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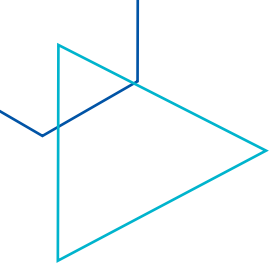
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HIGHLIGHTS: FOURTH WAVE JUNE 2021

Rapid Labour Force Survey of COVID-19 Impact in Tunisia

Published in January 2022



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Introduction¹

This document summarises the key findings of the fourth wave of rapid labour force surveys conducted by ILO and ERF between May 21st and June 21st 2021, in Tunisia to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on households, household enterprises and farmers. This report is part of a series of panel surveys that track the evolution of the pandemic in Tunisia's labour market. The survey was conducted by phone, using a Random Digit Dialing (RDD) approach, and targeted mobile owners aged 18 to 64.

A sample of 2,000 interviews was collected in the first wave in November 2020. Ninety-six per cent of these respondents consented to be re-interviewed as part of the second wave, 64.7 per cent (1,294 of 2,000) were reached. An additional refresher sample of 783 individuals was added, using RDD methods, to reach a total of 2,077 interviews. Around 98 per cent of the respondents in the second wave agreed (2,044 out of 2,077) to be followed up in the third wave, and 77.7 per cent were then successfully interviewed. A refresher sample of 444 individuals was added to reach a total of 2,057² respondents.

In the fourth and final wave, a sample of 2,009 interviews was collected, of which 1,741 individuals were previously interviewed in the third wave representing 85.9 per cent of those who gave consent to be contacted in the fourth wave (1,741 out of 2,028). A refresher sample of 268 individuals was added to reach a final sample size of 2,009.

The survey produces data over three reference periods. The “baseline” pre-COVID situation is defined in February 2020 and measured retrospectively as part of wave 1 for the panel sample or the refresher sample in the consecutive waves. Depending on the variable, the “current” situation is defined in either the previous month or the previous week.

The sample is weighted by considering households' demographics, the prevalence of mobile phones in Tunisia, and the numbers of mobile phones in each household. For the panel data, the attrition probability is computed and also considered in calculating the weights. The survey methodology and phone call outcomes are presented in more detail in the Annex.

The household questionnaire covers demographic and household characteristics, labour market status, education, food security, incomes, social safety nets, attitudes towards risks and social distancing, coping strategies, and mental health. It includes a core module, an individual module, a worker module, a farmer module, a household enterprise module, a women module, and a tracking module. A more detailed presentation of findings will follow this report.



¹ Data used in this report are the cross-sectional data of the four waves.

² Only individuals of the second wave with consent were re-contacted in the third wave.



Key Findings

- ▶ Since the onset of the pandemic, our measure of unemployment shot up by 40% between February and November 2020, receding only slightly by the spring of 2021, and maintaining those levels since;
- ▶ Inactivity has declined even more substantially. Labour force participation increased by ten percentage points over the period to reach 69 per cent in June 2021. This rise was particularly pronounced among females, with an increase from 33 per cent in February 2020 to 49 per cent in June 2021. The share of active men only increased by five percentage points, from 82 to 87 per cent.
- ▶ Males were less affected by unemployment than their female counterparts, who witnessed a substantial increase in unemployment, following the influx of previously inactive females into the labour market.
- ▶ When comparing employment status pre-pandemic and at the time of the survey, highly educated individuals and public sector employees (96 per cent) are much less likely to be in unemployment or withdrawn from the labour market.
- ▶ About a third of wage workers (32 per cent) are still facing delays in receiving their wage payments by June 2021.
- ▶ Even though decreases in income have slightly stabilized, income levels are still on a downward path compared to pre-COVID-19 levels, where 48 per cent of the households were still facing income reduction in June 2021.
- ▶ Household enterprises' activity has substantially recovered since the start of the pandemic, with zero per cent reporting a permanent shut-down in June 2021 and only 14 per cent reporting a temporary closure, compared to 23 per cent in November 2020.
- ▶ The use of phone for marketing and business continues to be the main strategy used by businesses to reduce physical proximity.
- ▶ Despite the substantial decrease of sales/revenues throughout the four waves compared to the same periods a year before, businesses seem to have slightly regained their confidence in their sales' expectations compared to November 2020.
- ▶ Shifting to remote working arrangements is not an option for 87 per cent of respondents. Among those who have been able to shift, higher educated individuals, females and urban residents were more represented.
- ▶ Across waves, the most reported reasons for the changes in food security were the decline in household income and food inflation.
- ▶ The receipt of new governmental support has decreased to a minimum in June 2021, indicating the discontinuation of the governmental COVID-19 special support.
- ▶ Taking money out of savings and resorting to family and friends have remained the main coping strategies in dealing with income losses since the onset of the pandemic.
- ▶ A much lower percentage of farmers (28 per cent in June 2021 versus 48 per cent in November 2020) are expecting crops' prices to increase in 2021 compared to 2019.

The COVID-19 pandemic in Tunisia

The COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated the existing economic and social challenges that the Tunisian economy has been facing following the 2011 revolution. Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has fallen by 7 per cent in 2020 and is expected to rebound in 2021 by 3.8 per cent³. **Figure 1** presents the epidemiological trend in Tunisia and the primary containment and socio-economic policy responses adopted by the Government. The first COVID-19 case in Tunisia was recorded on 2 March 2020. The spread of the virus remained under control the following weeks thanks to the proactive sanitary measures and the strict lockdown announced in March, limiting movements to work and essential needs. The introduction of partial reopening measures in June 2020 was coupled with a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases, which incentivized the Tunisia government to impose new restrictions in the fall⁴. By the end of June 2021, Tunisia experienced a severe increase in the daily number of cases that lasted around three weeks. In March 2021, the government launched a vaccination campaign with the objective of covering at least half of the population over 18 years old. Priority was given to health workers, the elderly and people with underlying health conditions. By the end of September 2021, around 28 per cent of the population will have been fully vaccinated in Tunisia (Figure 2: COVID-19 vaccination doses per 100 people in Tunisia)⁵.

As part of Tunisia's economic and social responses, the Central Bank (CBT) reduced its key interest rate in March and October 2020, by a cumulative 125 basis points; and eased credit risk rules. The CBT requested that banks defer payments on existing loans and suspend any electronic payments and withdrawals fees. The CBT also asked banks to postpone household loan reimbursement for three to six months, depending on the net revenue level. Loan repayments for businesses in the tourism sector were deferred to September 2021. On the fiscal side, the Government of Tunisia announced a TND 2.6 billion (US\$928 million) emergency plan in March 2020, including value-added tax (VAT) exemptions, the rescheduling of taxes and custom arrears, and liquidity easing measures. Cash transfers for low-income households, disabled and homeless persons were introduced to the tune of TND 450 million. Special unemployment benefits were also made available for an amount of TND 300 million. The 2021 budget law involves several measures to support the most affected enterprises and sectors, including an extension of the state guarantee scheme to the end of 2021.

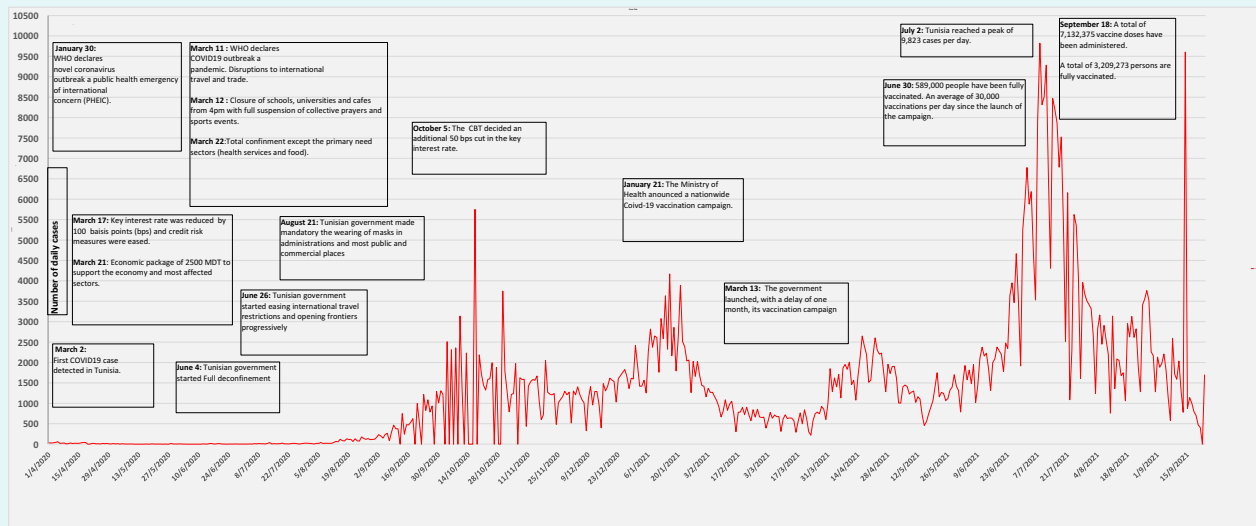


³ IMF. 2021. "Tunisia: 2020 Article IV Consultation-Press Release." January.

⁴ IMF. 2021. "Policy Responses to COVID-19, Policy Tracker Database." September.

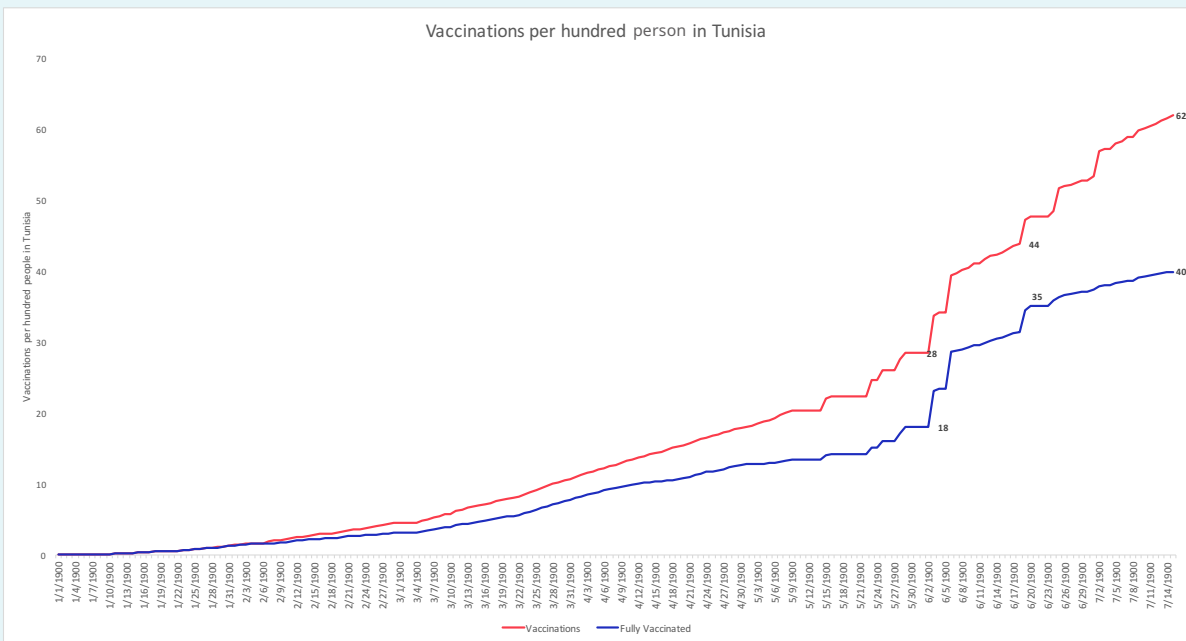
⁵ WHO. 2021. "COVID-19, Vaccinations' Database." September.

► **Figure 1: COVID-19 case trends in Tunisia and government response**



Source: Constructed by authors using the WHO COVID-19 Database

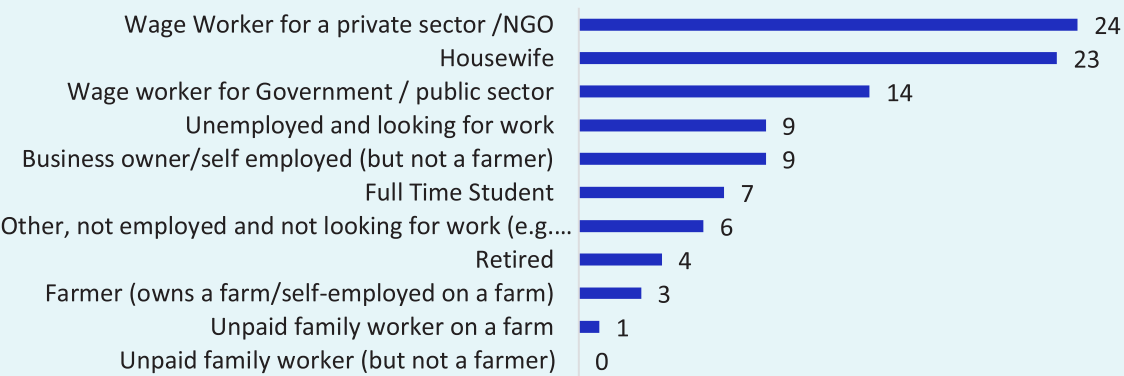
► **Figure 2: COVID-19 vaccination doses per 100 person in Tunisia**



Source: Constructed by authors using the WHO COVID-19 Vaccinations' Database.

Figure 3: illustrates the distribution of Tunisian participants in the fourth wave of the ERF COVID-19 survey with respect to their job activity in February 2020.

► **Figure 3:** Percentage distribution of respondents in February 2021, by main job/activity, as of February 2020



Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.

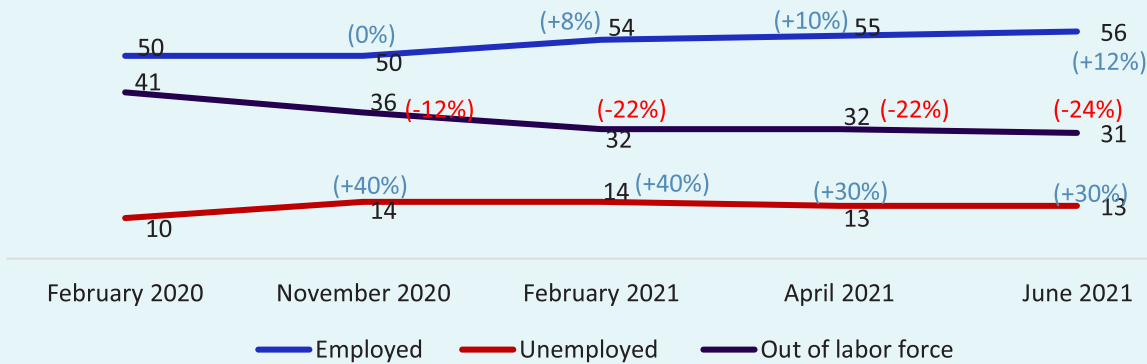


► Employment and unemployment

Most of the changes in the labour market participation were observed in the first year of the pandemic between February 2020 and February 2021.

Within a year from the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the flow of formerly inactive persons into the labour market substantially increased by nine percentage points in February 2021 compared to pre-COVID. In the same year, the unemployment share increased by 40 per cent, whereas the employment share increased by 8 per cent. However, since February 2021 the distribution has been more stable. While the unemployment share stabilized at 13 per cent, which is one percentage point lower than February 2021, the employment share increased by two percentage points in April and June 2021, reaching 56 per cent. (Figure 5) shows that almost all Tunisians with a secondary or higher education, that were the most affected since the beginning of the pandemic, have now returned to lower levels of unemployment. On the other hand, individuals with the lowest educational attainment are still facing high risks of unemployment.

► **Figure 4:** Percentage change in labour force distribution, by wave⁶(%)

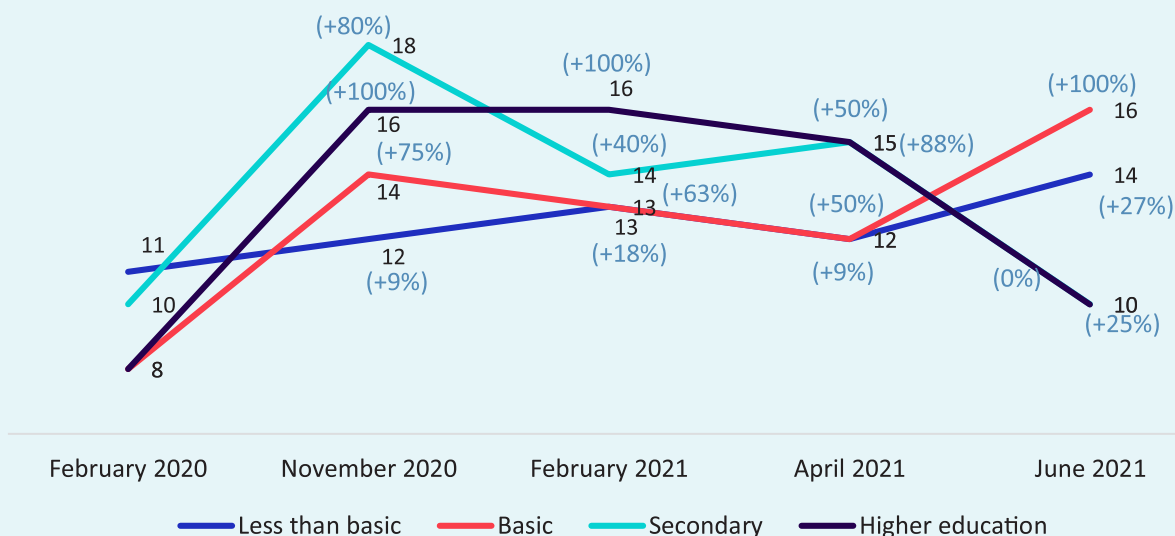


Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.



⁶ Labour force status in February 2020 is constructed for the respondents of the four waves. The report uses the period for its retrospective measure (i.e. for February 2020) and a one-week reference period for the current status in all the waves.

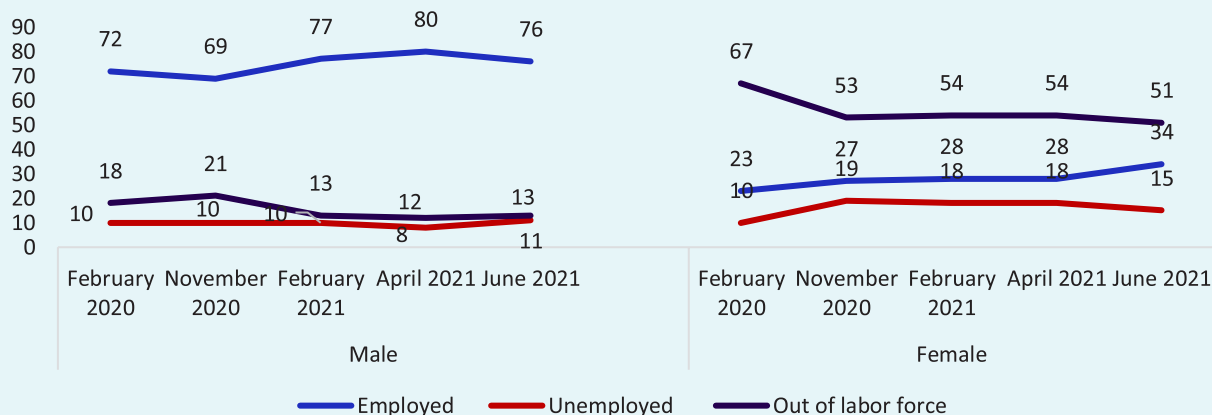
► **Figure 5:** Percentage change in unemployment, by educational attainment, by wave (%)



Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.

Shifts between inactivity, unemployment, and employment have been more pronounced among females since the beginning of the pandemic. While male respondents were less affected by unemployment, their female counterparts witnessed a significant increase in unemployment due to the substantial influx of previously inactive females into the labour market. However, in June 2021, the females' unemployment share decreased to 15 per cent while their employment share reached a new peak of 34 per cent, reaching an increase of 48 per cent compared to pre-COVID-19 levels. It is also worth noting that the previous persistent rise in the share of male employment has been interrupted by a four percentage points decrease in June 2021 (compared to April 2021 levels).

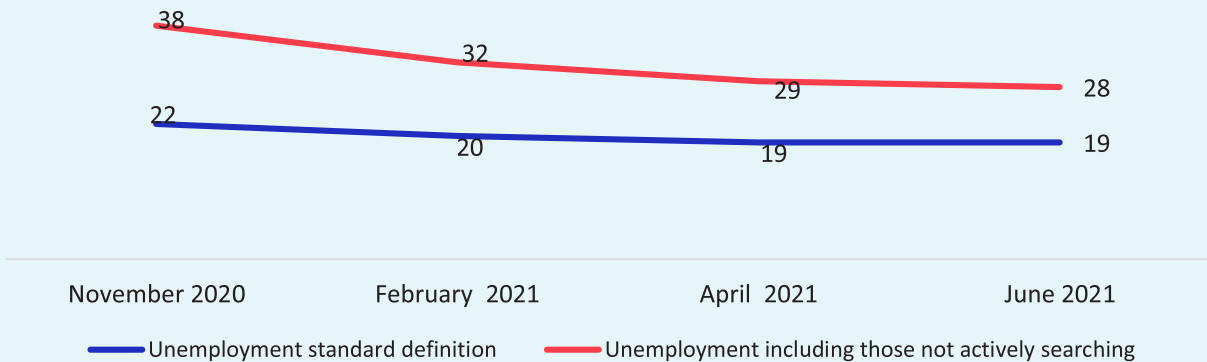
► **Figure 6:** Percentage change in labour market status, by wave and sex (%)



Source: : Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.

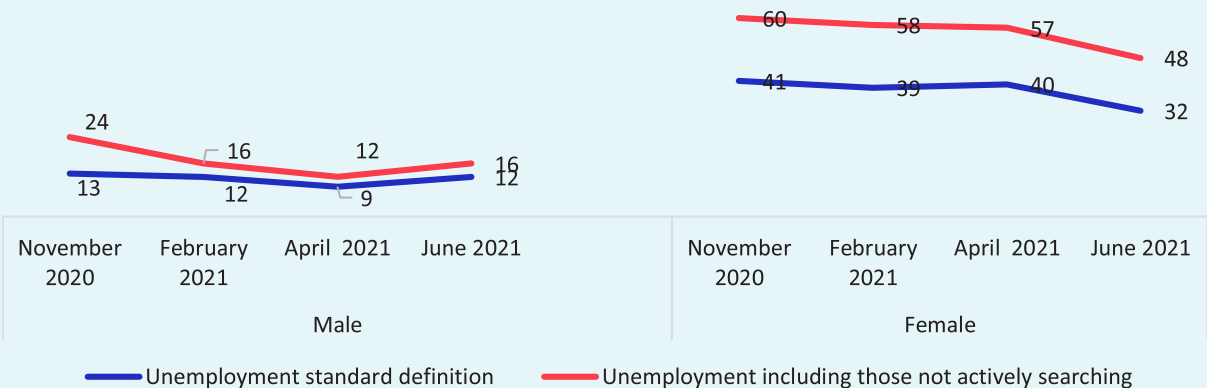
Even though the results in Figure 7 show a slight reduction in the unemployment rate since November 2020, Figure 8 reveals sharp differences in the unemployment rate by gender. While females witnessed an abrupt decrease in unemployment from April 2021 to June 2021, male unemployment has now returned to November levels, after reaching a low of 9 per cent in April 2021. Additionally, it is worth noting that the gap between the two observed definitions of unemployment is narrowing, which might indicate easing constraints to seek and find a job.

► **Figure 7:** Unemployment rates in November 2020-June 2021, standard definition (in blue) and including those not actively searching (in red), %



Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.

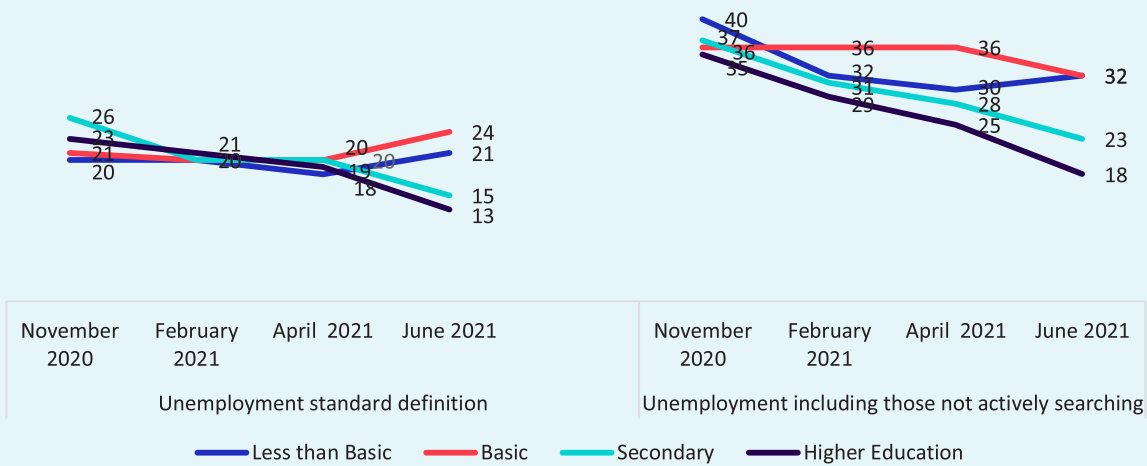
► **Figure 8:** Unemployment rates in November 2020-June 2021, standard definition (in blue) and including those not actively searching (in red) by wave and sex (%)



Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.

When looking at the unemployment rates by education using the two definitions (Figure 9), it is observed that the recovery is faster and more persistent among highly educated individuals. Although the gap between both definitions is declining in all educational levels, the drop of discouraged unemployment is higher among those with secondary and higher education than those with basic or less education levels.

► **Figure 9:** Unemployment rates in November 2020-June 2021, standard definition and including those not actively searching, by wave and educational attainment (%)

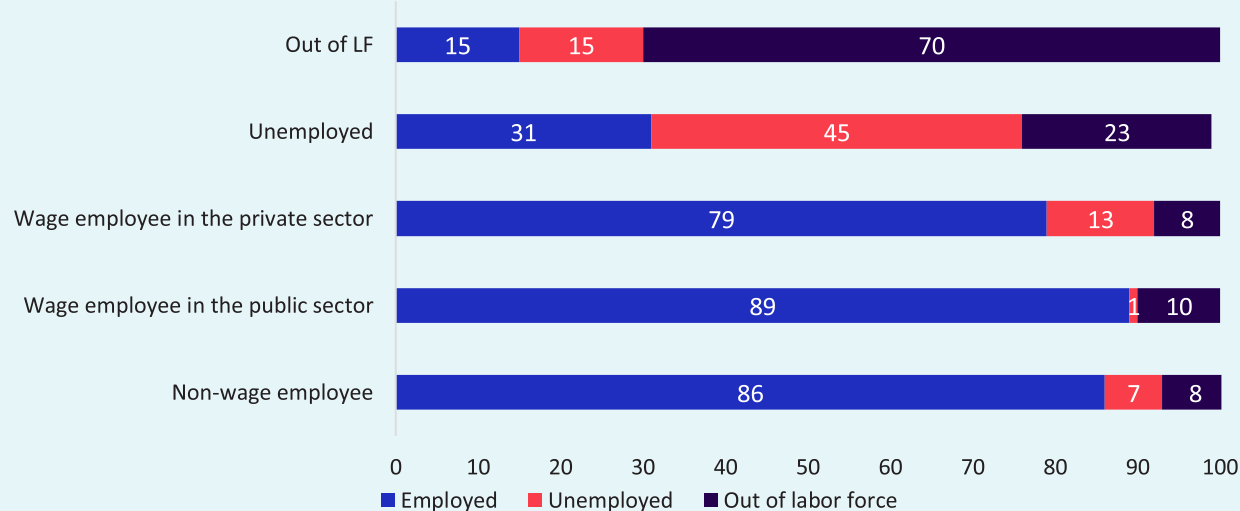


Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.

Looking at (Figure 10) to assess the labour markets transitions between February 2021, November 2021 and June 2021, the transitions between February 2020 and June 2021 indicate a recovery since a lower percentage of unemployed individuals (in February 2020) remained unemployed in June 2021, 30 per cent compared to November 2020 (45 per cent). The public sector wage employees are witnessing almost a full recovery, with 96 per cent still employed and only 1 per cent unemployed in June 2021. In contrast, wage employees in the private sector are still recovering at a slower pace than their counterparts in the public sector.



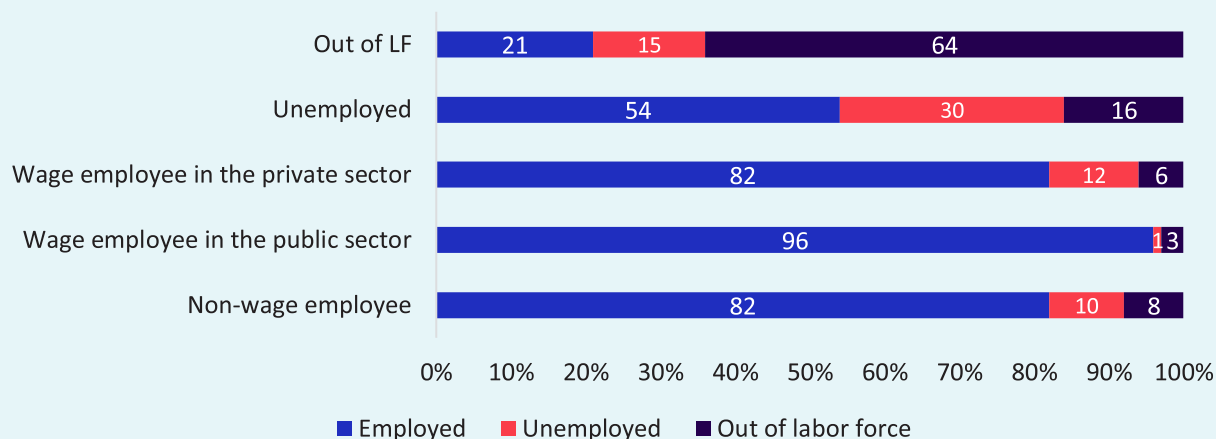
► **Figure 10:** Labour market transitions, February 2020–November 2020 (Situation of working-age individuals in June as per their situation in February)



Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.



► **Figure 11:** Labour market transitions, February 2020–June 2021 (Situation of working-age individuals in June as per their situation in February)

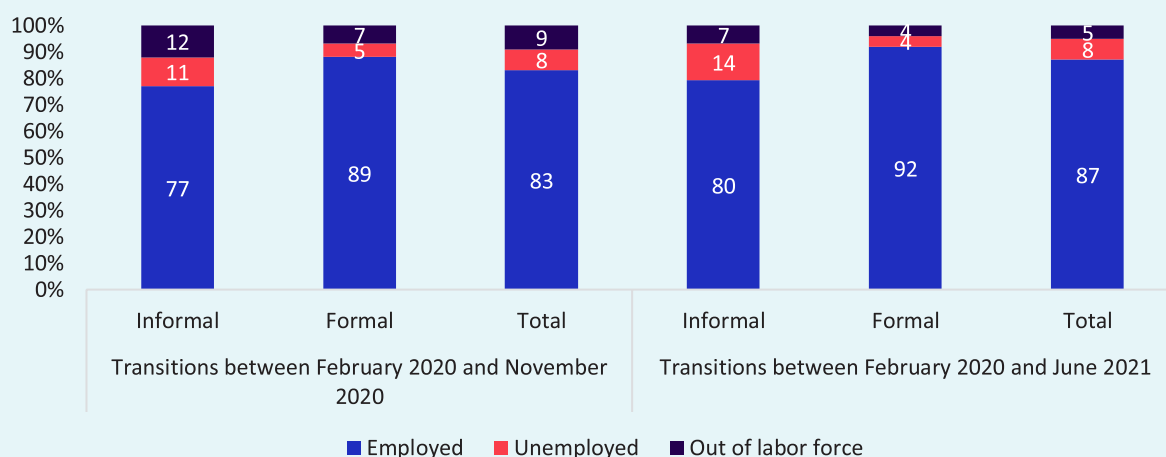


Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.

Note: Non-wage employees includes self-employed, employers, and unpaid family workers.

Comparing the labour market status just after the pandemic in November 2020 and the current status between those who were formal wage employees in February 2020 and those who were informal wage employees, although the recovery is notable for both categories, the protective role of the formal job remains higher (Figure 12). By June 2021, all formal workers, except 8 per cent, were employed, while 21 per cent of informal employees were out of work.

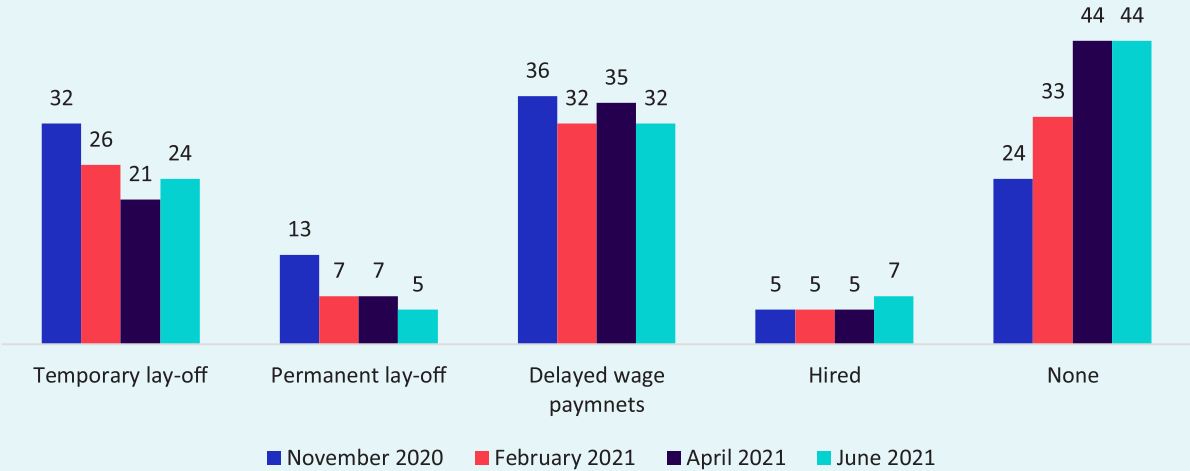
► **Figure 12:** Labour market transitions, of formal and informal wage employees, February 2020– November 2020 and February 2020- June 2021 (Situation of working-age individuals in November 2020 and June 2021 as per their situation in February)



Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.

About a third of the surveyed wage employees continue to report delays in receiving their wage payments. Even though the share of those suffering temporary layoffs has dropped significantly since November 2020, it slightly increased in June 2021 (24 per cent) from a previous low in April 2021 (20 per cent) (Figure 13). Nevertheless, the percentage reported not experiencing any of the mentioned difficulties in the last 60 days increased to 44 per cent since April 2021.

► **Figure 13:** In the last 60 days, have you experienced any of the following because of COVID-19 or related restrictions?, by wave (%)



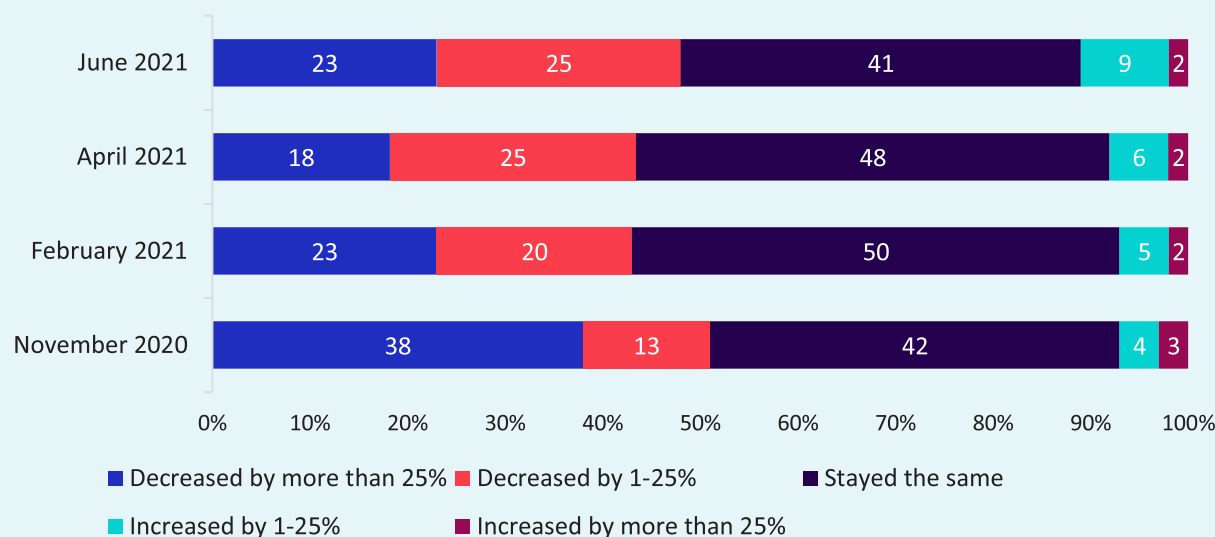
Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor. Note: Multiple answers are allowed.

► Wages and income⁸

When comparing households’ total monthly income observed along the different waves with a pre-COVID time point, we find stabilization in the rate of respondents reporting a 1-25 per cent decrease in total monthly income (in April and June 2021) and a resurge in the rate of those suffering more than a 25 per cent drop in income back to the levels of February 2021. Although the severity of the income decrease is attenuating compared to November 2020 levels, the results reveal that income levels are still on a downward path, far from their pre-COVID levels but with a slight indication of recovery since November 2020.

⁸ Analysis is based on those who were wage employees in February 2020.

► **Figure 14:** Households' total monthly income change compared to February 2020, by wave

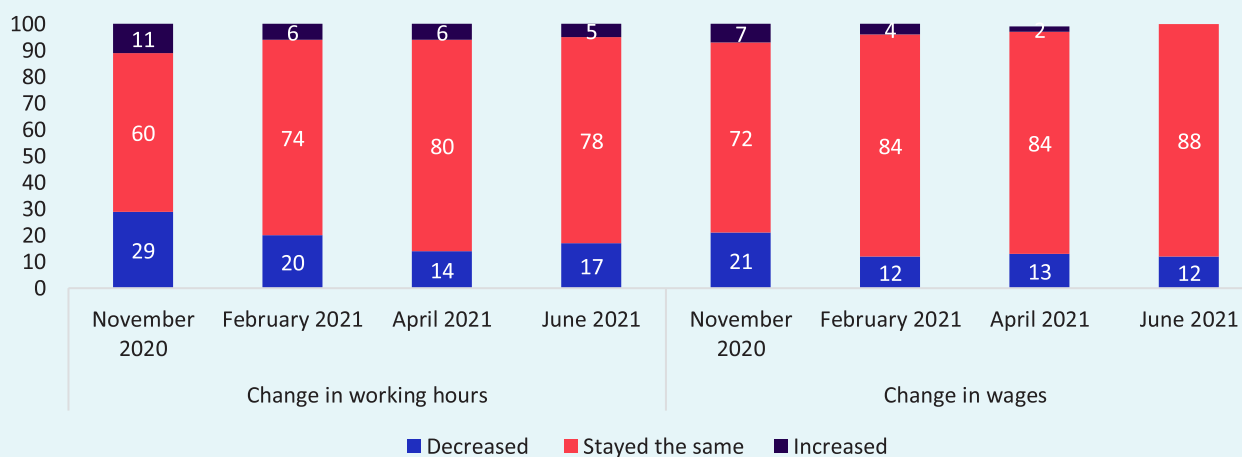


Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.

Figure 15 reveals that the previously recorded decrease in working hours and wages in November 2020 receded as the majority of respondents recorded that their working hours and income stayed the same during the past 60 days. Additionally, we observed the changes in the median of the real wages in order to assess the pandemic's impact on the actual purchasing power of the surveyed wage employees (Figure 16, Figure 17). The median of real wages of female wage employees has shown signs of recovery in June 2021, increasing by 2 per cent compared to February 2020, whereas males' wages purchasing power is still suffering from the pandemic's repercussions (-14 per cent). Wage employees with secondary education (+5 per cent) were the top group in recovery by June 2021, while median wages of the higher educated wage employees were the least affected since the onset of the pandemic. Wage employees in the public sector and the formal wage employees (-17 per cent and -13 per cent respectively) were more affected by reductions in the median of the real wages than their private sector and informal counterparts (-11 per cent and -7 per cent respectively) by June 2021.



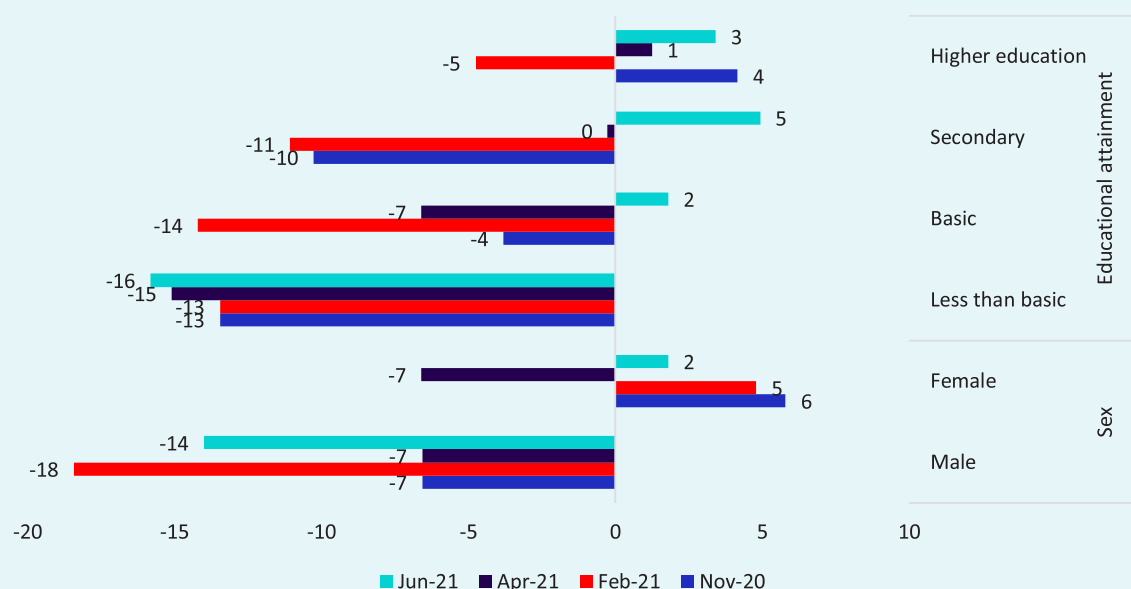
► **Figure 15:** Changes in working hours and wages, by wave



Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor



► **Figure 16:** Percentage change in the median of the real wage compared to pre-COVID, by wave, sex, and educational attainment (%)⁹



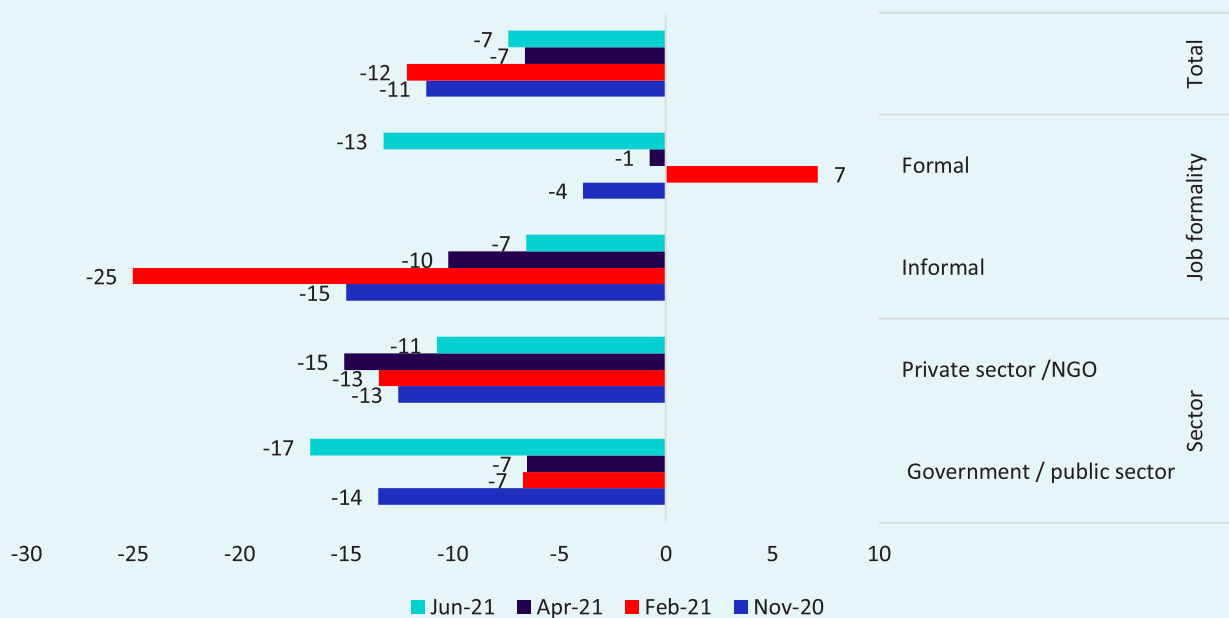
Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.

Note: around 15 per cent of the wage employees in February 2020 did not report their pre-COVID wages, and between 10-11 per cent of the wage employees did not report their last month wages in the consecutive waves or might have changed their status.



⁹ The figure reflects the percentage change in the median of the real wages in each wave compared to the median of the real wage in February 2020 (pre-COVID) for those who were wage employees in 2020.

► **Figure 17:** Percentage change in the median of the real wage compared to pre-COVID, by wave, sector, and formality (%)



Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.



► Entrepreneurs and small businesses¹⁰

Among the surveyed businesses, 47 per cent had 2 to 5 workers, and 40 per cent were self-employed individuals in February 2020.

► **Figure 18:** Percentage distribution of enterprises, by number of workers in February 2020



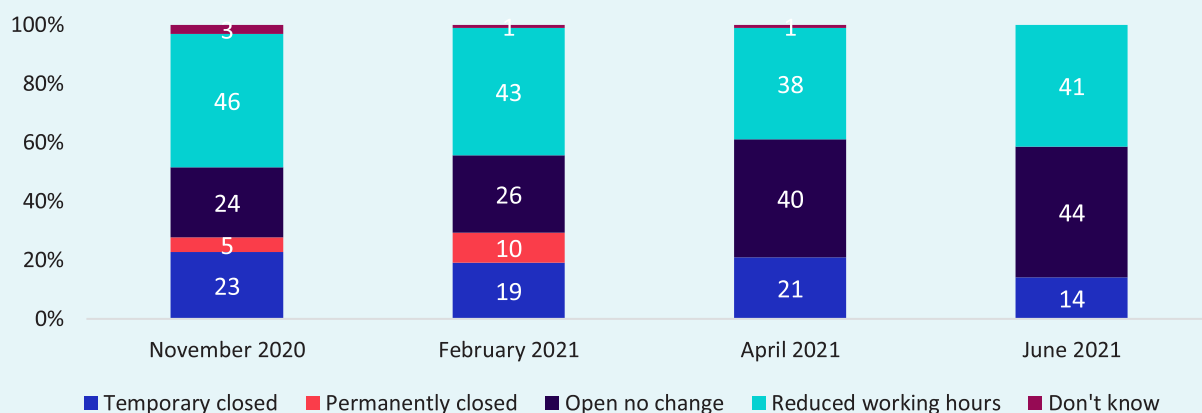
Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.

By comparing the enterprises' status in the last 16 months, it is evident that the enterprises have experienced a pronounced recovery. In the last six months, no enterprises reported closing their business, and the percentage reporting a temporary shutdown has decreased to 14 per cent in June 2021. In addition, more than two fifths (44 per cent) of the enterprises are now open with no change compared to around one-fourth in November 2020 and February 2021 (24 and 26 per cent, respectively). However, the percentage of firms that reported a reduction in working hours is still fluctuating around the two-fifths, reflecting the extension of curfew hours at the time of the survey.

When the business owners were asked about the changes they had to apply to their workers as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak and related restrictions in the last 60 days, the percentage of permanent and temporary layoffs and delayed wage payments recorded a dramatic decrease from November 2020 to April 2021, but the percentage of temporary layoffs rebounded, reaching 24 per cent in June 2021.

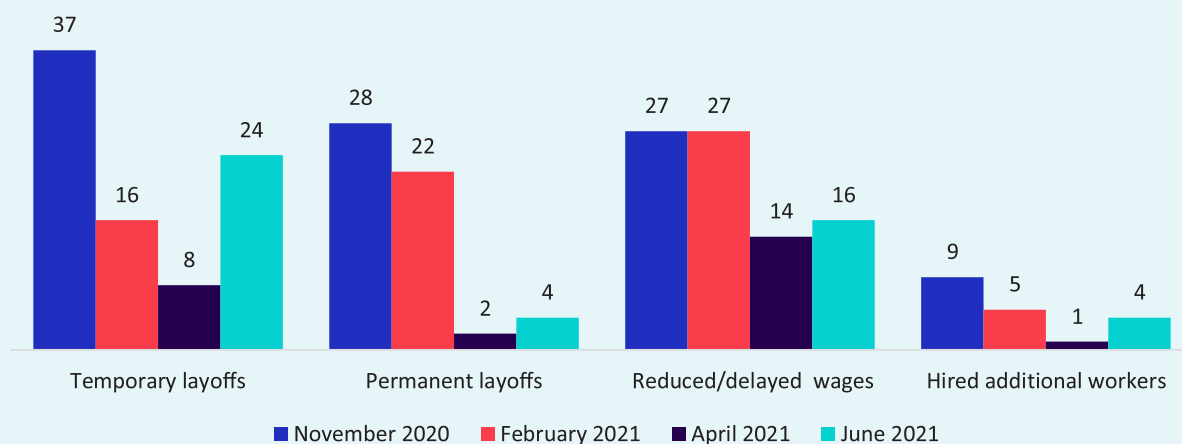
¹⁰ Analysis is based on those who were business owners in February 2020.

► **Figure 19:** Percentage distribution of enterprises' current status, by wave



Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.

► **Figure 20:** Reported changes by employers due to COVID-19 outbreak and related restrictions in the last 60 days, by wave (%)

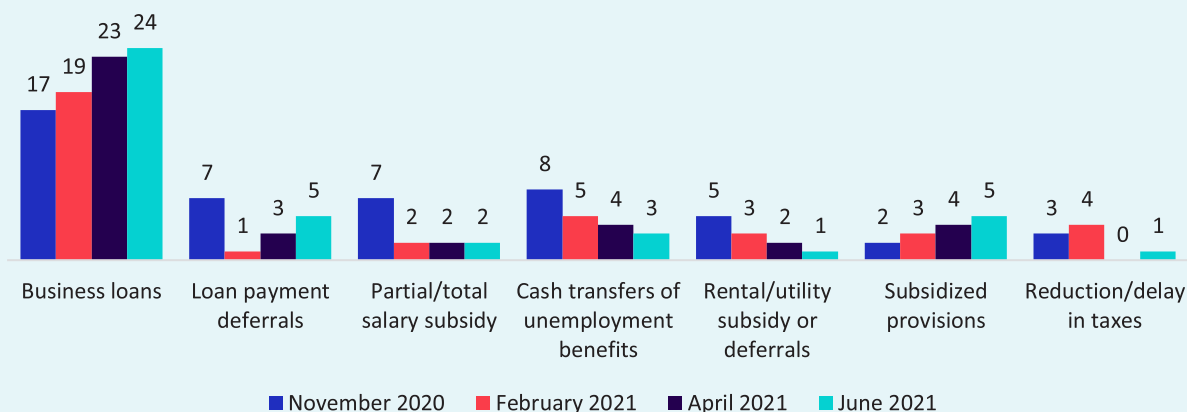


Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor

Note: Multiple answers are allowed.

The percentage of employers who applied (or currently receive) government support remained between 27-29 per cent throughout the waves. Business loans still appear to be the most applied and requested policy support among Tunisian employers. Nevertheless, the increase in the percentage of enterprises receiving business loans in June 2021 (24 per cent) is accompanied by a decrease in the percentage of enterprises requesting support (26 per cent). Receiving and requesting subsidized provisions for specific products or inputs increased in June 2021 as well. Even though a reduction or a delay in taxes is one of the most requested policies by Tunisian employers, it is the least supported by the government (Figure 19, Figure 20). The request and the receipt of other types of government support have been low throughout the surveys and continued to decline.

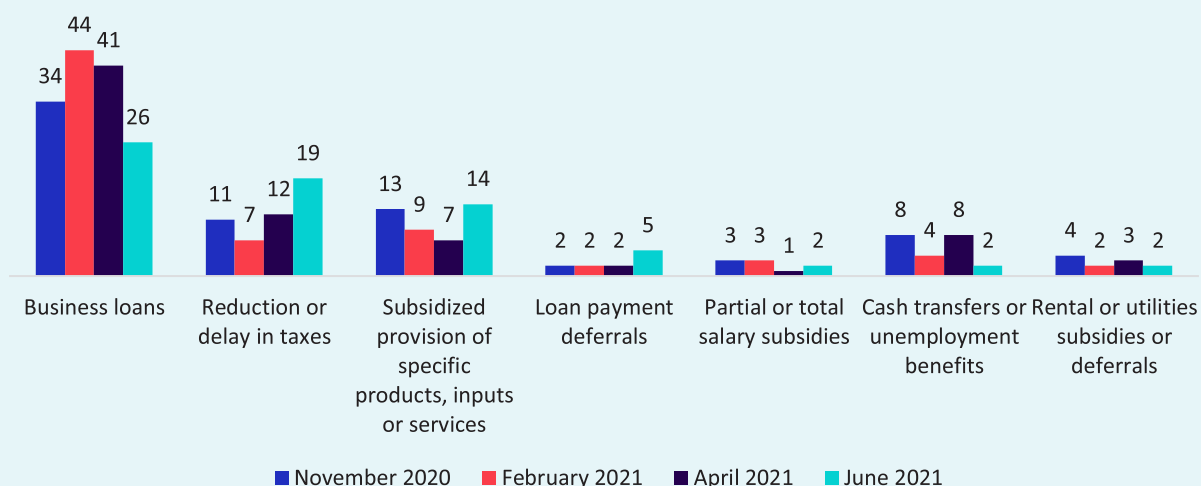
► **Figure 21:** Percentage of employers or business-owners who applied for or currently receive any government support, by wave (%)



Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor. Note: Multiple answers are allowed.

When asked to compare enterprises' sales in the last two months prior to the survey with the same period a year earlier, 79 per cent of respondents said their sales had fallen by more than half (Figure 23, Figure 24). In addition, most said they believed sales would decrease in 2020 compared with 2019 (Figure 25).

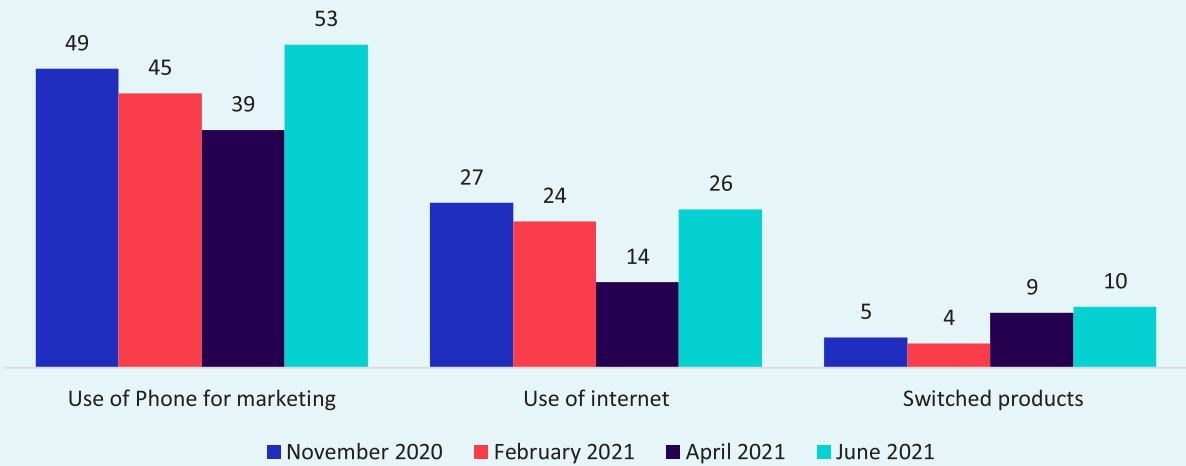
► **Figure 22:** Employers' or business-owners' most-requested policy support for COVID-19, by wave (%)



Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.

In line with the observed peak in the number of cases in Tunisia (Figure 1), adaptation to the COVID-19 restrictions has been more apparent in June 2021. The use of phone for marketing and business continues to be the most adopted strategy to reduce physical proximity with customers, recording 53 per cent in June 2021 (Switching products has become more common in the last six months, reaching 10 per cent in June 2021. Switching products has become more common in the last six months, reaching 10 per cent in June 2021.

► **Figure 23:** Businesses’ strategies to reduce physical proximity with customers, by wave (%)



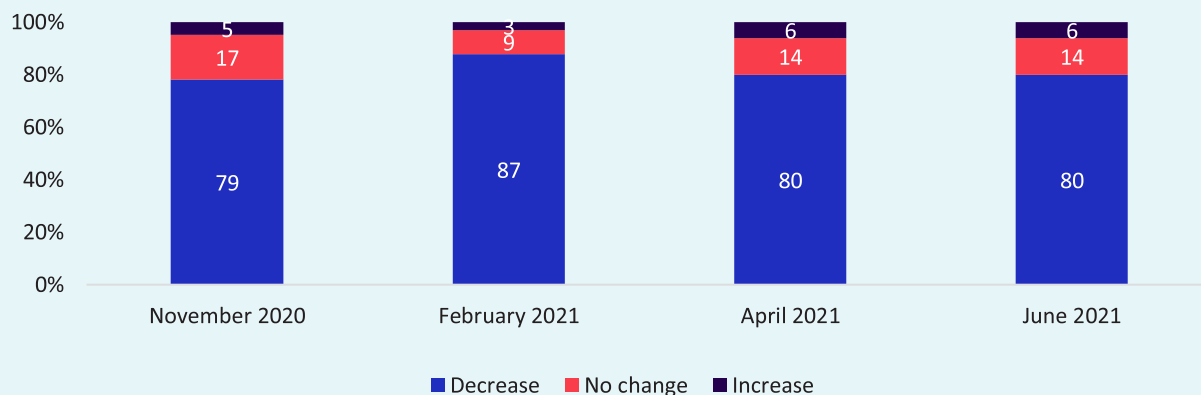
Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.

Note: Multiple answers are allowed

After 16 months since the pandemic onset, business owners are still experiencing a decrease in their revenues. Changes in sales in June 2021 are following April's levels, where 8 out of 10 business owners reported that their revenues had declined in the past 60 days.



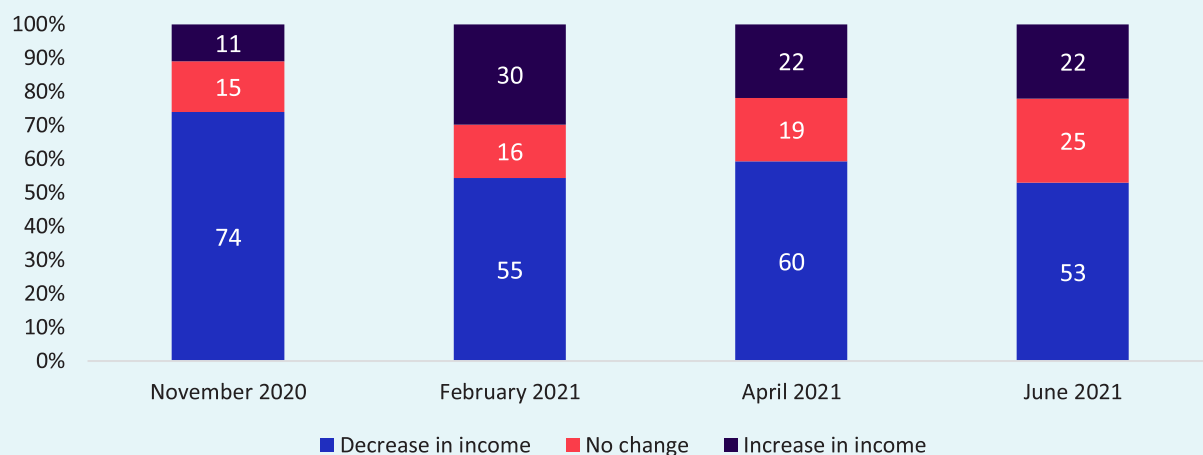
► **Figure 24:** Change in sales/revenues in the last 60 days compared to sales/revenues in the same period last year, by wave



Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor

Despite the continuous decrease in sales, the business outlook has improved. By June 2021, 25 per cent of enterprises were not expecting any change, while 22 per cent expected an increase and 53 per cent expected lower revenues in 2021 in comparison to pre-COVID levels (Figure 23).

► **Figure 25:** Ability to work online

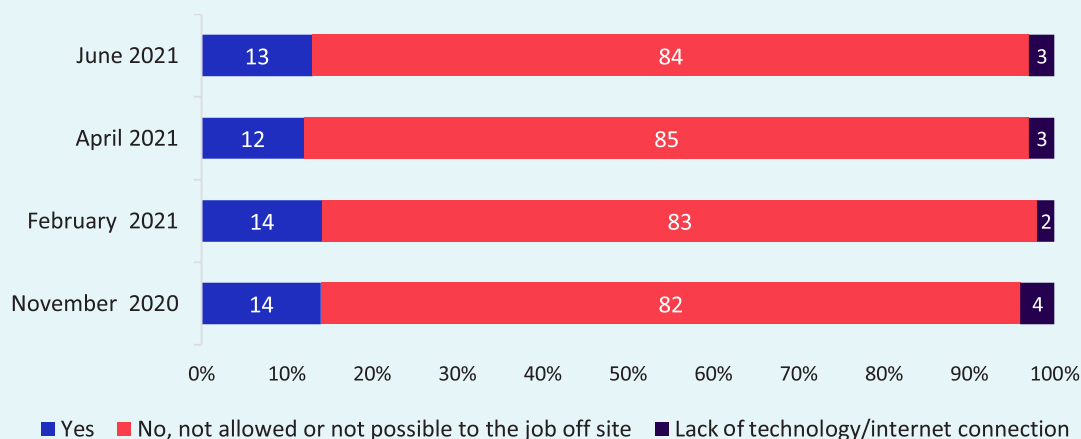


Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor

► Shift to online and home-based work

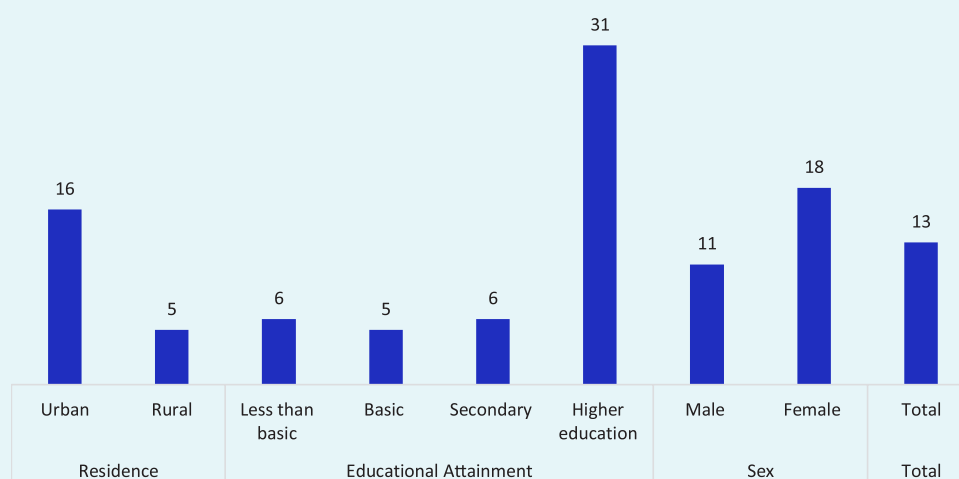
The ability of workers to work from home remains fairly stable, with only a slight decrease since February 2021 (Higher educated individuals (31 per cent), females (18 per cent), and urban residents (16 per cent) were the most capable groups of working from home by June 2021 (Figure 27). Higher educated individuals (31 per cent), females (18 per cent), and urban residents (16 per cent) were the most capable groups of working from home by June 2021 (Figure 27).

► **Figure 26:** Ability to work from home, by wave



Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor

► **Figure 27:** Ability to work from home, by residence, sex, educational attainment (%)

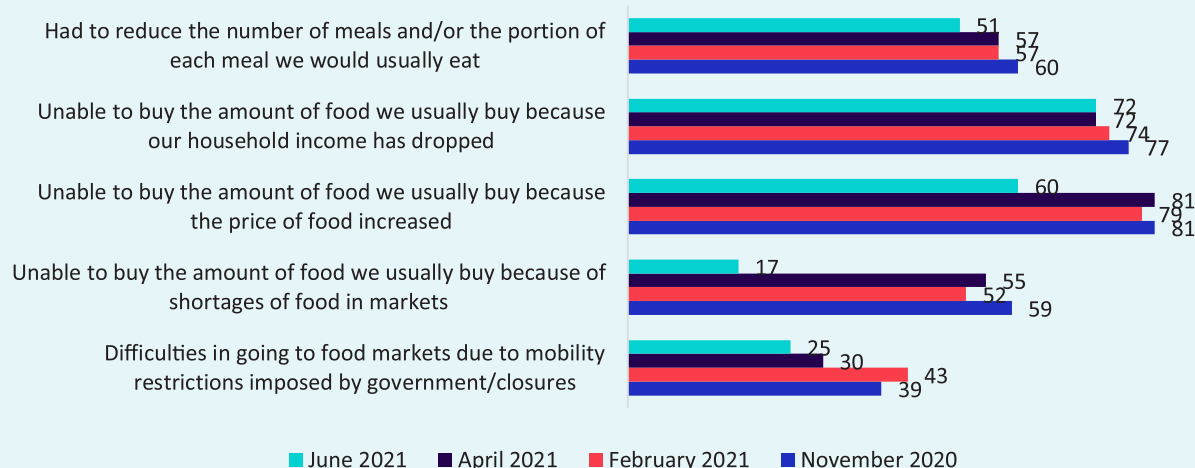


Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.

► Have you had to...? Household coping strategies

The inability to buy the usual amount of food because of shortages in the food market and price increases has substantially decreased since November 2020. In addition, mobility restrictions and the shortage of food in markets became less problematic in June 2021. Despite the slight decline in the percentage of households affected by the income drop, the percentage is still notable with 72 per cent (Figure 25).

► **Figure 28:** Food security: In the past 7 days, have you or any household member experienced any of the following, by wave (%)

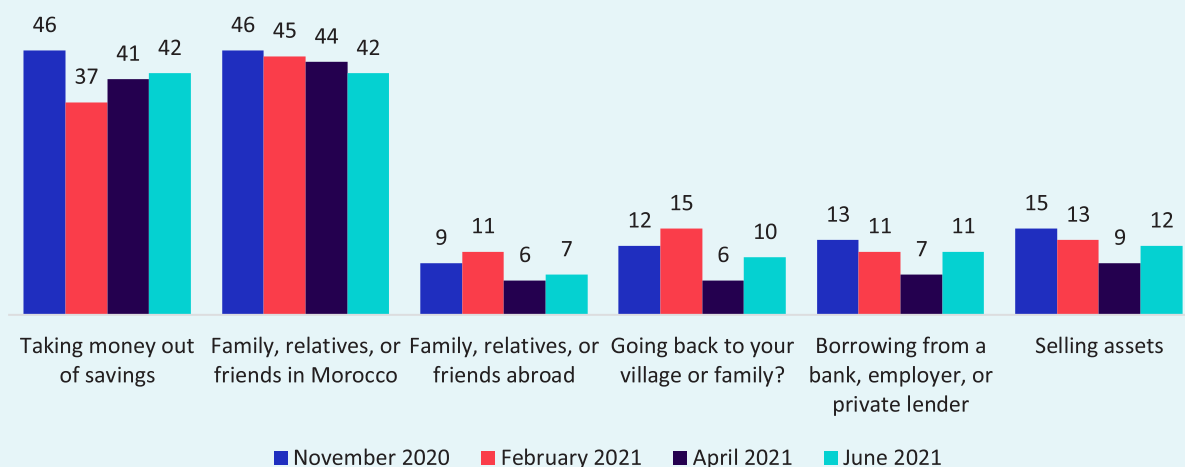


Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor. Note: Multiple answers are allowed.

Throughout the four waves, almost three-quarters of the households had to resort to one or more strategies to cope with the economic challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic¹¹. Withdrawing money from savings and turning to friends and relatives living in Tunisia remain the most common coping strategies adopted by Tunisian households.



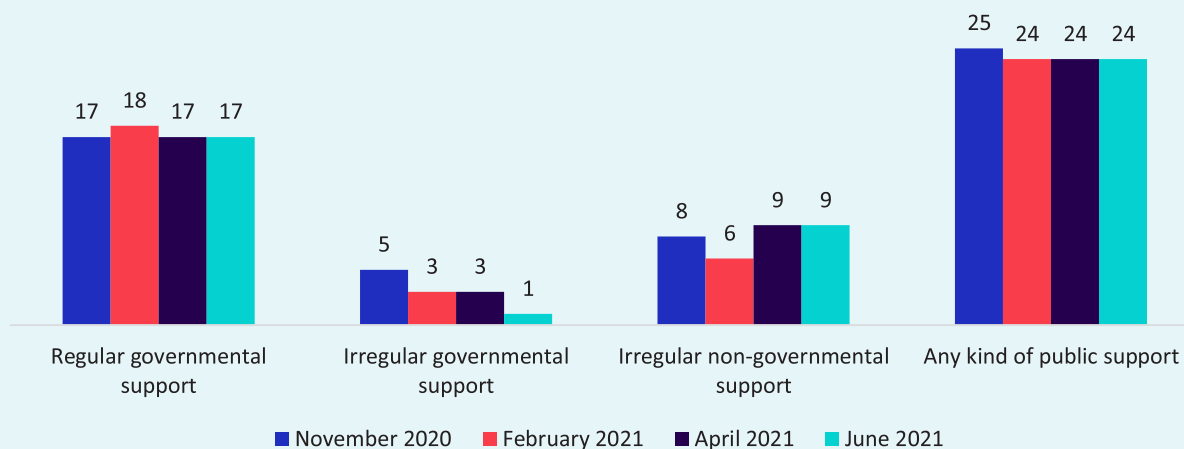
► **Figure 29:** Did you need to resort to any of these coping strategies in the last month?, by wave¹²



Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor. Note: Multiple answers are allowed.

By June 2021, around a quarter of households continues to receive some form of support from government or non-government organizations. However, it must be noted that the receipt of irregular governmental support has decreased to a minimum in June 2021, indicating the suspension of the governmental COVID-19 special support.

► **Figure 30:** Which kind of support did you receive in the past month?, by wave (%)



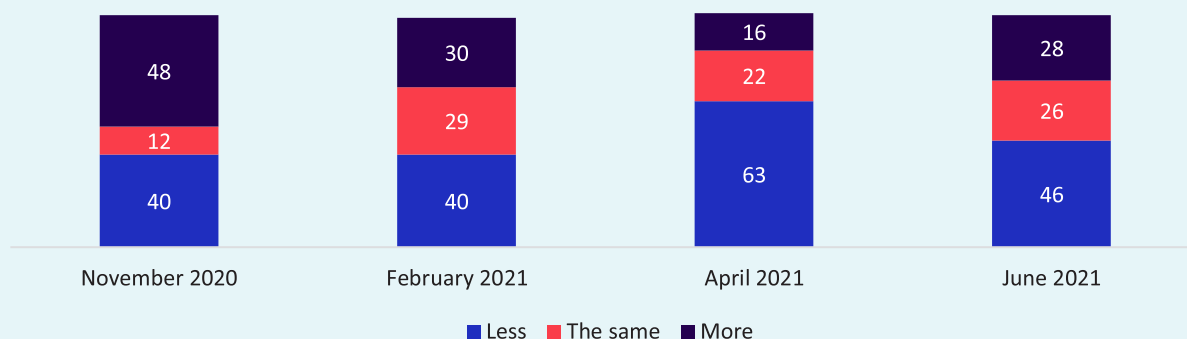
Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.

¹² The reference time in the first wave in November was since February 2020. Only panel observations were included in the remaining waves in this figure.

► Farmers

Following the increase in the negative expectations of the farmers in April 2021, in June 2021, farmers became more optimistic about their products' prices, with 28 per cent expecting an increase.

► **Figure 31:** Relative to the same season in 2019, how do you expect prices to change for this crop/product?, by wave



Source: Constructed by authors using the ILO/ ERF COVID-19 Monitor.



Appendix

The COVID-19 pandemic poses a particular challenge for low- and middle-income countries, as well as vulnerable groups, such as informal and casual workers and those engaged in survival self-employment. Assessing the impact of COVID-19 on the livelihoods of residents of countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is critically essential to designing and assessing policy responses to the crisis and formulating plans for an equitable and sustained recovery. This survey, and the subsequent series of short panel phone surveys, are planned to monitor the effects of the crisis on households in Tunisia.

The sample for the household survey were mobile phone users aged 18–64. Random digit dialling, within the range of valid numbers, was used, with up to three attempts if a phone number was not picked up/answered, was disconnected or busy, or picked up, but the respondent could not complete the interview at that time. Samples were stratified by country-specific market shares of mobile operators.

For follow-up waves, previous wave respondents were re-contacted if they consented to follow-up in the previous wave. On the third call, up to three attempts were used, including contacting second and family/friend numbers, if provided in wave one. If the individual could not be reached or refused, a refresher individual was added to the sample in their place, randomly selected as with base wave respondents.

Inverse probability weighting was undertaken to reduce bias along with several observable dimensions. Weights were created on three levels: Individual, household, and household member. Weights had the following inputs:

- Telephone operators and their market shares, provided by the data-collection firm
- Number of phones by the operator for individuals (individual weight) and household members (household weight and household member weight)
- Representative data with comparable demographic and household characteristics to weigh for non-responses

The panel attrition models use a few base wave variables in addition to those used for initial weighting. A specific additional variable is:

- Telephone operator
- Household income (categorically) in February 2020
- Base wave labour market status (employed, unemployed (search required), out of labour force)
- Interactions with sex for categorical income and base wave labour market status

The refresher weights are created in an identical fashion to the base wave, initial weights, but for the refresher samples within the subsequent waves of the panel.

For subsequent waves (waves after the base wave), cross-sectional weights combine the panel and refresher data. Weights are normalized to one within the panel and refresher samples and then combined into a single, representative cross-sectional weight.

All respondents who consented (2,028 of 2057) to follow up in the prior wave were contacted in an attempt to include them in the subsequent wave. Varying degrees of follow-up occurred; 85.9 per cent (1,741 of 2,028) April 2021 respondents in Tunisia were successfully tracked to June 2021.

► **Table 1:** Phone calls outcomes for Tunisia panel sample

Result of call first try	n	col%
Phone disconnected/ busy Try for up to 3 times	66	3.3
Not in service	3	0.2
Did not answer try for up to 3 times	108	15.3
Picked up and refused	96	4.7
Incomplete, and refused	14	0.7
Complete	1741	85.9
Total	2028	100.0

For the refresher sample, around 3,530 random numbers were generated as refresher individuals, of which more than two-fifths were not in service. The total sample size of those who completed the survey was 268.

After excluding phones that were not in service, disconnected/busy (after multiple calls), and individuals who were not eligible from the response rate calculations, the response rates in the panel and refresher samples are 89 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively.



► **Table 2:** Phone calls outcomes for Tunisia refresher sample

Result of call first try	n	col%
Phone disconnected/ busy Try for up to 3 times	578	16.4
Not in service	1563	44.3
Did not answer try for up to 3 times	517	14.7
Picked up and refused	503	14.3
Incomplete, and refused	55	1.6
Incomplete, and call returned try for up to 3 times	1	0.0
Complete	268	7.6
Not Eligible	45	1.3
Total	3530	100.0



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