

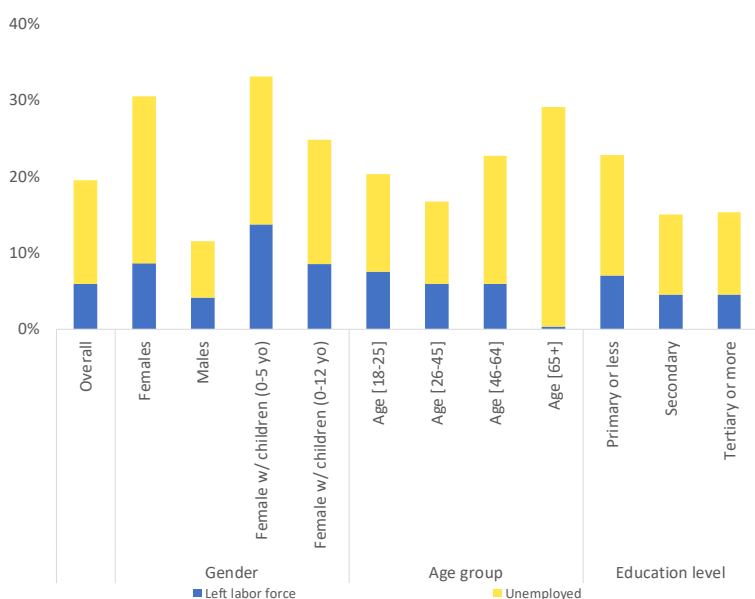
The level and quality of employment in Guatemala continued to decline during the second half of 2021. The employment-to-population ratio at the end of 2021 (68.5 percent) was below the mid-2021 level and thus beneath the pre-pandemic level (69.1 percent). Similarly, job loss for those employed before the pandemic worsened, from 14.4 percent in mid-2021 to 19.4 percent by the end of the year, making Guatemala the country with the highest job loss rate in the region. Job loss was more common amongst women (30.5 percent) compared to men (11.5 percent).

The increase in informal employment in Guatemala during the second half of 2021 was one of the highest in the region. Close to 81.5 percent of those employed were engaged in the informal sector (up by 15 pp from pre-pandemic levels), and the proportion was higher for women and the less educated (86.2 percent and 88.6 percent, respectively). This is partially explained by the fact that a large proportion of the inactive population that entered the labor force by the end of 2021, found a job in the informal sector (36.3 percent). In addition, around half of pre-pandemic formal workers became informal by the end of 2021.

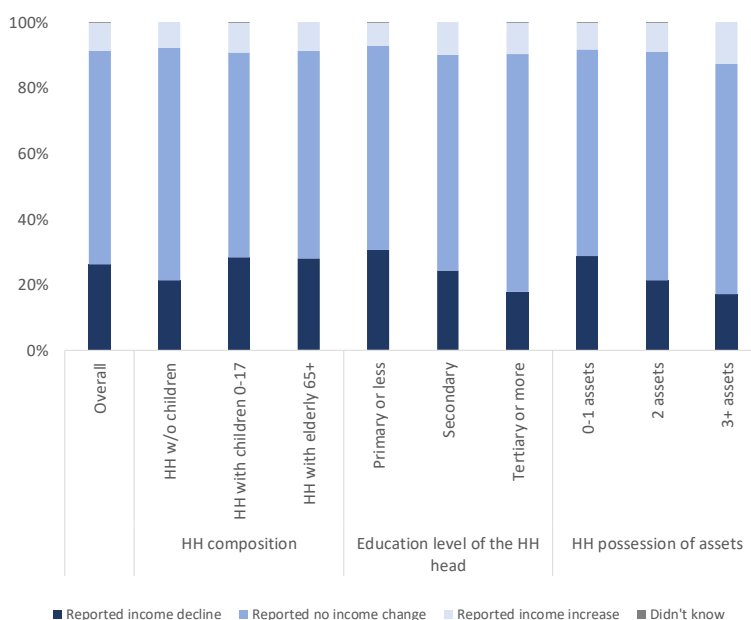
The deterioration of Guatemala's labor market had visible repercussions in welfare. Almost half of the households (45.3 percent) reported not having enough resources to cover their basic needs by the end of 2021. Food insecurity, measured as the percentage of households that ran out of food during the 30 days preceding the survey, was close to 20.5 percent by the end of 2021, compared to 14.9 percent before the pandemic. Vulnerable households, including those with one or no assets (26.4 percent) and those with heads with low levels of educational attainment (27.1 percent) continued to be the most affected by food insecurity. Also, food insecurity is higher among households with a minority member, indigenous or afro-descendants, compared to those without (23.4 percent versus 17.8 percent). To manage financial strain, 60.4 percent of households reported resorting to at least one coping mechanism, and this was more common among households with children under 17 years old (64.7 percent) and those with heads with less education (66.3 percent).

Importantly, school attendance did not recover fully by the end of 2021. The percentage of school age children attending school was 83.8 percent, still 8.2 pp lower than before the pandemic. Nonetheless, this is an improvement from what was observed in mid-2021 (64.1 percent). School attendance was somewhat lower amongst children in households with one or no assets (80.4 percent) and those whose head has a low education level (80 percent). Finally, the effect of the pandemic on mental health was still visible by the end of 2021, especially for women. While close to 40.3 percent of the population reported having mental health problems, this figure reached 46.1 percent among women compared to 34.1 percent among men.

JOB LOSS (% OF PRE-PANDEMIC WORKERS)



CHANGES IN TOTAL INCOME (%HH) SINCE MID-2021



Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 2.

KEY INDICATORS: INDIVIDUALS (18+ years old)

Distribution among groups	Labor				Childcare responsibilities	Health
	% of employed population (pre-pandemic) who lost their pre-pandemic job	% of inactive population (pre-pandemic) who became active (employed or unemployed)	% of employed population who is in informal employment		% of population who spent more time accompanying children's education than pre-pandemic	% of population who reported mental health problems
			Pre-pandemic	End-2021		
Overall	19.4%	47.5%	67.0%	81.5%	36.5%	40.3%
Females	30.5%	39.8%	76.6%	86.2%	43.0%	46.1%
Males	11.5%	71.2%	60.1%	78.3%	29.1%	34.1%
18 to 25 years old	20.3%	51.2%	68.3%	78.6%	34.1%	34.0%
26 to 45 years old	16.7%	52.6%	65.7%	82.0%	39.7%	41.8%
46 to 64 years old	22.7%	40.0%	70.1%	80.6%	30.4%	45.2%
65 and older	29.0%	27.6%	62.5%	94.2%	34.3%	40.3%
Education: Primary or less	22.7%	48.0%	75.4%	88.6%	32.6%	42.5%
Education: Secondary	15.0%	47.5%	59.4%	76.7%	44.6%	38.0%
Education: Tertiary or more	15.3%	45.1%	46.6%	62.7%	36.6%	36.4%

Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 2.

Note: National level results are compared against the regional LAC average: **Green** indicates that the country performs better than the LAC average in terms of preferred outcome, e.g. less informality, while **red** indicates that the country performs worse than the LAC average.

KEY INDICATORS: HOUSEHOLDS AND CHILDREN

Distribution among groups	Income & Coping		Food Insecurity		Education (6-17 yo)		
	% HH without enough resources to cover basic needs (self-reported)	% HH that resorted to at least one coping mechanism	% HHs that ran out of food		% of children in school age who attended school (in person or virtually)		% of children in school age who interacted with teacher in person (incl. hybrid teaching modes)
			Pre-pandemic	End-2021 (Last 30 days)	Pre-pandemic	End-2021	
Overall	45.3%	60.4%	14.9%	20.5%	92.0%	83.8%	49.5%
HH w/o children (0-17)	38.5%	51.1%	10.2%	13.6%	-	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	48.4%	64.7%	17.1%	23.6%	92.0%	83.8%	49.5%
HH with elderly (65+)	50.1%	62.7%	14.7%	24.1%	88.7%	83.3%	47.5%
0-1 assets	52.9%	63.8%	19.3%	26.4%	90.2%	80.4%	44.8%
2 assets	31.3%	53.8%	5.2%	7.8%	96.4%	92.9%	66.4%
3+ assets	20.8%	49.5%	3.0%	3.5%	99.4%	97.6%	57.8%
HH Head Edu: Primary or less	51.0%	66.3%	19.2%	27.1%	89.5%	80.0%	43.7%
HH Head Edu: Secondary	43.2%	57.2%	10.0%	14.9%	97.5%	91.6%	59.1%
HH Head Edu: Tertiary or more	36.3%	53.1%	8.9%	10.6%	93.3%	87.6%	51.3%

Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 2.

Note: National level results are compared against the regional LAC average: **Green** indicates that the country performs better than the LAC average in terms of preferred outcome, e.g. fewer households running out of food, while **red** indicates that the country performs worse than the LAC average.

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. Data for the second wave was collected between October 2021 and January 2022 and included all countries except for Antigua & Barbuda and Brazil. 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 harmonized indicators across all world regions. Further information on the LAC HFPS II can be found [here](#).