



COVID-19 IN LAC

DOMINICA

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



Although initially spared, Dominica ultimately faced a relatively high number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths due to the pandemic. Given its reliance on international tourism, the economic consequences of the pandemic were severe. International and domestic mobility restrictions affected the tourism, construction, wholesale and retail sectors, interrupting the economic recovery from Hurricane Maria and leading to a contraction of 16.6 percent of GDP in 2020.

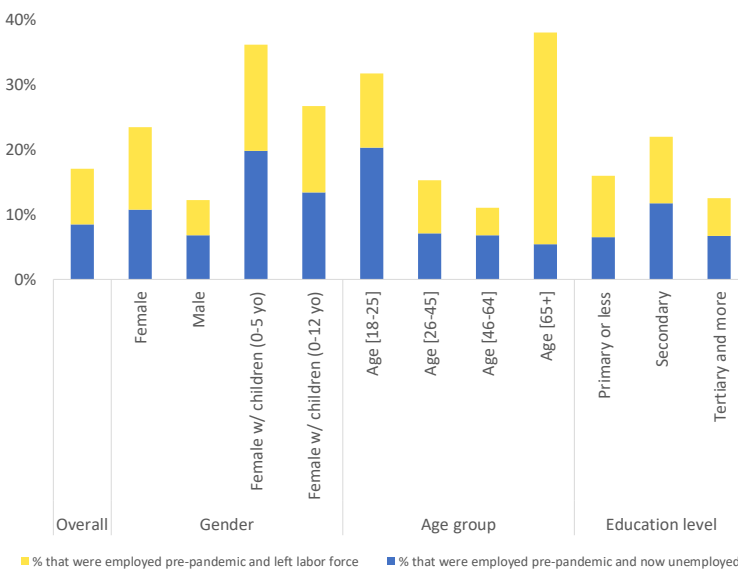
The pandemic has adversely impacted employment. 17.0 percent of pre-pandemic workers had lost their job by mid-2021, and half of them had exited the labor market altogether. Women and people with primary or secondary education are overrepresented among those who became inactive. Also, these changes in the labor market deepened preexisting gender gaps, with women being two times more likely than men to lose their pre-pandemic job (23.4 versus 12.1 percent, respectively). The quality of the jobs was also affected. 11.9 percent of those formally employed before the pandemic had transitioned into an informal job by mid-2021. At the same time, 46.2 percent of previously inactive people had entered the labor force since the start of the pandemic, meaning they either were working in mid-2021 or seeking for work. Among the new active, males and low-skilled workers are overrepresented.

Consistent with changes in the labor market, many households continue to experience reductions in total income. 52.6 percent of households reported a reduction in total household income more than a year after the initial outbreak. Government social assistance measures provided relief to households but had a limited reach. Only 10.6 percent of households reported receiving emergency monetary or in-kind support from the government. Food insecurity has increased. The share of households reporting running out of food due to a lack of money or other resources increased from 18.4 percent before the pandemic (based on recall data) to 40.3 percent at the survey time.

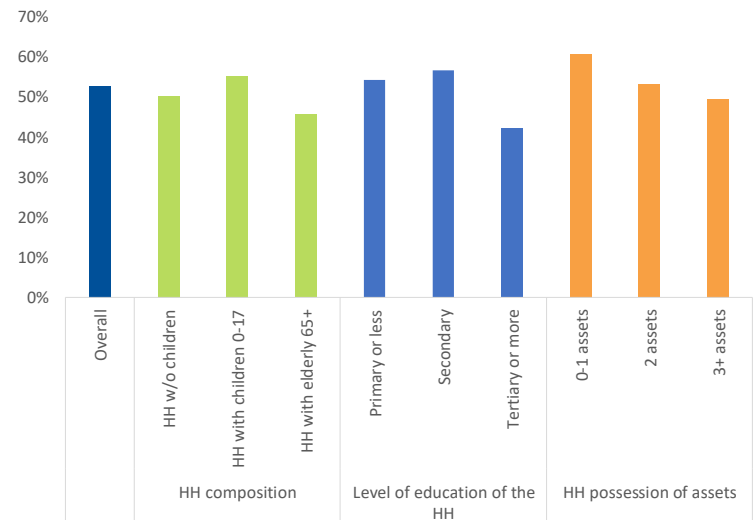
Access to digital banking services and internet connectivity were critical to households' resilience during the pandemic throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Both are still elusive to families in Dominica and are a significant challenge looking forward. Only 3.6 percent of households reported using mobile wallets, and of the households with internet connection (77.5 percent), more than half reported having problems with service quality.

Children's educational engagement has been high during the pandemic. At the time of the survey, 94.6 percent of school-age children were attending school, either in person or virtually, and 93.2 percent had been engaged in learning activities involving direct interaction with a teacher. The widespread in-person school attendance explains this high share (97.0 percent of children enrolled were attending classes in person in mid-2021). School closures were limited in Dominica at the time of the survey. Despite high in-person attendance, women and men experienced a higher burden of childcare responsibilities. In the survey, 62.9 percent of women and 51.2 percent of men reported an increase in the time spent accompanying their children's education during the pandemic.

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	17.0%	46.2%	11.9%	57.5%	34.6%	3.6%
Females	23.4%	39.7%	8.0%	62.9%	32.8%	4.3%
Males	12.1%	60.8%	15.3%	51.2%	36.5%	2.9%
18 to 25 years old	31.6%	70.9%	16.8%	40.2%	38.9%	5.4%
26 to 45 years old	15.2%	83.2%	9.3%	67.2%	38.0%	4.5%
46 to 64 years old	11.0%	48.8%	15.7%	54.1%	31.4%	3.1%
65 and older	37.9%	11.1%	0.0%	25.2%	27.8%	0.0%
Primary or less	15.9%	46.6%	21.9%	34.4%	30.3%	1.8%
Secondary	21.9%	43.9%	9.3%	64.6%	38.5%	3.2%
Tertiary and more	12.4%	49.1%	7.4%	66.7%	34.2%	5.7%

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	52.6%	10.6%	40.3%	94.6%	93.4%	51.1%
HH w/o children (0-17)	50.2%	9.1%	31.7%	-	-	48.4%
HH with children (0-17)	55.1%	12.1%	49.3%	94.6%	93.4%	53.8%
HH with elderly (65+)	45.5%	14.6%	33.8%	94.3%	94.3%	52.4%
0-1 assets	60.5%	10.3%	61.1%	92.8%	89.9%	53.7%
2 assets	53.0%	12.9%	45.3%	94.4%	93.8%	53.1%
3+ assets	49.5%	9.4%	29.9%	95.0%	94.0%	49.8%
HH education - Primary or less	54.2%	14.8%	45.7%	94.2%	92.2%	55.8%
HH education - Secondary	56.6%	10.6%	49.5%	94.5%	93.1%	48.1%
HH education - Tertiary or more	42.1%	5.9%	18.9%	95.5%	95.5%	50.1%

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. In Belize, Dominica and Saint Lucia, the HFPS was co-financed by the European Union, in the frame of the Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility, managed by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). 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 \(2021\)](#). The sole responsibility of this publication lies with the author(s).