

## Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/covid-and-cities-thus-far/>

This video reflects on the societal and economic shifts brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly concerning urban living and remote work. During the pandemic, people adapted to spending more time at home and engaging in regular meetings, both virtually and in smaller groups. This video led to discussions on the implications of remote work for cities.

Historically, urban areas have thrived due to technological advancements, but the pandemic presented unique challenges and opportunities. There were observable trends in real estate, with housing prices soaring in suburbs as remote work made commuting less critical. A phenomenon termed the "commuting dividend" emerged, highlighting the increased satisfaction from working at home and reduced commuting burdens.

As individuals adjusted to working from home, many sought increased living space to accommodate home offices. Consequently, there was a growing demand for larger homes, especially in suburban areas, leading to an increase in housing prices. Meanwhile, downtown areas struggled, losing their traditional economic vibrancy rooted in the "dinner economy," which relied heavily on daytime office workers.

The return to work dynamics also shifted, with a notable segment of the workforce preferring flexibility in their work schedules. Younger professionals increasingly negotiated remote work options as part of their employment arrangements.

As cities adapt to these changes, the long-term implications on urban planning and housing markets will evolve. Housing demand could remain high in suburbs due to the continued preference for remote work, while downtown areas may face challenges in attracting residents and businesses moving forward. The concept of agglomeration—where businesses benefit from being near each other—may also transform, leading to a different urban landscape in the future.