



Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

BERMUDA Summary Report | November 2020

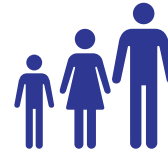


168
Respondents



69
Female

31 %
Male



48
Average age

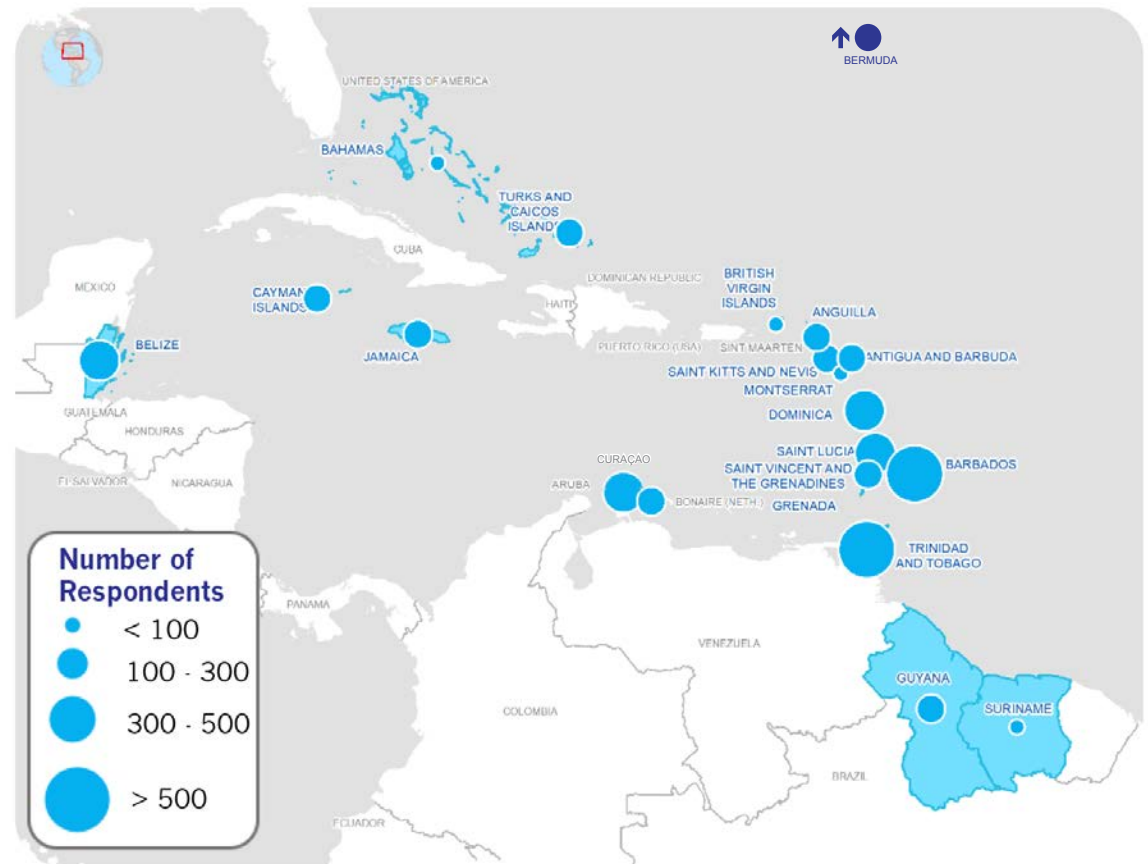


3
Average household size

The COVID-19 pandemic is having far-reaching impacts on how people earn a living and meet critical needs. The Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey was launched by CARICOM to rapidly gather data on impacts to livelihoods, food security and access to markets.

Two rounds of the survey have been carried out, implemented by the World Food Programme on behalf of the CARICOM Secretariat. This summary analyses data collected in the second round, carried out over the last two weeks of June 2020, which received 5,707 responses from 23 countries and territories in the Caribbean. It builds on findings from the first survey implemented in April 2020, which received 4,537 responses from 19 countries and territories.

The survey was conducted using online methods and the survey link was shared via social media, e-mail, and text messages. While the survey contributes to a better overview of impacts, the survey's representativeness is affected in unknown ways by people's access to the internet and their incentives to respond.



Round 1
April 2020



4,537
Responses

Round 2
June 2020



5,707
Responses



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age



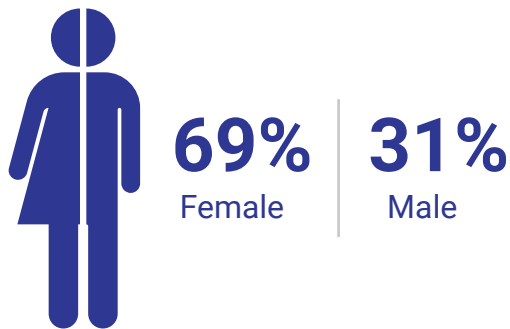
3
Average
household size

- COVID-19 and measures to contain it have resulted in widespread disruptions to livelihoods. Forty-three percent of respondents reported that their ability to carry out livelihoods was impacted, mainly owing to movement restrictions or concerns about leaving the house.
- The vast majority of respondents (87%) predict that their livelihoods will be impacted in the future, while 11% expect this impact to be severe. Sixty-eight percent of respondents expressed negative or very negative sentiment concerning the pandemic and the disruption it caused.
- The pandemic appears to affect the economic well-being of a large share of households in Bermuda. Half of respondents have experienced job loss or reduced incomes in their households and for nearly 40% of respondents job loss is the main worry.
- COVID-19 has impacted the availability of goods and market access, in line with regional trends. Forty percent of respondents experienced difficulties accessing markets in June, mainly due to movement restrictions. While staple foods and key commodities are generally available, a quarter of respondents reported that fresh foods were only sometimes or partially available.
- The vast majority of respondents observed an increase in food prices (80%) and changed their shopping behavior (91%) since the pandemic began. Most respondents adapted by buying larger quantities than usual (52%) or cheaper and less preferred brands (31%).
- Food insecurity has also been a concern in Bermuda, but impacts appear much less widespread compared to the region. While 68% of respondents had no difficulties eating enough in the week prior to the survey, one out of ten had no food stocks at home and resorted to skipping meals or eating less than usual.
- The amount of time people are spending on unpaid activities is changing, with 41% of respondents spending more time on subsistence activities and 45% increasing the time devoted to domestic work. A similar percentage have reduced the time spent shopping, and one-fifth increased the time spent on childcare.
- The number of respondents was not sufficient for disaggregated analysis between men and women and among income and age groups. However, the regional results found that detrimental impacts on income and food consumption were more widespread among low-income families.

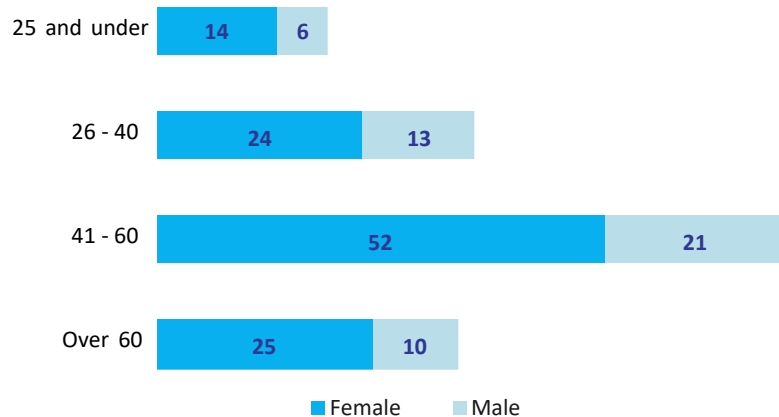
DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

Age and gender breakdown reveals that respondents are much more likely to be female than male and the majority is in the 41-60 age category. The overall number of respondents in Bermuda is insufficient to enable a disaggregated analysis by age, sex or perceived income.

Sex of respondents

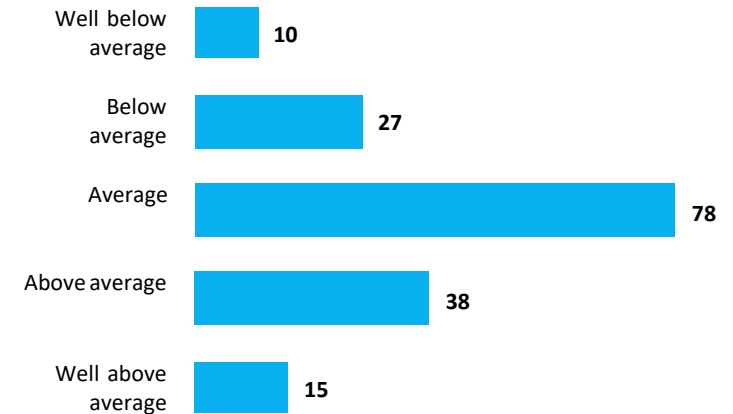


Age of respondents



Perceived income level of respondents

Respondents were asked how they feel their household's income compares to the rest of the country. Forty-six percent of respondents assessed their income as average, while 22% assessed it as below or well below average. Thirty-two percent perceived to have household income above or well above average.



"Trying to stay positive and not worry about job spending savings to get through." - Female, Age 58



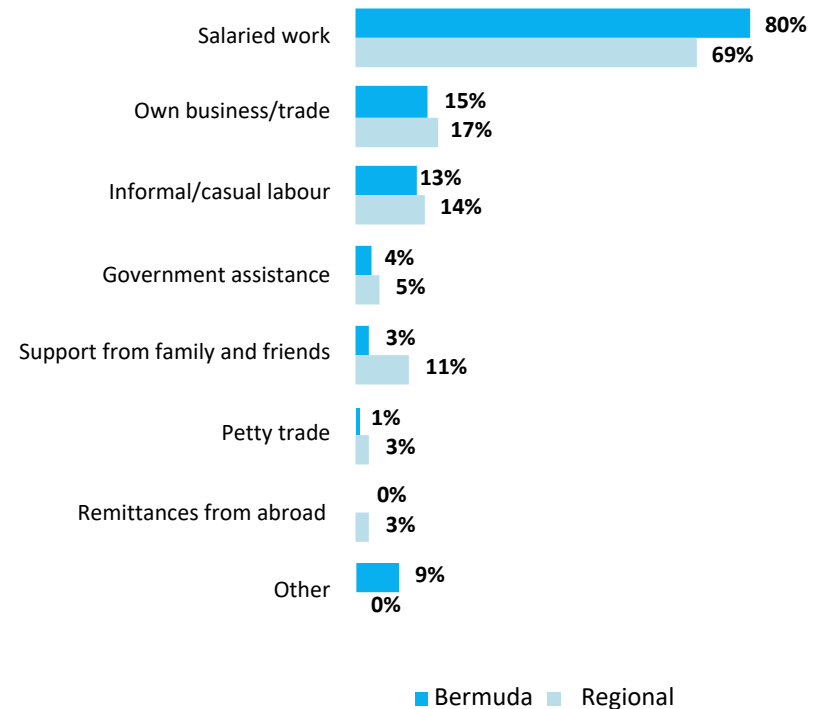
DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

Main household income sources

Respondents were asked to indicate the main income source/s for their household and multiple choices could be selected. The main income source is salaried work, with 80% of respondents, higher than the regional average, followed by business/trade (15%) and reliance on support from family and friends (13%).

The Caribbean-wide survey found that the main sources of household income have shifted since April, with a reduction in those reporting salaried income and increased reliance on external support such as remittances from abroad, family and friends, or government assistance. However, in Bermuda, the reliance on income from salaried work is higher while fewer respondents reported income from external support compared to the region.

Main household income sources



"Jobs that relied on tourism have been impacted severely." - Female, Age 22

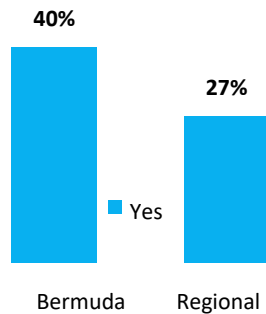
"Reduced income and threatened job security." - Male, Age 32



IMPACT ON MARKETS

Disruptions from COVID-19 have had a negative effect on market access. In June, 40% of respondents indicated they had problems accessing markets in the week prior to the survey, higher than the regional average. Movement restrictions were the primary reason, reported by two-thirds of respondents experiencing a time when they could not access markets. This reason was three times more likely to be reported compared to the region, which is consistent with Bermuda's policy at the time of assigning permitted shopping days based on last names. At the same time, lack of money to spend was rarely brought up as a constraint to market access, unlike in the region where it was reported by 38% of affected respondents.

In the past 7 days, was there a time when your household could not access the markets?

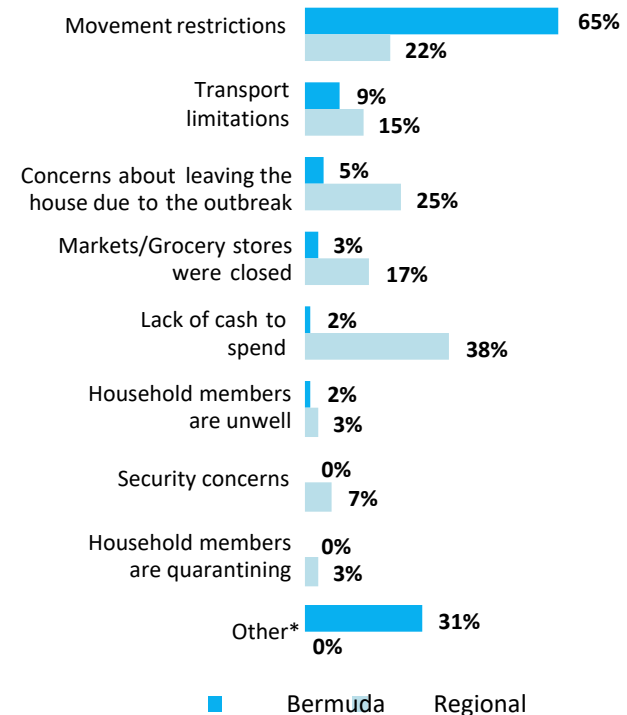


"Due to supermarkets limiting customers to certain days sometimes we all will simply not bother to go shopping to avoid queues." - Female, Age 34

"Stocking up on what is available for when it is not." - Female, Age 50



For those who faced a time when they could not access markets in the past 7 days, the main reasons were... Multiple responses could be selected



*The majority of these responses referred to Bermuda's policy of assigning permitted shopping days based on last names.

40% of respondents reported not being able to access markets in the past week, mainly due to movement restrictions

IMPACT ON MARKETS

Availability of items in stores

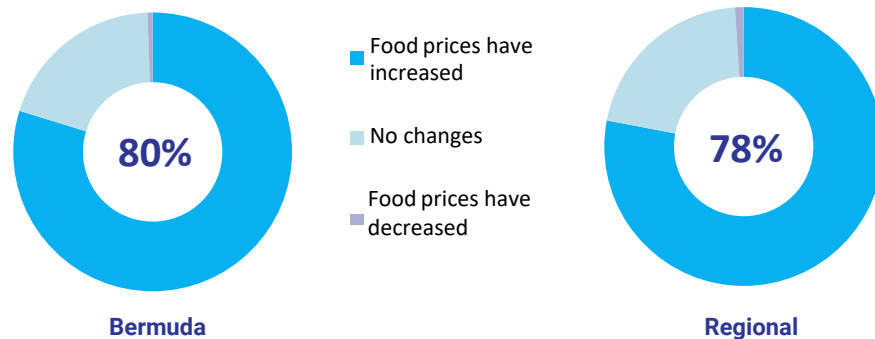
Respondents reported on the availability of key items in stores.

How Available?	Fresh food items		Basic food items		Hygiene items		Essential medicines	
	Bermuda	Regional	Bermuda	Regional	Bermuda	Regional	Bermuda	Regional
Always Available	72%	71%	84%	83%	80%	85%	79%	55%
Partially/sometimes available	28%	25%	15%	15%	20%	13%	10%	30%
Not available	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	2%
Don't know	0%	4%	1%	2%	0%	2%	11%	15%

The reported availability of goods is mostly in line with trends in the rest of the region. The availability of basic food and hygiene items was fairly high, reported to be always available by at least eight out of ten respondents. The availability of essential medicines was similarly high and much higher compared to the region. However, fresh foods were only partially or sometimes available for 28% of respondents and hygiene items for 20% of respondents.

Food prices

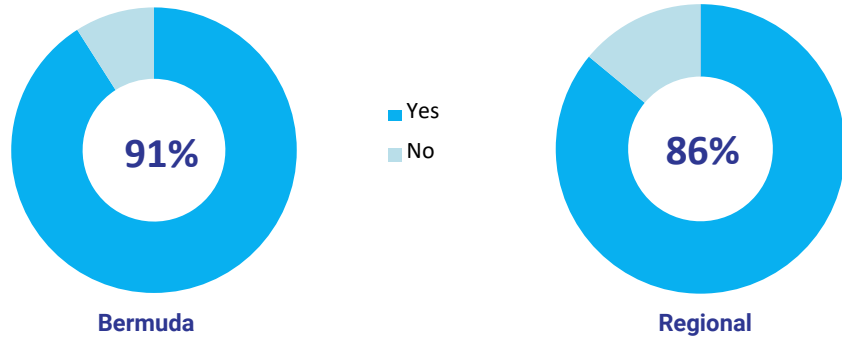
Respondents reported on any observed changes in food prices and the vast majority observed an increase.



IMPACT ON MARKETS

Shopping behavior

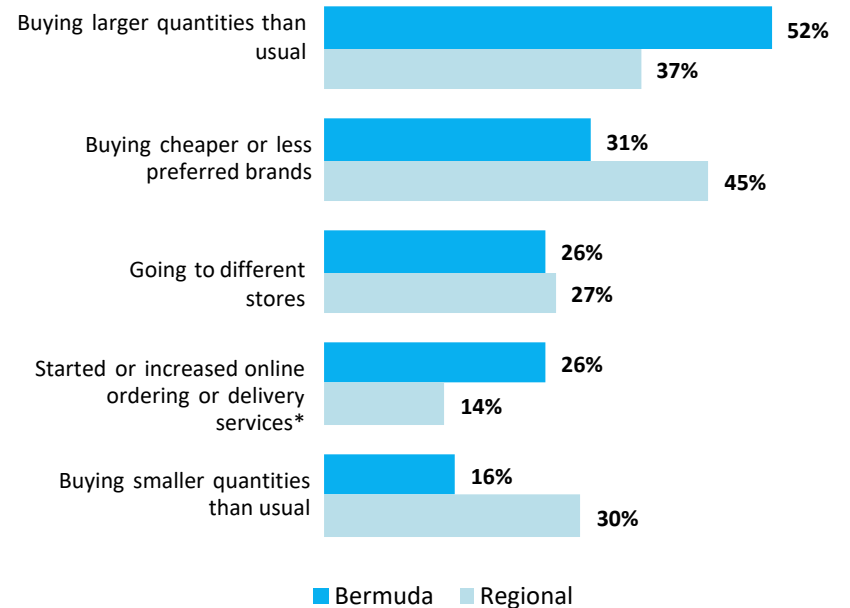
Respondents were asked if they altered their shopping behavior and if so how.



Shopping routines have changed for 91% of respondents. Buying larger quantities than usual is the most common change, reported by 52% of respondents who changed their shopping patterns, and online ordering (26%) is more common compared to the regional average (14%). At the same time, a smaller share of respondents in Bermuda resorted to buying cheaper or less preferred brands (31% compared to 45% in the region) or to buying smaller quantities than usual (15% compared to 30%).

How respondents changed their shopping behaviour

Multiple responses could be selected



"I feel that its hard to be the only one working to take care the whole family, rent, foods and light bill. Every thing falls on me since this COVID19. Its that its hard to meet my needs at all. I have take of my family and household."
- Female, Age 54



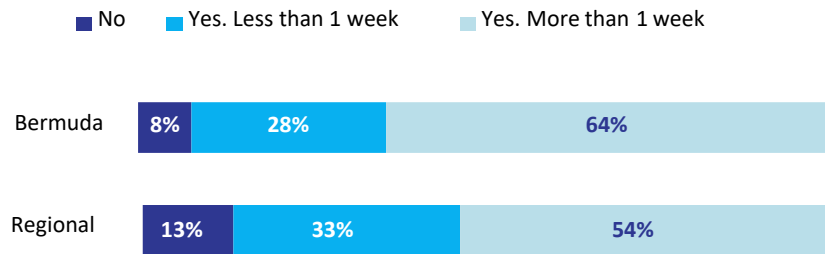
IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY

The COVID-19 pandemic and measures to stop its spread appear to have impacted household food security, but less so when compared to the region. Sixty-four percent of respondents said that they had over one week of food supply stored, and 68% reported having no difficulty consuming enough food during the week prior to the survey in June. However, 8% of respondents had no food stocks in their house, and 11% reported skipping meals, with another 17% resorting to eating less preferred foods.

Food stocks

Respondents were asked to indicate the amount of available food stock for their household.

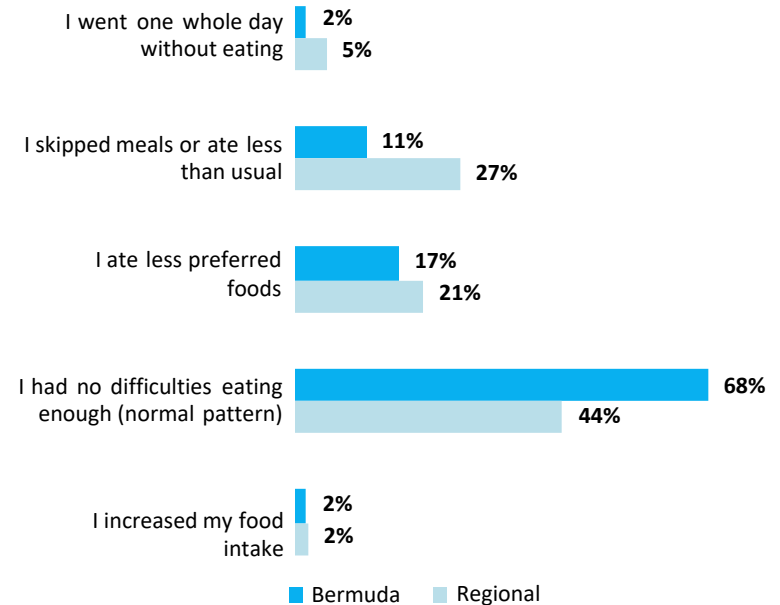
Does your household have any food stock?



Food consumption

Respondents were asked to reflect on their food consumption during the week prior to the survey.

Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days?



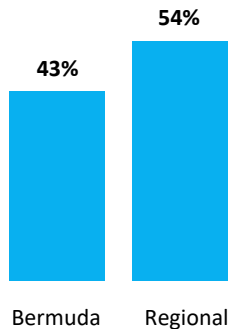
IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

COVID-19 and measures to contain the virus have had a widespread impact on livelihoods. In Bermuda, 43% of respondents reported disruptions to their livelihoods. Similar to the region, movement restrictions were the primary reason, cited by 56% of affected respondents, followed by concerns about leaving the house (25%), a reduced demand for goods/services (21%) and transport limitations (15%). The price of livelihood inputs was half as likely to be a reason for disruptions (11%) compared to respondents in the overall region (21%).

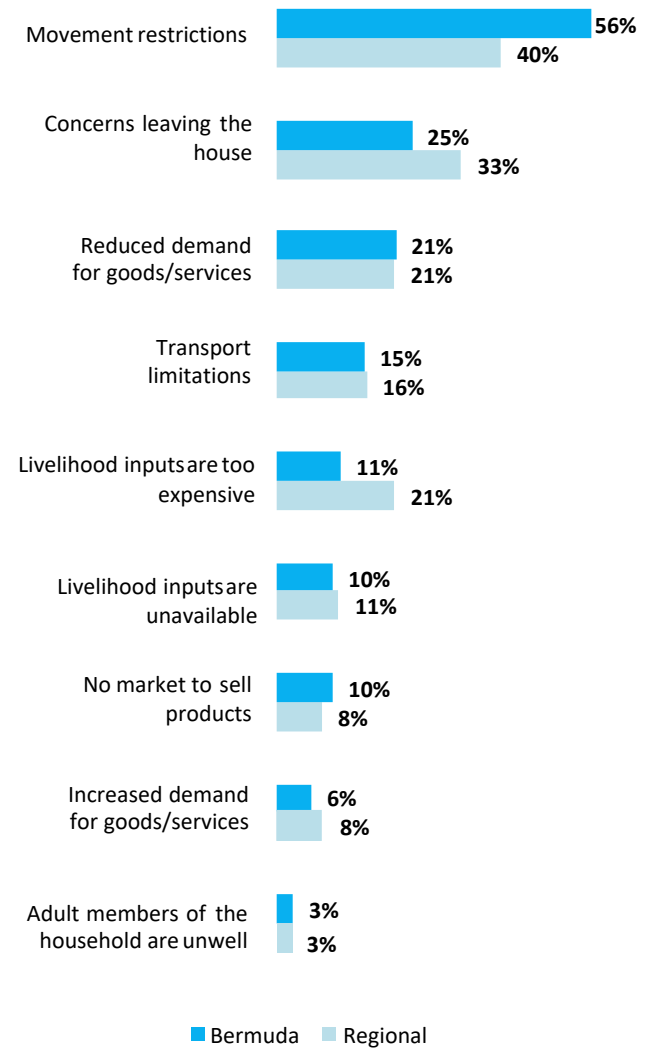
Disruptions to livelihoods

Respondents reported on disruptions to their livelihoods in the previous two weeks.

% of respondents reporting that their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected



For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were...
Multiple choices could be selected

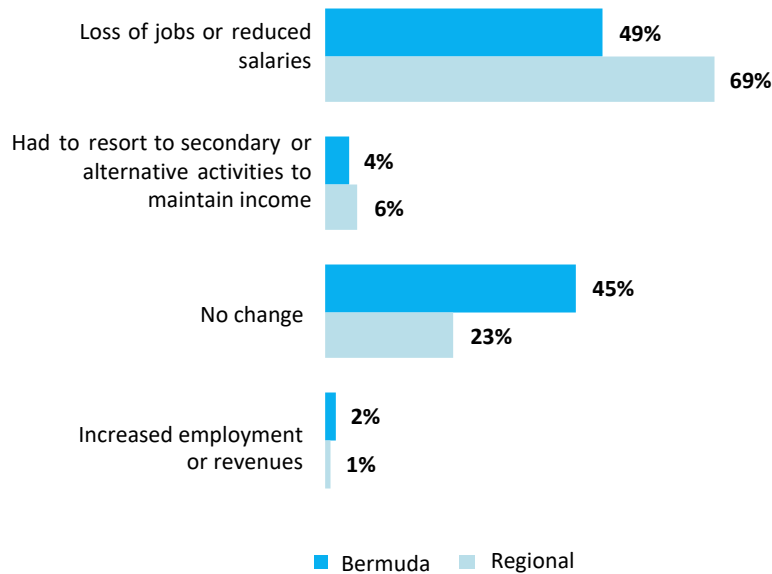


IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Income changes

Respondents communicated changes to their household's income since the COVID-19 outbreak. The pandemic appears to be taking a widespread toll on households' economic wellbeing, but to a lesser extent than in the region. Half of respondents reported job loss or reduced salaries in their household, a smaller share than in the region (69%), while 45% of respondents reported that their income was unchanged, twice the rate in the region (23%).

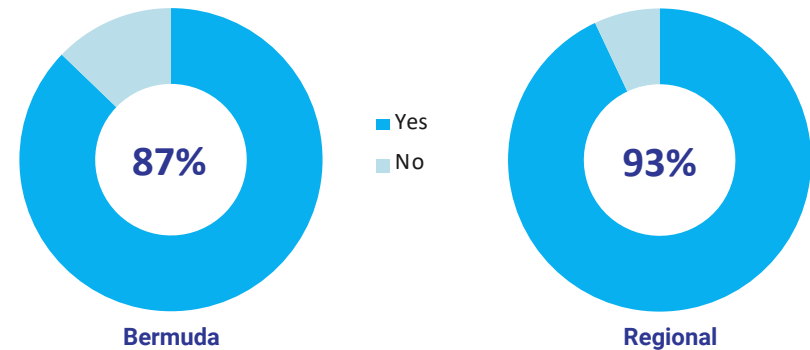
Has your household income changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?



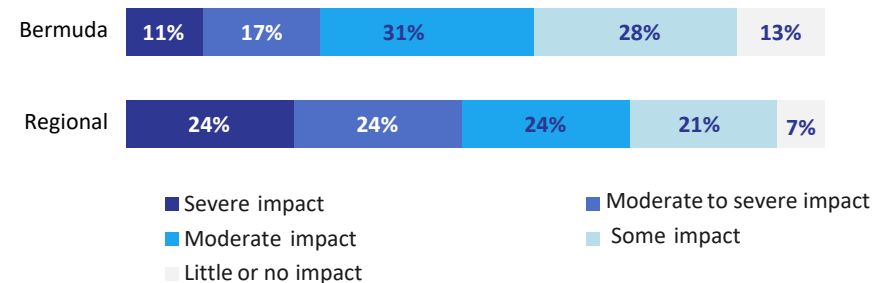
49% of respondents reported a loss in employment or reduction in salaries in June

Future livelihood impacts

Respondents were asked to look ahead and predict the level of impact to their livelihoods as a result of disruptions from COVID-19. Almost 9 out of 10 respondents believe that their livelihoods will be impacted to some degree, similar to trends in the region. One in ten respondents in Bermuda expect their livelihoods to be impacted severely, compared to 24% in the region as a whole.



How do you expect your livelihood will be impacted as a result of disruptions from COVID-19?



IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

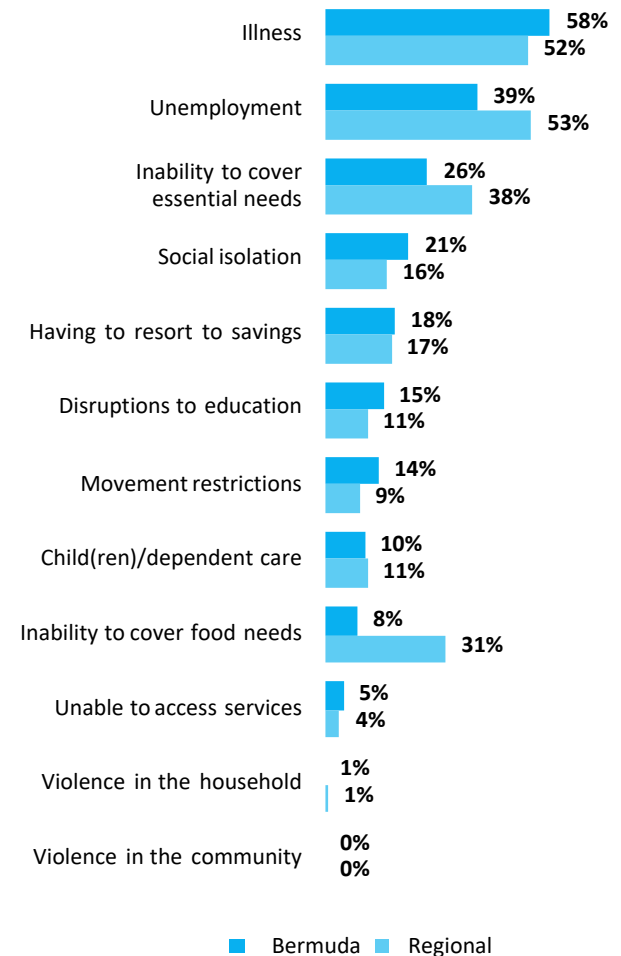
Worries

The survey asked what people were mainly concerned about. Over half of respondents (58%) are mainly worried about illness, followed by worries about unemployment (39%). Worries about the inability to cover essential needs (26%) are widespread but less prevalent than in the region (38%). Compared to the region, respondents in Bermuda are much less likely to worry about their inability to cover food needs (8% compared to 31%).

"We are very fortunate to live in a beautiful place and to have been able to work remotely. The hardest part has both of us working demanding full-time jobs from home while simultaneously having to homeschool, provide child-care, do all the cleaning and cook every meal. We have been really happy with our country's response to Covid so far, but we are about to open our airport with regular flights to Canada, UK and the US, where cases are skyrocketing. This scares me and I think it may be a big mistake as Bermuda is virtually Covid-free and life is finally getting back to "normal"." - Female, Age 36



What are you mainly worried or concerned about at the moment...
Multiple responses could be selected



IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Households engaged in farming/fishing

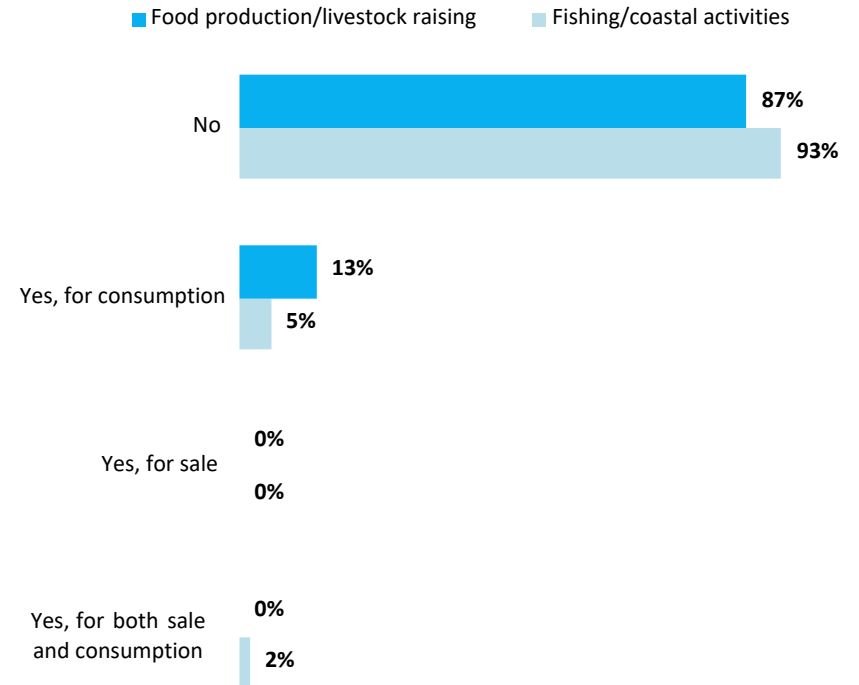
Agriculture (including fishing) accounts for only 1% of national GDP in Bermuda, while food is a major import commodity. In this survey, only 13% of respondents reported being involved in food/livestock production and 7% in fishing, mainly for own consumption.

At the regional level, metrics of wellbeing for households producing food do not differ much from the average respondents but households engaged in fishing seem to have been more adversely affected by disruptions related to COVID-19 as they report above average values for loss of jobs/reduced salary, difficulties in eating enough food, worrying about food needs and expecting their livelihood to be severely affected.

A disaggregated analysis of the impact of COVID on households engaged in food production or fishing in Bermuda cannot be conducted given the insufficient number of responses received from these subgroups. CARICOM and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are conducting more in-depth assessment and analysis of the impacts of COVID-19 on agricultural livelihoods, production and food systems in the Caribbean.

More information about how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Caribbean small-scale fisheries and what solutions and adaptation methods are being used to ensure the continuity of livelihoods has been shared through other [resources](#) and a [regional webinar](#).

Households engaging in farming/fishing



WIDER IMPACTS

Unpaid care and work

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the amount of time people are spending on unpaid activities.

Many respondents (44%) reduced time spent for shopping while increasing time devoted to domestic work (45%) and subsistence activities (41%). One-fifth of respondents increased the time spent on childcare.

	Domestic work	Childcare	Shopping	Subsistence production	Community work
Decreased	7%	1%	44%	4%	21%
No change	44%	40%	28%	39%	39%
Increased	45%	21%	27%	41%	16%
Not applicable	4%	38%	1%	16%	25%



"It is not easy not working and having income as normal." - Female, Age 54

"Loss of work, eviction notice." - Male, Age 43

"Making do with what I have." - Female, Age 58



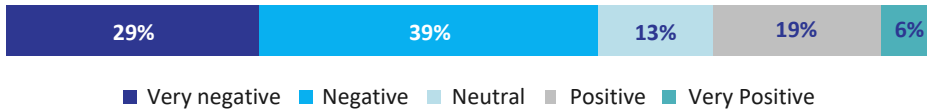
WIDER IMPACTS

How people are coping and adapting

The survey gave respondents space to provide fuller and more nuanced insights on how they are coping and adapting to the disruptions caused by COVID-19. In June, 20% of the 168 respondents from Bermuda answered the open-ended question. Text analysis was used to categorize and interpret the degree of positive and negative emotions within the responses using machine learning.

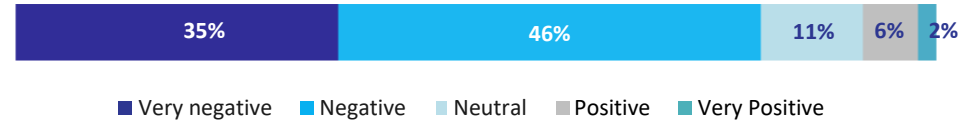
At the regional level, sentiments seem to have significantly deteriorated compared to April, with the share of very negative comments increasing from 3% to 35%. The negative trends in Bermuda are similar but slightly less pronounced, with 29% expressing very negative sentiments and 39% expressing negative sentiments.

Bermuda, June 2020



Concerns regarding movement restrictions, employment and financial strain on households have likely driven negative sentiments

Region, June 2020



Region, April 2020



Very negative

"No aid for seniors" - Female, Age 47

Negative

"Taking child out of nursery to save money" - Female, Age 23

Neutral

"Meeting friends - doing zoom meetings etc" - Female, Age 75

Positive

"We are in this together is a phrase that helps dealing with my changes and others." - Male, Age 42

Very positive

"Been blessed, to others" - Female, Age 54



CONCLUSION

In March 2020, strict measures were put in place to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. The closure of borders, air and seaports brought a halt to international tourism while internal movement restrictions and business closures have caused further economic disruptions.

Results from this survey suggest that a sizeable proportion of people in Bermuda have experienced a deterioration of their employment and income situation, an increase in food prices and expressed concerns about the future of their livelihoods. Half of respondents reported job or income loss in their household and 43% faced disruptions to their livelihoods. Worries about illness and unemployment are similarly widespread.

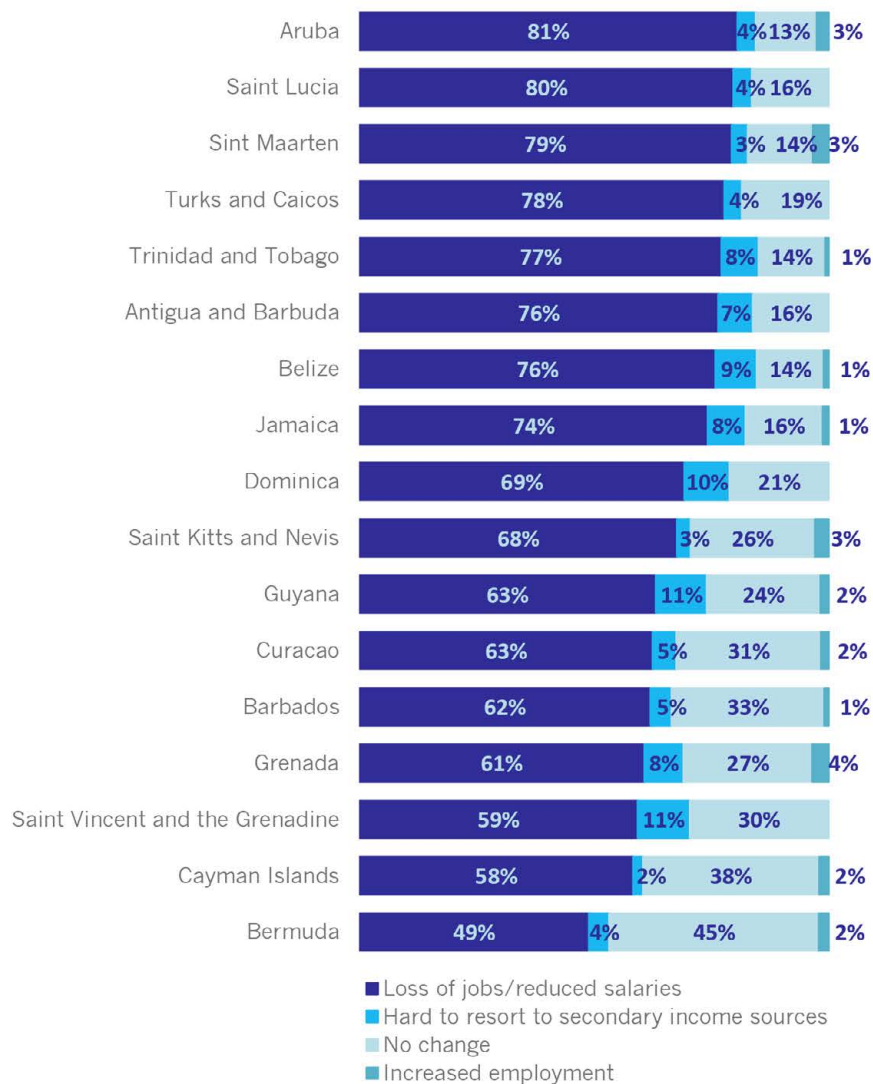
While most consumer goods are widely available, the limited access to fresh foods reported by a quarter of the population is concerning. One out of ten respondents was mainly worried about being unable to cover food needs, had no food stocks in the house or skipped meals/ate less than usual, though these trends are less widespread than the regional averages.

In the face of this ongoing crisis, the government of Bermuda and its partners must redouble their efforts to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts through medium- and longer-term programmes and interventions. Opportunities include the permanent expansion of social protection programmes, livelihood support, and vocational training for people from most affected economic sectors. Considering the protracted nature of the crisis, it is essential to continue monitoring its impacts, particularly on the most vulnerable groups.

ANNEX. REGIONAL OVERVIEWS

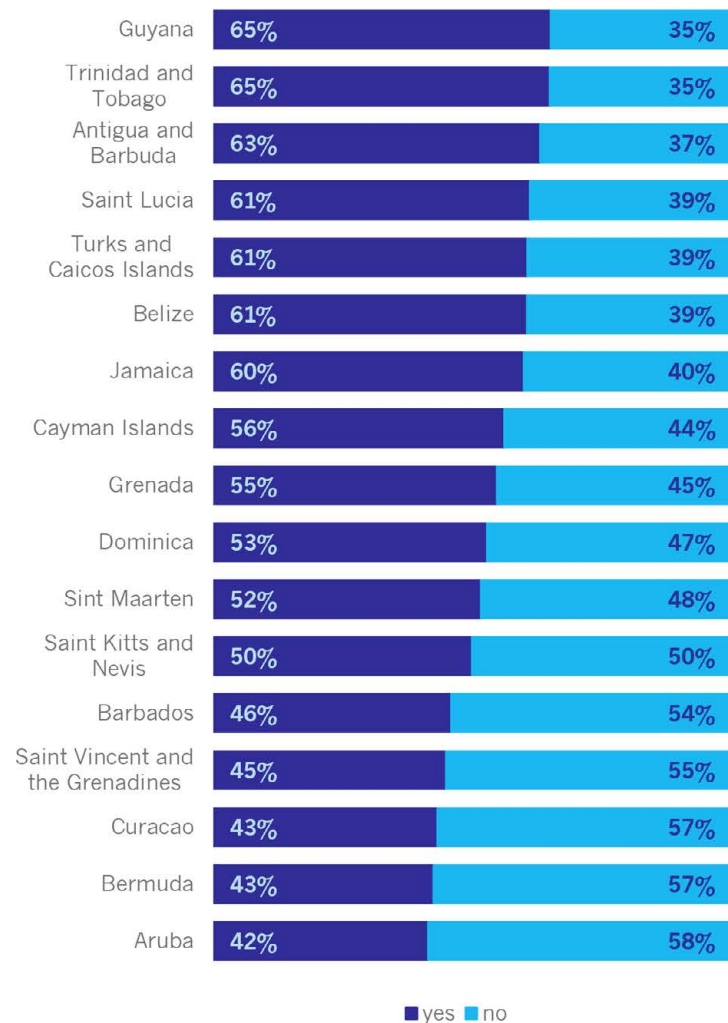
Income changes

Has your household income changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?



Livelihood disruptions

Was your ability to carry out livelihoods activities affected in the last 2 weeks?



METHODOLOGY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

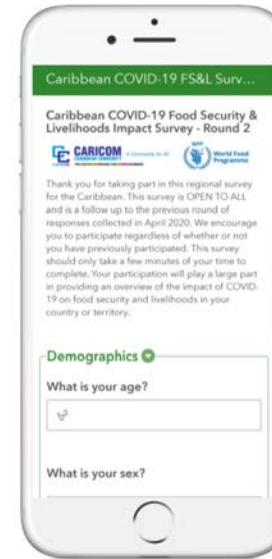
The second round of the CARICOM Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods impact survey was launched via a webform, which was accessible on mobile/smartphone and PC/desktop. The data collection period was inclusive of 14 June to 1 July 2020. The survey was circulated via email, social media, SMS, media and other communication channels.

The World Food Programme (WFP) performed the data collection, monitoring and analysis. Responses were visualised live on an interactive dashboard and monitored to ensure their legitimacy based on cross referencing with prior knowledge and secondary data. Data validation methods were designed into the survey form to mitigate against intentional or unintentional outliers.

The qualitative analysis was performed in collaboration with Joseph Xu from Google's AI unit using Natural Language Processing (NLP). NLP, a branch of AI which analyses and interprets human languages, provided: (a) a sentiment analysis to determine the number of positive versus negative responses and (b) auto-categorisation of responses. To moderate the non-representative nature of the data, the analysis team further refined the classifications presented by the algorithms.

WFP expresses warm appreciation to Flow and Digicel for distributing the survey link by SMS. Special thanks to the International Telecommunication Union for their support in facilitating the SMS distribution. Thanks to UNHCR for their support with the Spanish translation of the survey.

This report was prepared for WFP Caribbean by Kagin's Consulting - Edward J. Taylor, Justin Kagin, Momir Blazek, Julian Fletcher-Taylor, Rebecca Morton, Sebastian Fletcher-Taylor and Heng Zhu.



[Link to survey](#)



[Link to dashboard \(mobile version\)](#)



[Link to dashboard \(desktop version\)](#)

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