

## Publication

### The impact of COVID-19 on mobility choices in Switzerland

#### Discussion paper / Internet publication

**ID** 4625850

**Author(s)** Hintermann, Beat; Schoeman, Beaumont; Molloy, Joseph; Schatzmann, Thomas; Tcher-venkov, Christopher; Axhausen, Kay W.

**Author(s) at UniBasel** [Hintermann, Beat](#) ; [Schoeman, Beaumont](#) ;

**Year** 2022

**Month and day** 12-01

**Year: comment** 2021

**Title** The impact of COVID-19 on mobility choices in Switzerland

**Series title** WWZ Working Paper

**Volume** 2021

**Number** 10

**Pages** 42

**Publisher / Institution** WWZ

**Keywords** COVID-19; mobility; tracking; causal forest; PPML

We study the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated government measures on individual mobility choices in Switzerland. Our data is based on over 1,600 people for which we observe all trips during eight weeks before the pandemic and until May 2021. We find an overall reduction of travel distances by 60 percent, followed by a gradual recovery during the subsequent re-opening of the economy. Whereas driving distances have almost completely recovered, public transport remains under-used. The introduction of a requirement to wear a mask in public transport had no measurable impact on ridership. The individual travel response to the pandemic varies along socio-economic dimensions such as education and household size, with mobility tool ownership, and with personal values and lifestyles. We find no evidence for a significant substitution of leisure travel to compensate for the reduction in work-related travel.

**edoc-URL** <https://edoc.unibas.ch/92343/>

**Full Text on edoc** Available;