



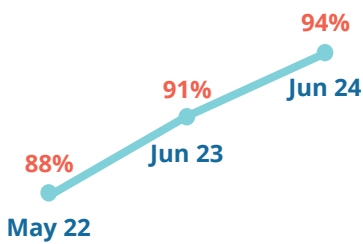
Lao PDR - Monitoring Household Welfare

SURVEY R9: MAY - JUNE 2024

EMPLOYMENT

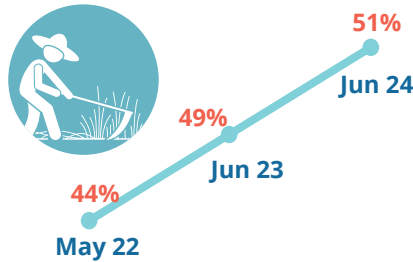
Employment remained robust in June 2024.

Share of working respondents

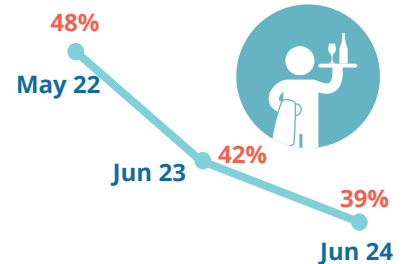


High inflation, currency depreciation, and slow wage growth have **shifted workers toward jobs that offer higher returns.**

Agriculture



Services



LABOR MIGRATION

Workers continue to migrate both domestically and internationally.



Outmigration in **search of higher pay and better employment opportunities:**

Low-income households



High-income households

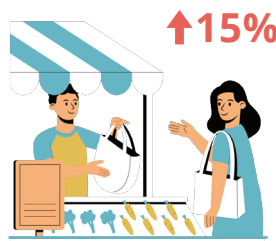


INCOME

Average household income per capita rose by 14% over the past year, but fell short of the 26% inflation rate.



Wages saw a modest 8% increase while **business profits grew faster at 15%.**



Commercial farm households on average **made 21 million kip in profit over the past year.**



FOOD INFLATION AND COPING STRATEGIES

88% of families have scaled up their own food production to cope with food inflation.



Households increasingly rely on foraging activities, particularly among rural and low-income households.



Less than 3% of households report receiving government assistance to help them cope.



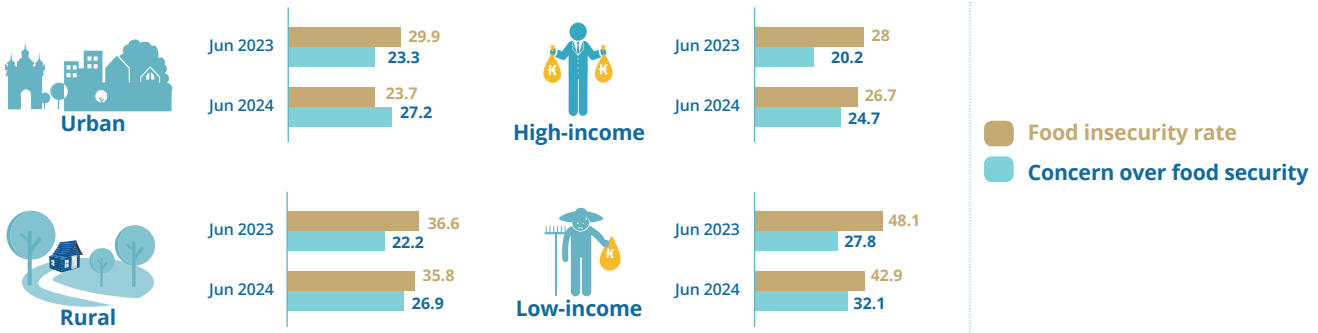


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FOOD SECURITY

While **the level of food security improved again** in the first half of 2024, **concern over food security increased among all response groups.**



HUMAN CAPITAL SPENDING AND SAVINGS

Impact of inflation on human capital spending has eased but remains significant.

35% of low-income households had to cut education spending, compared to 29% of high-income families.

82% of households cut back on their savings, a 12-percentage point increase from January 2024.



SCHOOL DROPOUT

8% of school-age children were out of school, with the figure rising to **11% among children from low-income families.**



Financial reasons, lack of motivation, academic struggles, household chores, and health issues are reasons for dropping out of school.



PUBLIC SERVICES

Respondents identified **four challenges** in accessing public services:



Travel difficulties



High fees



Poor service quality (inattentive staff and long processing time)



Understaffing