



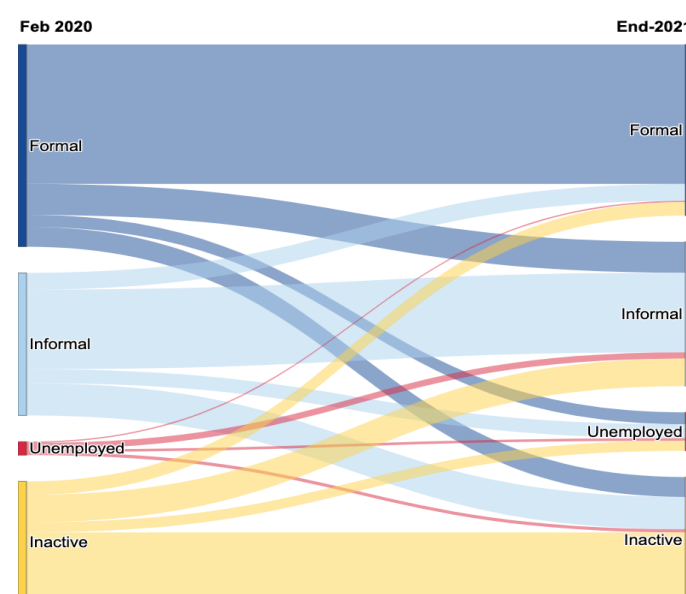
Contrary to global and regional trends, Guyana was one of the fastest-growing economies in 2020. Primarily due to the start of oil production after recent offshore discoveries, GDP grew by 43.5 per cent in 2020 and 21.2 per cent in 2021. Nevertheless, the negative consequences of containment measures implemented during the pandemic on household welfare, as well as demand and supply disruptions, have persisted almost two years after. It has proved extremely difficult for the labour market to return to its pre-Covid dynamics. By late 2021, 22.6 per cent of those who were employed before the pandemic had lost their jobs. Of these, 7.5 per cent continued to seek work, while the remaining 15.1 per cent dropped out of the labour force altogether. Nearly half of older adults (47.5 per cent) lost the jobs they held before the pandemic, and women were more affected by job loss than men (31.1 per cent versus 17.0 per cent). Conversely, 42.0 per cent of those who were economically inactive before the pandemic entered the labour market by late 2021. Men and those with a higher education transitioned into the labour force more frequently: at least one out of every two became economically active. Four out of every five found work; however, a considerable proportion of these new hires (67.0 per cent) were in the informal segment, suggesting a significant deterioration in the quality of employment in the country. Furthermore, 44.8 per cent of those who held formal jobs, were unemployed or were economically inactive before the pandemic moved into informal work by the end of 2021. Moreover, 54.1 per cent of respondents reported spending more time supporting their children's schooling; 0.6 percentage points below the figure reported halfway through the year. While the time that women spent on care work rose, for men it fell: 62.1 per cent of women said they were spending more time providing support for schooling (4.1 percentage points more than in mid-2021), but only 44.5 per cent of men did so (5.3 percentage points less than in mid-2021). These differences reveal a significant imbalance in the childcare burden.

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	22.6%	42.0%	44.8%	-0.6
Urban	25.6%	39.5%	55.3%	-
Rural	21.6%	42.7%	42.4%	-
Females	31.1%	38.7%	53.2%	4.1
Males	17.0%	52.4%	38.1%	-5.3
18 to 25 years old	24.1%	47.9%	64.2%	-6.0
26 to 45 years old	20.9%	49.1%	42.5%	-0.1
46 to 64 years old	20.7%	44.8%	34.4%	2.8
65 and older	47.5%	14.6%	54.3%	-1.4
Primary or less	22.4%	49.9%	34.5%	9.7
Secondary	25.0%	37.2%	48.4%	-5.4
Tertiary and more	14.8%	53.4%	53.5%	2.7

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

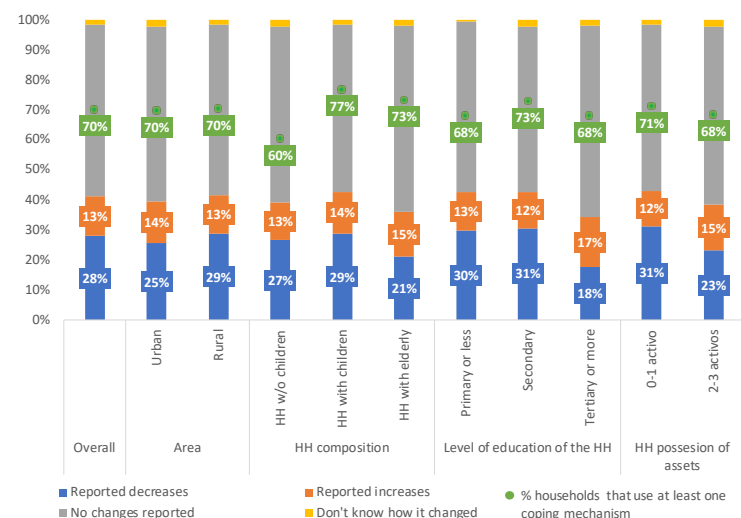
Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



Government efforts and changes in the labour market have helped mitigate the adverse effects of the pandemic on household welfare. However, the situation has not yet returned to its pre-Covid state. By late 2021, some 27.9 per cent of households reported that their income level had dropped compared with the middle of the year. The households that were most affected by these changes were those with lower asset availability and less educated heads. To cover their basic needs after the pandemic caused their incomes to drop, 70.0 per cent of households resorted to at least one of the following coping mechanisms: non-payment of financial obligations, the use of savings and entry into the labour force by adults and children who were not previously economically active. Some 76.7 per cent of households with children under the age of 18 made use of at least one of these strategies. Specifically, in 14.8 per cent of households with school-age children, a child had to seek employment to offset the financial stress caused by the Covid-19 crisis. This figure increased to 18.8 per cent for households with low asset ownership and 18.7 per cent for households with less educated heads and adults over the age of 65.

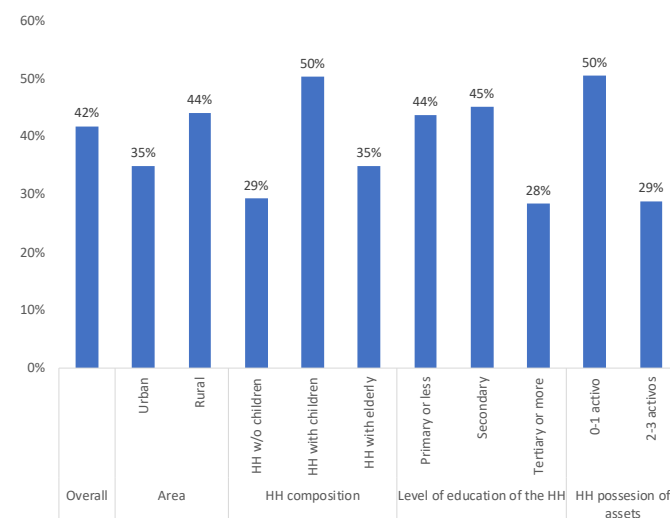
Despite these efforts to offset the loss of income and other means, 41.8 per cent of households reported going without food in the 30 days leading up to the survey. One out of every two households with dependent children experienced food insecurity. By late 2021, the food insecurity rate was 1.1 percentage points higher than was reported in mid-2021 and 26.0 percentage points above pre-pandemic levels. Regarding education, the in-person attendance rate increased 43.9 percentage points between mid- and late 2021. Attendance increased even more among children from households with lower asset ownership rates (51.1 percentage points). The face-to-face attendance rate reached 70.0 per cent, a 43.9-percentage-point increase compared to mid-2021. This rate is 21.7 percentage points higher than the regional average. Despite this, the Guyanese education system still faces significant challenges in terms of quality. Nearly half of the respondents (48.3 per cent) said they thought children were learning less than before the pandemic. These setbacks in children's learning could affect their performances and well-being in the future.

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	27.9%	70.0%	14.8%	41.8%	43.9	48.3%
Urban	25.5%	69.6%	9.8%	34.9%	-	51.7%
Rural	28.8%	70.2%	16.0%	44.1%	-	47.5%
HH w/o children (0-17)	26.5%	60.3%	-	29.3%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	28.9%	76.7%	14.8%	50.3%	43.9	48.3%
HH with elderly (65+)	21.1%	73.2%	18.7%	34.9%	45.2	55.1%
HH with 0-1 asset	31.2%	71.2%	18.8%	50.5%	51.1	51.9%
HH with 2-3 assets	23.1%	68.4%	9.0%	28.8%	36.0	43.3%
HH education - Primary or less	29.7%	67.8%	18.7%	43.8%	43.6	44.5%
HH education - Secondary	30.6%	72.6%	12.2%	45.1%	45.1	51.3%
HH education - Tertiary or more	17.5%	67.9%	13.2%	28.4%	41.4	43.2%

* 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](#).