Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

Dominica Summary Report | June 2022

Two years on since the beginning of the pandemic, COVID-19 continues to have cascading and evolving impacts on how people in the Caribbean earn a living and meet their critical needs. CARICOM launched the Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey to gather data on people's livelihoods, access to markets and food security and provide snapshots of these impacts over time. This report analyses data from the fourth round of data collection, which took place from 25 January to 8 February 2022. It compares findings with survey rounds conducted in April and June 2020. Implemented by the World Food Programme, the short online survey was circulated in Dominica via social media, media outlets, SMS and emails.

February 2022

145 Respondents | 69 Female | 31% Male | 39 Average age | 4 Average household size

February 2021*

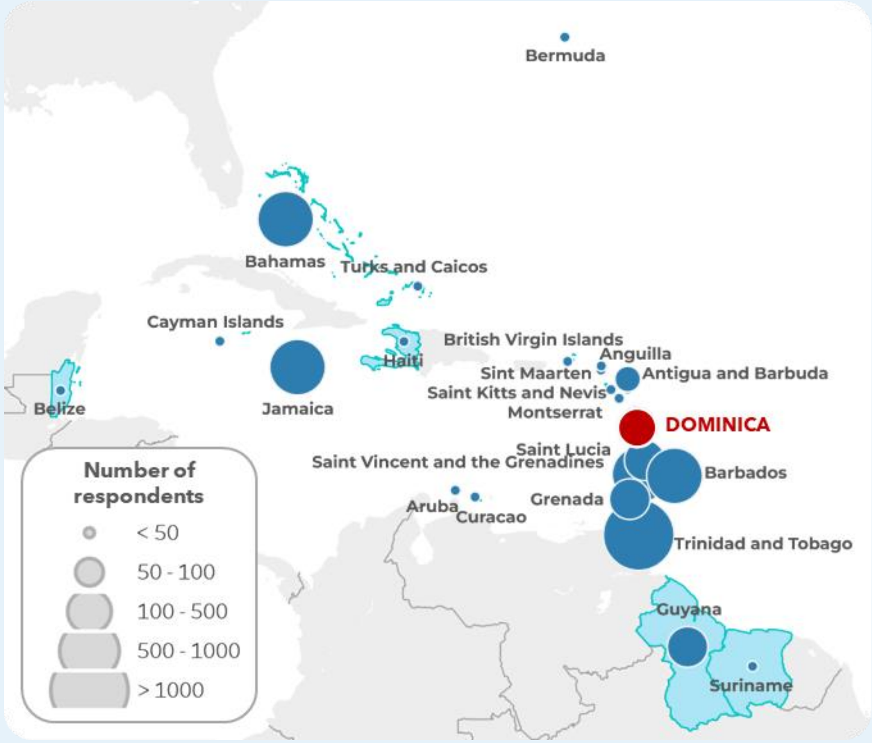
*Comparison with the February 2021 survey round is not included because of the low number of responses from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

June 2020

474 Respondents | 74 Female | 26% Male | 39 Average age | 4 Average household size

April 2020

545 Respondents | 75 Female | 25% Male | 38 Average age | 4 Average household size



CARICOM CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY A Community for All | CDEMA Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency Resilient States · Safer Lives | WFP World Food Programme | FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

DOMINICA Summary | June 2022

- Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, people in Dominica continue to be impacted by the health crisis and the resulting economic downturn. While vaccines have become more widely available, the emergence of new variants in 2021 resulted in travel and movement restrictions continuing to varying degrees.
- The pandemic continues to impact people's livelihoods. Over half of respondents faced a disruption to their livelihoods in the two weeks prior to the survey, which is identical to results in June 2020. However, the reasons for disruptions are shifting. The top reasons being concerns about leaving the house, movement restrictions, and the cost of livelihood inputs. The predominant reason is increasingly the price of livelihood inputs and less so movement restrictions or concerns about the illness.
- Almost three-quarter of respondents predict at least moderate impacts to their livelihoods in the future. The regional survey found that those with lower incomes, engaged in petty trade or relying on support from family and friends have the most pessimistic outlooks, which may also be the case in Dominica.
- Negative impact on incomes remains widespread, with 55% of respondents reporting that their household has experienced job loss or reduced earnings since the start of the pandemic, which is a similar share compared to April 2020 (58%).
- Respondents mainly worry about illness (52%), followed by unemployment (43%) and meeting their essential needs (37%).
- Food prices are increasing, with 91% of respondents reporting higher than usual food prices, a significant increase from 54% in April 2020.
- A third of respondents reported challenges accessing markets in the week prior to the survey, primarily due to a lack of financial means. Shopping behaviour is shifting toward buying cheaper and less preferred foods and in smaller quantities than usual.
- According to the prevalence rates of food insecurity in Dominica, 53% of respondents are estimated to be moderately or severely food insecure.
- More people are going a whole day without eating and skipping meals compared to April 2020. Respondents are resorting to more severe actions, with 76% drawing on savings to meet immediate food and other needs, 43% reducing expenditures on education and health, and 41% selling productive assets.
- While 37 % of respondents reported having food stocks for at least 1 week, one-quarter of households reported having no food stocks at all.
- As the pandemic continues to take its toll, one tenth of respondents have received some form of government support. However, very few were receiving assistance at the time of the survey.
- While women and men both reported similar level of increases in domestic and childcare, women are disproportionally impacted by an increase in time spent on domestic work and childcare.
- Food insecurity is more widespread in Dominica compared to the region and risks deepening, given continued economic impacts of COVID-19, supply chain disruptions, rising inflation, and global reverberations of the Ukraine crisis. It is critical to invest in strengthening of national and regional food systems, social protection and emergency preparedness to promote recovery and protect people from future shocks.
- While the survey contributes to a better overview of impacts, the data is not necessarily representative, and the use of an online questionnaire limits inputs from people without internet connectivity.

DOMINICA Summary | June 2022

All respondents

*Comparisons with the February 2021 and April 2020 survey rounds are not included because of the low number of responses from St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

		Feb-22	Jun-20	Apr-20
LIVELIHOODS	Disrupted livelihoods	**53%**	53%	81%
	Reduction/loss of income	**55%**	70%	58%
	Moderate to severe or severe future livelihoods impacts	**51%**	46%	60%
MARKETS	Lack of market access	**32%**	30%	59%
	Change in shopping behaviour	**87%**	87%	89%
	Increase in food prices	**91%**	74%	54%
FOOD SECURITY	Reduced food consumption	**37%**	35%	22%
	Lack of food stock	**25%**	18%	4%

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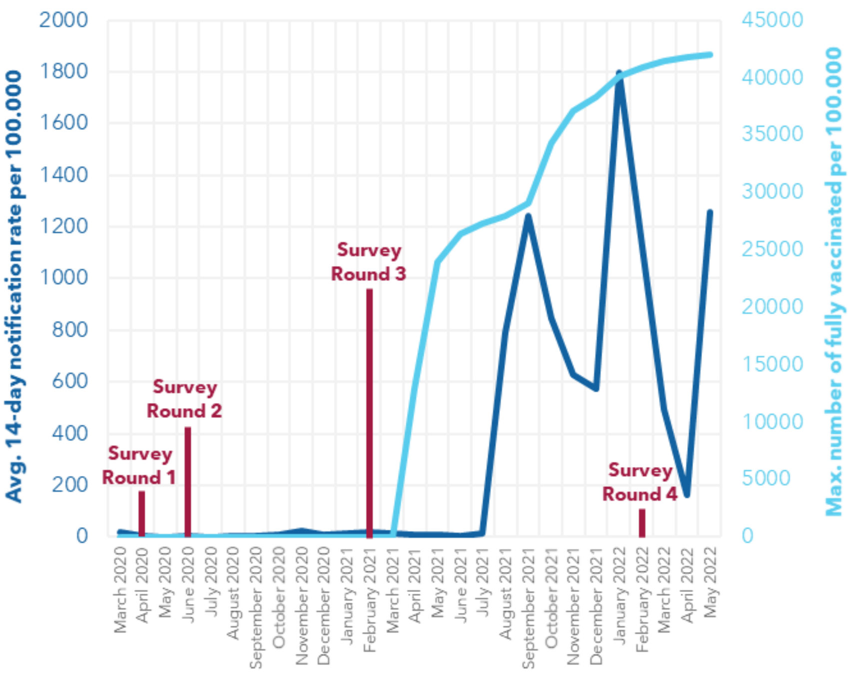
COVID-19 | Situation and response

COVID-19 cases and government responses

After the number of COVID-19 cases in Dominica had been minimal until mid-2021, the country experienced a first spike in infections in August 2021. At the time of this survey in February 2022, a second wave was underway, with the number of new cases reaching an all-time high before declining and then rising again from April 2022. These surges were accompanied by more or less severe restrictions on movement, business activities, and social events, including a lockdown in August 2021. By the time of publication of this report, however, most restrictions had been lifted.

New COVID-19 cases and vaccination in Dominica*

*Average rate of COVID-19 cases and maximum number of fully vaccinated people per month in Dominica. Number of fully vaccinated includes those who received all doses prescribed by the initial vaccination protocol.



Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the Our World in Data, 31.5.2022

The Government of Dominica began rolling out COVID-19 vaccination in February 2021. However, as of June 2022, only 42% of the country's population were fully vaccinated, a level below the worldwide vaccination coverage of 60%.

Broader developments and government responses

The COVID-19 pandemic took a heavy toll on the Dominican economy. With a sharp decline in tourism and related sectors, the country's GDP contracted by an estimated 11% in 2020, despite a slight recovery in 2021.[1]

To mitigate the impact of the pandemic and related restrictions on households and businesses, the government adopted a number of social protection measures. Among these, an Unemployment Grant was introduced in April 2020 providing temporary income support to eligible persons who were laid off or whose employment was terminated as a result of the pandemic or government response measures. In addition, a Self-Employed Grant provided financial assistance to self-employed persons whose businesses were suspended or whose revenues significantly decreased as a result of the pandemic or related restrictions.[2] Both programmes were extended in 2021. The government also implemented a Social Cash Transfers programme in partnership with the World Food Programme while existing beneficiaries of the Public Assistance Programme received top-ups to their usual cash transfers and new beneficiaries were reached. Over 9,700 people were reached by these initiatives in 2021.

See page 24 for survey results related to social assistance.

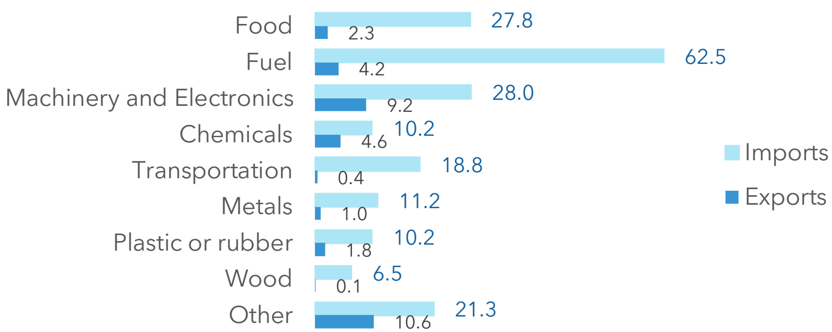
[1] IMF (2022). Dominica: 2021 Article IV Consultation-Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for Dominica. Available at: https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/002/2022/040/article-A001-en.xml

[2] Government of Dominica (2020). Covid-19 Response: Employees and Small Business Programme. Available at: https://www.dominica.gov.dm/notices/1047-covid-19-response-employees-and-small-business-programme

Emerging issues | Implications of Ukraine crisis

The crisis in Ukraine is having wide implications on international supply chains, inflationary pressure and economic growth (**see Annex**). Most affected will be countries which have high import dependency on the Russian Federation and Ukraine on key commodities, but spill over effects are expected also elsewhere. The Commonwealth of Dominica, like most economies of the Caribbean, is a net importer of commodities. In 2020, overall imports were valued at US$ 196 million and were nearly six times the value of exports, which amounted to US$ 34.4 million. Petroleum gas was the single most important import commodity (28% of overall imports in US$ value) and second most important export (12%), behind medical instruments (16%), which were mainly destined for Saudi Arabia.

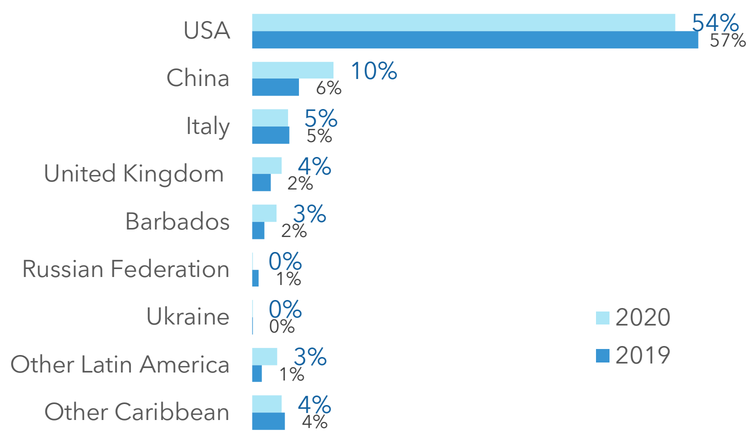
Share of commodity trade in Dominica million US$ (2020), by product group



Data source: Observatory of Economic Complexity

The United States is Dominica's main import partner. It contributes to nearly 54% of total imports and the largest share of imports of fuels (99%) and meat products (63%). While Caribbean economies represent only a small proportion of Dominica's overall trade (7% of imports 11% of exports) most of its cereal imports are sourced from Guyana (79%). Fertilizer is mainly imported from the Dominican Republic (46%) and France (35%) and to a smaller extent from Russia (7%). Vegetable oils were mainly sourced in Barbados (30%) and Colombia (22%) and to a smaller degree from Ukraine (3%)

Top 5 import partners based on US$ value (all commodities)



Data source: Observatory of Economic Complexity

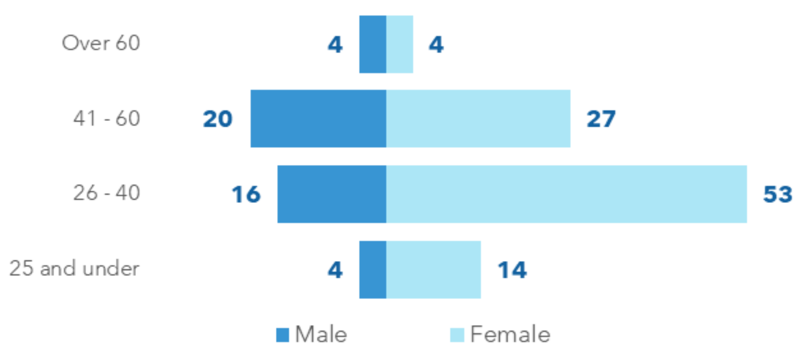
Dominica's negative balance of trade makes it still vulnerable to price fluctuations and supply chain shocks in international markets, which may translate to inflationary pressure domestically. It is expected that international commodity prices will continue to rise while oil prices will stabilize, but at an elevated level.

The government's spending plan for the fiscal year of 2021/2022 amounted to 993.6 million EC dollars and a new appropriation bill is expected to be presented soon, and going into effect on 1 July for the fiscal year 2022/2023.

So far, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) has not introduced changes to its monetary policy with the discount interest rate remaining at 2%, ever since it was lowered from 6.5 in April 2020.

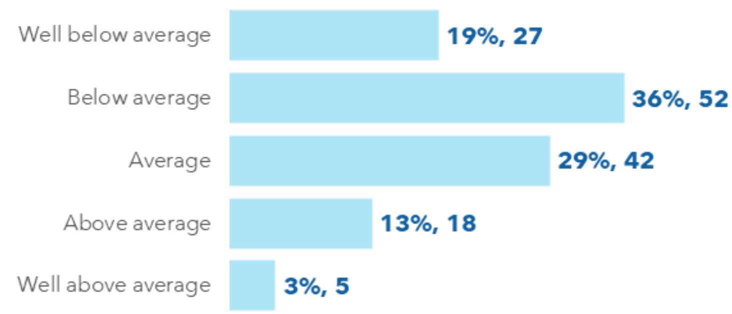
RESPONDENTS | Demographics

Age and sex

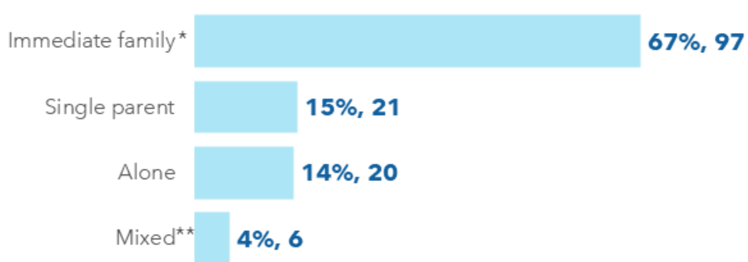


Perceived income levels

Respondents were asked to compare their household's income with the rest of their country.



Household composition

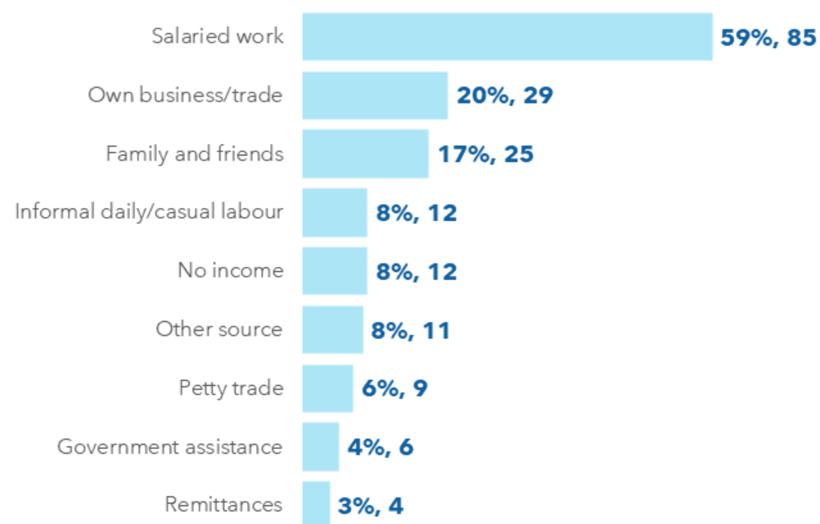


* Immediate family includes partner, children and grandparents.
** Mixed households are composed of immediate family members, other relatives as well as non-family members.

Urban/rural location

Main income sources

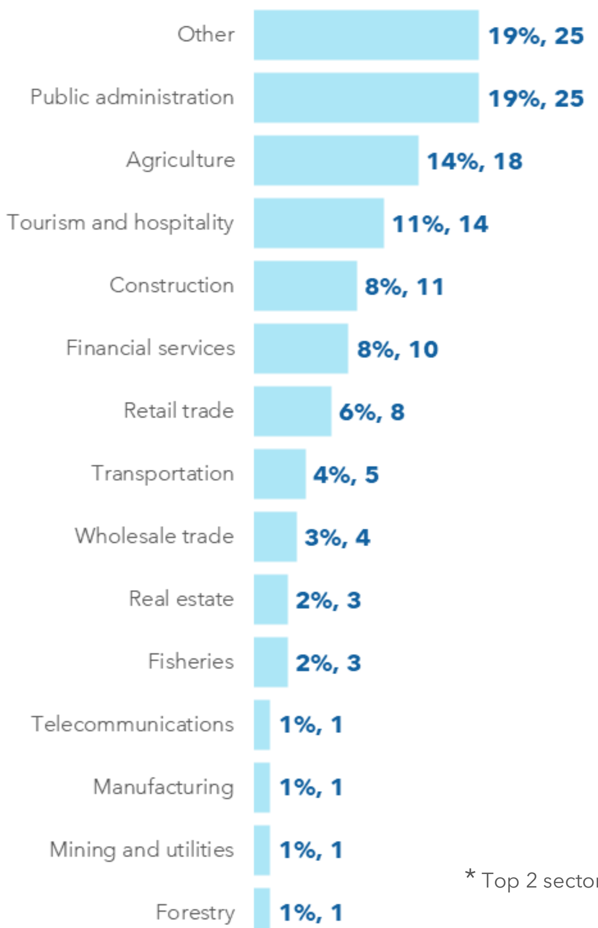
Respondents were asked to indicate the main income source(s) for their household. Multiple choices could be selected.



RESPONDENTS | Demographics

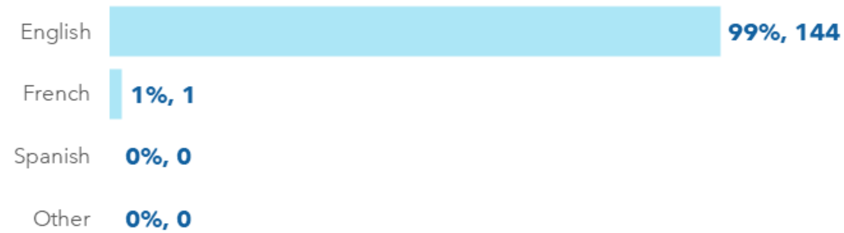
Main income sector

Respondents were asked to indicate the sector that represents their household's main source of income. The percentages were calculated for respondents that indicated having an income.



* Top 2 sectors chosen under "Other":
Education
Health

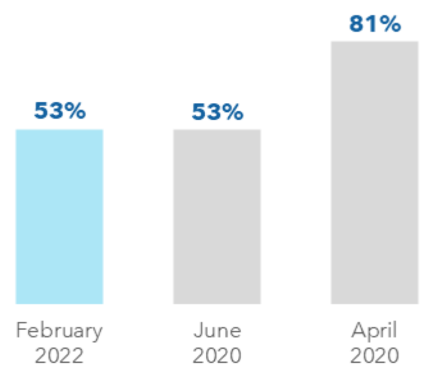
Language



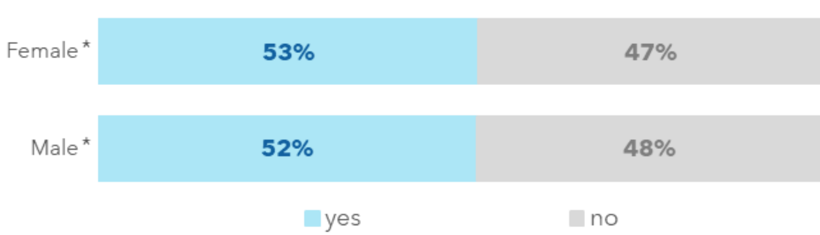
LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

▶ Impacts to livelihoods remain widespread, affecting half of respondents.

Respondents reporting that their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected in the 2 weeks prior to the survey



By sex



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt livelihoods. For over half of respondents, the ability to pursue their livelihood remained compromised in the two weeks prior to the survey.

This proportion has decreased compared to the early stages of pandemic, when disruptions were experienced by eight out of ten respondents, but remains as widespread as on average in the region.

"Work then no work and bills n child to feed" - Female, 28

"In the beginning my biggest fear was not having enough food for myself and my family. Now it's my eye. Covid has impacted every singe human being on this planet some more than others. I am forever grateful that I'm not in the bracket who is severely impacted by COVID." - Female, 28

"The biggest challenge for me is not being able to pay my mortgage and bills because I'm suffering from long covid and I am constantly visiting the doctor, undergo blood test, scan and purchasing medication." - Female, 42

"Been ill since I recovered from Covid-19. Long covid and have been put of work for a month" - Male, 36

"It affected me a lot because not having a job to take care of my family is my biggest fear because my kids are small." - Male, 40

LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

▶ Concern about leaving the house remains the main factor behind livelihood disruptions, but cost of livelihood inputs has grown in importance.

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

	Feb-22	Jun-20	Apr-20
Concerned about leaving the house due to outbreak	34%	32%	43%
Movement restrictions	31%	50%	74%
Livelihoods inputs are too expensive	29%	24%	11%
Reduced demand for goods/services	18%	22%	22%
Adult members of the household are unwell	14%	6%	0%
Other	12%	18%	11%
No market to sell products	12%	9%	14%
Livelihoods inputs are unavailable	8%	16%	11%
Increased demand for goods/services	6%	7%	13%
Transport limitations	5%	21%	35%

A main driver behind livelihood disruptions in the two weeks prior to the February 2022 survey was concern about leaving the house due to the outbreak, cited by 34% of those who faced disruptions. Movement restrictions remained a similarly important contributor to livelihood disruptions, cited by 31% of respondents facing disruptions, albeit much less so when compared to the early phase of the pandemic (74%).

A steadily growing disruptor to livelihood activities is the unaffordability of livelihood inputs, cited by nearly one third of respondents (29%). This factor has gained in importance since the early days of the pandemic, similar to elsewhere in the region, and is linked to wider trends related to supply chain disruptions and price rises in the Caribbean.

Reduced demand for goods/services and lack of market outlets to sell products are in decline in terms of their importance as disruptive factors. However, adult members of the household being unwell notably increased as a reason for disruptions (from 0% in April 2020 to 14% of those facing disruptions in February 2022), which is in line with the spike of COVID-19 cases given the emergence of the Omicron variant.

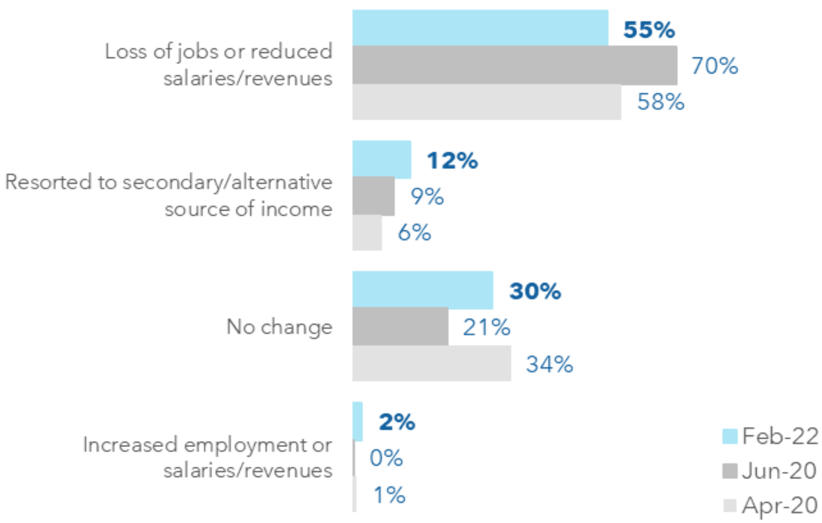
"I lost my job. December due to the reduced work loan as an administrative assistant" - Female, 26

"Am a single mum I am not working can't provide for them… I have underlying problem in my body and I can't get a job. My bills cutting 1 by 1 as i don't have money to pay them all now. They having zoom classes and my internet cut since December so outside by my neighbour they have to use WIFI and sometimes it is not working good so it does stress me alot" - Female, 40

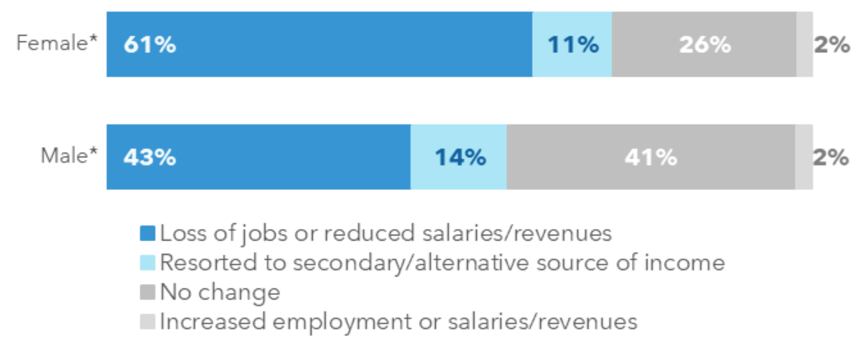
LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income

▶ Most respondents have faced job loss or income reductions in their households

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



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



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

Impacts to income continue to be widespread, with 55% of respondents reporting that their household has experienced job loss or reduced salaries since the COVID-19 outbreak. While the proportion of households with loss of income or reduced salaries has declined since June 2020, it is still similar to the rate observed in April 2020. The overall situation suggests the continuation of economic hardship with many people facing decreased income, potentially affecting women disproportionately more compared to men. Negative impacts on income are reported by a greater proportion of respondents in Dominica compared to the region as a whole (46%).

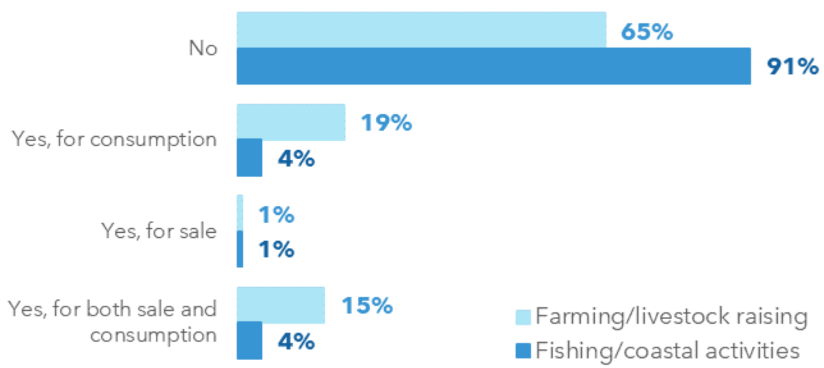
"I don't have a job to can take better care of my kids an myself am a single mum of 5 most of my bills cut especially my internet an right now is online classes they have so they have to be outside using my neighbour internet to do there school work so it really tough on my side as a single mother" - Female, 40

"Not able to maintain my family needs" - Male, 48

LIVELIHOODS | Farming and fishing

▶ One out of three respondents are engaged in farming, gardening or livestock raising for household consumption or to supplement incomes.

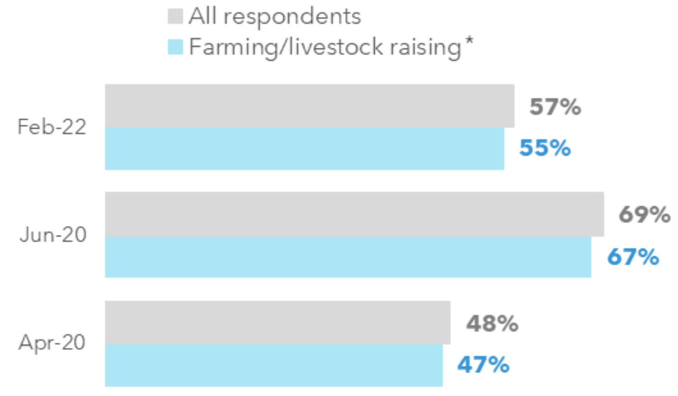
Is your households engaged in farming/fishing?



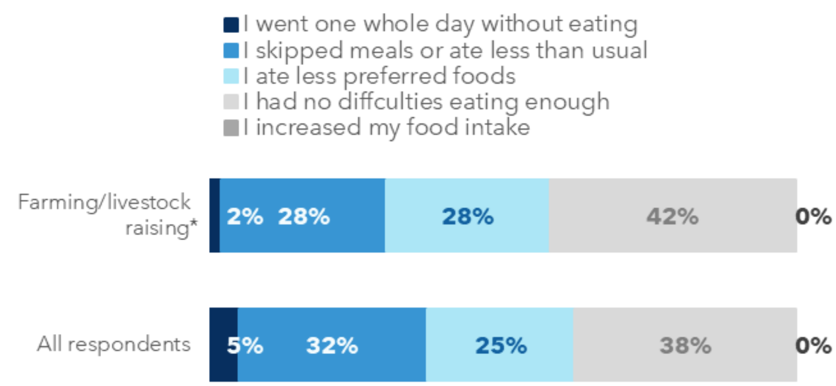
One out of three respondents reported being engaged in farming, gardening or livestock raising, and 9% in fisheries/coastal activities. In both cases these activities are primarily for household consumption, or complementing existing incomes, with vegetable production being the main farming activity and marine/coastal fishing the main fishing activity, albeit a steady rise in the use of aquaculture is observed. Over half of respondents undertaking farming and fishing derive their household income primarily from salaries, which underscores the complementary role these activities play for most households for income and consumption.

While only a small number of respondents were engaged in fishing/coastal activities, they appear to be facing greater challenges related to income. Households engaged in both farming and fishing fare better in terms of food consumption compared to average households, however this finding should be treated with caution due to the low number of respondents engaged in farming or fishing.

Loss of jobs or reduced salaries/revenues among respondents engaged in farming



Food situation among respondents engaged in farming



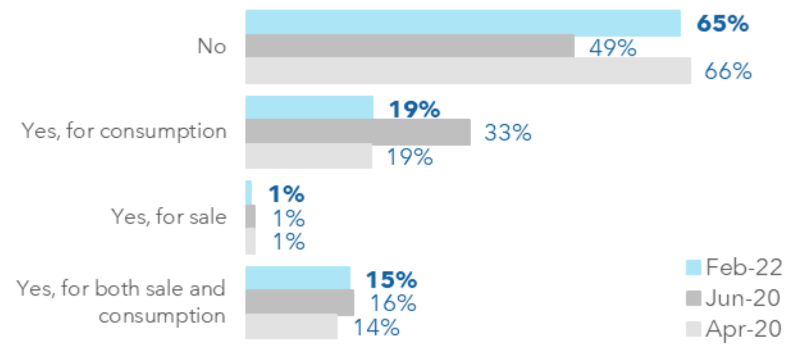
* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

LIVELIHOODS | Farming and fishing

For those engaging in agriculture/ livestock raising, the activities are...
Multiple choices could be selected.

Farming/livestock raising	Feb-22	Jun-20	Apr-20
Vegetables	80%	83%	81%
Banana/plantains	54%	56%	73%
Poultry	26%	17%	23%
Small ruminants	14%	16%	23%
Other	12%	16%	22%
Rice	12%	7%	8%
Corn	8%	18%	16%
Pulses	6%	3%	4%
Swine	4%	4%	7%
Large ruminants	2%	3%	6%

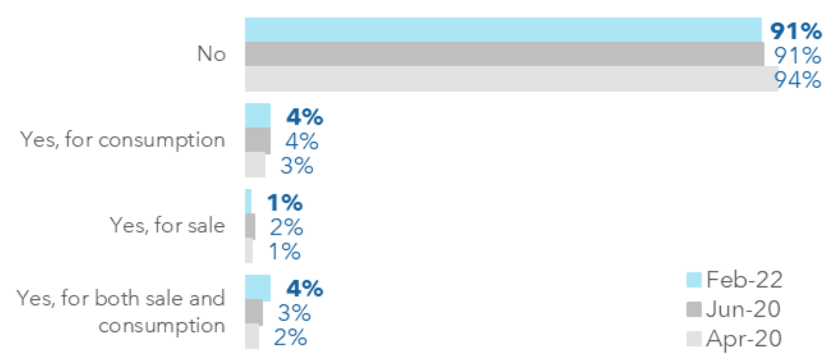
Is your households engaged in farming/livestock raising?



For those engaging in fishing/coastal activities, the activities are...
Multiple choices could be selected.

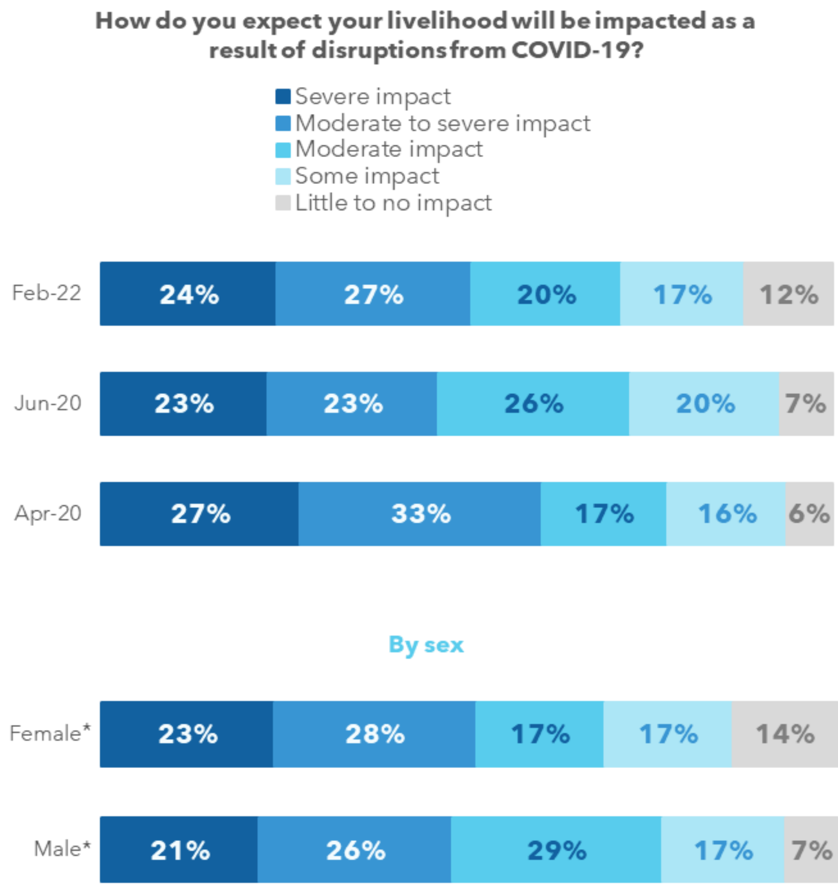
Fishing/coastal activities	Feb-22	Jun-20	Apr-20
Small scale aquaculture	31%	23%	21%
Marine/coastal fisheries	31%	41%	58%
Fishing gear production	23%	15%	12%
Inland fisheries	15%	23%	21%
Other	8%	21%	12%
Mangrove/beach activities	0%	3%	9%
Processing of fish/fisheries products	0%	0%	0%

Is your households engaged in fishing/coastal activities?



LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

► Seven out of ten respondents anticipate at least a moderate impact on their livelihoods.



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

Respondents continue to expect that the COVID-19 pandemic will negatively impact their livelihoods in the future. Looking ahead, 51% anticipate "moderate to severe" or "severe" impacts to their livelihoods, which is lower compared to the first survey round, but still high overall and more widespread compared to the regional average (42%). Only 12% expected little or no impact.

"I have been in home isolation, and my mom can't go to work until I'm cleared" - Female, 39

"With no income and bills backing up" - Unknown, 42

"Wen tourist come an they lock off the roads" - Female, 59

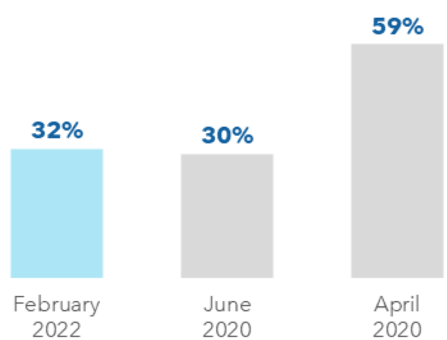
"I have been in home isolation, and my mom can't go to work until I'm cleared" - Female, 39

"Fighting to feed my kids is so had" - Female, 32

MARKETS | Access

▶ Market access remains a challenge for a third of respondents.

Respondents unable to access markets in the 7 days prior to the survey

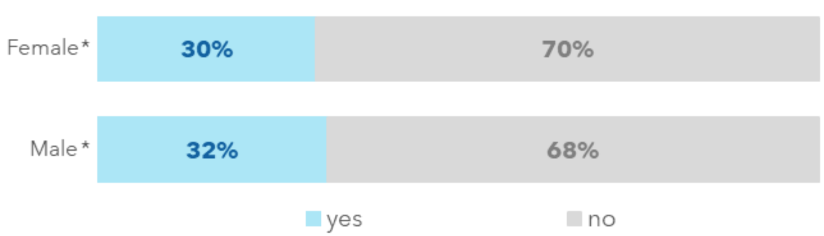


Almost two years after the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic, people's access to markets has significantly improved compared to the start of the pandemic though 32% are still experiencing limited access.

One third or respondents in Dominica reported difficulties accessing markets in the week leading up to the survey in February 2022, nearly half the proportion in April 2020. Overall, market access levels are in line with the region as a whole.

No significant differences in market access levels were found between female and male respondents, although low numbers of responses may affect results of this comparison.

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



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

"Lost my job so I had to go back on the farm !" - Female, 35

"a few of the main income people got the covid and things really rough with us" - Female, 40

"I wish people would follow and adjust to the protocols so that the variants stops spreading as quickly." - Female, 49

"Withdrawn and isolated." - Female, 76

"Wen tourist come an they lock off the roads" - Female, 59

MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

▶ Lack of financial resources has become the main barrier to households' market access.

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

	Feb-22	Jun-20	Apr-20
Lack of financial means*	70%	24%	6%
Adult members of the household were self quarantining	17%	2%	11%
Movement restrictions	15%	32%	71%
Other	13%	13%	6%
Concerned about leaving the house	9%	28%	59%
Markets/grocery stores closed	7%	25%	50%
Adult members of the household were unwell	4%	6%	5%
Transport limitations	2%	18%	38%
Security concerns	2%	7%	16%

*New option since the February 2021 survey round. For June and April 2020 survey rounds, the lack of financial means was calculated based on the text inputted by respondents in the "Other" category.

Lack of financial resources has clearly emerged as the greatest barrier to people accessing markets in Dominica, as indicated by 70% of respondents who experienced a time when they could not access markets in the week prior to the survey. This reflects a sharp increase from 24% in June 2020 and 6% in April 2020.

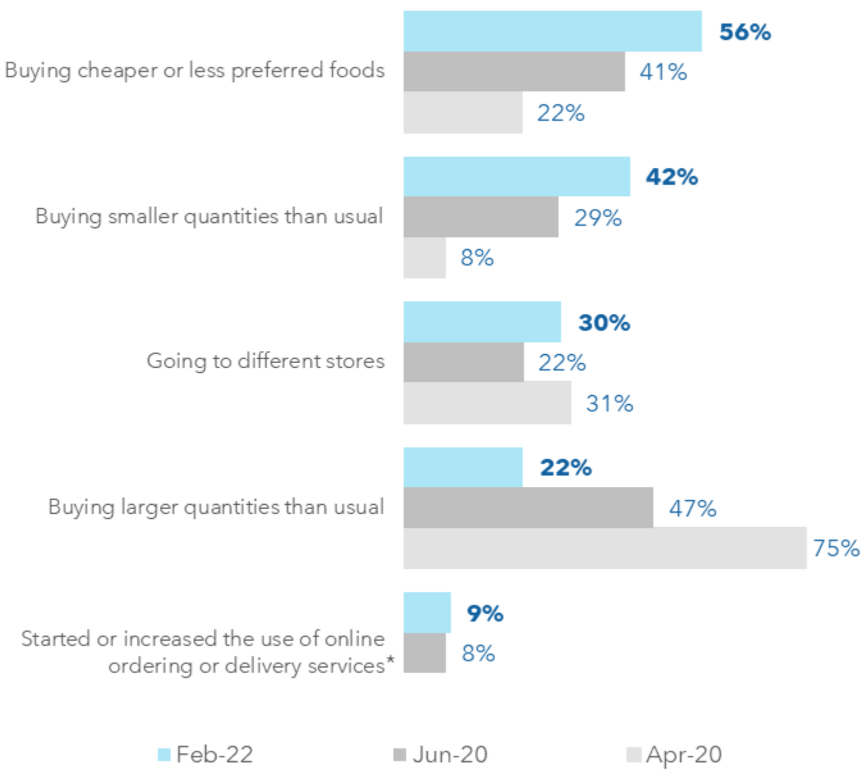
Apart from the lack of financial resources, other reasons for households' market access problems are much less common. The second most frequent access barrier relates to adult household members self-quarantining, which was cited by 17% of respondents who faced market access problems. Movement restrictions were cited by 15% of those who faced market access issues, a significant decrease from 71% in April 2020 at the start of the pandemic. Concerns about leaving the house were cited by 9% of respondents with market access problems, down from 59% in April 2020.

Findings from Dominica are consistent with broader regional trends showing that the reasons for market access problems have changed since the early months of the pandemic, when the main factors limiting market access were related to movement restrictions, shop closures, and concerns about leaving the house. These problems have become less significant over time, and the lack of financial resources has become the main barrier to households' market access, as the socioeconomic impact has become more severe for many households.

MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

▶ Respondents are increasingly resorting to buying cheaper foods and smaller quantities than usual.

Respondents who reported a change in shopping behaviour are...
Multiple choices could be selected.



* This option was not provided for the April 2020 survey round.

The pandemic continues to affect how people shop, and the ways in which people adjust their shopping habits have changed since the start of the pandemic.

Overall, 87% of respondents in Dominica reported a change in their shopping behaviour compared to before the pandemic. This is similar to the early months of the pandemic, but represents a higher share compared to February 2021 (76%). Findings from Dominica are similar to the Caribbean as a whole where 88% of respondents indicated a change in how they shop.

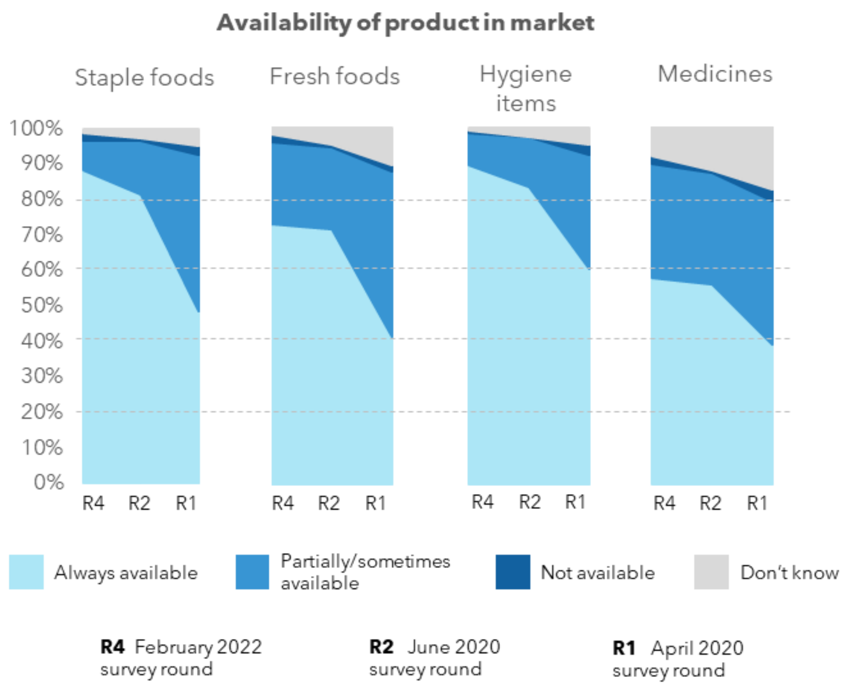
Respondents are primarily adapting by buying cheaper or less preferred goods and buying smaller quantities than usual. Of those who have changed their shopping behaviour, 56% are resorting to buying cheaper or less preferred food, an increase from 22% in April 2020 at the start of the pandemic. Similarly, more respondents adapted by purchasing smaller quantities than usual, as indicated by 42% of those who changed their shopping habits, which represents an increase from 8% in April 2020.

Compared to the early months of the pandemic, respondents are less likely to adapt by buying larger quantities than usual. Of those respondents who have changed their shopping behaviour, 22% are buying larger quantities than usual, down from 75% in April 2020.

Trends in Dominica are consistent with the region as a whole, where respondents' shopping behaviour has shifted from stockpiling in the early months of the pandemic to more compromises as the economic impact worsens for most households.

MARKETS | Availability

▶ Availability of key commodities has improved since the start of the pandemic, but fresh foods and medicines are not consistently available.



In the Caribbean, market disruptions have been a concern since the start of the pandemic, due to movement restrictions and global supply chain issues, as well as the region's dependence on imported goods. Regionally, the overall availability of key commodities improved since the first survey in April 2020, despite a slight decline in overall availability in February 2022.

In Dominica, availability of essential commodities has also gradually improved compared to the beginning of the pandemic. However, availability varies by commodity group, with fresh food and medicines only partially/occasionally available in February 2022. Only 2% respondents indicated that essential goods were not available at all, which is consistent with previous survey rounds and regional survey findings.

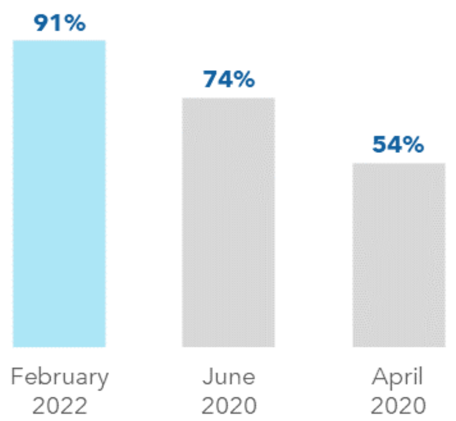
For 23% of respondents, fresh foods were only partially/sometimes available, a significant improvement from 46% in April 2020. Similarly, a third of respondents reported that medicines were only partially/sometimes available, which is only a slight improvement from 40% in April 2020. By contrast, staple foods and hygiene items are widely available in Dominica, as reported by 88-90% of respondents.

Trends in Dominica are similar to the overall region, where the availability of fresh foods and medicines remains limited, with staple foods and hygiene items being widely available.

MARKETS | Food prices

▶ Nearly all respondents identified an increase in food prices.

Respondents who reported an increase in food prices over the 2 weeks prior to the survey



Food price increases are widely felt and observed, with 91% of respondents in Dominica reporting price increases in the two weeks prior to the February 2022 survey, up from 74% in June 2020 and 54% in April 2020.

Trends in Dominica are similar to the region as a whole, where 93% of respondents reported price increases, up from 78% in June 2020 and 59% in April 2020.

As persons living in poverty tend to spend a higher proportion of their income on food, it is widely expected that high food costs will most impact the poorest.

"The price of food in supermarkets are increasing buy agricultural produce remain at the dame price" - Female, 35

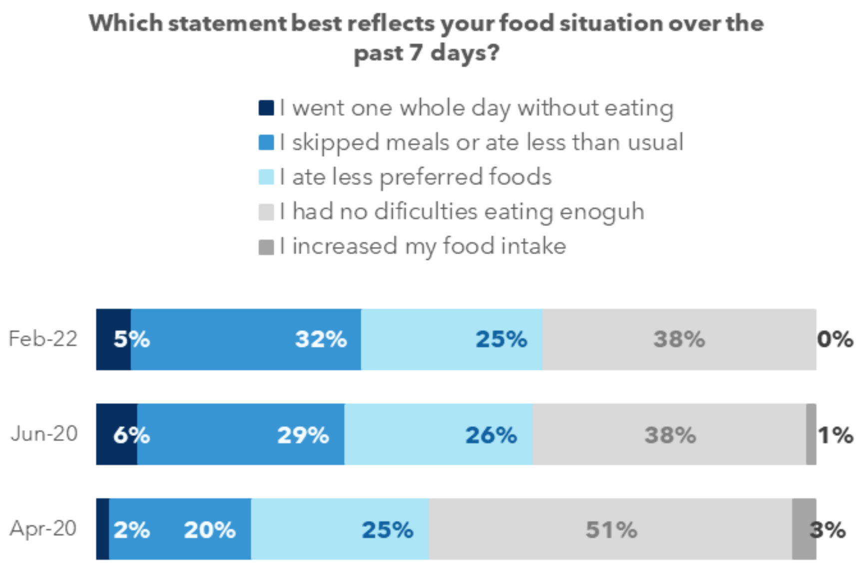
"Customs and duty prices are too exorbitant" - Female, 50

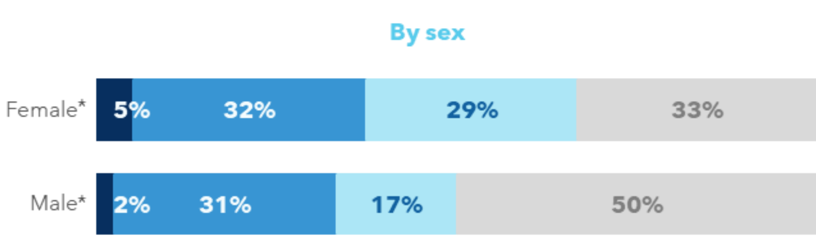
"I wish people would follow and adjust to the protocols so that the variants stops spreading as quickly." - Female, 49

"I have had to use online services more" - Male, 45

FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

▶ Food consumption patterns deteriorated from beginning of the pandemic, but to a lesser extent in the past year compared to countries in the region.





* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

Food consumption and diets of people in Dominica continue to be impacted by the pandemic, with 32% of respondents skipping meals or eating less than usual in the week leading up to the survey. Unlike other countries in the region, food consumption patterns have not significantly deteriorated in Dominica compared to January 2020.

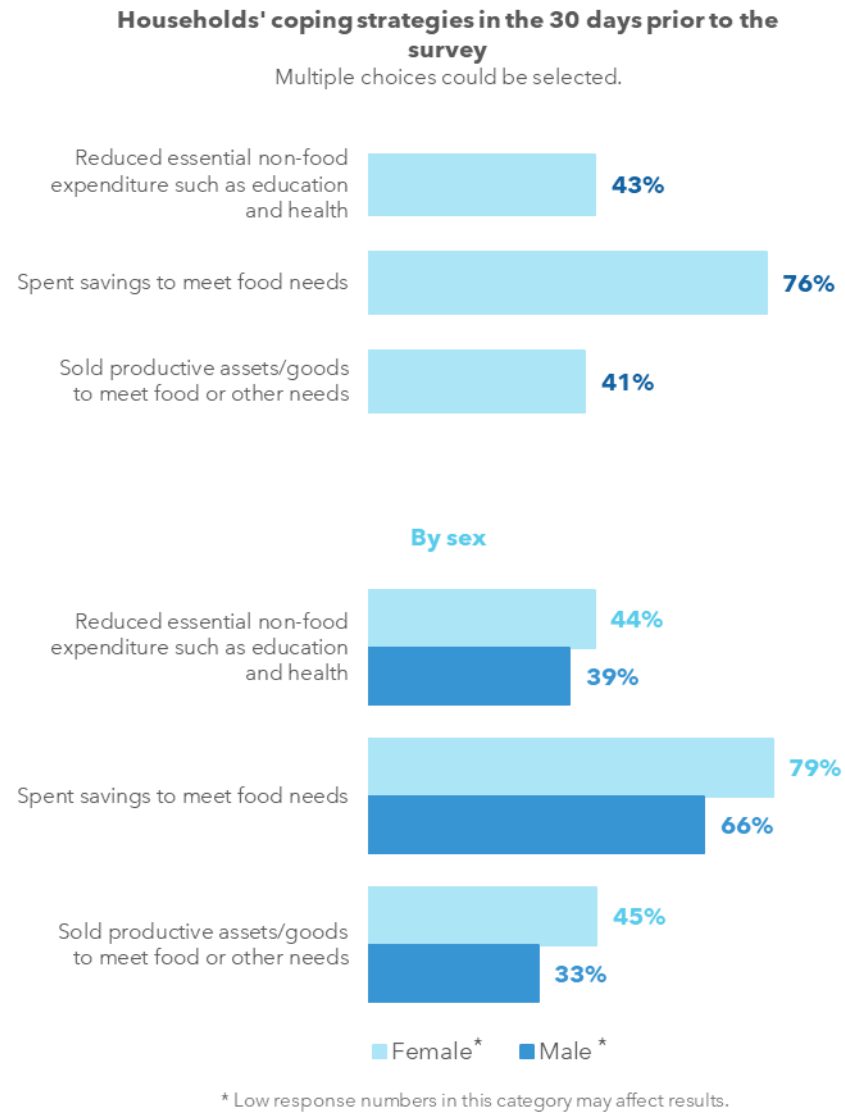
The impacts on food consumption in Dominica appear most serious for female respondents, with 5% going a whole day without eating and 32% skipping a meal or eating less than usual in the week preceding the survey. Male respondents appeared to be less affected than female respondents, however this finding should be treated with caution due to the low number of respondents.

FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

▶ People in Dominica appear more prone to adopt negative coping strategies to meet their immediate food needs than in the rest of the region.

Survey respondents were asked whether in the 30 days prior to the survey they had reduced essential non-food expenditures, spent savings or sold productive assets to meet their food needs. Of all respondents in Dominica, 76% resorted to spending savings, and 43% reduced essential non-food expenditures, such as on education and health. Furthermore, 41% of respondents sold productive assets to meet food or other needs, potentially undermining their long-term income generation. The adoption of negative coping strategies is more spread in Dominica compared to the regional average.

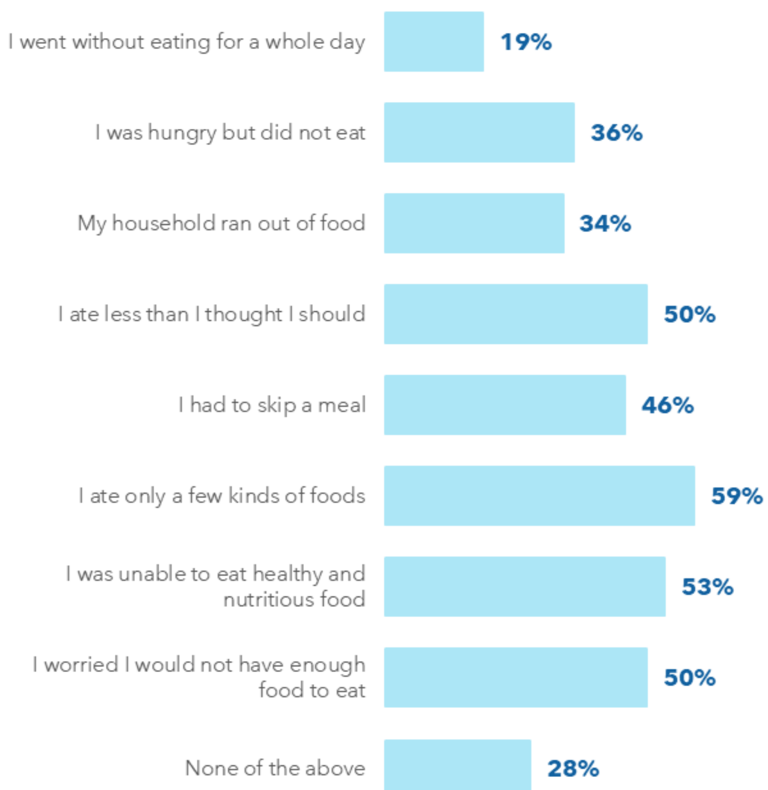
In line with food consumption, female respondents appeared to resort to these negative strategies more frequently than male respondents in Dominica,however this finding should be treated with caution due to the low number of respondents.



FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

▶ The prevalence rates of severe and moderate food insecurity are higher in Dominica than in the rest of the region.

Was there a time in the past 30 days when you experienced the following?
Multiple choices could be selected.

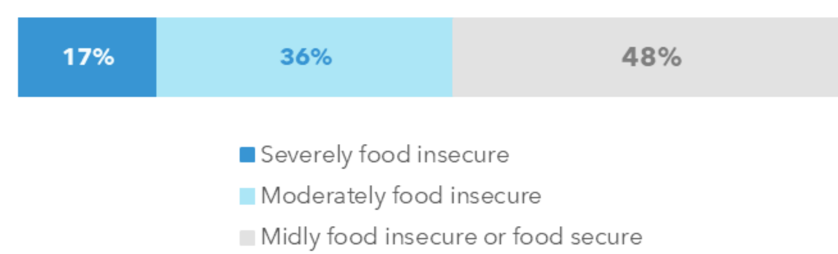


The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) was used to provide a picture of food insecurity experienced by respondents during the 30 days preceding the survey. The FIES, which is an indicator used for the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero hunger (SDG 2), is a metric of severity of food insecurity at the household or individual level. It relies on people's self-reported food-related behaviours and experiences associated with increasing difficulties in accessing food due to resource constraints (see page 31 for an explanation of the methodology).

In Dominica, negative experiences related to the eight individual FIES categories were similar but slightly worse than regional trends. When asked about the 30 days leading up to the survey, 50% of respondents from Dominica experienced a time when they ate less than they thought they should, 53% of respondents experienced a time when they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food, and 59% reported a time when they only ate a few kinds of foods. In Dominica, one in two persons also expressed being worries about not having enough food to eat.

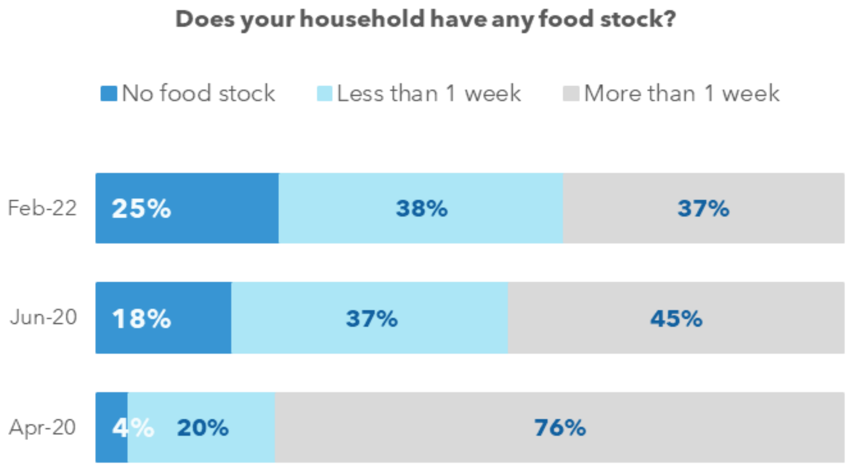
Based on the FIES methodology, it is estimated that 36% of respondents in Dominica are moderately food insecure and an additional 17% are severely food insecure. When compared to the regional findings, the combined prevalence of severe and moderate food insecurity in Dominica is significantly higher.

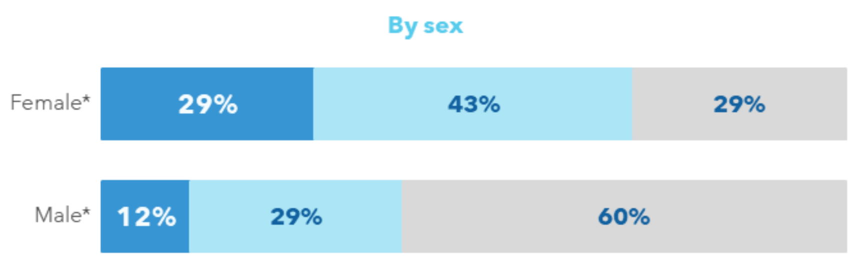
Prevalence rates of food insecurity
Based on FIES methodology



FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

▶ An increased proportion of households reported having no food stocks at all.





* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

While 75% of households in Dominica have some type of food supplies at home, a worrisome 25% of respondents reported to not have any food stocks at all at the time of the survey in February 2022. These results represent a deterioration compared to June 2020. While some of these changes are likely driven by people not needing to "stock up" in relation to lockdowns, people's financial means are also an influencing factor. These trends appear to be aligned in Dominica when compared to the Caribbean region.

Among female respondents, 29% indicated to have no food stocks at all and 43% of them indicated to have less than a week of food stocks available. A significantly lower percentage of male respondents (12%) indicated to not have any food stocks at all, with 60% of respondents from the same group indicating to have more than one week worth of food stocks, compared to only 29% of female respondents, however this finding should be treated with caution due to the low number of respondents

"I'm a farmer, I do Agro Processing, since covid my sales are 0%." - Female, 55

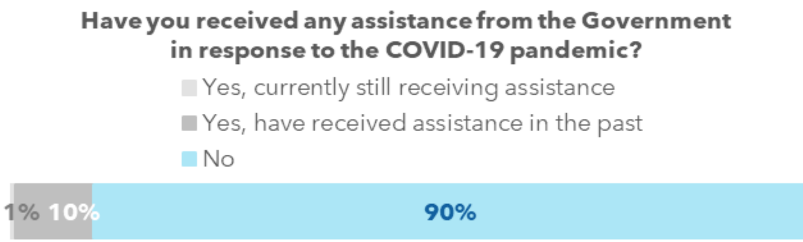
"Work became scares no making enough to feed my family" - Male, 42

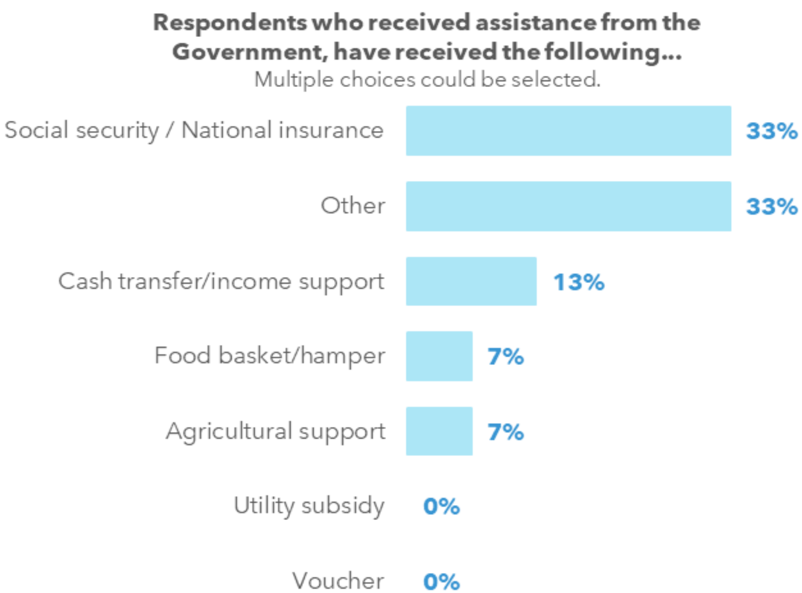
"With eating and my health... and I changed diet and ate less" - Male, 37

"Fighting to feed my kids is so had" - Female, 32

WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

▶ One tenth of respondents reported to have received assistance.



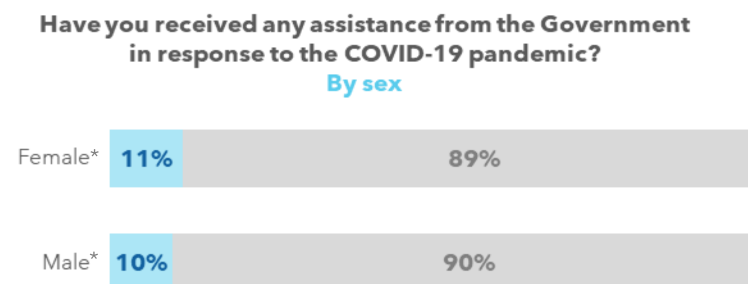


One tenths of respondents reported to have received government assistance. This portion is below the regional average where 22% of respondents reported to have received some sort of support related to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, only 1% out of11% respondents from Dominica are still currently receiving assistance at the time of the survey.

Respondents most commonly reported receiving assistance in the form of social security/national insurance (33%), followed by cash assistance (14%). One third of respondents reported receiving other forms of assistance but were not given the space to elaborate.

The Government of Dominica provided additional cash assistance to existing beneficiaries on the public assistance as well as additional vulnerable beneficiaries identified to be impacted by job and income loss as a result of COVID-19. Assistance grants were also made available for employees and small businesses. These programmes were supported by international organisations such as the World Food Programme and the World Bank.

There were no marked differences between sexes.



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

WIDER IMPACTS | Main worries

▶ Fear of illness remains the leading concern among respondents.

Fear of illness is still the leading cause for concern among respondents. This is followed by unemployment and the inability to cover essential needs. The results in Dominica are largely consistent with those in the Caribbean region.

While data should be used cautiously due to low responses from both categories, both sexes cited fear of illness as their main worry. A higher percentage of male respondents (64%) cited this when compared to female respondents (47%). Female respondents more frequently cited inability to cover food needs and essential needs, while male respondents were more concerned about social isolation and violence in the community.

"For us the biggest challenge is managing work and child care. With a 14 and a 2 year old, and with daycare closed, my wife and I have to alternate work schedules to take care of the 2 year old at home. This has been a challenge from August 2021 to now." - Male, 39

"Not mentioned are problems of concern to elderly: High infection rates make it dangerous for us to use public transport to the city to complete required govt. paperwork (like renewing a driver license or a visa), dangerous to shop (potentially infected indoor spaces). We elderly also have a much harder time finding healthy day labourers. elderly care and suffer from increased social isolation. These are exasperated by disinformation campaigns/vaccine hesitancy and refusal by many to follow public health protocols. I need some help with preparing my garden that is no longer easy to find," - Male, 74

"Not been able to travel for major family events and lost of income" - Female, 35

Main worries expressed by respondents
Multiple choices could be selected.

	Feb-22	Jun-20
Fear of illness	52%	47%
Unemployment	43%	53%
Inability to cover essential needs	37%	37%
Inability to cover food needs	25%	35%
Social isolation	21%	14%
Having to resort to savings	20%	23%
Disruptions to education	14%	15%
Movement restrictions	13%	6%
Child(ren)/dependents care	11%	15%
Violence in the community	6%	4%
Other worries	3%	0%
Unable to access services	3%	2%
Violence in the household	1%	1%

By sex

	Female*	Male*
Fear of illness	47%	64%
Unemployment	43%	41%
Inability to cover food needs	30%	11%
Inability to cover essential needs	42%	25%
Disruptions to education	15%	11%
Child(ren)/dependents care	11%	11%
Having to resort to savings	24%	11%
Social isolation	17%	30%
Movement restrictions	11%	18%
Violence in the community	4%	11%
Other worries	3%	2%
Violence in the household	0%	2%
Unable to access services	2%	5%

* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

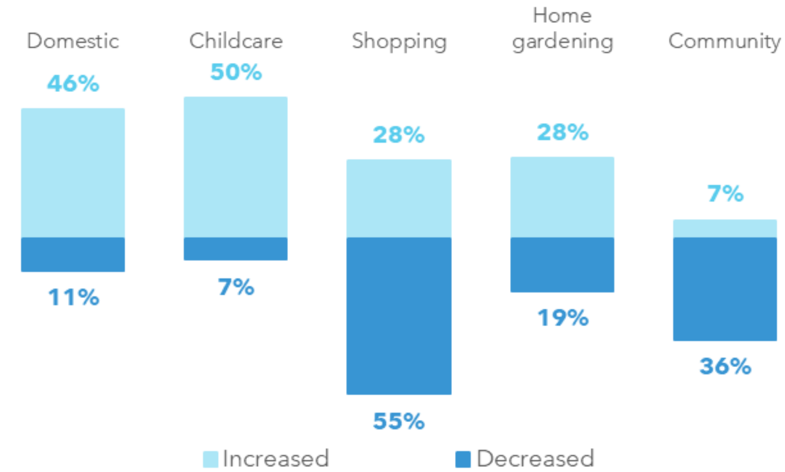
WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

▶ Respondents continue to spend more time on domestic work and childcare, while reducing shopping activities.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, respondents continue to increase time devoted to domestic work and childcare, while decreasing shopping activities. Nearly half of respondents reported spending more time on domestic work (46%) and childcare (50%), and over half (55%) continue to curb their shopping activities. These patterns are largely consistent when compared with the overall results from the region.

While data should be used cautiously due to low responses from both categories, female and male respondents reported an increase in time spent on domestic work and childcare. In the Caribbean, domestic and childcare work is often disproportionately carried out by women.

Has the time that you spend on the unpaid activities changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?



By sex

Female*	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	47%	51%	25%	31%	7%
No change	40%	20%	13%	25%	25%
Decreased	9%	7%	62%	18%	40%
Not applicable	3%	21%		27%	28%

Male*	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	43%	47%	34%	25%	5%
No change	40%	14%	29%	36%	39%
Decreased	15%	6%	37%	19%	26%
Not applicable	3%	33%		19%	29%

* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

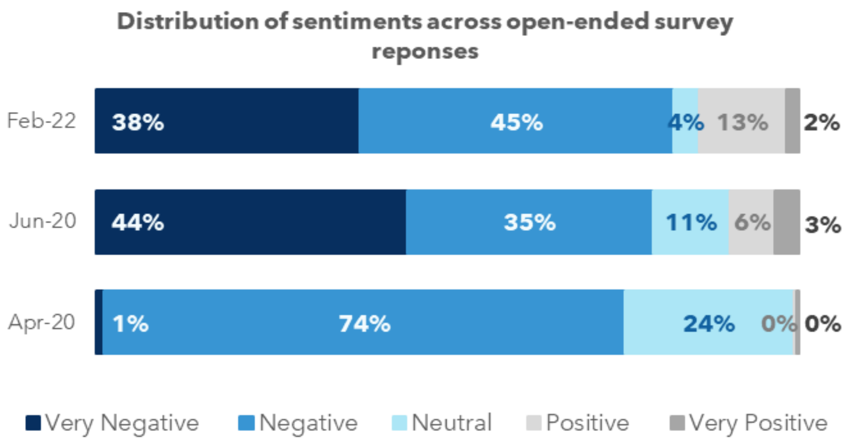
By survey round

Feb-22	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	46%	50%	28%	28%	7%
No change	40%	18%	17%	28%	30%
Decreased	11%	7%	55%	19%	36%
Not applicable	3%	25%	0%	24%	28%

Jun-20	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	61%	58%	42%	47%	10%
No change	29%	23%	15%	31%	45%
Decreased	9%	5%	43%	9%	25%
Not applicable	2%	15%	1%	12%	20%

WIDER IMPACTS | Coping and adapting

▶ The pandemic continues to take a negative toll as respondents lament about increasing prices as they continue to struggle to make ends meet.



Respondents were given the space to provide more nuanced insights on how they are coping with and adapting to the evolving impacts two years on since the declaration of the pandemic. Out of the 145 respondents, 56 responded to the open-ended question.

Sentiment analysis classifies the overall feeling expressed within each response and how negative or positive it is. In February 2022, the largest share of respondents expressed negative (45%) and very negative (38%) sentiments.

Many respondents expressed concerns about rising prices at the market. Single headed families in particular are feeling the strain and appear to be struggling to making ends meet. Many reported to falling ill and being out of work, resulting in loss of work and income. Respondents with existing health conditions are having challenges in receiving treatment.

Some sample responses:

Very negative (38%)

"I feel depressed every day and it very had to find jobs" - Female, 35

"I had to used up my savings and stress to put it back" - Male, 43

Negative (45%)

"I don't go out and socialize as I used to, am the only one working in my household." - Female, 28

"I've had to adapt to life inside 24/7 with all these restrictions." - Female, 26

Neutral (4%)

"Movement, travel, socialising" - Female, 50

Positive (13%)

"The biggest changes I made to adapt is by cutting down on a lot of things" - Female, 47

"improved cooking skills. Paid more attention to partner and became increasingly concerned that Covid is affecting our mental health" - Male, 75

Very positive (2%)

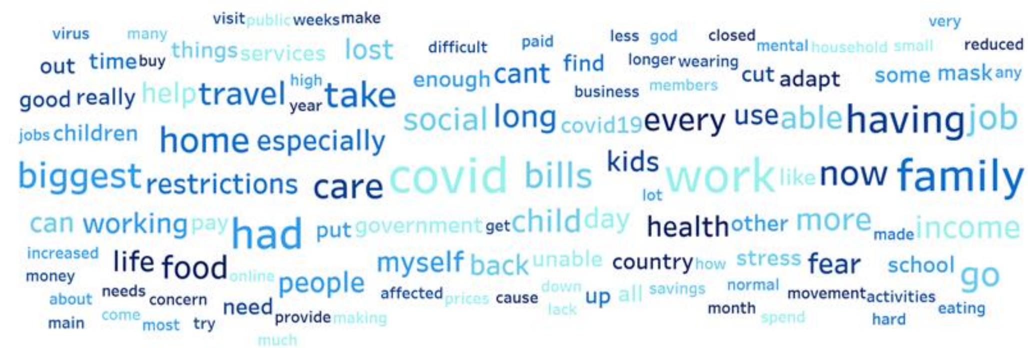
"Social and family-oriented activities outside of the home. Being creative in eliminating boredom & monotony" - Female, 40

The analysis of the responses was performed in collaboration with Google's AI unit.

WIDER IMPACTS | Coping and adapting

Common themes on how respondents are adapting and coping

FEBRUARY 2022



JUNE 2020

APRIL 2020

CONCLUSION

Since the first survey was launched in April 2020, much has changed in the Commonwealth of Dominica. Vaccines have become available, travel has been re-introduced and the government has implemented various programmes to cushion the economic blow and encourage recovery. Yet, this survey shows that COVID-19 continues to have profound impacts on how people in the country meet their most pressing needs and try to earn a living. Nearly two years from the onset of the pandemic, the economic reverberations continue to take a toll on livelihoods, incomes, food security and people's mental wellbeing. Despite certain signs of recovery, the underlying picture remains deeply troubling.

Many people continue to face disruptions to their livelihoods, and the impact on incomes remains widespread. The resources that people have are not going as far with now increasing food prices. More and more people are therefore buying cheaper or less preferred foods, purchasing in smaller quantities, drawing on savings and reducing other critical expenditures on health, education and livelihoods to make ends meet. On top of these unsustainable measures, they report skipping meals, going to bed hungry and being worried about feeding their families.

Impacts to jobs and unemployment remain a critical concern. With many restrictions ended or being significantly reduced, there is some cause for optimism on economic recovery. However, the picture in February 2022 was one of struggles related to employment, food security, and concerns about the future. The decrease of incomes, lost jobs and increased costs of living or the struggle of pursuing livelihoods have recalibrated the baseline of well-being, in negative terms for most people. Food insecurity seems to be more widespread compared to the region as a whole.

Based on results for the Caribbean region, these impacts are expected to hit hardest those who can least afford it – particularly families with the lowest incomes, and those who rely on less formal source of income or assistance for their living.

It will therefore take substantial effort and directed investment to make sure that those already in difficulty are not left even further behind as the country seeks to turn the corner on the pandemic.

The survey also highlights that unpaid time spent on childcare and domestic work are still greater than before the pandemic, and possibly disproportionately shouldered by women when looking at regional results. Continued and deepened analysis on gender dynamics remains a priority to ensure that recovery processes are gender-responsive and continuously support women's empowerment.

The Government of Dominica implemented a range of policy measures and programmes to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic on households and businesses. Social protection has played a critical role through temporary income support programmes, the Social Cash Transfers Programme and other measures. Given the ongoing impact on people's incomes and lives, it is critical to continue investing in safety nets and resilience, especially for those living in poverty and facing various facets of vulnerability.

Similar to other Caribbean economies, Dominica is highly exposed to global and regional shocks. The combination of COVID-19 impacts on household economy, supply chain disruptions and rising inflation, as well as the anticipation of another active hurricane season and the global economic reverberations of the Ukraine crisis present the country with a serious multi-pronged challenge for food security. The strengthening of national emergency preparedness, social protection, and food systems must be therefore a strategic recovery and development priority, in line with broader CARICOM objectives and recommendations. See next page for recommendations from the Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey Regional Summary Report, February 2022.

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations from the Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey Regional Summary Report, February 2022

1

Increase investments in **agri-food systems, regional food production, productivity and trade,** and develop targeted initiatives to resolve bottlenecks to **import reduction**

2

Accelerate initiatives on **digital transformation** and data to promote **food systems and food security**

3

Develop and expand creative initiatives to **increase demand for local foods**

4

Advocate for tailored financing terms, develop innovative **risk informed financing** options and accelerate efforts to **access climate finance**

5

Expand social protection and social services and invest in systems to respond to **future shocks**

METHODOLOGY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

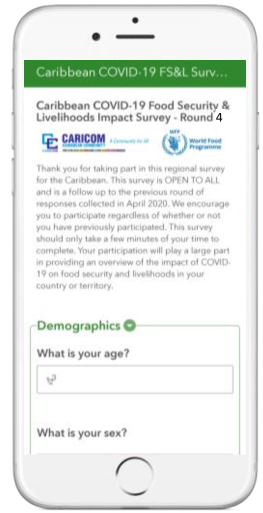
The fourth round of the CARICOM Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods impact survey was launched via a webform, which was accessible on mobile/smartphones and PC/desktops. The data collection period was inclusive of 25 January to 8 February 2022. The survey was circulated via email, social media, SMS, media and other communication channels. WFP performed the data collection and analysis. Responses were visualised and monitored live on an interactive dashboard. Data validation methods were designed into the survey form to mitigate against data entry errors and/or unintentional outliers.

The qualitative analysis performed builds on earlier 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 distribution of very negative to very positive 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 algorithm.

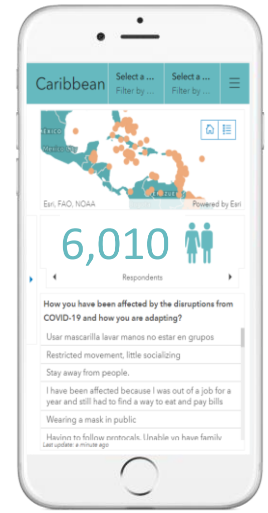
WFP expresses warm appreciation to Flow and Digicel for distributing the survey link by SMS in Barbados and Grenada. Special thanks to the International Telecommunication Union for their support in facilitating the SMS distribution. Thanks to UNHCR in Trinidad and Tobago for circulating the survey link.

While the survey contributes to a better overview of impacts, the data is not representative, and the use of a web-based questionnaire limits inputs from those without connectivity. Responses were over-represented from two countries, with 26% of responses coming from Trinidad and Tobago and another 17% from Trinidad Barbados. While this report refers to the results of previous survey rounds, the varying demographics of respondents limit comparability across survey rounds.

This report was prepared by WFP Caribbean – Amy Chong, Irina Bird Reddiar, Camilla Spallino, Trisandhi Gosine, Elisaveta Gouretskaia, Darko Petrovic, Sarah Bailey and Regis Chapman.



Survey form



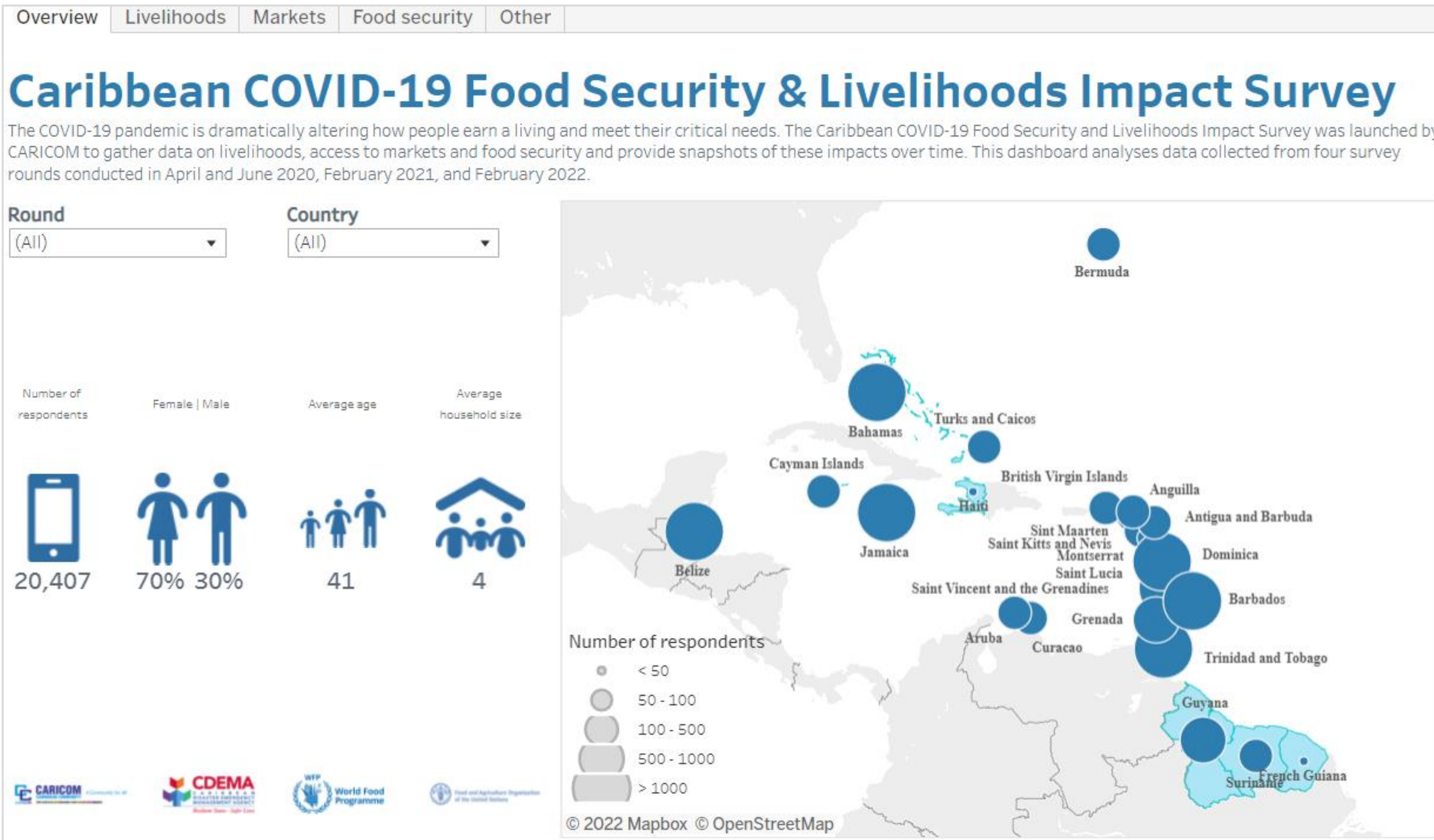
Dashboard for Smartphones

Dashboard for PCs/Laptops

METHODOLOGY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A new feature of the fourth survey round is the development of a Tableau dashboard which analyses data collected from four rounds of the Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey conducted in April 2020 (Round 1), June 2020 (Round 2), February 2021 (Round 3), and February 2022 (Round 4). The dashboard can be accessed through the link or the QR code to the right.

SCAN the QR code to see the Food Security & Livelihood Impact Survey dashboard online. It may take a second to load. Alternatively, follow this link: https://analytics.wfp.org/t/Public/views/CaribbeanCOVID-19FoodSecurityLivelihoodsImpactSurveyRound1-4/Overview

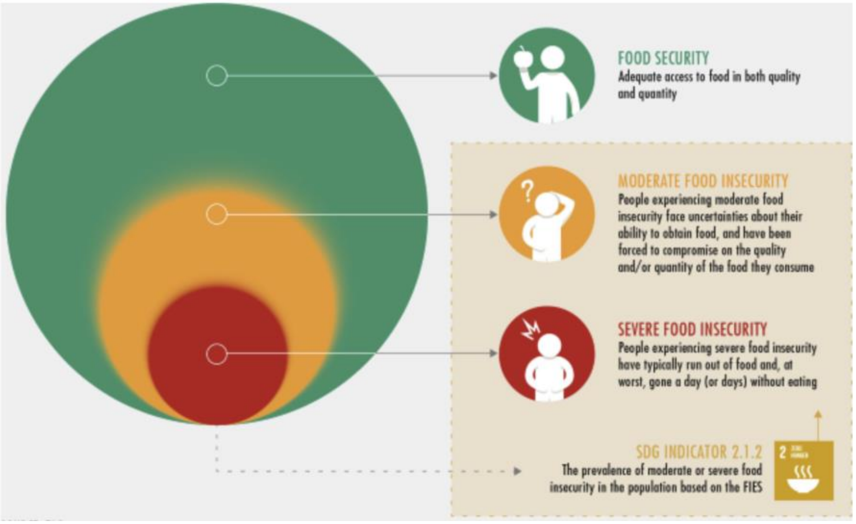


CALCULATION OF FOOD INSECURITY ESTIMATES

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) was used for calculating food insecurity estimates presented in this report. The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) is an experience-based metric of food insecurity severity at the household or individual level, which is used for global food security monitoring and aligned with food security targets outlined in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. It relies on people's direct responses to eight questions during a 12 months or 30 days recall period: while the 12 months recall period is typically used for SDG monitoring, reference to the past 30 days is in order to assess recent food insecurity and its risk factors or consequences.

The eight questions focus on self-reported food-related behaviours and experiences during 30 days prior to the survey. They reflect increasing difficulties in accessing food due to resource constraints. A concept essential to the FIES is that the eight items and respondents are positioned on the same underlying scale of severity of food insecurity. Therefore, the probability of a respondent answering "yes" to a FIES item depends on the distance along the scale between the food severity experienced by the respondent and the severity of the item. A respondent's raw score (an integer number ranging from zero to eight) is the sum of affirmative responses given to the eight FIES questions. It is the basis for estimating the respondent parameter, which provides an interval measure of the severity of food insecurity and makes it possible to produce comparable measures of food insecurity. For this report, prevalence rates of moderate and severe food insecurity were calculated based on survey data using FAO's methodology and FIES online App.

For more information on the FIES, see FAO's 'The Food Insecurity Experience Scale: Measuring food insecurity through people's experiences' and FAO's "Implementing the FIES in surveys"



Interpreting FIES indicators (Source: FAO).

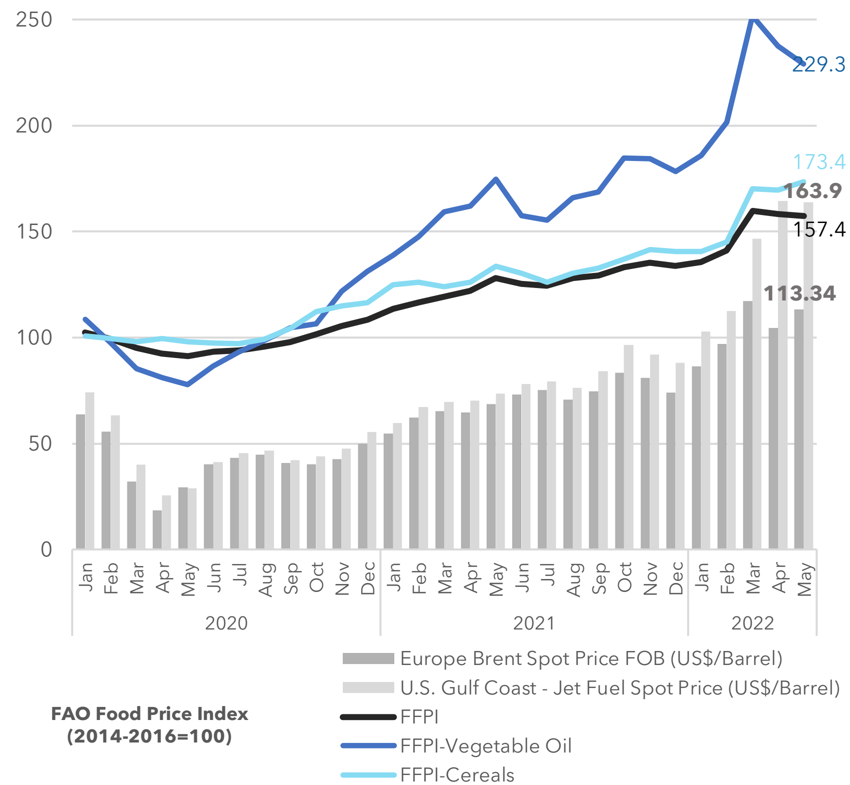
Annex | Regional implications of Ukraine crisis

Promoting recovery and food security will be paramount against the backdrop of the Ukraine crisis. While the full range of implications remains uncertain, repercussions are expected to be felt widely, including in the Caribbean. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) predicts for the year 2022 at least a 1 percent reduction in global economic growth and up to 2.5 percent higher inflation on aggregate across the world, on top of current inflationary trends. Most acutely affected will be global prices of energy and commodities, such as grains and metals, due to additional disruptions in supply chains and volatilities in financial markets. The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) has already reached an all time high in March 2022 with 159.7 points and remains elevated.

The Russian Federation is a major producer of natural gas, oil, and solid fuels and together with Ukraine is a primary exporter of key agricultural commodities, such as wheat and maize, rapeseed, sunflower seeds and sunflower oil. Both countries are also major producers of fertilizers and export disruptions may further impact agricultural production and food security, particularly in import-dependent countries. Reverberations of the conflict on global supply chains and food systems are also expected to be felt in this region. Heavy import dependency among most Caribbean economies on fuel, food products and agricultural inputs means that global changes in oil, jet fuel, shipping and commodity prices will further drive inflationary trends. This will particularly affect small island states, people living in poverty and vulnerable households, who are still reeling from the effects of COVID-19.

For most Caribbean countries, the primary source markets for the importation of food, fuel and chemicals are the United States of America, countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union. While overall direct trade with Russia and Ukraine is negligible, increasing international prices for staple foods and fertilizer is expected to have cascading effects in this region too.

Adjustments to government budgets are also expected under new fiscal realities and will also depend on future oil price movements, which means that financing for public services such as education, health, or social protection may be at risk from cuts. However, it is critical to protect and increase these over time to promote inclusive economic recovery and prevent the rise in inequalities. Growing humanitarian needs in Ukraine and international financial support also means that resources from donors and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) will be increasingly stretched and under pressure.



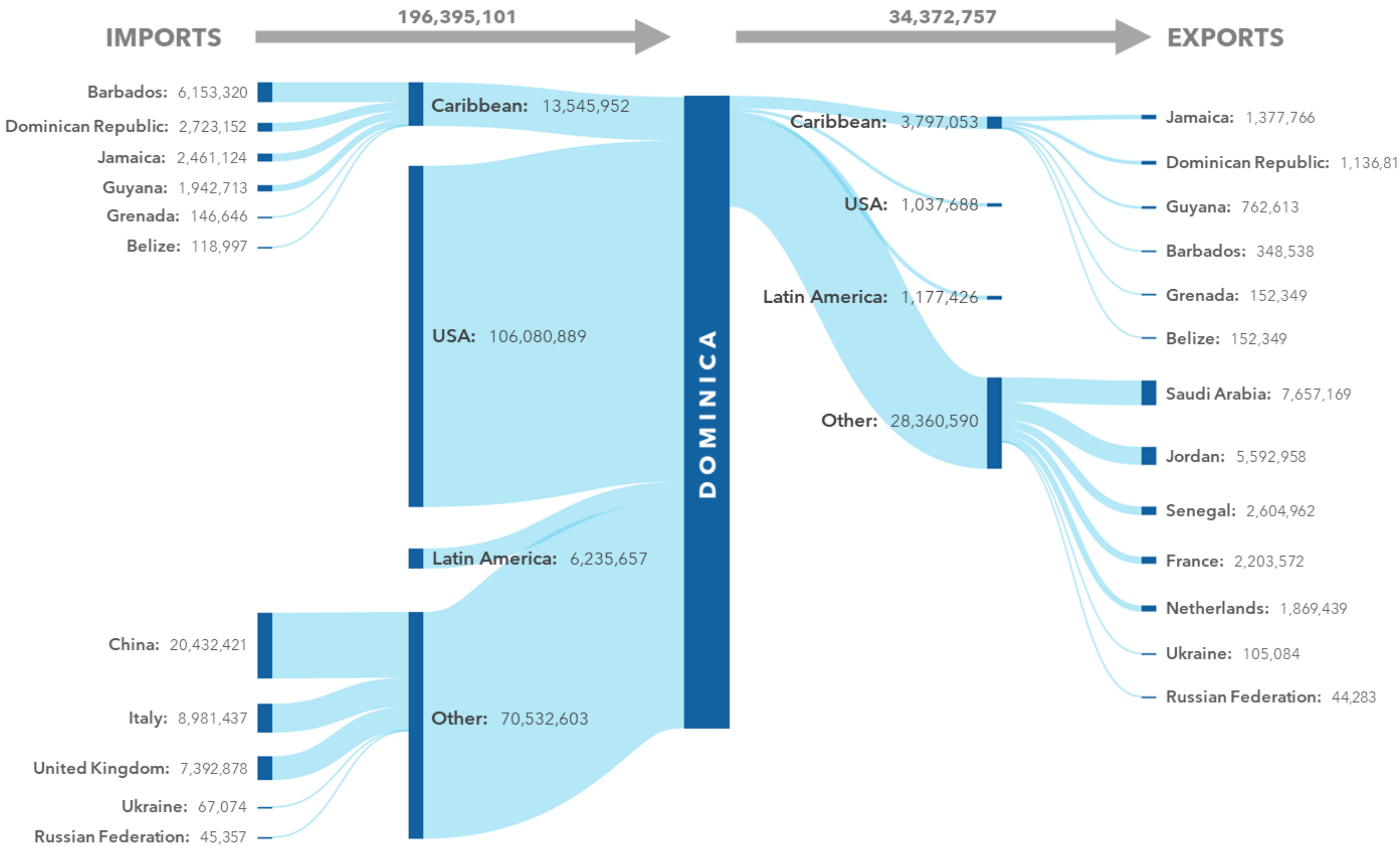
FAO Food Price Index (2014-2016=100)

Source: FAO, US Energy Information Administration

Annex | Dominica trade flows

Import and export of all commodities in Dominica in 2020, based on US$ value

Source: Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC)



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