak?

	Harder	t wil	I make no difference	Easie	"harder" since April 2020
Staying positive about the future			<b>54%</b> 36%	8%	-4%
Staying positive day-to-day			<b>50%</b> 41%	9%	-6%
Keeping entertained		42%	45%	12%	-4%
Staying in touch with friends + family		42%	43%	14%	-5%
Staying fit + healthy	4	0%	45%	14%	-5%
Being able to work*	39	%	47%	12%	-20%
Looking after your children**	36%		41%	20%	-5%
Being able to afford your usual expenses	34%	52%	%	13%	-1%

Base: 2,152 Online British adults 18-75, 22-24 July 2020, including \*those currently in work (1,434), \*parents/guardian of those aged 17 or under (580)



#### Women are more likely to be finding life harder across a range of measures

At the moment, are you finding each of the following easier, harder, or about the same compared with before the Coronavirus outbreak?

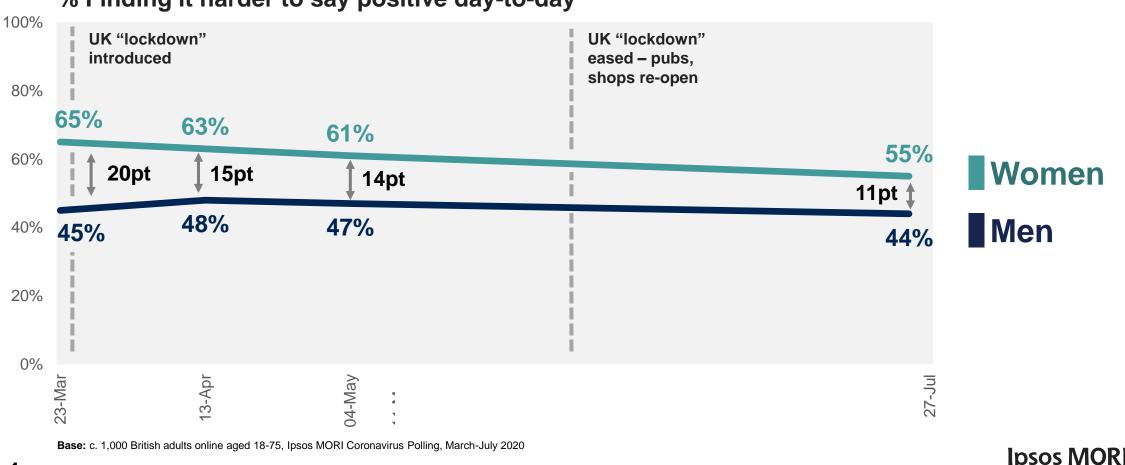
Women Men Gap	% <u>harder</u>
Staying positive about the future	59% 49% <mark>10%</mark>
Staying positive day-to-day	55% 44% 11%
Keeping entertained	46% 38% <mark>8%</mark>
Staying fit and healthy	43% 37% 6%
Being able to work'	* 42% 36% <mark>6%</mark>
Being able to afford your usual expenses	36% 31% <mark>5%</mark>

Base: 2,152 Online British adults 18-75, 22-24 July 2020, including women (1,083), men (1,064) \*all those currently in work (1,434).



### Women have consistently found it harder to stay positive day-to-day

At the moment, are you finding each of the following easier, harder, or about the same compared with before the Coronavirus outbreak? Staying positive day-to-day

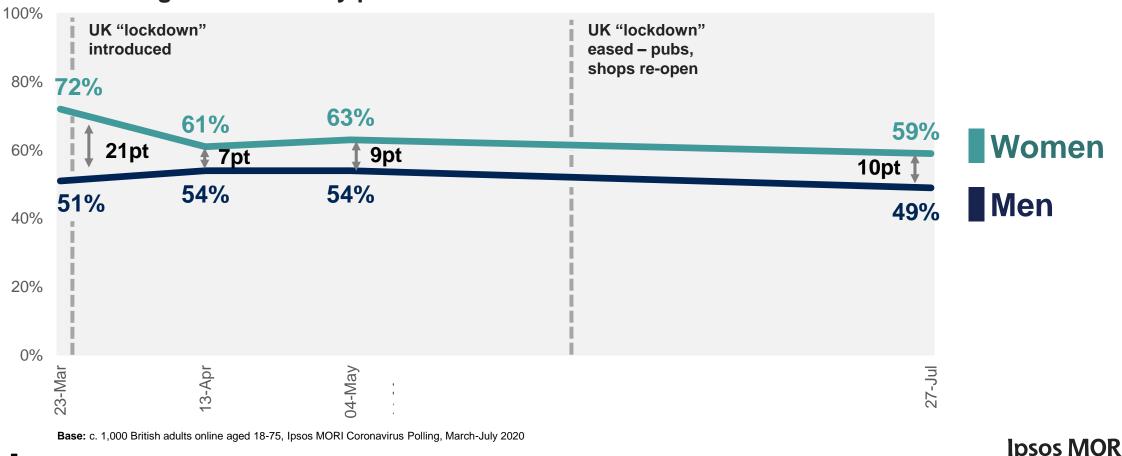


% Finding it harder to say positive day-to-day

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### And to stay positive about the future – although the difference here has become less stark since lockdown started

At the moment, are you finding each of the following easier, harder, or about the same compared with before the Coronavirus outbreak? Staying positive about the future



#### % Finding it harder to say positive about the future

The differences are even more pronounced when comparing the experiences of working mums to working dads

At the moment, are you finding each of the following easier, harder, or about the same compared with before the Coronavirus outbreak?

<ul> <li>Working mums</li> <li>Working dads</li> <li>Gap</li> </ul>	% <u>harder</u>
Staying positive about the future	57% 42% <mark>15%</mark>
Keeping entertained	56% 40% <mark>16</mark> %
Staying positive day-to-day	55% 35% 20%
Staying fit and healthy	49% 37% 12%
Being able to afford your usual expenses	
Staying in touch with family + friends	

Base: 2,152 Online British adults 18-75, 22-24 July 2020, including working mums (258), working dads (190).



## And what impact will the pandemic have on people's future?



### Half of parents say COVID will have positive impact on relationship with children but two in five Brits think it will have a negative impact on mental health and feeling fulfilled

Do you think that the Coronavirus crisis including the lockdown period will have a positive or negative impact on each of the following for you personally over the next 12 months or will it make no difference?

Positive impact

It will make no difference

Your relationship with your children*		48%	42% 7%
Your relationship with your spouse/partner**	28%		58% <b>12%</b>
Your work life balance <sup>1</sup>	29%	46%	22%
Your future career prospects	12%	56%	25%
Your physical health	20%	47% 30	%
Whether or not you are in work <sup>1</sup>	17%	49% 2	9%
Your romantic relationships <sup>2</sup>	12%	54%	27%
Your personal financial situation	17%	46% 35%	
Your ability to do things that make you feel fulfilled	18%	40% 38%	
Your mental health	15%	43% 39%	

**Base: 2**,152 Online British adults 18-75, 22-24 July 2020, including \*those who are a parent or legal guardian of someone aged 17 or under (580),. \*\*those married or in a couple (1,214), <sup>1</sup>those currently in work<sup>1</sup> (1,434), <sup>2</sup>those who are single (938)



**Negative impact** 

Women are more pessimistic about the ongoing impact of COVID (although men more worried about their relationships)

Do you think that the Coronavirus crisis including the lockdown period will have a positive or negative impact on each of the following for you personally over the next 12 months or will it make no difference?

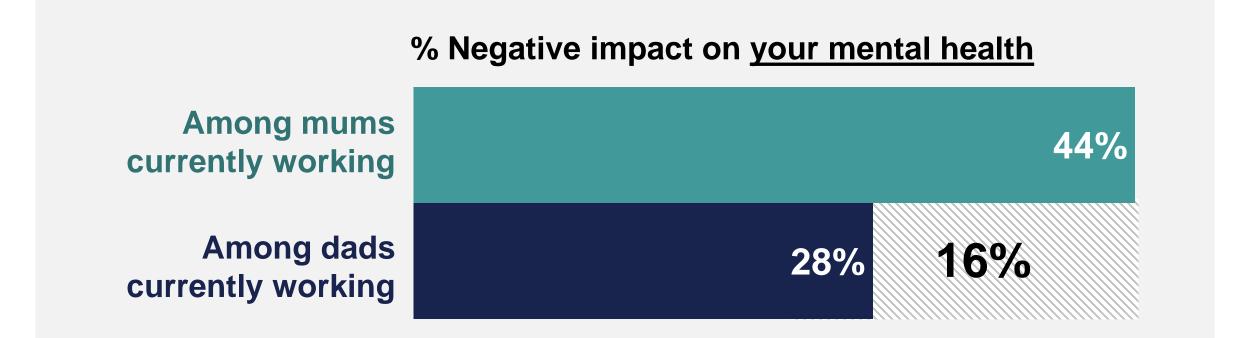
Women Men	% <u>Negative</u> impact
Gap	42%
Your mental health	35% <mark>7%</mark>
Your ability to do things	41%
that make you feel fulfilled	35% 6%
Whether or not you are in work*	32%
	<b>27% 5%</b>
Your work life balance <sup>*</sup>	26%
	19% <mark>7%</mark>
Your romantic relationships*	25% <mark>5%</mark>
	30%

women (487), \*all in work (684), women (747)

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## And working mums are significantly more concerned about their mental health than working dads

Do you think that the Coronavirus crisis including the lockdown period will have a positive or negative impact on each of the following for you personally over the next 12 months or will it make no difference?

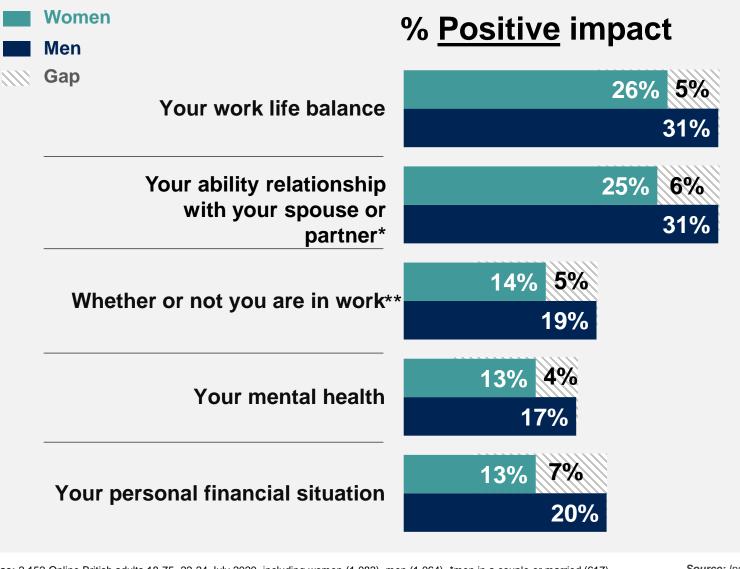


Base: 2,152 Online British adults 18-75, 22-24 July 2020, including female parent/guardian currently in work (258) and male parent/guardian currently in work (190).



#### While across a range of measures men are more positive about the future...

Do you think that the Coronavirus crisis including the lockdown period will have a positive or negative impact on each of the following for you personally over the next 12 months or will it make no difference?

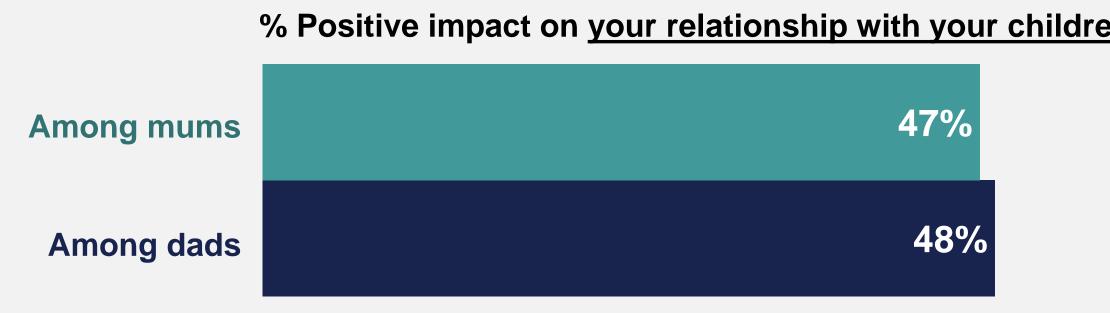


**Base:** 2,152 Online British adults 18-75, 22-24 July 2020, including women (1,083), men (1,064), \*men in a couple or married (617), \*women in a couple or married (596), \*\* all in work, men (684), women (747)



### But half of parents think that the crisis will a positive impact on their relationship with their children

Do you think that the Coronavirus crisis including the lockdown period will have a positive or negative impact on each of the following for you personally over the next 12 months or will it make no difference?



#### % Positive impact on your relationship with your children

Base: All adults who are aged 18-75 and are parents or legal guardians (580), including mums (357) and dads (222), interviewed online 22-24 July 2020,



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#### For more information

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