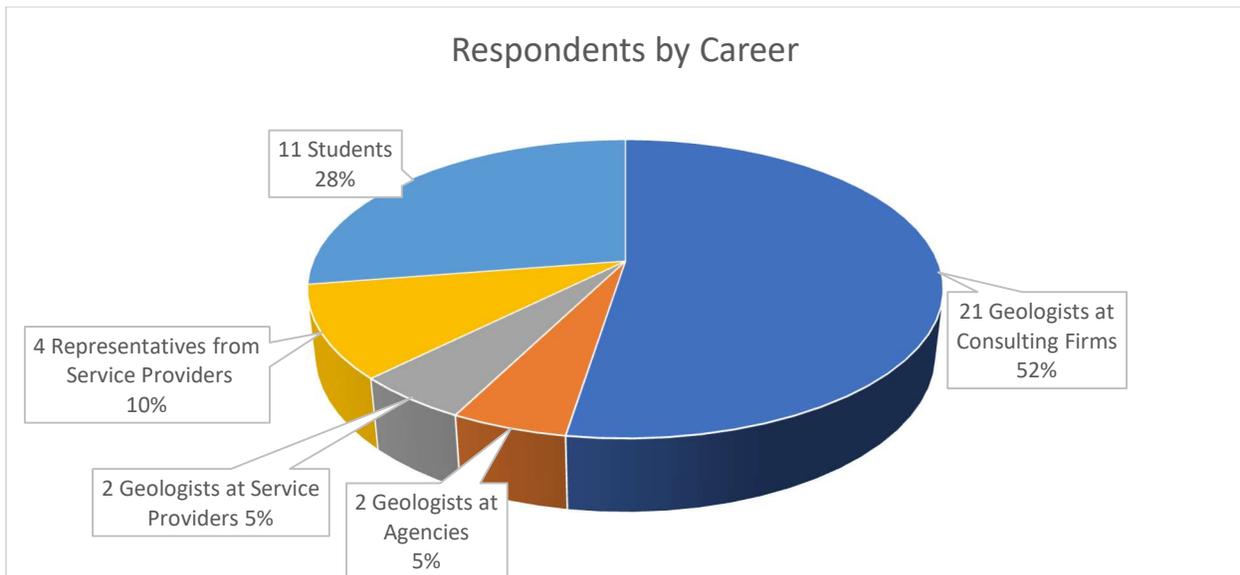
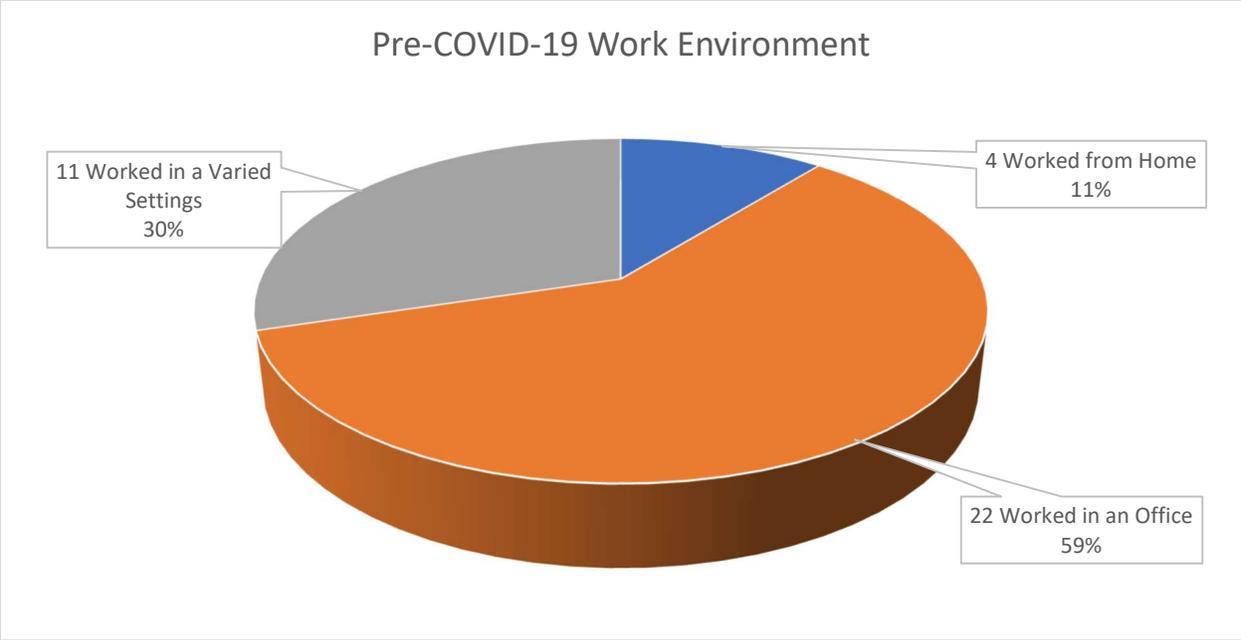


BAPG Spring 2020 COVID-19 Survey Report

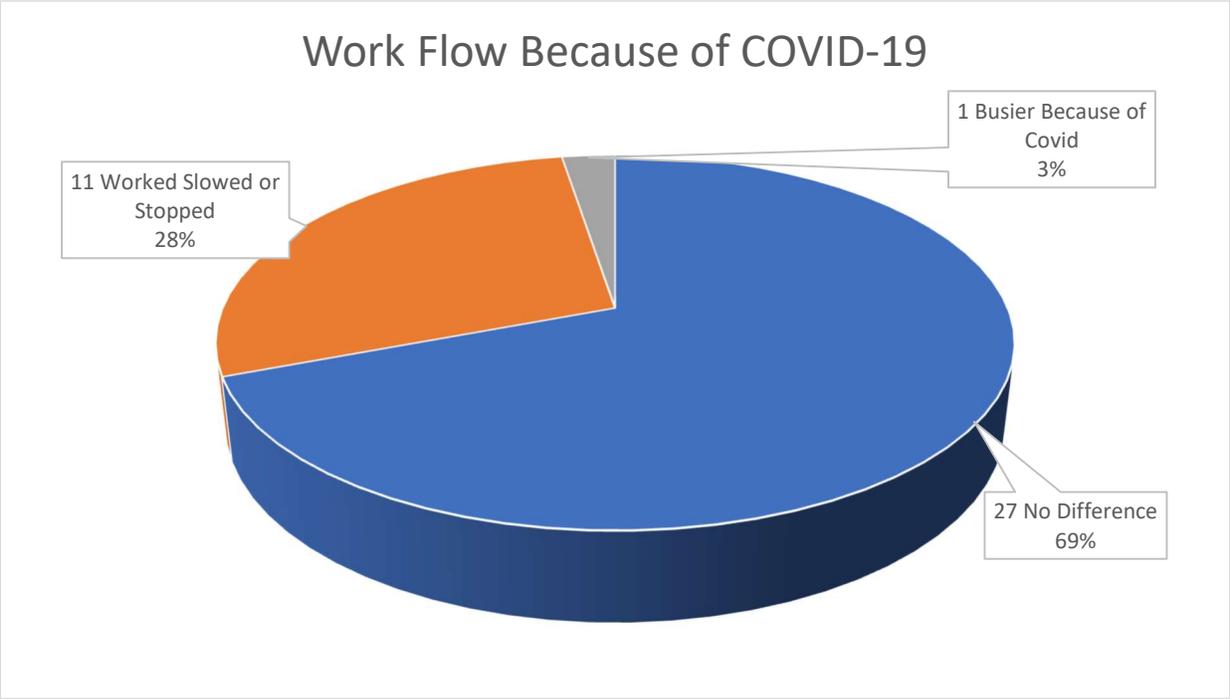
In early 2020, the spread of the COVID-19 virus resulted in a global pandemic that posed serious health challenges around the world, including to those of us in Western New York. As a result, social distancing guidelines mandated that we at the Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists (BAPG) cancel our monthly dinner meetings where we regularly take the time to catch up with our friends and bond with our professional colleagues. Without the opportunity to come together, we decided to take a look at where we stand as a professional community through the use of an online survey. The survey was designed to benchmark where we are professionally as a result of current COVID-19 restrictions and make that snapshot available to help us remember how things may have changed when we look back from the future. 40 respondents took part. This report summarizes the results of our COVID-19 Survey.



About two thirds of our respondents are career geologists. The remainder are students, teachers or colleagues working with service providers such as drillers or laboratories.

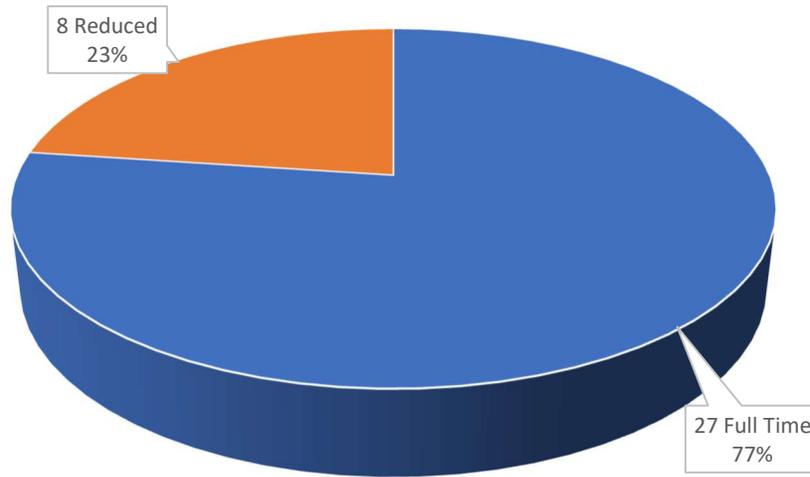


Prior to COVID-19 restrictions, over half of the respondents worked in an office setting with only a smattering working from home. The remainder worked in a combination of places, including the field, labs, offices and homes.



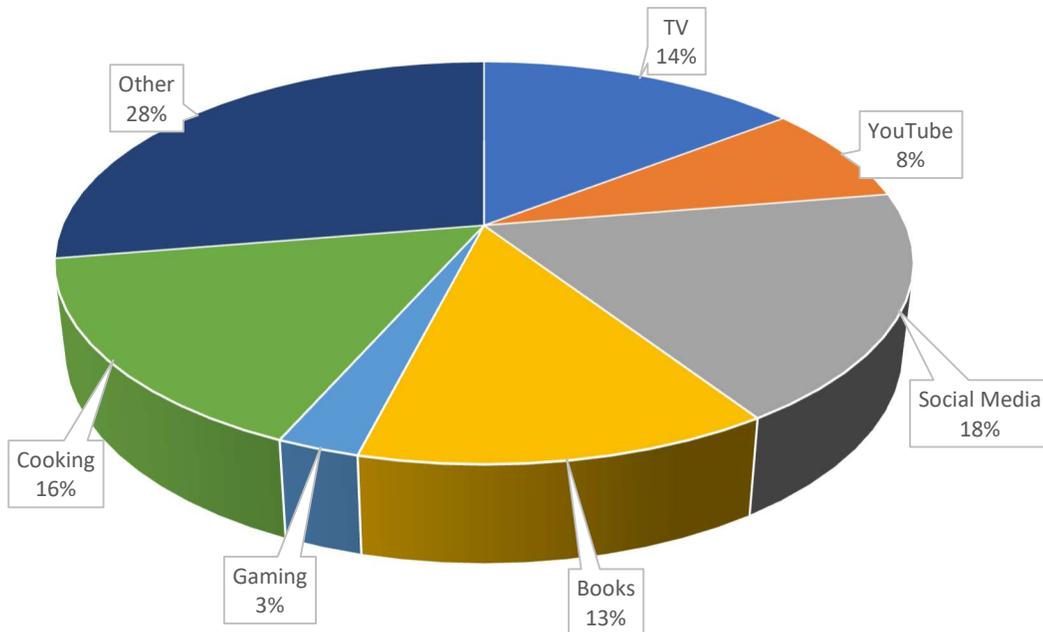
Professionally, most respondents are working as before, with one that is experiencing an increase workload. However, over one-quarter of our colleagues have reported negative effects on their daily workload.

Work Time and Compensation Due to COVID-19



And while most respondents are working and receiving compensation as before, COVID-19 restrictions have resulted in about a quarter of our colleagues working less time for less money.

Additional Free Time Activities Due to COVID-19



As a result of the additional free-time due to COVID-19 social distancing, many respondents reported engaging in more social media, watching more TV or YouTube, reading more and cooking more. Interestingly, many respondents are spending more time outdoors, doing house-centric projects and engaging in hobbies, as well as forwarding their interests in professional endeavors.

Respondents provided a range of answers to what professional life might look and feel like after restrictions are lifted. Responses were generally split between those that do not anticipate a great shift in the work environment and those that feel there will be more remote work. Of those that feel that things will be getting back to a pre-COVID-19 normal, some acknowledge additional social distancing and the possibility of additional work-at-home.

Many other respondents, however, feel a shift coming toward more remote work, including on-line videoconferencing and the future development of more and better technologies and processes for the virtual work environment. Such activities could even extend to marketing visits and sales meetings, as well as certain types of field observations. As a final note, geology educators can see a future with more interactive courses offered online.

As geologists living in New York early in the year 2020, there is no question that COVID-19 has profoundly affected our short-term work environments as well as our typical daily routines. There is even a rumor that the University at Buffalo is currently in the process of moving the required Geology Field Camp course to an online format to allow its Class of 2020 seniors to graduate. It will be interesting to see how societal norms might shift and how the daily activities of working geologists may change as a result of our collective COVID-19 experience.

Thomas J. Morahan, P.G.
BAPG Geogram Editor