

Contrary to global and regional trends, Guyana was one of the fastest-growing economies throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, primarily due to the start of oil production after recent offshore discoveries. Nevertheless, data from the High-Frequency Phone Survey (HFPS) conducted at the end of 2021 shows that many households had experienced negative impacts across a range of socioeconomic dimensions, some of which persisted almost two years into the pandemic.

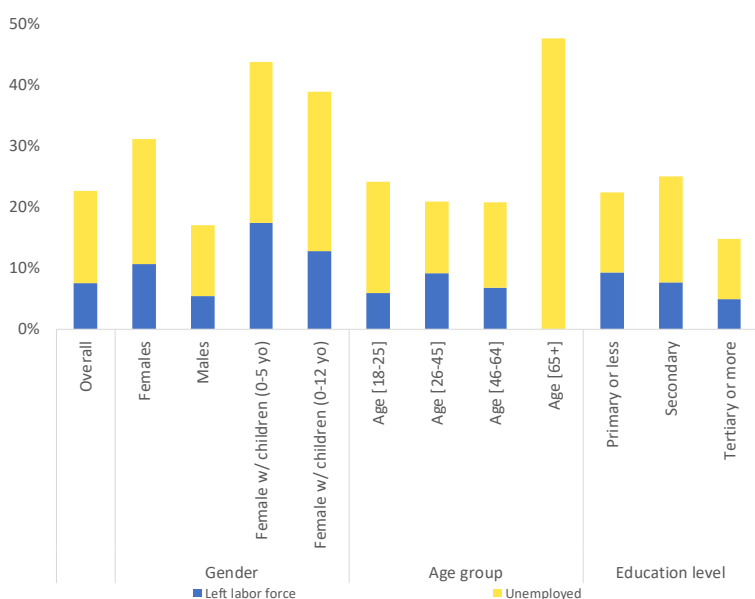
At the end of 2021, 22.6 percent of pre-pandemic workers were either unemployed or out of the labor force. Women who lost their pre-pandemic job were finding it harder to return to work, even more so those with children in the household. While among men, 17.0 percent of pre-pandemic workers were still unemployed or out of the labor force at the end of 2021, among women this proportion was 31.1 percent, rising to 38.8 percent for women with children ages 0-12 years in the household and to 43.6 percent when restricting to those with small children (ages 5 years or younger) in the household. This could be related to a larger proportion of women than men having increased the time spent accompanying children's education compared to before the pandemic (62.1 percent of women vs. 44.6 percent of men). Women were also more likely than men to report mental health problems (44.4 percent vs. 39.0 percent).

At the same time, a substantial proportion of the population who was out of the labor force (inactive) before the pandemic had become active by the end of 2021 (42.0 percent). This could be a response to deteriorating household finances and was indeed mentioned by over 30 percent of households as a coping behavior employed to meet their basic needs. Compared to before the pandemic, there was an increase in the proportion of the employed population who was in informal employment, from 41.3 percent to 45.7 percent by end of 2021, suggesting some deterioration in job quality. The increase in informality rates was more pronounced for women than for men.

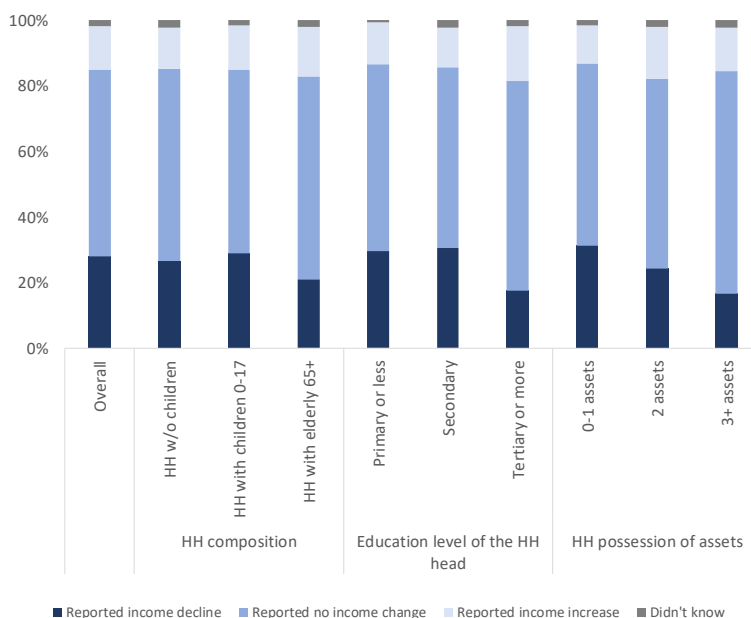
An incomplete and uneven recovery of the labor market is mirrored by sustained negative impacts on household income and welfare. The majority of households (85.0 percent) did not see income increases compared to mid-2021 (reported either no change in income or a decline), when about 1 in 2 households had reported a decrease in total income compared to before the pandemic. A considerable proportion of households, 63.7 percent, said that they lacked enough resources to cover their basic needs. This is above the regional average for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). More than two thirds of Guyanese households had used at least one coping mechanism to cover their basic needs, such as using savings, previously inactive household members looking for work, or halting payments for rent or debt installments. Food insecurity worsened considerably since the beginning of the pandemic. At the end of 2021, 41.8 percent of Guyanese households had run out of food at least once in the 30 days prior to the survey, 10 percentage points more than the LAC average. Only 16.9 percent of households recalled such a situation to have happened before the pandemic. Households with children, less educated heads, and low numbers of assets fared worse.

School attendance increased substantially since mid-2021, when it had been at 63.7 percent, but remained a concern. At the end of 2021, 86.2 percent of children in school age attended school, about 10 percentage points below the pre-pandemic level.

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	22.6%	42.0%	41.3%	45.7%	54.1%	39.0%
Females	31.1%	38.7%	43.5%	51.2%	62.1%	44.4%
Males	17.0%	52.4%	39.9%	42.1%	44.6%	33.6%
18 to 25 years old	24.1%	47.9%	44.3%	43.3%	44.2%	40.4%
26 to 45 years old	20.9%	49.1%	38.9%	44.9%	62.1%	40.6%
46 to 64 years old	20.7%	44.8%	40.7%	45.3%	46.6%	38.6%
65 and older	47.5%	14.6%	61.3%	73.8%	20.3%	26.6%
Education: Primary or less	22.4%	49.9%	57.3%	56.8%	48.8%	30.2%
Education: Secondary	25.0%	37.2%	42.4%	48.9%	52.7%	40.5%
Education: Tertiary or more	14.8%	53.4%	17.5%	21.6%	69.9%	45.8%

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	63.7%	70.6%	16.9%	41.8%	96.3%	86.2%	75.7%
HH w/o children (0-17)	57.7%	60.3%	11.6%	29.3%	-	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	67.7%	77.7%	20.6%	50.3%	96.3%	86.2%	75.7%
HH with elderly (65+)	57.0%	73.2%	12.7%	34.9%	95.9%	88.6%	81.9%
0-1 assets	69.5%	71.8%	21.2%	50.5%	96.3%	84.1%	74.0%
2 assets	57.0%	68.2%	11.4%	29.9%	95.3%	86.4%	74.9%
3+ assets	47.2%	71.9%	7.0%	23.1%	100.0%	100.0%	90.9%
HH Head Edu: Primary or less	57.7%	69.6%	16.4%	43.8%	97.4%	90.3%	75.8%
HH Head Edu: Secondary	69.3%	72.8%	19.8%	45.1%	96.1%	82.9%	75.8%
HH Head Edu: Tertiary or more	57.9%	67.9%	9.4%	28.4%	96.1%	87.2%	74.5%

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](#).