# Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO Summary Report | July 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 February 2021, April 2020 and June 2020. Implemented by the World Food Programme, the short online survey was circulated in Trinidad and Tobago via social media, media outlets, SMS and emails.

### February 2022

1576 Respondents | 1132 English-speakers, 394 Spanish-speakers, 50 other/unknown | 72 Female | 28% Male | 40 Average age | 4 Average household size

### February 2021

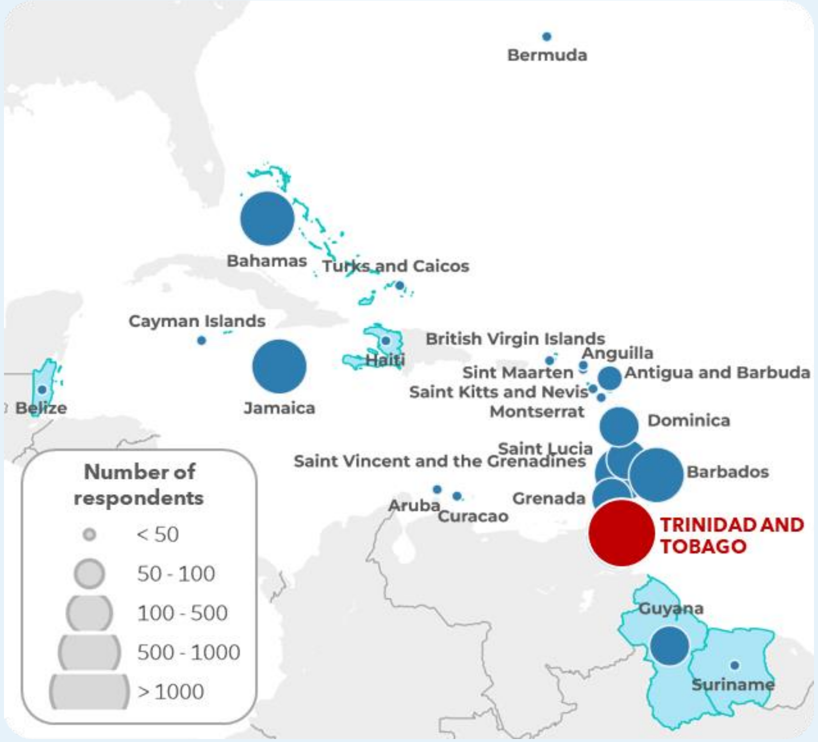
1103 Respondents | 302 English-speakers, 763 Spanish-speakers, 38 other/unknown | 64 Female | 36% Male | 37 Average age | 4 Average household size

### June 2020

899 Respondents | 143 English-speakers, 429 Spanish-speakers, 327 unknown | 67 Female | 33% Male | 36 Average age | 5 Average household size

### April 2020

535 Respondents | 535 English-speakers | 67 Female | 33% Male | 42 Average age | 4 Average household size




CARICOM CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY *A Community for All*

CDEMA CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY *Resilient States · Safer Lives*

WFP World Food Programme

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO Summary | July 2022

- Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, people in Trinidad and Tobago continue to be impacted by the global health crisis and the resulting economic downturn. While vaccines have become more widely available and used by half of the population, the emergence of new variants in 2021 resulted in travel and movement restrictions continuing to varying degrees.
- The pandemic continues to impact people's livelihoods. Over half of respondents faced a disruption to their livelihoods in the two weeks prior to the survey in February 2022, which is lower than in the early stages of the pandemic but higher compared to a year ago. The main reason for disruptions emerges to be increased prices of livelihood inputs, affecting especially informally employed persons and business owners.
- Half of respondents predict moderate to severe impacts to their livelihoods in the future. Those with lower incomes, engaged in casual labour or relying on support from family and friends, and those living in rural areas have the most pessimistic outlooks.
- Negative impacts on incomes remain widespread, with almost two thirds of respondents having faced a job loss or reduced income in their household since the start of the pandemic. The incomes of respondents engaged in fishing activities seem to have been harder hit compared to other households.
- Respondents mainly worry about illness (50%), followed by unemployment (44%) and meeting their essential needs (34%).
- Food prices are increasing, and 98% of respondents reported higher than usual food prices, an observation that is more widespread compared to previous survey rounds or elsewhere in the region.
- Nearly one third of respondents experienced challenges accessing markets in the week prior to the survey, primarily due to a lack of financial means. Respondents are increasingly buying cheaper and smaller quantities of foods than usual.
- Based on survey responses, half of respondents (51%) are estimated to be moderately or severely food insecure, with the lowest income households being the most food insecure.
- More people are going a whole day without eating and skipping meals compared to February 2021. Lowest income households were most likely to resort to negative coping strategies, and availability of food stocks deteriorated compared to all previous rounds since April 2020. More respondents are resorting to severe actions, with 72% drawing on savings to meet immediate food needs, half reducing expenditures on education and health, and over a third selling productive assets.
- Differences in impacts are most pronounced when comparing income groups. Households with reported incomes below and well below average show the poorest results on all key metrics of well-being and are at risk of further falling behind economically.
- Fourteen percent of respondents have received some form of government support, and only 1% of these respondents were receiving assistance at the time of the survey. Food baskets/hamper were the most common support received.
- Spanish speakers, primarily assumed to be migrants from Venezuela, have much more negative metrics across a variety of measures compared to English speakers. Livelihood disruptions, income loss, limited market access, food insecurity, worries about meeting food and other essential needs and negative coping mechanisms are most widespread among this population group. Findings are reported separately for English- (pages 10-54) and Spanish-speaking respondents (pages 55-62).
- Food insecurity risks are deepening in Trinidad and Tobago, 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 the strengthening of national and regional food systems, social protection and emergency preparedness to promote recovery and protect people from future shocks.
- While the survey contributes to a better overview of impacts, the data is not entirely representative, and the use of an online questionnaire limits inputs from people without internet access.

# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO Summary | July 2022

## English-speaking respondents

| | | Feb-22 | Feb-21 | Jun-20 | Apr-20 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LIVELIHOODS | Disrupted livelihoods | **54%** | 37% | 57% | 72% |
| | Reduction/loss of income | **63%** | 50% | 63% | 40% |
| | Moderate to severe or severe future livelihoods impacts | **50%** | 39% | 49% | 40% |
| MARKETS | Lack of market access | **30%** | 19% | 27% | 15% |
| | Change in shopping behaviour | **93%** | 84% | 86% | 82% |
| | Increase in food prices | **98%** | 80% | 77% | 65% |
| FOOD SECURITY | Reduced food consumption | **35%** | 23% | 33% | 12% |
| | Lack of food stock | **22%** | 16% | 11% | 2% |

## Spanish-speaking respondents

Information on language was not collected in the April 2020 survey round.

| | | Feb-22 | Feb-21 | Jun-20 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| LIVELIHOODS | Disrupted livelihoods | **75%** | 71% | 75% |
| | Reduction/loss of income | **84%** | 86% | 89% |
| | Moderate to severe or severe future livelihoods impacts | **50%** | 55% | 55% |
| MARKETS | Lack of market access | **70%** | 68% | 63% |
| | Change in shopping behaviour | **92%** | 92% | 89% |
| | Increase in food prices | **97%** | 86% | 76% |
| FOOD SECURITY | Reduced food consumption | **68%** | 64% | 71% |
| | Lack of food stock | **30%** | 25% | 23% |

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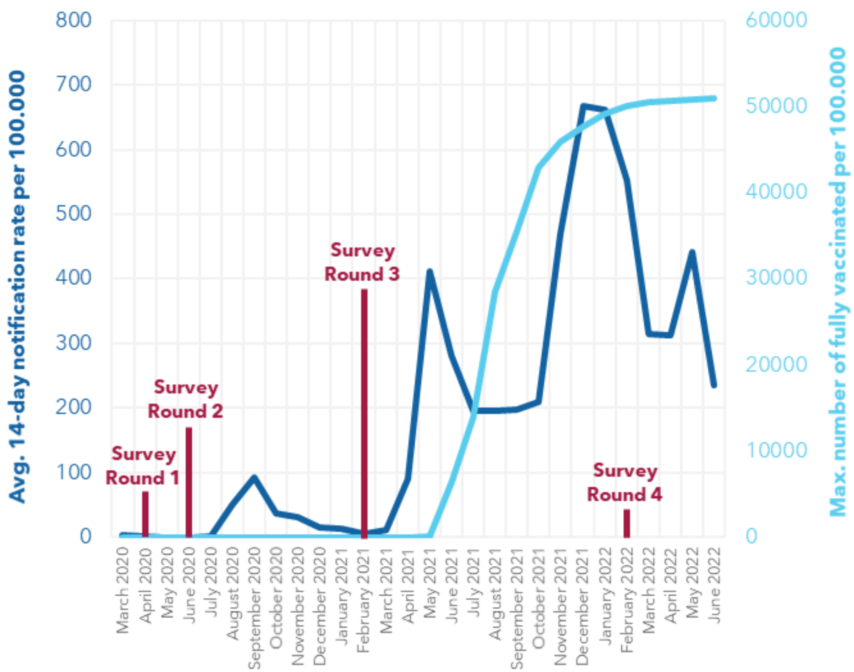
# COVID-19 | Situation and response

## COVID-19 cases and government responses

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, Trinidad and Tobago has experienced several waves of infections, with the number of new cases reaching a record high in December 2021. At the time of the survey in February 2022, the number of new cases was falling, before starting to rise again from April 2022. The surges of infections were accompanied by a varying restrictions on movement, business activities and public gatherings, including lockdowns in 2020 and 2021. As of July 2022, however, most internal restrictions have been removed.

**New COVID-19 cases and vaccination in Trinidad and Tobago***

*Average rate of COVID-19 cases and maximum number of fully vaccinated people per month in Trinidad and Tobago. 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, 20.6.2022

The country's borders had been closed for over a year between March 2020 and 2021, when all remaining restrictions for international travel were lifted.

The Trinidad and Tobago national vaccination programme started in February 2021. As of July 2022, 53.7% of the country's population were fully vaccinated, which remains below the worldwide coverage of 62%.

## Broader developments and government responses

Domestic restrictions imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19 have weighed on the country's economy, with GDP estimated to have contracted by 7.4% in 2020. Energy production cuts, a weak global demand and the drop in energy prices in 2020 further contributed to lowered energy exports and revenues. Despite a strong economic recovery being projected for 2022, economic output is expected to remain below pre-COVID-19 levels in the medium term.[1]

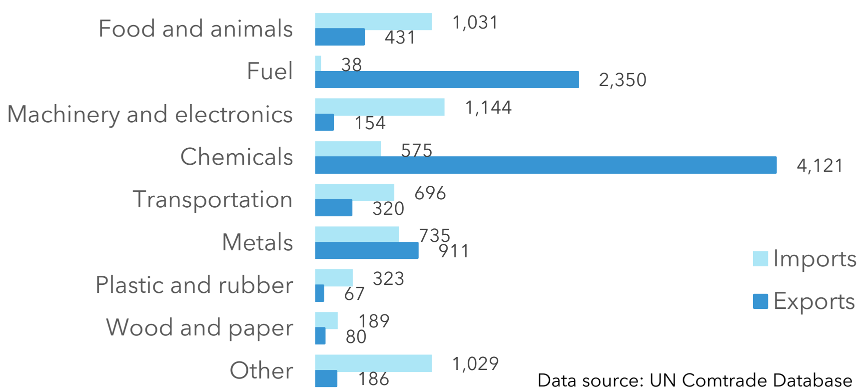
The Government of Trinidad and Tobago adopted a range of measures to mitigate the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on households and businesses, including social protection measures. Among these was a salary relief grant to assist employees and self-employed individuals who suffered loss of job or income due to the pandemic. Vulnerable households also received support in the form of a Rental Assistance Grant and food cards. The government also provided a temporary increases in benefits to beneficiaries of the Public Assistance Programme, Disability Assistance Grant, and to recipients of food support. Furthermore, a paid "pandemic leave" was introduced to accommodate for employees who are not eligible for (extended) sick leave in order to assist parents unable to report to work due to school closures.

[1] IMF(2021). Trinidad and Tobago: Staff Concluding Statement of the 2021 Article IV Mission. Available at: [https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/11/19/trinidad-and-tobago-staff-concluding-statement-of-the-2021-article-iv-mission](https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/11/19/trinidad-and-tobago-staff-concluding-statement-of-the-2021-article-iv-mission)

# 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 are highly dependent on the Russian Federation and Ukraine on key imports, but spill over effects are expected also elsewhere. Trinidad and Tobago, unlike most economies of the Caribbean, is a net exporter of commodities. In 2021, overall imports were valued US$ 5.7 billion while the value of exports amounted to US$ 8.6 billion. Chemicals are the single most important export good and contributed to 72% of all of the country's exports in 2021, followed by fuel.

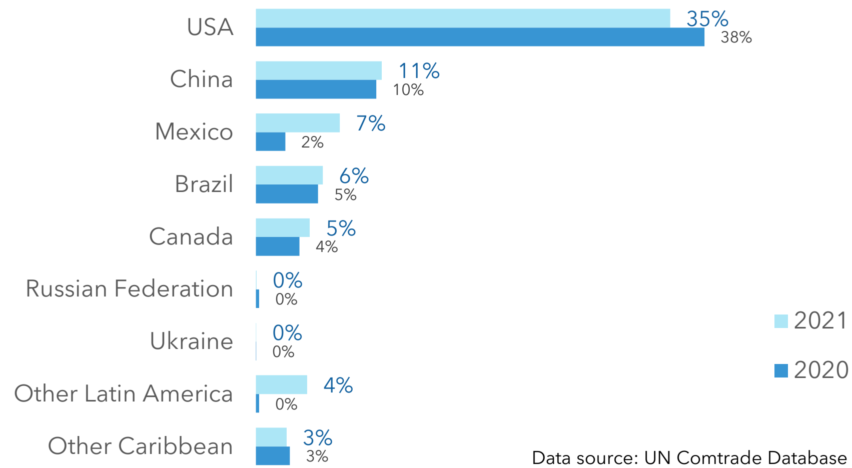
**Share of Trinidad and Tobago commodity trade in million US$ (2021), by product group**




Data source: UN Comtrade Database

The United States (US) were the main trading partner, contributing to 35% of total imports and 38% of exports in terms of US$ value. They are also the main source market for cereals (69%), milled products (35%) and fuels (66%). Imports from Russia or Ukraine for these commodities were either non-existent or insignificant. Trinidad and Tobago is still likely to exhibit some direct exposure to the conflict in Ukraine given that Russia and Ukraine, albeit minor, constitute for Trinidad and Tobago two export partners. In 2020, the Russian and Ukrainian markets together accounted for nearly 4% of its overall exports based on US$ value.

**Top 5 import partners in 2021 based on US$ value (all commodities)**




Data source: UN Comtrade Database

Price fluctuations and supply chain shocks in international markets may still translate to inflationary pressure domestically for Trinidad and Tobago. Main contributors to the upward trends are the Consumer Price Index (CPI) divisions: 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' (14.7%); 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (9.6%) and 'Transport' (14.3%). the National Flour Mills Limited has announced that the cost of wheat has increased by a further 49 per cent in 2022 in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Minister of Trade has announced tailored domestic and regional measures to decrease food prices and support those most affected by the cost-of-living crisis. These included purchase of condensed milk produced regionally (in Jamaica), which carries no duties, and government guaranteed long-term facilities for small and medium businesses.

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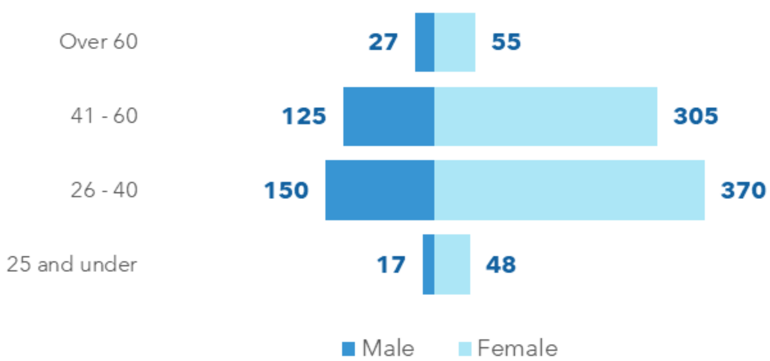
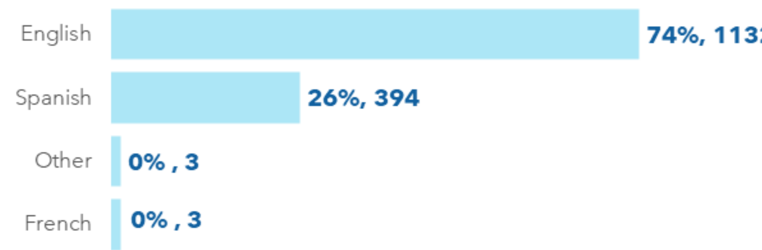
# RESPONDENTS | Demographics

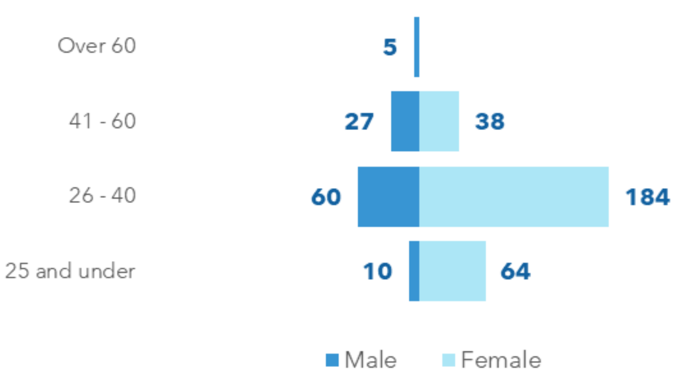
**Age and sex**
**English-speaking respondents**



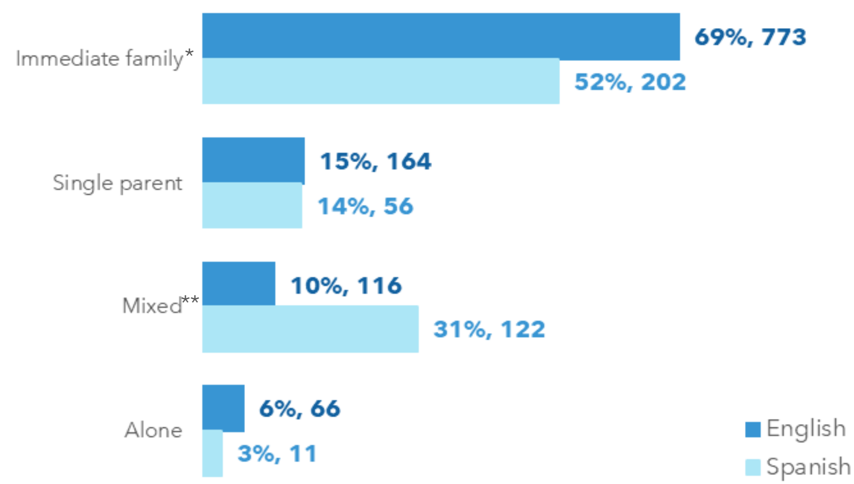

**Language**




**Age and sex**
**Spanish-speaking respondents**




**Household composition**
**By language**



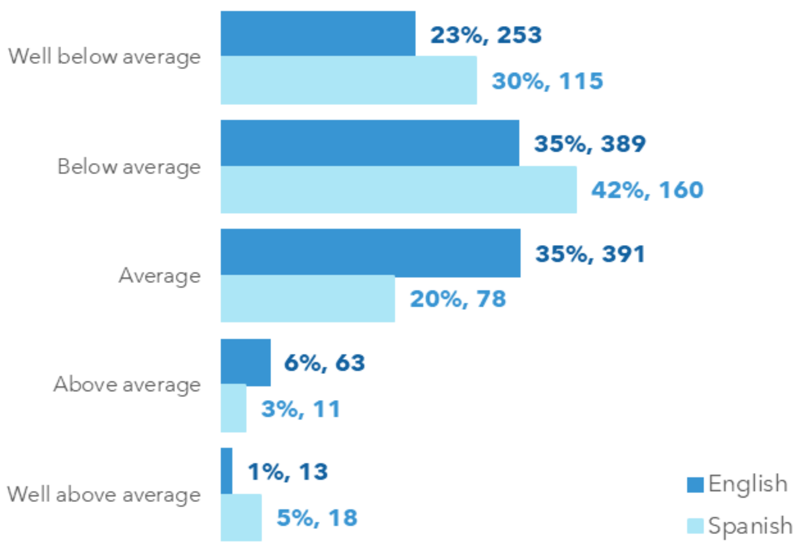

* Immediate family includes partner, children and grandparents.
** Mixed households are composed of immediate family members, other relatives as well as non-family members.

# RESPONDENTS | Demographics

### Perceived income levels

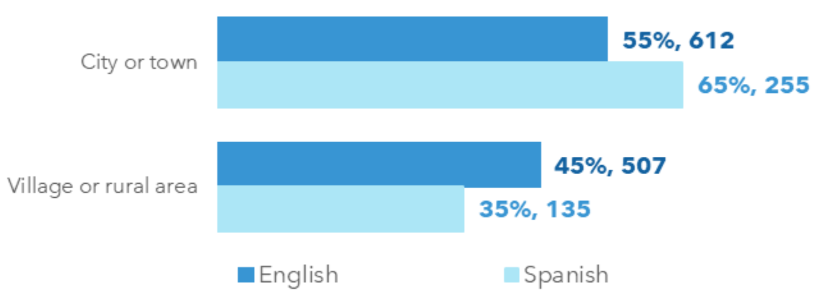
Respondents were asked to compare their household's income with the rest of their country.

**By language**




### Urban/rural location

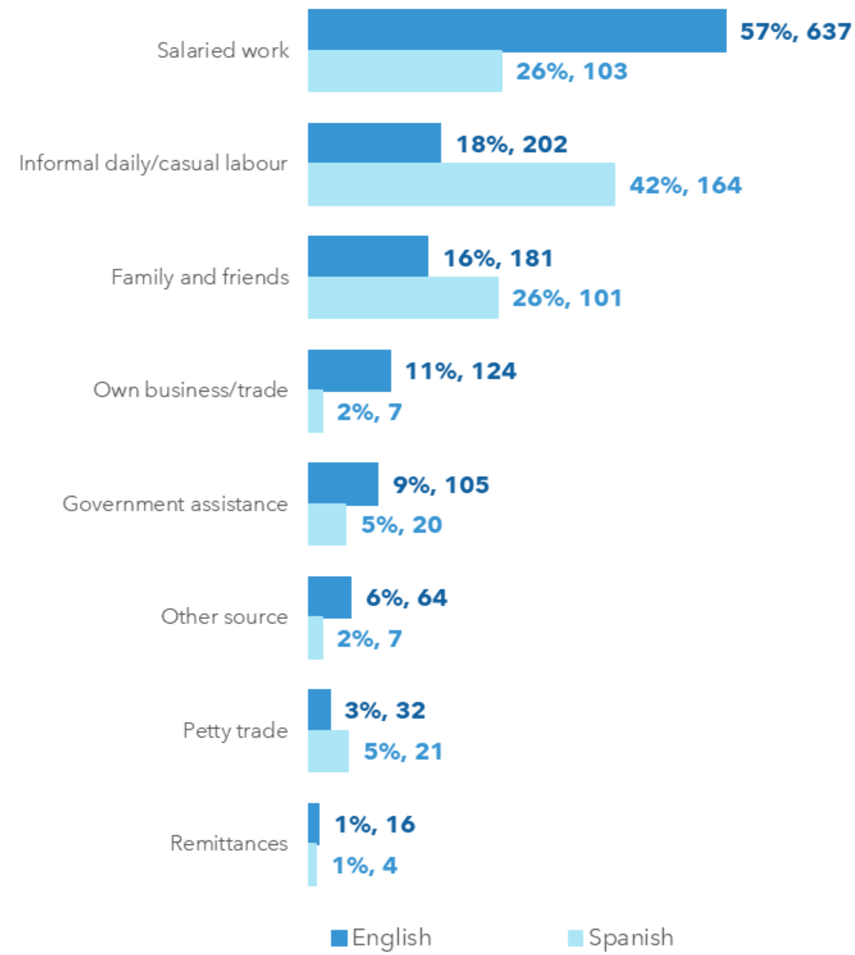
**By language**




### Main income sources

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

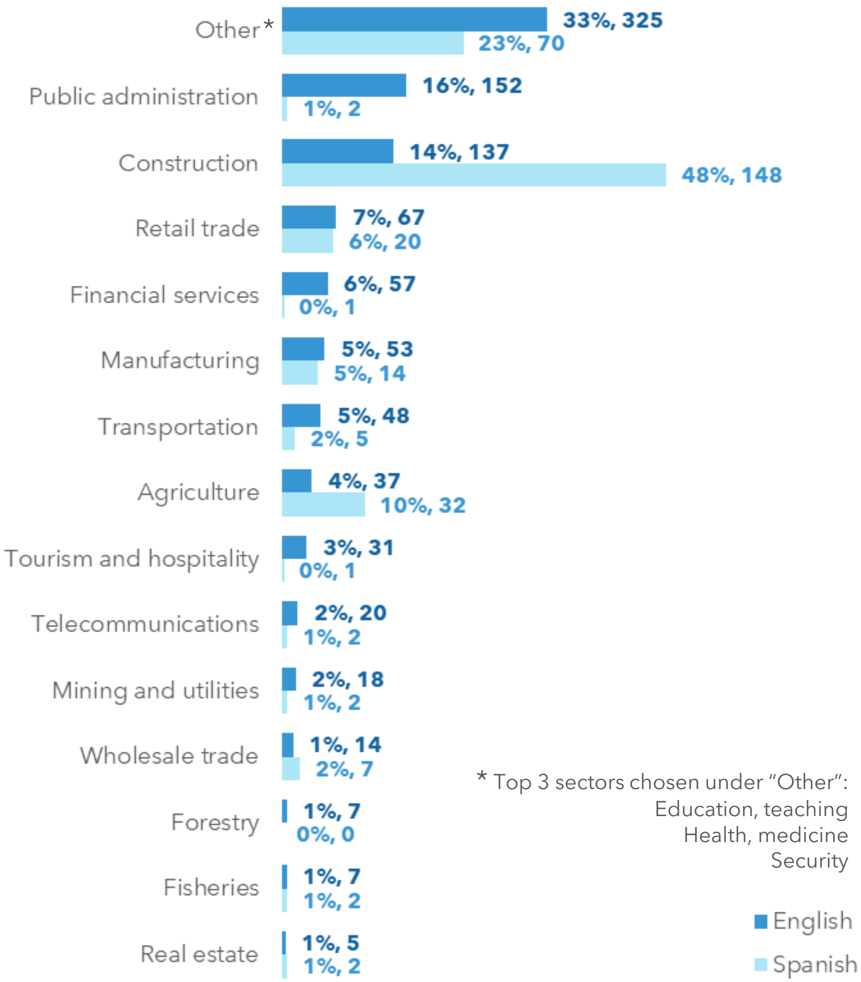
**By language**



# RESPONDENTS | Demographics

**Main income sector**

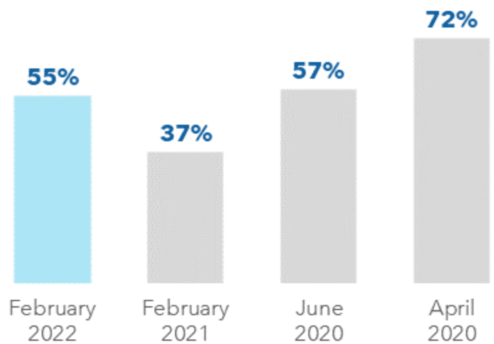
Respondents were asked to indicate the sector that represents their household's main source of income. The percentages were calculated for the respondents that indicated having an income.



# LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

▶ Impacts to livelihoods remain widespread, with over half of respondents reporting disruptions.

**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 in Trinidad and Tobago. For over half of respondents, the ability to pursue their livelihood remained compromised in the two weeks prior to the survey. This proportion has decreased compared to the early stages of the pandemic but increased compared to February 2021.

When considering the different characteristics of people responding to the survey (such as age, sex, perceived income level or main source of income) the biggest differences are linked to people's level and type of income. Among respondents who described their income as well below average, 76% reported livelihood disruptions, compared to 40% of those with income levels described as average. Most affected were also respondents relying on family and friends for income (71%) and living in rural areas (58%).

*"Job opportunities are harder I now do a job that is not in the field I've worked in for over 16 years" - Female, 37*

*"Loss of major clients so a considerable decrease in income. Difficulty in paying electricity bill, mortgage, insurance for vehicles and vehicle maintenance etc. Need new equipment  but don't have the funds." - Male, 53*

*"I had to resort to another job just to provide essentials because grocery items increased but no salary increase, still working on 2015 rates." - Female, 34*

*"Our income can barely cover expenses no help financially from government" - Female, 34*

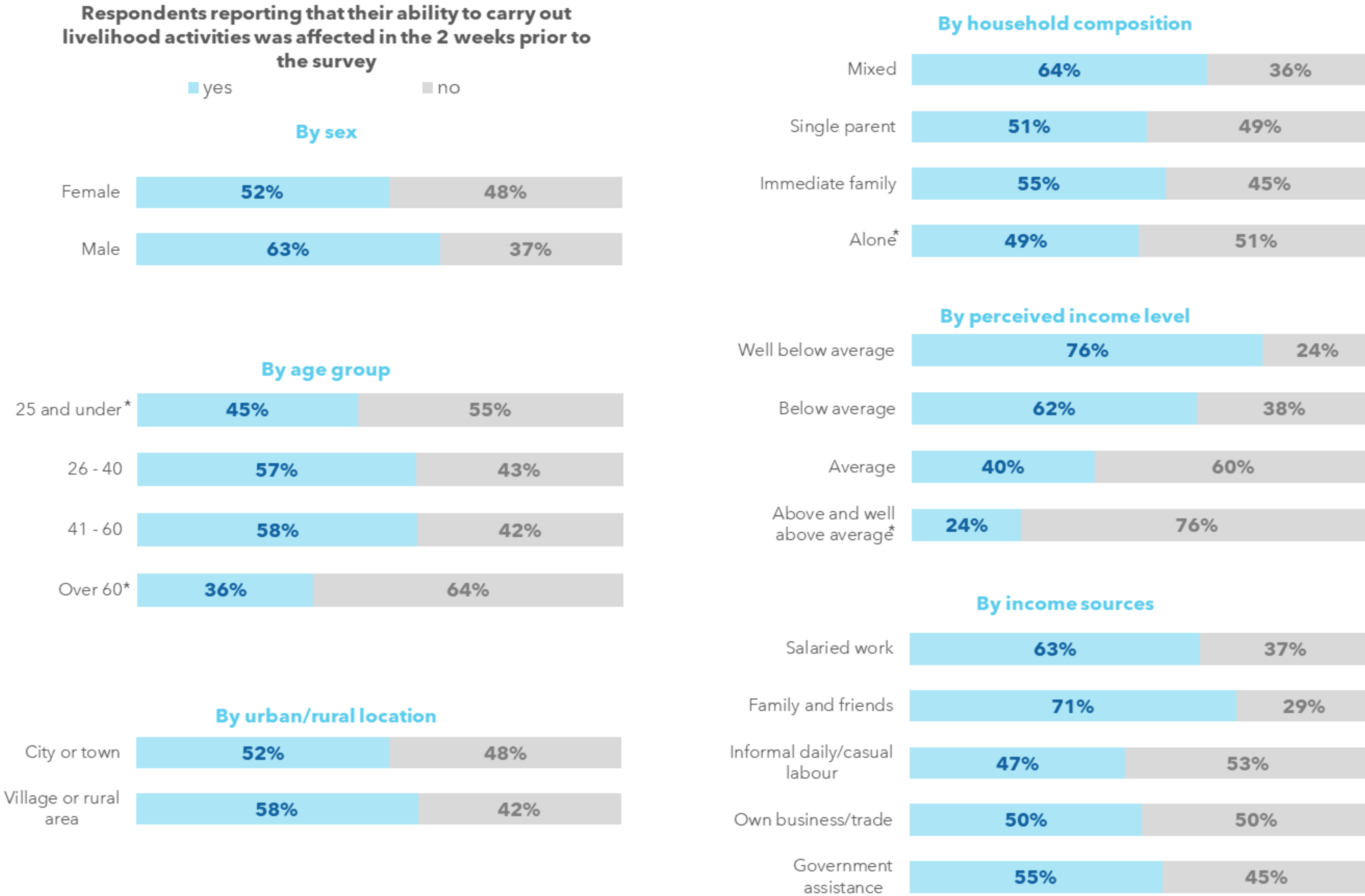
*"No pay after quarantine 21 days no pcr test to declare negative to return to work no type of medicine to help while being in quarantine for 21 days risking  going out to get food and medical supplies" - Female, 44*

*"No available jobs in my career field and may not be able to keep up with bills and food" - Female, 41*

*"I am self employed and haven't been able to work to make enough money to pay bills. I applied for the government assistance and never received anything or a response as to why. My client base has practically disappeared as a nail tech." - , Anonymous*

*"Over the past year could affected my family needs of employment as the construction sector closed and when it reopen business was really slow. We basically had to use our savings or go from paycheck to paycheck. Ever so often things will pick up but not as much precovid" - Female, 23*

# LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods




*Low response numbers in these categories may affect results

# LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

## ▶ The price of livelihood inputs has become one of the main factor behind livelihood disruptions.

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

| Main reason for livelihood disruptions | Feb-22 | Feb-21 | Jun-20 | Apr-20 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Concerned about leaving the house due to outbreak | 40% | 32% | 37% | 16% |
| Livelihoods inputs are too expensive | 38% | 26% | 28% | 4% |
| Movement restrictions | 28% | 30% | 40% | 61% |
| Reduced demand for goods/services | 14% | 17% | 16% | 27% |
| Transport limitations | 10% | 10% | 16% | 19% |
| Adult members of the household are unwell | 10% | 6% | 4% | 0% |
| Other | 10% | 15% | 20% | 11% |
| Increased demand for goods/services | 10% | 6% | 6% | 13% |
| Livelihoods inputs are unavailable | 8% | 13% | 14% | 11% |
| No market to sell products | 3% | 5% | 4% | 8% |

The main drivers behind livelihood disruptions in the two weeks prior to the February 2022 survey were concerns about leaving the house due to the outbreak and the unaffordability of or lack of access to livelihood inputs. The latter factor has grown steadily in importance since the early days of the pandemic and is linked to wider trends related to supply chain disruptions and price rises in the Caribbean.

Most impacted by this constraint are households with a well below average income level (46% of those facing disruptions), respondents aged 25 and under (45%) and those engaged primarily in their own business/trade (52%). Single parent households were also more sensitive to the unaffordability of livelihood inputs (39%) compared to households with other compositions.

Movement restrictions and reduced demand for goods/services remain important contributors to livelihood disruptions, cited by 28% and 14% of respondents, albeit less so compared to the early phase of the pandemic. Movement restriction particularly remains a dominant factor for livelihood disruptions among households with above or well above average incomes, and those deriving their incomes from salaries and own business. Among men, movement restrictions were the second most important reason for livelihood disruptions, and only second to expensive livelihood inputs.

Lack of market outlets to sell own products is declining in importance as a disruptive factor, as is unavailability of livelihood inputs.

# LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

*"Having to closed down my newly established business and live for 2 years providing for my kids without an income and no help at all from the government not even a welfare or food hamper"*
*Female, 37*

*"I have been impacted badly by Covid19, since I am self employed and my business is not fully essential. I have encountered loss of earnings in the past lock down. This caused me my loan payment not paid on time. It was difficult these times to put food on my table and I still struggle to do so. But with all the challenges, it made me took time to do some self reflecting. I was able to budget with the little I had to make do and survived through it all. It was able to cut back on unnecessary things." - Female, 30*

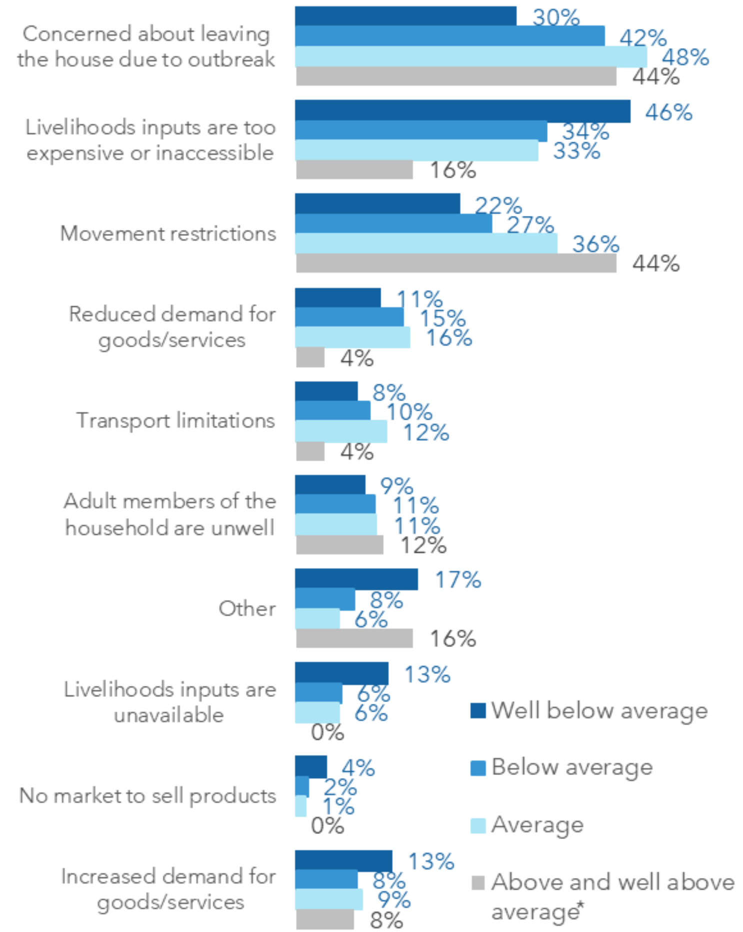
*"I work in the Construction Industry,  and the Covid has made it very difficult to get work." - Male, 61*

*"Employers fired workers and made the remaining employees work more to cover shifts with reduced rate of pay.. Just trying to get enough sleep to stay healthy to continue working." - Male, 45*

*"I had to adapt by resorting to retail trade due to unemployment, but its still not enough to pay the bills." - Female, 37*

*"I have had to accept exploitation at work having to work days and hours that the income don't compensate for. It's less than half my pre-Covid salary.  Having a child still at school and bills to pay."*
*Female, 37*

**For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were...**
Multiple choices could be selected.
**By perceived income level**

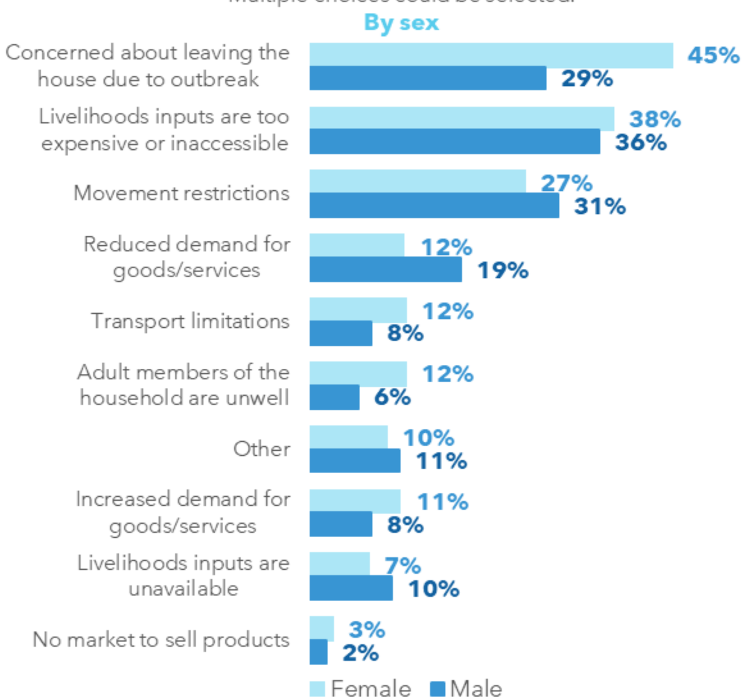


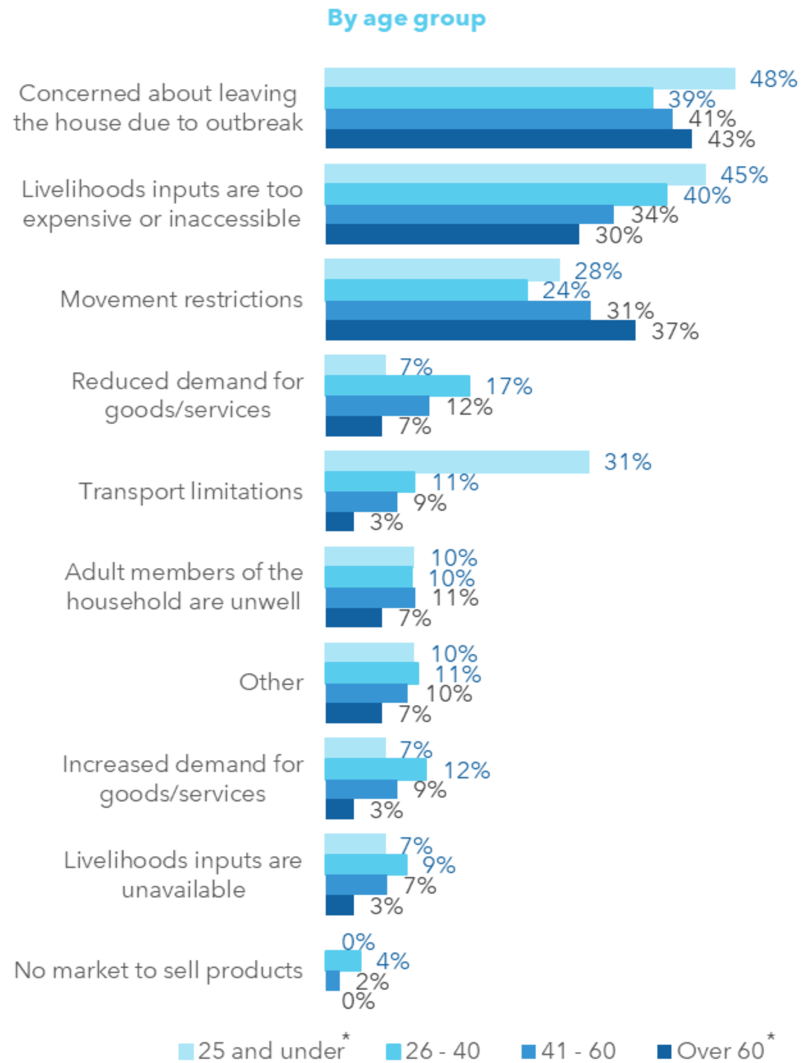

*Low response numbers in these categories may affect results

# LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

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

Multiple choices could be selected.



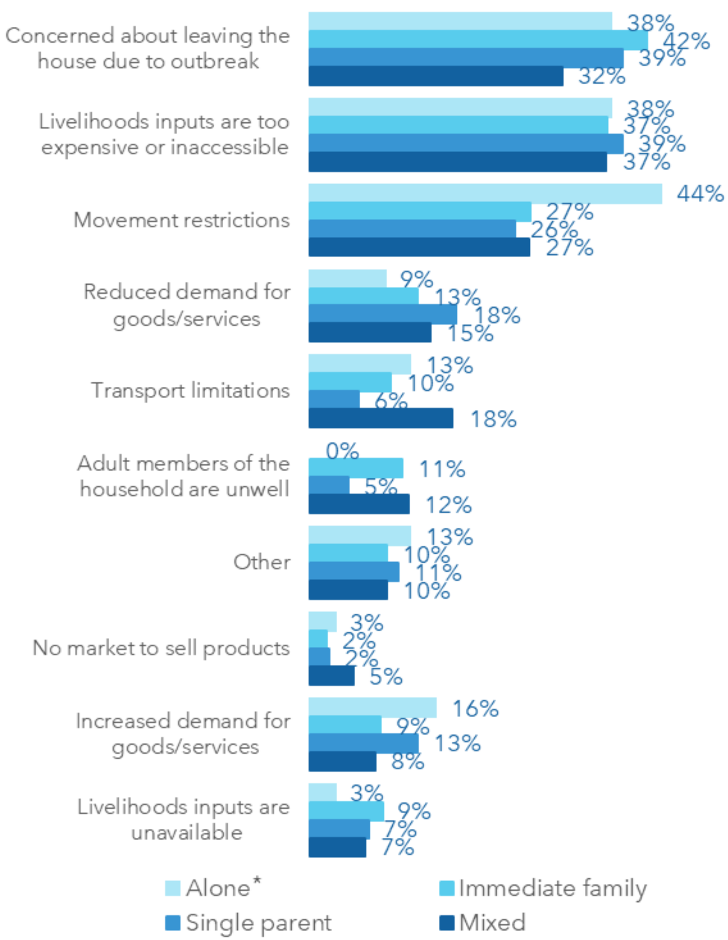

*Low response numbers in these categories may affect results

# LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

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

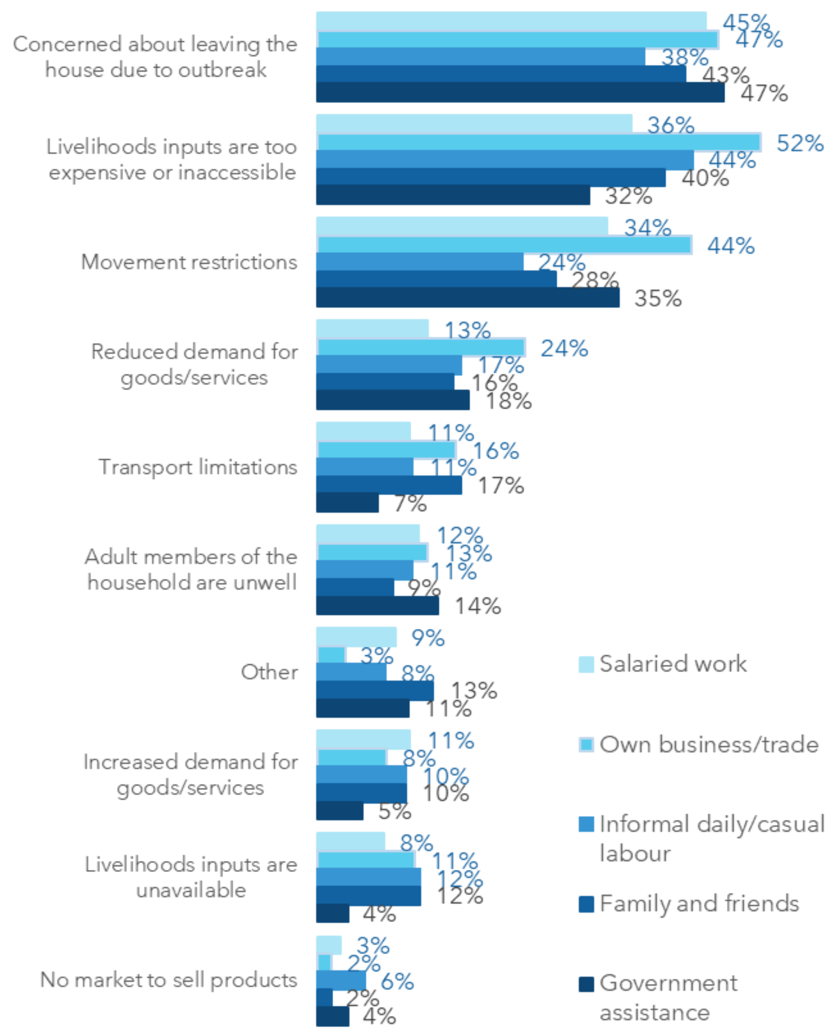
Multiple choices could be selected.

**By household composition**



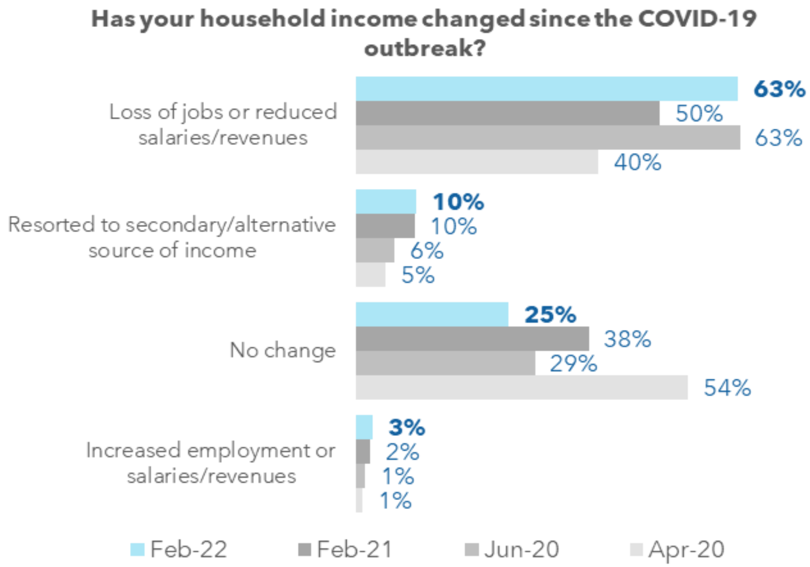

*Low response numbers in these categories may affect results

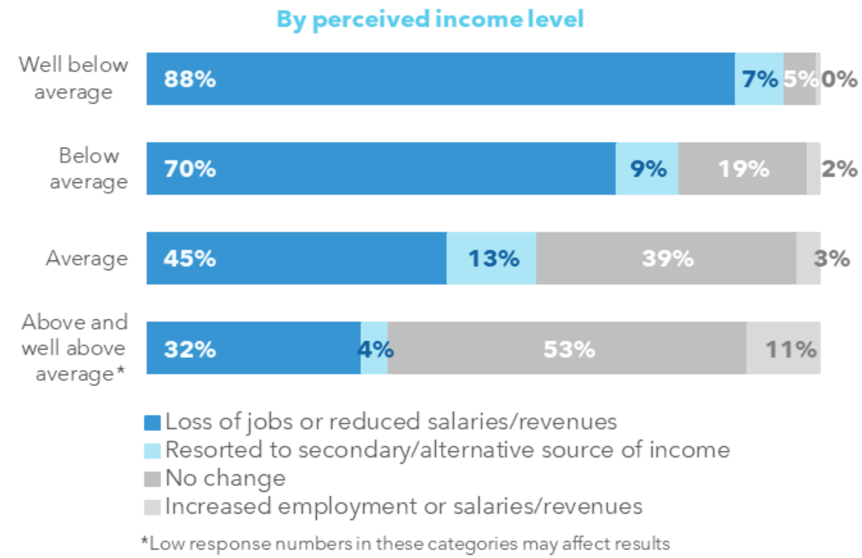
**By main income source**



# LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income

► Almost two thirds of respondents have faced job loss or income reductions in their households.




Impacts to income continue to be widespread, with 63% of respondents in Trinidad and Tobago reporting that their household has experienced job loss or reduced salaries since the COVID-19 outbreak. While the proportion of households with loss of income or reduced salaries has declined slightly since June 2020, it is still higher than the rate observed in both April 2020 and February 2021. The overall situation suggests the continuation of economic hardship with many people facing decreased income.

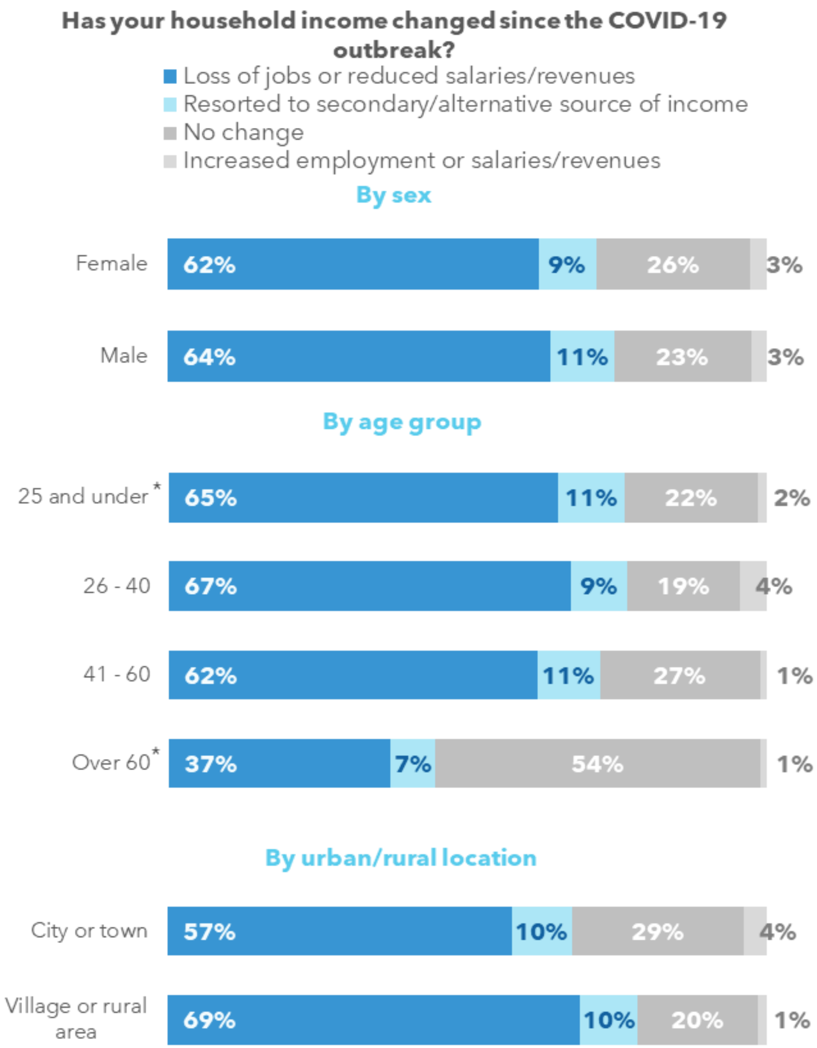
The most marked differences in responses was found across perceived income levels. Job loss or reduced income was reported by the vast majority of respondents describing their household income as well below average (88%), compared to those with above or well above average (32%) income levels.

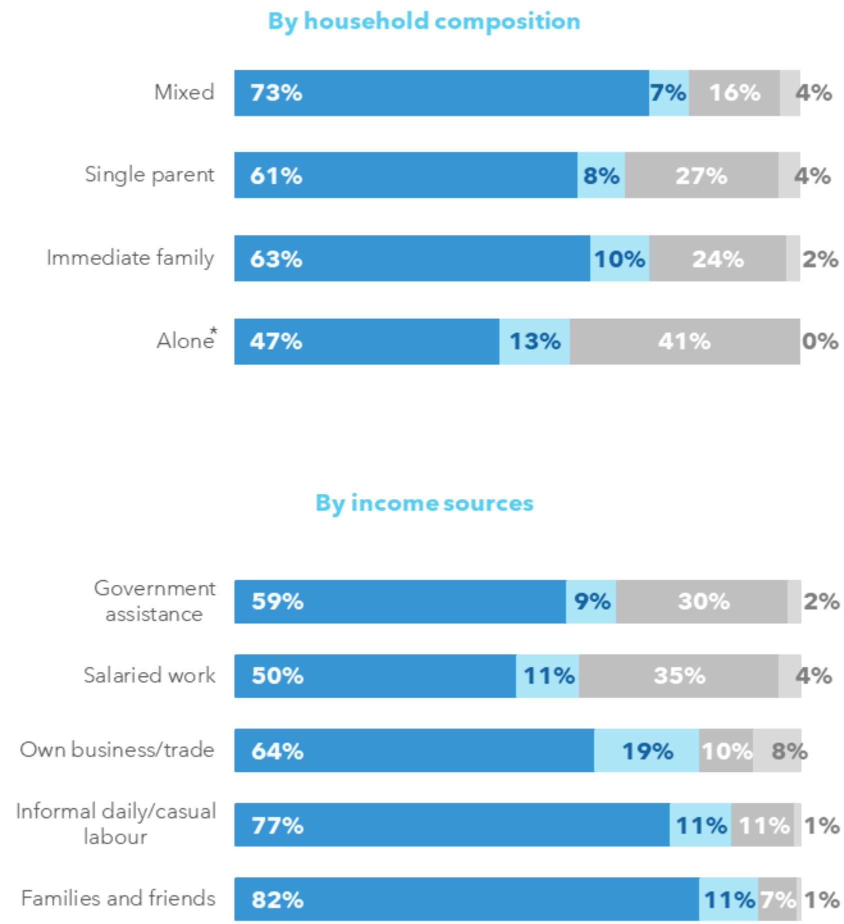
Important differences were also observed across sources of income, between age groups and urban/rural location. Job and income loss was most widespread and consistently high among the respondents under 60 years of age, those with informal and casual income sources (77%) or relying on support from family and friends (82%).

Mixed households and those living in rural areas were also more affected compared to households with other compositions or those living in urban areas/towns.

Differences between sex of respondent were minor with regard to impacts on job and income loss.

# LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income



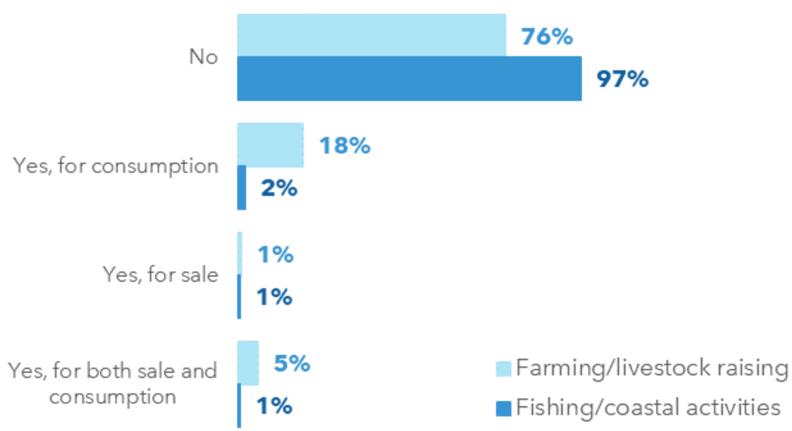




*Low response numbers in these categories may affect results

# LIVELIHOODS | Farming and fishing

▶ The incomes of respondents engaged in fishing activities seem to have been harder hit relative to farming or average households.

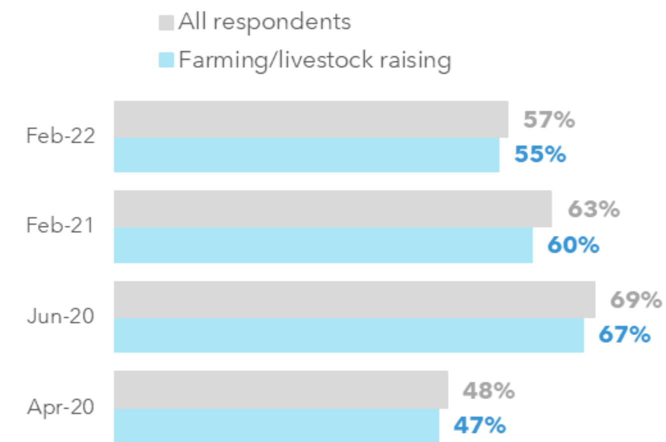
**Is your households engaged in farming/fishing?**



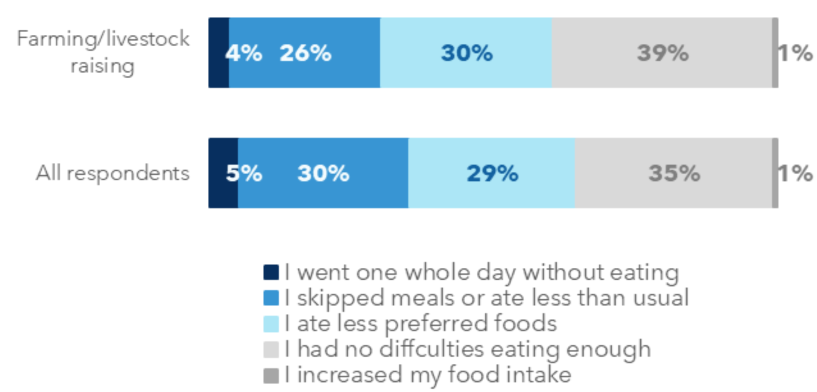

One out of four respondents reported being engaged in farming, gardening or livestock raising and 4% in fisheries/coastal activities. In both cases these activities are primarily for household consumption, or complementing existing incomes, with vegetable production being the main farming activity and inland fishing the main fishing activity.

While only a small number of respondents were engaged in fishing/coastal activities, they appear to be facing greater challenges related to income and food consumption. They were more likely to have gone a whole day without eating, skipped meals or eaten less than usual in the two weeks prior to the survey.

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




**Food situation among respondents engaged in farming/fishing**

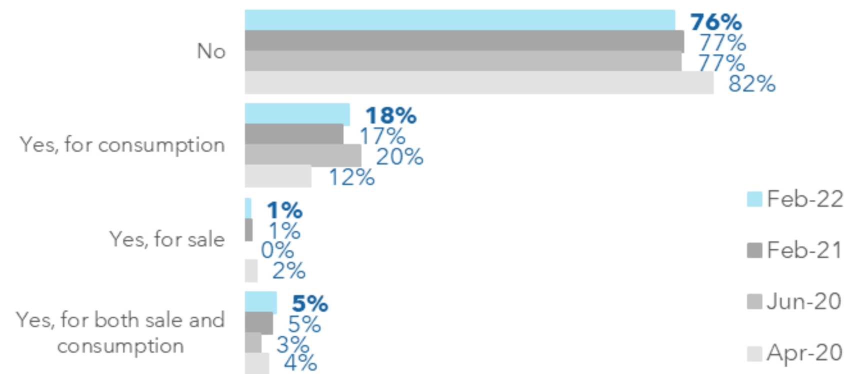


# LIVELIHOODS | Farming and fishing

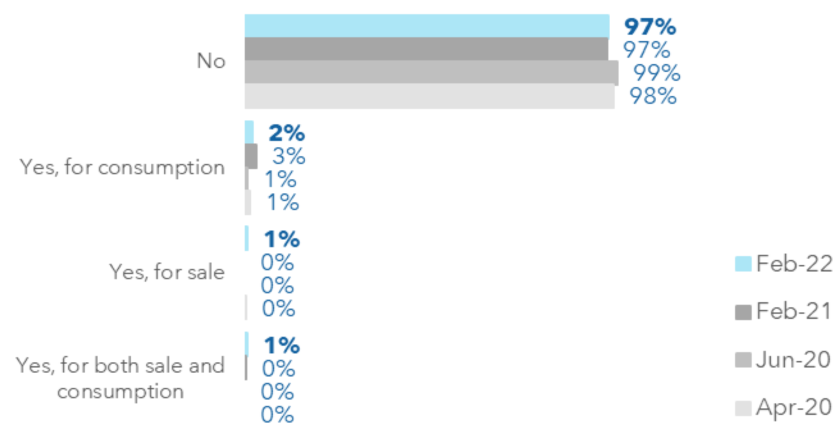
**For those engaging in agriculture/ livestock raising, the activities are…**
Multiple choices could be selected.

| Farming/livestock raising | Feb-22 | Feb-21 | Jun-20 | Apr-20 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vegetables | 77% | 81% | 97% | 74% |
| Poultry | 41% | 32% | 27% | 18% |
| Banana/plantains | 41% | 43% | 33% | 34% |
| Corn | 16% | 16% | 21% | 13% |
| Rice | 10% | 9% | 6% | 0% |
| Pulses | 6% | 6% | 12% | 2% |
| Small ruminants | 6% | 3% | 3% | 8% |
| Other | 4% | 9% | 9% | 15% |
| Swine | 4% | 3% | 3% | 2% |
| Large ruminants | 2% | 3% | 3% | 3% |

**Is your households engaged in farming/livestock raising?**




**Is your households engaged in fishing/coastal activities?**




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

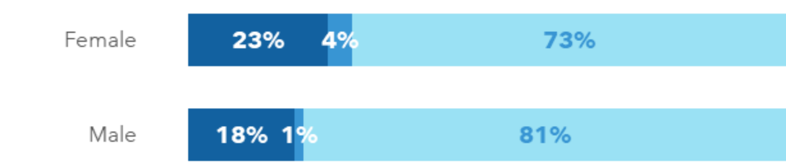
| Fishing/coastal activities | Feb-22 | Feb-21 | Jun-20 | Apr-20 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Inland fisheries | 42% | 10% | 0% | 0% |
| Marine/coastal fisheries | 24% | 20% | 100% | 44% |
| Small scale aquaculture | 24% | 30% | 0% | 44% |
| Other | 15% | 30% | 0% | 0% |
| Mangrove/beach activities | 12% | 10% | 0% | 11% |
| Fishing gear production | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Processing of fish/fisheries products | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

# LIVELIHOODS | Farming

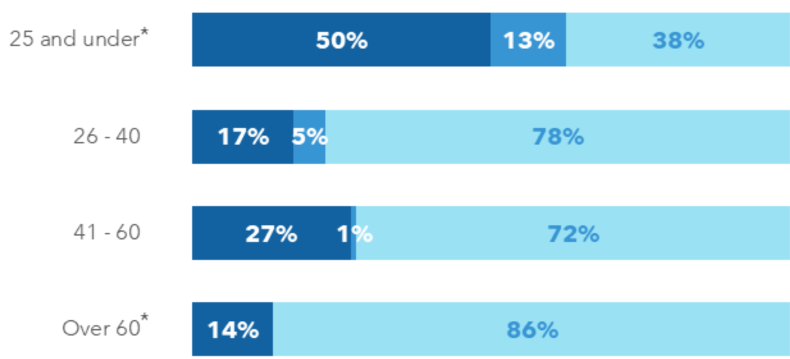
**Households engaged in farming/livestock raising**

- Yes, for both sale and consumption
- Yes, for sale
- Yes, for consumption

**By sex**

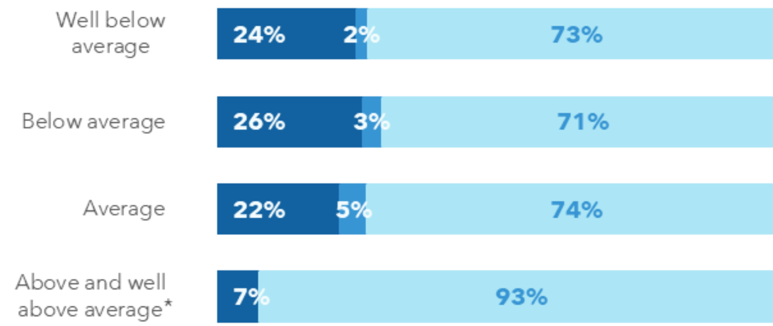



**By age group**




*Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

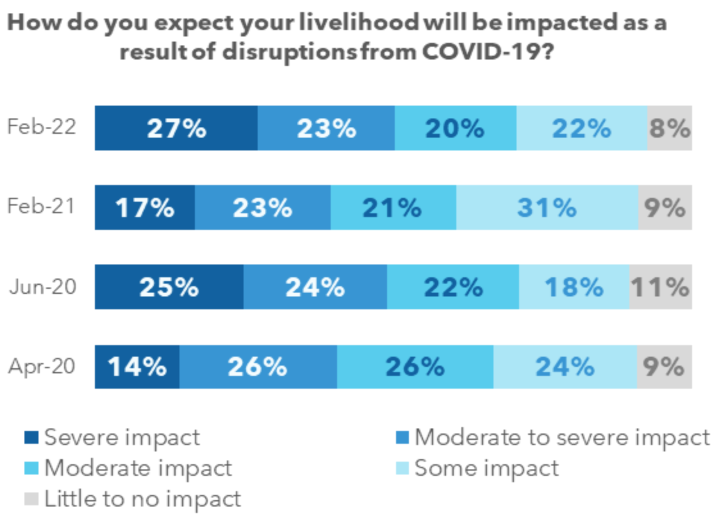
**By perceived income level**




*"Had 2 jobs losses, the other dismiss our payments due to government giving out grants which in the beginning received first payment in my bank account, after did not receive other two payments. I always had little garden so that helped a bit but theft was high as well. I started looking for ways to make an income, I hustle in the dump, helps get things I don't have to spend money on like clothes, curtains......Mostly was affected by income and keeping up with groceries and basic needs." - Female, 38*

# LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

▶ Half of respondents anticipate moderate or severe impact on their livelihoods in the future. Respondents from the lowest income households expect the most severe impacts.




*"I only fear job loss because we never know what the future holds in a pandemic. However I am a firm believer that God provides all our needs. Not even worried about covid. Just take precautions." - Female, 38*

*"Loss of income equals paralyzing fears to keep a roof over one's head and food." - Female, 44*

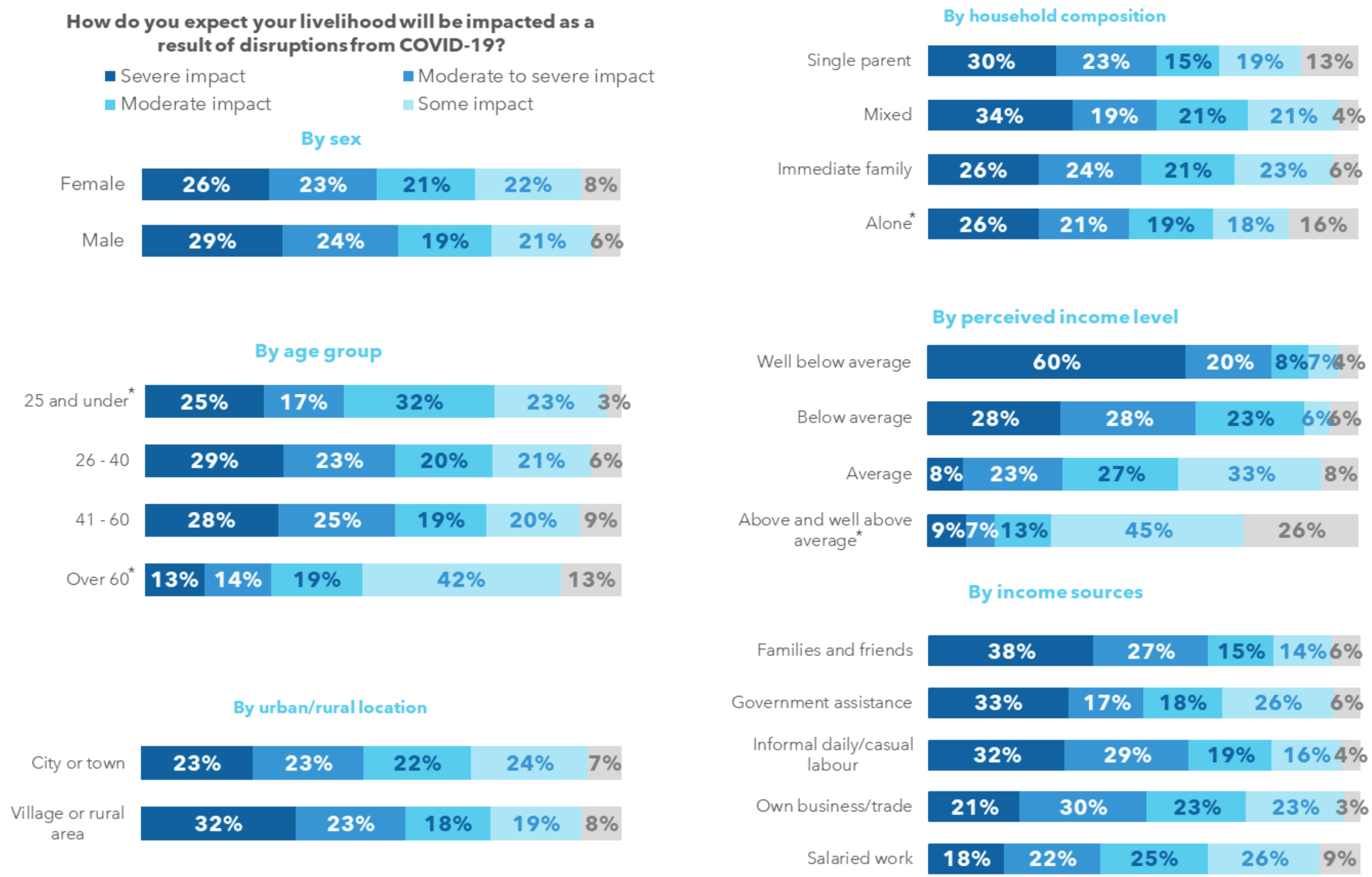
*"Struggle to even make a sale such as cake que or BBQ as the public also struggle financially" - Female, 24*

A greater proportion of respondents in Trinidad and Tobago continues to expect that the COVID-19 pandemic will negatively impact their livelihoods in the future. Looking ahead, half of respondents anticipate “moderate to severe” or “severe” impacts to their livelihoods, which is slightly lower compared to 2020 but higher compared to the 2021 round. Only 8% expect little or no impact.

The perspective of respondents with different levels of income varied substantially. Respondent with the lowest income are the most worried about the future of their livelihoods. Of those with income level perceived as well below average, 60% expect their livelihoods to be severely impacted in the future, which is much higher than 8% of those with an average income level.

Single parent households, those relying or unstable and more informal sources of income, such as family or friends and daily casual labour, as well as households living in rural areas were also noticeably more pessimistic in terms of future livelihood impacts.

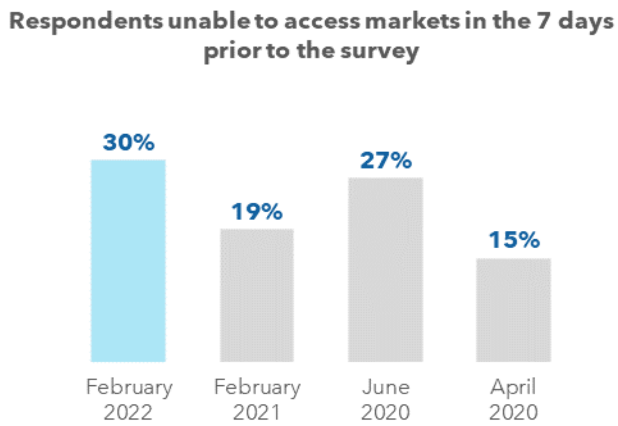
# LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts




*Low response numbers in these categories may affect results

# MARKETS | Access

## ▶ Nearly one-third of respondents continue to experience difficulties accessing markets.




*"Transportation doubled, food prices increased, lost my home to fire 5 months and no help" - Female, 40*

*"Not having enough money to buy food and other personal stuff!!" - Female, 47*

*"Financial issues due to the increase in food & other essential items/ products" - Female, 27*

Almost two years since the start of the pandemic, people's access to markets continues to be impacted in Trinidad and Tobago, with 30% of respondents stating that they were unable to access markets in the seven days prior to the February 2022 survey. This share increased from 19% in February 2021 and 15% in April 2020 at the very start of the pandemic.

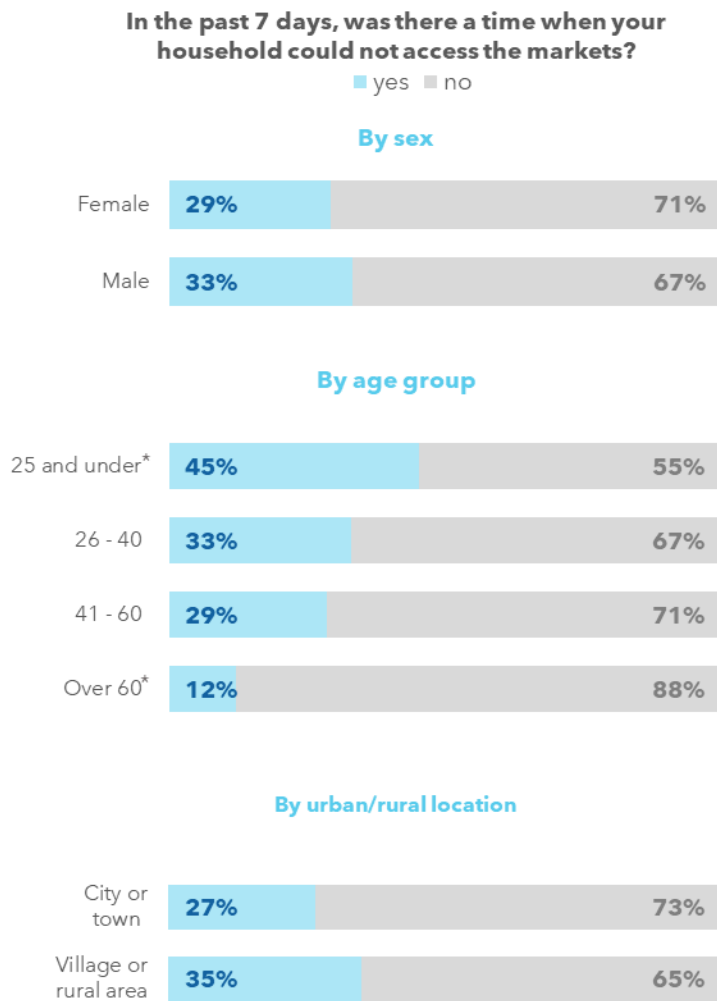
The overall level of market access is comparable to the region as a whole, where 33% of respondents reported a time when they were not able to access markets in the seven days prior to the February 2022 survey. As with the region, people's difficulties in accessing markets are primarily related to limited financial means and declining incomes. Clear differences in market access can be observed by respondents' income levels and sources, age groups, and household composition.

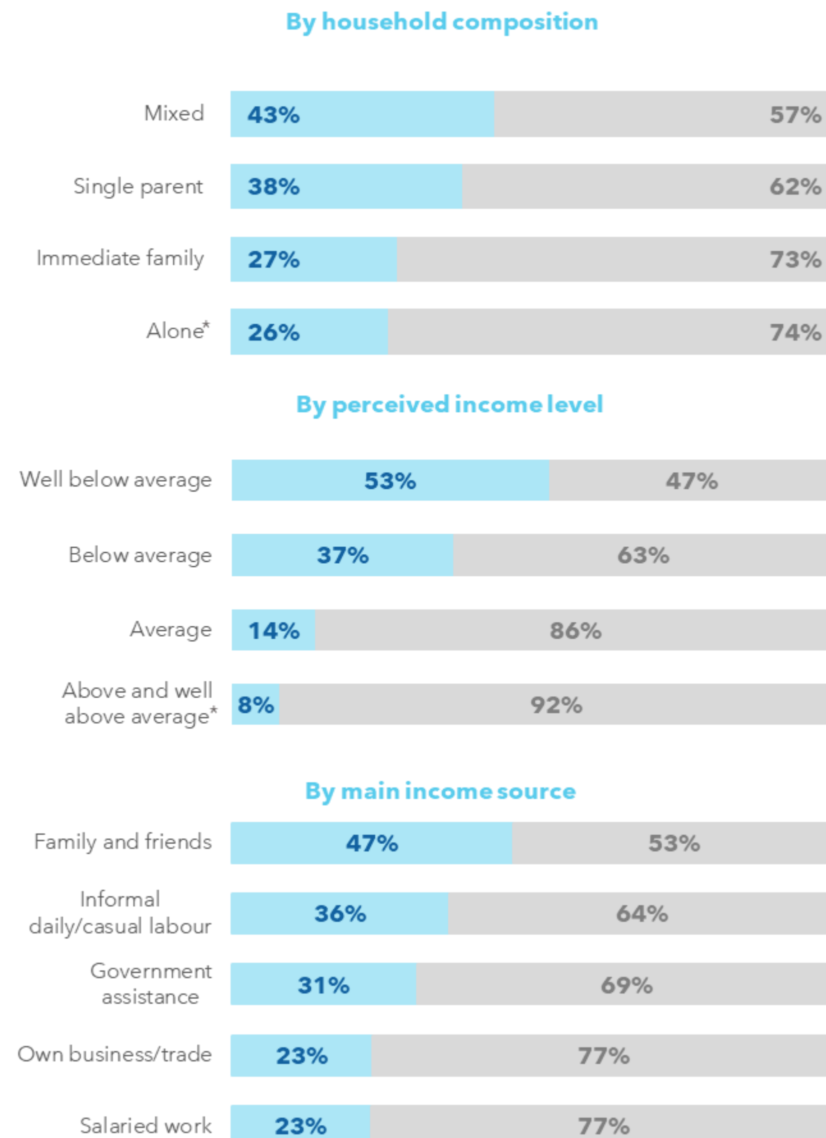
Respondents with the lowest perceived income levels had the greatest difficulty accessing markets. Among those who described their household income as well below average, 53% reported difficulties accessing markets, compared to 14% of those perceiving their income as average. When looking at household income sources, those relying on income from family/friends or casual/informal work were more likely to report problems accessing markets than those whose primary income comes from salaried labour or their own business.

When comparing age groups, respondents aged 25 and under were most likely to experience market access difficulties, as reported by 45% of this age group compared to 29% of those aged 41 to 60.

When looking at household composition, single parents and those living with extended family members and/or non-relatives more frequently reported market access difficulties than households composed of immediate family members.

# MARKETS | Access




* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

# MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

▶ Lack of financial means is the main limiting factor to market access, followed by concerns about leaving the house.

**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

| Main reasons | Feb-22 | Feb-21 | Jun-20 | Apr-20 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lack of financial means | 76% | 90% | 56% | 4% |
| Concerned about leaving the house | 15% | 12% | 13% | 76% |
| Adult members of the household were self quarantining | 12% | 3% | 3% | 15% |
| Movement restrictions | 8% | 5% | 13% | 32% |
| Adult members of the household were unwell | 7% | 0% | 0% | 3% |
| Transport limitations | 6% | 3% | 15% | 24% |
| Markets/grocery stores closed | 4% | 2% | 10% | 33% |
| Other | 4% | 0% | 8% | 12% |
| Security concerns | 3% | 5% | 10% | 22% |

*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 access to markets were related to movement restrictions, business closures, and people's concerns about leaving home, but these issues became less significant over time. At the same time, lack of financial means clearly emerged as the main barrier for households in accessing markets.

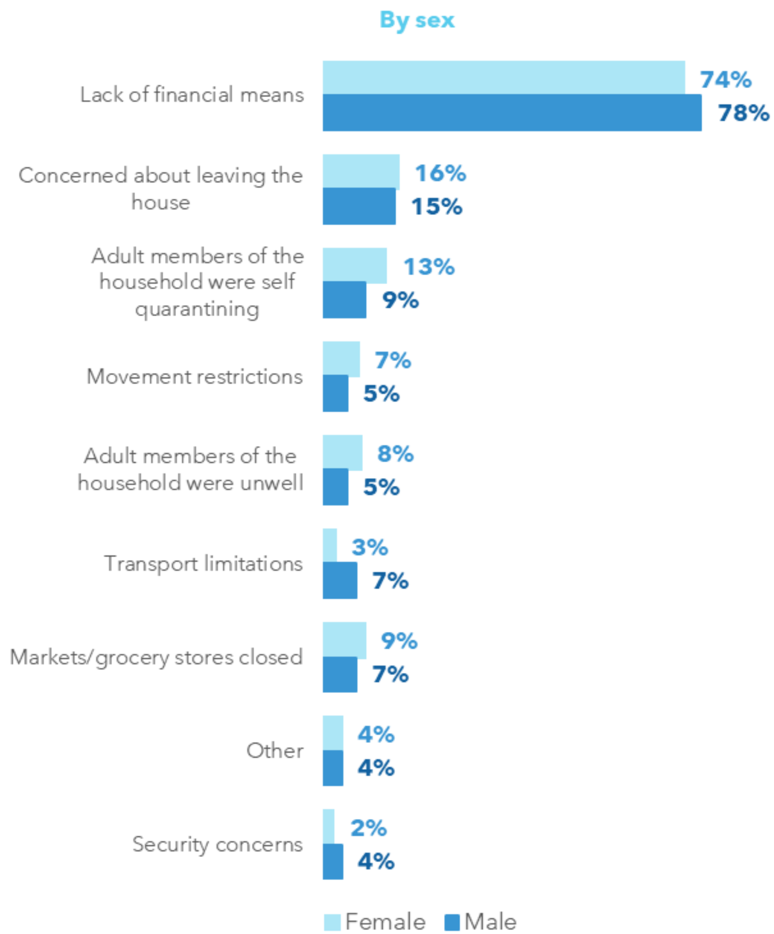
In February 2022, the lack of financial means remained by far the main reason for market access difficulties in Trinidad and Tobago, as reported by 76% of those who faced a time when they could not access markets in the week prior to the survey. This share reflects a significant increase from 4% in April 2020, and 56% in June 2020. Concerns about leaving the house were the second most frequent reason, as cited by 15% of respondents with market access problems, a decrease from 76% in April 2020.

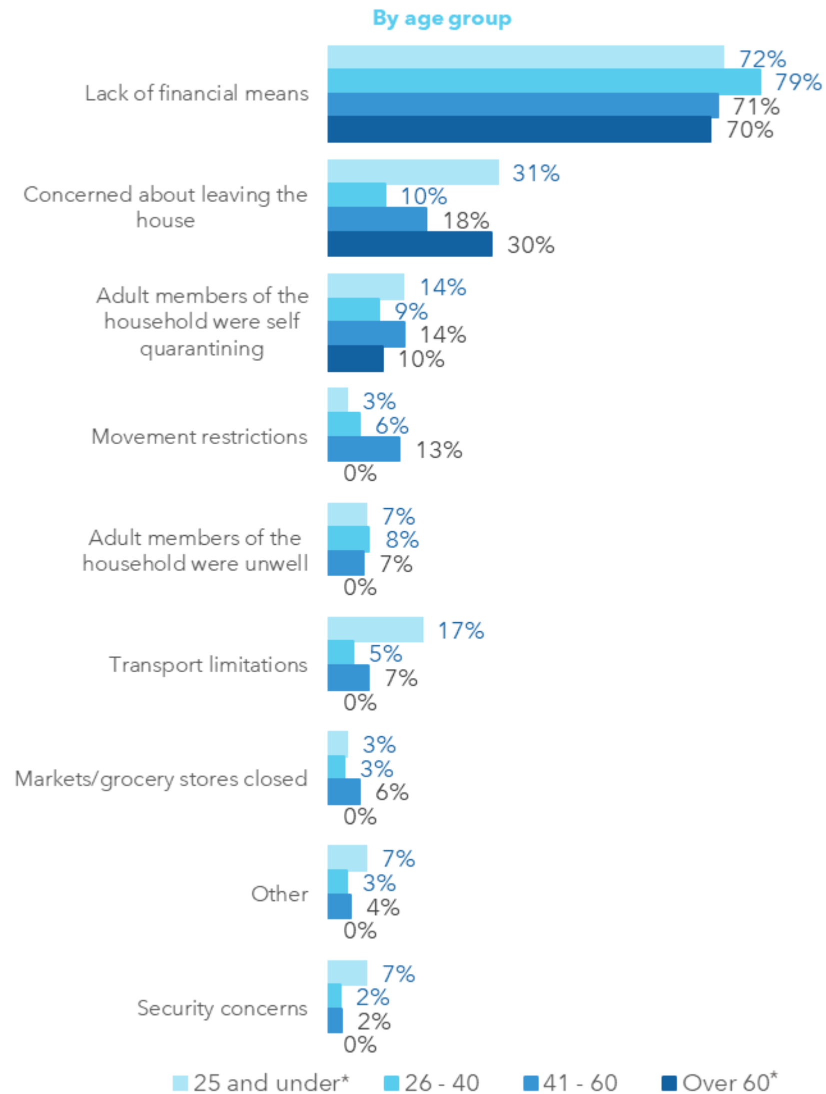
Lack of financial means was the most predominant reason for respondents' market access difficulties, regardless of their perceived income level, household composition, age group, and sex. However, financial means was more frequently cited by those with lower incomes. Among respondents describing their income level as well below average, lack of financial means was cited by 88% of those with market access problems, compared to 50% for those describing their income as average. At the same time, concerns about leaving the house were more frequently cited by respondents with a perceived average income (22% of those with market access difficulties) than those describing their income as well below average (11%).

When comparing age groups, concerns about leaving the house were most often cited by those 25 and younger and those over 60 of age.

# 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.



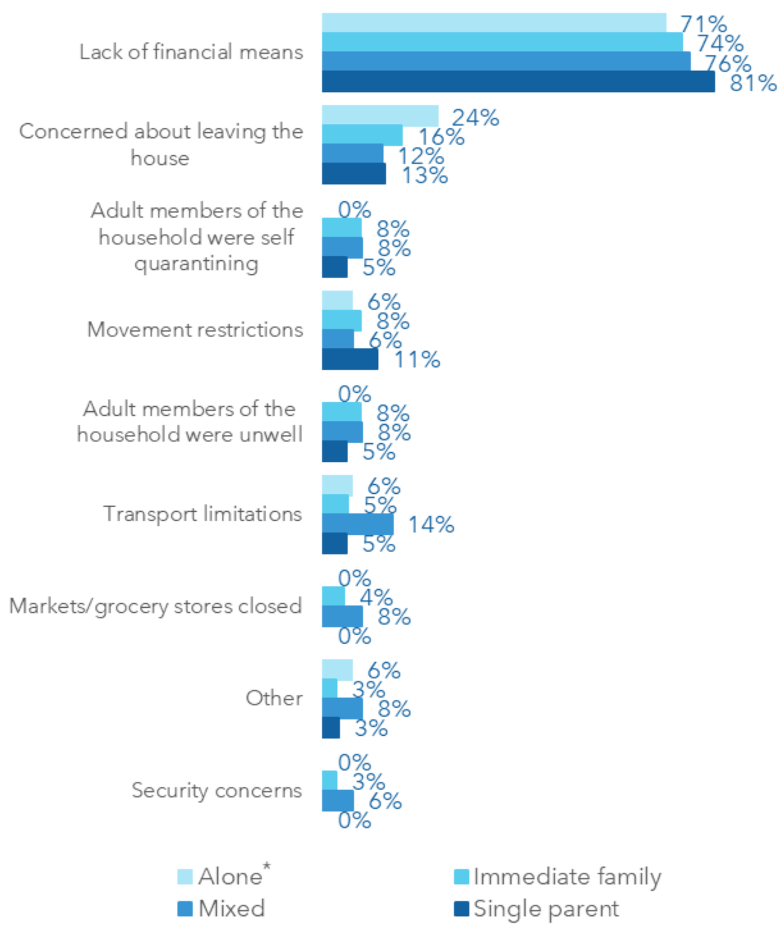

* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

# 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...**

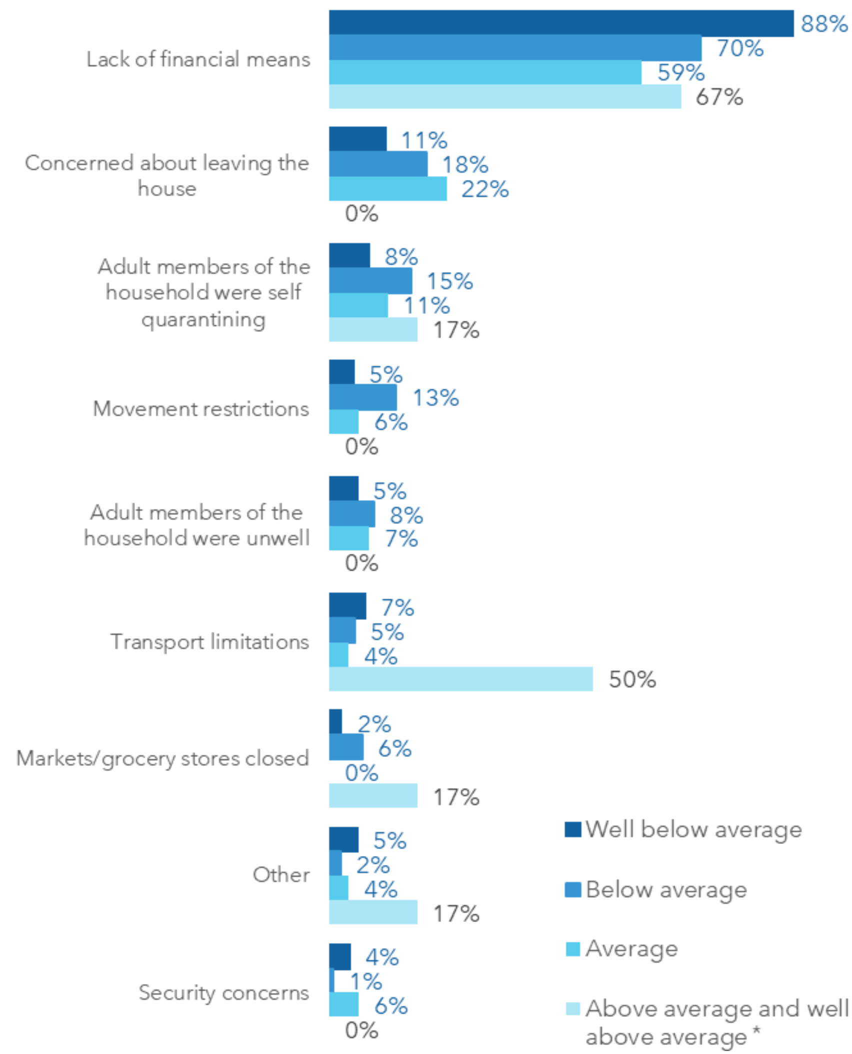
Multiple choices could be selected.

**By household composition**




* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

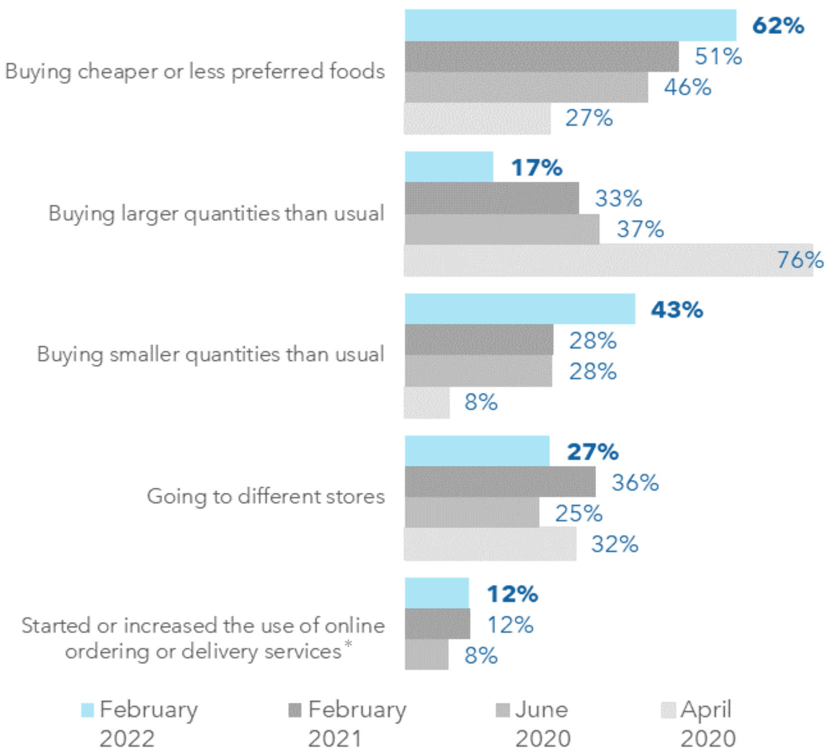
**By perceived income level**



# MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

▶ Respondents are resorting to buying cheaper foods and smaller quantities more frequently.

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




*This option was not provided in the April 2020 survey round

The pandemic continues to impact how people shop, however, the types of changes adopted have shifted since the beginning of the pandemic. A large majority of respondents (93%) reported a change in their shopping behaviour in February 2022, similar to the region as a whole, where 88% of respondents reported a change in their shopping behaviour.

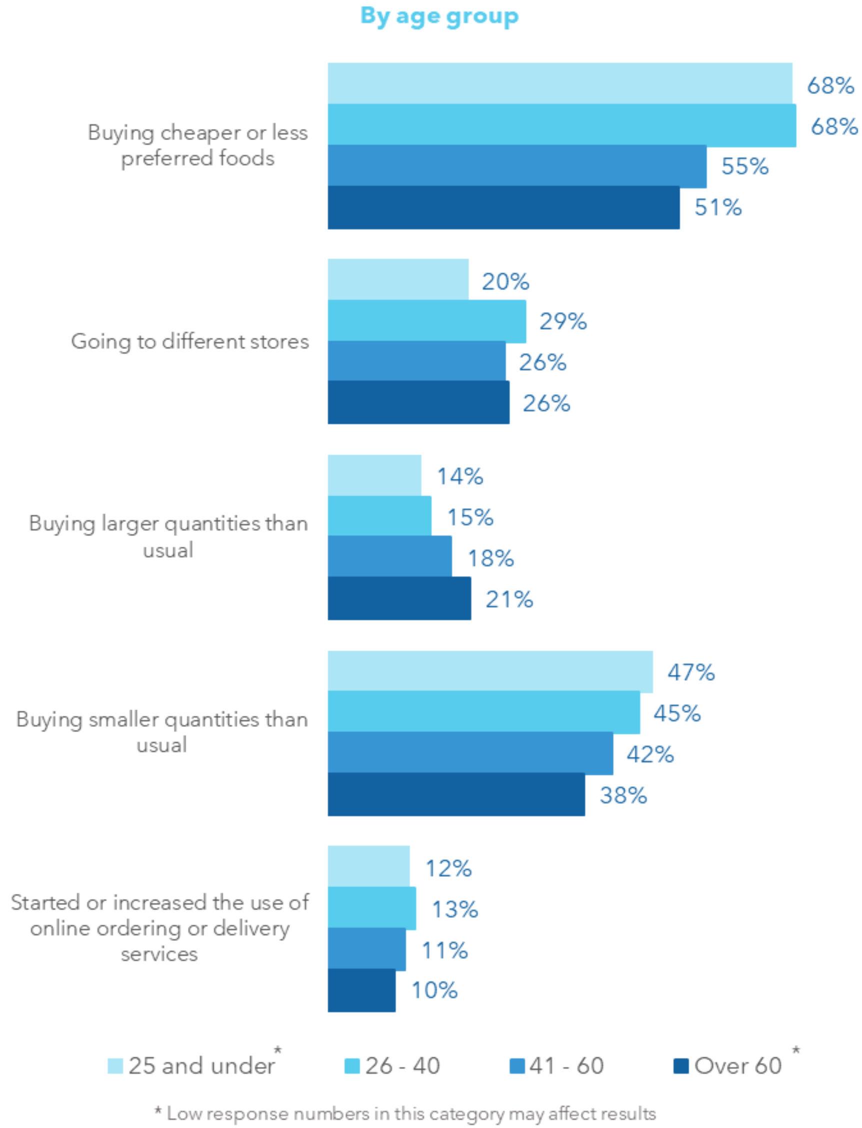
Respondents who changed how they shop indicated that the main changes they made are buying cheaper or less preferred foods (62%) and buying smaller quantities (43%). Both of these compromises were reported more frequently than during the previous survey rounds. At the same time, respondents who changed the way they shop were less likely to buy larger quantities (17%) compared to 2020 (76% in April 2020 and 37% in June 2020) and February 2021 (33%). Behaviour has shifted from stocking up at the start of the pandemic to making more compromises as the economic impacts deepen for most households.

The changes people are making are closely linked to their income levels and income sources, as well as their age group. Respondents with lower incomes and those relying on income from friends/family or informal labour were most likely to shift their shopping behaviour toward cheaper or less preferred foods.

Of respondents who changed their shopping habits, buying less expensive or less preferred foods was reported by 75% of those describing their income as well below average, compared to 54% who describe their income as average. Concurrently, those with a perceived average income more often adapted by buying larger quantities than usual (24%) than those who describe their income as well below average (9%).

Of respondents who changed their shopping habits, those in younger age groups (25 and under, 26-40) were more likely to resort to buying cheaper or less preferred foods.

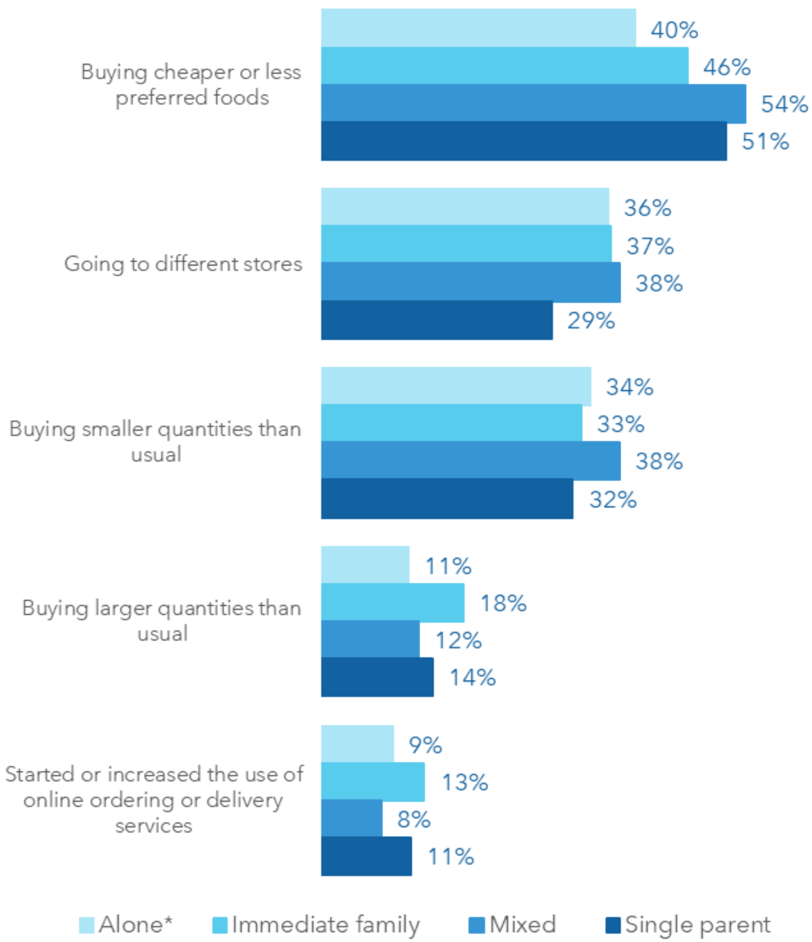
# MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

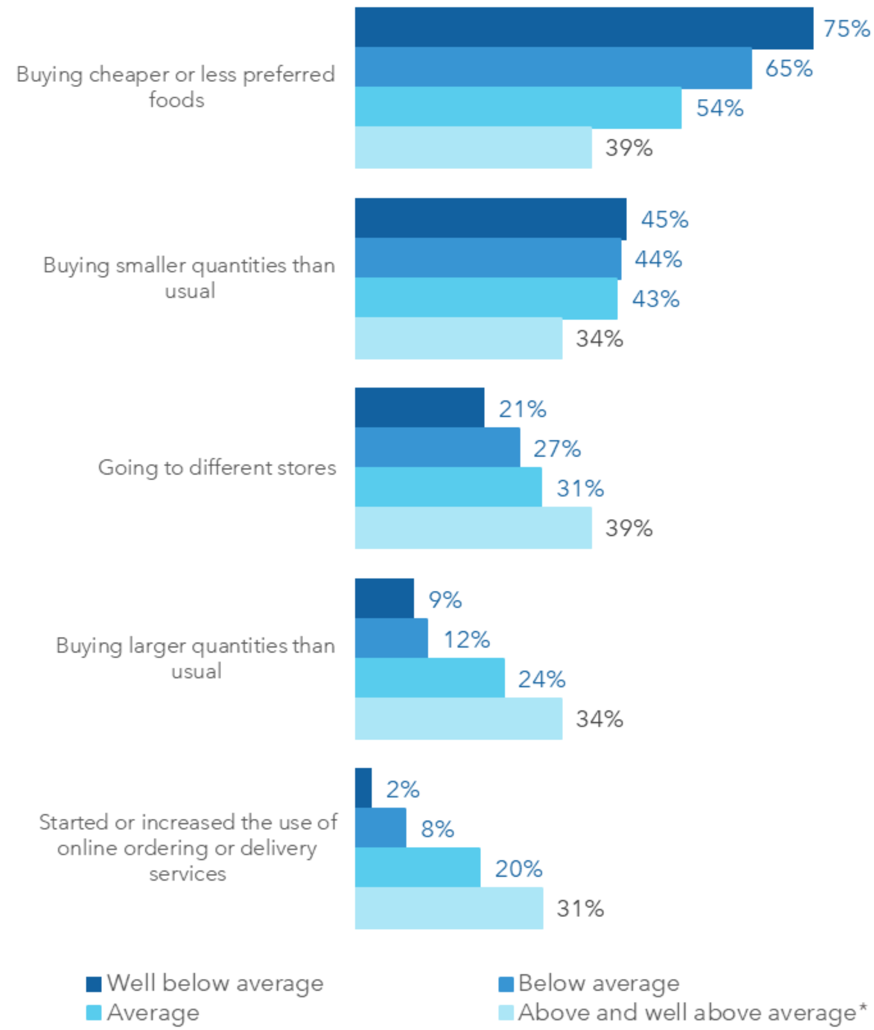
# MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

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

**By household composition**

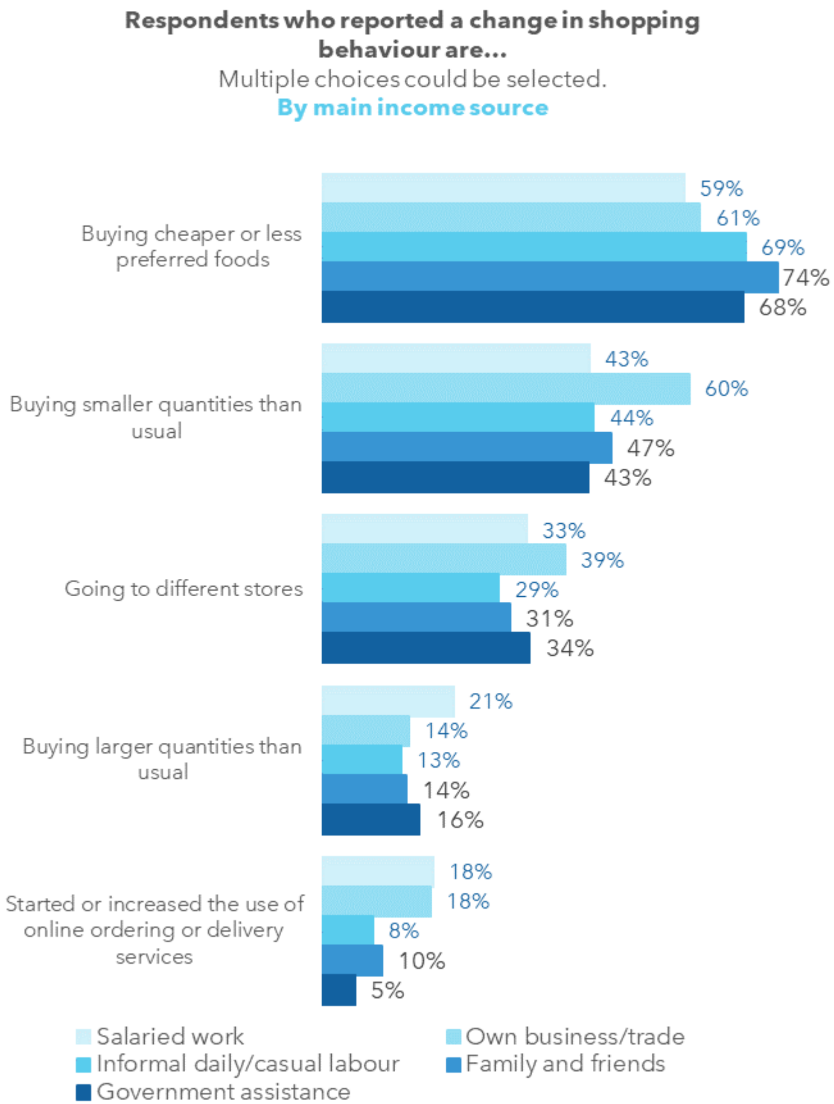



**By perceived income level**




* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

# MARKETS | Shopping behaviour




*"Made less groceries keep children from school" - Male, 43*

*"I have learnt to spend less and sacrifice more" - Female, 25*

*"I shop less spend wiser go out less living in fear because of my one year old baby salary decrease" - Female, 27*

*"Everything has increased expect salaries so it is very hard to go to the grocery and take care of the family with little income." - Female, 26*

*"Covid had a huge impact on my family because I was home and out of work and was very worried about my family, my loans and bills was piling upon me and I didn't know what to do.it is still challenging right now because work is slow, the biggest change I had to do was cut down on everything that I bought at the supermarket and vegetables stalls..." - Male, 43*

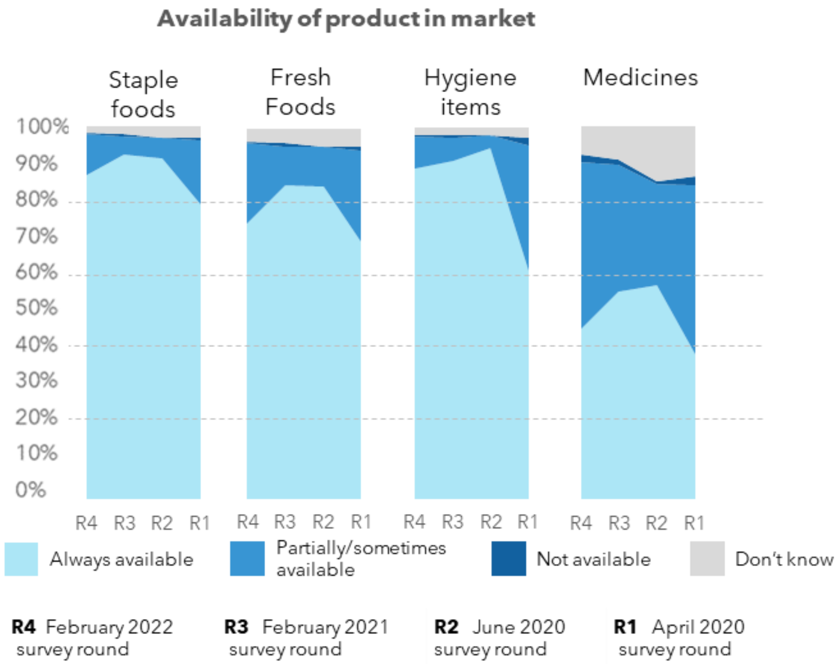
*"Soaring food prices have resulted in higher grocery bills." - Female, 35*

*"The cost of building/construction materials have increased significantly making it challenging to complete home construction projects" - Male, 38*

*"Food prices has become increasingly high, a balance diet is not easily attain I'm concerned that food prices will continue to increase and there wouldn't be enough for the family. Especially when there is no stable income" - Female, 33*

# MARKETS | Availability

▶ Basic food and hygiene products are generally available, but medicines remain only partially available.




*"The rise in food prices… and not in my salary to assist with coverage of these price increases. This just makes it harder as I have to spend a lot more and still end up with less stuff that I would usually buy to cover the household for a 2 week period." - Male, 23*

Since the beginning of the pandemic, supply chain disruptions have been a concern for the Caribbean, first because of travel restrictions and then because of global supply chain issues. In Trinidad and Tobago, food items have remained widely available in the markets throughout the pandemic, and to a greater extent than the regional survey averages. Medicines, however, are only partially/sometimes available in markets. As with previous surveys, very few respondents (1-2%) indicated that goods were completely unavailable.

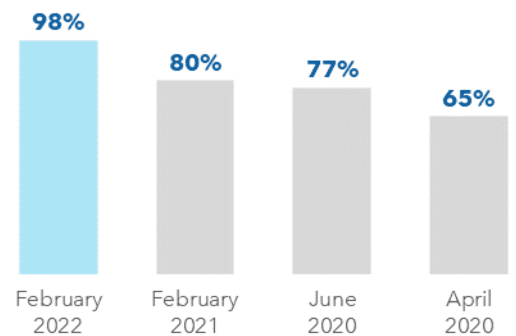
Although the February 2022 survey round observed a slight decrease in the reported availability of food items compared to previous survey rounds, they were generally available in markets. Staple foods were always available for 87% of respondents, and fresh foods for 74%.  Similarly, hygiene items were always available for 89% of respondents.

Medicines, on the other hand, were described as always available for 46% respondents, a decrease from 57% in June 2020. At the same time, 45% said that medicines were only partially/sometimes available. This finding is similar to the regional average (40%).

# MARKETS | Food prices

▶ Nearly all respondents identified an increase in food prices.

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

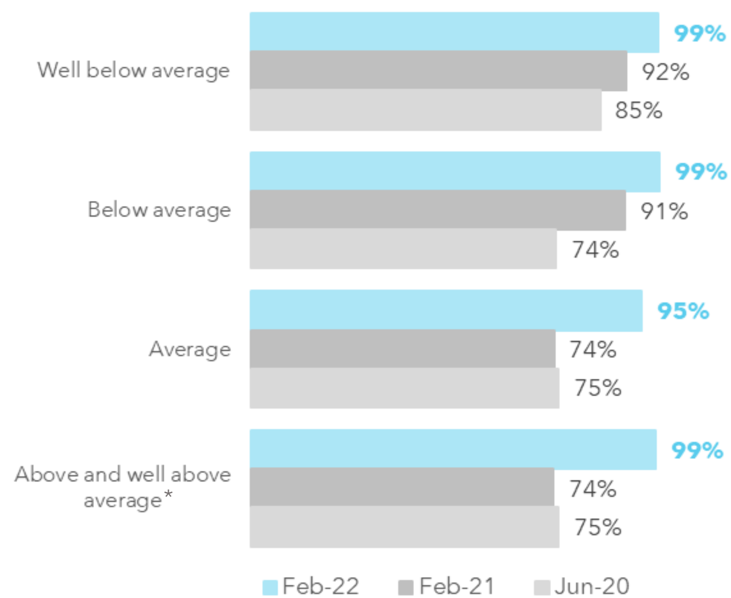



Food price rises are increasingly felt and observed, with 98% of respondents in Trinidad and Tobago reporting an increase in the two weeks prior to the survey. This percentage represents a stark increase from 65% of respondents at the start of the pandemic and 80% in February 2021.

Trinidad and Tobago, along with Guyana and Jamaica, was among the countries where food price increases were most widely observed. Across the entire region, 93% of respondents reported an increase in food prices in the February 2022 survey.

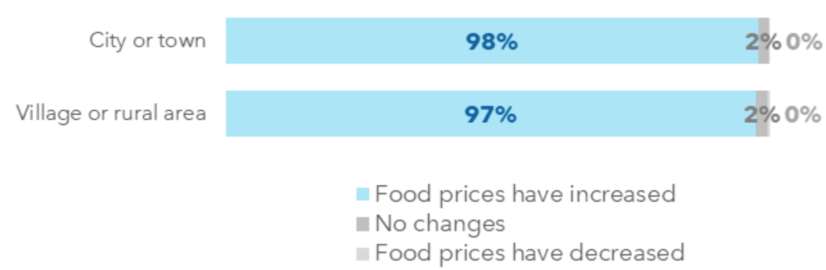
Food price increases in Trinidad and Tobago were reported to a similar extent across all income levels, and no major differences were found between respondents from urban and rural areas.

**By perceived income level and survey round**




* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

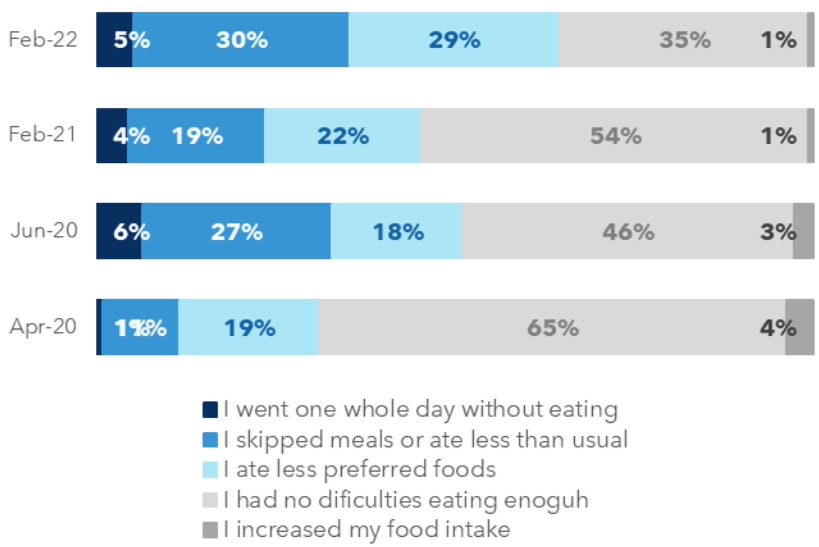
**By urban/rural location**



# FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

▶ Food consumption patterns continue to deteriorate, especially among lower income households and younger respondents.

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




Food consumption and diets of people in Trinidad and Tobago continue to be impacted by the pandemic, with 30% of respondents skipping meals or eating less than usual, 29% eating less preferred foods and 5% going an entire day without eating in the week leading up to the survey. These findings represent a deterioration in the food consumption of respondents compared to all previous rounds in 2021 and 2020. The findings are similar compared to the regional averages.

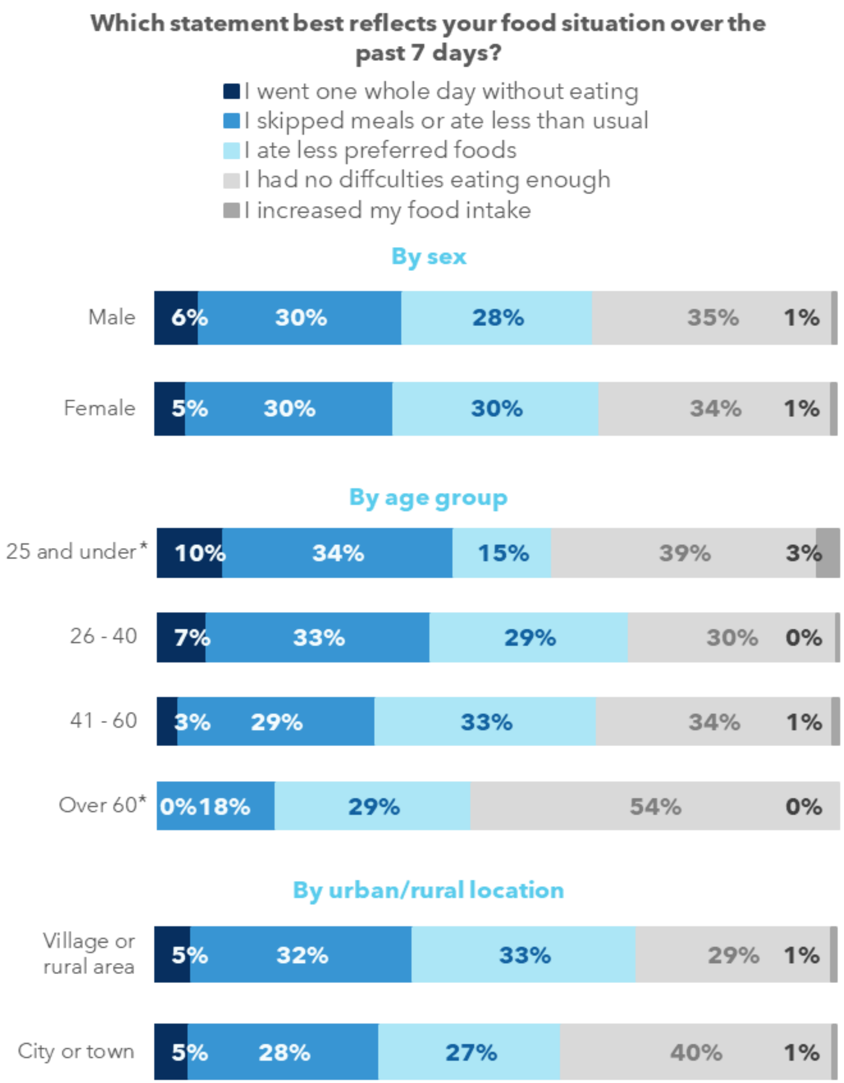
The gap between those who are having difficulty eating enough and those who are not is heavily influenced by income. Respondents reporting well below average income continue to be the most affected, with 14% going a whole day without eating and 52% skipping a meal or eating less than usual in the week preceding the survey (these results are similar to regional findings). Only 6% of those respondents had no difficulty eating enough compared to 70% of households classifying their income as above or well above average.

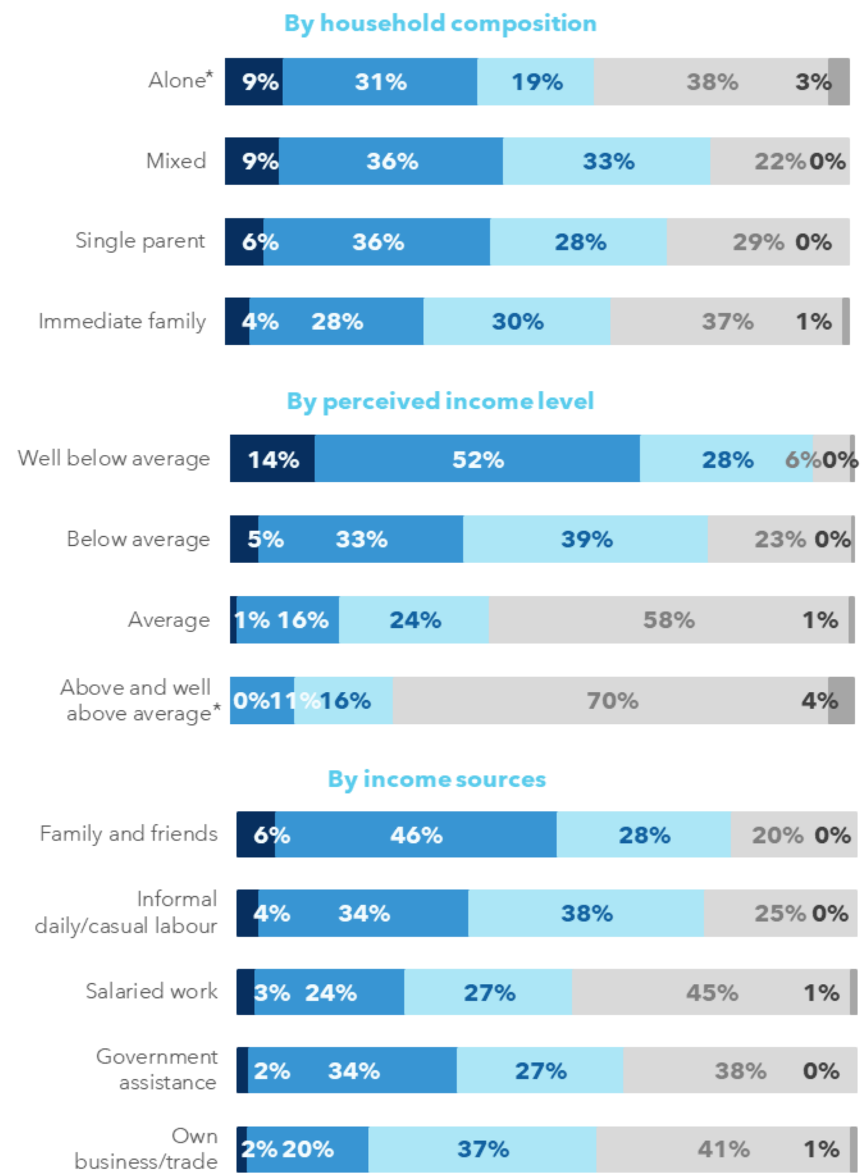
Differences in the impacts on food consumption also varied across age groups, household compositions, and sources of income. Those relying on less stable income sources (informal daily/casual labour and support from family and friends) were most impacted, with 76-80% having gone an entire day without eating, skipping meals or eating less than usual compared to 54-59% of those with more stable income sources such as salaried work and own business.

Among respondents aged 40 and younger, 40-44% skipped meals, ate less than usual or went a full day without eating, compared to 32% of those over 40 and 18% of those over 60 years of age. There are some differences in food consumption based on household composition. Respondents from single-parent and mixed households more frequently reported cutting consumption, with respectively 42% and 45% skipping meals or not eating for an entire day. These were followed by respondents living alone (40%) and those living with immediate family (32%).

Differences between sexes and respondents living in urban or rural areas appeared less pronounced.

# FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption




* Low response numbers in these categories 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.

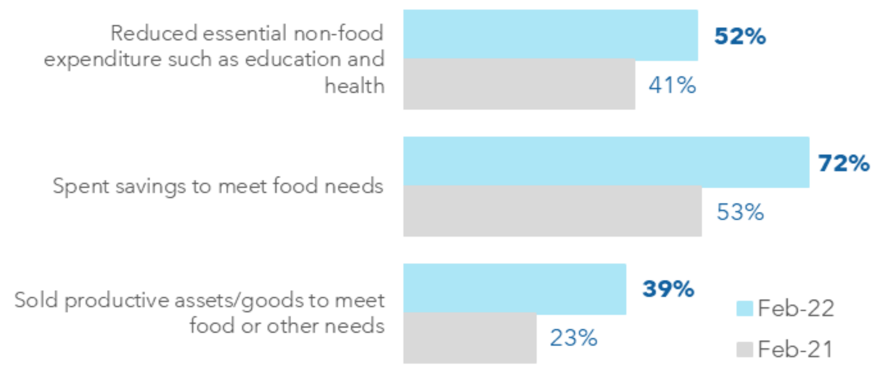
Of all respondents in Trinidad and Tobago, 72% resorted to spending savings and 52% reduced essential non-food expenditures, such as on education and health. Furthermore, 39% of respondents sold productive assets and goods to meet food or other needs. The tendency to resort to these negative coping strategies in Trinidad and Tobago is higher compared to the region. All the three measures may compromise people's future well-being, resources and resilience.

Households with below or well below average incomes are resorting to these coping strategies much more frequently than others. Alongside the income impact trends found in this survey, this risks further widening income gaps.

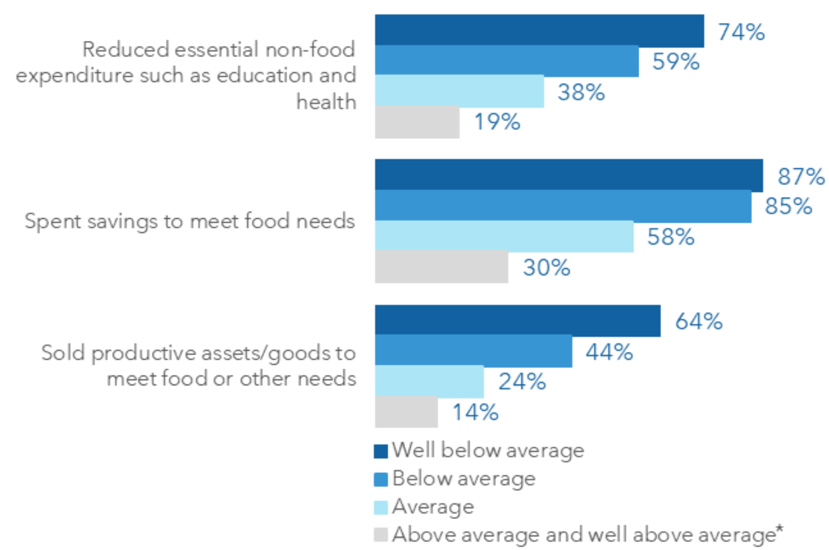
People living in rural areas were also found to more frequently adopt these coping strategies compared to respondents living in urban areas. Men were more likely to have reduced essential non-food expenditures (55%) and sold productive assets (46%) to meet food needs compared to women (51% and 37% respectively). Respondents aged under 60 were also more likely to adopt any of the negative coping measures compared respondents aged over 60.

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

Multiple choices could be selected.




**By perceived income level**

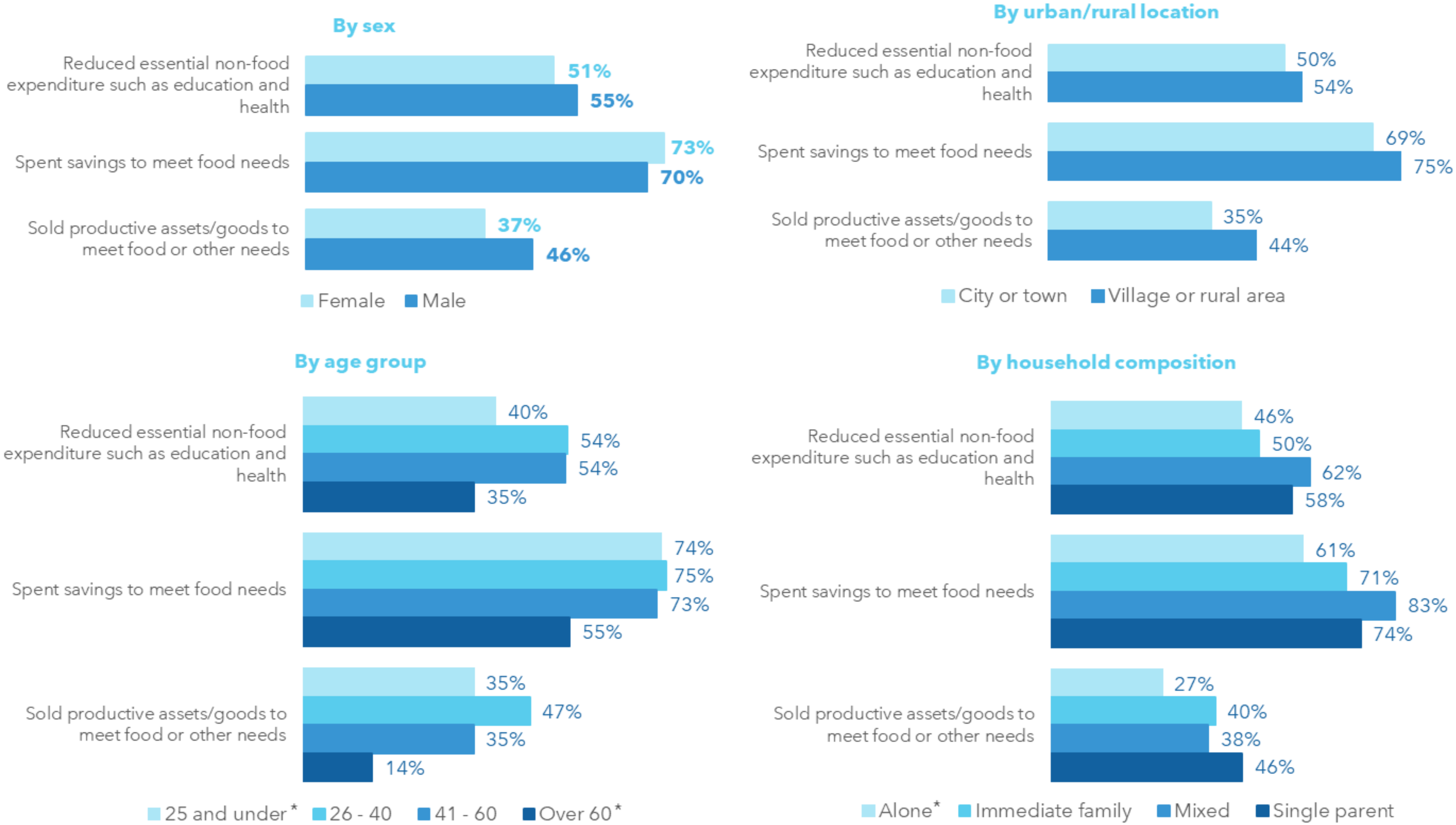



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

# FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

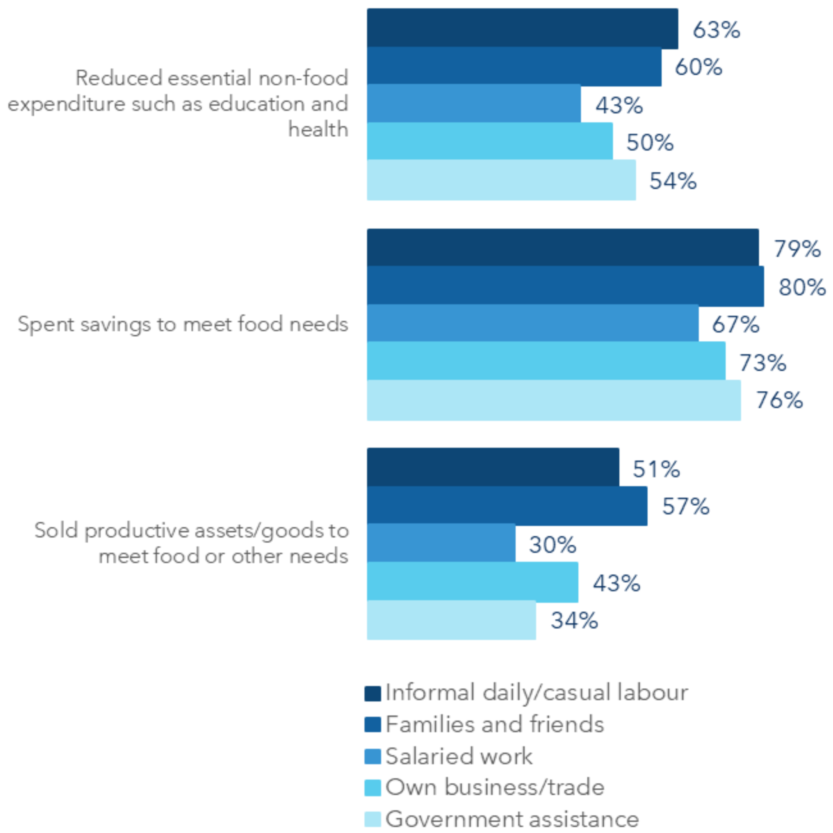



* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

# FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

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

By income source




*"I had to sell off most of my household items that were in good condition just to survive, and sometimes we went more than a day without food, only getting a little help now and then from family and friends." - Female, 48*

*"The pandemic has affected movements and instilled a constant fear of being around other persons. A great effort is being made to grow own food. Definitely to eat healthier." - Female, 46*

*"By cooking less and eating less will help the food to last longer no wastage and buy only buying what is absolutely necessary." - Female, 31*

*"Eating less just so everyone gets to eat." - Male, 32*

*"Loss of electricity, haven't had it for over a year. Unable to get it back because of land issue and unable to provide tutoring sessions because I can't facilitate online teaching activities." - Female, 34*

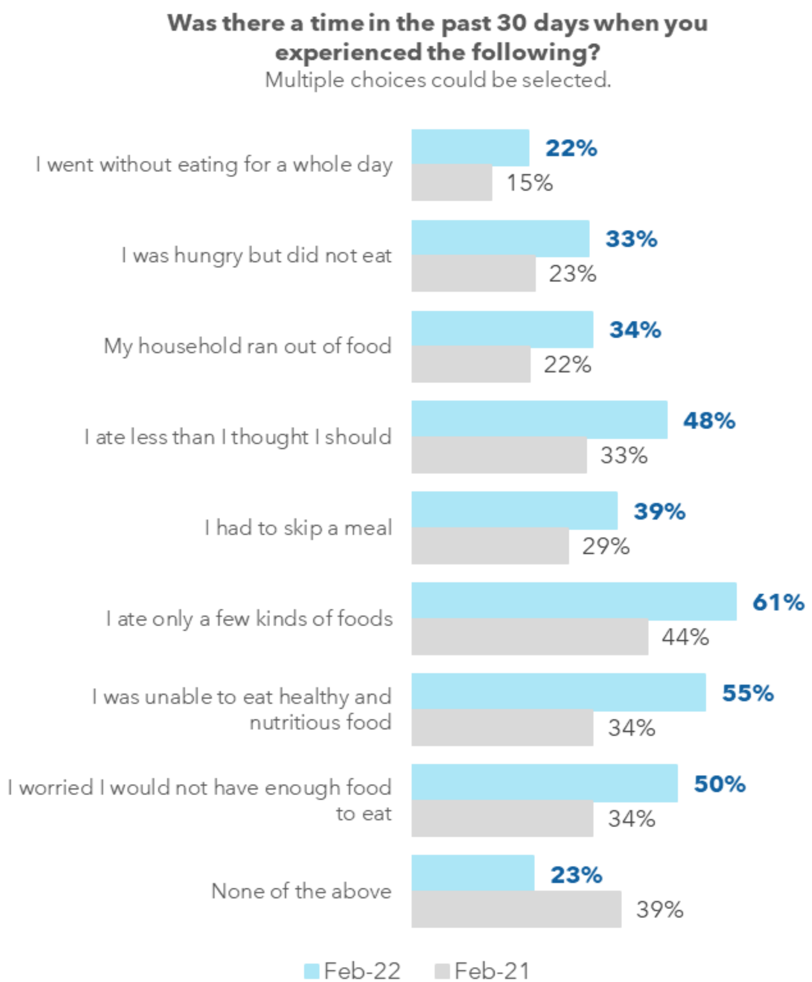
*"Job lost, different eating, shopping and overall spending habits have changed to conserve money for more important items....there I plant a lot more food stuff that I would normally purchase...stock on basics...rice ,flour, sugar..." - Female, 48*

*"Reduce in spending and buying what I can afford and what is necessary" - Male, 46*

*"I had to sell everything I owned to pay bills and buy food" - Male, 39*

# FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

► A significant proportion of respondents is struggling to access food and meet their food and nutritional needs on a monthly basis.




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 67 for an explanation of the methodology).

In the 30 days leading up to the survey, 22% of respondents from Trinidad and Tobago experienced a time when they went a whole day without eating, 33% when they were hungry but did not eat, and 34% when their household ran out of food. Additionally, almost half of respondents noted they had experienced a time when they ate less than they should or skipped a meal. Worries about not having enough to eat were reported by half of the respondents.

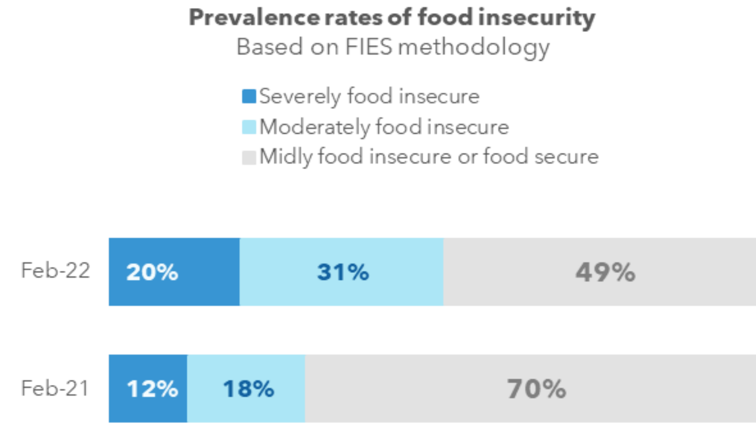
Maintaining a diverse diet was not feasible for 61% of respondents, and 55% were not able to eat healthy and nutritious food in the first place. Only 23% of respondents did not experience any of the situations listed above.

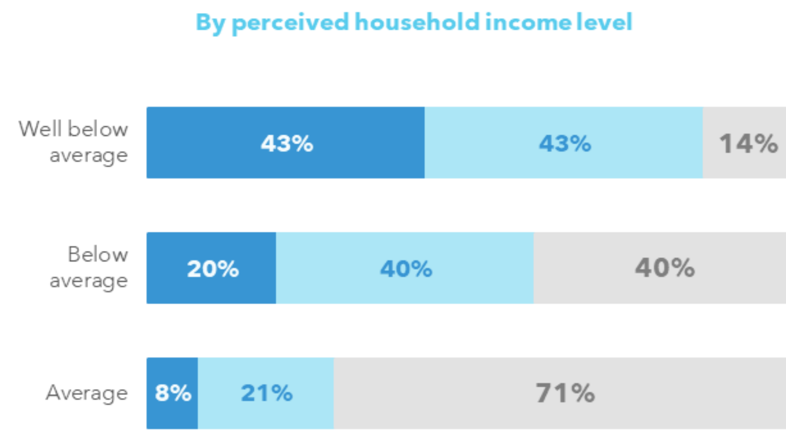
The reporting of the individual FIES categories varies across respondents. The most striking differences emerge across perceived income levels and age groups, which corresponds with the regional trends in food consumption patterns. Respondents who describe their household income as well below average were the most affected across all individual negative food-related behaviours while those with above or well above average income were the least likely to engage in any of such behaviours. Pronounced differences were also observed across age groups, with younger respondents (25 and under) particularly affected and those aged over 60 being the least likely to have engaged in any of the negative food-related behaviors.

# FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

Differences exist also between household types and the sex of respondents but are less pronounced. Mixed and single-parent households seem more affected across the different experiences when compared to differently composed households, as do women compared to men.

Using the FIES methodology and survey data to calculate food insecurity prevalence rates, it is estimated that 51% of respondents are either moderately (20%) or severely (31%) food insecure in Trinidad and Tobago, a value that is 12% above estimates for the Caribbean average. Respondents with lower income levels are experiencing severe and moderate food insecurity much more often than those with higher incomes. In Trinidad and Tobago, 43% of respondents with well below average income level experienced severe food insecurity in the 30 days prior to the survey compared to 8% of respondents with average income. Only 14% of those with well below average income were food secure (or mildly food insecure), compared to 71% of respondents from wealthier groups.




*"Eating less or once for the day" - Female, 23*

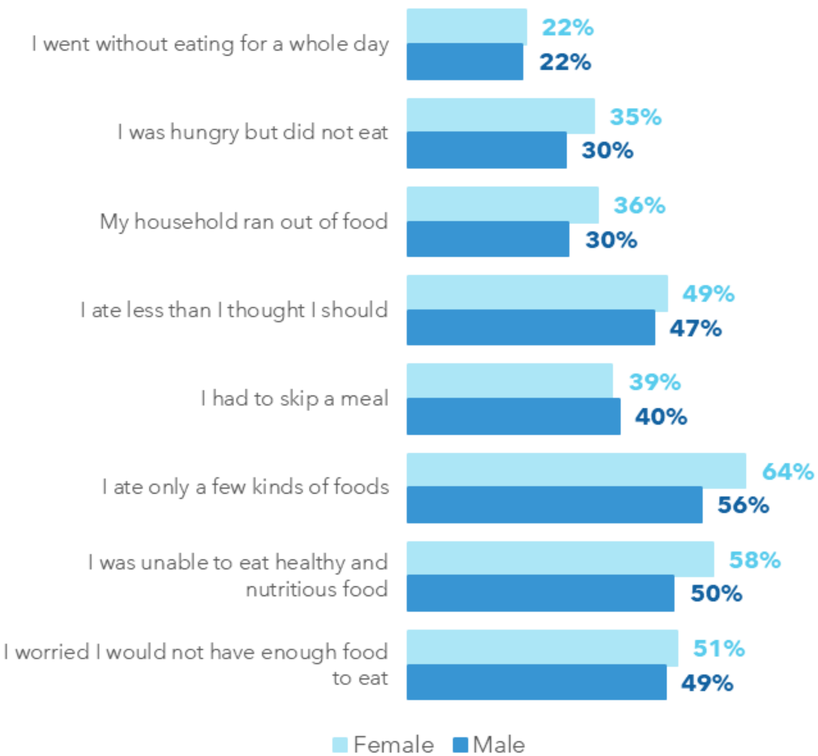
*"Overall decline of health taking antidepressants and Change in eating habits to extremely unhealthy which affects allergies and autoimmune disease" - Female, 37*

*"My husband have been laid off from work we live pay check to pay check our rent is draining us with only 1 income things are very hard." - Female, 37*

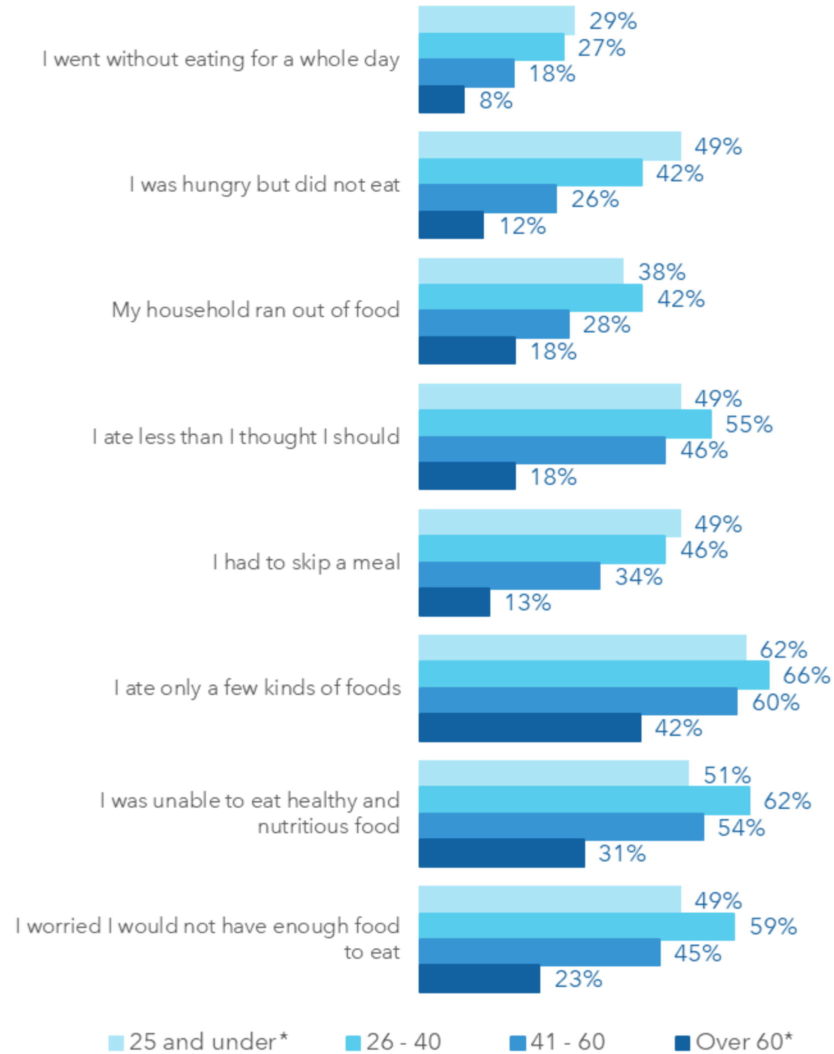
# FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

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

**By sex**




**By age group**

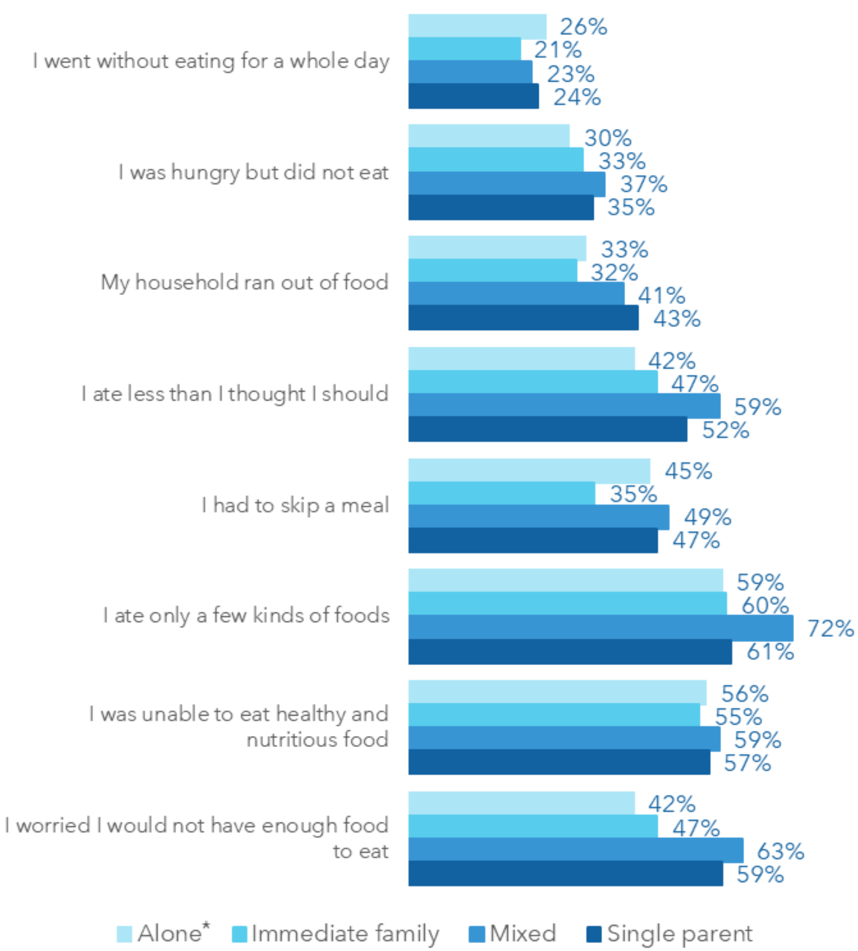



* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

# FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

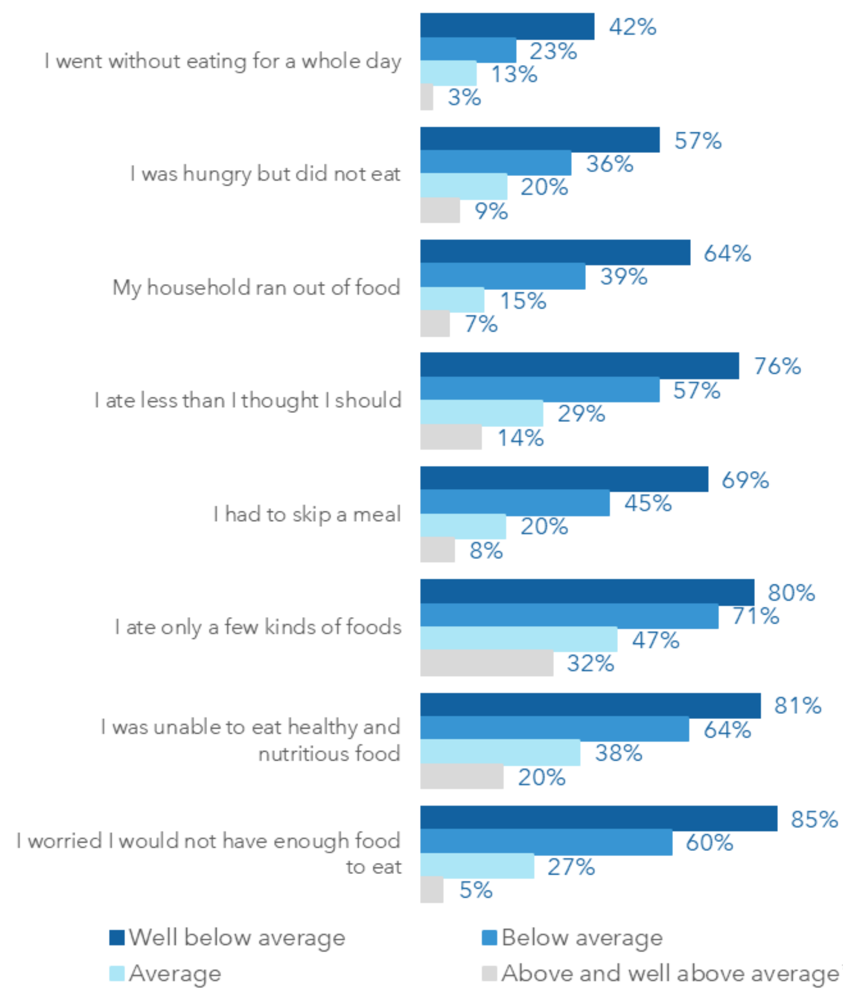
**Was there a time in the past 30 days when you experienced the following?**
Multiple choices could be selected.

### By household composition



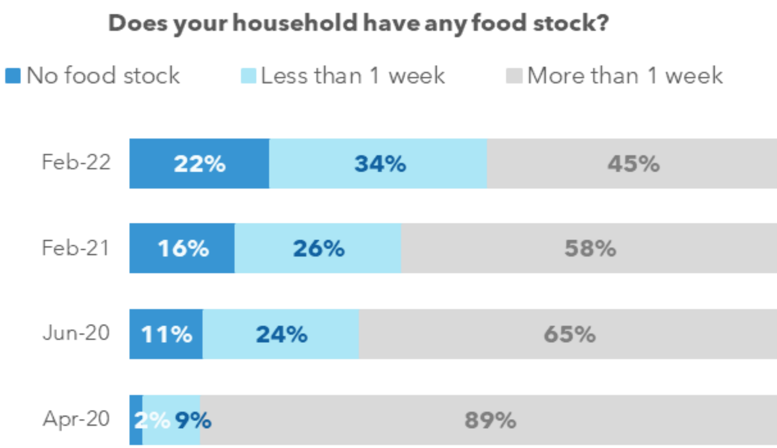

* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

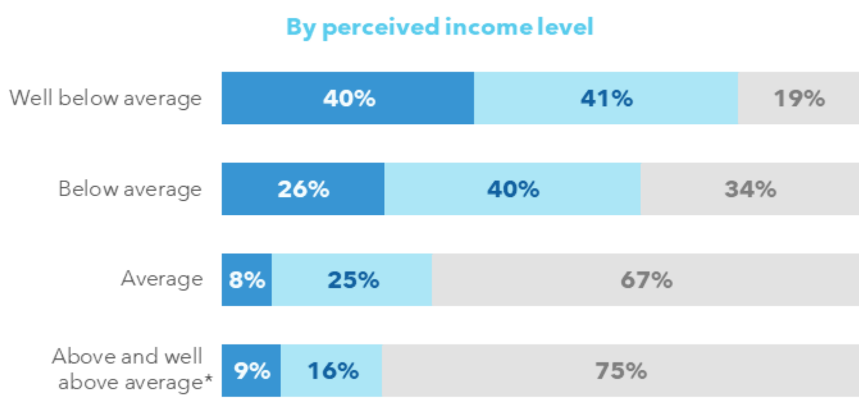
### By perceived income level



# FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

► An increased proportion of households reported having no food stocks at all or having food stocks for less than a week.




* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

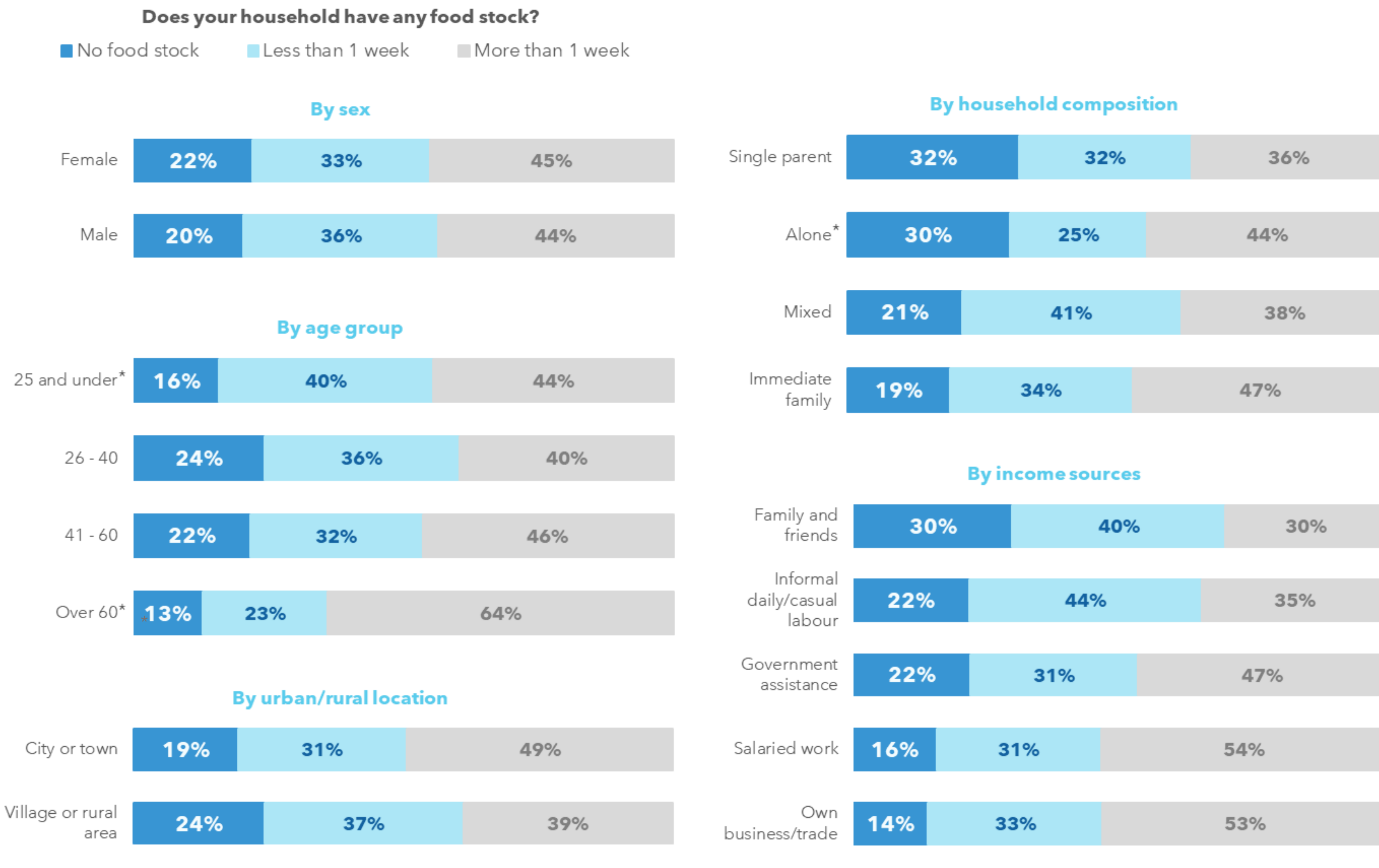
In February 2022, 45% of respondents reported having more than a week's worth of food supplies in their households. This represents a decrease from 65% in June and 89% in April 2020. Similarly, an increased proportion of respondents (22%) reported to have no food stocks compared to those same survey rounds (11% and 2% respectively). While some of these changes are likely driven by people not needing to "stock up" related to lockdowns, people's eroding financial means are also an influencing factor.

Of respondents with a perceived income of well below average, 40% had no food stocks during the survey and only 19% had more than a week's worth of food stock, compared to 67% of households with an average income. Households who derive their income primarily from salaried work or their own business/trade tend to have larger food stocks than households that rely mainly on informal sources of income and on support from family and friends.

Households in more urban areas seem to stock up on food more than those living in rural environments. Additionally, those living alone or with immediate family also tend to have larger food stocks available. The stock situation as reported by female and male respondents was relatively similar. It also appears that 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 64% have food stocks worth more than a week. However, this finding should be treated with caution due to the low number of respondents in the oldest age group.

Overall, the trends in food stocks in Trinidad and Tobago appear to be similar to those in the Caribbean region, with the availability and size of household food stocks decreasing over time.

# FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

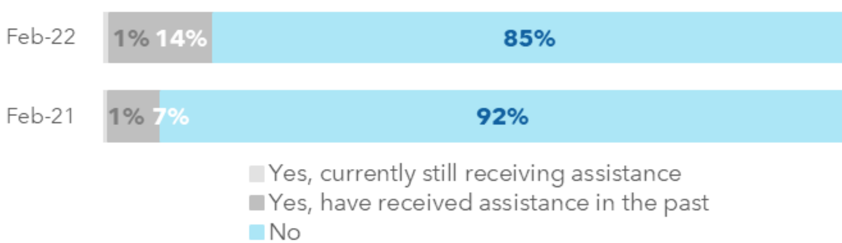



* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

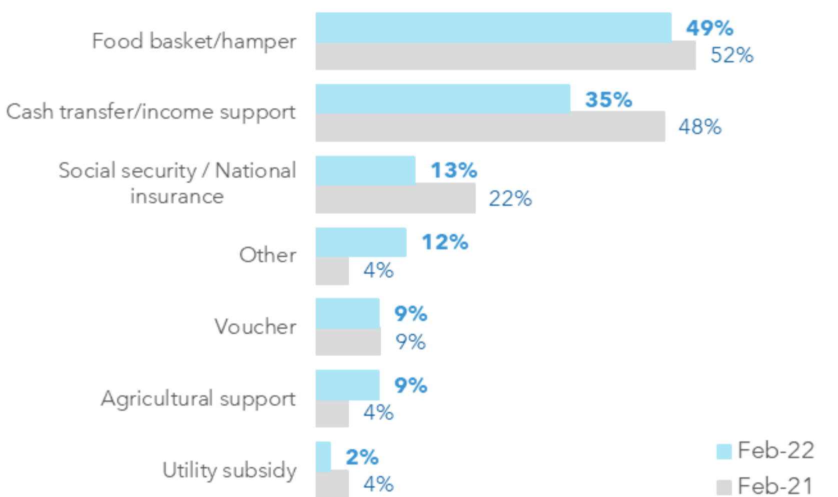
# WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

▶ The proportion of respondents who have received assistance has increased from one year ago. Food basket/hamper is the leading form of assistance.

**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.



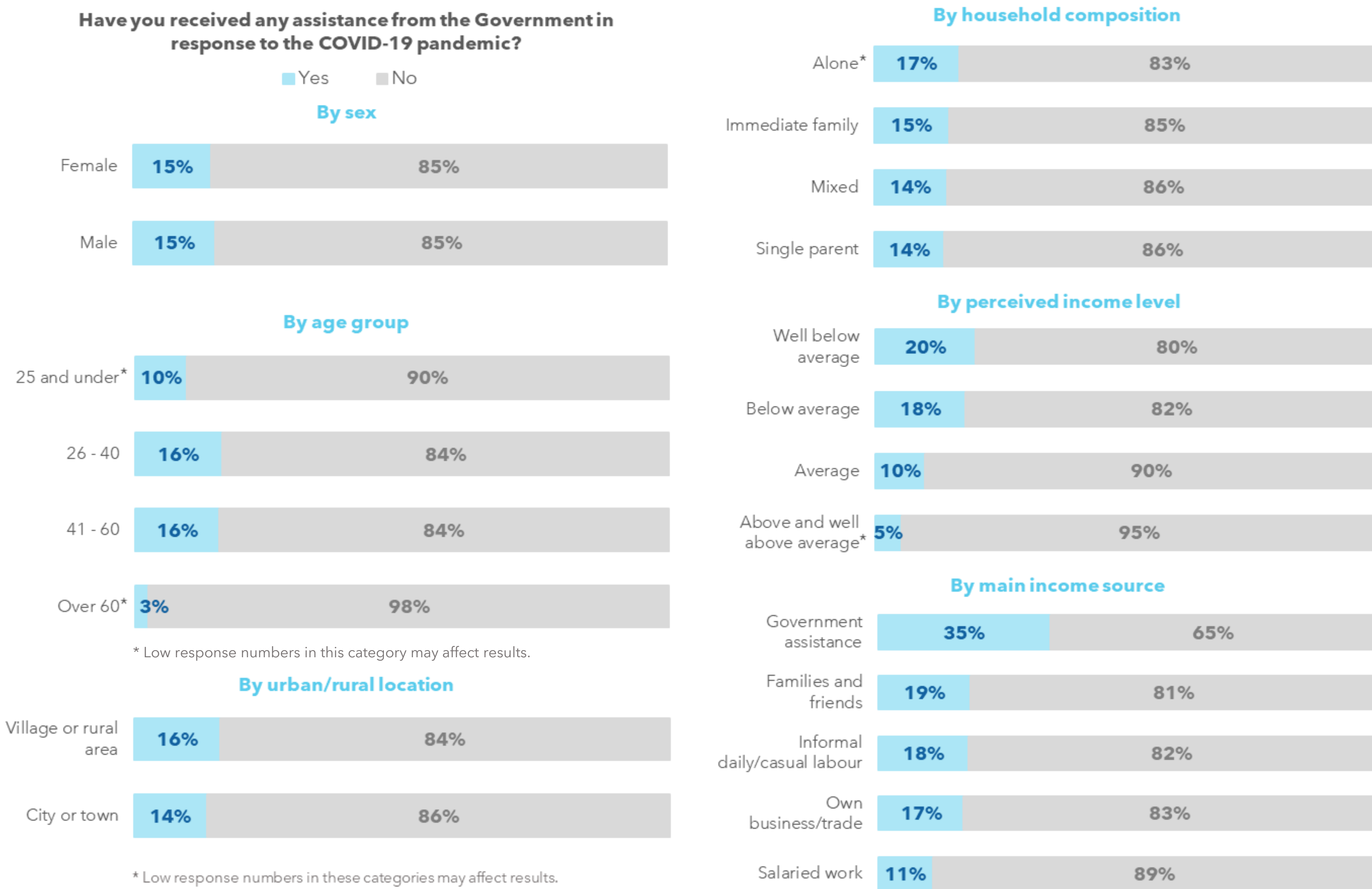

Governments have responded to the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 with various forms of support. Almost 15% of respondents reported to have received government assistance. This is a considerable increase when compared to results from one year ago, where only 8% of respondents reported to have received assistance. This is below the regional average where 22% of respondents reported to have received some sort of support related to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, only 1% of respondents from Trinidad and Tobago were still receiving assistance at the time of the survey.

Respondents most commonly reported receiving assistance in the form of food basket/hamper (49%), followed by cash transfer or income support (35%). Some form of assistance was received by respondents irrespective of their income levels; however, support was more frequently cited by those with well below average (20%), below average (18%) compared to those from the wealthier groups (10% of those with average and 5% with above or well above average income). Recipients of assistance largely consisted of households that already rely on government assistance (35%) as primary income source.

Respondents over 60 and those under 25 years old appear to be less likely the recipients of government assistance than respondents between 25 and 60 years old. However, this finding should be treated with caution due to low number of respondents in those age groups.

No major differences were observed between sex, household composition, or location of residence.

# WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance



# WIDER IMPACTS | Main worries

## ▶ While fear of illness remains the leading concern among respondents, worries over inability to cover food and other essential needs have increased in the last year.

Fear of illness continues to be the leading cause for concern among respondents, though it has slightly decreased since last year. Respondents also continue to be worried about unemployment (44%) and are increasingly concerned about their inability to cover food and other essential needs (33% and 34% respectively). The overall trends in Trinidad and Tobago are largely consistent with those for the Caribbean region.

There are noticeable differences among worries of respondents with different income levels. Those describing their income as well below average are less worried about illness (30%), and much more worried about their inability to cover food (56%) and other essential needs (45%), unemployment (53%) and children or dependents care (21%) than those with higher income. In contrast, respondents with the highest income levels are more concerned about illness (75%), social isolation (41%), inability to access services (20%), disruptions to education (20%), violence in the community (17%) and movement restrictions (17%) compared to the lower income respondents.

Differences in worries are also apparent across age groups, household composition, sex of respondents and their location. Respondents younger than 60 were more concerned about unemployment and meeting their food and essential needs, whereas those above 60 had more worries about falling ill, violence, movement restrictions and social isolation. Concerns about meeting food needs were also more frequently cited by respondents who are single parents compared to those living alone or with immediate family. Women also appear to be more worried about meeting their food and other essential needs than men.

**Main worries expressed by respondents**

Multiple choices could be selected.

| | Feb-22 | Feb-21 | Jun-20 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fear of illness | 50% | 55% | 46% |
| Unemployment | 44% | 44% | 51% |
| Inability to cover essential needs | 34% | 28% | 34% |
| Inability to cover food needs | 33% | 26% | 29% |
| Social isolation | 21% | 26% | 17% |
| Child(ren)/dependents care | 15% | 13% | 14% |
| Having to resort to savings | 14% | 13% | 17% |
| Disruptions to education | 12% | 12% | 11% |
| Movement restrictions | 8% | 14% | 9% |
| Violence in the community | 8% | 16% | 11% |
| Other worries | 2% | 1% | 0% |
| Unable to access services | 2% | 4% | 4% |
| Violence in the household | 1% | 1% | 1% |

**By perceived income level**

| | Well below average | Below average | Average | Above and well above average* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fear of illness | 30% | 48% | 62% | 75% |
| Unemployment | 53% | 50% | 36% | 24% |
| Inability to cover essential needs | 45% | 38% | 27% | 24% |
| Inability to cover food needs | 56% | 39% | 17% | 4% |
| Social isolation | 12% | 18% | 27% | 41% |
| Child(ren)/dependents care | 21% | 14% | 14% | 13% |
| Having to resort to savings | 9% | 16% | 16% | 12% |
| Disruptions to education | 8% | 8% | 18% | 20% |
| Movement restrictions | 4% | 7% | 11% | 17% |
| Violence in the community | 3% | 5% | 12% | 17% |
| Other worries | 3% | 1% | 3% | 1% |
| Unable to access services | 3% | 1% | 2% | 20% |
| Violence in the household | 1% | 0% | 1% | 1% |

* 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

| | Female | Male |
|---|---|---|
| Fear of illness | 52% | 46% |
| Unemployment | 44% | 45% |
| Inability to cover essential needs | 36% | 29% |
| Inability to cover food needs | 35% | 28% |
| Social isolation | 23% | 17% |
| Child(ren)/dependents care | 17% | 11% |
| Having to resort to savings | 13% | 16% |
| Disruptions to education | 12% | 11% |
| Movement restrictions | 8% | 9% |
| Violence in the community | 6% | 11% |
| Other worries | 2% | 3% |
| Unable to access services | 1% | 2% |
| Violence in the household | 1% | 0% |

### By household composition

| | Alone* | Immediate family | Mixed | Single parent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fear of illness | 48% | 53% | 48% | 40% |
| Unemployment | 41% | 44% | 50% | 41% |
| Inability to cover essential needs | 33% | 32% | 41% | 36% |
| Inability to cover food needs | 30% | 30% | 38% | 43% |
| Social isolation | 20% | 22% | 12% | 23% |
| Child(ren)/dependents care | 3% | 17% | 9% | 17% |
| Having to resort to savings | 12% | 14% | 14% | 13% |
| Disruptions to education | 5% | 14% | 11% | 9% |
| Movement restrictions | 5% | 9% | 9% | 4% |
| Violence in the community | 12% | 8% | 9% | 6% |
| Other worries | 9% | 2% | 2% | 1% |
| Unable to access services | 8% | 1% | 0% | 4% |
| Violence in the household | 0% | 1% | 1% | 0% |

### By age group

| | 25 and under* | 26 - 40 | 41 - 60 | Over 60* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fear of illness | 55% | 46% | 51% | 67% |
| Unemployment | 52% | 51% | 40% | 14% |
| Inability to cover essential needs | 35% | 37% | 33% | 19% |
| Inability to cover food needs | 34% | 39% | 29% | 14% |
| Social isolation | 28% | 19% | 20% | 31% |
| Child(ren)/dependents care | 8% | 19% | 14% | 8% |
| Having to resort to savings | 12% | 11% | 17% | 20% |
| Disruptions to education | 15% | 12% | 11% | 10% |
| Movement restrictions | 3% | 7% | 9% | 15% |
| Violence in the community | 8% | 6% | 9% | 15% |
| Other worries | 0% | 1% | 3% | 4% |
| Unable to access services | 0% | 3% | 1% | 1% |
| Violence in the household | 2% | 1% | 1% | 0% |

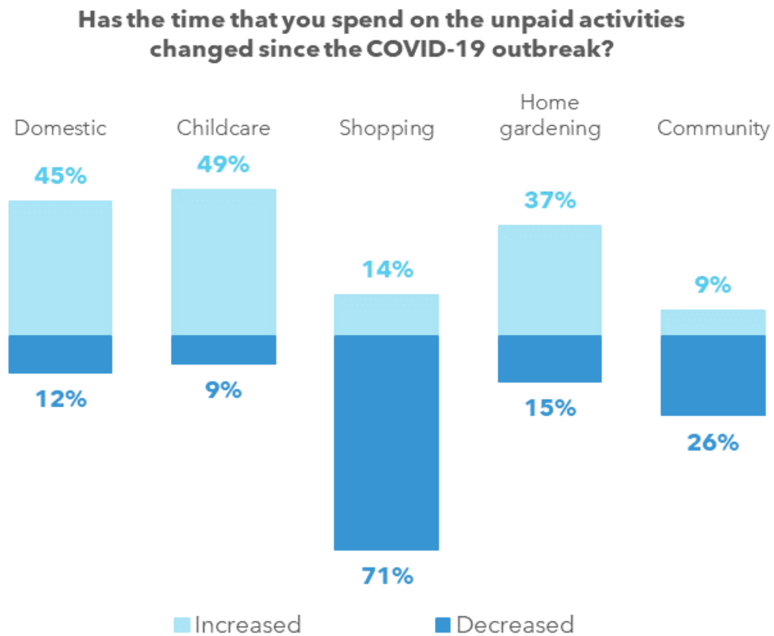
### By urban/rural location

| Main worries | City or town | Village or rural area |
|---|---|---|
| Fear of illness | 52% | 50% |
| Unemployment | 42% | 47% |
| Inability to cover essential needs | 30% | 30% |
| Inability to cover food needs | 30% | 36% |
| Social isolation | 23% | 20% |
| Child(ren)/dependents care | 14% | 17% |
| Having to resort to savings | 14% | 14% |
| Disruptions to education | 13% | 11% |
| Movement restrictions | 9% | 7% |
| Violence in the community | 10% | 6% |
| Other worries | 2% | 2% |
| Unable to access services | 2% | 2% |
| Violence in the household | 0% | 1% |

* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

# WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

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




*"My mental health has taken a bit of a dive. I am not sleeping well and money worries have also been an influence to the general negativity" - Female, 26*

*"social emotional affects on young adult children" - Female, 56*

*"Reduce in income resulted in Reduce groceries, Reduce on electricity usage, reduce on entertainment." - Female, 42*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, respondents continue to increase time devoted to domestic work, childcare and gardening, while decreasing shopping activities. Nearly half of respondents reported spending more time on domestic work and childcare (45% and 49% respectively), and over two thirds continue to curb their shopping activities. While the patterns are largely consistent when compared with the February 2021 and regionally averages, it appears that the more respondents from Trinidad and Tobago are reducing time spent shopping.

Both female and male respondents reported an increase in time spent on unpaid work due to the pandemic. The February 2022 results show that more women are reporting an increase in time spent on domestic work and childcare when compared to men.

Across all income groups a similar proportion of respondents reported increased time spent on domestic work and childcare. However, a decrease in shopping activities was more frequently reported by those classifying their income as below and well below average (75-76%) compared to those with higher income levels (66% for average income respondents and 51% for above and well above average).

When looking at respondents from different types of household compositions, fewer people living alone reported increases in care and unpaid work compared to others. Respondents living with immediate family members, single parent and mixed households seem to be making more adjustments. Over half of those living in single parent and immediate family households reported an increase in childcare (51-52%).

The amount of time spent on the community work is decreasing for 26% of respondents while 9% reported an increase. The decrease was most often reported among respondents with below or well below average incomes.

# **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 | 45% | 49% | 14% | 37% | 9% |
| No change | 37% | 22% | 13% | 33% | 35% |
| Decreased | 12% | 9% | 71% | 15% | 26% |
| Not applicable | 6% | 21% | 3% | 16% | 30% |

| **Feb-21** | Domestic | Childcare | Shopping | Home gardening | Community |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Increased | 46% | 39% | 18% | 43% | 12% |
| No change | 44% | 26% | 21% | 34% | 43% |
| Decreased | 8% | 7% | 59% | 7% | 18% |
| Not applicable | 2% | 28% | 1% | 17% | 27% |

| **Jun-20** | Domestic | Childcare | Shopping | Home gardening | Community |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Increased | 53% | 36% | 13% | 46% | 12% |
| No change | 31% | 31% | 20% | 30% | 38% |
| Decreased | 13% | 6% | 62% | 12% | 21% |
| Not applicable | 2% | 27% | 5% | 11% | 30% |

## By sex

| **Female** | Domestic | Childcare | Shopping | Home gardening | Community |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Increased | 48% | 51% | 15% | 38% | 7% |
| No change | 36% | 20% | 11% | 32% | 34% |
| Decreased | 10% | 8% | 71% | 13% | 25% |
| Not applicable | 6% | 21% | 3% | 17% | 34% |

| **Male** | Domestic | Childcare | Shopping | Home gardening | Community |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Increased | 37% | 43% | 11% | 34% | 13% |
| No change | 41% | 24% | 17% | 35% | 39% |
| Decreased | 14% | 12% | 69% | 18% | 27% |
| Not applicable | 8% | 21% | 3% | 13% | 22% |

## By household composition

| **Alone*** | Domestic | Childcare | Shopping | Home gardening | Community |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Increased | 26% | 20% | 9% | 19% | 10% |
| No change | 47% | 39% | 26% | 50% | 46% |
| Decreased | 11% | 4% | 61% | 4% | 21% |
| Not applicable | 15% | 37% | 4% | 27% | 23% |

| **Immediate family** | Domestic | Childcare | Shopping | Home gardening | Community |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Increased | 47% | 51% | 13% | 40% | 9% |
| No change | 36% | 20% | 12% | 31% | 33% |
| Decreased | 11% | 8% | 71% | 14% | 27% |
| Not applicable | 6% | 22% | 3% | 15% | 31% |

| **Mixed** | Domestic | Childcare | Shopping | Home gardening | Community |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Increased | 47% | 46% | 12% | 33% | 5% |
| No change | 33% | 25% | 10% | 40% | 47% |
| Decreased | 13% | 14% | 75% | 15% | 24% |
| Not applicable | 7% | 16% | 4% | 13% | 24% |

| **Single parent** | Domestic | Childcare | Shopping | Home gardening | Community |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Increased | 43% | 52% | 18% | 30% | 10% |
| No change | 38% | 19% | 12% | 31% | 36% |
| Decreased | 14% | 13% | 67% | 20% | 23% |
| Not applicable | 5% | 16% | 3% | 19% | 31% |

* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

# WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

**Has the time you spend on the unpaid activities changes since the COVID-19 outbreak**

**By perceived income**

| Well below average | Domestic | Childcare | Shopping | Home gardening | Community |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Increased | 43% | 52% | 12% | 32% | 10% |
| No change | 28% | 17% | 5% | 22% | 24% |
| Decreased | 21% | 18% | 75% | 30% | 36% |
| Not applicable | 9% | 14% | 8% | 17% | 30% |

| Below average | Domestic | Childcare | Shopping | Home gardening | Community |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Increased | 46% | 50% | 12% | 35% | 6% |
| No change | 33% | 22% | 9% | 33% | 39% |
| Decreased | 14% | 11% | 76% | 17% | 26% |
| Not applicable | 7% | 17% | 2% | 14% | 28% |

| Average | Domestic | Childcare | Shopping | Home gardening | Community |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Increased | 46% | 50% | 15% | 39% | 8% |
| No change | 43% | 22% | 17% | 38% | 38% |
| Decreased | 5% | 2% | 66% | 6% | 21% |
| Not applicable | 6% | 27% | 1% | 17% | 33% |

| Above and well above average* | Domestic | Childcare | Shopping | Home gardening | Community |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Increased | 43% | 32% | 19% | 45% | 17% |
| No change | 52% | 31% | 29% | 41% | 44% |
| Decreased | 5% | 1% | 51% | 3% | 17% |
| Not applicable | 0% | 35% | 0% | 11% | 23% |

* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

*"I was covid positive and was unable to work because I have be quarantined I was the only one in my house was working have to buy medicine and still paid bills it was hard" - Female, 57*

*"The death of the biggest income earner, had resulted in drastic cuts." - Female, 35*

*"The biggest change is the way I socialize. Restrictions to hugs and greetings." - Female, 55*

*"Having to make arrangements to pick up child from school immediately upon dismissal without getting time off from employer. Spouse having to go out to work as a frontline worker. Lockdown and time restrictions on business hours." - Female, 48*

*"No longer spend money on entertainment. Saving that money to cover increasing cost of food" - Female, 54*

*"I was unable to see my doctor at my clinic even though I had my clinic appointment at the hospital all they said I will have to wait on a call for a new appointment and it have been almost a year now and i still are unable to see or attend my clinic at the hospital" - Male, 36*

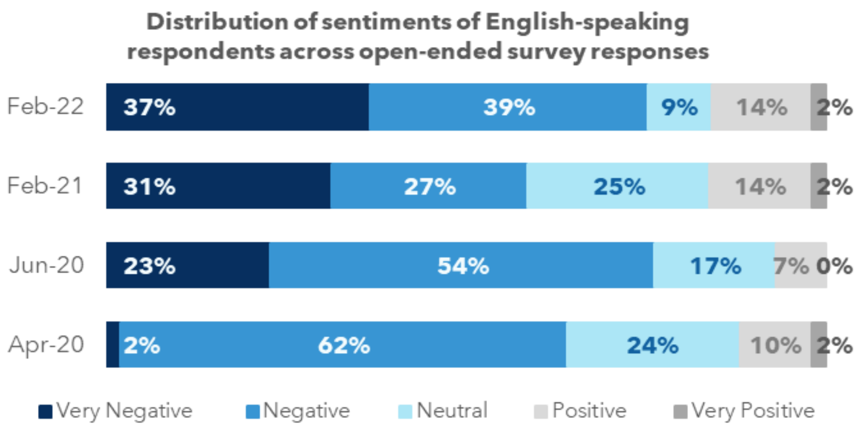
*"Inability to access health care. Have to go to private hospital and spend from savings to access life saving treatment." - Male, 45*

*"There is a fear of going to health facilities for health issues. I am forced to use Google for any aches, pains or physical issues that a doctor would be better able to diagnose." - Female, 52*

*"I was stuck outside of Trinidad for over a year due to the initial Covid restrictions and the fact that I am a non national" - Female, 44*

# WIDER IMPACTS | Coping and adapting

► The pandemic continues to take an increasingly negative toll as respondents worry about the spread of the illness and increasing prices.




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 1132 English-speaking respondents, 523 responded to the open-ended question in Trinidad and Tobago. Their responses were analyzed by machine learning algorithms to categorize and determine the degree of positive and negative emotions. 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 (39%) and very negative (37%) sentiments more often than last year (27% and 31% respectively). At the same time, similar proportion of respondents expressed positive or very positive sentiments in both years. The distribution of sentiments in Trinidad and Tobago is generally following the average trends in the Caribbean region.

**Some sample responses:**

**Very negative (30%)**

**"lost of income of the two bread winners in the house and lots of bills pile up and no income to pay them" - Male, 36**

**Negative (41%)**

**"I had to sell everything I owned to pay bills and buy food" - Male, 39**

**Neutral (9%)**

**"I have changed spending habits to essentials only." - Female, 32**

**Positive (16%)**

**"We have been very fortunate. Filling out this survey reminds me that many people are having a really hard time." - Male, 58**

**Very positive (3%)**

**"No hesitation adapting" - Female, 55**

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

# **WIDER IMPACTS** | Coping and adapting

Respondents continue to adjust to many facets of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many respondents in Trinidad and Tobago stressed concerns about increasing prices and financial burdens. New and increasing financial demands related to food, utilities, childcare, rent, education, healthcare and petrol prices have diminished their resources and purchasing power. Many reported depleting their savings to keep up with their bills and resorting to alternative means to make ends meet. Respondents also reported being out of work, resulting in loss of work and income. Additional costs incurred by COVID-19 due to staff shortages and increasing prices are also impacting many businesses.

Many expressed falling ill with the virus, either themselves or their family members. They highlighted disruptions in accessing health care for chronic health issues. Respondents voiced feelings of anxiety, stress and uncertainty and impacts to their mental health. Some reported physical ailments which have also affected their mental health owing to increased anxiety. Others also raised issues about travel still being difficult. Those with children raised many concerns about online schooling impacting the social development of their children.

Amid these struggles, some highlighted positive elements, including related to faith, opportunities to work from home and time spent with family.

*"Social entertainment and gathering has been disrupted. As social beings its difficult not engaging with family and friends which can affect your mental health. Covid-19 is affecting relationships and potential business engagement." - Female, 35*

*"Having to find money to buy products to sanitize especially that extra and medicine and food stuff on a bare single income" - Female, 50*

*"Backpain and neck pain from teaching online" - Male, 56*

*"My school life/ education has changed in which I have been forced to adapt to online schooling which after a period of time I managed but upon starting physical school it was hard for me to manipulate the different tasks given to me as a student." - Female, 17*

*"The stress of not in sustainable employment over the last 5 years & when I got parttime employment it was stopped due to Covid. This affected my health. I could not pay my mortgage & losing my home is a real threat. Need for Wi Fi to study etc. I have an old car & am unable to pay the insurance, do repairs & renew my permit. I am concerned about using public transport during Covid so need my car. I live in a secluded area 20 minutes walk away from the main road to get transport. I do not mind walking, but have safety concerns. I have a pet dog to care for. I pray a lot. Keep my mind uplifted." - Female, 59*

*"Working from home on a device has caused changes to my physical health and eye health." - Female, 43*

# WIDER IMPACTS | Coping and adapting

## Common themes on how respondents are adapting and coping


FEBRUARY 2022


FEBRUARY 2021


JUNE 2020


APRIL 2020

# CHALLENGES FACING MIGRANTS

## LIVELIHOODS | Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago

▶ Spanish speakers from Trinidad and Tobago have the most negative metrics across a variety of measures related to well-being and impact.

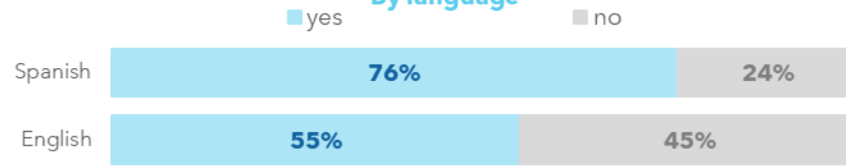
The survey was available in English, French, and Spanish. Seven percent of survey respondents in the Caribbean identified as Spanish speakers, and of these 92% reside in Trinidad and Tobago. Nearly 21,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, most of them Venezuelans (86%), were registered with UNHCR in the country as of December 2021. It is assumed that Spanish-speaking respondents from Trinidad and Tobago are mainly Venezuelans who may be facing unique impacts from COVID-19.

The responses of Spanish speakers residing in Trinidad and Tobago continue to differ significantly from those of English speakers in the country and from the survey averages in the region. Spanish speakers mainly rely on informal daily/casual labour for their income (42%, which is almost double the rate of English speakers with 24%), salaried work (26%) and support from family and friends (26%), while 16% reported no income. In addition, the Spanish speakers mainly derive their income from the construction sector (48%) compared to the survey average (11%). At the same time, Spanish speakers are more likely to report below or well below average income levels (72%) compared to English speakers (58%).

Spanish speakers in Trinidad and Tobago were more likely to experience disruption to their livelihoods in the two weeks prior to the survey (76%) compared to English speakers (55%). For Spanish speakers, expensive or inaccessible livelihood inputs were the main reason for livelihood disruptions, while movement restrictions and concerns about leaving the house due to the pandemic were much less of a reason for disruptions than for English speakers.

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

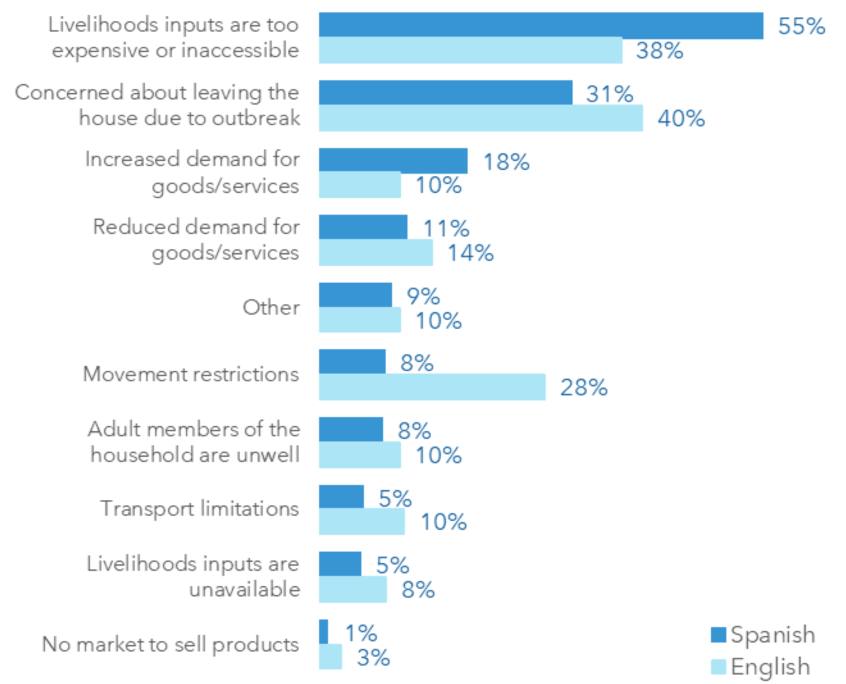
**By language**




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

Multiple choices could be selected.

**By language**



# CHALLENGES FACING MIGRANTS

## LIVELIHOODS | Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago

▶ A majority of Spanish-speaking respondents has experienced a loss of job or reduced income due to the impacts of COVID-19.

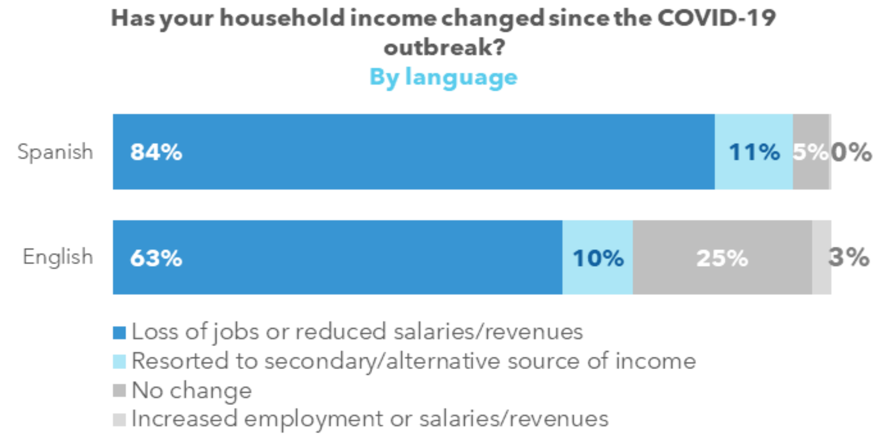
Over four out of five Spanish-speaking respondents reported loss of jobs or reduced income in Trinidad and Tobago, compared to three out of five English-speaking respondents. Consequentially, they were also much more likely to engage in negative coping strategies to meet their food needs, including through spending savings, reducing expenditure on education and health or selling productive assets or goods (see page 60). The latter is most worrisome as it undermines their long-term income generation capacity and may further undermine self-reliance and human capital development.

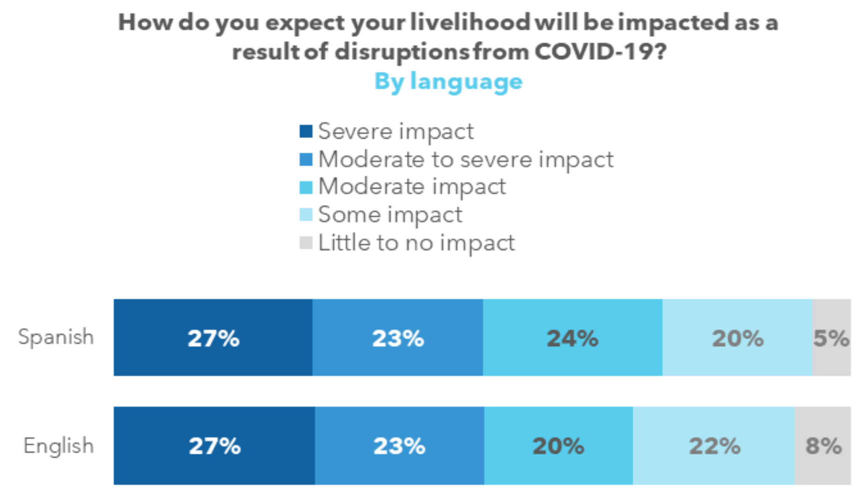
Three quarters of Spanish speakers expect to experience at least a moderate impact to their livelihood as a result of disruptions from COVID-19, which is very similar to the expectations of English speakers (70%).

*"Hay que adaptarse, no hay otra opción, pero todo es muy caro, dentro de poco si siguen subiendo precios como lo están subiendo no habrá ni para comer" - Male, 35*

*"El problema es el trabajo que a disminuyido" - Female, 34*

*"Falta de trabajo , ingresos afectados sin alimentos ,dinero para la renta, adaptándome con estos cambios pedir ayudas a amigos ,comer limitado," - Female, 27*



# CHALLENGES FACING MIGRANTS

## MARKETS | Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago

▶ Spanish speakers are more than twice as likely to experience difficulties in accessing markets due to COVID-19 than English speakers.

COVID-19 and measures to contain the virus are impacting market access, with over two-thirds of Spanish-speaking respondents reporting that they could not access stores and markets at some point in the seven days prior to the survey. This is over two times more frequent compared to English speakers in Trinidad and Tobago (30%) or compared to the regional average of 33%.

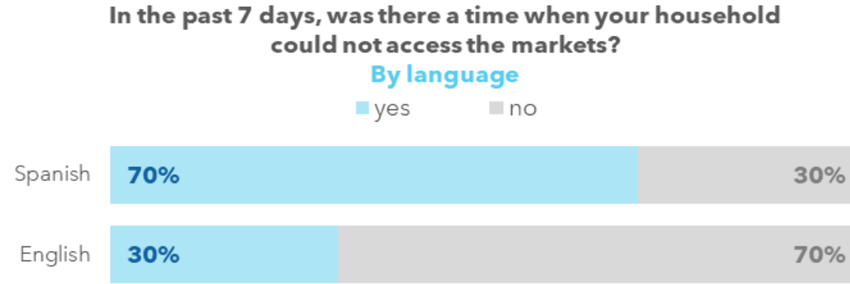
Lack of financial means is overwhelmingly reported as the main reason for limited market access among Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago, cited by 97% of those who faced a time when they could not access markets in the seven days prior to the survey. This is a larger proportion compared to English speakers (76%) and the Caribbean region as a whole (80%).

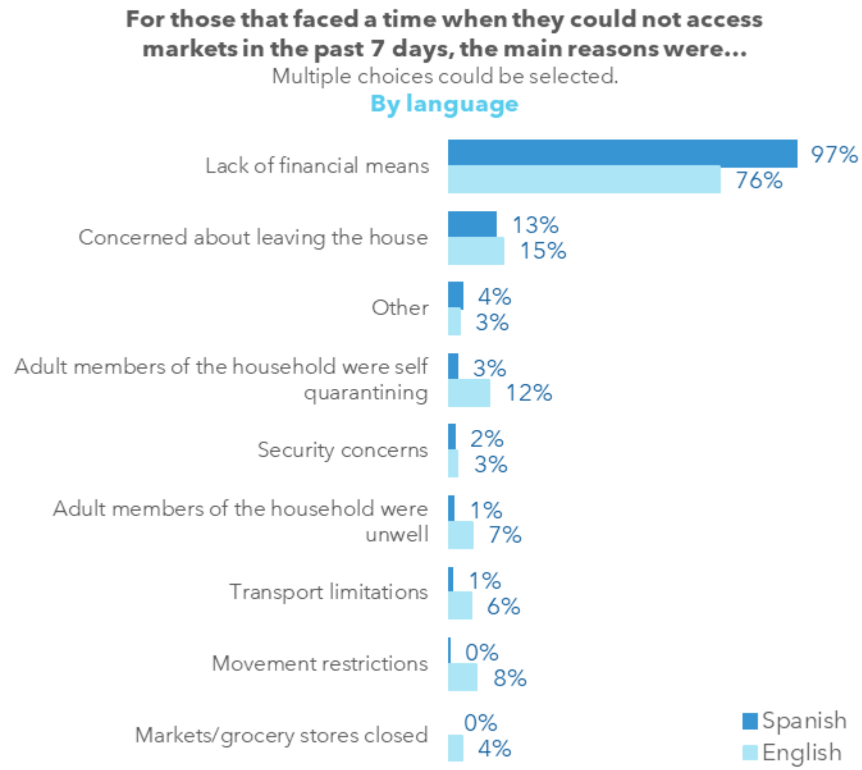
*"Mi familia y yo contraimos covid hace 2 meses. Y todo nos ha afectado porque estuvimos en cuarentena y aislamiento. Tenemos miedo de estar fuera que no queremos infectarnos pero debemos salir para conseguir ayuda para alimentos porque tengo un hijo de 1 año." - Male, 29*

*"Disminución del salario" - Male, 32*

*"Se ha echo dificil" - Female, 24*

*"Reducción en las horas de trabajo, afectando la entrada de dinero para poder cubrir con todos los gastos necesarios" - Male, 33*



# CHALLENGES FACING MIGRANTS

## MARKETS | Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago

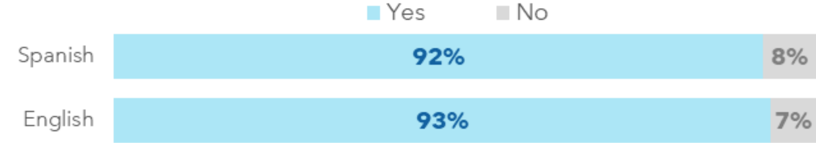
▶ Spanish speakers are buying smaller quantities of food more frequently compared to English speakers.

The pandemic has changed how people shop. The majority of Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago (92%) has changed their shopping behaviour compared to before the pandemic, which is a similar proportion as for English-speaking respondents (93%).

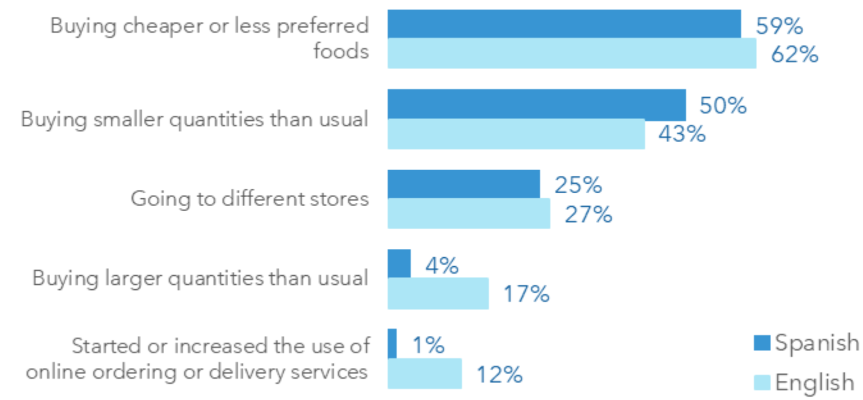
Spanish-speaking respondents who changed how they shop indicated that the main changes they were making are buying cheaper or less preferred foods (59%) and buying smaller quantities (50%). Such shopping behaviour is consistent with the trends in the Caribbean, where the most common changes in shopping behavior are buying cheaper foods (52%) and smaller quantities (42%), however the proportion of Spanish speakers in Trinidad and Tobago resorting to these two strategies is higher than in the region. When compared to English-speakers in Trinidad and Tobago, Spanish speakers were more frequently resorting to buying smaller quantities of food on one hand and less often resorting to online ordering and buying larger quantities.

The proportion of Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago indicating an increase in the cost of food over the two weeks prior to the survey is very similar to the proportion of English speakers (97% and 98% respectively).

**Respondents who reported a change in shopping behaviour**
**By language**




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




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

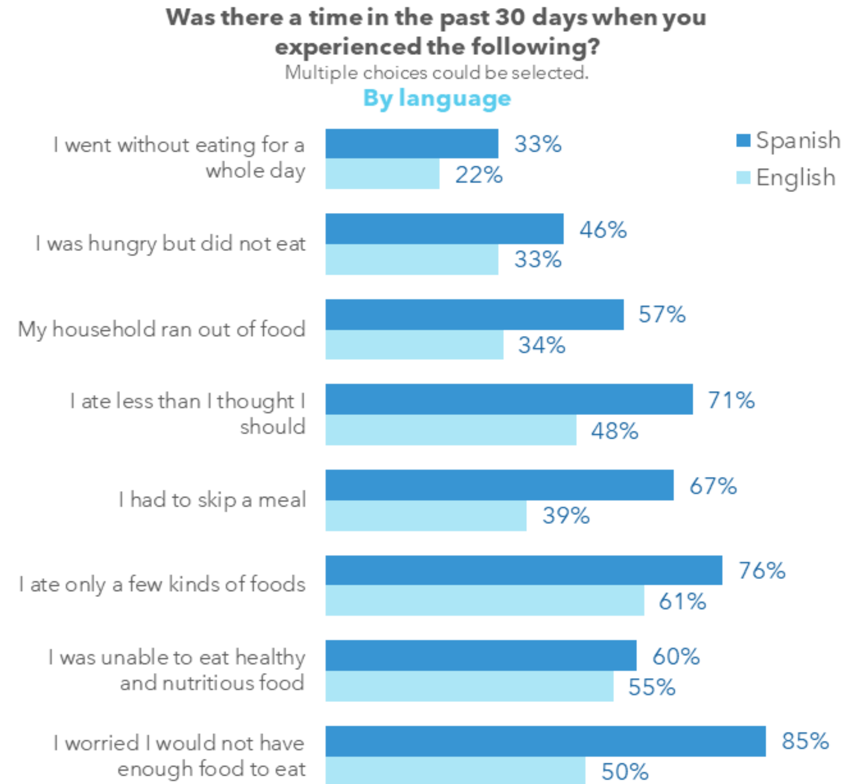
# CHALLENGES FACING MIGRANTS

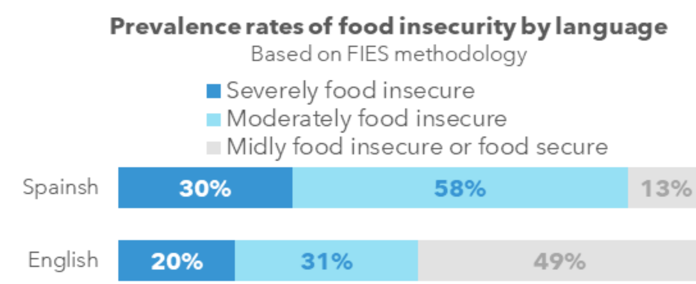
## FOOD SECURITY | Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago

▶ Spanish speakers are more likely to experience severe food insecurity compared to English speakers.

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. When Spanish-speaking respondents were asked about the 30 days leading up to the survey, 33% of respondents reported experiencing a time when they went a whole day without eating, 46% experienced a time when they were hungry but did not eat, and 71% experienced a time when they ate less than they thought they should. Worries about not having enough to eat were reported by a large majority of respondents (85%). Besides quantity, the nutrition and the variety of foods consumed are also concerning among Spanish speakers, with 60% of respondents reporting a time when they were unable to eat a healthy and nutritious diet, and 76% reporting a time when they ate only a few kinds of food. Only 5% of Spanish speakers did not report any of the negative food situations listed.

Based on the FIES methodology, it is estimated that 30% of Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago are severely food insecure and additional 58% moderately food insecure. This is well above the food insecurity levels of English speakers in Trinidad and Tobago as well as above the levels of the Caribbean region.



# CHALLENGES FACING MIGRANTS

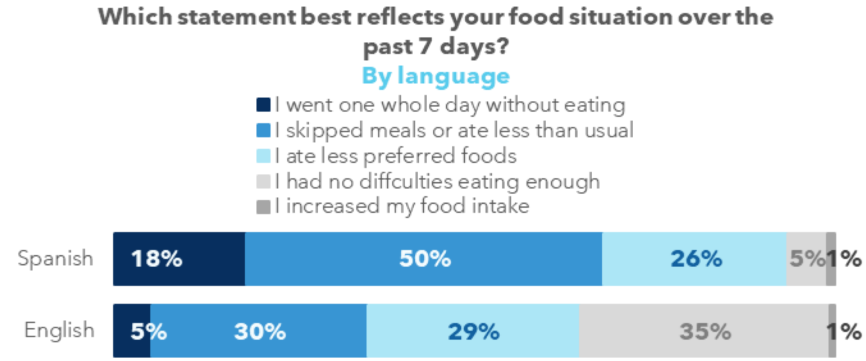
## FOOD SECURITY | Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago

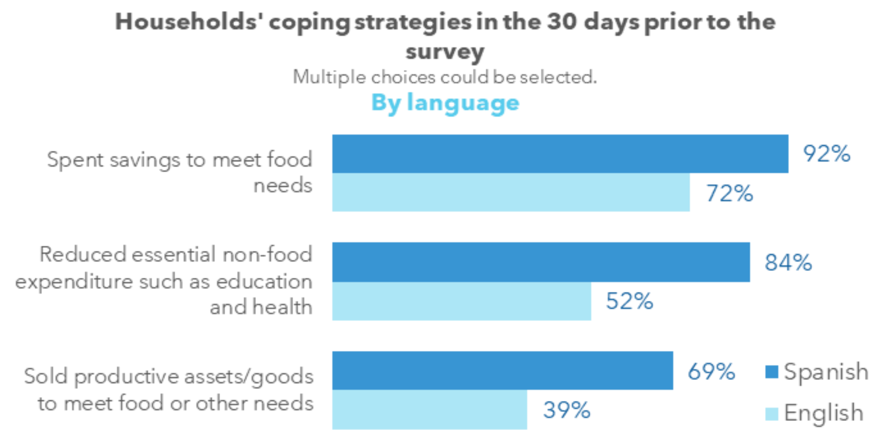
### ▶ Spanish speakers are forced to employ negative coping strategies to meet their food needs.

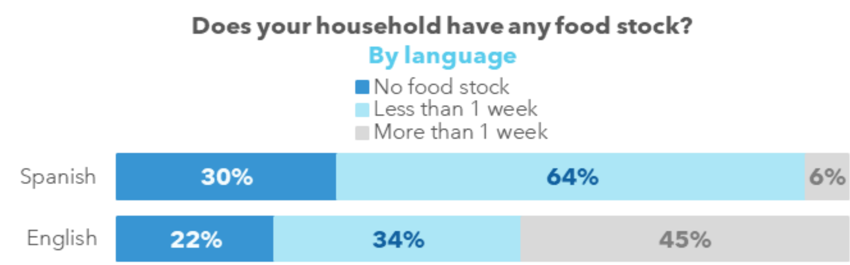
Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago were much more likely to compromise their food consumption than English speakers. In the 7 days prior to the survey, 18% of Spanish-speaking respondents went a whole day without food and an additional 50% of them skipped meals or ate less than usual. This is much higher than the proportion English speakers in Trinidad and Tobago or the regional average, where 5% of respondents went a whole day without food and 30% skipped meals. The alarming state of immigrants' food security is also reflected in the comments made by Spanish speakers, a large proportion of which revolve around the lack of food or difficulties in accessing adequate food.

Only 6% of Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago had more than a week's worth of food stock, compared to 45% of English speakers. In addition, Spanish speakers were also much more likely to try to meet their food needs by spending savings (92%), reducing expenditure on education and health (84%) or selling productive assets (69%). This could severely undermine their long-term income generation capacity, self-reliance and human capital development.

The inability to meet food and other essential needs remain the main worries of Spanish-speaking respondents – cited by approximately three out of four respondents – which is significantly higher when compared to English speakers (see page 62).



# CHALLENGES FACING MIGRANTS

## WIDER IMPACTS | Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago

▶ Spanish speakers are more than twice as worried about meeting their food and essential needs as English speakers.

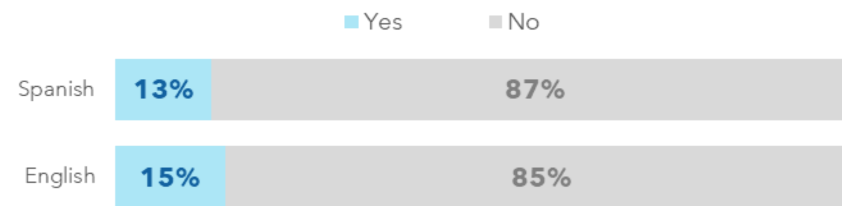
Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago reported to have received government assistance in response to COVID-19 pandemic (13%) at similar levels as English speakers (15%).

While the increase in domestic work is reported by similar proportion of Spanish- and English-speaking respondents, Spanish speakers reported a smaller increase in childcare and did not report a major increase in home gardening as was the case with English speakers. A greater proportion of Spanish speakers reduced their shopping activity (84%) than English-speaking respondents (71%).

Spanish speakers were significantly more worried about the inability to meet their food and other essential needs – cited by approximately three out of four respondents – which is more than twice higher when compared to English speakers or the average of the Caribbean region where main worries were fear of illness and unemployment. Spanish-speaking respondents also more frequently reported worries of being unable to access services (13%) than English-speaking respondents (2%) in Trinidad and Tobago (see page 62).

Respondents were also given the space to provide more nuanced insights on how they are coping with and adapting to the evolving impacts of the pandemic. Spanish-speaking respondents continue to express stress about unemployment and lack of money with many highlighting that they do not have funds to provide sufficient food for themselves and their families.

**Have you received any assistance from the government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?**
**By language**




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

| Spanish | Domestic | Childcare | Shopping | Home gardening | Community |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Increased | 41% | 33% | 6% | 4% | 3% |
| No change | 25% | 20% | 6% | 23% | 19% |
| Decreased | 28% | 28% | 84% | 35% | 29% |
| Not applicable | 6% | 20% | 4% | 38% | 49% |

| English | Domestic | Childcare | Shopping | Home gardening | Community |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Increased | 45% | 49% | 14% | 37% | 9% |
| No change | 37% | 22% | 13% | 33% | 35% |
| Decreased | 12% | 9% | 71% | 15% | 26% |
| Not applicable | 6% | 21% | 3% | 16% | 30% |

# CHALLENGES FACING MIGRANTS

## WIDER IMPACTS | Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago

**Main worries expressed by respondents**
Multiple choices could be selected.
**By language**

| | Spanish | English |
|---|---|---|
| Inability to cover food needs | 78% | 33% |
| Inability to cover essential needs | 69% | 34% |
| Fear of illness | 38% | 50% |
| Unemployment | 32% | 44% |
| Unable to access services | 13% | 2% |
| Social isolation | 10% | 21% |
| Having to resort to savings | 4% | 14% |
| Child(ren)/dependents care | 4% | 15% |
| Disruptions to education | 3% | 12% |
| Violence in the community | 2% | 8% |
| Movement restrictions | 2% | 8% |
| Other worries | 1% | 2% |
| Violence in the household | 0% | 1% |

*"Me he visto afectada en todo los sentidos, tanto económica como física y mentalmente" - Female, 29*

*"Estoy embarazada y no je podido acudir a un médico para ver realmente cómo se encuentra mi bebé." - Female, 29*

*"No poder ayudar a mis familiares en el extranjero" - Female, 28*

**Common themes on how respondents are adapting and coping**

# CONCLUSION

Since the first survey was launched in April 2020, much has changed in Trinidad and Tobago. Vaccines have become available, travel has been re-introduced and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has implemented programmes to support individuals who suffered loss of job or income due to the pandemic. Yet, this survey shows that COVID-19 continues to have profound impacts on how people in Trinidad and Tobago meet their most pressing needs and try to earn a living. Nearly two years from the onset of the pandemic, the economic reverberations continue to take a toll on livelihoods, incomes, food security and people's mental wellbeing. Despite certain signs of recovery, the underlying picture remains deeply troubling.

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

Impacts to jobs and unemployment remain a critical concern. With many restrictions ended or being significantly reduced and greater government expenditures foreseen for the new fiscal year, there is some cause for optimism on economic recovery. However, the picture in February 2022 was one of struggles related to employment and concerns about the future, especially for those already living in poverty or on the edge. The decrease of incomes, lost jobs and increased costs of living or for pursuing livelihoods have recalibrated the baseline of where people are. It will also take substantial effort and directed investment to make sure that those already in difficulty are not left even further behind as Trinidad and Tobago seeks to turn the corner on the pandemic.

These impacts are hitting hardest those who can least afford it – particularly families with the lowest incomes, those who rely on informal means or family support for their living, and younger respondents compared to other age groups. Migrants are facing significant food security and livelihood challenges.

The survey also highlights that unpaid time spent on childcare are still greater than before the pandemic, and these activities are disproportionately shouldered by women. Concerns about unemployment and inability to cover essential or food needs have also risen. Continued and deepened analysis on gender and community dynamics remains a priority to ensure that recovery processes are inclusive, sustainable and support women's empowerment.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has turned to various policy measures and programmes to manage these impacts and support people. Social protection has played a critical role through relief grants, assistance in the form of food cards to vulnerable households, and the introduction of a "pandemic leave" to accommodate parents unable to report to work due to school closures. Given the continuation 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, Trinidad and Tobago is highly exposed to global and regional shocks. The combination of COVID-19 impacts on household economy, supply chain disruptions, rising inflation, as well as the anticipation of another active hurricane season and the global economic reverberations of the Ukraine crisis present the country with a serious challenge for food security. The strengthening of national emergency preparedness, social protection, and food systems must be therefore a strategic recovery and development priority, in line with broader CARICOM objectives and recommendations. See next page for recommendations from the Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey Regional Summary Report, February 2022.

# REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1

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

2

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

3

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

4

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

5

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

# METHODOLOGY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

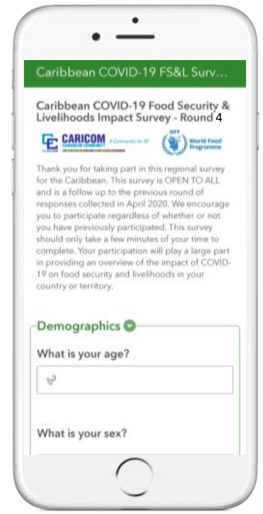
The fourth round of the CARICOM Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods impact survey was launched via a webform, which was accessible on mobile/smartphones and PC/desktops. The data collection period was inclusive of 25 January to 8 February 2022. The survey was circulated via email, social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

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

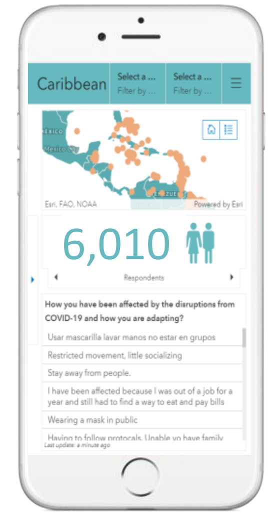
WFP expresses warm appreciation to Flow and Digicel for distributing the survey link by SMS in Barbados and Grenada. Special thanks to the International Telecommunication Union for their support in facilitating the SMS distribution. Thanks to UNHCR in Trinidad and Tobago for circulating the survey link.

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

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




Survey form



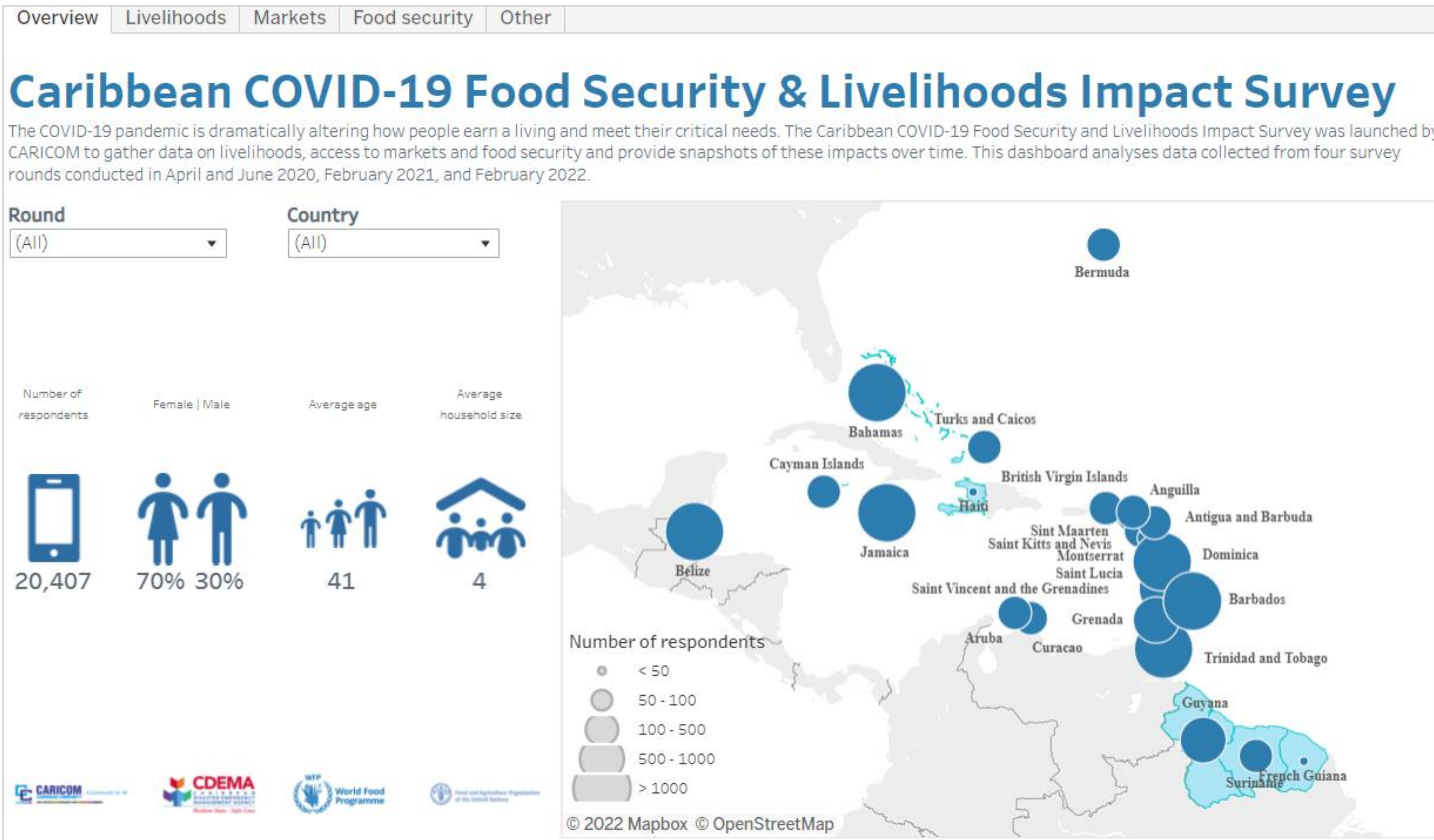

Dashboard for Smartphones


Dashboard for PCs/Laptops

# METHODOLOGY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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

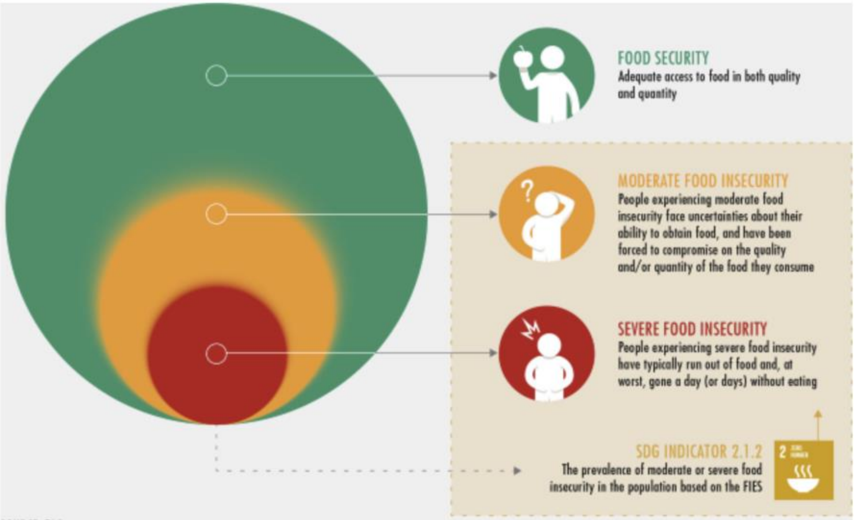


# CALCULATION OF FOOD INSECURITY ESTIMATES

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

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

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




Interpreting FIES indicators (Source: FAO).

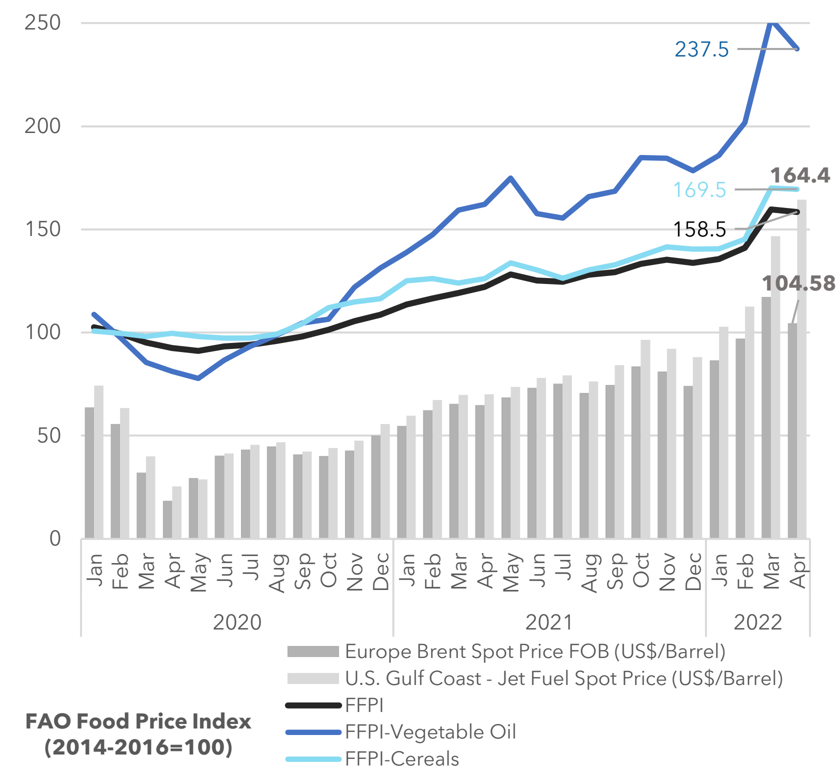
# Annex | Regional implications of Ukraine crisis

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

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

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

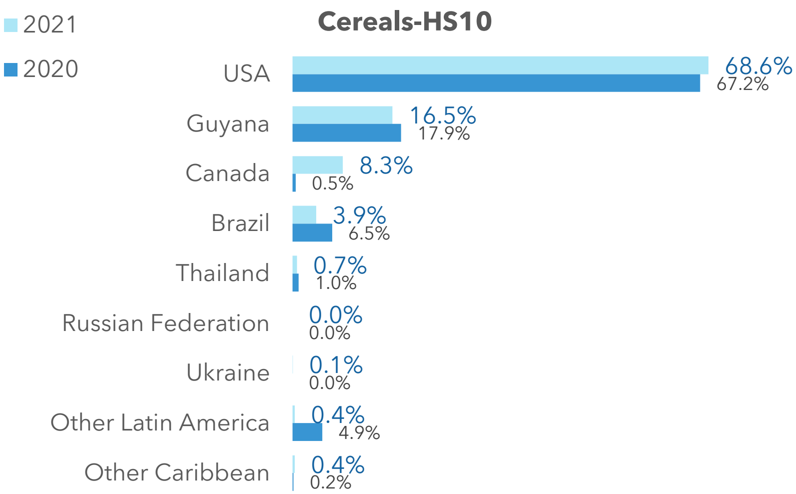
Adjustments to government budgets are also expected under new fiscal realities and will also depend on future oil price developments, which means that financing for public services such as health, education or social protection may be at risk from cuts. However, it is critical to protect and increase 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.

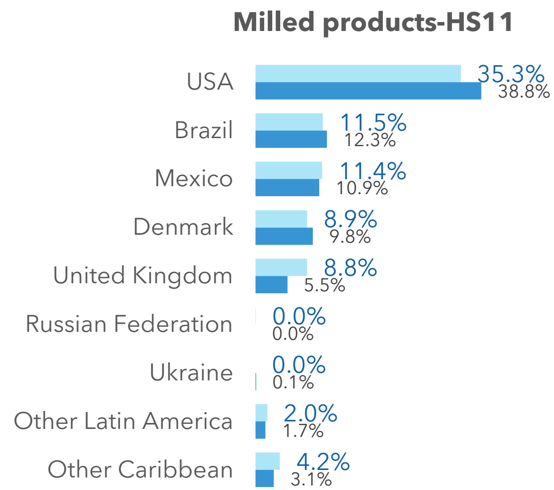


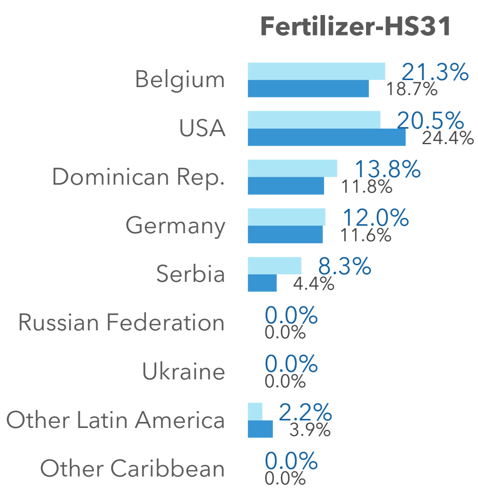

Source: FAO, US Energy Information Administration

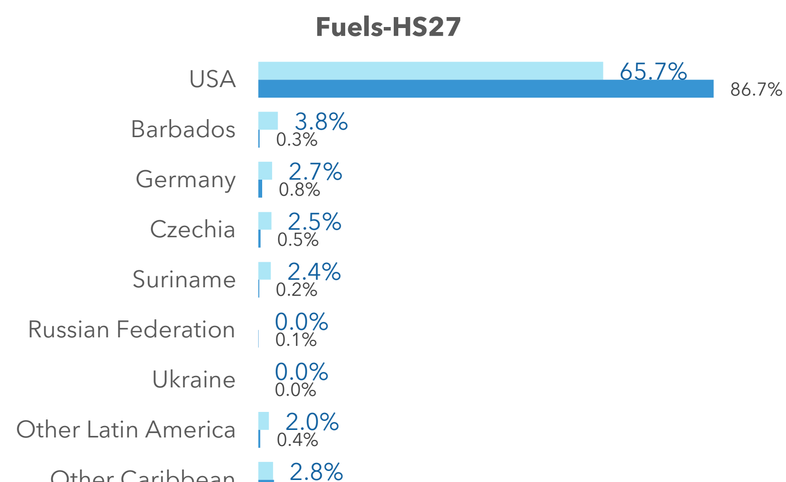
# Annex | Import source for key commodities

**Top 5 import markets for Trinidad and Tobago in 2021 and 2020 based on US$ value, by import share and selected commodities (HS classification standard)**




Data source: UN Comtrade Database

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**SCAN** the QR code to see all the Food Security & Livelihood Impact reports online. Alternatively, follow this link: www.wfp.org/publications/caribbean-covid-19-food-security-livelihoods-impact-survey-round-4-february-2022

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