



COVID-19 IN LAC

URUGUAY

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



April 2022

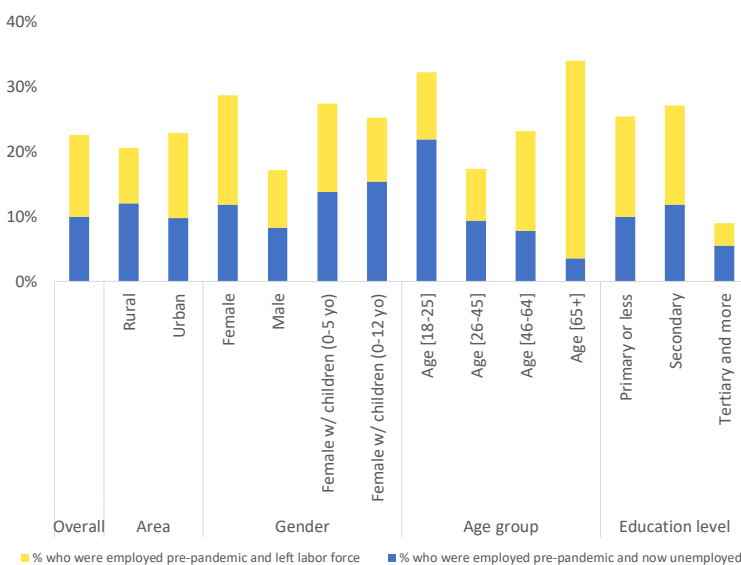
While Uruguay had a relatively successful handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 in terms of contagion containment, GDP fell 5.9 percent that year. An exceptionally high number of COVID-19 cases per capita in early 2021 stifled expectations of a quick recovery, but an outstanding vaccination rollout and strong exports stimulated the rebound (GDP is expected to have grown around 4 percent in 2021). The labor market was significantly affected in 2021. By mid-2021, 22.5 percent of workers had lost their pre-pandemic jobs, and 10.7 percent of pre-pandemic formal workers had become informal. The shock affected different groups unequally. The younger (18-25) were more affected, as 32.1 percent lost their jobs, and 23.7 percent of pre-pandemic young formal workers transited to informality. Two-thirds of the young who lost their jobs are still in the labor market. In contrast, discouragement was more important among the older (46-64) population. Only a third of the recently unemployed were still looking for a job.

Women were also particularly affected by the economic shock: 28.6 percent lost their jobs compared to 17.1 percent males. In addition, 16.8 percent of the women who held a job lost it and also left the labor market entirely (only 8.8 percent of men). Higher female transits into inactivity could be related to an uneven increase in childcare responsibilities. 58.4 percent of women saw their workload increased, compared to only 42.6 percent of men. Furthermore, the more educated workers were among the least impacted (8.9 percent lost their job), which could be related to being more likely to telework. This is consistent with the disproportionate share that reports an increase in time spent accompanying children's education (72.2 percent, compared with 52.1 percent for the overall population).

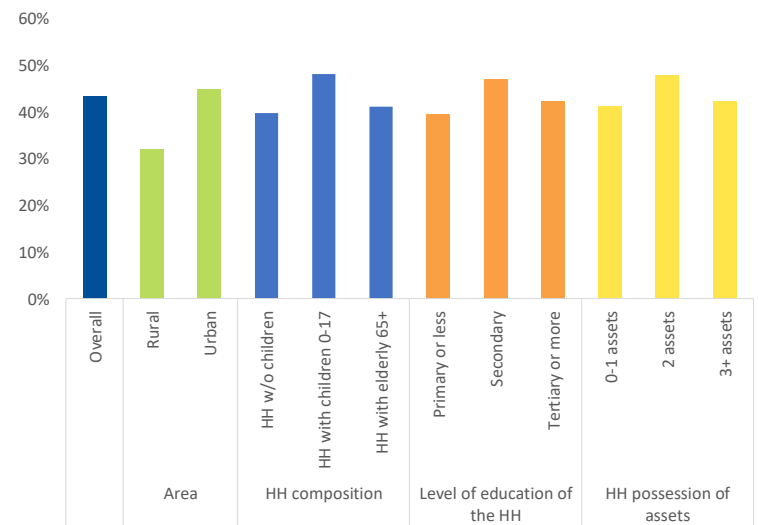
The negative impacts of the pandemic were partially cushioned by the social protection system and the containment measures introduced in early 2020 and further reinforced in 2021. Specifically, households holding under three assets, primary-educated, and rural showed the highest incidences of receiving emergency government transfers. Still, about one-third of inactive workers entered the labor force during the pandemic, vastly outweighing the share that left the labor force altogether, with primary-educated women of all ages prevalent among them. This entry suggests that transfers were insufficient to compensate for lost income. Consistent with this finding, food insecurity was especially relevant for the least educated households (21.2 percent ran out of food in the previous 30 days), rural (20.5 percent), and those holding under 2 assets (44.1 percent).

Most kids in school age (91.5 percent) were attending school in mid-2021, either in person or virtually. Although 81.8 percent interacted with teachers (in person or online), only 27.4 percent were attending in person. The reported problems with internet services by 43.6 percent of households, and the lowest rates coming from 1-asset households (36.4 percent) suggests that variations in reporting across groups are probably affected by different expectations of internet quality.

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	22.5%	30.3%	10.7%	52.1%	8.5%	15.2%
Rural	20.5%	18.7%	5.7%	46.9%	4.1%	14.3%
Urban	22.8%	31.7%	11.3%	52.7%	9.0%	15.3%
Females	28.6%	30.7%	10.3%	58.4%	8.4%	15.5%
Males	17.1%	29.5%	11.1%	42.6%	8.5%	14.9%
18 to 25 years old	32.1%	52.0%	23.7%	46.2%	11.8%	28.4%
26 to 45 years old	17.3%	68.6%	9.6%	58.9%	8.6%	17.7%
46 to 64 years old	23.1%	20.1%	10.4%	47.0%	6.6%	10.0%
65 and older	33.9%	8.9%	0.0%	0.0%	8.4%	6.0%
Primary or less	25.3%	19.9%	15.2%	37.2%	8.2%	7.4%
Secondary	27.0%	32.6%	11.3%	52.3%	9.5%	17.7%
Tertiary and more	8.9%	40.2%	6.6%	72.2%	6.2%	16.7%

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	43.4%	23.4%	16.5%	91.5%	81.8%	43.6%
Rural	31.9%	31.0%	20.5%	91.2%	80.8%	42.0%
Urban	44.9%	22.5%	16.0%	91.5%	81.9%	43.8%
HH w/o children (0-17)	39.8%	21.2%	12.5%	-	-	40.6%
HH with children (0-17)	48.0%	26.1%	21.5%	91.5%	81.8%	47.3%
HH with elderly (65+)	41.0%	19.0%	5.5%	92.3%	77.0%	37.1%
0-1 assets	41.3%	44.7%	44.1%	100.0%	64.5%	36.4%
2 assets	48.0%	31.9%	26.2%	70.6%	61.9%	36.8%
3+ assets	42.3%	18.3%	10.2%	94.4%	85.8%	46.3%
HH education - Primary or less	39.5%	29.7%	21.2%	80.0%	70.5%	41.6%
HH education - Secondary	47.0%	25.6%	16.6%	95.2%	84.6%	45.0%
HH education - Tertiary or more	42.4%	7.7%	8.9%	97.1%	90.5%	41.1%

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. 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 \(2021\)](#).

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