



COVID-19 IN LAC

SAINT LUCIA

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



Saint Lucia is one of the countries in the Caribbean most heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with cases and deaths being among the highest in the subregion as of February 2022. The economic consequences of the pandemic have also been dire for the island, which relies heavily on international tourism. In 2020, the contraction in real GDP of 20.4 percent was the second largest in Latin America and the Caribbean. The recovery, in turn, has been far from complete: GDP is estimated to have grown by 6.6 percent in 2021.

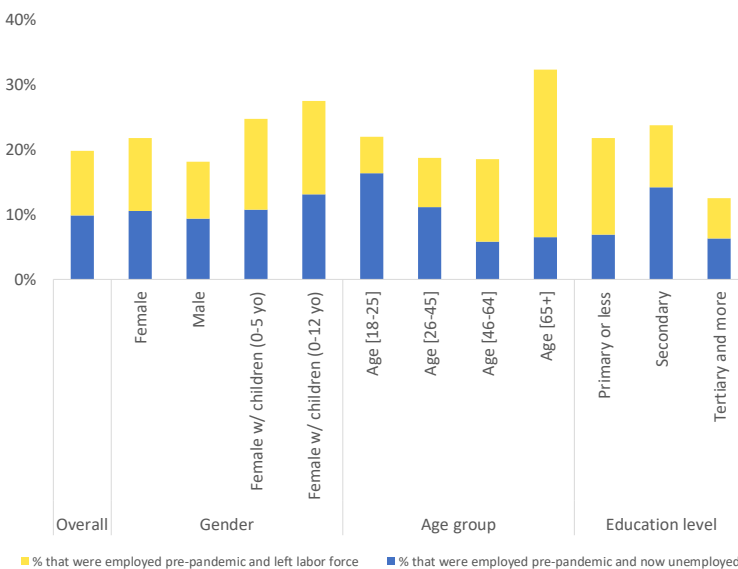
These developments have had severe effects on the welfare of the population, some of which were still evident more than a year into the pandemic. By mid-2021, about 1 in 5 workers had lost their pre-pandemic job, with nearly half of them leaving the labor force. People who had secondary education, women - especially those with children - and young adults (18-25 years old) were more likely to be affected by job losses. Among those who left the labor force, half of them were women, and most of them were low-skilled workers. Likely because of their higher participation in the heavily affected tourism sector, women were more vulnerable to employment shocks. Traditional gender roles, coupled with the need to dedicate more time to household duties, may further explain these uneven effects. The burden of childcare responsibilities intensified during the pandemic: 58.4 percent of women and 48.6 percent of men reported an increase in the time spent accompanying their children's education.

Movements out of employment were offset by a large share of previously inactive people who entered the labor force during the pandemic (44.3 percent). The majority of these entrants were women (76.0 percent), across all age ranges and education levels, and many of them had children. While 37.1 percent of the previously inactive who entered the labor force during the pandemic had not been able to secure a job, most of them were working, predominantly in informal employment (76.5 percent of entrants with a job). Similarly, jobs became more precarious for those who remained employed, which suggests a deterioration in job quality. More than 1 in every 10 pre-pandemic formal workers had transited into informality by mid-2021, particularly young workers and those aged 65+.

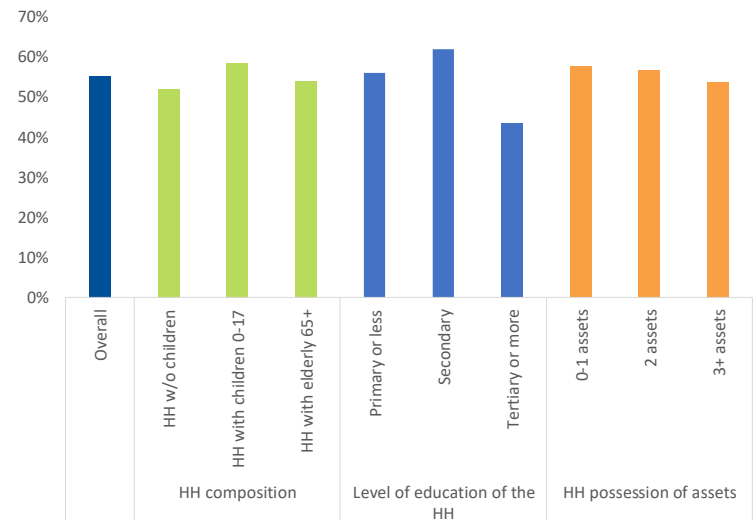
The government provided emergency cash transfers to alleviate shocks to household income and by mid-2021, 22.5 percent of households reported having received emergency support. Nevertheless, the pandemic resulted in widespread income losses and food insecurity worsened considerably. More than half of households (55.1 percent) reported incomes below their pre-pandemic levels at the time of the survey. Approximately one third of households had run out of food in mid-2021, because of lack of money or other resources. The proportion of households who recall being in a similar situation before the pandemic is considerably lower (13.7 percent).

At the time of the survey, in-person school attendance was widespread, which explains the high shares of school-age children attending school either in person or virtually (91.8 percent) and engaged in learning activities involving direct interaction with a teacher (90.5 percent).

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	19.7%	44.3%	13.7%	54.1%	43.0%	1.8%
Females	21.7%	45.1%	11.1%	58.4%	42.0%	1.7%
Males	18.0%	41.9%	16.1%	48.6%	44.1%	1.9%
18 to 25 years old	21.9%	69.5%	20.9%	50.1%	54.7%	2.3%
26 to 45 years old	18.6%	81.1%	11.7%	64.7%	46.0%	2.5%
46 to 64 years old	18.5%	28.2%	10.9%	45.5%	39.2%	1.1%
65 and older	32.2%	21.1%	50.0%	11.7%	23.2%	0.0%
Primary or less	21.7%	29.9%	16.2%	28.2%	44.4%	0.8%
Secondary	23.7%	55.0%	13.8%	55.2%	48.0%	1.5%
Tertiary and more	12.5%	51.6%	12.2%	79.3%	34.7%	3.2%

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	55.1%	22.5%	35.1%	91.8%	90.5%	64.4%
HH w/o children (0-17)	52.0%	20.9%	32.3%	-	-	65.4%
HH with children (0-17)	58.5%	24.3%	38.3%	91.8%	90.5%	63.4%
HH with elderly (65+)	53.8%	20.0%	30.7%	91.1%	86.5%	70.4%
0-1 assets	57.5%	19.0%	52.7%	87.9%	87.9%	49.9%
2 assets	56.5%	22.6%	44.1%	89.0%	88.1%	62.6%
3+ assets	53.7%	23.4%	25.8%	93.7%	92.0%	67.0%
HH education - Primary or less	56.0%	21.6%	43.0%	90.0%	88.3%	67.7%
HH education - Secondary	61.8%	27.9%	41.9%	92.9%	92.4%	60.9%
HH education - Tertiary or more	43.4%	16.2%	14.8%	100.0%	97.4%	66.0%

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).