

# Caribbean Food Security & Livelihoods Survey

JAMAICA | JULY 2025



# Overview

## About the survey

Climate change and rising living costs are severely impacting food security and livelihoods in Jamaica and across the Caribbean. Unpredictable weather, droughts, and storms disrupt food production and access, especially for vulnerable households reliant on farming and fishing. These climate-sensitive communities face increasing difficulty recovering from shocks and maintaining stable incomes and affordable food sources.

To monitor these evolving dynamics, the CARICOM Caribbean Food Security and Livelihoods Survey has been conducted over seven rounds since April 2020. The survey provides periodic snapshots of people’s livelihoods, market access, and food security across the region. Its primary goal is to support evidence-based decision-making by governments and development partners, helping them respond to both immediate needs and long-term risks—particularly those linked to climate change and economic instability.

This report draws on the eighth round of the Caribbean Food Security and Livelihoods Survey, conducted between May and June 2025, and focuses on Jamaica. Comparisons in this report are limited to previous rounds with sufficient Jamaican responses. This longitudinal approach helps identify trends and shifts in household resilience, food access, and livelihood stability. While regional patterns offer broad insights, national-level data from Dominica reveal unique local challenges that require tailored responses.

Although the survey provides valuable insights, it is important to note that the data are not nationally representative. The use of an online questionnaire restricts participation to individuals with internet access, potentially excluding voices from more remote or underserved communities.

## Summary

Households in Jamaica experience persistent challenges in market access, food consumption, and livelihoods. Limited financial resources remain the main barrier, as rising prices for food and essential non-food items further strain household budgets. In response, negative coping strategies are widely adopted across the population, with no significant differences observed across socio-demographic groups, underscoring the pervasive nature of these pressures.

### Main results from the Jamaica surveys

\*Comparison with the February 2021 survey round is not included because of the low number of responses from Jamaica.

	Jun 2025	Apr 2024	May 2023	Aug 2022	Feb 2022	Jun 2020	Apr 2020
<b>LIVELIHOODS</b>	Disrupted livelihoods	42%	44%	61%	55%	48%	60%
	Reduction/loss of income	38%	37%	40%	52%	57%	74%
<b>MARKETS</b>	Lack of market access	51%	51%	58%	57%	39%	38%
	Change in shopping behaviour	73%	74%	88%	91%	90%	88%
	Increase in food prices	92%	95%	97%	97%	98%	89%
<b>FOOD SECURITY</b>	Reduced food consumption	46%	46%	50%	51%	41%	45%
	Lack of food stock	38%	38%	37%	35%	28%	19%



June 2025	April 2024	May 2023	Aug 2022	Feb 2022	Jun 2020	Apr 2020
<b>394</b> Respondents	<b>833</b> Respondents	<b>1607</b> Respondents	<b>1192</b> Respondents	<b>930</b> Respondents	<b>242</b> Respondents	<b>216</b> Respondents
75% Female   25% Male	78% Female   22% Male	79% Female   21% Male	74% Female   26% Male	72% Female   28% Male	76% Female   24% Male	75% Female   25% Male



## Socio-economic context and vulnerability

Jamaica continues to experience moderate yet persistent volatility in both general inflation and food price inflation, as the country remains highly vulnerable to external shocks. Notably, food inflation has outpaced overall inflation, intensifying pressure on household budgets and food security. While global food prices have shown signs of easing, local prices have continued to rise, albeit at a slower pace than in 2022.

According to FAO's Food Price Index, global food prices in May 2025 were 5.4 percent higher than a year earlier, driven mainly by increases in dairy (21.6 percent), oils (19.1 percent), and meat (5.2 percent). Locally, after a downward trend in 2024, food inflation in Jamaica is climbing again in 2025. In May 2025, food inflation reached 6.5 percent, while overall inflation stood at 5.2 percent year-on-year (*Statistical Institute of Jamaica*).

Although less severe than in previous years, these sustained increases continue to erode household purchasing power and food security, particularly among lower-income groups.

Jamaica's food security challenges are amplified by its heavy reliance on imported foods. Two key indicators highlight this vulnerability.

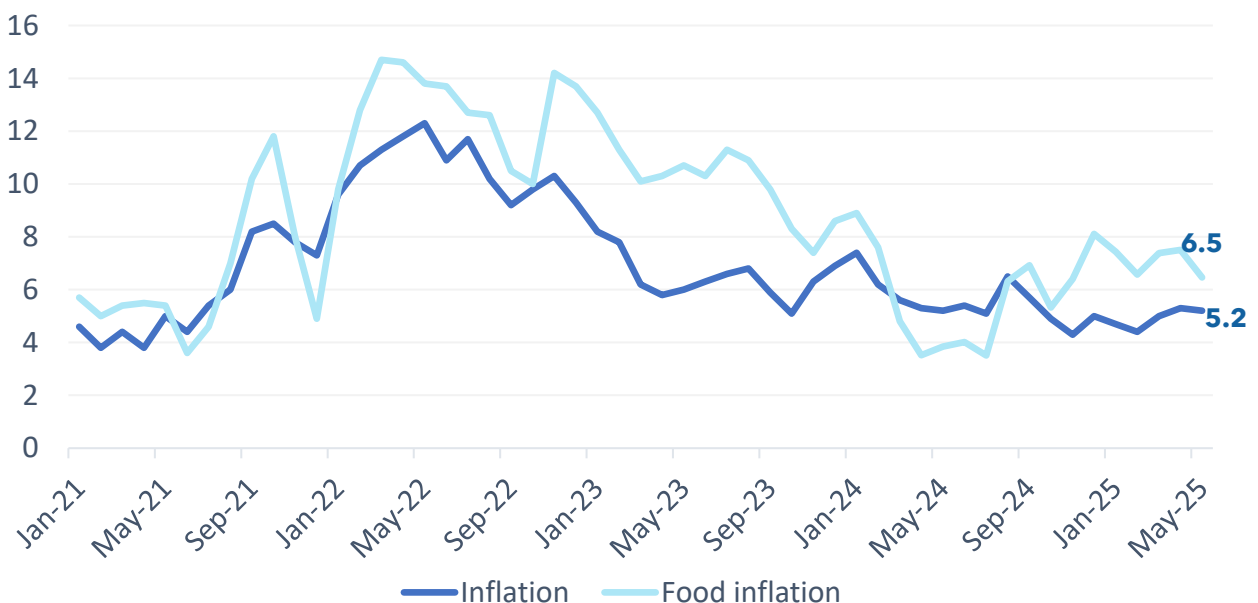
First, the value of food imports as a percentage of total exports measures the country's capacity to finance its food imports from export earnings. For Jamaica, this ratio averaged 30 percent between 2020 and 2022, compared to a regional average of 20 percent for Latin America and the Caribbean (*ECLAC, International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024*).

Second, the cereal import dependency ratio, reflecting the share of cereal consumption met through imports, stood at 99.3 percent between 2021 and 2023 (FAO Stats, 2025). This near-total reliance on imported cereals exposes Jamaica to global supply chain disruptions, price volatility, and geopolitical risks.

### Inflation in Jamaica (March 2021-May 2025; %)

Point-to-point inflation rates.

Source: Statistical Institute of Jamaica and Trading Economics





## Natural hazards

Jamaica faces significant vulnerability to natural hazards, including hurricanes, extreme rainfall, droughts, sea level rise, and earthquakes. These hazards pose substantial risks to both the economy and population, particularly the estimated 60 percent of residents living in coastal areas.

Between 2000 and 2024, the International Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT) recorded 23 natural hazard events in Jamaica, primarily hurricanes and tropical storms. These events affected more than one million people and caused estimated damages exceeding US\$2.5 billion.

In July 2024, Hurricane Beryl struck parts of the island as a Category 4 hurricane, causing severe localized damage and widespread national disruption. Approximately 618,496 individuals across 119 communities were directly impacted by flooding, landslides, and infrastructure damage. Women represented 51 percent of those affected, with most in the working-age group (15–64 years). The hurricane resulted in four fatalities (two male, two female) and 74 injuries (*PIOJ, Post Disaster Needs Assessment, December 2024*).

Economic losses from Hurricane Beryl are estimated at J\$56.7 billion, equivalent to 1.9 percent of Jamaica’s 2023 nominal GDP. Over half of these losses occurred in the social sector, particularly education and health, with the private sector bearing most of the cost. The agricultural and fisheries sectors were heavily affected, especially in Clarendon, Manchester, and St. Elizabeth. The effects of the hurricane impacted over 48,800 farmers, 11,000 fishers, and 23,000 hectares of land, along with livestock, greenhouses, and farm roads (*PIOJ, Post Disaster Needs Assessment, December 2024*).

In the aftermath of hurricane Beryl, WFP collaborated with the Government of Jamaica to provide cash assistance to affected households to meet immediate essential needs and support their recovery.





## Markets

In the eighth round of the survey, consistent with findings from the previous round, 51 percent of respondents reported challenges in accessing markets. The primary barrier remains economic access, with 95 percent citing a lack of money. In contrast, 18 percent of respondents identified physical access constraints, such as transportation challenges, as the reason for their limited market engagement.

### Respondents continue to experience increases in the price of food and other essential items.

In June 2025, 93 percent of respondents reported observed increases in food prices. Other essential non-food items for which respondents price increases include, housing (84 percent), electricity (82 percent), other fuels (79 percent) and education (74 percent).

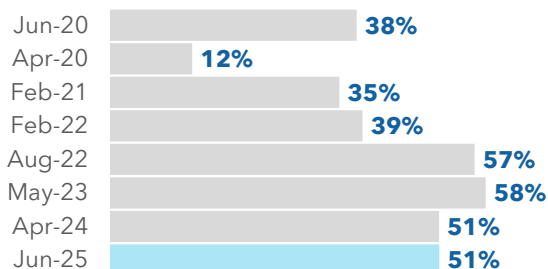
### Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of respondents reported that they had changed their shopping behavior in the past 3 months.

Compared to April 2024, more respondents are buying cheaper or less preferred foods (66 percent), buying smaller quantities (57 percent) and going to different stores (35 percent).

No significant differences were observed in shopping behavior changes across gender or other socio-demographic variables, including age, household income or education level. This absence of significant variation across socio-demographic groups is an indication that the economic pressures driving changes in shopping behavior are widespread and broadly felt across the population.

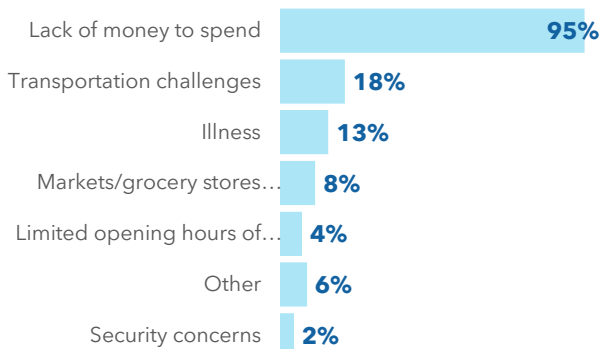
#### Respondents unable to access markets in the 30 days prior to the survey

Recall period was changed from 7 to 30 days in May 2023.

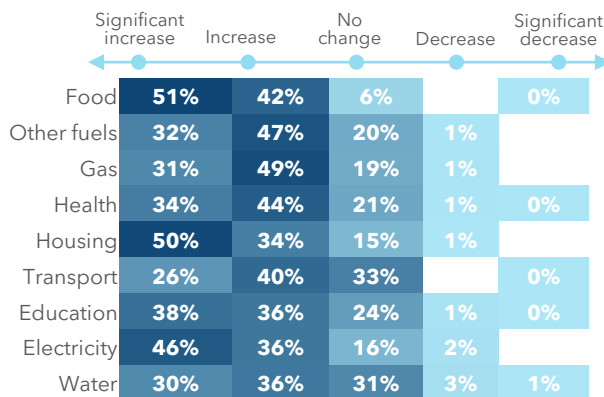


#### For those that faced a time when they could not access markets in the past 30 days, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

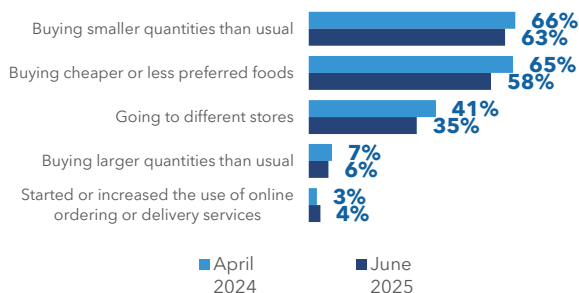


#### Respondents reporting a change in the costs of the commodities in the 3 months prior to the survey



#### Respondents who reported a change in their shopping habits in the past 3 months are...

Multiple choices could be selected.





## Livelihoods

**In June 2025, 42 percent of respondents experienced disruptions to their livelihood activities in the month prior to the survey.** These disruptions were significantly more prevalent among respondents who perceived their household income to be well below average (76 percent) compared to those with well above average income levels (27 percent). Further disparities were also observed by source of income, with 50 percent of respondents whose main income source was informal labour reporting that they experienced disruptions to their livelihood, compared to 37 percent for respondents with regular employment.

**High cost of livelihood inputs continues to be the main contributor,** as reported by 56 percent of respondents affected by livelihood disruptions. Respondents involved in agricultural activities reported increased cost of vital inputs, particularly labour, fertilizer, animal feed, and tools and material.

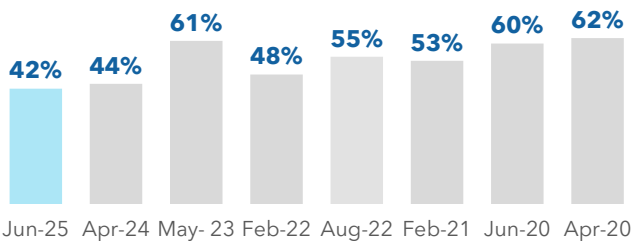
**Nearly four in ten respondents (38%) experienced loss of job or reduced household income** in the six months prior to the survey, consistent with the findings from April 2024 (37 percent). Households continue to adapt to the challenges posed by the high cost of living, with 15 percent of respondents turning to secondary or alternative income sources to meet essential needs.

**Households with lower income levels experienced more widespread livelihood disruptions.** More than half of respondents with well below average income levels (52 percent) experienced loss of job or reduced income in the six months prior to the survey.

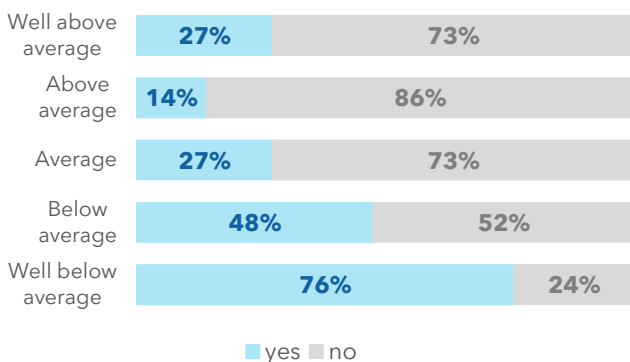
Additionally, significantly more respondents relying on informal income sources, such as petty trade, and those with no formal education reported income disruptions or resorting to alternative income sources.

### Respondents reporting that their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected in the 30 days prior to the survey

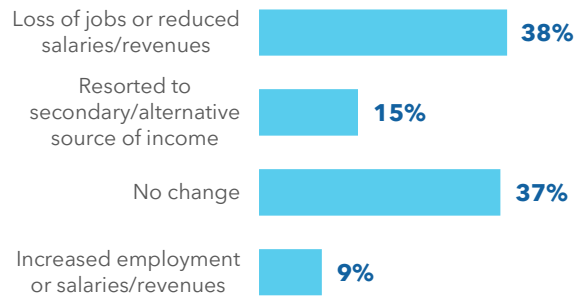
Recall period changed from 2 weeks to 30 days in the May 2023 survey round.



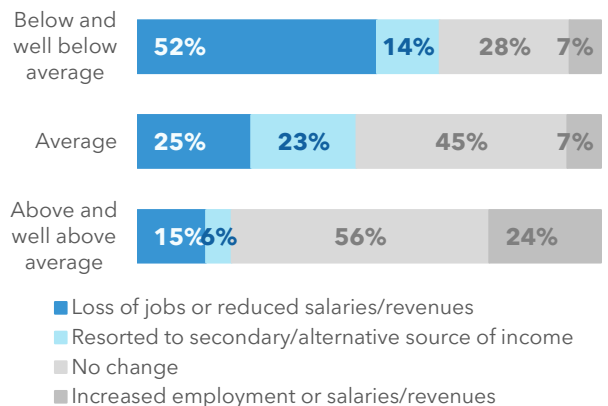
### Respondents reporting that their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected in the 30 days prior to the survey By perceived income level



### Has your household income changed in the 6 months prior to the survey?



### Has your household income changed in the 6 months prior to the survey? By perceived income level





## Coping Strategies

### Households in Jamaica continue to utilize negative coping strategies to meet their immediate food needs.

In the 30 days prior to the survey, a third (33 percent) of respondents decreased the amount spent on essential non-food expenditure including education and health. More than half (52 percent) resorted to utilizing their savings to meet immediate food needs, while 12 percent of respondents sold productive assets to meet food needs.

**Lower income households were significantly more likely to apply negative coping strategies** than those with higher income. In the 30 days before the survey, 75 percent of respondents from lower income households utilized savings to meet essential food needs, compared to 37 percent of higher income households. Moreover, 54 percent of respondents from lower income households resorted to reducing essential non-food expenditure to meet immediate food needs, compared to just 19 percent of those from higher income households.



## Food consumption

### Food consumption patterns have shown very slight improvements, with 66 percent of respondents reporting that they ate less preferred food, skipped meals or ate less than usual, or went an entire day without eating.

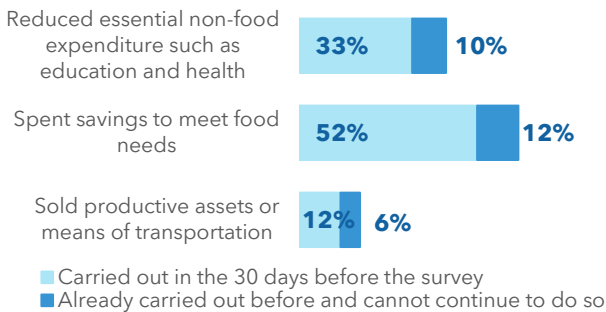
This represents only a marginal improvement from the 69 percent reported in March 2024, although the percentage of people going an entire day without eating has increased since 2022.

**Nearly a quarter of respondents (24 percent) describing their household income as well below average reported going an entire day without eating**, and more than half (56 percent) skipped meals or ate less than usual. These coping strategies were also more commonly reported by those who relied on informal labour or support from family and friends as the primary source of income and respondents from single parent households.

**Nearly one in four respondents (39 percent) had no food stock** at home, while 34 percent had less than one-week of food supplies at home.

### Households' coping strategies

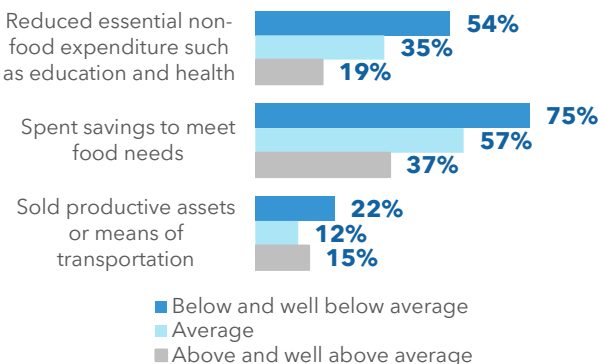
Multiple choices could be selected.



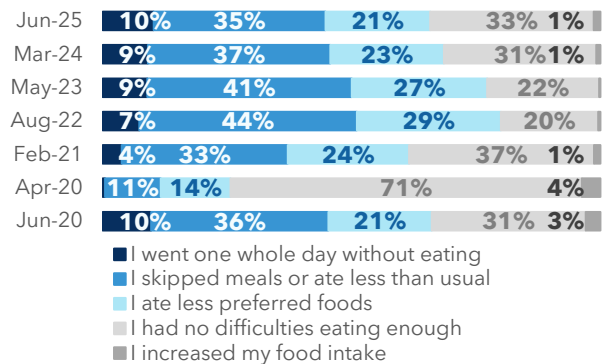
### Households' coping strategies in the 30 days prior to the survey

Multiple choices could be selected.

#### By perceived income level

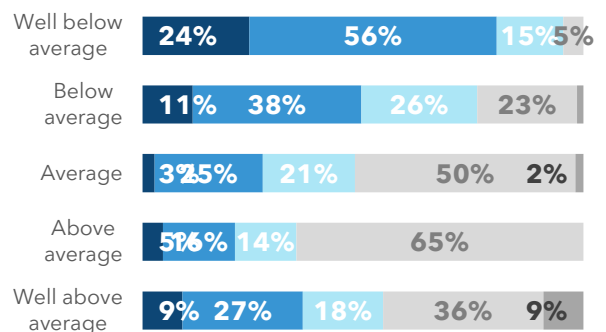


### Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days?



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

#### By perceived income level





## Food Insecurity Prevalence

The rCARI, is an adapted remote version of the Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI). This approach was used to assess the overall level of food insecurity across the English-speaking Caribbean.

The Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) was developed by the World Food Programme as a standardized approach to assessing and reporting the level of food insecurity within a population. Under the CARI approach, each surveyed household is classified into one of four food security categories: food secure, marginally food secure, moderately food insecure, and severely food insecure. This classification is based on the household's current status of food security - using food consumption indicators - and its coping capacity -using indicators.

The rCARI in the Caribbean assesses two dimensions: (1) the current status of households' food consumption (based on food consumption patterns over the previous week), and (2) the current coping capacity of households to meet future needs (assessed based on economic vulnerability and the adoption of livelihood coping strategies).

The composite score is comprised of 50 percent of the current food consumption domain, 25 percent of economic vulnerability domain, and 25 percent of the livelihood coping domain (see page 37 of the Food security and Livelihoods Regional Report for the CARI methodology).

*\*For more information on the CARI, see WFP's Technical Guidance Notes Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI)' (2015).*





## Food insecurity Prevalence

Using the rCARI methodology adapted to the Caribbean, it is estimated that in June 2025, 8 percent of the Jamaica population are severely food insecure, and 41 percent are moderately food insecure, which is one of the highest compared to the regional average.

The results for Jamaica indicate a heterogeneous food security situation, with a significant share of households experiencing different degrees of stress. While some households appear, food secure depending on their categories, there is more than half proportion under stress and a smaller but concerning portion facing crisis-level food insecurity.

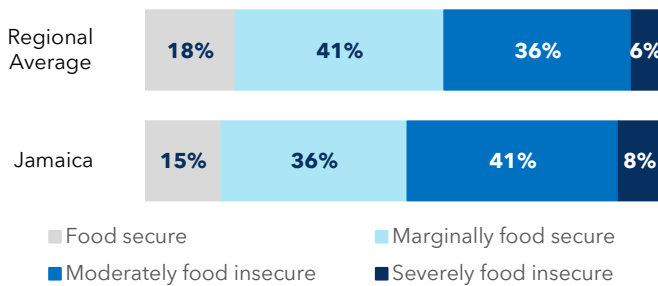
Based on rCARI results Jamaica's food security is fragile with underlying risks. The presence of stressed and crisis households signals the need for preventive action before external shocks escalate the situation.

Income is a key factor linked to food insecurity, with households in the much below average (23 percent) and below average (6 percent) income levels, with higher levels of food insecurity (severely plus moderate), compared to 9, 3 and 5 percent of households in the much above average, average and above average incomes, respectively.

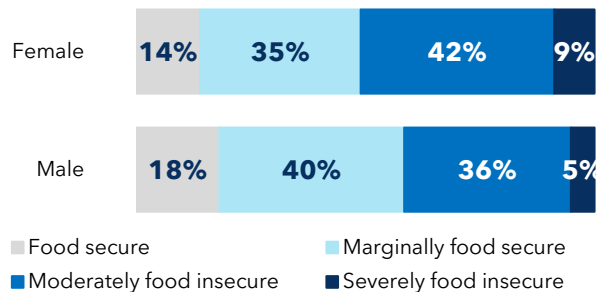
Similarly, higher prevalence of food insecurity was found among households with one or more members with a disability or suffering from chronic illness (53 percent), when compared with those without (46 percent).

Female headed households also registered a slightly higher prevalence of food insecurity at 51 percent when compared their male counterparts (41 percent).

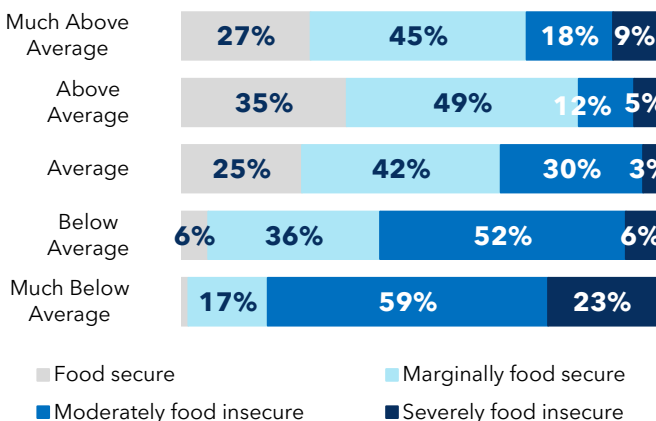
Prevalence rates of food insecurity based on the rCARI methodology - June 2025



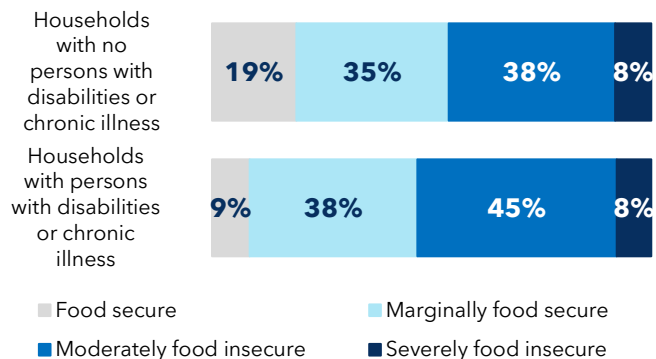
Prevalence rates of food insecurity based on the rCARI methodology - June 2025 By sex



Prevalence rates of food insecurity based on the rCARI methodology - June 2025 By perceived income level



Prevalence rates of food insecurity based on the rCARI methodology - June 2025 By households with a disability or person with chronic illness





## Food insecurity Experience (FIES)

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), 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 behaviors and experiences associated with increasing difficulties in accessing food due to resource constraints.

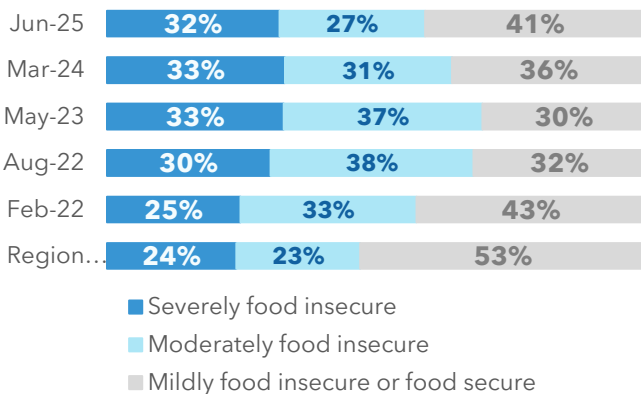
**Based on the FIES methodology, two thirds (59 percent) of respondents in Jamaica are food insecure.** Out of these respondents, one quarter (32 percent) were estimated to be severely food insecure while 27 percent were moderately food insecure. These figures are slightly higher than results from April 2024. The most frequently reported negative food experiences were eating only a few kinds of food (68 percent), unable to eat healthy and nutritious food (63 percent), eating less than usual (59 percent), worrying about not having enough to eat (58 percent).

\*For more information on the FIES, see FAO's [The Food Insecurity Experience Scale: Measuring food insecurity through people's experiences](#).

Furthermore, 54 percent of respondents reported that their household skipped a meal, and 32 percent went an entire day without eating, in the 30 days prior to the survey.

**Lower income households, were disproportionately more likely to encounter negative food insecurity experiences than those with higher income.** Among households whose income levels are well below average, 45 percent are estimated to be severely food insecure in contrast to 11 percent of household with well above average income. Female respondents and those from single parent households also reported higher levels of negative food insecurity experiences. There were no major differences observed when comparing between age groups and sex of respondents.

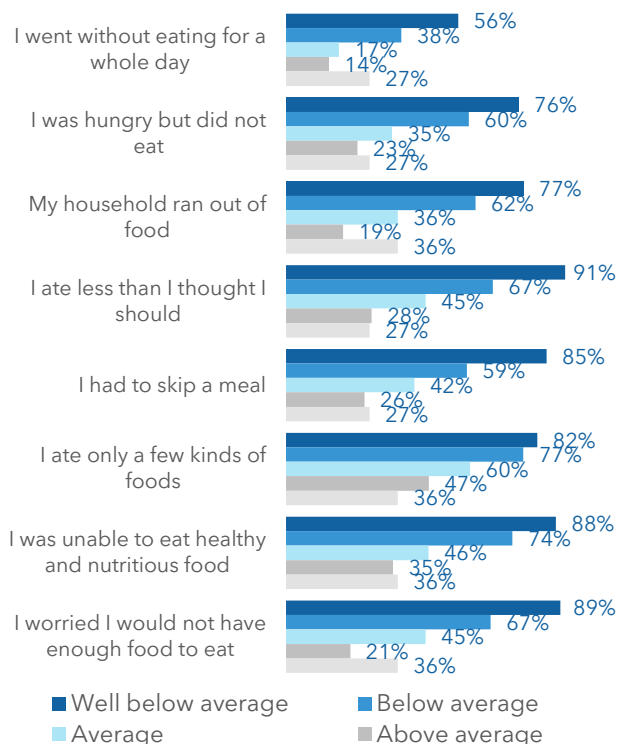
**Prevalence rates of food insecurity  
Based on FIES methodology.**



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

Multiple choices could be selected.

**By perceived income level**



"The cost of living is very difficult in Jamaica and basic essentials such as food are not easy to attain." - female, 27

"Cost of living has drastically change for the worst in Jamaica. I literally had to cut expenses in my social life and hobbies in order to keep a float, I have to buy food I can afford and not what I prefer" - male, 43

"Food cost has gone up and we're struggling to provide the thing we use on a daily basis"- female, 40



## Resilience capacity

The Resilience Capacity Score (RCS), developed by MLU, was applied as a composite indicator to assess perceived household resilience to natural hazards. This tool captures individuals' self-assessed ability to withstand, adapt to, and recover from hazard-related disruptions, emphasizing their capacity to mitigate long-term impacts.

The score is derived from responses to nine targeted statements reflecting key dimensions of resilience—such as preparedness, financial access, adaptive livelihoods, and social or institutional support. Participants rated their agreement on a Likert scale, enabling the aggregation of subjective perceptions into a single, comparable metric.

To evaluate household-level resilience to natural hazards, a structured perception-based survey was conducted using nine targeted questions designed to capture preparedness, adaptive capacity, and access to support systems. The questions were formulated to reflect key dimensions of resilience, including anticipatory action, recovery potential, livelihood flexibility, and social and institutional support.

Responses were aggregated to generate a composite resilience score, enabling comparative analysis across regions and demographic groups. This approach provides insight into perceived household capacity to manage and recover from hazard-related disruptions, informing targeted interventions and policy design.





## Resilience capacity

**More than half of the respondents in Jamaica reported that their household was affected by a natural hazard(s) in the 12 months preceding to the survey.** Tropical storm/hurricane (37 percent), was the main hazard experienced by respondents. Other hazards cited by respondents in Jamaica included drought (22 percent), heatwave (20 percent), and earthquake (9 percent). In July 2024, Jamaica experienced severe impact from Hurricane Beryl, which caused extensive destruction to households and businesses across the country.

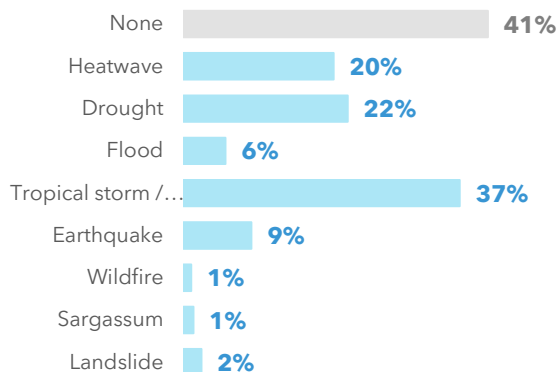
Overall, 64 percent of respondents who were affected by a natural hazard(s) experienced moderate to severe impacts to their livelihood/income, which is relatively consistent when compared to 63 percent of respondents in the previous survey round (April 2024).

**Based on the RCS, 30 percent of respondents in Jamaica were categorized as having a low capacity to cope with, recover from and adapt to natural hazards,** which was at similar levels to the 33 percent recorded for the April 2024 survey. When disaggregated by level of income, 52 percent of respondents in the well below average income, had a low RCS or a low capacity to cope/adapt to natural hazards, compared to nine percent of respondents in with well above average household income.

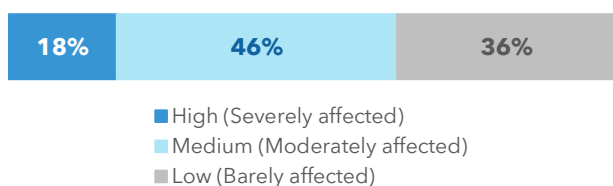
Respondents scored the highest (or had a lower capacity to respond to future shocks) in the areas of institutional capacity (support from government and/or other institutions), followed by financial capital (access to financial support). The lower average scores for information and human capital, would suggest that respondents' ability to respond to future natural disasters would mostly be based on their skills/knowledge, past experiences and access to (early warning) information.

### Natural hazards that affected respondents in the 12 months prior to the survey

Multiple choices could be selected.



**Level of impact on livelihoods or income** For respondents that were affected by natural hazards in the 12 months prior to the survey



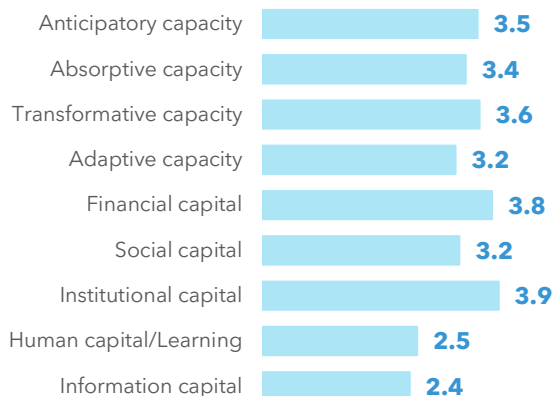
### Overall resilience capacity



\*The RCS is based on the Subjectively Evaluated Resilience Score (SERS) designed by L. Jones (2019) and WFP's Climate Resilience Capacity Score. For more information, see [Resilience Capacity Score guidance](#).

### Average score for the nine resilience capacity characteristics

Scores range from 1 (high resilience capacity) to 5 (low resilience capacity). Higher score means lower resilience capacity.





## Worries and sentiments

**Respondents in Jamaica were mostly worried about their inability to cover essential needs (45 percent), unemployment/income loss (39 percent) and illness (38 percent).**

As with previous survey rounds, respondents were given the opportunity to further express their thoughts about issues raised in the survey. A total of 168 of the 371 respondents in Jamaica provided additional insights. Responses were analyzed using Microsoft Azure Machine Learning to categorize and determine the degree of positive and negative emotions.

Overall, respondents had very few positive sentiments, with 74 percent of the 168 persons who responded to the open-ended question having negative/very negative sentiments. Sentiments were mostly related to the high "cost of living", "unemployment", stagnant wages, "not having enough money to buy food" and to a lesser extent, "crime and violence".



## Main differences

The results revealed very few differences between men and women across most of the metrics analysed within the current survey. However, slightly more women reported experiencing livelihood disruptions compared to males. Women were also marginally more likely to utilize negative coping strategies such as reducing essential non-food expenditure and spending savings to meet food needs, but more men reported selling productive assets or means of transportation to meet food needs.

The most pronounced disparities were observed across perceived household income levels. Respondents who identified their household income as "below" or "well below" average consistently reported worse outcomes across key metrics, compared to those with "above" or "well above" average income levels.

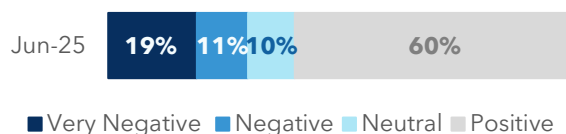
### Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected. Answer options were adjusted in May 2023, adding new options and removing Covid-19 related options that are now displayed as "Other worries".

Main worries	25-Jun	24-Apr	May-23	Aug-22	Feb-22
Inability to cover essential needs	45%	47%	52%	51%	37%
Illness	38%	37%	31%	28%	42%
Unemployment / Income loss	39%	40%	31%	34%	36%
Decreasing savings	26%	25%	29%	24%	14%
Inability to cover food needs	37%	40%	35%	48%	31%
Inability to receive or repay loans	11%	11%	12%		
Violence/crime in the community	9%	9%	14%	17%	16%
Child/dependent care	18%	17%	16%	15%	14%
Natural hazards	15%	10%	7%		
Inadequate infrastructure	8%	6%	6%		
Inadequate housing	4%	6%	5%		
Disruption of public services (education, health)	2%	3%	2%	9%	16%
Other worries	2%	2%	1%	14%	26%
Violence/abuse in the household	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
No access to services due to migration status	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%

### Distribution of sentiments across open-ended survey responses

Low response numbers in this category may affect results.



"The cost of food, health, education, lifestyle and living expenses has increased and persons who are employed, their salaries are not able to meet those expenses." - female, 35

"I have experience lack of funds to provide food and services for my family over the pass year and it keeps getting worst every day. I have not seen any changes for the better." - female, 44

"I try to buy less expensive foods cause cost of living is very high, not to mention rent and bus fare." - female, 31

"The challenge I have experience over the past year is like a roller-coaster ride and the changes I have made to adapt is to plant crop and try to use less of food item that I can provide ." - female, 38

## COMMON THEMES ON HOW RESPONDENTS IN JAMAICA ARE COPING AND ADAPTING



"Salary is one of the lowest in the Caribbean for the industry that I work in. I have a degree and still unable to purchase a home due to the ever rising cost and rent for a respectable but opulent neighborhood is also ludicrous. There needs to be a change in the housing market and we need better livable wages."- female, 32

"Unable to find a job, can't do any little hustling to offset my expenses. My daughter had to take a break from school. Still actively trying to get something to do "- female, 49

"Changed groceries purchasing. Adjusted transportation to work. Try paying off credit cards loans. Stopped purchasing from some stores due to high costs."- male, 45

"Every week a basic need is increased and we are not told about it we only see it on our bills. I keep having to buy things sparingly and going to the shops more often to maintain the new lifestyle. In the past I went and made one big purchase until it needed again."- female, 50



"Challenges is my income. After paying bills, and buying food, not much is left to rally on. I think the government needs to up minimum wage and even private sectors."- female, 38

"One family member has a disorder, but due to how expensive his schooling would be, we had to resort to enroll in a regular school where he only enjoys the food. Special Education institutions are very expensive hence the right training isn't accessible to many low to middle income earners like myself. I pay rent also, because the housing market prices are ridiculous. It doesn't make sense to borrow 8mil from NHT when the average 2 bedrooms house are selling for 18mil upwards."- female, 49

"Having to beg neighbors for a squeeze of toothpaste, rolling tissue from restaurants so we could have at home, walking to pick ackee along the roadside so my family can eat most days, and begging a shop keeper for flour to cook. It's like no matter how hard I work I can't even provide for my family. There is nowhere to get even a care package from the government. Need to know how food for the poor can help me."- female, 37

"Well since I've lost my job I'm unable to maintain my utility bills and buy food for my household. I electricity was disconnected and I had to bridge it. I'm unable to enroll and finish up my level 4 food preparation certificate."- male, 32

"I do my best to avoid expenses outside of the necessities and I still seem to be behind "- female, 39

## Conclusion

While some indicators in Jamaica suggest modest improvements, the underlying socioeconomic stress remains significant. The eight round of the Caribbean Food Security and Livelihoods Survey in June 2025 reveals a troubling persistence of hardship. Respondents continue to cite their inability to meet essential needs (45 percent), unemployment or income loss (39 percent), and illness (38 percent) as their top concerns, consistent with previous rounds. These priorities reflect the enduring impact of economic instability and limited access to reliable support systems.

The emotional toll is equally stark. Of the 371 respondents surveyed, 168 provided open-ended feedback, offering a deeper lens into household experiences. Sentiment analysis using Microsoft Azure Machine Learning revealed that 74 percent of these responses were negative or very negative. The most frequently cited issues included the high cost of living, stagnant wages, unemployment, and the inability to afford food. Crime and violence also emerged as secondary concerns, compounding the sense of insecurity. These reflections underscore the urgency of addressing both economic and social stressors in a coordinated manner.

Across all survey rounds since 2020, the evidence has pointed to persistent disparities and the disproportionate impact of food insecurity on those with the fewest resources. While the survey collects data at the household level, it inevitably masks differences in vulnerability within households—particularly for women, youth, and persons with disabilities. These nuances must be considered in the design of policies and programmes.

Despite these challenges, progress is underway. National and regional efforts to strengthen social protection, expand livelihood opportunities, and improve access to affordable goods and services are laying the groundwork for more inclusive recovery. Continued investment in emergency preparedness, flexible response systems, and targeted support for vulnerable groups will be essential to protect household well-being when disruptions occur.

Evidence and data must continue to guide these efforts. With eight rounds completed and tens of thousands of responses collected, the Caribbean Food Security and Livelihoods Survey offers a vital platform to track trends and amplify voices. As CARICOM and WFP advance real-time monitoring systems, Jamaica stands to benefit from earlier detection of stress and more timely interventions.

To reduce food insecurity and build resilient communities, it is critical to pursue coordinated, forward-looking solutions that bring together public institutions, the private sector, and civil society. Strengthened collaboration, targeted investment, and inclusive approaches will be key to ensuring that all Jamaicans can meet their most basic need: safe, affordable, and nutritious food.

## Recommendations\*

Accelerate progress under the **CARICOM 25 by 2030 agenda** by investing in **regional food production**, addressing bottlenecks to **intra-regional trade**, and scaling up **public and private sector investments** across the agri-food value chain.

Continue to strengthen the **productive capacities** of **smallholder farmers and fisherfolk** through improved access to **financing, climate-resilient technologies and practices**, and linkages to **institutional markets**.

Promote the participation of **youth and women** in **agriculture and food systems**

Strengthen **linkages between social protection, agriculture and disaster risk reduction** to promote inclusive recovery and resilience, including through improved **policy coordination** and **locally tailored programmes**.

Develop and scale **inclusive disaster risk financing tools**, including **risk-layered approaches**, to protect livelihoods and ensure timely support to people affected by hazards. Build on and expand experiences **linking financing to shock-responsive social protection**.

Continue to invest in **shock-responsive social protection systems** and link programme design and scale-up to **early warning systems** and to enable **early, targeted action** when shocks occur.

Leverage **public employment and social assistance programmes** to support **recovery and resilience-building**, particularly in vulnerable communities, by linking these schemes to **local disaster risk reduction** and **climate adaptation efforts**.

Institutionalize **anticipatory action** by linking **food security and climate indicators** to **pre-defined actions** that mitigate the impacts of shocks. Improve **inter-agency coordination** to enable **timely and effective responses**.

Expand efforts to promote **healthy diets** and increase **demand for local nutritious food**, including through **school feeding programmes, awareness campaigns**, and **policy incentives** that support **local production** and connect **farmers to institutional markets**.

Invest in a **comprehensive regional platform for food security monitoring** and analysis. Build on the real-time food security monitoring system, this survey series, and other data sources to produce and disseminate analytical products and **facilitate direct access to data** by governments.

\*Recommendations are adapted from regional survey report





#### **INTERACTIVE DASHBOARD**

The dashboard contains additional country-level data and analysis beyond the present report on the Food Security and Livelihoods Survey. It may take a second to load. Scan the QR code to access it or follow this link:

<https://analytics.wfp.org/t/Public/views/CaribbeanFoodSecurityLivelihoodsSurvey/Overview>

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#### **REPORTS**

The website contains links to all current and past regional and country reports on the Food Security and Livelihoods Survey. Scan the QR code to access it or follow this link:

<https://www.wfp.org/publications/caribbean-covid-19-food-security-and-livelihoods-impact-survey>