

# International Labour Review



# International Labour Review

## SPECIAL ISSUE

### COVID-19 and the world of work (Part I)

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- 5 **The labour market fallout of COVID-19: Who endures, who doesn't and what are the implications for inequality**  
Sergei SOARES and Janine BERG
- Government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic have differed in scope and design, with important implications for the labour market as a whole but also for specific groups of workers. Using labour force survey data from seven middle- and high-income countries, this article analyses transitions in the labour market in the first two quarters of 2020 and compares them with transitions in the previous year. The authors find that governments that favoured wage subsidies over other forms of income support were able to lessen labour market volatility, but that in all seven countries studied the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated labour market inequalities.
- Keywords: labour market transitions, COVID-19, labour market inequality, labour market policy.
- 29 **COVID-19 and informal work: Evidence from 11 cities**  
Martha Alter CHEN, Erofil GRAPSA, Ghida ISMAIL, Michael ROGAN,  
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Sarah Orleans REED and Sally ROEVER

This article presents the findings for 11 cities across five geographical regions from a study led by Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing, investigating the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on different groups of informal workers

and their households. Detailing impacts on work and income, food and hunger, care and other household responsibilities, and on the coping strategies of informal worker households, the article also compares the roles of government and informal worker organizations in providing relief and other support. Based on worker demands, the authors present guiding principles for a better deal for informal workers going forward.

Keywords: COVID-19 crisis, informal workers, impact evaluation, relief measures, coping strategies, government intervention, role of worker organizations.

59 **Power relations in global supply chains and the unequal distribution of costs during crises: Abandoning garment suppliers and workers during the COVID-19 pandemic** Mark ANNER

In early 2020, apparel brands and retailers cancelled US\$40 billion worth of orders, with critical consequences for suppliers and workers. Their actions illustrate the power asymmetries in global supply chains and the unequal distribution of costs during crises. This article explores these dynamics through original survey data, supplier questionnaires, stakeholder interviews, a time-line analysis and trade data analysis. Findings point to certain limits of buyer power, reflected in the effective collaboration between suppliers and worker rights advocates in the “#PayUp” campaign. Yet buyers retain the power to squeeze suppliers with adverse impacts on workers, thus leading to calls for binding agreements.

Keywords: global supply chains, COVID-19, workers’ rights, Bangladesh, suppliers, apparel, clothing industry.

83 **COVID-19 in Latin America: The effects of an unprecedented crisis on employment and income** Luis BECCARIA, Fabio BERTRANOU and Roxana MAURIZIO

In 2020, Latin America was gripped by an unprecedented labour crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. This article analyses the pandemic’s impact on employment and income dynamics, and the policies implemented by the countries in the region. Findings point to a severe contraction in employment, working hours and income in consequence of the sharp decline in economic activity. These impacts have fostered inequalities, and the pathway to recovery is widening employment and income gaps between different population groups.

Keywords: COVID-19, Latin America, employment, income, money transfers, employment policies, active labour market policies.

107 **COVID-19 disparities by gender and income: Evidence from the Philippines** Rouselle F. LAVADO, Keiko NOWACKA, David A. RAITZER, Yana van der Meulen RODGERS and Joseph E. ZVEGLICH, Jr

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting containment policies have hit the Philippines harder than most developing countries. The government lockdown is among the strictest in the world, and blanket school closures are the lengthiest. This article uses a novel simulation model to estimate the gendered and regional impacts of these factors on labour, income and poverty, and a case study of school closures points to the losses in employment among private school teachers and in the income of parents with young children. The authors find that the pandemic has had unprecedented implications for economic activity and has disproportionately affected women.

Keywords: COVID-19 pandemic, gender gap, employment, unpaid work, poverty, lockdown, women, Philippines.

125 **Is this time *really* different? How the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on labour markets contrasts with that of the global financial crisis of 2008–09**

Sher VERICK, Dorothea SCHMIDT-KLAU and Sangheon LEE

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a more severe labour market crisis in 2020 than that witnessed during the 2009 global financial crisis. As a consequence of lockdown measures, which have been the main cause of damage to labour markets, the deepest

impacts in 2020 have been found in middle-income economies, while certain sectors, such as accommodation and food services, and groups, especially young women, have proved to be particularly vulnerable. Contrary to adjustment processes during the global financial crisis, the COVID-19 crisis has resulted in a greater rise in inactivity than in unemployment. Policy support needs to be maintained to avoid an unequal recovery.

Keywords: COVID-19 crisis, global financial crisis, unemployment, employment, developing countries, labour market analysis.

## 149 **Social partner participation in the management of the COVID-19 crisis: Tripartite social dialogue in Italy, Portugal and Spain**

Sergio CANALDA CRIADO

This article analyses actual social dialogue experiences in Italy, Portugal and Spain in order to examine the social partners' participation in COVID-19 crisis management. It considers the economic and political variables that have helped revitalize tripartism in all three countries relative to the previous economic crisis. The lack of austerity policies and responsibility-sharing on the part of the social partners and governments paved the way for various agreements that, though differing in content and scope, attest to stronger peak-level tripartite dialogue.

Keywords: tripartism, social dialogue, social pact, Italy, Portugal, Spain, COVID-19.

## **Communications**

## 169 **Editorial farewell**

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