The Changing Nature of Work.

If one thing is certain, there is absolutely no certainty of what the workforce of 2021 looks like.

There are so many moving pieces, between extended unemployment benefits, the large number of women who have had to leave the workforce, the increased amount of automation, the limitation on number of work visas and then of course, remote work.

According to the ZipRecruiter survey referenced below and the charts included in this week's Pulse, you get a sense of how the number of remote opportunities have risen since the pandemic and how the the majority of job seekers would prefer to work.

Remote work is here to stay.

A new ZipRecruiter survey of more than 2,500 job seekers suggests that the Covid-19 pandemic has created a stark mismatch between the types of jobs Americans are looking for and those that are available. 60% of respondents said they would prefer to find a job where they can work from home. Yet only around 9% of vacancies advertised on the ZipRecruiter platform in December, 2020 and January, 2021 provided that opportunity.

The coronavirus pandemic created significant barriers to working for many Americans. It increased the health risks associated with certain occupations and with transportation modes used for commuting to work. The crisis also caused schools and daycares to close, forcing many parents to stay home to care for children. Additionally, Covid-19 depleted job opportunities in some lines of work, such as the performing arts, to such a degree that many people had to switch industries to find employment. As a result, almost 8 million Americans left the labor force between February and April, 2020, and—as of January, 2021—4.3 million have yet to return.

The majority of job seekers say they would prefer to work remotely now, and a large share would like to do so even after the pandemic

Remote opportunities have risen dramatically since the pandemic

The WEI is an index of ten daily and weekly indicators of real economic activity scaled to align with the four-quarter GDP growth rate.

The WEI has risen significantly since the pandemic.