

Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

Saint Lucia 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 2020, June 2020, and February 2021. Implemented by the World Food Programme, the short online survey was circulated in Saint Lucia via social media, media outlets, SMS and emails.

February 2022



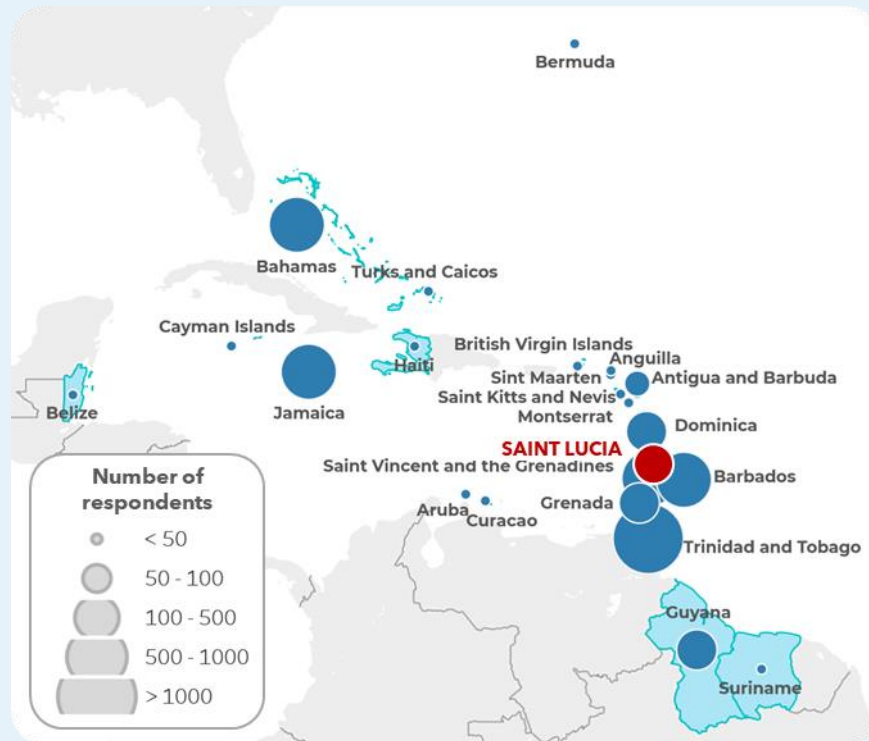
February 2021



June 2020



April 2020



SAINT LUCIA Summary | June 2022

- Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, people in Saint Lucia 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. Half of respondents still faced a disruption to their livelihoods in the two weeks prior to the survey. However, the reasons for disruptions are gradually shifting. The predominant reason is increasingly the price of livelihood inputs and less so movement restrictions or concerns about the illness.
- Over two-thirds of respondents predict at least moderate impacts to their livelihoods in the future. Households with lowest incomes have the most pessimistic outlooks.
- Negative impact on incomes remains widespread, with 59% of respondents reporting that their household has experienced job loss or reduced revenues since the start of the pandemic, which is a lower share compared to previous rounds but similarly widespread as compared to the region (57%).
- Respondents mainly worry about illness (46%), followed by unemployment (38%) and meeting their essential needs (31%), with lowest income respondents more likely to worry about food needs than the average.
- Food prices are increasing, with 94% of respondents reporting higher than usual food prices, a significant increase from 46% of respondents in April 2020.
- More than a quarter 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 towards buying cheaper and less preferred foods and purchasing smaller quantities than usual.
- According to the prevalence rates of food insecurity calculated from survey responses in Saint Lucia, nearly half of respondents (43%) are estimated to be moderately or severely food insecure, with the lowest income household being the most food insecure.
- Lowest income households were most likely to resort to negative coping strategies, and 40% of the lowest income respondents reported to have no food stocks at the time of the survey. Respondents are resorting to more severe actions, with 70% drawing on savings to meet immediate food and other needs.
- Differences in impacts are most pronounced across income groups. Those describing their incomes as below and well below average show the poorest results on all key metrics of well-being.
- The government has turned to various measures to support people, including through social protection. Over one out of ten respondents (12%) have received some form of government support. However, almost none were receiving assistance at the time of the survey. Social security/national insurance were the most common type of support received.
- Food insecurity seems less widespread in Saint Lucia compared to the region, but risks are 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.
- Women are disproportionately impacted by an increase in time spent on domestic work and childcare due to the pandemic.
- 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 connectivity.

SAINT LUCIA Summary | June 2022

All respondents

		Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20	Apr-20
LIVELIHOODS	Disrupted livelihoods	50%	63%	61%	80%
	Reduction/loss of income	59%	72%	79%	53%
	Moderate to severe or severe future livelihoods impacts	45%	52%	61%	55%
MARKETS	Lack of market access	27%	21%	28%	76%
	Change in shopping behaviour	86%	90%	93%	88%
	Increase in food prices	94%	88%	92%	46%
FOOD SECURITY	Reduced food consumption	27%	33%	39%	23%
	Lack of food stock	25%	17%	18%	2%

Respondents with perceived below and well below average income

Information on income level was not collected in April 2020.

		Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20
LIVELIHOODS	Disrupted livelihoods	59%	70%	72%
	Reduction/loss of income	75%	89%	90%
	Moderate to severe or severe future livelihoods impacts	66%	80%	74%
MARKETS	Lack of market access	39%	39%	38%
	Change in shopping behaviour	94%	97%	96%
	Increase in food prices	98%	89%	94%
FOOD SECURITY	Reduced food consumption	42%	57%	59%
	Lack of food stock	40%	35%	29%

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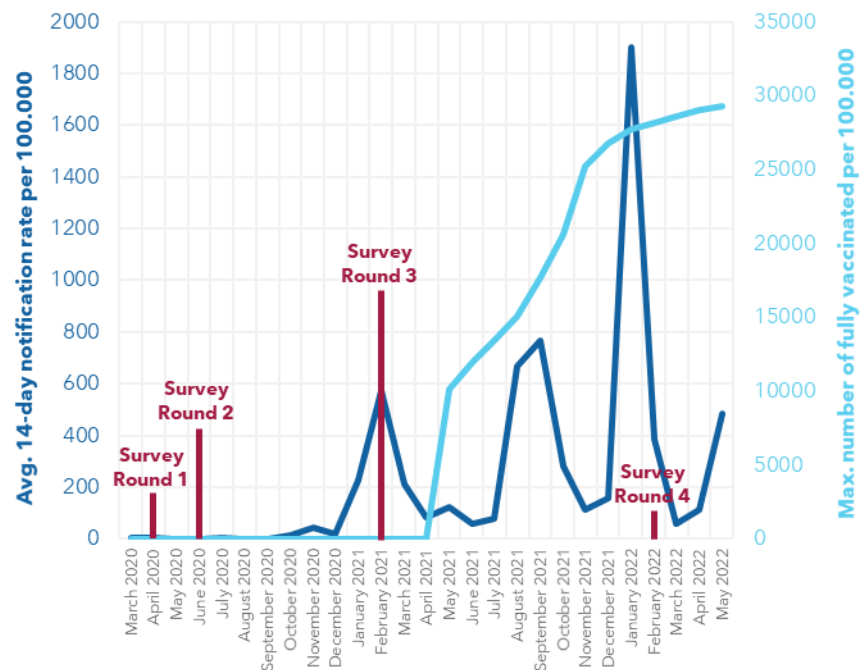
COVID-19 | Situation and response

COVID-19 cases and government responses

Since the country's first confirmed COVID-19 case in March 2020, Saint Lucia has experienced several major waves of infections, with the number of new cases reaching an unprecedented peak in January 2022. At the time of this survey in February 2022, the number of new cases was declining rapidly, leading to a relaxation of COVID-19 related restrictions, including entry requirements for international travellers. The country's border had been closed to international travel for over a year from March 2020 to June 2021.

New COVID-19 cases and vaccination in Saint Lucia*

*Average rate of COVID-19 cases and maximum number of fully vaccinated people per month in Saint Lucia. 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

Saint Lucia launched its COVID-19 vaccination programme in February 2021. As of June 2022, only 30% of the country's population were fully vaccinated, far below the worldwide vaccination coverage rate of 60%.

Broader developments and government responses

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions have caused significant socioeconomic impacts in the Caribbean. As one of the most tourism-dependent countries in the world, Saint Lucia was severely affected by the pandemic, which led to an initial collapse in tourist arrivals and subsequent restart as measures eased.

In April 2020, the Government of Saint Lucia launched the Social Stabilization Plan to help address the economic and social impacts for people and businesses. Under this plan, the government implemented an Economic Relief Programme which provided income support to National Insurance Corporation (NIC) contributors who became unemployed as a result of the pandemic. The government also granted income support to self-employed persons who lost income or employment owing to the pandemic.

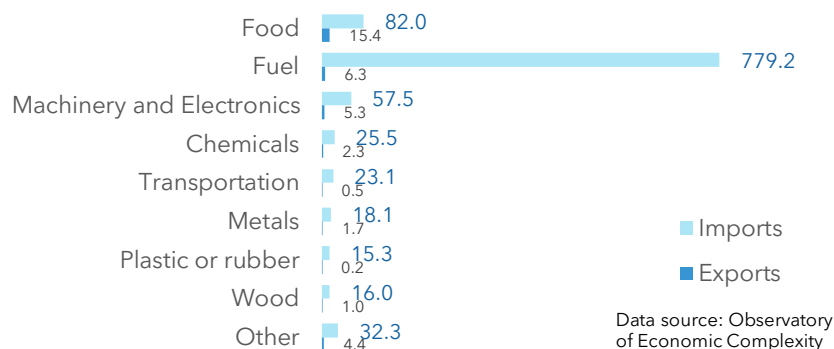
Government assistance to vulnerable families has been provided through various channels, including: an accelerated expansion of the Public Assistance Programme (PAP) with support from the World Food Programme (WFP) and donors (linked to a permanent expansion supported through a World Bank loan), doubling the value of vouchers provided to people living with HIV (supported by WFP), and increased support through the Child Disability Grant and Foster Care Grant (supported by UNICEF). The Government of Saint Lucia also worked with St. Lucia Electricity Services Limited (LUCELEC) to assist vulnerable qualifying households with electricity bill credits over a period of six months.

See [page 40](#) for survey results related to COVID-19 assistance.

Emerging issues | Implications of Ukraine crisis

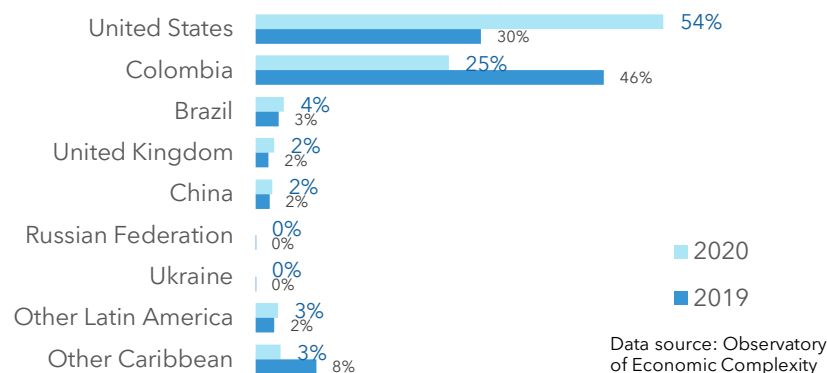
The crisis in Ukraine is having wide implications on international supply chains, inflationary pressure and economic growth (see **Annex**). Most affected will be countries which have high import dependency on the Russian Federation and Ukraine on key commodities, but spill over effects are expected also elsewhere. Saint Lucia, like most economies of the Caribbean, is a net importer of commodities. In 2020, overall imports were valued at US\$ 1.05 billion and were over 28 times the value of exports, which amounted to US\$ 37.1 million. Petroleum (both crude and refined) was the single most traded commodity group and made up 74% of overall imports and 17% of overall exports in US\$ value, while food products were the most important export (42%), mainly for the Caribbean market.

Share of commodity trade in St. Lucia in million US\$ (2020), by product group



The United States is Saint Lucia's main trading partner. It contributes to nearly 54% of total imports and the largest share of imports of fuels (58%), followed by Colombia (34%). While Caribbean economies represent only a small proportion of Saint Lucia's imports (3%) they are the most important market for exports (55%), particularly for fuel and beverages. Most of Saint Lucia's imports of cereals are from the United States (44%) and Guyana (41%); vegetable oils from Barbados (63%), fertilizers from the Dominican Republic (89%), meats from the United States (67%) and milled products from the EU (59%). None of these commodities were imported from Russia or Ukraine in 2020.

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



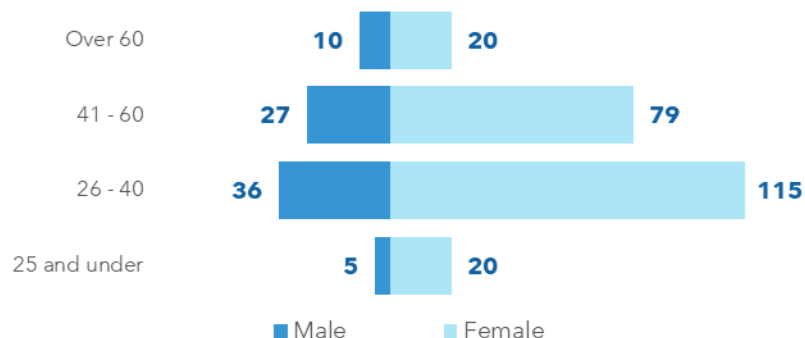
Saint Lucia's negative balance of trade makes it very vulnerable to price fluctuations and supply chain shocks in international markets, particularly related to food and fuel, which may translate to balance of payments and inflationary pressure domestically. It is expected that international commodity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

Like for many Caribbean economies, the increasing cost of living and reduced income from tourism became a major burden for Saint Lucia at the backdrop of the pandemic. Following a period of deflation in 2020, inflationary pressure picked up again in 2021, increasing to an annual point-to-point inflation of 4.2% in December. This was mainly driven by high inflation in the CPI categories of 'transport' (9.3%) and 'housing, utilities, gas and fuels' (15.2%). Inflation is expected to continue its upwards trajectory, reaching 6.4% in 2022 according to a recent IMF outlook. 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.

The Government of Saint Lucia's spending plan for the fiscal year of 2022/2023 amounts to 1.842 billion EC dollars, an increase of 15% compared to what was originally allocated for the previous fiscal year.

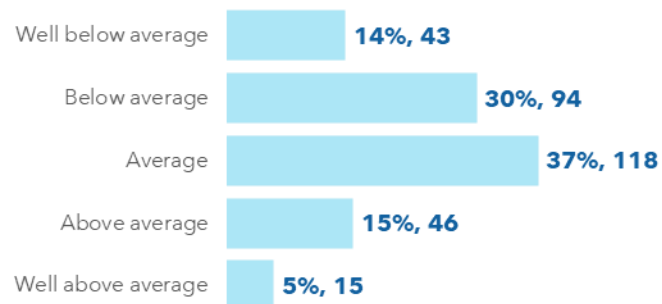
RESPONDENTS | Demographics

Age and sex

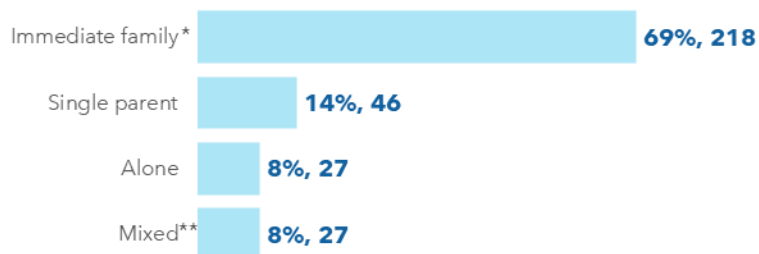


Perceived income levels

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



Household composition

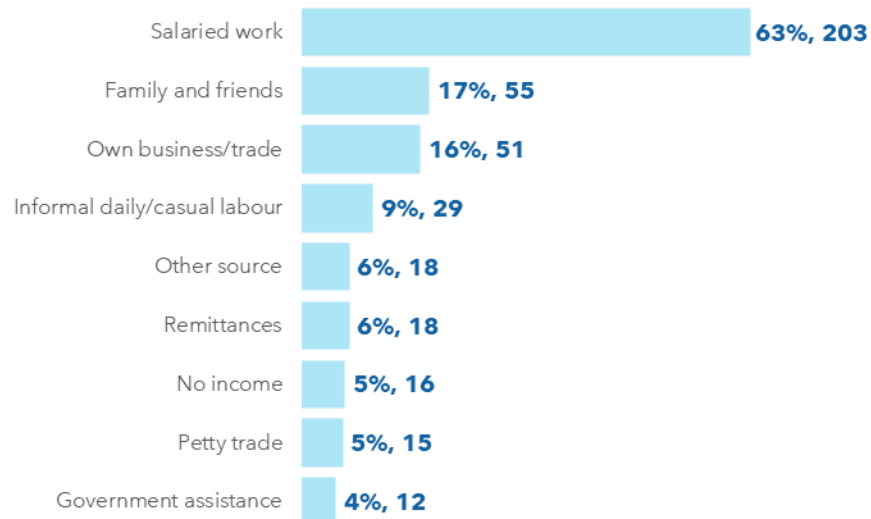


* Immediate family includes partner, children and grandparents.

** Mixed households are composed of immediate family members, other relatives as well as non-family members.

Main income sources

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



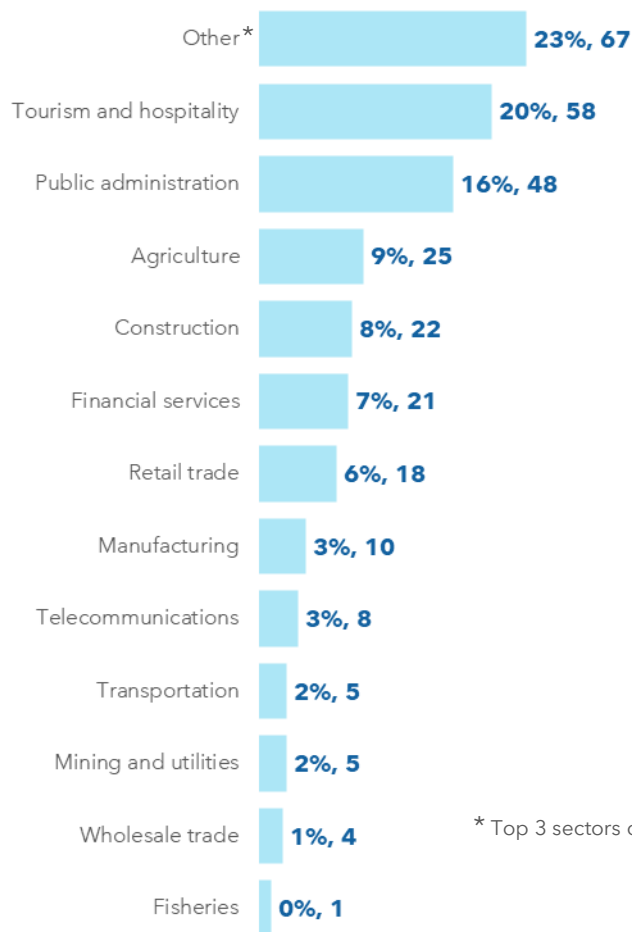
Urban/rural location



RESPONDENTS | Demographics

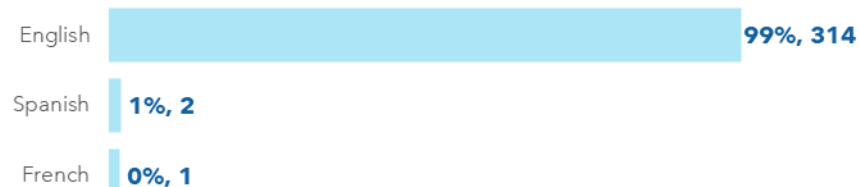
Main income sector

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



* Top 3 sectors chosen under "Other":
Health, medicine
Education, teaching
Pension, retirement

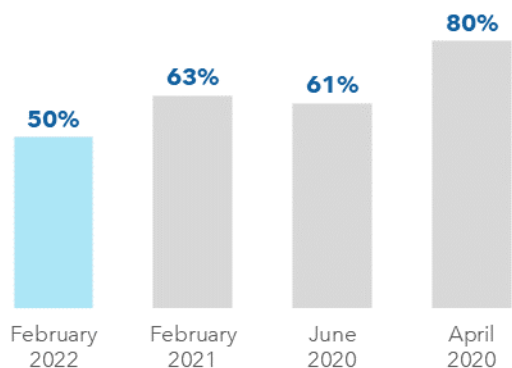
Language



LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

- ▶ Impacts to livelihoods remain widespread, affecting low income households the most.

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



The COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt livelihoods. For half of respondents (50%), 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, but still remains widespread, in line with the regional average (50%).

When considering the different characteristics of people responding to the survey (such as age, sex, location or perceived income level) the biggest differences are linked to people's level of income. Among respondents who described their income as below or well below average, 60% reported livelihood disruptions, compared to 36% of those with above or well above average income levels. Livelihood disruptions also seem more widespread (56%) among respondents from younger age groups (26-40 years).

"Finances are low every month." - Female, 45

"I Have Lost Income, Lost The Ability To Pay Rent And All My Depts Has Been Accumulated To The Point I Don't Know How To Pay Them" - Female, 35

"Well I've been affected many ways. Job lost no food cannot pay rent unable to sustain my kids properly." - Female, 25

"from since covid I haven't found a job. I buy only what I need.im now renting a smaller apartment. I did farming for 1 year. It's been the toughest in my life." - Female, 26

"Loss of jobs. And even being re employed...cut in hours and continuous disruptions in business as variants are discovered." - Female, 37

"After I'm done paying my bills I don't have money left to buy much groceries" - Female, 47

"No jobs and we still have to pay the bills" - Male, 50

"Covid has affected me by restricting me from acquiring enough financial resources due to lack of jobs, and the hours you have to do extra side jobs due to the strict curfews, I adapt over the years by going out there searching for jobs and spending little on unnecessary items and alcohol, but instead food items and keeping something small in the house for any emergencies" - Male, 49

"Biggest change is losing work and having to finds ways to make monies to cover essentials." - Female, 38

LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

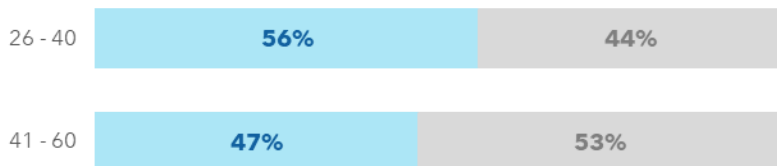
Respondents reporting that their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected in the 2 weeks prior to the survey

■ yes ■ no

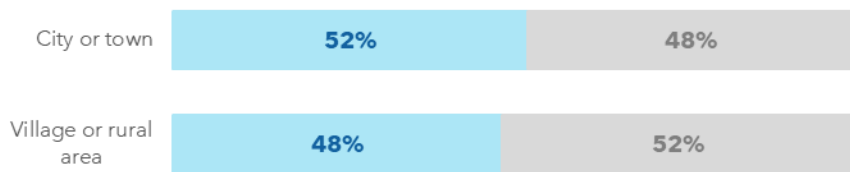
By sex



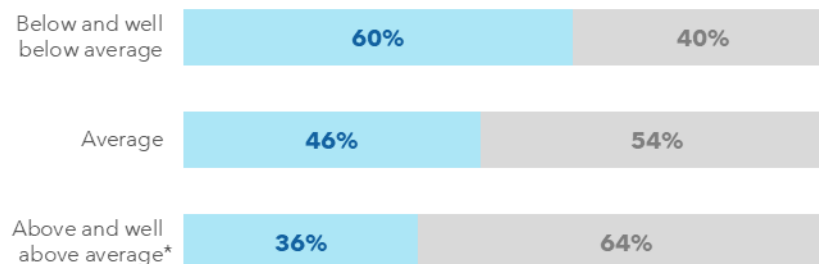
By age group



By urban/rural location



By perceived income level



* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

"Rise in unemployment" - Female, 43

"The movement restriction took a toll on me especially since I live to entertain. So I had to engage in online groups where I met new persons and to form friendships. Like having pen pals" - Female, 41

"I lost my husband and main breadwinner due to covid" - Female, 24

"Lost my job and having to take care of my kids so have to go around to see what I can do to help my kids and self" - Female, 43

LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

- Movement restrictions are the main factor behind livelihood disruptions, but unaffordability of livelihood inputs grows in importance.

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

	Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20	Apr-20
Movement restrictions	44%	47%	30%	83%
Concerned about leaving the house due to outbreak	37%	50%	27%	52%
Livelihoods inputs are too expensive	32%	16%	28%	6%
Adult members of the household are unwell	16%	8%	5%	0%
Reduced demand for goods/services	14%	23%	23%	26%
Transport limitations	14%	9%	19%	20%
Increased demand for goods/services	11%	6%	10%	9%
Livelihoods inputs are unavailable	9%	13%	18%	12%
Other	8%	11%	22%	6%
No market to sell products	4%	15%	14%	14%

The main driver behind livelihood disruptions in the two weeks prior to the February 2022 survey was movement restrictions, cited by 44% of those who faced disruptions, albeit much less so when compared to the early phase of the pandemic (83%).

Concerns about leaving the house due to the outbreak, remained a similarly important contributor to livelihood disruptions, cited by over one-third of respondents facing disruptions (37%). A steadily growing disruptor to livelihood activities is the unaffordability of livelihood inputs, cited by one third of respondents (32%). 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.

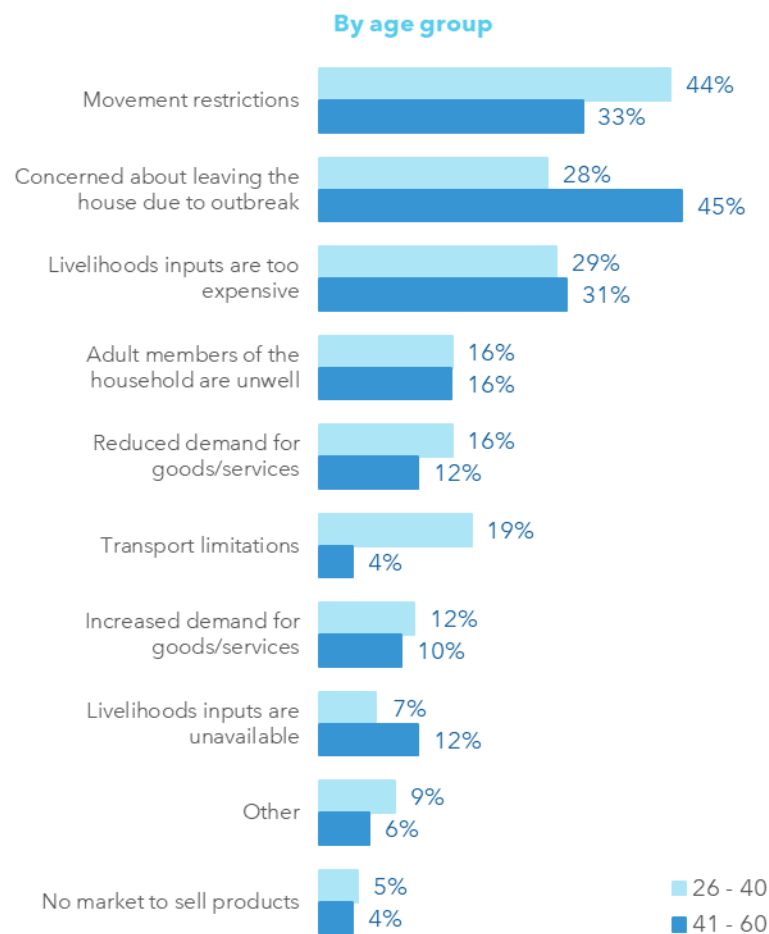
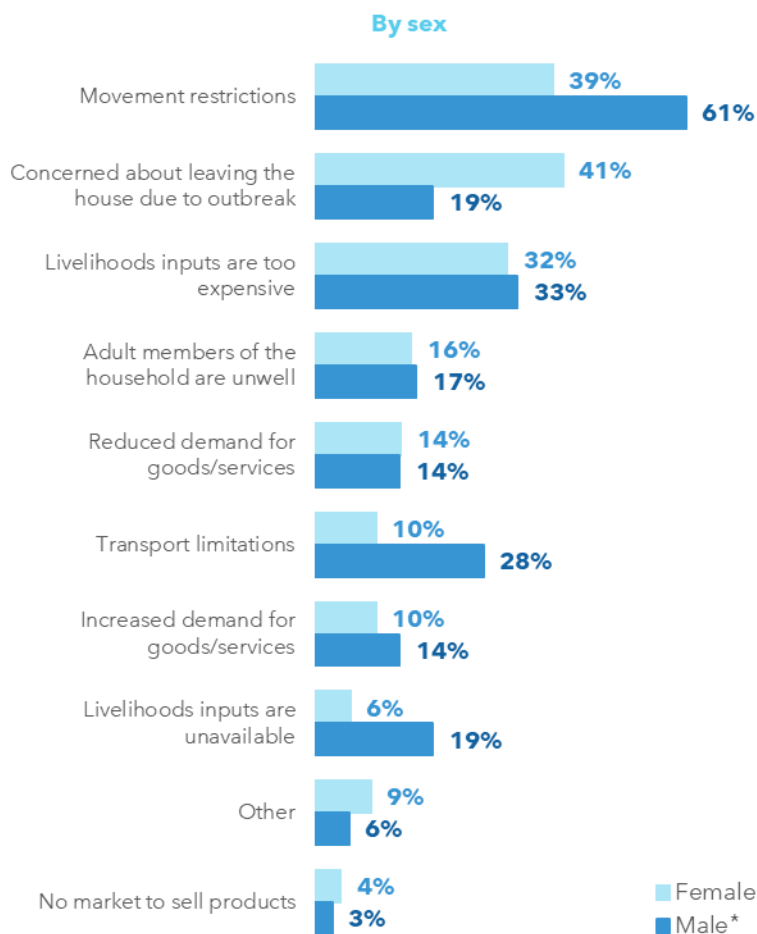
Reduced demand for goods/services and lack of market outlets to sell products are in decline in terms of their importance as disruptive factors. However, adult members of the household being unwell has notably increased as a reason for disruptions (from 0% in April 2020 to 16% of those facing disruptions in February 2022), which is in line with the spike of COVID-19 cases given the emergence of the Omicron variant.

Important differences are observable among households depending on their income status, as well as the age and sex of respondents. Households with a perceived income of above or well above average are more likely to cite movement restrictions or concerns about leaving the house due to the outbreak as a factor disrupting livelihoods, while for those with a below or well below average income the main disruptor is the unaffordability of livelihood inputs. For male and younger respondents (26-40 years), movement restrictions are the main concern while for female and older respondents (41-60 years) concerns about the leaving the house are mainly seen as disrupting livelihoods.

LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.



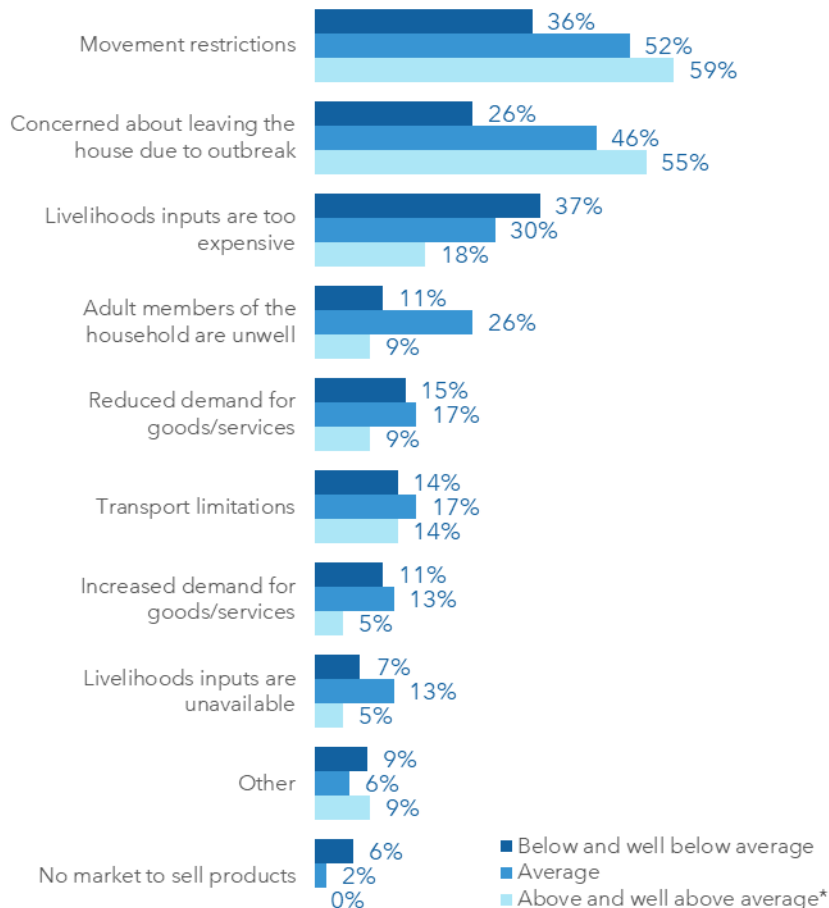
* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By perceived income level



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

"As a nurse directly dealing with the pandemic I had to adjust to longer working hours with scanty resources (staffing in particular)" - Female, 36

"Our former government did not look after our smaller businesses, I got no financial support so I was forced to close my shop" - Male, 45

"I have become more frugal in my expenses, focusing only on necessities such as food and health rather than luxury items. I have become a more conservative spender. I have explored options of alternative income in a more focused way." - Female, 46

"MY family owns a micro business. A small bar and we also make foods to eat on a morning.. with prices of groceries increasing it's hard to make a profit" - Female, 39

"Partner lost job so household income became less, also face to face schooling is preferred" - Male, 34

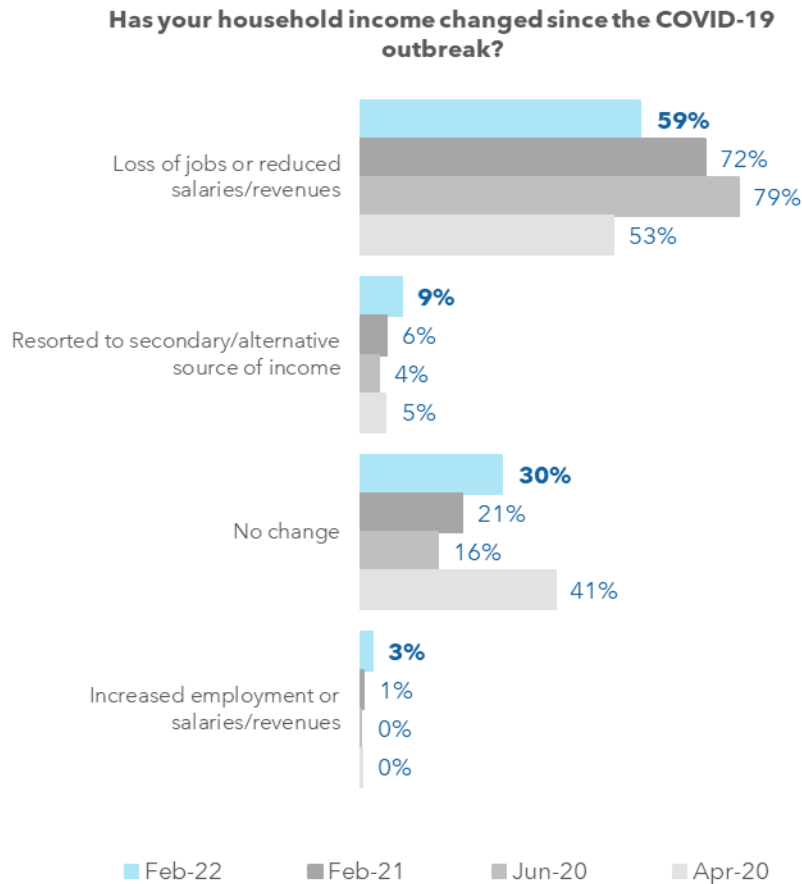
"My biggest challenge due to covid is with my business and it would be nice that government help all small/micro businesses that have been affected weather they newly opened or been in existence for 3 years or 5years." - Female, 48

"I have not been able to make payments to my necessary utilities or loans and other institutions that am owing . It's been really difficult. My house was damaged by the storm in 2018 and I have never received assistance." - Female, 33

"Was working on a crew ship and now a. Out of a job now I am presently helping my parents on the farm" - Male, 40

LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income

- ▶ The majority of respondents have faced job loss or income reductions in their households.



Impacts to income continue to be widespread, with 59% of respondents reporting that their household has experienced job loss or reduced incomes since the COVID-19 outbreak. While the proportion households with that experience gradually declined since June 2020, the overall situation suggests the continuation of economic hardship with many people facing decreased income, similar to trends in the region (57%).

The most marked differences in responses were found between households with different income levels. Job loss or reduced income was reported by the vast majority of respondents describing their household income as well below average (75%), compared to those with average (33%) income levels. Younger respondents in working age (26-40 years) were also more likely to experience job loss or income reduction (65%) compared to older respondents (56%).

"I'm a farmer but can't get good sales for my produce. People are saying there's no money to buy from farmers." - Female, 48

"Companies do not want to pay proper salaries because of lack of jobs." - Male, 31

"My business was completely shut down. I still have not recovered from the devastation of covid-19" - Female, 61

"Had to Turn to farming after losing my job in the tourism industry" - Male, 44

LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income

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

- Loss of jobs or reduced salaries/revenues
- Resorted to secondary/alternative source of income
- No change
- Increased employment or salaries/revenues

By sex



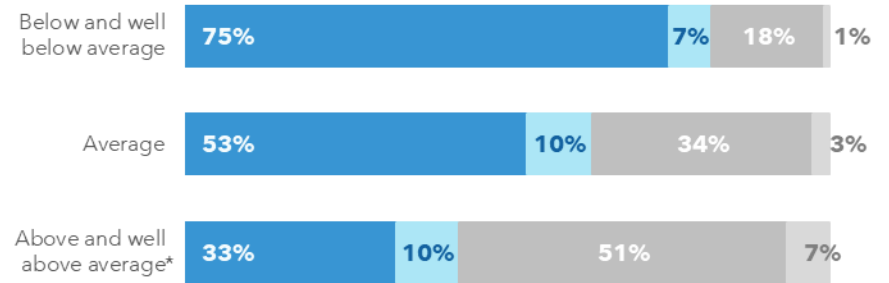
By age group



By urban/rural location



By perceived income level

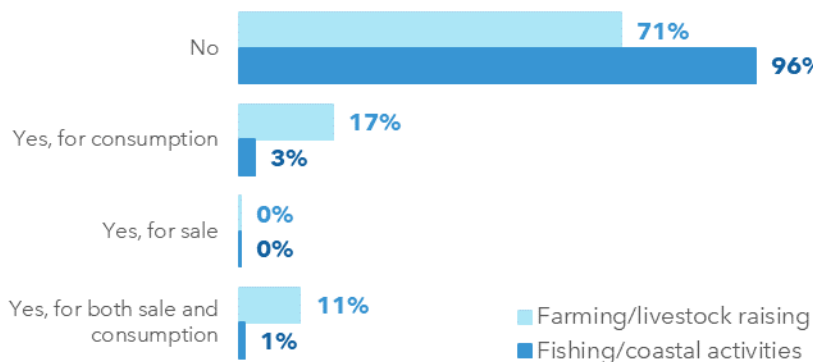


* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

LIVELIHOODS | Farming and fishing

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

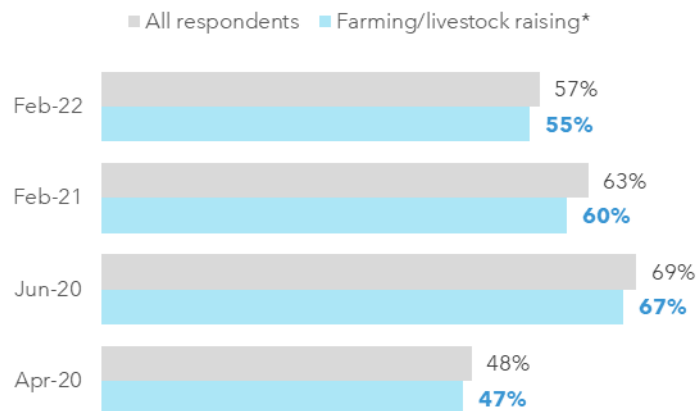
Is your households engaged in farming/fishing?



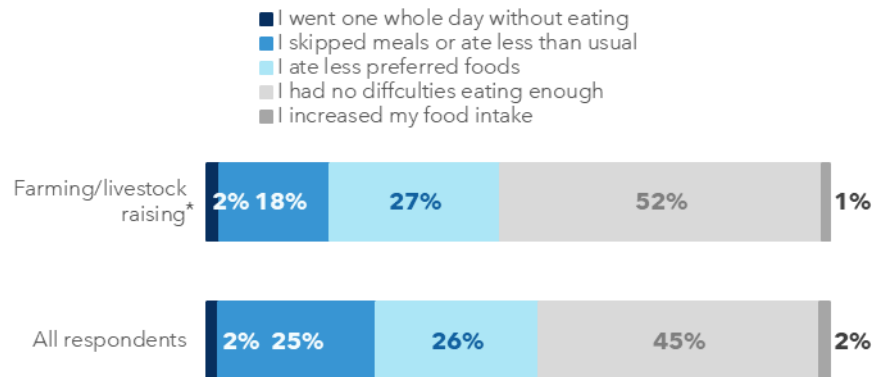
Three out of ten respondents reported being engaged in farming, gardening or livestock raising, and 4% in fisheries/coastal activities. In both cases these activities are primarily for household consumption, or complementing existing incomes, with vegetable production being the main farming activity and marine/coastal fishing the main fishing activity. Over half of respondents undertaking farming (59%) and almost all undertaking fishing (85%) derive their household income primarily from salaries, which underscores the complementary role these activities play for most interviewed households for income and consumption.

While only a small number of respondents were engaged in fishing/coastal activities, income reductions are more widespread among them. Households engaged in both farming and fishing seem to fare better in terms of food consumption compared to average households, but 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/fishing



Food situation among respondents engaged in farming/fishing



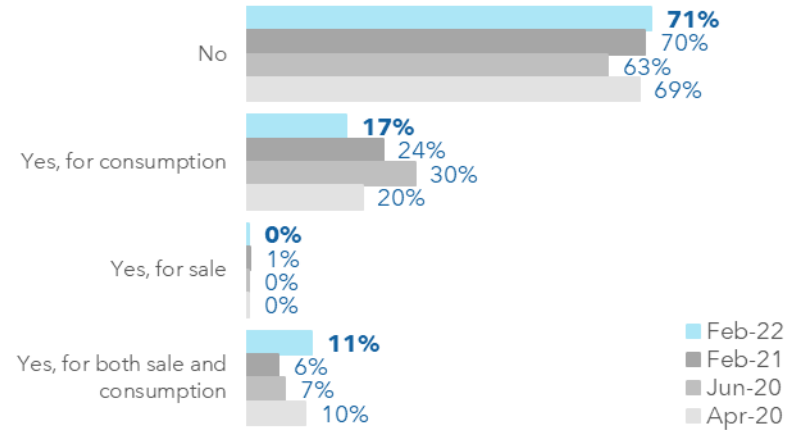
* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

LIVELIHOODS | Farming and fishing

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

Farming/livestock raising	Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20	Apr-20
Vegetables	76%	76%	83%	76%
Banana/plantains	72%	45%	60%	63%
Poultry	21%	20%	11%	7%
Small ruminants	21%	4%	15%	11%
Rice	13%	6%	6%	3%
Other	10%	18%	9%	21%
Corn	5%	6%	17%	5%
Pulses	4%	4%	6%	7%
Swine	4%	6%	7%	4%
Large ruminants	0%	0%	2%	0%

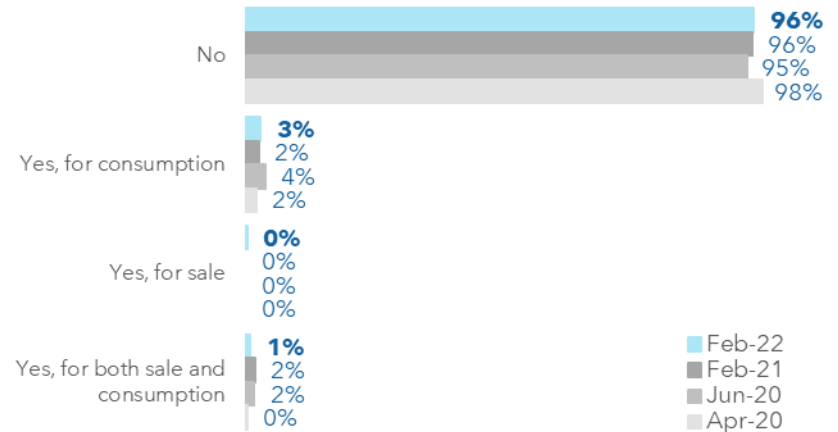
Is your households engaged in farming/livestock raising?



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

Fishing/coastal activities	Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20	Apr-20
Marine/coastal fisheries	38%	43%	50%	33%
Small scale aquaculture	31%	29%	31%	67%
Inland fisheries	31%	14%	31%	17%
Fishing gear production	8%	0%	0%	0%
Mangrove/beach activities	8%	0%	13%	0%
Other	0%	14%	6%	33%
Processing of fish/fisheries products	0%	0%	0%	0%

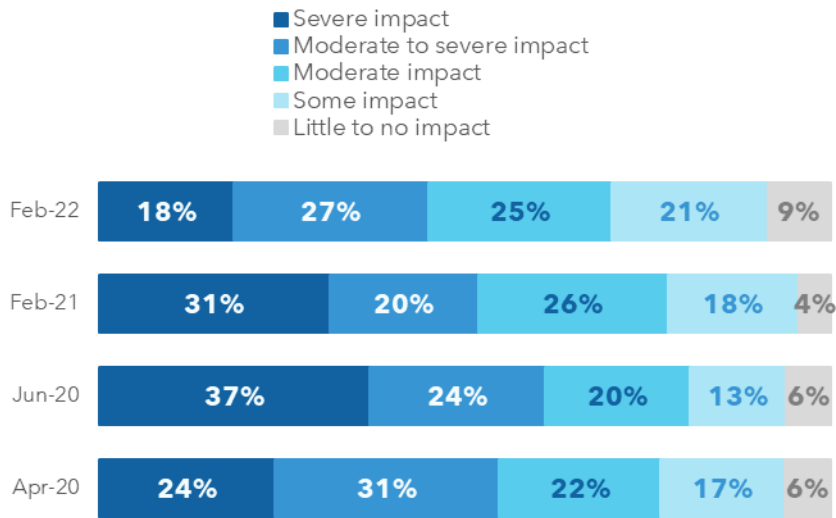
Is your households engaged in fishing/coastal activities?



LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

- ▶ Seven out of ten respondents anticipate at least a moderate impact on their livelihoods. A third of lowest income households expect severe impact.

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



Respondents continue to expect that the COVID-19 pandemic will negatively impact their livelihoods in the future. Looking ahead, 45% anticipate “moderate to severe” or “severe” impacts to their livelihoods, which is lower than in the June 2020 survey round, but similar compared to the regional average (44%). Only 9% expect little or no impact.

The perspective of respondents with different levels of income varied substantially. Those with the lowest incomes are the most worried about the future of their livelihoods, in line with findings at the regional level. Among respondents with income levels perceived as below or well below average, 32% expect their livelihoods to be severely impacted in the future, which is much higher than 5% of those with an above or well above average income level.

Little difference was observed between households based on sex and age of the respondent or their location.

"Unable to get a job" - Female, 35

"Difficulty finding a job" - Female, 21

"Wish the government could at least try to help out family who have no secure of income, cause speaking from experience it is very difficult, especially know that you a single mom and can't depend on your family for help or even the government." - Female, 21

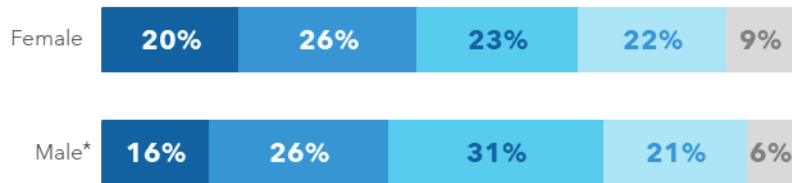
"Loss of an income" - Female, 35

LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

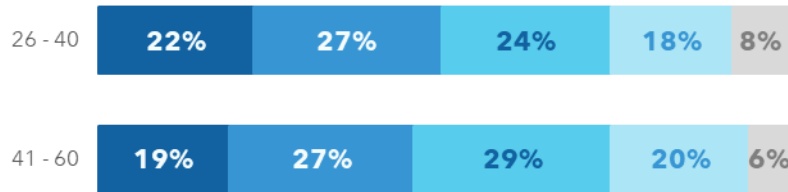
How do you expect your livelihood will be impacted as a result of disruptions from COVID-19?

- Severe impact
- Moderate to severe impact
- Moderate impact
- Some impact
- Little to no impact

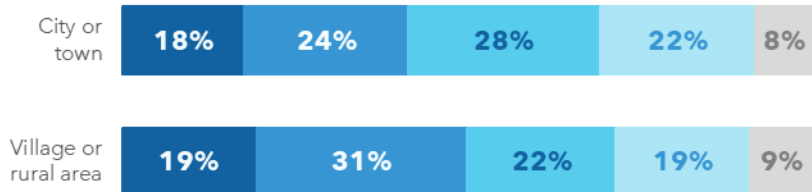
By sex



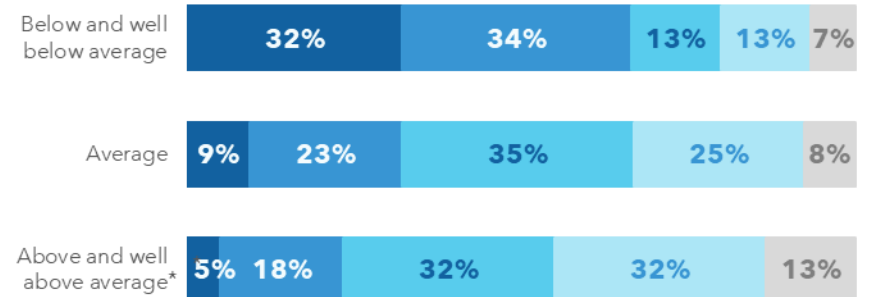
By age group



By urban/rural location



By perceived income level



* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

"Just keeping the protocols and vaccination requirements." - Female, 56

"To many COVID-19 cases" - Female, 28

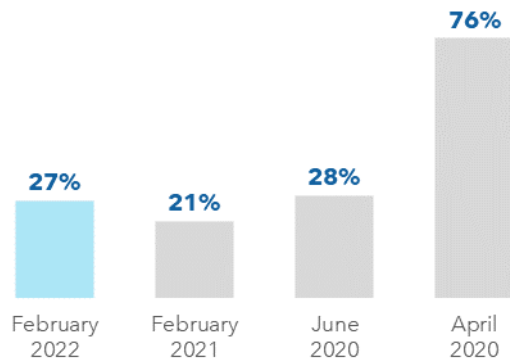
"Online schooling is tough" - Female, 37

"Lack of jobs in the country, it's horrible" - Female, 25

MARKETS | Access

- ▶ Market access remains a challenge for over a quarter of respondents.

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



"Not being able to cover all bills and grocery with salary due to increases and depleted savings" - Female, 40

"Increased prices of all food and grocery merchandise in stores and no increased salary" - Female, 35

"The cost of commodities are increasing while salaries stay at the same level. Government needs to increase the minimum wage rate" - Female, 41

Almost two years since the declaration of the pandemic, some people in Saint Lucia continue facing difficulties in accessing markets, with 27% of respondents stating that they were unable to access markets in the seven days prior to the February 2022 survey. While this is a significantly lower proportion than at the start of the pandemic (76% in April 2020), when a lockdown was in place, it has not changed significantly since June 2020. Overall trends in Saint Lucia are similar to the region as a whole, where 33% of respondents reported market access issues in February 2022.

When comparing survey responses, differences in market access are most closely linked to household income levels. Among respondents who describe their household income as below average or well below average, 39% reported market access problems, compared to 24% of those describing their household income as average. This finding is not surprising considering that lack of financial means appears to be the greatest barrier faced by households in Saint Lucia in accessing markets (see page 22 for a breakdown of reasons for limited market access).

Differences in levels of market access were also found between age groups. Among respondents in the 26-40 years age group, 35% reported market access problems, compared to 17% of those in the 41-60 years age group. By contrast, no significant difference in market access was found between respondents from rural areas and those from urban areas.

Overall trends in Saint Lucia are similar to regional survey results, where market access levels varied significantly by income and age, with lower-income households and younger age groups more likely to report market access problems.

MARKETS | Access

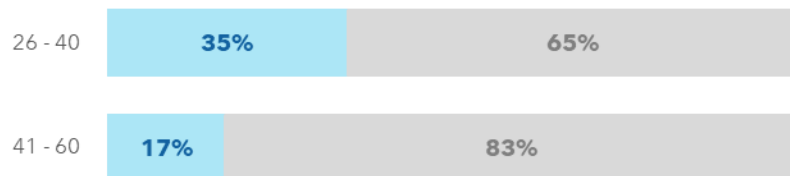
In the past 7 days, was there a time when your household could not access the markets?

■ yes ■ no

By sex



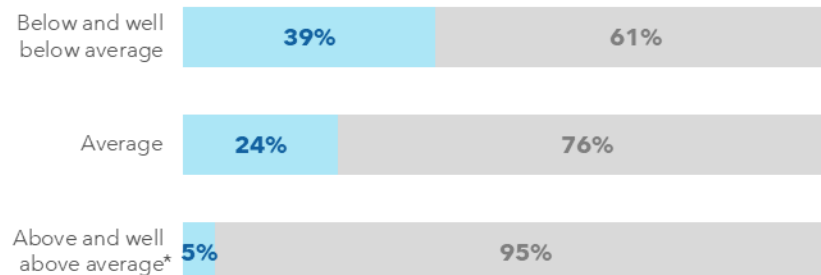
By age group



By urban/rural location



By perceived income level



* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

"Ability to travel due to cost of testing requirements" - Female, 40

"I was out of a job and my bills went sky high and the little I'm making now I don't know how I'm going to clear my debts." - Female, 37

"Increased in prices and scarcity of goods" - Female, 57

MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

- Lack of financial means remains the greatest 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	Feb-21	Jun-20	Apr-20
Lack of financial means*	70%	82%	44%	3%
Adult members of the household were self quarantining	21%	9%	2%	10%
Movement restrictions	14%	21%	18%	82%
Markets/grocery stores closed	14%	15%	19%	75%
Concerned about leaving the house	13%	24%	24%	54%
Adult members of the household were unwell	13%	3%	4%	5%
Transport limitations	8%	9%	20%	20%
Other	5%	6%	15%	7%
Security concerns	0%	9%	9%	19%

*New option in 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.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the main factors limiting households' market access in the Caribbean were movement restrictions and business closures imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19, along with people's concerns about leaving home. However, as the socio-economic impact worsened, these reasons have shifted, with lack of financial means becoming the main barrier preventing households from accessing markets.

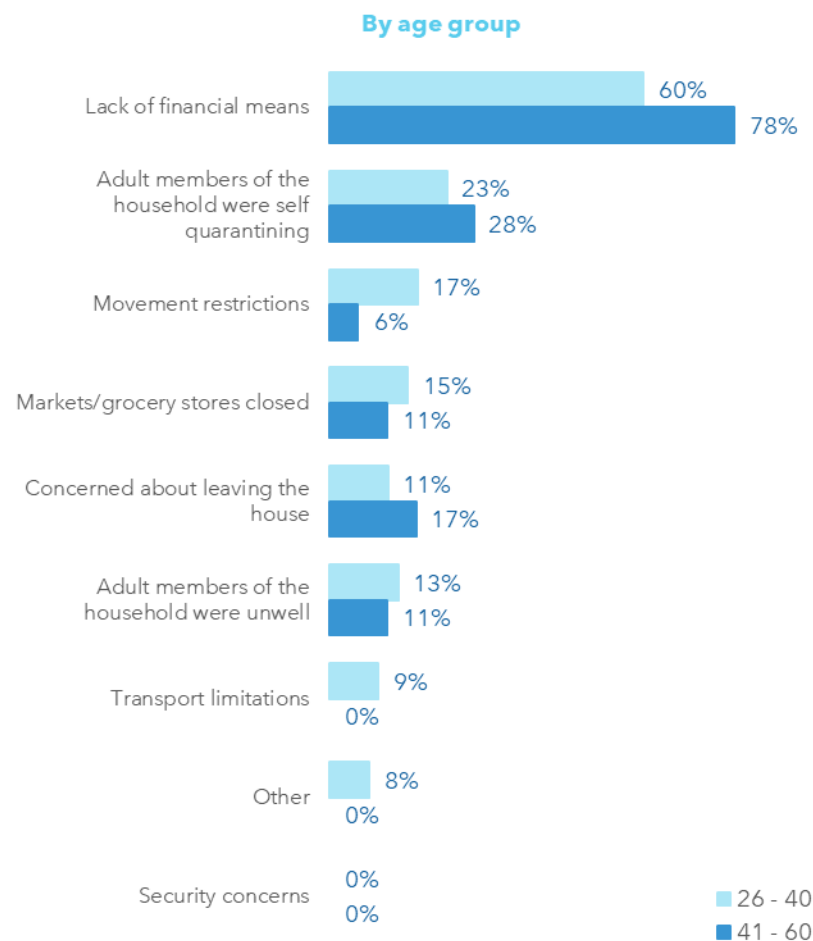
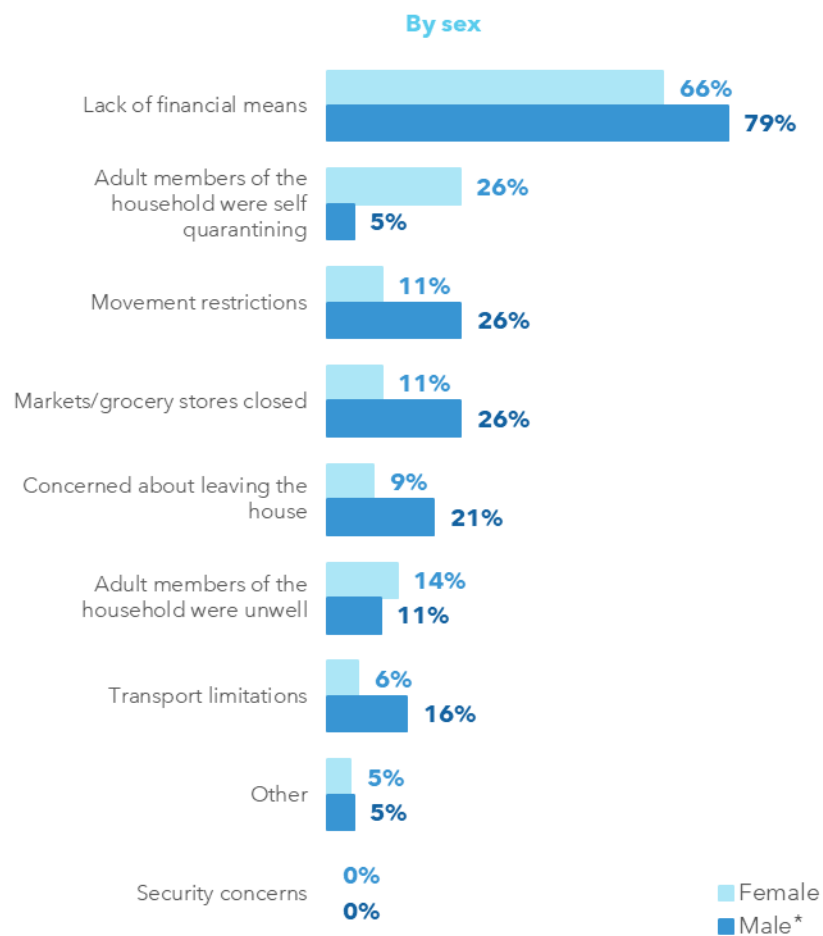
In Saint Lucia, lack of financial means continues to be overwhelmingly reported as the main reason for limited market access, cited by 70% of those who faced a time when they could not access markets in the week prior to the survey in February 2022 (all percentages noted in this section are of those reporting challenges accessing markets). While this share reflects a slight decrease from 82% of respondents in February 2021, it is still considerably higher than in June 2020 (44%). The second most frequent barrier for market access relates to adult household members self-quarantining, as reported by 21% of respondents, which is a higher share compared to previous survey rounds.

When comparing responses, reasons for limited market access appear to vary depending on respondents' perceived income levels and age group. Lack of financial means was the most frequently cited barrier among lower-income households. Of respondents who describe their household income as below or well below average, 81% attributed market problems to a lack of financial resources, compared with 50% among those describing their income as average. Among those describing their income as average, the reasons for limited market access were more mixed, despite lack of financial resources also being the leading reason. When comparing age groups, lack of financial means was the leading reason for both age groups, but was cited more by respondents in the 41-60-year age group (78%) than by the 26-40-year age group (60%).

MARKETS | Reasons for limited 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.



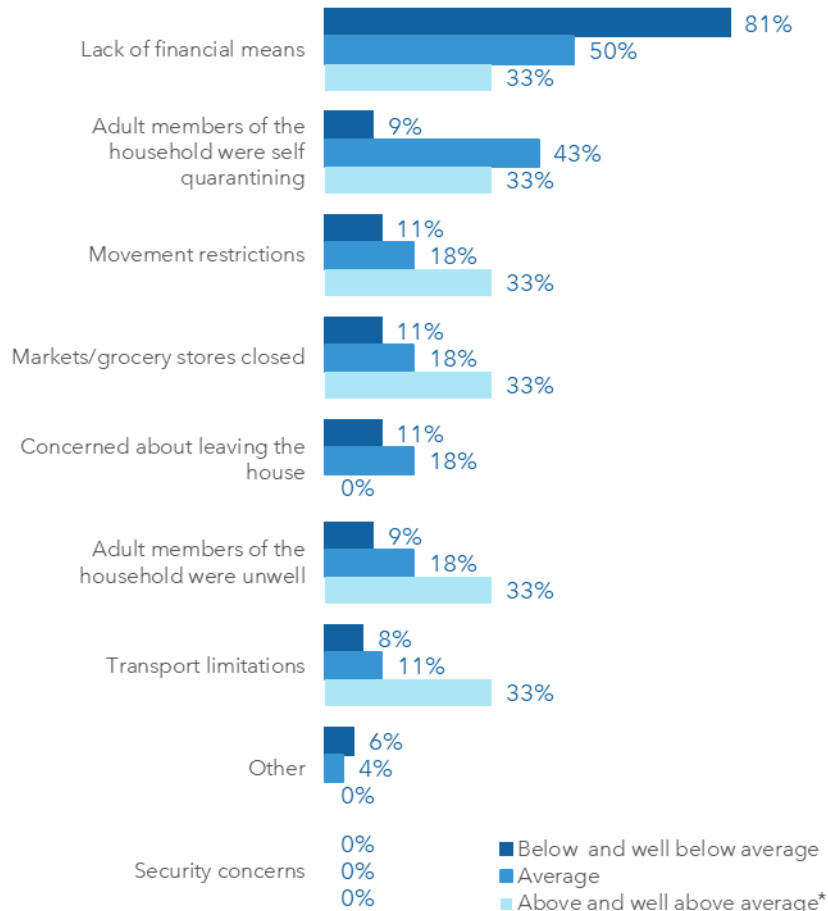
* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

MARKETS | Reasons for limited 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.

By perceived income level



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

"Balancing child care, homeschooling and working from home. Identifying and making available dedicated spaces to work without disruption for daughter and myself. Supervision for child when physical presence required at work." - Female, 47

"Being unable to socialize with other retirees/biggest change using online services and virtual platforms" - Female, 65

"Worried about my only child abroad, I also have a history of depression from military and other traumas. Other health issues, but I try to stay positive and hope for better daily." - Male, 58

"Inability to socialize with family and friends and support family and friends during times of illness and grief." - Female, 65

"Increase anxiety and stress at working especially at medical facilities." - Female, 35

"My children has to resort to online schooling and lost of revenue in my family is the main issue 1758" - Female, 53

"Online learning for my kids and the change in transportation" - Male, 39

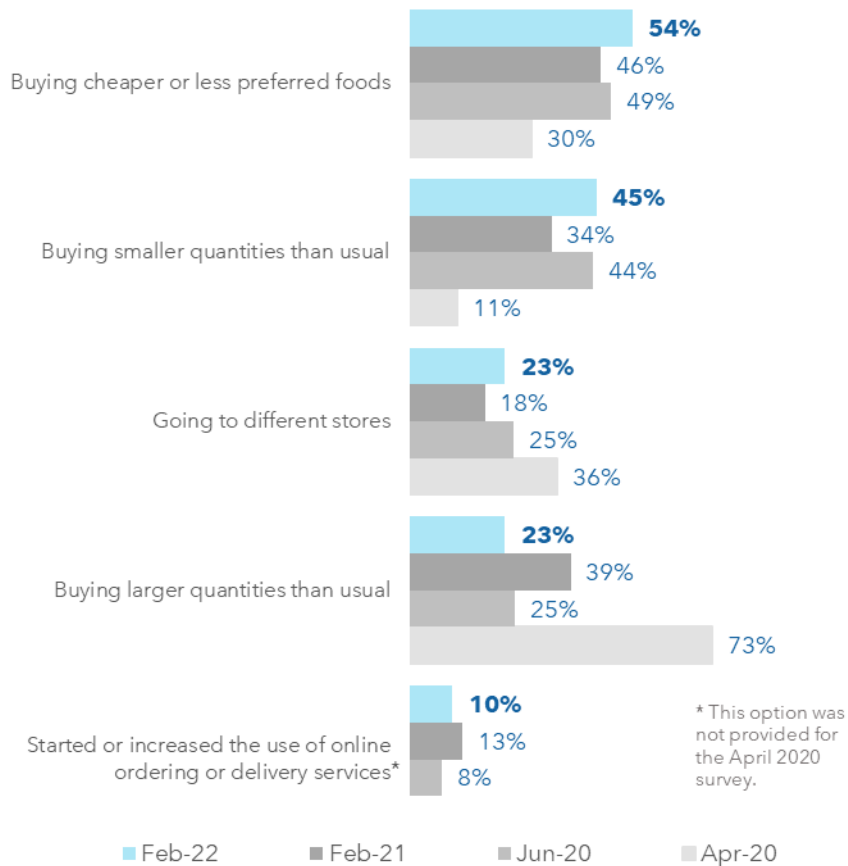
"Work is interrupted very frequently. People report exposure frequently leading to others being overwhelmed at work. Sick leave for exposure without a positive diagnosis is to disruptive" - Female, 52

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.



The pandemic continues to impact how people shop, but the changes adopted by households have shifted since the beginning of the pandemic. In the February 2022 survey, 86% of respondents in Saint Lucia reported a change in their shopping behaviour compared to before the pandemic, a similar share as in the April 2020 survey at the start of the pandemic.

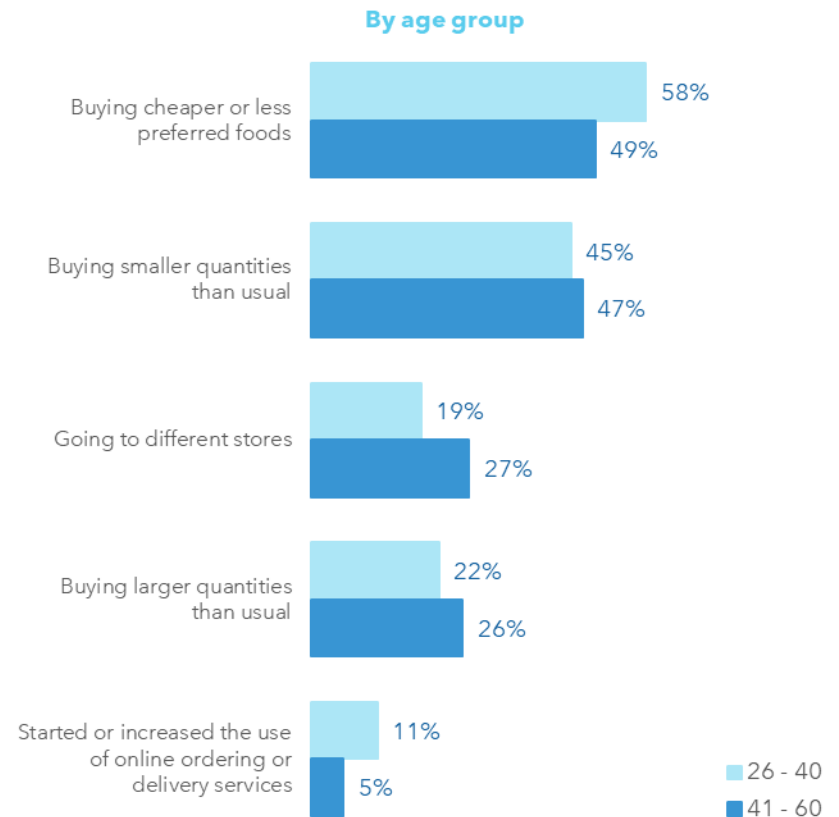
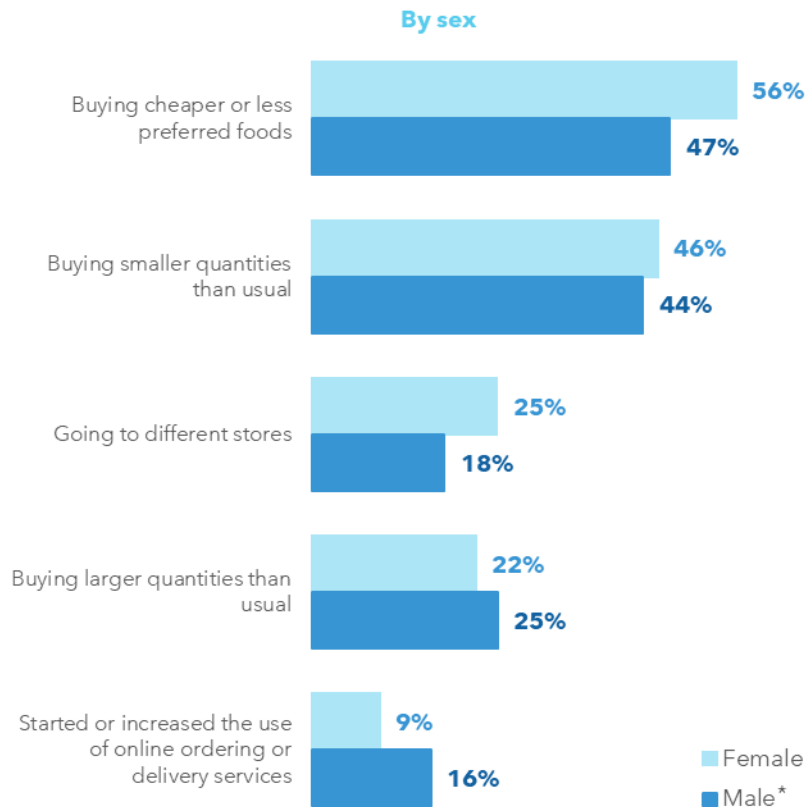
Of those who changed how they shop, most resorted to buying cheaper or less preferred foods (54%) and/or buying smaller quantities (45%). Both of these compromises were reported more frequently than during the previous survey rounds. By contrast, less respondents adapted by buying larger quantities than usual. Of those who said they changed their shopping habits, 23% reported buying larger quantities than usual, down from 39% in February 2021 and 73% in April 2020. These findings are in line with the region as a whole where behaviour has shifted from stocking up at the start of the pandemic to making more compromises as the economic impacts deepen for most households.

Changes in shopping behaviour appear to be somewhat related to respondents' income levels. Buying cheaper or less preferred groceries was the main change adopted by those who describe their household income as well below average, below average or average. By contrast, buying larger quantities than usual appears to be the most important change among those describing their household income as above average or well above average. However, low response numbers in the above average and well above average income groups may affect results. No major differences in the adopted changes were found between age groups (26-40 years and 41-60 years).

MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

Respondents who reported a change in shopping behaviour are...

Multiple choices could be selected.



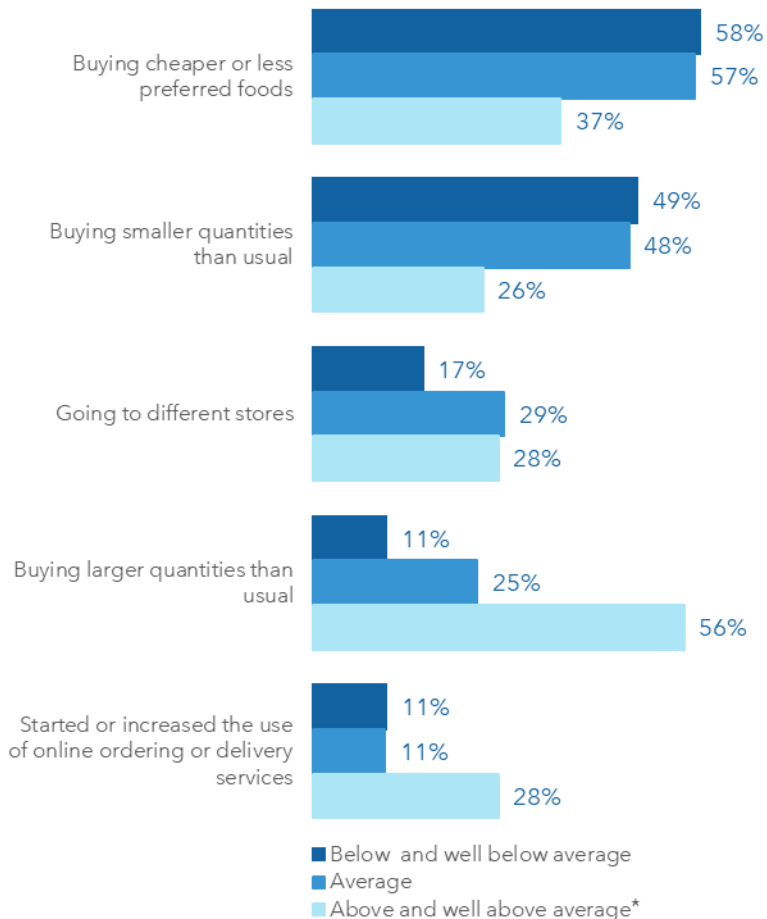
* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

Respondents who reported a change in shopping behaviour are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By perceived income level



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

"The fear that I can't pay loan and to take good care of myself and kids" - Female, 45

"The way the medical department and government are handling the situation. People would have a cough or the few and they would diagnose it as a covid case." - Male, 40

"Wearing mask all the Time" - Female, 34

"Mask. Work like only. No outing activities." - Female, 34

"Change of residence to gain employment" - Male, 28

"Tighten budget" - Female, 63

"A change in our lifestyle" - Female, 37

"Everything is a mess" - Female, 31

"Delays in schooling" - Female, 25

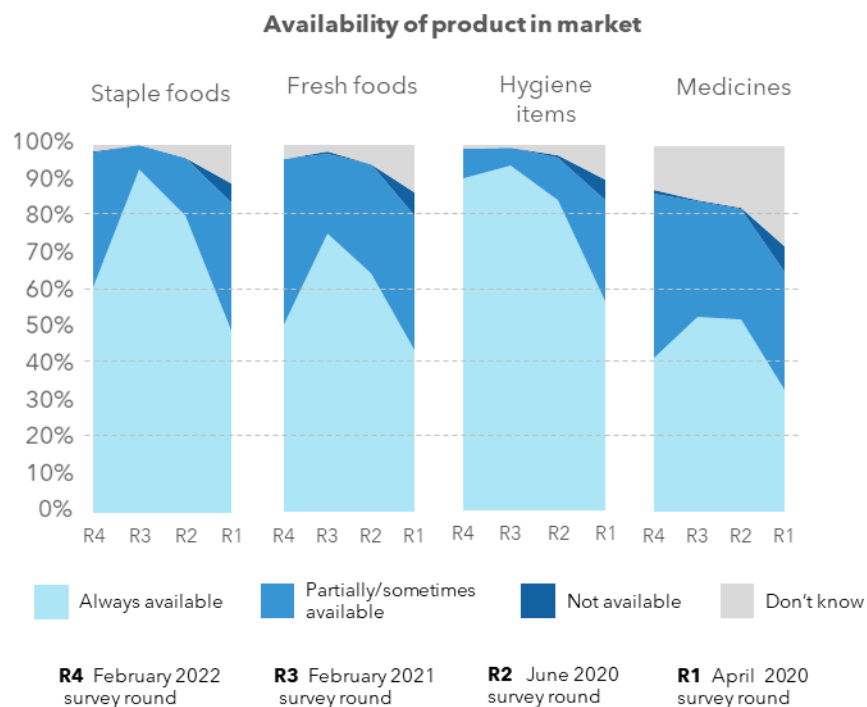
"My biggest changes is that I have learnt to use less" - Female, 50

"anxiety, stress, fear of what will change next: like talks of vaccine mandates" - Female, 39

"Eat less than normal for sure" - Male, 31

MARKETS | Availability

- ▶ The availability of food and medicines is limited and has decreased, contrary to previous trends.



Market disruptions have been an issue of concern in the Caribbean since the start of the pandemic due to movement restrictions, global supply chain issues, and the region’s dependence on imports. More recently, the Ukraine crisis has heightened concerns about potential market and supply chain disruptions (see page 6 and 53 for more information).

In Saint Lucia, the availability of essential commodities steadily improved from the start of the pandemic to the February 2021 survey. Contrary to this trend, the February 2022 survey found a decline in overall availability, although it was still better compared to the first survey in April 2020. Only 1% of respondents indicated that certain goods were not available at all.

The availability of staple foods expressed by 60% of respondents is a decrease from previous rounds. For fresh foods and medicines, 45% of respondents indicated that they were only partially or sometimes available, a bigger share than in all previous survey rounds. The availability of staple foods also declined significantly from the two previous survey rounds, with 37% of respondents indicating that they were only partially or sometimes available.

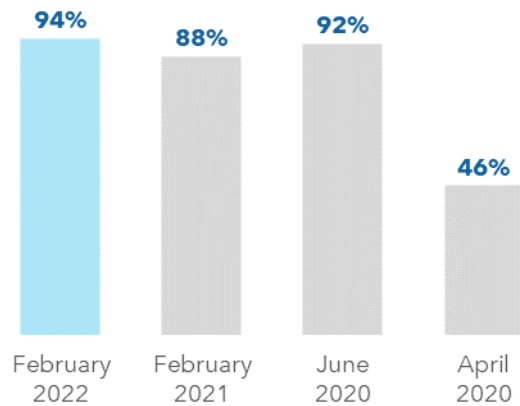
By contrast, hygiene items are widely available, as indicated by 91% of respondents. This is a significant improvement from 57% in April 2020 at the start of the pandemic.

Trends in Saint Lucia are similar to the region as a whole, where the availability of fresh foods, staple foods and medicines appears limited, with an overall decline in availability of key commodities in February 2022.

MARKETS | Food prices

- ▶ Nearly all respondents reported an increase in food prices.

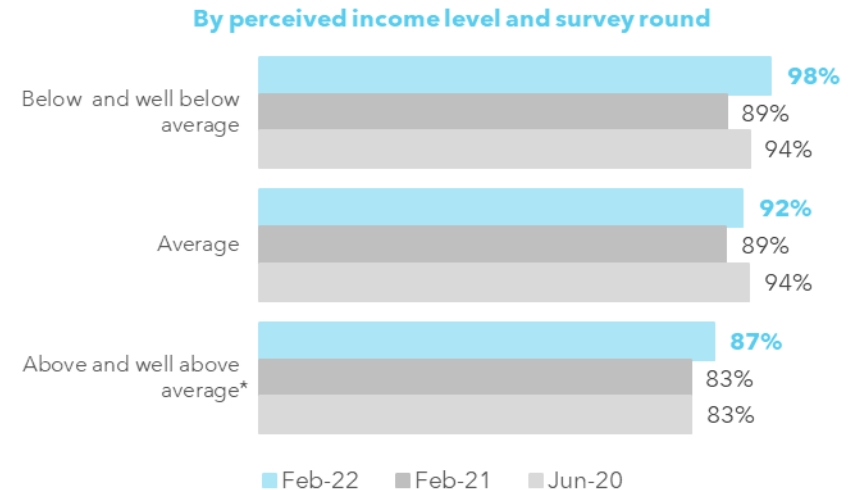
Respondents who reported an increase in food prices over the 2 weeks prior to the survey



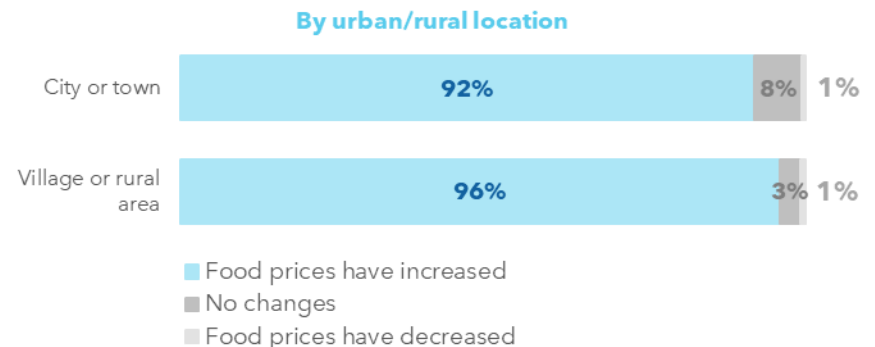
Increases in food prices have been widely felt and observed, with 94% of respondents reporting an increase in the two weeks prior to the survey. While this percentage has not changed significantly compared to the previous two rounds of the survey, it represents a sharp increase from 46% of respondents in April 2020, at the start of the pandemic. Results from Saint Lucia are similar to regional survey findings, where 93% of respondents reported an increase in food prices in February 2022.

Food price increases are perceived similarly by all income groups, although households describing their income as below average or well below average are the most likely to report an increase compared to other respondents (98%). Similarly, no major differences are found in reported food price increases when comparing respondents living in urban (92%) and rural (96%) areas.

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

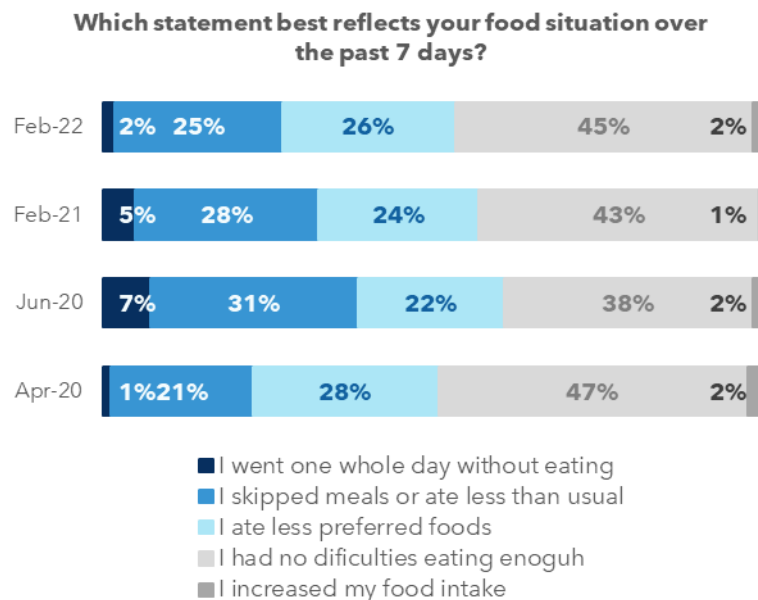


* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.



FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

- ▶ Food consumption patterns have stabilized in Saint Lucia compared to other countries in the region.



Food consumption and diets of people in Saint Lucia continue to be impacted by the pandemic, with 25% 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 Saint Lucia compared to April 2020.

The impacts on food consumption in Saint Lucia appear most serious for female respondents, 29% 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. The number of people reporting no difficulties eating enough food slightly decreased from 47% in April 2020 to 45% in February 2022, indicating that while mere access to food might be stable or improved people are still compromising or adopting coping strategies to meet their food needs.

In line with findings observed at the regional level in February 2022, the impacts on food consumption in Saint Lucia appear to be the most severe for households with below and well below average income levels, with 4% going a whole day without eating and 38% skipping a meal or eating less than usual in the week preceding the survey. Only 23% had no difficulty eating enough compared to 51% of households classifying their income as average.

Differences in the impacts on food consumption also varied across age groups and location where households live. Respondents under 40 years of age were more likely to reduce their food consumption than older respondents. Among respondents aged 40 and younger, 59% skipped meals, ate less than usual or went a full day without eating, compared to 52% of those over 40 years of age.

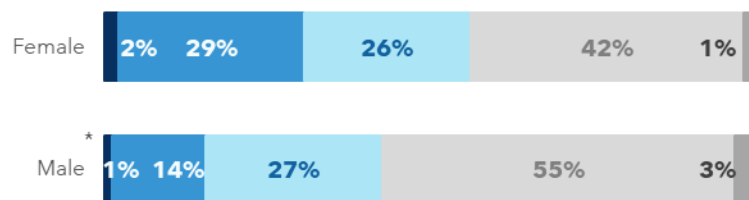
The food consumption patterns of respondents living in villages or rural areas was also more significantly affected than that of respondents located in cities or towns.

FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

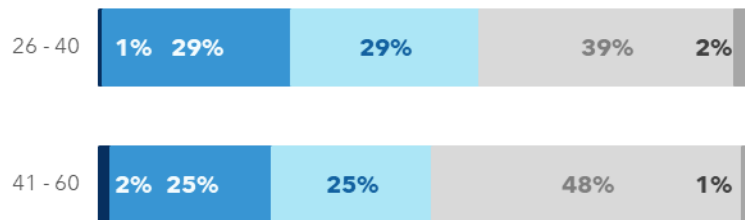
Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days?

- I went one whole day without eating
- I skipped meals or ate less than usual
- I ate less preferred foods
- I had no difficulties eating enough
- I increased my food intake

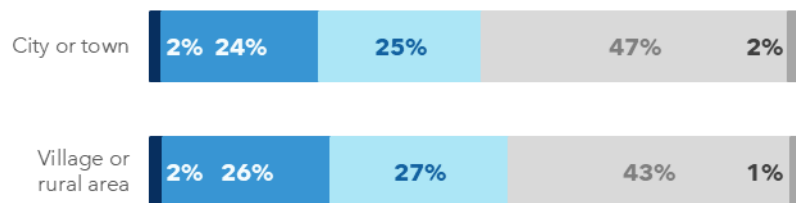
By sex



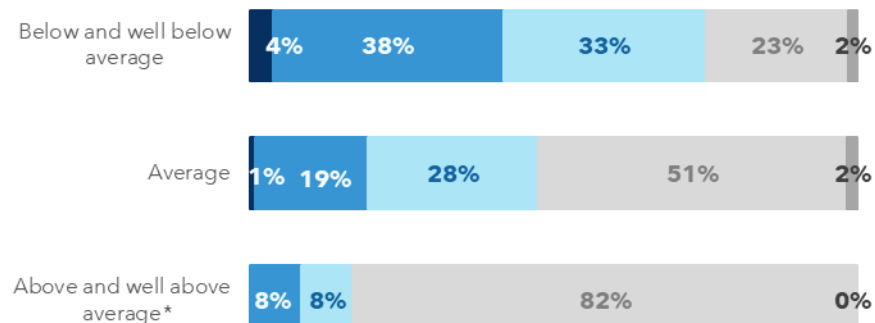
By age



By urban/rural location



By perceived income level



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

- ▶ Respondents are adopting negative coping strategies to meet their immediate food needs, compromising other priorities and future income generation.

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 Saint Lucia, 70% resorted to spending savings, and 48% reduced essential non-food expenditures, such as on education and health. Furthermore, 30% of respondents sold productive assets or goods to meet food or other needs, potentially undermining their long-term income generation. The adoption of negative coping is similarly widespread in Saint Lucia as compared to the regional average.

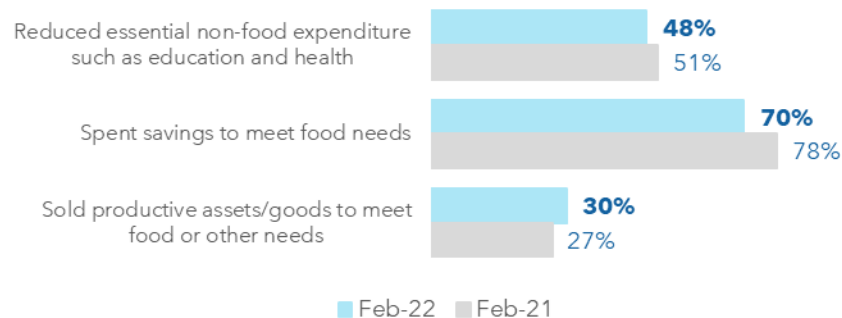
In line with food consumption and other trends, households with below or well below average incomes are resorting to these negative strategies much more frequently than better off households. Respondents living in rural areas or villages were also

found to more frequently adopt these coping strategies compared to those living in urban areas; this might indicate differences in market access and prices in cities and towns compared to villages in Saint Lucia.

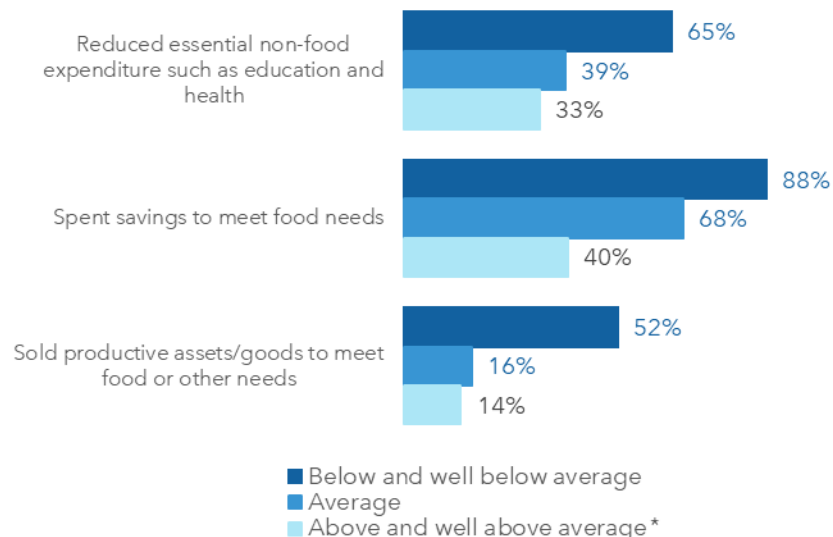
Female respondents were more likely than male ones to adopt negative coping strategies, especially spending savings to meet food needs. Respondents aged 26 to 40 were also more likely to adopt any of the negative coping measures compared to older respondents in Saint Lucia.

Households' coping strategies in the 30 days prior to the survey

Multiple choices could be selected.



By perceived income level



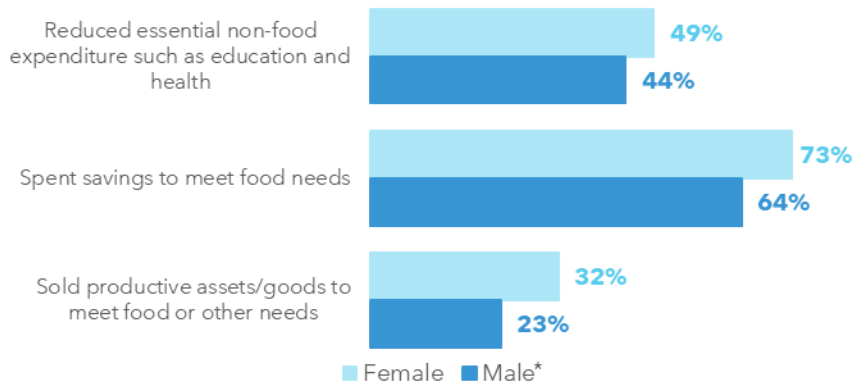
* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

Households' coping strategies in the 30 days prior to the survey

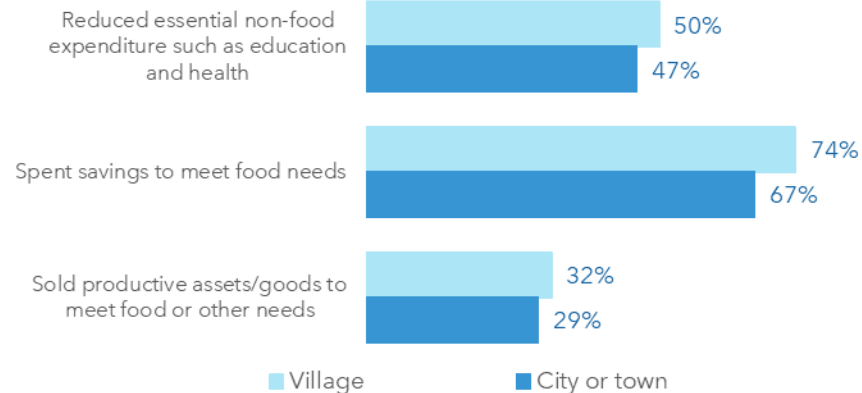
Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex

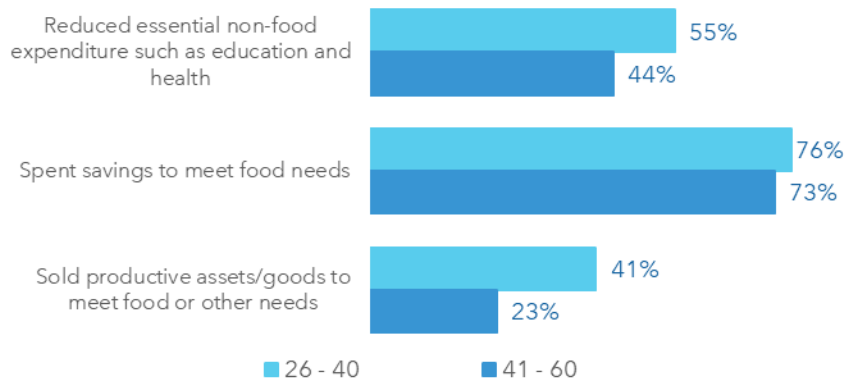


* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

By urban/rural location



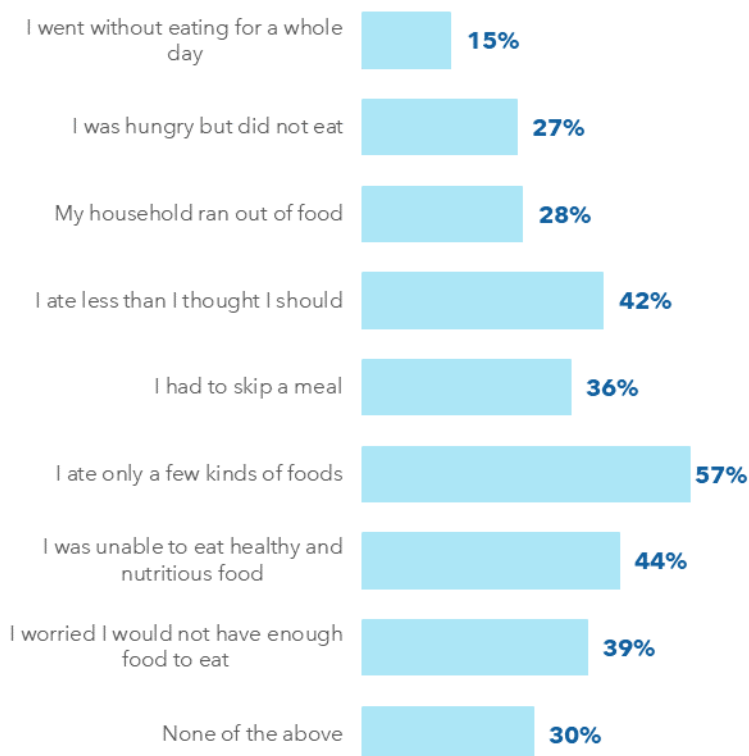
By age group



FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

- ▶ Respondents in Saint Lucia are struggling to meet their food and nutritional needs on a monthly basis.

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 52 for an explanation of the methodology).

In the 30 days leading up to the survey, 15% of respondents from Saint Lucia experienced a time when they went a whole day without eating, 27% when they were hungry but did not eat, and 28% when their household ran out of food. Additionally, 42% of respondents noted they had experienced a time when they ate less than they should have and 36% reported skipping a meal. Worries about not having enough to eat were reported by 39% of respondents.

Maintaining a diverse diet was not feasible for 57% of respondents, and 44% were not able to eat healthy and nutritious food in the first place. Only one third of respondents did not experience any of the situations listed above.

Using the FIES methodology and survey data to calculate food insecurity prevalence rates, it is estimated that 43% of respondents are either moderately (30%) or severely (13%) food insecure in Saint Lucia, a value that is above estimates for the Caribbean average.

In Saint Lucia, respondents with lower income levels are experiencing severe and moderate food insecurity much more often than those with higher incomes. 22% of respondents with below or well below average income level experienced severe food insecurity in the 30 days prior to the survey, compared to 3% of respondents with above or well above average income. Only 36% of those with well below average income were food secure (or mildly food insecure), compared to 64% and 86% of respondents from wealthier groups.

FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

"Lack of food an money to support the children" - Female, 29

"I have struggled financially, have had to sell my belongs in other to meet my needs" - Male, 36

"Had to resort to asking friends for financial assistance" - Female, 31

"The inability to make money to pay bills food and schooling" - Female, 41

"Have lost all our savings, so have basically worked for 7 years for nothing." - Female, 42

"Loss of income which lead to hunger and hardship" - Female, 28

"Well lost of income and having to worry almost everyday where my meal and my children own will come from." - Female, 31

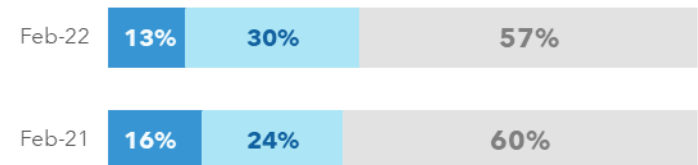
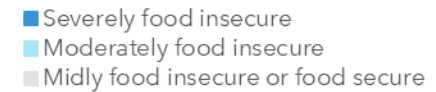
"Eat less focus more on my children's health and well being and also trying to stay in a job" - Female, 32

"Since the out break, with the number of job lost, I had to care for three house holds, as in paying my rent and utilities and assisting with the payment of utilities for family members. In order to keep up with the monthly payments I had to have my internet connection ended. Can hardly afford grocery with the increase in prices weekly. Partner is out of work." - Female, 32

"Used up all my savings" - Female, 30

Prevalence rates of food insecurity

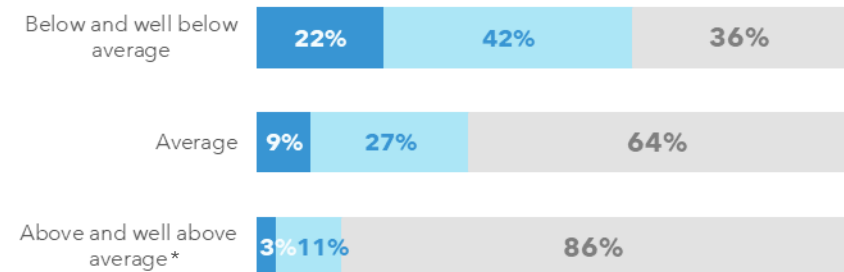
Based on FIES methodology



Prevalence rates of food insecurity

By perceived household income

Based on FIES methodology



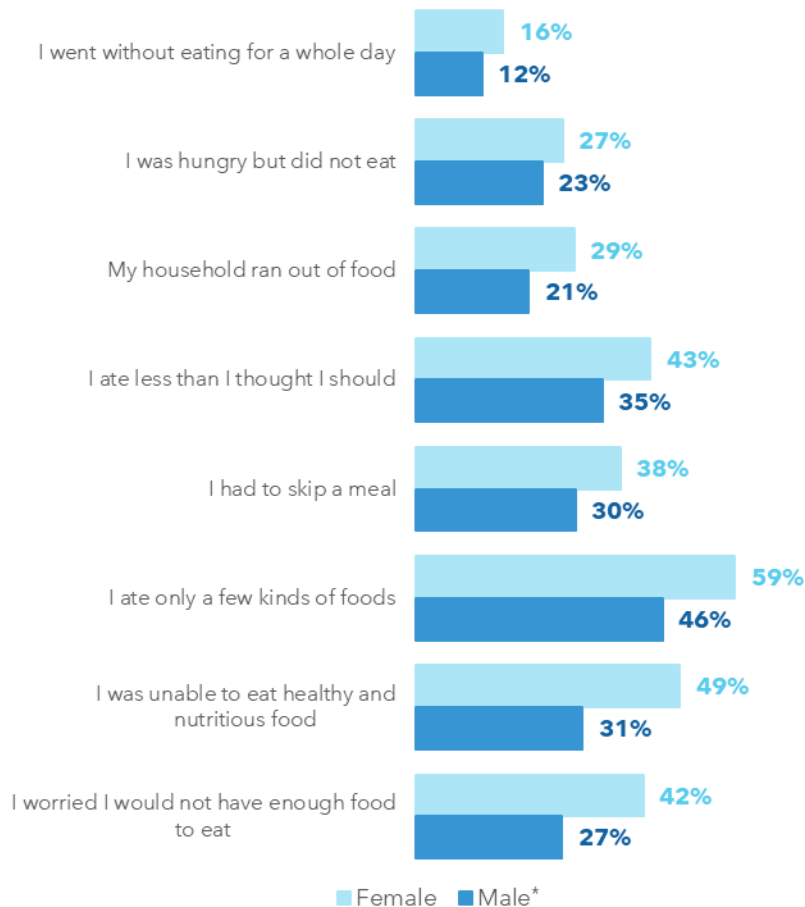
* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

Was there a time in the past 30 days when you experienced the following?

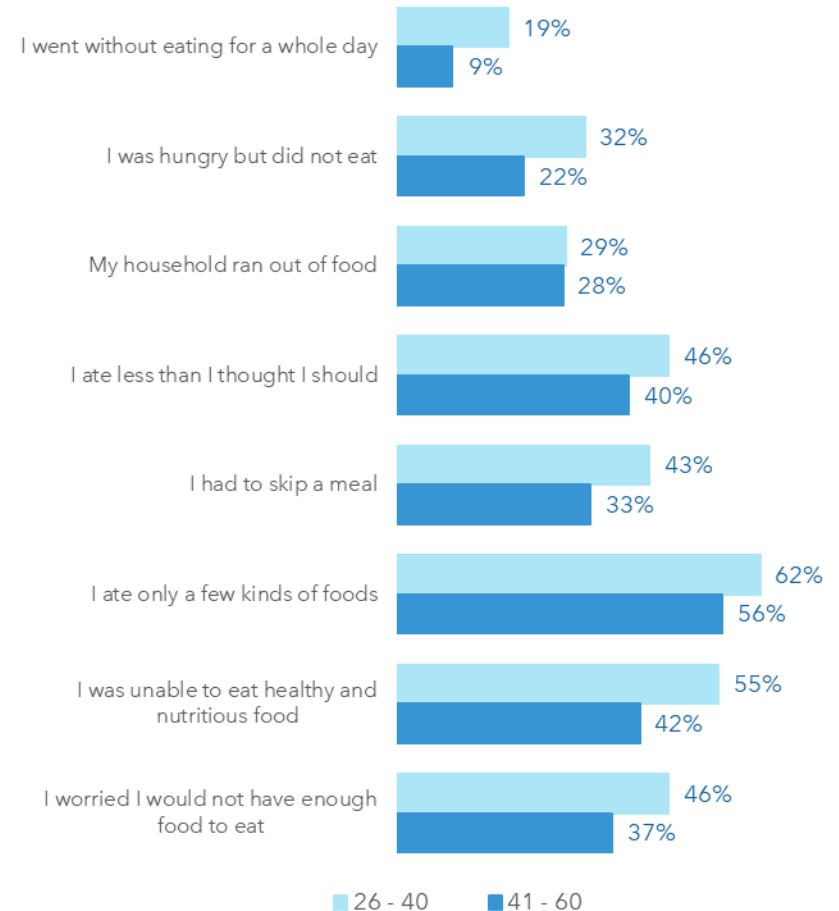
Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

By age group

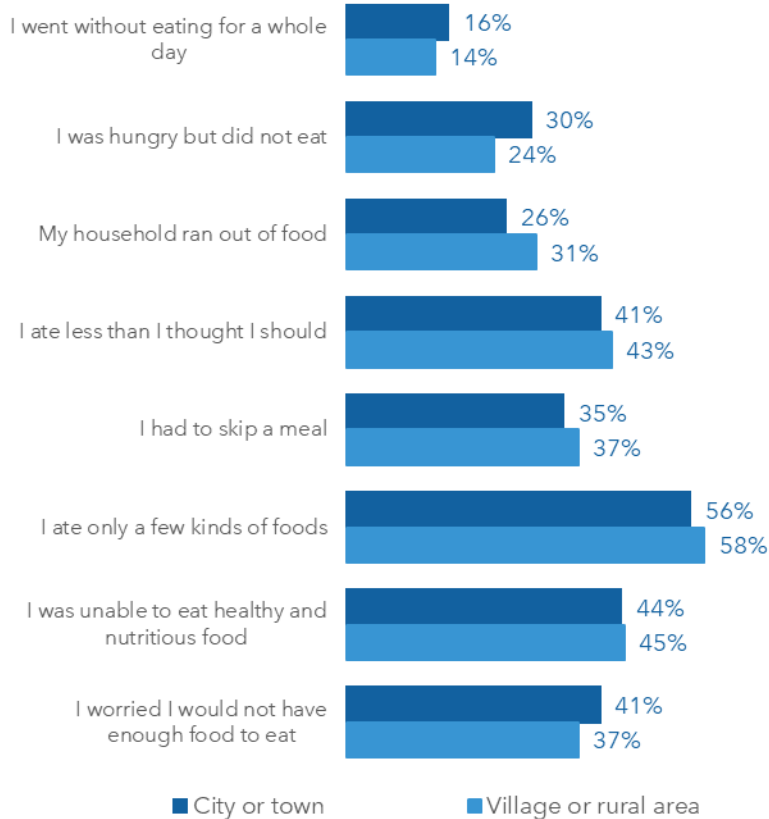


FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

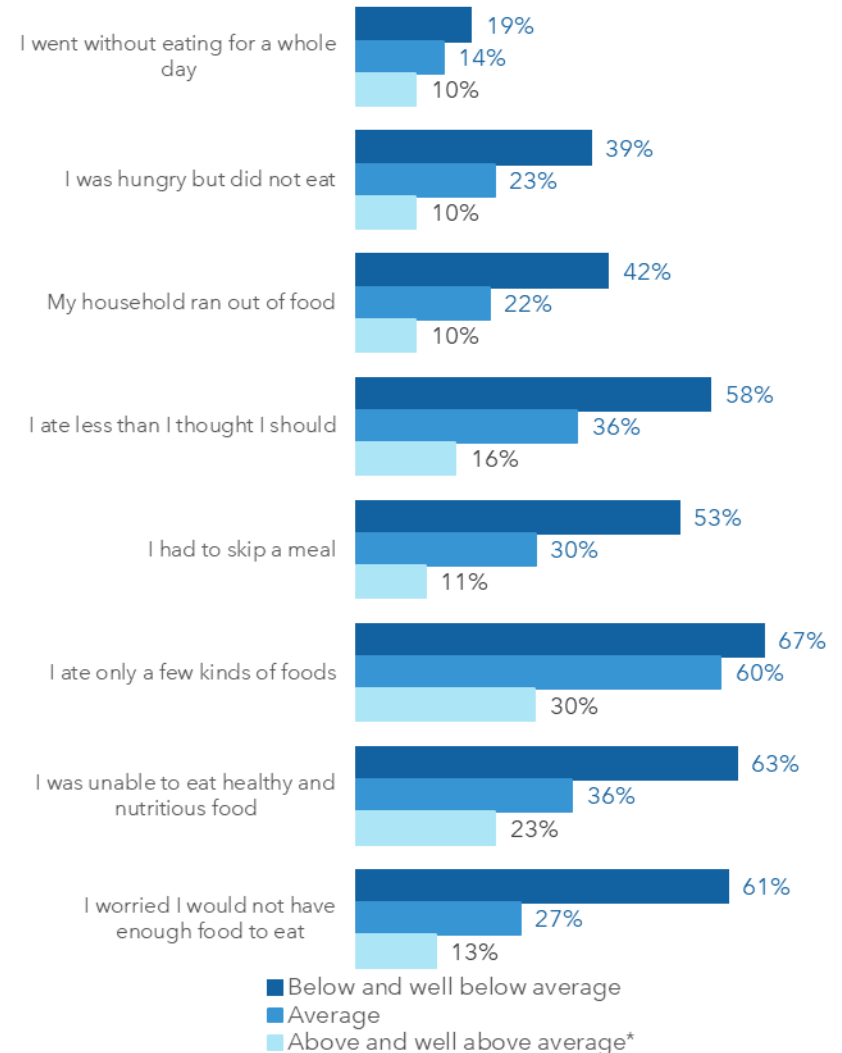
Was there a time in the past 30 days when you experienced the following?

Multiple choices could be selected.

By urban/rural location



By perceived income level

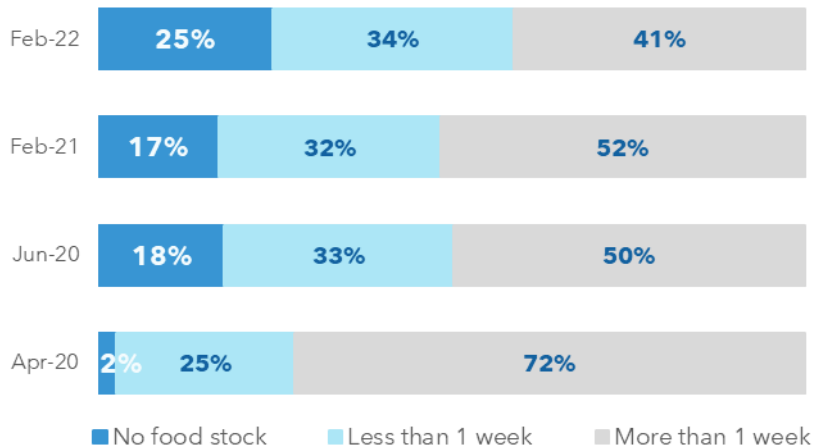


* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

- ▶ The proportion of households with no food stocks has significantly increased in Saint Lucia since April 2020.

Does your household have any food stock?



"Money food and my bills, and for doctor" - Female, 58

"Curfew" - Male, 40

"I was on layoff" - Female, 40

"Financial obligations" - Female, 28

"Fear of living home" - Female, 59

"Not enough government assistance to small business" - Male, 45

While the majority of households (75%) have some food supplies at home, 25% of respondents in Saint Lucia 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 April 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. Overall, with the availability and size of household food stocks decreasing over time, these trends appear to be aligned with those of the Caribbean region.

Differences in the duration of food stocks in Saint Lucia appear to primarily reflect disparities in household income, with 40% of well below and below average income households reporting to have no food stocks at all compared to 14% of households with an average income and 10% of households with an above or well above average income.

Differences in food stocks among age groups are less pronounced in Saint Lucia compared to other countries, yet younger age groups tend to have less food stocks or for shorter periods of time (less than a week) compared to respondents aged over 60, of whom 44% have food stocks worth more than a week.

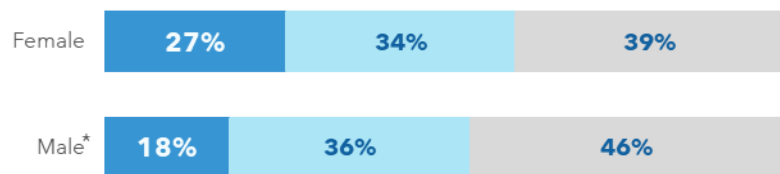
Households in rural areas seem to be slightly less in the position of stocking up on food compared to respondents living in urban centres. The stocks reported by female and male respondents were relatively consistent, with male respondents being more inclined to stock up food for longer periods.

FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

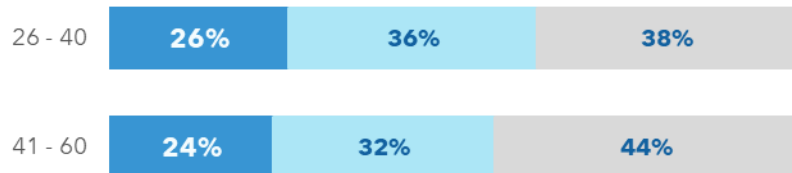
Does your household have any food stock?

■ No food stock ■ Less than 1 week ■ More than 1 week

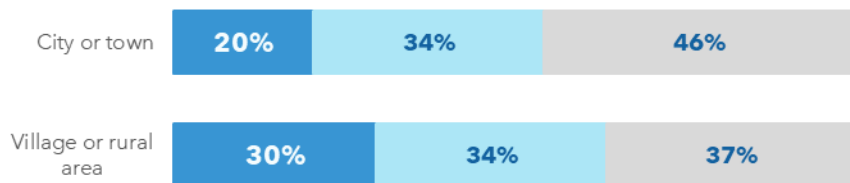
By sex



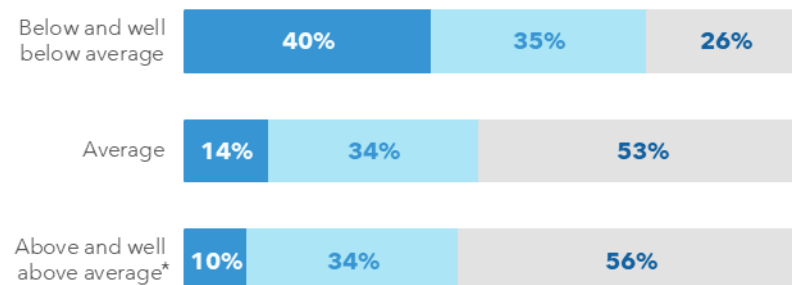
By age group



By urban/rural location



By perceived income level

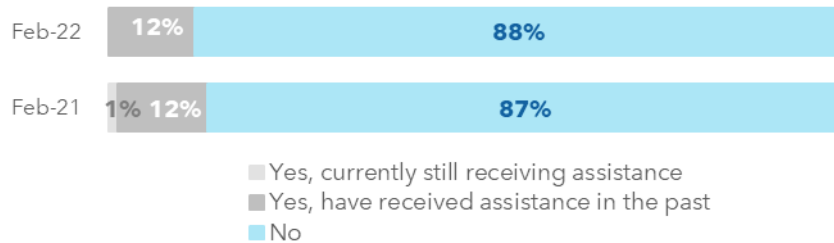


* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

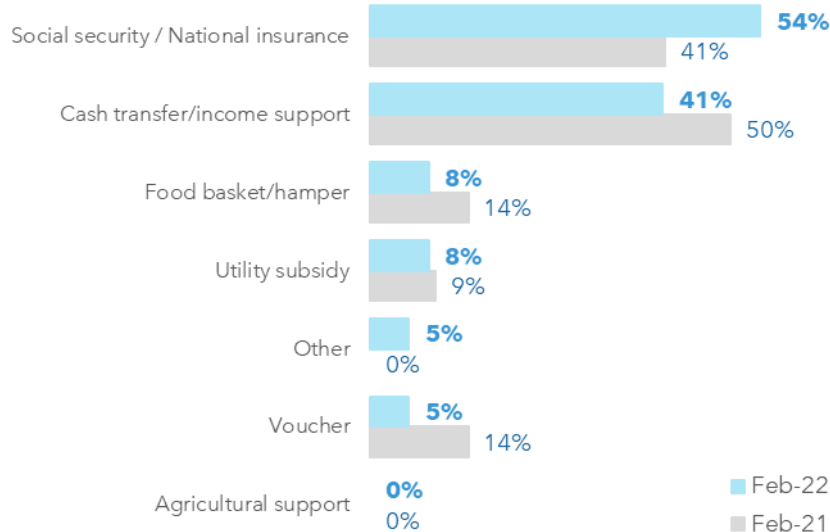
- Social security/national insurance are the most common form of assistance received.

Have you received any assistance from the Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?



Respondents who received assistance from the Government, have received the following...

Multiple choices could be selected.



Out of the 12% of respondents who reported to have received government assistance, none of them were still receiving assistance at the time of the survey. This figure is lower when compared to the regional average where 22% of respondents reported to have received some sort of support.

Respondents most commonly reported receiving assistance in the form of social security/national insurance (54%) and cash assistance (41%). Although there are a lesser portion of respondents who reported to have received assistance in these forms when compared to one year ago. The Government of Saint Lucia continue to provide programmes to cushion the impact of the pandemic for vulnerable households. Partnerships with international agencies such as WFP and UNICEF supported the expansion of their social protection programmes to cover those most impacted by the pandemic.

Respondents who perceive a below and well below average income level (17%) were more likely to receive assistance. There were no major differences between how different sex, age groups or localities received assistance.

"Stay isolated from family is the hardest for me, And having to lose loved ones and friends" - Female, 40

"The constant wearing of the mask has left me with a running nose" - Female, 50

"Not being able to travel abroad to visit ailing parents. Lifestyle changes in order to manage mental health." - Female, 48

"Biggest impact is with my education...all classes are now online" - Female, 26

WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

Have you received any assistance from the Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

■ Yes ■ No

By sex



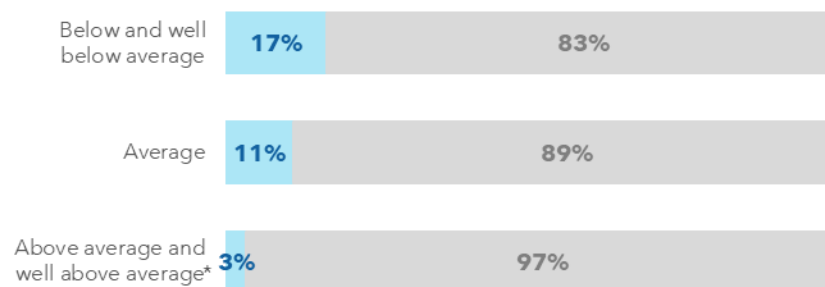
By age group



By urban/rural location



By perceived income level



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

WIDER IMPACTS | Main worries

- Fear of illness remains the leading concern among respondents. However, it has decreased when compared with one year ago.

Fear of illness is still the leading cause for concern as cited by nearly half of respondents (46%). Perhaps attributed to the availability of vaccines, it is less so when compared to one year ago. This is followed by unemployment (38%) and inability of cover essential needs (31%).

Respondents of different income levels continue to experience contrasting impacts of the pandemic. Those associating themselves as well below and average income levels are more worried about unemployment, inability to cover essential needs and fear of illness, with nearly half (48%) citing unemployment as their main concern. In contrast, those with average and above average income levels, cited more concerns about falling ill, inability to access services, social isolation and movement restrictions. Low responses in the above and well above average categories may affect results.

A higher percentage of female respondents more frequently cited fear of illness as their main worry in contrast to male respondents whose main worry was unemployment. While unemployment and inability to cover essential needs were similarly cited by both sexes, female respondents had more concerns about inability to cover food needs. Low responses in male respondents may affect results. The main worry cited by the 26-40 age group was unemployment (44%), followed by fear of illness (41%). While over half of those from the 41-60 age group more frequently cited fear of illness (52%), followed by unemployment (33%). Social isolation and violence in the community was also more frequently cited by the 41-60 age group.

Respondents from urban and rural areas in Saint Lucia equally cited fear of illness as their main worry. Those in rural areas had more concerns about unemployment, while urban dwellers more frequently cited social isolation as a worry.

Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected.

Main worries	Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20
Fear of illness	46%	65%	46%
Unemployment	38%	52%	63%
Inability to cover essential needs	31%	37%	45%
Inability to cover food needs	24%	25%	37%
Social isolation	23%	19%	10%
Disruptions to education	19%	13%	9%
Having to resort to savings	18%	16%	21%
Child(ren)/dependents care	14%	14%	15%
Movement restrictions	14%	11%	9%
Violence in the community	13%	8%	8%
Other worries	2%	1%	0%
Violence in the household	1%	2%	0%
Unable to access services	1%	2%	3%

By perceived income level

Main worries	Below and well below average	Average	Above and well above average*
Fear of illness	33%	58%	54%
Unemployment	48%	32%	30%
Inability to cover essential needs	42%	31%	30%
Inability to cover food needs	34%	23%	5%
Social isolation	11%	27%	44%
Disruptions to education	13%	22%	26%
Having to resort to savings	16%	22%	18%
Child(ren)/dependents care	17%	14%	8%
Movement restrictions	6%	13%	41%
Violence in the community	12%	14%	16%
Other worries	2%	1%	7%
Violence in the household	1%	3%	0%
Unable to access services	0%	2%	26%

* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

WIDER IMPACTS | Main worries

Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex

Main worries	Female	Male*
Fear of illness	48%	38%
Unemployment	38%	41%
Inability to cover food needs	27%	16%
Inability to cover essential needs	30%	33%
Disruptions to education	21%	14%
Child(ren)/dependents care	15%	10%
Having to resort to savings	19%	16%
Social isolation	25%	20%
Movement restrictions	12%	19%
Violence in the community	10%	22%
Other worries	2%	5%
Violence in the household	1%	1%
Unable to access services	2%	0%

* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

By age group

Main worries	26 - 40	41 - 60
Fear of illness	41%	52%
Unemployment	44%	33%
Inability to cover food needs	15%	25%
Inability to cover essential needs	27%	21%
Disruptions to education	27%	21%
Child(ren)/dependents care	10%	10%
Having to resort to savings	21%	15%
Social isolation	15%	25%
Movement restrictions	10%	10%
Violence in the community	7%	17%
Other worries	2%	2%
Violence in the household	1%	1%
Unable to access services	0%	2%

By urban/rural location

Main worries	City or town	Village or rural area
Fear of illness	57%	55%
Unemployment	27%	38%
Inability to cover food needs	15%	23%
Inability to cover essential needs	27%	26%
Disruptions to education	21%	23%
Child(ren)/dependents care	17%	13%
Having to resort to savings	16%	21%
Social isolation	41%	31%
Movement restrictions	18%	13%
Violence in the community	7%	4%
Other worries	3%	2%
Violence in the household	1%	0%
Unable to access services	2%	1%

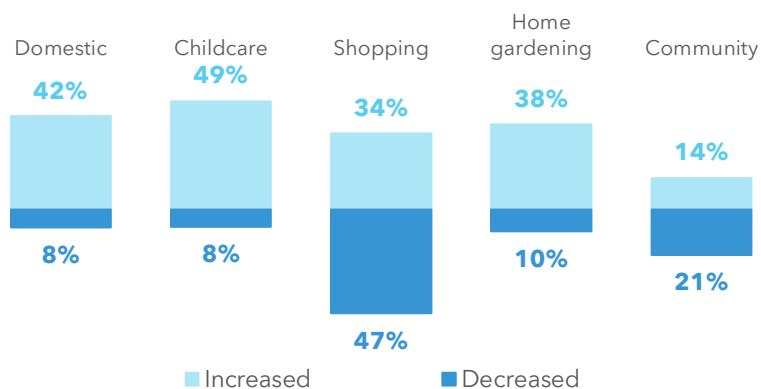
"My biggest change this year is staying away from unnecessary crowds" - Female, 43

"I received a grant to start a business but the same week of the grand opening, Covid hit our country resulting in me losing everything. My husband has also lost his income and right now our 3 kids are at home more often (home/online school) so food consumption has increase while incomes has decreased." - Female, 32

WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

- ▶ Respondents continue to spend more time on domestic work and childcare and less on shopping.

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



By sex

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Female					
Increased	44%	52%	35%	40%	17%
No change	47%	23%	15%	34%	35%
Decreased	7%	8%	49%	11%	21%
Not applicable	2%	18%	2%	15%	27%

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Male*					
Increased	33%	42%	34%	32%	6%
No change	54%	34%	23%	49%	53%
Decreased	10%	8%	41%	7%	18%
Not applicable	3%	17%	3%	12%	24%

* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

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 (42%) and childcare (49%), and nearly half (47%) continue to curb their shopping activities. These patterns are largely consistent when compared with the overall results from the region, and the results from February 2021.

Both female and male respondents reported an increase in time spent on unpaid work due to pandemic. More women (52%) are reporting an increase in time spent on domestic work and childcare when compared to men (42%).

Across all income groups, a similar proportion of respondents reported increased time spent in domestic work. An increase in time spent on childcare was more often reported by those classifying their income as well below and below average (54%) compared to those with above and well above average income (39-41%).

Respondents continue to curb their shopping activities, which may be attributed to the lack of finances and the shifts in how people shop. Respondents with below and well below average (53%) and average income more frequently reduced their time spent on shopping activities, when compared to 32% of respondents with above and well above average income.

Low responses in the above and well above average categories and male respondents may affect results.

WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

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

By survey round

Feb-22	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	42%	49%	34%	38%	14%
No change	48%	26%	17%	38%	40%
Decreased	8%	8%	47%	10%	21%
Not applicable	2%	17%	2%	14%	26%

Feb-21	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	46%	47%	21%	39%	9%
No change	39%	23%	17%	35%	36%
Decreased	13%	9%	61%	10%	32%
Not applicable	3%	21%	0%	16%	22%

Jun-20	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	58%	53%	30%	52%	15%
No change	37%	23%	13%	28%	38%
Decreased	4%	7%	56%	4%	21%
Not applicable	1%	16%	1%	16%	26%

By perceived income level

Below and well below average	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	44%	54%	38%	33%	18%
No change	41%	17%	6%	38%	37%
Decreased	11%	13%	53%	17%	21%
Not applicable	4%	16%	3%	13%	23%

Average	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	47%	41%	28%	33%	8%
No change	41%	27%	24%	36%	42%
Decreased	8%	3%	48%	6%	18%
Not applicable	4%	30%	0%	25%	32%

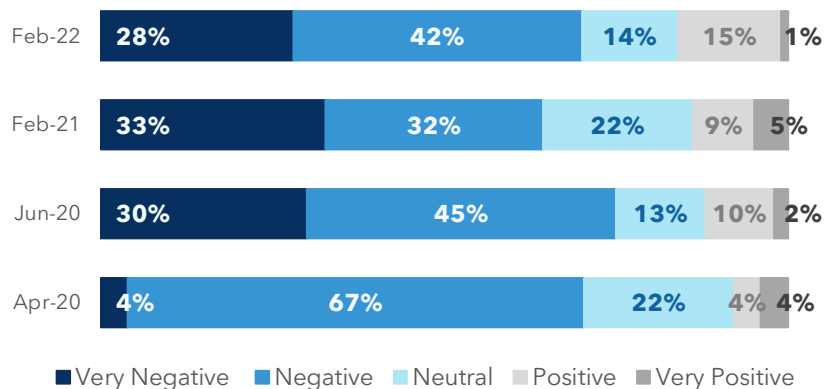
Above average and well above average*	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	44%	39%	31%	23%	13%
No change	43%	22%	37%	50%	53%
Decreased	11%	2%	32%	10%	17%
Not applicable	2%	37%	1%	16%	17%

* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

WIDER IMPACTS | Coping and adapting

- ▶ The pandemic continues to take a negative toll as respondents worry about unemployment, increasing living costs and other concerns.

Distribution of sentiments across open-ended survey responses



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 322 respondents, 139 responded to the open-ended question. This sentiment analysis classifies the overall feeling expressed within each response and how negative or positive it is. In February 2022, the respondents were expressing negative (42%) and very negative (28%) sentiments.

Many respondents expressed concerns about difficulty finding work which reflects the overall rise of unemployment in Saint Lucia. While earnings remain the same or are reduced, rising prices at the markets and living costs are stretching households' finances. As a result households are reducing their consumption generally and on essential items.

Small business owners are also impacted by costs incurred by COVID-19 due to staff shortages and cost of cleaning supplies. Many reported to falling ill and being out of work, resulting in loss of work and income.

Some sample responses:

Very negative (28%)

"I have been in isolation and began having physical and mental health problems; Bad eyesight, breathing issues due to a lack of exercise, laziness and visual and auditory hallucinations" - Male, 16

Negative (42%)

"Working from home, whilst trying to care for children has had a serious effect on mental health, and the isolation." - Female, 37

"All these changes, like not going to school, church, family doesn't make sense. There's no pandemic, I don't see sick people everywhere. Everyone knows the health care system is confused." - Male, 17

Neutral (14%)

"More time spent in preparing lessons for virtual classes." - Male, 59

Positive (15%)

"Found an interest in gardening - flowers and back yard gardening; Less grocery shopping and concentrating on eating more fruits and vegetables." - Female, 70

Very positive (1%)

"My church services I am taking it through zoom now. I feel safer that way. Buy more grocery than usual to avoid going into town often" - Female, 39

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



FEBRUARY
2021



JUNE
2020



APRIL
2020



CONCLUSION

Since the first survey was launched in April 2020, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, much has changed in Saint Lucia. 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. 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 troubling.

Most people continue to face disruptions to their livelihoods, and the impact on incomes remains pervasive. The resources that people have are not going as far with now increasing food prices. More and more people are 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 and greater government expenditures foreseen for the 2022 fiscal year, there is some cause for optimism on economic recovery. However, the picture in February 2022 was one of many people facing struggles related to employment, food security, and concerns about the future. The decrease of incomes, lost jobs and increased costs of living have recalibrated the baseline of well-being in a negative direction. While food insecurity seems less widespread compared to the region as a whole, it remains a concern to watch, particularly as impacts of the Ukraine conflict on food prices continues.

These impacts are hitting hardest those who can least afford it – particularly families with the lowest incomes, and younger respondents of working age. It will 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.

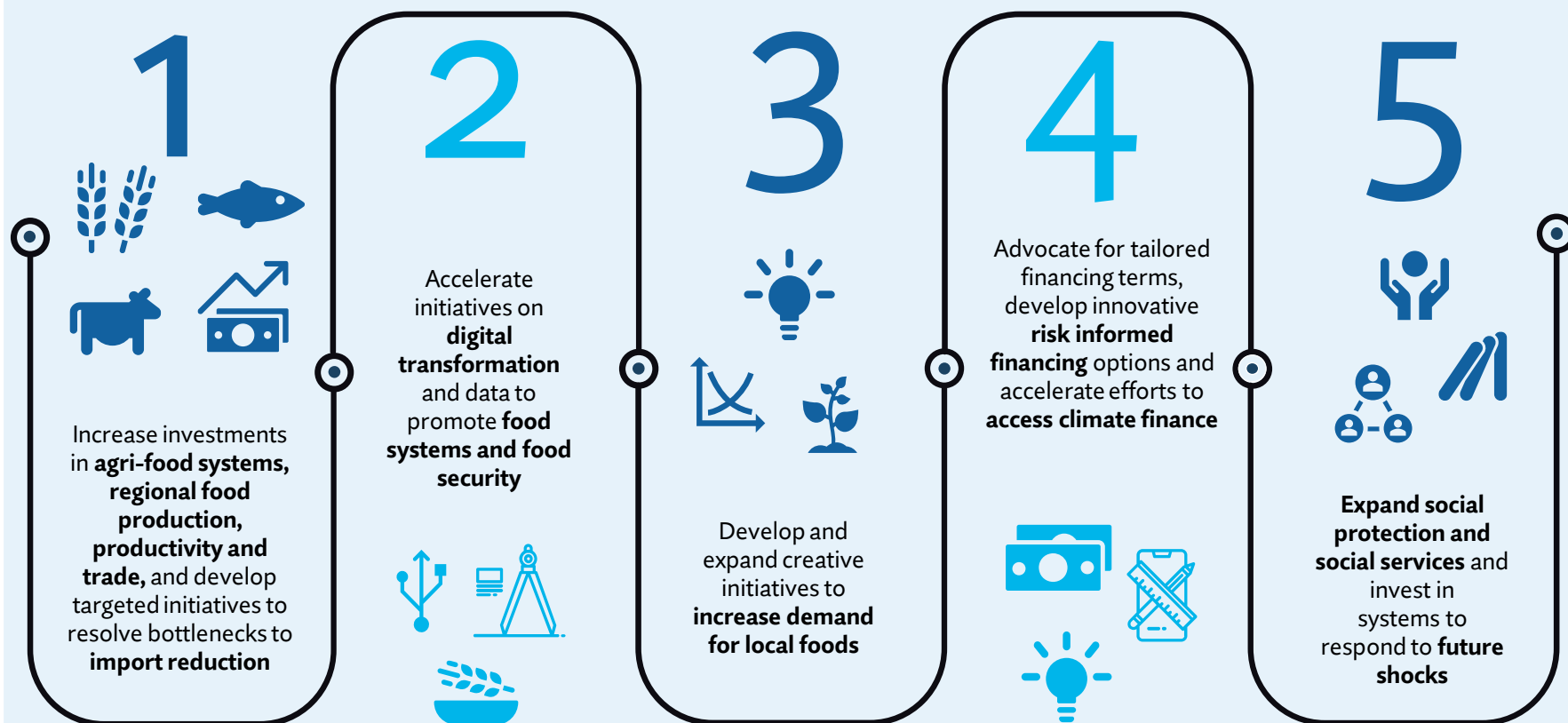
The survey also highlights that unpaid time spent on childcare and domestic work are still greater than before the pandemic, and these activities seem to be disproportionately shouldered by women. Continued and deepened analysis on gender dynamics remains a priority to ensure that recovery processes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

The Government of Saint Lucia has implemented a range of measures and programmes to mitigate the socioeconomic impact on people and businesses. Social protection has played a critical role including through temporary income support, an expansion of the country's Public Assistance Programme and top-ups to existing beneficiaries. Given the continued of impacts to people's incomes and lives, it is critical for the government to keep investing in safety nets and people's resilience, particularly for those living in poverty and facing different facets of vulnerability.

Similar to other Caribbean economies, Saint Lucia 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 effects of the Ukraine crisis, present the country with a serious multi-pronged challenge for food security. Strengthening emergency preparedness, social protection, and food systems must be therefore a strategic recovery and development priority, in line with broader CARICOM objectives and recommendations. The next page recommendations from the [regional survey](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS

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



METHODOLOGY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

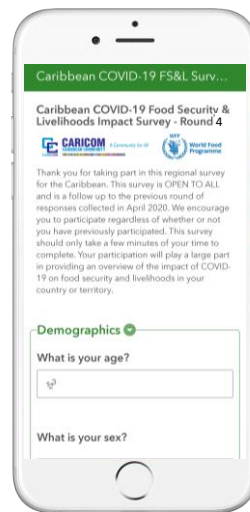
The fourth round of the CARICOM Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods impact survey was launched via a webform, which was accessible on mobile/smartphones and PC/desktops. The data collection period was inclusive of 25 January to 8 February 2022. The survey was circulated via email, social 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.

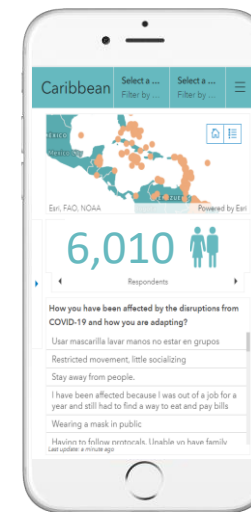
WFP expresses warm appreciation to Flow and Digicel for distributing the survey link by SMS in Barbados and Grenada. Special thanks to the International Telecommunication Union for their support in facilitating the SMS distribution. Thanks to UNHCR in Trinidad and Tobago for circulating the survey link.

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



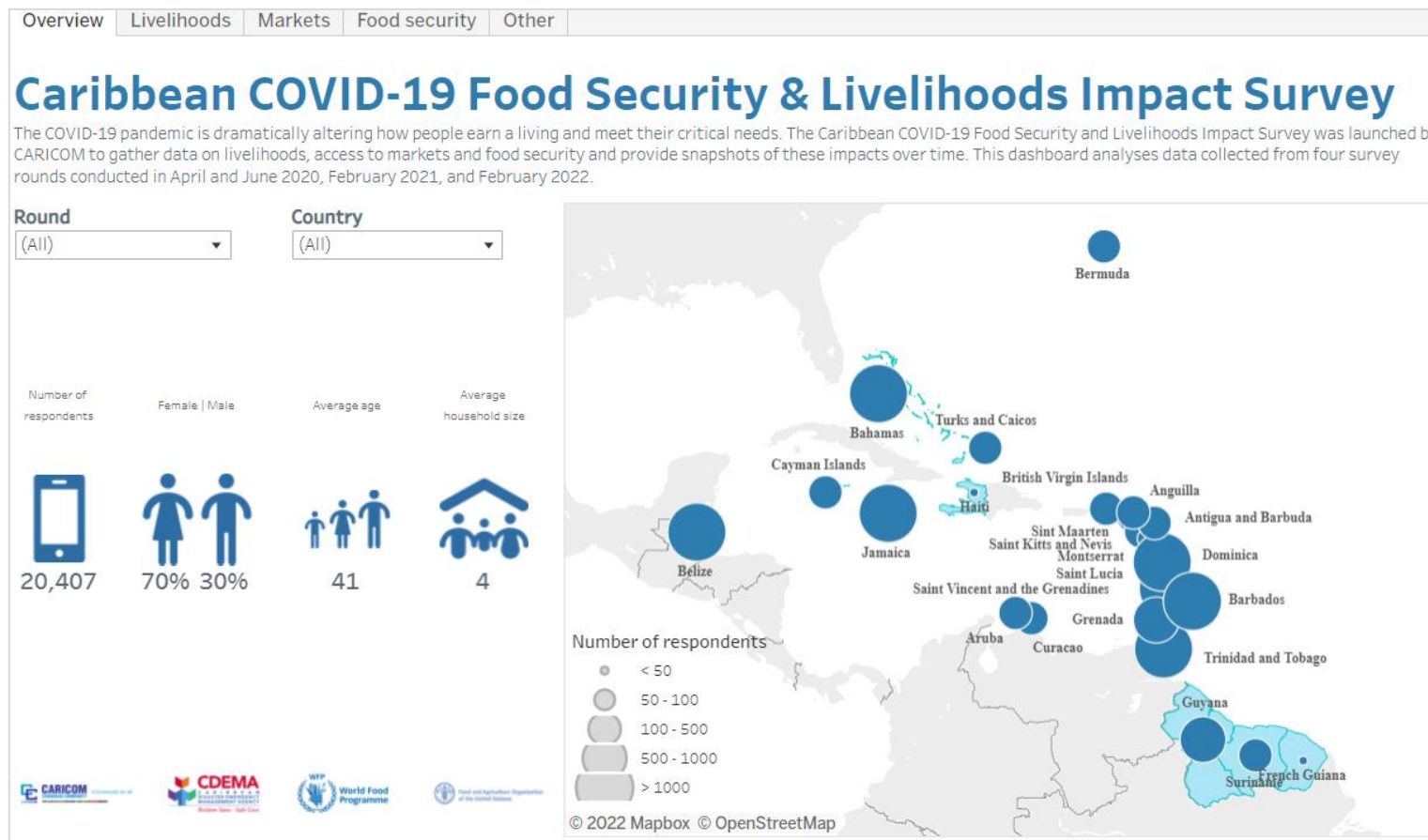
Dashboard for PCs/Laptops

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 & Livelihoods 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>

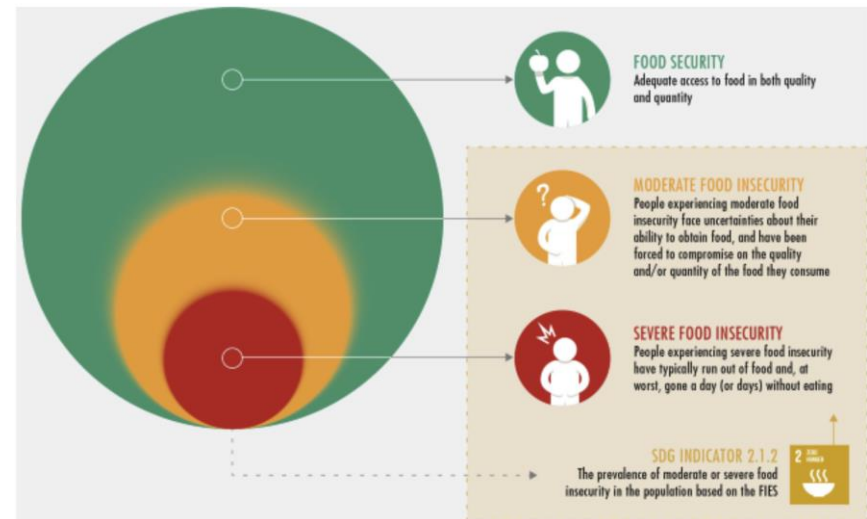


CALCULATION OF FOOD INSECURITY ESTIMATES

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).

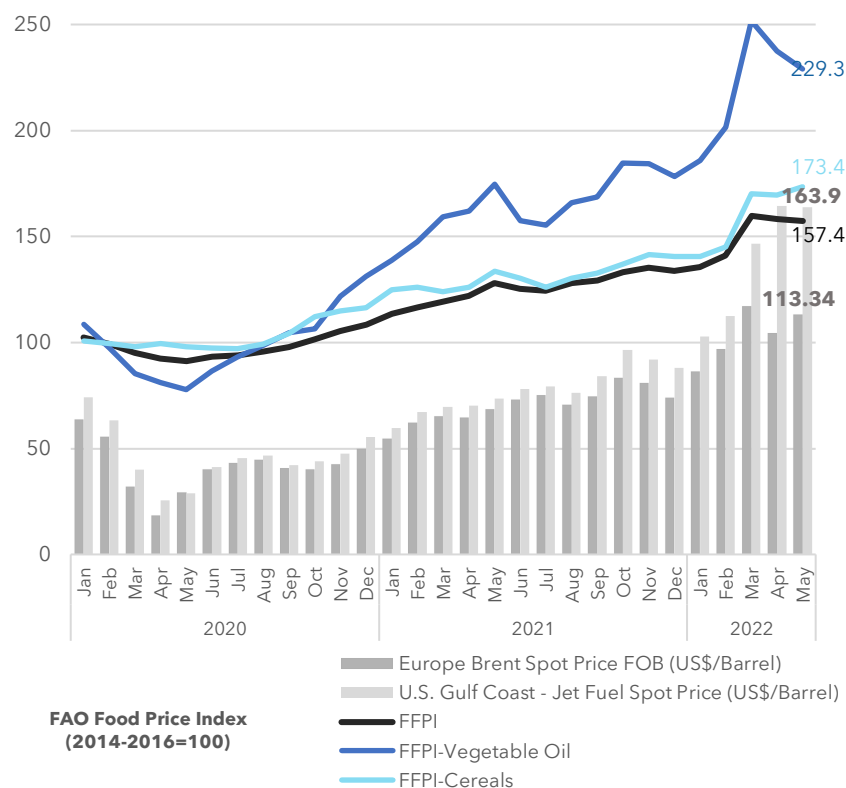
Annex | Regional implications of Ukraine crisis

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.

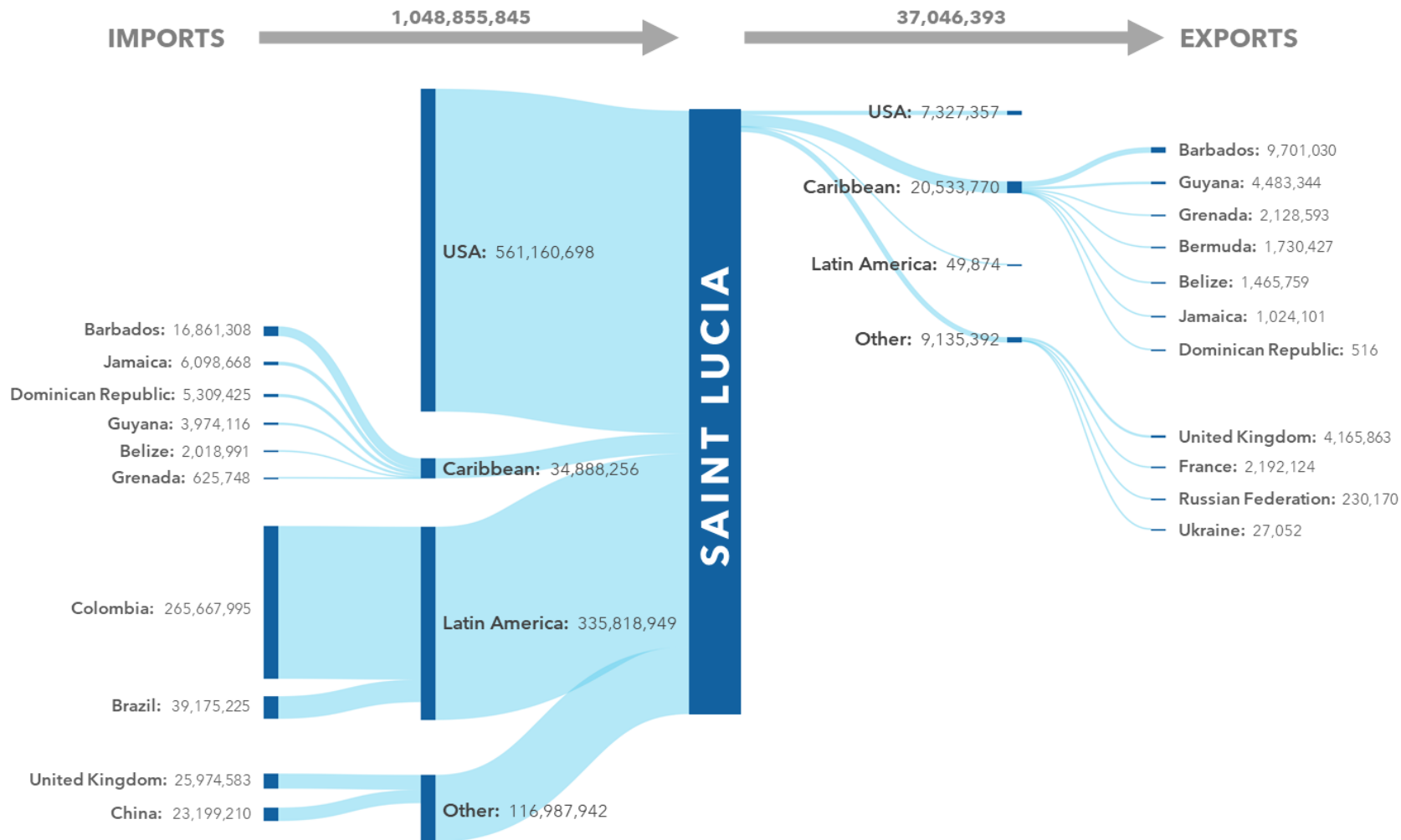


Source: FAO, US Energy Information Administration

Annex | Saint Lucia trade flows

Import and export of all commodities in Saint Lucia in 2020, based on US\$ value

Source: Observatory of Economic Complexity



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UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

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