Appendix

Labor force participation rates refer to labor force participants as a share of each population group. Using all available monthly samples from December 2007 to March 2021 in IPUMS CPS, we estimate separate logistic regressions to investigate the effect of COVID-19 on labor force status of women conditional on age, race and ethnicity, sex, education, metropolitan status, marital status, and the presence of children in the household. The analysis is restricted to prime working-age individuals between the ages of 25 and 54.

Formally,

$$Y_{it} = \alpha + \pi COVID_t + \beta' X_{it} + \lambda_t + \theta_t + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Where Y_{it} equals 1 if the individual is *in the labor force* in the survey month and 0 otherwise, $COVID_t$ is a dummy variable that takes the value 1 starting in April 2020 and 0 otherwise, X_{it} includes individual, regional characteristics, λ_t are month-fixed effects to control for seasonal variation in employment and θ_t are year-fixed effects. ε_{it} is the error term. All specifications are estimated using Current Population Survey sample weights. The coefficient π is the marginal effect of COVID-19 (and associated measures) on the dependent variable.

Restricting the sample to include all months up to April 2020 only, labor force participation for women with children in the household would have been an estimated 5.5 and 3.9 percentage points higher on average in Illinois and in the US respectively in the absence of COVID-19.

Using all available samples up to March 2021, labor force participation for women with children in the household would have been an estimated 5.4 and 2.2 percentage points higher on average in Illinois and in the U.S. respectively in the absence of COVID-19. These results suggest a stronger recovery for working mothers across the country relative to the U.S.

Lastly, we restrict each year's samples to only the March CPS for all years, we estimate the following equation:

$$Y_{it} = \alpha + \pi school\_order_t + \beta' X_{it} + \theta_t + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Where $school\_order$ is a dummy variable that takes the value 1 if a state has ordered to reopen schools, and 0 otherwise.

Women with children at home (25-54)	Dependent variable – In labor force=1, not in labor force=0
State school order	0.02 ***
$Pseudo\ R^2$	0.04
Observations	293,753

All regressions include education, race, metropolitan status, age, age-squared, month- and year-fixed effects. Marginal effects are reported.

***, **, * indicate statistical significance at the 1%, 5% and 10% levels, respectively