



# COVID-19 IN LAC

## BRAZIL

2021 LAC HIGH FREQUENCY PHONE SURVEYS: Results Phase II, Wave 1



April 2022

Brazil has been one of the countries most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in the region. In June 2021, it was the country with the second-highest rate of deaths per million and the fourth by the number of cases per million in Latin America and the Caribbean. The effects of the health crisis were broad and still evident a year and a half into the pandemic.

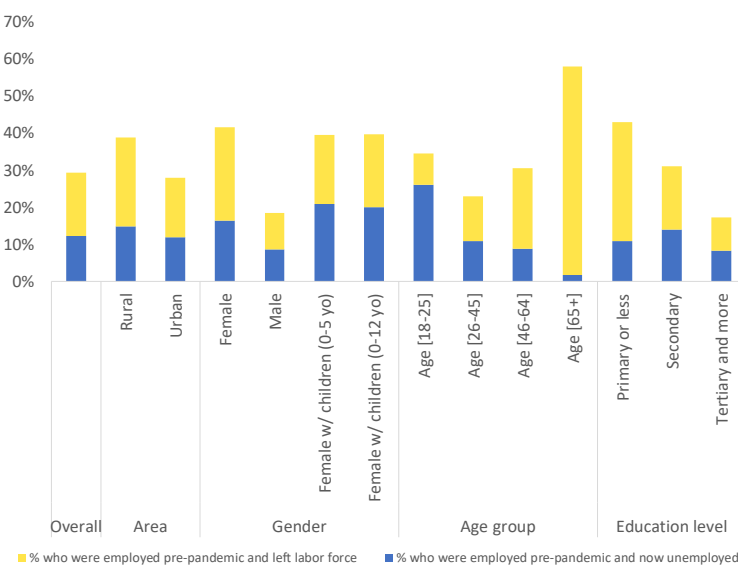
In line with pre-existing vulnerability profiles, the pandemic affected the Brazilian population differently in the labor market. At the time of the survey, the proportion of people who lost their pre-pandemic job and were not working was 29.1 percent. This proportion was highest among the elderly (57.8 percent), those with primary education or less (42.7 percent), women (41.4 percent) and rural workers (38.7 percent). About 58 percent of those who lost their jobs became inactive, and most of the new inactive were women (68.9 percent). Simultaneously, 29.2 percent of the previously inactive entered the labor force during the pandemic, though one-quarter of them were unemployed in mid-2021. Women represented a majority among the new active (64.3 percent). Finally, the pandemic resulted in higher informality rates among those who remained employed.

Labor market dynamics led to lower overall income for many, despite government transfers reaching 51 percent of the population. At the time of the survey, 44.6 percent of households reported a reduction in their income level compared to before the pandemic. Households with low levels of asset ownership were more likely to report these income reductions. More than half (55.8 percent) of them reported a decrease in overall income, even though 65.6 percent of them had access to emergency government transfers.

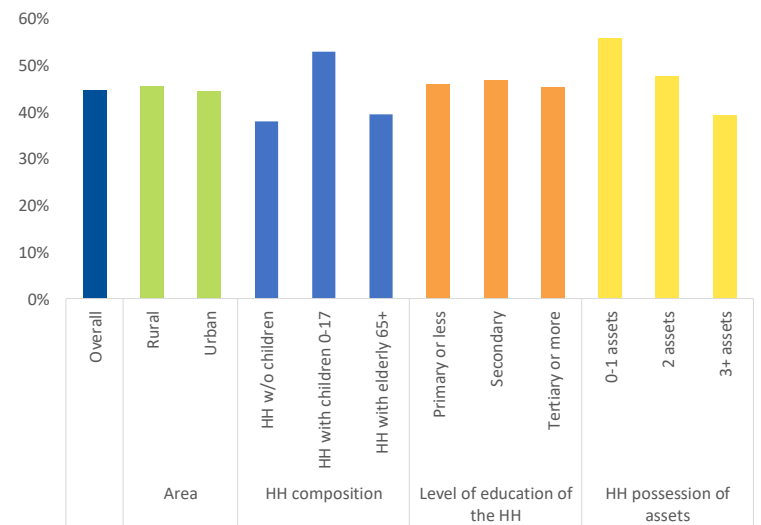
Income losses translated into higher levels of food insecurity. About 18.1 percent of households reported running out of food at least once in the 30 days before the survey for lack of money. Only 9.4 percent remember a similar situation before the pandemic. Higher food insecurity levels were found among rural families and those with less-educated heads.

Unequal access to education during the pandemic can become an inhibitor to intergenerational mobility if not addressed effectively. At the national level, 88.8 percent of school-age children were attending school, either in person or virtually, yet, only 68.5 percent had direct interaction with a teacher, online or in person, and only 40 percent were attending classes in person. These proportions were lower for children in households with primary-educated heads. School closures increased the burden of household responsibilities among adult household members. Furthermore, unequal intra-household arrangements resulted in more women than men reporting an increase in the time spent supporting children's education during the pandemic (61.9 percent and 47.1 percent, respectively).

### JOB LOSS (% OF PRE-PANDEMIC WORKERS)



### HOUSEHOLDS (%) WITH REDUCED INCOME



Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 1.

## KEY INDICATORS: INDIVIDUALS (18+ years old)

Distribution among groups	Labor		Childcare responsibilities		Health	Finance
	% of employed population (pre-pandemic) who lost their pre-pandemic job	% of inactive population (pre-pandemic) who became active (employed or unemployed)	% of formal workers (pre-pandemic) who became informal	% of population who spent more time accompanying children's education	% of population who is not planning to get vaccinated or unsure (vaccination hesitancy)	% of population using mobile wallets
Overall	29.1%	29.2%	12.0%	55.3%	2.6%	30.2%
Rural	38.7%	33.0%	21.9%	60.0%	3.1%	16.6%
Urban	27.8%	28.6%	10.9%	54.6%	2.6%	32.1%
Females	41.4%	27.8%	10.6%	61.9%	2.0%	24.7%
Males	18.4%	32.0%	12.9%	47.1%	3.3%	36.2%
18 to 25 years old	34.3%	66.7%	14.5%	42.1%	2.8%	45.7%
26 to 45 years old	22.8%	50.3%	12.7%	61.7%	2.8%	37.8%
46 to 64 years old	30.4%	22.1%	9.9%	54.5%	3.3%	19.3%
65 and older	57.8%	4.3%	11.2%	26.7%	0.1%	7.9%
Primary or less	42.7%	10.5%	15.5%	47.0%	4.4%	4.6%
Secondary	31.0%	34.1%	13.2%	54.2%	2.4%	28.4%
Tertiary and more	17.2%	37.7%	8.3%	62.8%	2.1%	52.1%

Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 1.

## KEY INDICATORS: HOUSEHOLDS AND CHILDREN

Distribution among groups	Income		Food Insecurity	Education (6-17 yo)		Connectivity
	% HH that report a reduction in total income (current v. pre-pandemic)	% HH that received Emergency Government Transfers during the pandemic	% HHs that ran out of food (last 30 days)	% of children in school age who attended school (in person or virtually)	% of children in school age who interacted with teacher (in-person or online classes)	% HHs that had problems with internet service due to poor access quality / speed
Overall	44.6%	51.0%	18.1%	88.8%	68.5%	44.6%
Rural	45.6%	62.5%	26.8%	90.9%	68.6%	50.6%
Urban	44.5%	49.5%	17.0%	88.5%	68.5%	44.0%
HH w/o children (0-17)	37.9%	44.1%	11.8%	-	-	39.5%
HH with children (0-17)	52.9%	59.7%	26.1%	88.8%	68.5%	50.5%
HH with elderly (65+)	39.4%	42.1%	10.7%	85.8%	65.5%	42.8%
0-1 assets	55.8%	65.6%	40.0%	82.6%	52.5%	45.5%
2 assets	47.7%	59.0%	26.4%	86.0%	63.3%	46.4%
3+ assets	39.3%	41.0%	6.0%	93.0%	77.4%	43.2%
HH education - Primary or less	45.9%	66.9%	21.0%	80.6%	49.9%	43.4%
HH education - Secondary	46.9%	64.5%	18.8%	89.5%	60.7%	44.9%
HH education - Tertiary or more	45.4%	39.5%	7.9%	94.9%	79.9%	47.8%

Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 1.

### 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 first wave was collected between May and July 2021, and the data is nationally representative for 24 countries: Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, 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 data for Brazil was collected between July 26 and October 1. 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. Key indicators on socioeconomic effects are available at the [COVID-19 monitoring global dashboard](#), which provides 96 harmonized indicators across 50 countries in Latin America and the world. For further information, see [World Bank and UNDP \(2021\)](#).