



COVID-19 IN LAC

CHILE

2021 LAC HIGH FREQUENCY PHONE SURVEYS: Results Phase II, Wave 2



September 2022

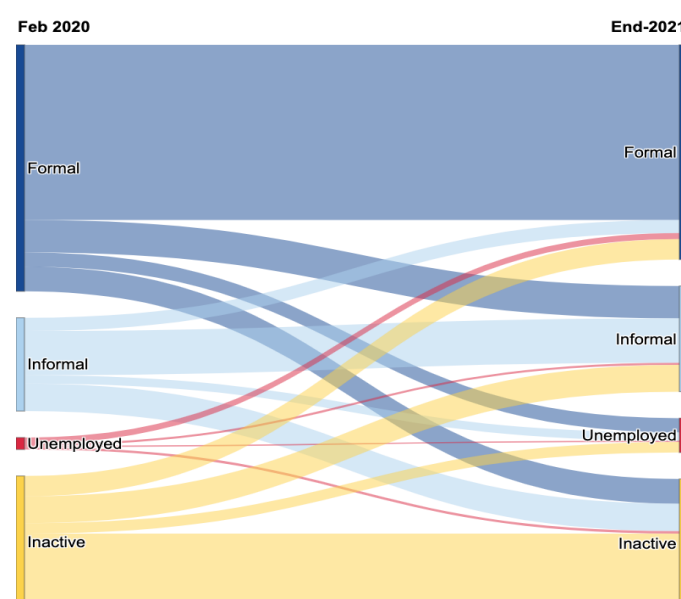
Chile's GDP contracted by 5.8 per cent in 2020. The country implemented policies that helped the economy recover rapidly in 2021, but the labour market has been slower to follow suit. By late 2021, 22.0 per cent of those who were employed pre-Covid had lost their jobs. Of these, 15.4 per cent dropped out of the labour force altogether, and the remaining 6.7 per cent became unemployed. Older adults and people with primary education were hit hardest—by the end of 2021, one in every two older adults and one in every three people with primary education no longer held the jobs they had before the pandemic. Conversely, 43.7 per cent of those who were economically inactive before the pandemic joined the labour force. Some 68.7 per cent of adults between the ages of 26 and 45 and 58.5 per cent of the most educated adults (those with tertiary education or more) transitioned into the labour market more frequently. Some 81.9 per cent of those who became economically active found employment, 56.8 per cent of whom were in informal jobs. Likewise, 58.0 per cent of those who were previously formal or inactive employees or unemployed moved into informal employment by the end of 2021. Seven out of ten young people (those aged 18–25) and six out of ten men and workers with tertiary education came to hold informal jobs. The pandemic triggered an increase in time spent on care-related activities. By mid-2021, 53.9 per cent of respondents reported that the time they spent helping their children with school activities had increased. While this care burden already mainly fell on women in mid-2021, the gender imbalance increased even more by the end of the year: the share of men reporting spending time helping with school decreased by 14.0 percentage points in the second half of the year (dropping to 34.6 per cent), while the share of women decreased by just 2.8 percentage points (to 54.6 per cent).

Key indicators: Individuals (18+ years old)

Distribution among groups	Labour		Childcare	
	% of employed population (pre-pandemic) who lost their pre-pandemic job	% of inactive population (pre-pandemic) who entered the labour market	% of formal, unemployed or inactive (pre-pandemic) who were working and transited into informality	Change in % of population reporting an increase in time spent supporting children's education activities (compared to pre-pandemic) between mid-2021 and end of 2021(pp)
Overall	22.0%	43.7%	58.0%	-7.3
Urban	20.3%	43.2%	55.5%	-7.6
Rural	29.8%	45.5%	65.9%	-5.8
Females	29.6%	39.2%	53.5%	-2.8
Males	16.0%	53.6%	63.5%	-14.0
18 to 25 years old	29.4%	56.6%	71.5%	-0.8
26 to 45 years old	13.4%	68.7%	59.5%	-5.2
46 to 64 years old	23.4%	38.1%	52.4%	-18.6
65 and older	53.3%	15.5%	52.7%	12.6
Primary or less	33.8%	28.2%	53.6%	9.6
Secondary	28.1%	47.0%	59.2%	-13.5
Tertiary and more	7.6%	58.5%	62.6%	-11.8

Source: LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 2

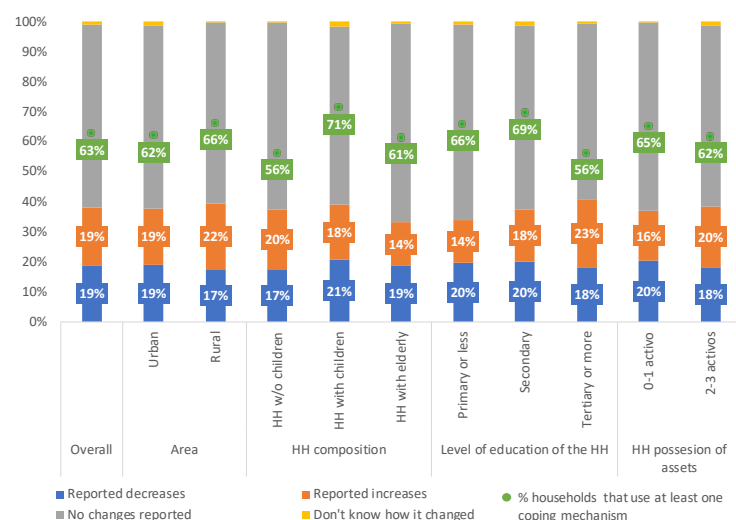
Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



Conversely, emergency social protection programmes helped to cushion the adverse impacts of the pandemic in terms of both falling household incomes and food insecurity. The government provided significant financial assistance to mitigate the crisis by increasing the coverage and amounts of pandemic-related transfers in 2021. By late 2021, 18.8 per cent of households reported a drop in their income in comparison with halfway through the year, although a similar share reported an increase. Furthermore, 8.5 per cent of households reported having gone without food in the 30 days leading up to the survey due to a lack of means. Food insecurity was more widespread among households with one or no assets (15.4 per cent), those with less educated heads (12.3 per cent), and households with minors (10.0 per cent), as figure 3 shows.

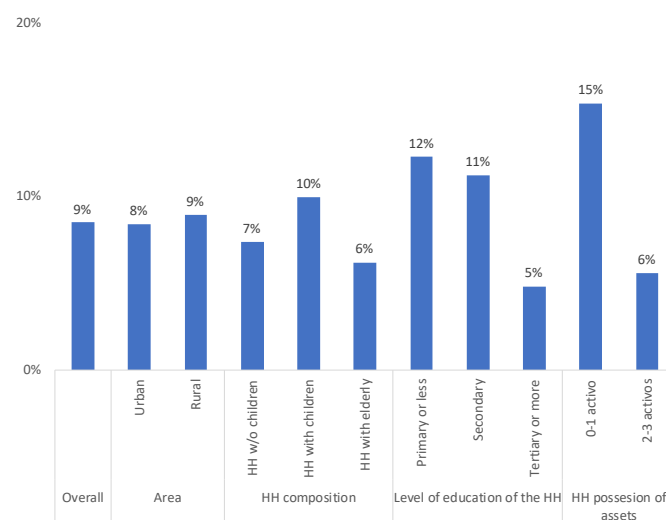
Households used various mechanisms to mitigate the adverse effects of the pandemic, including the spending of savings, non-payment of financial obligations and entry into the labour force. Some 62.7 per cent of households made recourse to at least one of these mechanisms. Households with dependent children and less educated heads had to resort to them more frequently. In 2.2 per cent of households with school-age children, these coping mechanisms included a child having to seek employment. Schools fully reopened in late 2021, increasing in-person attendance rates to 58.3 per cent in the second half of the year, a 49.5-percentage-point increase. Those whose attendance increased most were children in rural households (57.6 percentage points) and those in households with low asset holdings (61.7 percentage points). Despite the efforts made to provide quality education during the pandemic, 54.9 per cent of respondents said that they thought children were learning less than they had before the pandemic, when teaching was entirely in-person.

Figure 2: Households reporting a change in income (%)
End of 2021 vs. Mid 2021



Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 2

Figure 3: Household that ran out of food (%)
End of 2021



Key indicators: Households and children

Distribution among groups	Income	Coping	Food Insecurity		Education (6-17 yo)	
	% households that report a reduction in total income (End of 2021 vs. Mid 2021)	% of households that resorted to at least one mechanism to manage financial stress in 2021*	% of households reporting school-age children entering in the labour force	% households that ran out of food (last 30 days)	Change in the % of school-age children who attended face-to-face classes (End 2021 vs. Mid 2021) (pp)	% of enrolled children who are learning less than before the pandemic
Overall	18.8%	62.7%	2.2%	8.5%	49.5	54.9%
Urban	19.2%	61.9%	2.0%	8.4%	47.7	56.4%
Rural	17.4%	66.0%	2.9%	9.0%	57.6	48.8%
HH w/o children (0-17)	17.5%	56.2%	-	7.4%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	20.6%	71.3%	2.2%	10.0%	49.5	54.9%
HH with elderly (65+)	18.7%	61.4%	0.6%	6.2%	49.9	57.3%
HH with 0-1 asset	20.5%	65.0%	3.7%	15.4%	61.7	50.6%
HH with 2-3 assets	18.1%	61.7%	1.8%	5.6%	46.6	55.9%
HH education - Primary or less	19.7%	65.7%	1.1%	12.3%	45.2	54.3%
HH education - Secondary	20.0%	69.5%	2.7%	11.2%	51.9	61.1%
HH education - Tertiary or more	18.0%	56.1%	2.0%	4.8%	48.6	52.2%

* Coping mechanisms are the strategies used to cope with the financial stress generated by the reduction in income during the pandemic. Particularly, non-payment of financial obligations, use of savings and entry into the labour force.

Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 2

HIGH FREQUENCY PHONE SURVEY

The World Bank and UNDP conducted a multi-wave High-Frequency Phone Survey (HFPS) in 2021 to assess the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the welfare of Latin American and Caribbean households. The second wave was collected between November and December 2021, and the data is nationally representative for 22 countries: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, and Uruguay. The HFPS provides information on the welfare impacts that households experienced with respect to food insecurity, changes in employment, income changes, access to health and education services, and coping mechanisms. For further information see [Chapeau Phase II, wave 2](#).