



International
Labour
Organization

▶ ILO Flagship Report

▶ **World Employment
and Social Outlook**

Trends
2021







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and Social Outlook**

**Trends
2021**

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Preface

Since its emergence in December 2019, it has been very clear that the threat posed by COVID-19 to public health would also be a threat to the world of work. Workplace closures and other measures necessary to curb the spread of the virus have wreaked havoc on enterprises and workers across the world. While signs of economic recovery are appearing as vaccine campaigns are ramped up, the recovery is likely to be uneven and fragile.

Indeed, one of the salient impacts of the COVID-19 crisis has been the worsening of long-standing structural challenges and inequalities in the world of work, undermining recent progress in poverty reduction, gender equality and decent work. The effects of the crisis continue to be highly uneven, with stark differences across countries and among workers depending on where they work, the type of work they do, and the characteristics of their job.

This year's *World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends* provides a comprehensive assessment of how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the world of work. It analyses global patterns, regional differences, and outcomes across economic sectors and groups of workers. The report also presents projections for the expected labour market recovery. The world will emerge from this crisis, but we need to ensure that no one is left behind in the process. To that end, the report concludes with policy recommendations for achieving a broad-based, human-centred recovery.

The COVID-19 crisis has exposed and exacerbated long-standing decent work deficits. It is our hope that in building back from the crisis, governments in partnership with employers' and workers' organizations will come together to address these challenges with renewed purpose and impact in the months and years to come.



Guy Ryder
ILO Director-General

Contents

Preface	3
Acknowledgements	9
Executive summary	11
1. Global employment trends	17
Overview	17
1.1 The global labour market at a glance	19
1.2 Trends in labour income	27
1.3 Outlook for the global labour market in the aftermath of COVID-19	30
References	38
2. Employment and social impacts of the COVID-19 crisis at the regional level	41
Overview	41
2.1 Africa	43
2.1.1 North Africa	45
2.1.2 Sub-Saharan Africa	47
2.2 Americas	52
2.2.1 North America	52
2.2.2 Latin America and the Caribbean	57
2.3 Arab States	61
2.4 Asia and the Pacific	66
2.5 Europe and Central Asia	71
References	80
3. Heterogeneous impact on enterprises and workers	85
Overview	85
3.1 Impact by sector of economic activity	87
3.2 Impacts on enterprises	91
3.3 Impacts on workers	93
3.3.1 Occupation and skill levels	93
3.3.2 Women and men	97
3.3.3 Status in employment	100
3.3.4 Migrant workers	102
References	106

Conclusions	111
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Appendices	116
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A. Country groupings by region and income level	117
B. ILO modelled estimates	119
C. Tables of labour market indicators, world, by country income group, and by region or subregion	128

List of boxes

1.1	Measuring the impact of a crisis using a no-pandemic scenario	20
1.2	Scarring effects of crises on workers' labour market outcomes	25
1.4	Scenarios for global labour market projections	31
1.5	Labour productivity during the COVID-19 crisis	35
2.1	New momentum for extending social protection, not least to informal workers	50
2.2	The COVID-19 crisis and the future of global supply chains	70
3.1	Platform-based services during the COVID-19 crisis	90
3.2	Occupational classifications and potential exposure to COVID-19	95
3.3	The wider implications of working from home	97
3.4	The gender impact of closures of schools and childcare facilities during the COVID-19 crisis	99
3.5	Domestic workers and seafarers	103

List of figures

ES	Pandemic-induced global shortfall in jobs, relative to 2019	12
1.1	Working-hour shortfall relative to no-pandemic scenario, global and by country income group and region, 2020 and first and second quarters of 2021	21
1.2	Breakdown of global working-hour losses in 2020	21
1.3	Decomposition of employment losses in 2020 into changes in unemployment and inactivity, by sex and age group	24
1.4	Year-on-year change in formal and informal employment, by status in employment, second quarter of 2020	26
1.5	Share of labour income lost owing to working-hour losses in 2020 and the first half of 2021, global and by country income group	27
1.6	Changes in post-support labour income, hours worked and employment, by urban versus rural location, selected countries	29
1.7	Working-hour losses under three scenarios, 2020–22, global and by country income groups	32

1.8	Ratio of total weekly hours worked to population aged 15–64 under three scenarios, global, 2014–22 (hours per week)	33
1.9	Decomposition of working-hour losses, world, 2019–22	34
1.10	Average annual growth of gross domestic product per worker, 2016–19 and 2019–22, global and by country income group	36
2.1	Labour market overview for young people in North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, 2019	46
2.2	Decomposition of employment losses in North Africa in 2020 relative to the no-pandemic scenario, by demographic group	46
2.3	Formal and informal employment across sub-Saharan Africa’s subregions, 2016	48
2.4	Composition of employment losses in South Africa in the second quarter of 2020 relative to the fourth quarter of 2019, by informality status, sex and group of economic activity	49
2.B1	Social protection response to the COVID-19 crisis, global and by region	50
2.5	Growth of real gross domestic product and employment in North America, 2005–21	53
2.6	Growth of real gross domestic product and employment in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2005–21	53
2.7	Unemployment rate by racial group in the United States, 2019–20	55
2.8	Labour market impact of the COVID-19 crisis across racial groups in the United States, December 2020	56
2.9	Job losses in the second quarter of 2020 as a percentage of total employment in the fourth quarter of 2019, by formality status, selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean	59
2.10	Informal workers receiving government transfers following the COVID-19 crisis, selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2020	60
2.11	Gender gaps in Arab States labour markets, by members and non-members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and by sex, 2019	62
2.12	Migrant remittance outflows from Gulf Cooperation Council countries, 2019	65

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