



COVID-19 IN LAC

SAINT LUCIA

2021 LAC HIGH FREQUENCY PHONE SURVEYS: Results Phase II, Wave 2



In 2020, Saint Lucia's economy experienced one of the largest economic contractions in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region, with real GDP decreasing by more than 20 percent. The economy started to recover in 2021, driven by the resumption of tourism and the expansion of the construction sector. Although strong, at 11.9 percent, the rebound in real GDP in 2021 was not enough to recover the losses sustained in 2020. Data from the High-Frequency Phone Survey (HFPS) collected at the end of 2021 mirror these developments.

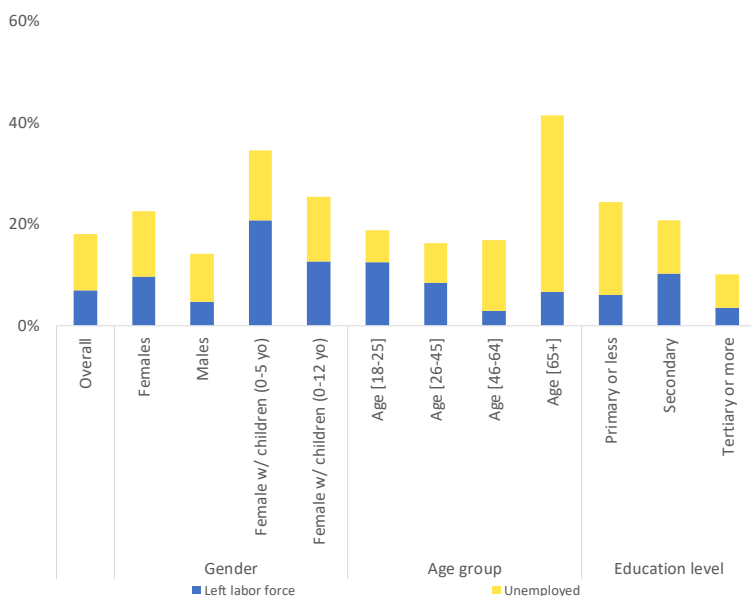
At the end of 2021, 18.0 percent of those who were employed before the pandemic were unemployed or out of the labor force. Women who lost their pre-pandemic job found it harder to return to work than men, and 22.6 percent of them were either unemployed (9.6 percent) or had left the labor force (13.0 percent). The situation was even worse for women with small children (ages 0-5 years) at home, with 34.5 percent of those working before the pandemic being unemployed (20.7 percent) or inactive (13.8 percent). In addition, women were also more likely to report mental health problems than men (48.5 percent versus 36.9 percent).

On the other hand, 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 (41.2 percent). This phenomenon can be seen as a response to deteriorating household finances. Indeed, 29.5 percent of households reported it as an economic coping mechanism they employed. Although employment recovered in 2021, this was accompanied by a deterioration in job quality, as measured by informal employment. The share of the employed population in the informal sector increased from 29.6 percent before the pandemic to 36.9 percent at the end of 2021.

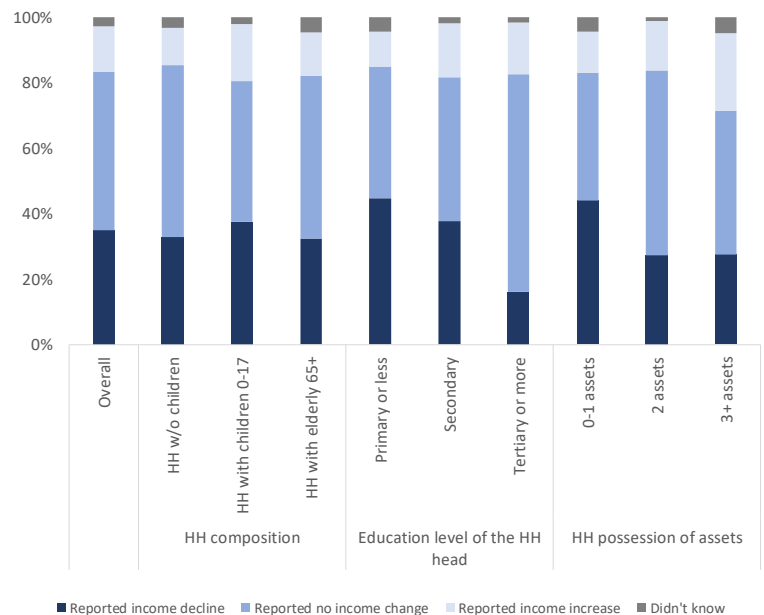
The incomplete and uneven labor market recovery translated into sustained negative impacts on household income and welfare. Most households did not see income increases compared to mid-2021, when more than half of households had reported a decrease in total income compared to before the pandemic. Almost 60 percent of households reported not having enough resources to cover their basic needs, and more than 70 percent resorted to at least one coping mechanism to cover them, such as using savings, previously inactive household members seeking for work, or halting payments for rent or debt installments. The data also highlight a considerable worsening in food security that exceeded the regional trend. The proportion of households who ran out of food before the pandemic (based on recall) was 12.7 percent and lower than the LAC average. By the end of 2021, one in three households reported having run out of food, and this proportion exceeded the LAC average.

School attendance was almost back at pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2021, at 97.7 percent, and exceeded the LAC average. While still considerable at nearly 50 percent, the proportion of the population who spent more time accompanying children's education compared to before the pandemic had come down since mid-2021. Nevertheless, women still disproportionately reported an increase in time spent supporting children's education (51.2 percent) compared to men (44.0 percent).

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	18.0%	41.2%	29.6%	36.9%	48.3%	42.8%
Females	22.5%	36.0%	28.3%	37.6%	51.2%	48.5%
Males	14.0%	54.6%	30.7%	36.3%	44.0%	36.9%
18 to 25 years old	18.7%	75.8%	22.6%	27.7%	52.7%	54.9%
26 to 45 years old	16.2%	55.1%	24.8%	29.8%	59.0%	42.3%
46 to 64 years old	16.8%	19.4%	33.9%	45.0%	33.6%	38.8%
65 and older	41.4%	17.0%	63.4%	90.9%	15.4%	37.6%
Education: Primary or less	24.3%	19.6%	41.6%	61.8%	27.9%	44.6%
Education: Secondary	20.7%	59.9%	30.4%	34.7%	51.8%	43.0%
Education: Tertiary or more	10.1%	45.7%	20.4%	24.8%	56.8%	41.0%

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	57.8%	72.8%	12.7%	33.2%	98.7%	97.7%	95.6%
HH w/o children (0-17)	52.6%	66.5%	12.8%	31.6%	-	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	64.7%	81.0%	12.5%	35.3%	98.7%	97.7%	95.6%
HH with elderly (65+)	56.7%	66.0%	14.6%	30.1%	100.0%	91.5%	91.5%
0-1 assets	71.4%	73.7%	21.6%	45.3%	96.6%	99.1%	94.5%
2 assets	47.9%	71.9%	5.4%	23.4%	99.7%	98.2%	97.1%
3+ assets	22.2%	73.4%	0.0%	17.1%	100.0%	66.4%	66.4%
HH Head Education: Primary or less	71.4%	72.4%	18.0%	40.0%	96.4%	96.3%	94.8%
HH Head Education: Secondary	59.0%	74.4%	11.7%	32.3%	100.0%	97.8%	93.8%
HH Head Education: Tertiary or more	37.3%	71.1%	6.1%	24.5%	99.7%	99.6%	99.6%

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](#).