



ISSN 1977-8317

European  
Commission

**Quarterly review**

December 2020



# Employment and Social developments in Europe

*December 2020*

**With regularly updated data and charts downloadable [here](#)**

The Employment and Social Developments Quarterly Review provides an in-depth description of recent labour market and social developments. It falls under the responsibility of the Directorate Employment and Social Governance of the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and is prepared by the Thematic Analysis Unit. The main contributors for part I were F. De Franceschi, L. Moreau and L. Pappalardo. The main contributor for part II was S. Filairo.

A wide range of information sources have been used to produce this report, including Eurostat statistics<sup>1</sup>, reports and survey data from the Commission's Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs.

Charts and tables are based on the latest available data at the time of publication, and include Eurostat data on national accounts (employment and GDP) for the third quarter of 2020 (2020 Q3), Eurostat data on the Labour Force Survey for the second quarter of 2020 (2020 Q2) and Eurostat data on monthly unemployment for October 2020. Data on which the report is based are the latest available as of 08/12/2020.

Regular updates of these data and charts are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/employment\\_analysis/quarterly/quarterly\\_updated\\_charts.xlsx](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/employment_analysis/quarterly/quarterly_updated_charts.xlsx)

More reports are available on the employment and social analysis portal:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=113&langId=en>

Please send comments and questions to: [EMPL-STATISTICAL-TEAM@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EMPL-STATISTICAL-TEAM@ec.europa.eu)

Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission may be held responsible for the use that may be made of the information contained in this publication.

## LEGAL NOTICE

Manuscript completed in December 2020

Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the European Commission is responsible for the use that might be made of the following information. More information on the European Union is available on the Internet (<http://www.europa.eu>).

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2020

PDF ISSN 1977-8317 KE-BH-20-003-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reuse is authorised provided the source is acknowledged. The reuse policy of European Commission documents is regulated by Decision 2011/833/EU (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39). For any use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holders.

---

<sup>1</sup> To access them, see [codes] mentioned under the charts, to be used with the Eurostat data search engine: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/main/home>



Beyond its negative effects on public health, the COVID-19 pandemic represents a serious blow to the economy and labour market of the European Union. However, the impact on the labour market was softened thanks to policy measures adopted in the EU. Employment fell less than GDP in the second quarter of 2020 and made up some of the ground lost in the third quarter of the year. Moreover, after peaking in the summer, unemployment has remained static overall in the last few months. Nonetheless, we are still far from a return to the pre-crisis situation, and several challenges lie ahead. Firstly, the impact of the crisis on our young people is very serious, with youth unemployment and the number of young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEETs) on the rise. Secondly, there is still great uncertainty about the future. The pandemic is not behind us, and unemployment may well rise over the next few months, as more people will actively be seeking work and as Member States may gradually withdraw emergency support as conditions improve.

The December 2020 edition of the ESDE quarterly review offers, together with the usual update on socioeconomic and labour market trends, an analytical overview of losses in income from work sustained during the pandemic. These preliminary estimates show how the COVID-19 crisis has caused a loss in income from work, particularly for workers who are already disadvantaged, such as the young and those on temporary contracts. At the same time, exceptional wage compensation measures have helped buffer the blow and support low-income earners.

The EU and its Member States have been mobilising all means at their disposal to tackle this crisis. Already in March, the Commission adopted the Temporary Framework for state aid measures to give Member States the maximum flexibility allowed under state aid rules to support the economy, and triggered the 'escape clause' of the Stability and Growth Pact so that Member States have maximum flexibility to support healthcare systems and businesses. Moreover, the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII and CRII+) allowed maximum flexibility in the use of structural and cohesion funds and the new EU instrument for temporary support to mitigate unemployment risks in an emergency (SURE – 19 May 2020) supported Member States to finance short-term working schemes to keep people in employment during the crisis (or to maintain employment in the crisis). The proposed multiannual financial framework and paired NextGenerationEU equips the EU with unprecedented firepower of EUR 1.85 trillion in order to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the crisis and kickstart a sustainable economy. On 1 July 2020 the Commission also proposed reinforcing the Youth Guarantee to step up the fight against youth unemployment. The new Youth Guarantee, which was unanimously adopted by the Council on 30 October 2020, will support young people in developing skills and gaining work experience, especially in areas relevant to the green and digital transitions.

**Nicolas Schmit**

Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

## Table of Contents

Part I: Main economic and social developments .....	5
1. Macroeconomic outlook.....	5
2. Employment.....	6
3. Unemployment.....	8
4. Long-term unemployment and additional potential labour force .....	10
5. Labour demand.....	12
6. Income and financial situation of households.....	13
Part II – Thematic focus:.....	16
Employment-income loss and wage compensation during the pandemic: preliminary estimates .....	16
Annexes .....	24

## List of Charts

Chart 1: Real GDP growth – EU, euro area and US, 2018-2020 and forecast until 2022.....	6
Chart 2: Employment level and employment growth – EU and euro area, 2012-2020.....	7
Chart 3: Employment rate by population groups – EU, 2020Q2 .....	8
Chart 4: Unemployment rate and youth unemployment rate – EU and euro area.....	9
Chart 5: Activity rate – EU and Member States.....	10
Chart 6: Unemployment rate, potential labour force and underemployment in the EU .....	11
Chart 7: Young people aged 15-24 neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) – EU, euro area and EU Member States .....	12
Chart 8: Real GDP growth, real GDHI growth and its main components, 2012-2020.....	13
Chart 9: Real GDHI per capita – EU, EA and Member States (index 2012 – 100).....	14
Chart 10: Reported financial distress by income quartile – EU, 2012-2020.....	15
Chart 11: Employment-income loss (% on 2019) by transition from employment.....	17
Chart 12: Employment-income loss (% on 2019) by economic sector and transition from employment (2020Q2, EU-27).....	18
Chart 13: Employment-income losses (% on 2019) by income group .....	18
Chart 14: Employment-income losses (% on 2019) by age bracket.....	19
Chart 15: Employment-income losses (% on 2019) by gender.....	20
Chart 16: Employment-income losses (% on 2019) before and after wage compensation.....	21
Chart 17: Employment-income losses (% on 2019) by wage group, before and after wage compensation .....	22

## Part I: Main economic and social developments

### 1. Macroeconomic outlook

**EU real GDP rebounded in the third quarter of 2020 after a dramatic drop in the second quarter.** GDP increased by 11.5% in the EU and 12.5% in the euro area compared to the previous quarter, after having decreased respectively by 11.3% and 11.7% in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the first one. The year-on-year decline in the third quarter of 2020 was 4.2% in the EU and 4.3% in the euro area. In comparison the drop and subsequent rebound in the US economy was less pronounced, with a quarter-to-quarter decline of GDP of 9.0% in the second quarter and an increase of 7.4% in the third quarter of 2020. The decline was 2.9% compared to the third quarter of 2019 (Chart 1).

**According to the Commission's Autumn economic forecast published on 5 November 2020<sup>2</sup>, the EU GDP will not come back to late 2019 levels before 2022.** Factors linked to the uncertainty in the growth forecast include the length and stringency of containment measures for the COVID-19 pandemic and the outcome of the EU-UK FTA negotiations. The EU GDP is expected to decline by 7.4% on average in 2020 and to grow by 4.1% in 2021 and 3.0% in 2022.

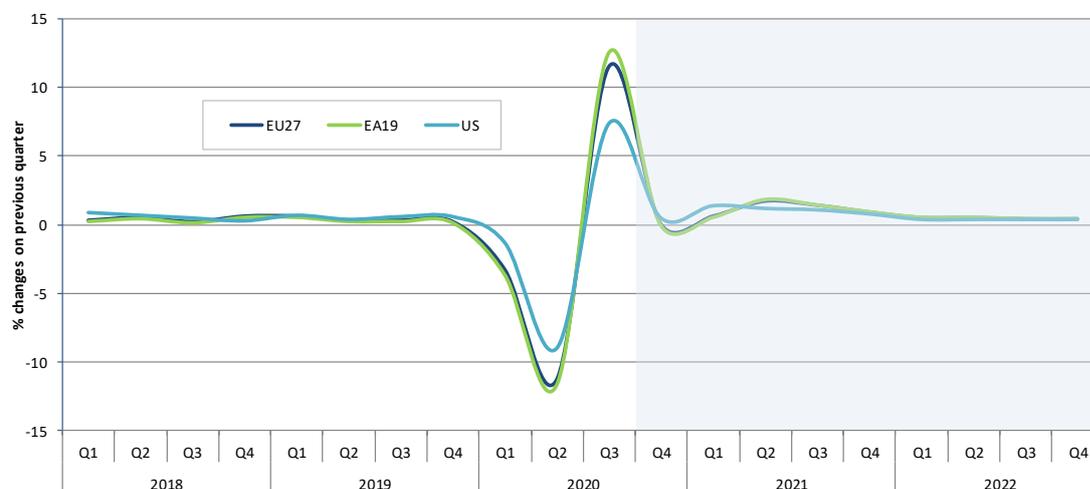
**GDP increased in all Member States in the third quarter of 2020.** Compared to the second quarter of 2020, the sharpest increases were observed in France (+18.7%), Spain (+16.7%) and Italy (+15.9%), which recorded strong decreases in the second quarter. The lowest increases were recorded in Greece (+2.3%), Estonia and Finland (both +3.3%). Year-on-year growth remained however negative for almost all Member States, with the largest declines in Greece (-11.7%), Croatia (-10.0%) and Malta (-9.2%). Ireland (+8.1%) was the only Member State with positive year-to-year growth. One explanation for the asymmetric impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on GDP among Member States is the difference in economic structures, as some countries are more dependent on sectors that have been hit harder than others (see also part II page 17 on the effects on employment) and the duration and stringency of lockdown measures (European Commission (2020b)).

**The number of hours worked – both total and per person employed – strongly dropped again in the second quarter of 2020 before rebounding in the third quarter.** As will be seen in the next section on employment indicators, short-time work and job-retention schemes contributed to reducing losses of employment. The number of hours worked increased by 14.8% in the euro area and by 11.9% in the EU in the third quarter of 2020, compared to the previous quarter. Hours worked per person employed approached again a quarterly average of almost 400 in the EU, but were still 3.5% below the level of 2012, which amounted to 413 hours.

---

<sup>2</sup> European Commission (2020), *European Economic Forecast. Autumn 2020*, Institutional paper 136, Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/economy-finance/ip136\\_en\\_2.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/economy-finance/ip136_en_2.pdf)

**Chart 1: Real GDP growth – EU, euro area and US, 2018-2020 and forecast until 2022**



Source: Eurostat, National Accounts, seasonally and calendar adjusted data [namq\_10\_gdp, naidq\_10\_gdp]. European Commission Autumn Forecast for 2020Q4 onwards

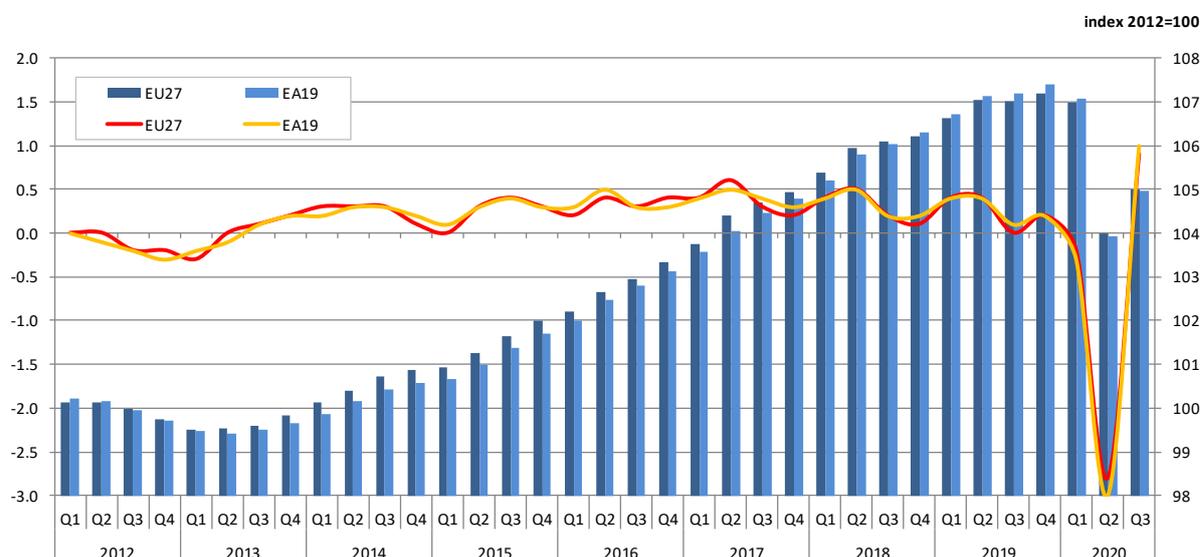
Notes: Forecasts are in the shaded area

[Click here to download chart.](#)

## 2. Employment

**Employment strongly declined in the second quarter before rebounding in the third quarter of 2020, similarly to GDP but with smaller amplitude.** On a quarter-on-quarter basis, total employment declined by 2.7% in the EU (-2.9% in the euro area) in the second quarter and increased by 0.9% both in the EU and the euro area in the third quarter. Employment in the third quarter of 2020 in the EU was 1.9% less than the levels recorded in the same quarter of 2019 (-2.1% in the euro area) (Chart 2). The reduction of employment was less dramatic than the drop of GDP and the reduction of working hours as a result of the policy measures taken by Member States. These included short-time work schemes, temporary lay-offs, and in some cases a temporary ban on layoffs. The Commission's Autumn economic forecast predicts that, while these measures have been effective in protecting employment so far, the recovery will not initially be rich in employment as companies will first focus on re-instating temporarily laid-off workers and getting back to the previous level of working hours. Moreover, Member States might in 2021 discontinue or impose harder conditions on policy support schemes, with a potential negative effect on total employment.

**Chart 2: Employment level and employment growth – EU and euro area, 2012-2020**



Source: Eurostat, National Accounts, seasonally and calendar adjusted data [namq\_10\_pe]

Note: Cumulative growth (bars, right-hand scale), % change on the previous quarter (lines, left-hand scale)

[Click here to download chart.](#)

**In the third quarter of 2020, there were 205.2 million people in employment in the EU, of which 157.4 million in the euro area.** This number is respectively 4.3 million (-2.1%) and 3.7 million (-2.2%) lower than the peaks registered in the last quarter of 2019 (209.5 and 161.0 million people respectively). Compared to the second quarter of 2020, employment increased in most Member States, and in particular in Ireland (+3.3%), Spain (+3.1%) and Austria (+3.0%). Lithuania (-1.9%), and Romania (-1.0%) recorded the largest decreases. In comparison with the third quarter of 2019, total employment expanded in few Member States, most notably in Malta (+2.4%). The largest year-to-year declines were recorded in Spain (-5.0%), Estonia (-4.7%) and Romania (-2.8%).

**The COVID-19 pandemic and related containment measures also caused a sharp decrease in the employment rate<sup>3</sup>.** In the second quarter of 2020, the employment rate in the EU dropped to 72.0%, down by 1.0pp from the first quarter of 2020 and by 1.3pp compared to the second quarter of 2019. The employment rate decreased on an annual basis in all Member States, except in Croatia (+0.7pp) and Malta (stable). The strongest decreases were recorded in Bulgaria, Spain (-3.2pp for both), Austria and Ireland (-2.4pp for both).

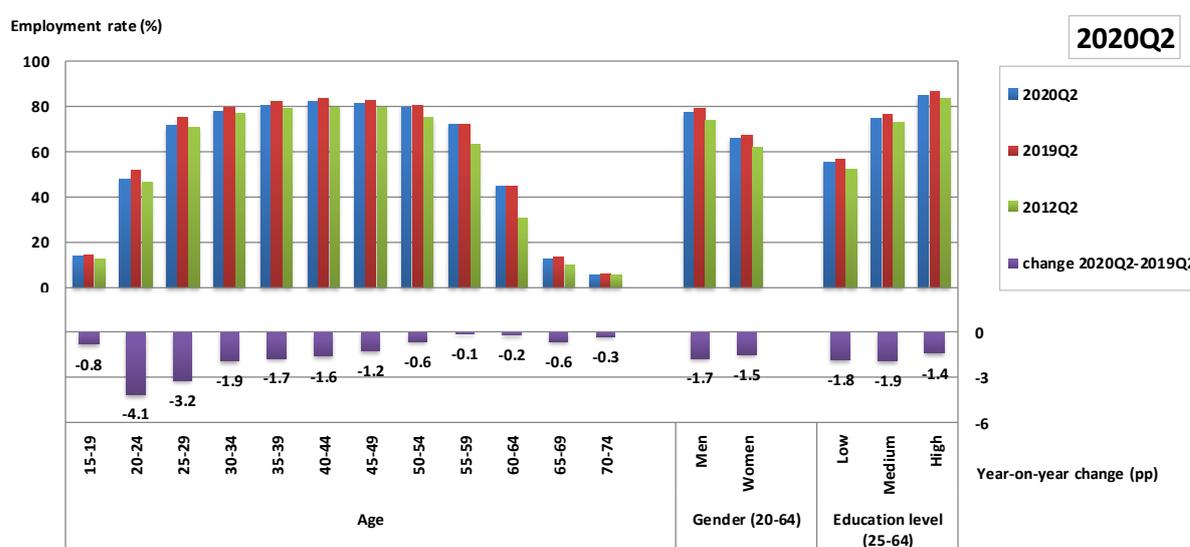
**Most of the decline in employment affected temporary jobs.** They dropped in the second quarter of 2020 by 4.2 million on an annual basis, while permanent employment remained stable and self-employment decreased by 0.5 million. Part-time employment also declined strongly, with an annual reduction of 1.6 million people compared to a decline of 3.2 million in full-time employment but starting from a much lower stock.

**Young workers and low/medium educated workers suffered the strongest decrease in the employment rate.** In the second quarter of 2020, the EU employment rate declined for all population groups in comparison with the same quarter of 2019, but affected especially people aged 20-24 (-4.1pp) and 25-29 (-3.2pp). The decline was also more limited for highly educated workers (-1.4pp) than for low (-1.8pp) and medium (-1.9pp) educated ones. This drop is related to the fall of temporary employment, as the number of temporary low-educated employees decreased by 23.3% between the second quarter of 2019 and 2020, versus the EU average of 16.7%. The gender employment gap was 11.4pp, 0.3pp lower than in the second quarter of 2019 (Chart 3).

<sup>3</sup> European Commission (2020b) discusses the impact of the lockdown on employment, individual mobility and households' unemployment expectations

**EU employment dropped strongly in industry and “wholesale and retail” services.** The “wholesale and retail trade, transport, accommodation and food service activities” sector recorded in the third quarter of 2020 the strongest year-to-year decline in absolute terms (-2.1 million people), and in relative terms (-4.0%) only after agriculture. Employment was also hit very strongly in the industry sector, with 1.2 million (-3.5%) less people employed than in the third quarter of 2019. On the other hand, employment rose in the construction sector (+150 thousand people, +1.1%) and suffered relatively small losses in other service sectors (-0.7 million people, -0.7%). Within the latter, the “information and communication” sector recorded a year-to-year increase of 150 thousand people (+2.5%), while in the “professional and scientific” sector employment shrank by 0.9 million people (-3.4%).

**Chart 3: Employment rate by population groups - EU, 2020Q2**



Source: Eurostat, LFS [lfsq\_ergaed]. Data not seasonally adjusted  
Notes: Age groups: by gender 20-64, by educational level 25-64  
[Click here to download chart.](#)

**Expectations about employment slightly increased in the last three months but the index is still volatile and well below pre-pandemic levels.** The EEI index was on average at 89.8 in the last three months, up 18.7 points compared to June, but its recent volatility reflects the currently high uncertainty on future developments. Expectations are the most pessimistic in the industry sector, while they are relatively close to balance in the construction sector.

**According to quarterly LFS data, the number of involuntary absences from employment increased dramatically in the first half of 2020.** Almost 20 million people were in temporary layoff and 7.8 million people absent because of illness or disability in the second quarter of 2020. This is about six times and twice the respective levels observed in the second quarter of 2019.<sup>4</sup>

### 3. Unemployment

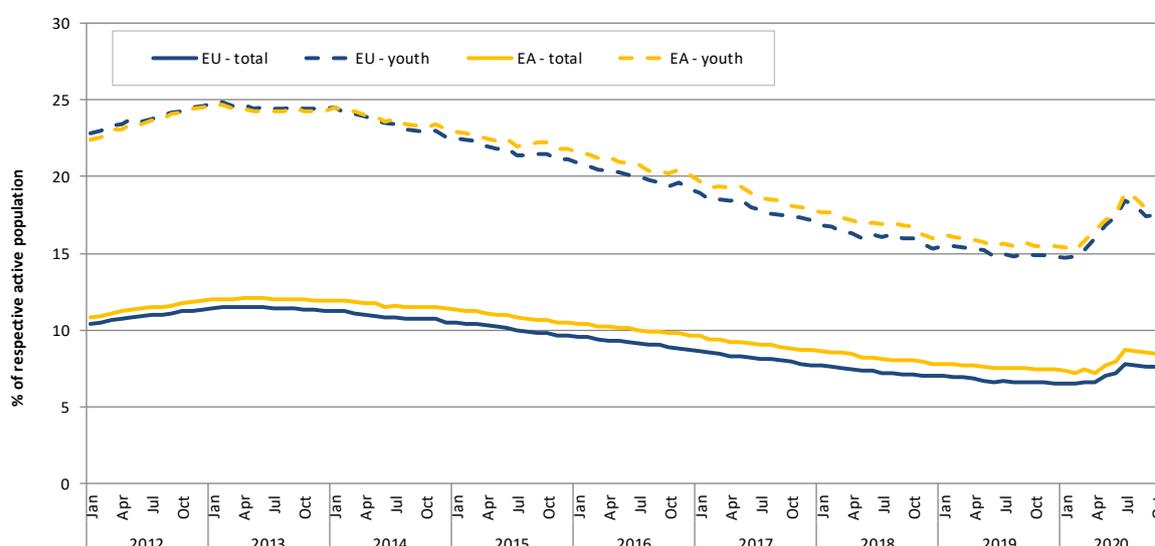
**The unemployment rate in the EU and the euro area slightly declined over the last months after the peak observed in July.** In October 2020, it remained stable at 7.6% in the EU and dropped by 0.1pp to 8.4% in the euro area compared to September. These rates are, respectively, 0.2pp and 0.3pp lower than the yearly peaks

<sup>4</sup> See also part II page 16, and [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Absences\\_from\\_work\\_-\\_quarterly\\_statistics](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Absences_from_work_-_quarterly_statistics) for definitions

recorded in July. The drop in employment was therefore only in part matched by an increase in unemployment, mainly due to a decrease in labour participation that left many people at the margins of the labour market (see section 4 for more details). In October 2020, there were 16.2 million unemployed people in the EU and 13.8 million in the euro area, 0.1 million below the respective levels in September 2020. The difference between the unemployment rate of women and men increased from 0.2pp in July (6.7% for women versus 6.5% for men) to 0.8pp in October (8.0% for women versus 7.2% for men).

**The unemployment rate decreased or remained stable for most Member States compared to the previous month, but increased in almost all of them in comparison with October 2019.** On a monthly basis, the largest increase was registered in Cyprus (+1.2pp), while Bulgaria and Portugal recorded the largest decreases (+0.5pp and +0.4pp respectively). Compared to October 2019, the unemployment rate increased strongly in Lithuania (+4.0pp) and Cyprus (+3.9pp), and declined only in Belgium and Greece (-0.1pp for both, August data for Greece) (Chart 4).

**Chart 4: Unemployment rate and youth unemployment rate - EU and euro area**



Source: Eurostat, series on unemployment [une\_rt\_m]. Seasonally-adjusted data.  
Click here to download chart.

**Youth unemployment increased in both the EU and the euro area by 0.1pp in October 2020 compared to September, and stood at 17.5% and 18.0% respectively.** The number of young unemployed people in the EU and in the euro area (3.1 million and 2.6 million respectively in October 2020) remained rather stable in the last four months.

**In October 2020, almost half of the Member States recorded an increase in youth unemployment compared to September 2020,** but if compared to the same month in the previous year, all except two Member States experienced an increase. The monthly increases were highest in Greece (+3.3pp), Lithuania (+2.2pp) and Finland (+1.6pp), while the largest decreases were recorded in Bulgaria (-1.2pp) and Sweden (-1.0pp). On a yearly basis, the youth unemployment rate strongly increased in Lithuania (+13.1pp), Estonia (+11.4pp) and Spain (+9.2pp), and declined only in Hungary (-0.8pp) and Austria (-0.6pp).

**The unemployment rate is expected to rise in the coming months,** according to the Commission's Autumn economic forecast and predictions from the IMF, OECD and ECB. The forecast foresees an increase both in the

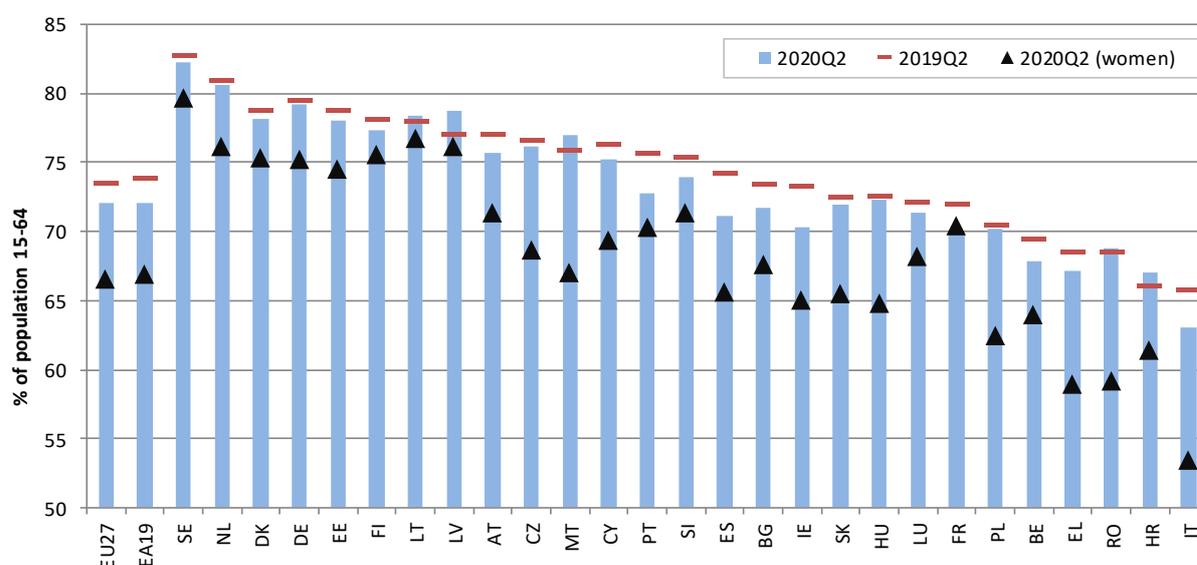
EU27 and in the euro area in 2021 (8.6% and 9.4% respectively), before a reduction in 2022.<sup>5</sup> This could happen as a consequence of the abandonment of employment-saving policy measures by Member States and the reincorporation of job seekers in the labour force. Unemployment expectations measured by the EU Business and Consumer Surveys (BCS), also remain quite high following the sharp worsening of expectations during the spring wave of COVID-19 in several Member States.

#### 4. Long-term unemployment and additional potential labour force

**The indicators of inactivity and underemployment show that the COVID-19 pandemic and related containment measures pushed many workers outside or to the margins of the labour force.** Workers not actively looking for a job are not included in unemployment figures, explaining why employment losses did not cause a strong increase in official unemployment rates.

**The activity rate (15 to 64 years) declined to 72.1% of the population both in the EU and euro area in the second quarter of 2020.** This is respectively 1.5pp and 1.8pp lower than in the same quarter of 2019. All but five Member States registered a year-to-year decline, and particularly Spain (-3.2pp), Ireland (-3.1pp), Italy and Portugal (-2.9pp for both). The strongest increases were observed in Latvia (+1.6pp) and Malta (+1.1pp). Differences between men and women did not substantially change in the last quarters and the activity rate of men in the EU was still 11.2pp higher than that of women (77.7% and 66.5%) (Chart 5).

**Chart 5: Activity rate – EU and Member States**



Source: Eurostat, LFS [lfsi\_emp\_q]. Seasonally adjusted data  
Click here to download chart.

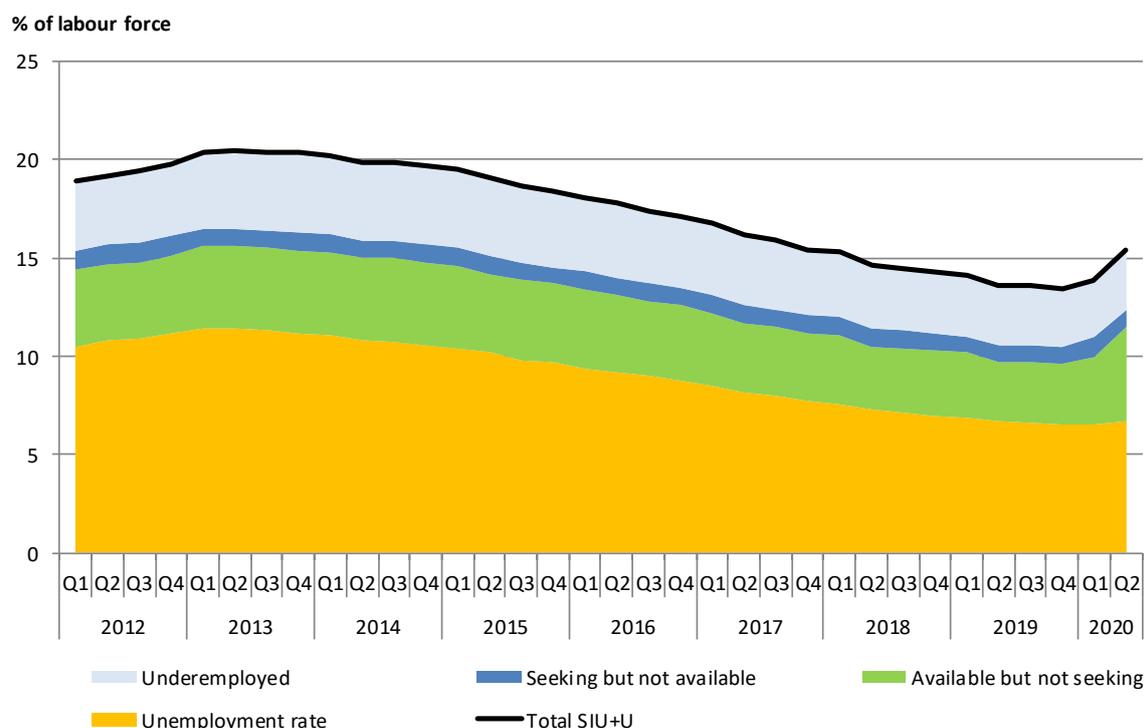
**The supplementary indicator to unemployment<sup>6</sup> 'available for work but not seeking' recorded a sharp increase in the second quarter of 2020.** The proportion of workers in the EU who are in this category (which includes 'discouraged' workers) rose to 4.8% of the labour force in the second quarter of 2020, up 1.3pp from the previous quarter and 1.8pp compared to the same quarter of the previous year. The other two supplementary indicators were stable. 'Underemployment', which is the proportion of part-time workers who would like to work

<sup>5</sup> European Commission (2020), op. cit.

<sup>6</sup>These indicators are measured as a percentage of the labour force. They are also called supplementary indicators to unemployment (SIU).  
[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Underemployment\\_and\\_potential\\_additional\\_labour\\_force\\_statistics](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Underemployment_and_potential_additional_labour_force_statistics)

more, stood unchanged at 3.0% of the labour force, and the rate of those 'seeking but not available for work' remained also stable at 0.9% of the labour force (see Chart 6).

**Chart 6: Unemployment rate, potential labour force and underemployment in the EU**



Source: Eurostat, series on unemployment and LFS, seasonally adjusted data [une\_rt\_m, lfsi\_sup\_q]  
Click here to download chart.

**In the EU, the share of people aged 15-24 who are neither in employment nor in education or training (NEET) sharply increased to 11.6% in the second quarter of 2020**, up 1.8pp from the same quarter of 2019. This shows how the current crisis is having a negative impact especially on young people, not only on employment but also on education and training. The NEET rate increased in all but four Member States. The strongest increases were recorded in Austria, Ireland (+3.4pp for both) and Spain (+3.1pp), while Latvia recorded the largest decrease (-1.1pp). The NEET rate in Italy surpassed 20% (20.7%), with Bulgaria and Spain above 15% (15.2% and 15.1% respectively) (see Chart 7).

**In the second quarter of 2020, long-term unemployment, which captures people in unemployment for a year or more, declined by 0.8pp compared with the same quarter of the previous year and reached 2.0%.** The very long-term unemployment rate, which captures people in unemployment for at least two years, decreased also by 0.4pp to 1.3% of the labour force. The share of long-term unemployed in total unemployment dropped to 30.1%, 11.8pp less than in the second quarter of 2020, and the share of very long-term unemployed in total unemployment also declined by 7.4pp to 18.8%. These positive developments reflect the declining trend of long-term unemployment before the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent drop in activity rates. It might take at least a year before any effect of the current crisis could be observed on this dimension.

**Chart 7: Young people aged 15-24 neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) - EU, euro area and EU Member States**



Source: Eurostat, LFS, seasonally adjusted data [lfsi\_neet\_q]

Note: 2019Q4 data for DE

[Click here to download chart.](#)

## 5. Labour demand

**The level of the unmet demand for labour, as expressed by the job vacancy rate<sup>7</sup>, continued to decrease in the EU27, reaching 1.6% in the third quarter of 2020.** This represents a drop of 0.1pp compared to the previous quarter and of 0.6pp compared to the same quarter in 2019. In the euro area, this indicator was at 1.7%, stable compared to the previous quarter, but down from 2.2% one year ago. The labour shortage indicator<sup>8</sup>, a sentiment indicator in the manufacturing sector, rebounded in the fourth quarter (8.5%, +1.4pp compared to the previous quarter, but -5.4pp compared to one year before) after having sharply dropped from the first quarter (14%) in the second (8.7%) and the third quarters (7.1%) as a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis. The third quarter of 2020 represented the lowest level since the second quarter of 2015. At national level, the job vacancy rate ranged from 0.3 in Greece to 5.1% in Czechia in the third quarter, and the labour shortage indicator from 1.1% in Cyprus to 31.8% in Poland in the fourth quarter.

**While labour shortages decreased in the second quarter of 2020, unemployment slightly increased at the same time.** In the second quarter of 2020, the unemployment rate in the EU stood at 6.7% (+0.2 compared to the previous quarter). Before the COVID-19 crisis, the Beveridge curve, which plots the unemployment rate against the labour shortage indicator, already took for more than one year a new direction towards a decrease in labour shortages. However, the current trends are not driven by the same factors as the 2019 developments, but rather by the current sanitary crisis, leading to reduced employers needs in terms of workforce and by consequence to a decrease in the number of new contracts or hours worked, which resulted in an increase of unemployment. The latest developments are better reflected by the monthly data, which show an increase of the unemployment rate in the third quarter of 2020 (section 3).

**In the second quarter of 2020, transition rates were increasing towards inactivity and declining towards employment in the EU27.** After remaining stable, the transition rates from one quarter to another

<sup>7</sup> The Job Vacancy rate is the number of job vacancies divided by the sum of occupied posts and job vacancies.

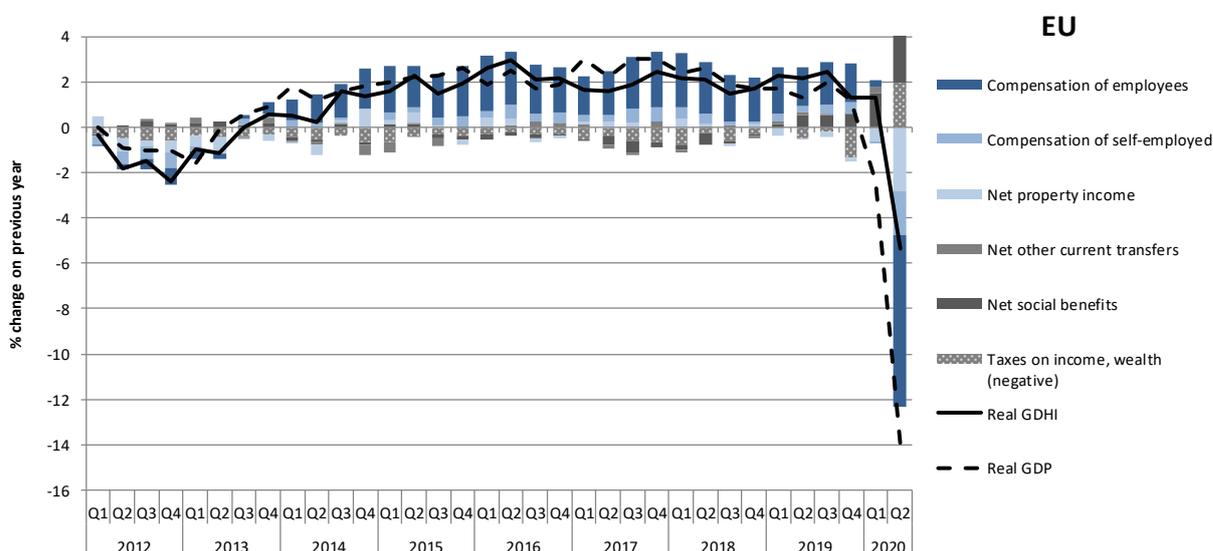
<sup>8</sup> The indicator presented here is published as part of the EU Business and Consumer Surveys. It reflects to what extent businesses see the availability of labour as a factor that limits production.

started to change as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Compared to one year ago, at EU level (excluding Germany and Malta), among people aged 15-74, 35.6% of those in unemployment (+13.3pp in one year) and 2% (+0.7pp) of those in employment transitioned towards inactivity. At the same time less people were back to work from unemployment (48.9%, down from 55.8% the previous year) or inactivity (2.7%, down from 3.4%) to employment. Finally, 94.4% of the people in employment in the first quarter of 2020 were still working in the second quarter (-2.0pp in one year), a still high level but on the decrease.

### 6. Income and financial situation of households

**Despite mitigation effects induced by social benefits and taxes, the financial situation of households worsened as disposable incomes dropped by 5.4% in the second quarter of 2020 in the EU27 compared to the previous year.** After rising for 27 consecutive quarters, this sharp decrease in the real gross disposable income of households per capita (real GDHI) is the first decline since the second quarter of 2013 when its reduction was -0.2% compared to the same period the year before in 2012. In the second quarter of 2020, the compensation of employees fell by 7.6% and the one for self-employed by 1.9% on a yearly basis, driven by job losses or deferred decisions about hiring new employees, reductions of working hours and temporary lay-offs (see part II). Income from property decreased too (-2.8%). These income losses were partially mitigated by public interventions, either existing ones or newly set-up schemes and mechanisms, as well as ad-hoc measures. Net social benefits increased by 4.8% and the negative effect of taxes on income and wealth reduced by 2.0%. The fall in real GDP (-14.0%) was even more severe and exceeded the sudden drop in real GDHI (-5.4%) (Chart 8), indicating that redistributive policies mitigated the fall in GDP. For the euro area, the ECFIN Autumn forecast<sup>9</sup> foresees a limitation in the increase of wages and salaries over the next two years due to the deterioration in the labour market situation that will weigh on real disposable incomes in combination with a small uptick in inflation.

**Chart 8: Real GDP growth, real GDHI growth and its main components, 2012-2020**

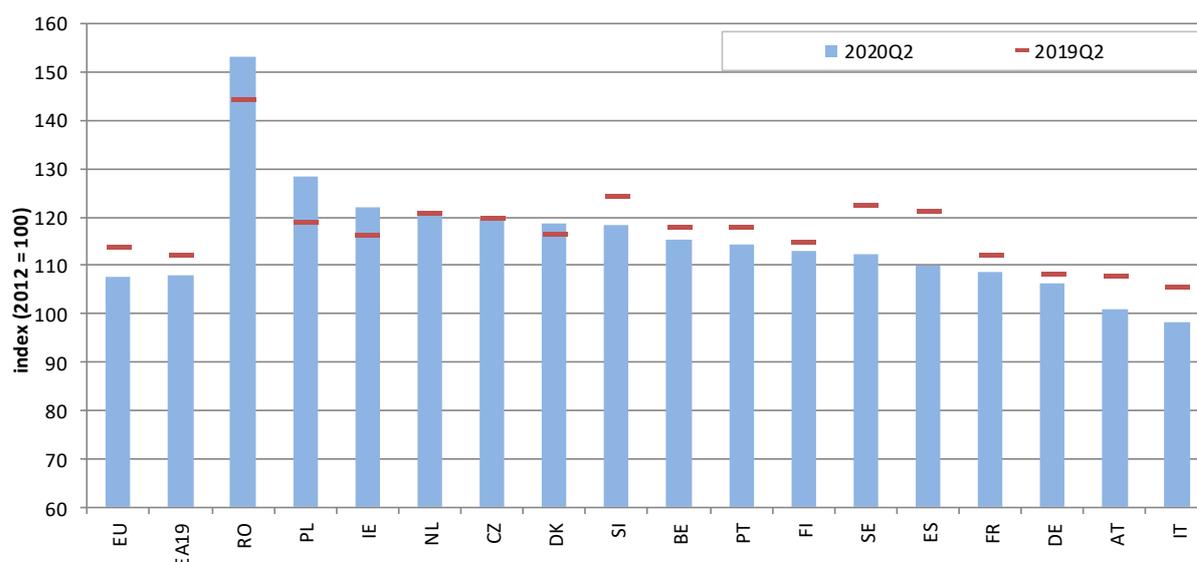


Source: Eurostat, National Accounts, unadjusted data [namq\_10\_gdp, nasq\_10\_nf\_tr] (DG EMPL calculations)  
Note: GDHI EU aggregate for Member States for which data are available, GDP for EU27.  
[Click here to download chart.](#)

<sup>9</sup> European Commission (2020), op. cit.

**Developments of real GDHI per capita were negative in almost all Member States.** In the second quarter of 2020, the real GDHI per capita<sup>10</sup> fell on a yearly basis in almost all the Member States with available information, except Ireland (+5.7 points), Denmark (+2.1 points) and Czechia (+0.2 points)<sup>11</sup>. The reduction of GDHI growth was severe in many of them, with a decline of 11.6 points in Spain, 10.2 points in Sweden, 7.3 points in both Austria and Italy, 5.9 points in Slovenia and between 2.0 and 3.7 points in Portugal, France, Belgium, Finland and Germany (Chart 9).

**Chart 9: Real GDHI per capita – EU, EA and Member States (index 2012 – 100)**



Source: Eurostat, National Accounts, unadjusted data [nasq\_10\_nf\_tr; namq\_10\_gdp; namq\_10\_pe] (DG EMPL calculations)

Notes: 2020Q1 data for PL, 2019Q4 data for RO.

DG EMPL calculations. The nominal GDHI is converted into real GDHI by deflating with the deflator (price index) of household final consumption expenditure.

[Click here to download chart.](#)

**The proportion of people reporting financial distress slightly decreased between May and November 2020 after rising for 12 months.** Reported financial distress<sup>12</sup> is defined as the need to draw on savings or to run into debt to cover current expenditures, based on personal perceptions. This result can be counterintuitive when put side-by-side with the sharp fall in real GDHI. Against this background, there are two trends that could explain the reduction of the share of financially distressed households. The data shows that in the second quarter of 2020 the household final consumption expenditure suddenly fell year-over-year (-17.3% in the EU27 and -15.3% in the euro area) and that the household saving rates had its highest year-over-year increase (+10.8pp in the EU27 and +10.6pp in the euro area, non-seasonally adjusted data) since the beginning of the time series in 2000.<sup>13</sup> In November 2020, 13.4% of the population (-0.4pp compared to the peak in April 2020) declared the need to draw on savings (9.8%) or to run into debt (3.6%) (Chart 10).

**Financial distress is especially high for those on low incomes.** In November 2020 this indicator reached 23.3% for the lowest quartile of incomes, in contrast with 6.9% for the wealthiest quartile. The second quartile was at 15.2% while the third one was at 11.2%. The decrease was more pronounced for the most affluent

<sup>10</sup> Index 2012 = 100.

<sup>11</sup> Considering that the data are not seasonally adjusted these figures can change from quarter to quarter.

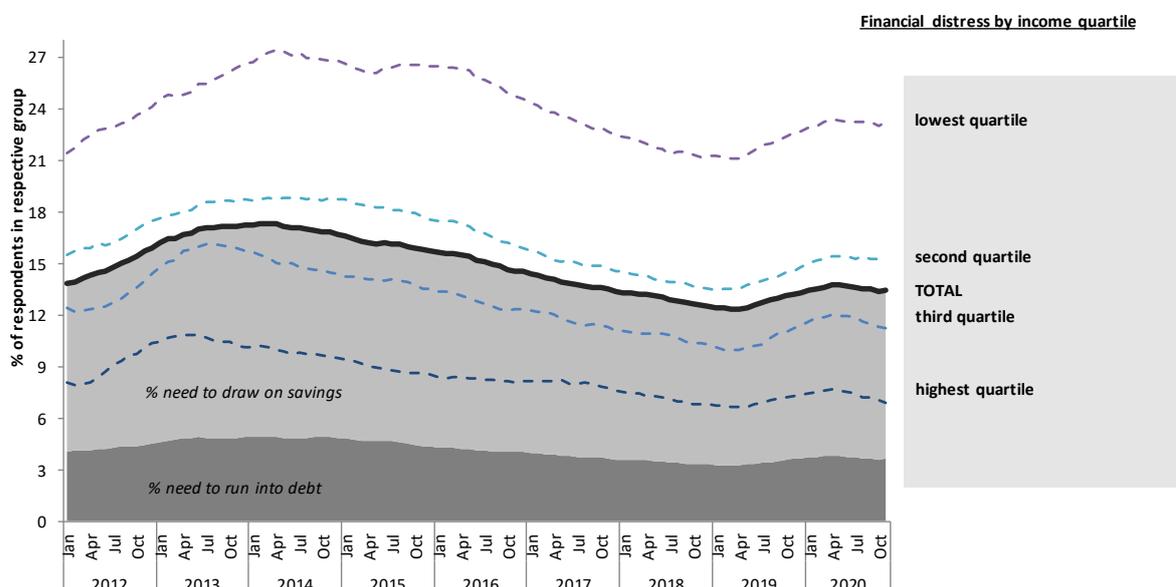
<sup>12</sup> For details on Business and Consumer Surveys, including consumer survey's question on the current financial situation of households, see [http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/db\\_indicators/surveys/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/surveys/index_en.htm)

<sup>13</sup> Eurostat (2020), *Impact of Covid-19 crisis on non-financial corporation and household accounts*, [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Impact\\_of\\_Covid-19\\_crisis\\_on\\_non-financial\\_corporation\\_and\\_household\\_accounts](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Impact_of_Covid-19_crisis_on_non-financial_corporation_and_household_accounts)

households. The third and the fourth quartiles reported both a drop in financial distress of -0.8pp (peak in April 2020).

**Reported financial distress has increased for the lowest income quartile in several Member States, but a large diversity in levels and trends persists.** In the third quarter of 2020, and on a yearly basis, financial distress increased in several countries, especially in Hungary (+8.7pp; at 21.1%), Poland (+7.0pp; at 24.7%), Belgium (+5.3pp; at 40.8%), Slovakia (+5.0pp; at 30.4%), Slovenia (+4.2pp; at 16.0%), Spain (+3.5pp; at 33.4%) and Luxembourg (+3.0pp; at 13.7%). Belgium was the country with the highest overall share (40.8%; +5.3pp), followed by Spain (33.4%; +3.5pp) and Slovakia (30.4%; +5.0pp), all above 30.0%<sup>14</sup>. The strongest decreases were recorded in the Netherlands (-6.9pp; at 26.8%) and France (-4.5pp; at 28.5%). Estonia remains at very low levels of financial distress (2.1%; +0.1pp), while Sweden is the only other country to record a share of financial distress for the lowest income quartile below 10% (9.5%; +2.3pp).

**Chart 10: Reported financial distress by income quartile – EU, 2012-2020**



Source: European Commission, Business and Consumer Surveys, unadjusted data, 12-months moving average (DG EMPL calculations).  
Note: Lines show the long-term averages for financial distress for the population as a whole and for households in the four income quartiles. The overall share of adults reporting having to draw on savings and having to run into debt are shown respectively by the light grey and dark grey areas, which together represent total financial distress.  
[Click here to download chart.](#)

<sup>14</sup> In the fourth quarter of 2012, the share of population in financial distress was above 30.0% in eleven countries.

## Part II – Thematic focus:

### Employment-income loss and wage compensation during the pandemic: preliminary estimates

**The income conditions of EU households had been improving before the pandemic.** Household disposable income (GDHI) confirmed its rising trend in 2019 in almost all EU Member States. Although GDHI per capita was still below 2009 level in five Member States reflecting the lack of an overall inclusive recovery since the financial and economic crisis of 2008-09, it had been increasing continuously in real terms since 2013, buoyed by higher income from work<sup>15</sup>. Higher income from work was recorded for both employees and self-employed. While microdata on income and living conditions in 2019 are not yet fully available, Eurostat flash estimates show that median disposable incomes grew in real terms in a large majority of EU Member States. Beyond median values, income improvements were experienced all along the distribution, including low incomes, for almost all EU Member States<sup>16</sup>.

**Then the pandemic struck and forced Member States to adopt lockdown measures to curb the spread of the virus.** The negative impact on EU economies and societies materialised with unprecedented magnitude. While the first quarter of 2020 unemployment increased only marginally, already in April 2020 the labour market situation rapidly deteriorated in all EU Member States. In response to this, exceptional policy measures have been adopted to preserve employment and cushion employment-income losses. Indeed policy support focused on providing income streams for employees through short-time work schemes and extending these measures to employment groups previously excluded. However, severe declines in employment income before government support have inevitably taken place. Moreover, the income replacement rate of such measures typically does not replace the full wage while temporary workers, those on non-standard contracts, self-employed and informal workers may be left uncovered. Eurostat estimations based on EU-SILC data fielded in the second quarter of 2020 permit a first assessment of the employment-income declines before and after the monetary support associated to short-time work schemes. The following estimates of employment-income losses should be interpreted in terms of order of magnitude and general trends because they are based on modelling and microsimulation rather than observed data<sup>17</sup>.

**The COVID-19 crisis has caused a loss in employment income unique in its severity<sup>18</sup>.** Employment-income losses have been uneven across EU countries and employment groups and materialised in three cases<sup>19</sup>. In case of unemployment, when workers were dismissed or not renewed at the end of a temporary contract; in case workers had their working hours reduced or in case of absence from work, for desired or unplanned reasons<sup>20</sup>. The two key factors that have allowed employment continuity especially in the lockdown phases were the

---

<sup>15</sup> The real **gross disposable income** of households per capita (index = 2008) is calculated as the unadjusted **gross disposable income** of households and Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH) divided by the price deflator (price index) of household final consumption expenditure

<sup>16</sup> Median incomes increased in real terms in most Member States and the number of people in severe material deprivation fell in 2019. This is documented for both countries where official figures are already published and countries where they are still flash estimates.

<sup>17</sup> As any model-based estimate, they entail a certain level of uncertainty and are based on partial information available at this date until the second quarter of 2020. Thus, they are likely to underestimate the effect of the lockdown measures implemented to curb the second wave of the pandemic in Autumn 2020 (Eurostat 2020).

<sup>18</sup> European Commission (2020b) provides a characterisation of contact-intensive occupations. Socio-economic groups that were in vulnerable jobs before the pandemic, i.e. the low paid, low skilled, young and women are over-represented in these occupations.

<sup>19</sup> Unless otherwise specifies, employment income includes both wages and income from self-employment.

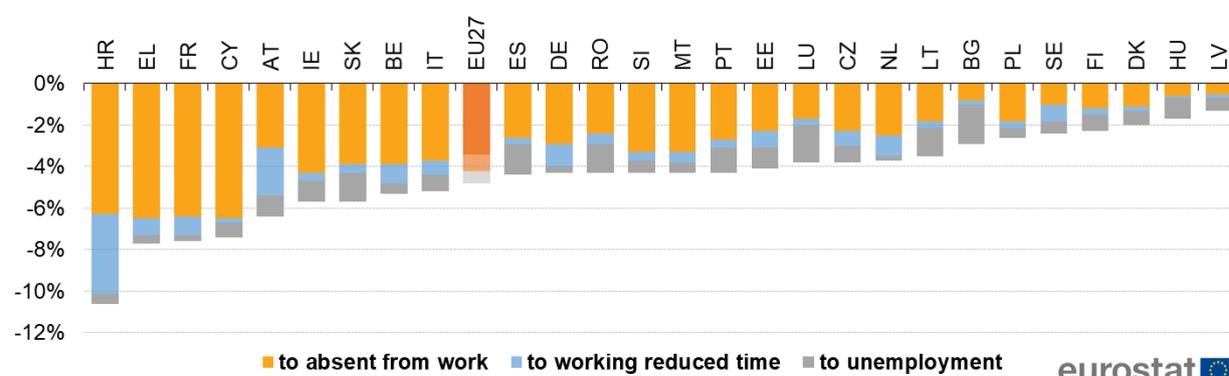
<sup>20</sup> Absences from work can be classified in two groups: planned, desired absences (e.g. annual holidays) and unplanned, undesired ones (e.g. illnesses, temporary lay-offs). Since March 2020 almost all governments have taken restrictive measures to prevent the spread of the virus including businesses temporarily shut down and many employees confined to their homes. Whereas worker protection laws may imply that employment, especially employees will not be affected, one may expect a sharp rise of absences from work which falls under the second category of undesired, unplanned absences.

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Absences\\_from\\_work\\_-\\_quarterly\\_statistics](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Absences_from_work_-_quarterly_statistics)

inclusion of certain jobs among essential services and the possibility to telework. Despite a large and increasing potential of jobs that can be performed remotely, workers in contact-intensive occupations and in client-facing services can rarely turn to telework and are thus more susceptible to income losses<sup>21</sup>. Moreover the proportion of jobs amenable to remote working varies significantly across countries and regions as it also depends on the distribution of employment by company size, the share of self-employed as well as workers' digital skills.

**The share of employment income has dropped by around 5% in the EU-27 compared to 2019** (Chart 11)<sup>22</sup>. A large part of the reduction in the employment-income share has been due to the high proportion of workers transiting from employment to “absence from work “ (orange bars in Chart 11)<sup>23</sup>. In the second quarter of 2020, 19.3 million people in the EU, corresponding to 10.3% of the employed population, were absent from work for unplanned reasons, that comprise temporary lay-offs and zero-hour work schemes. In Member States where the share of non-teleworkable occupations in non-essential services was the most pronounced, the magnitude of the overall employment-income loss was most severe<sup>24</sup>.

**Chart 11: Employment-income loss (% on 2019) by transition from employment**



Source: Eurostat calculations

Reading note: workers absent from work for both planned (holidays) or unplanned reasons (temporary layoffs, illness)

**The different employment-income loss across EU countries depends on the sectorial structure of the economy**<sup>25</sup>. All the Member States where a substantial part of economic activity depends on tourism-linked sectors such as hospitality and leisure have experienced large employment-income losses (Chart 11). Some sectors have been hit more than others as they are structurally characterised by contact-intensive occupations not amenable to remote working and not included among the essential services. Thus, workers in accommodation and food service or in arts and entertainment have been heavily affected by employment-income losses, amounting respectively to around 20% and 14% on average across the EU (Chart 12).

<sup>21</sup> Based on a contact intensity and teleworkability index, European Commission (2020b) describes the vulnerability of occupation to social distancing and their characterisation in terms of socio-economic groups. On average, at least 25% of workers can potentially perform their tasks from home. In eight Member States, the share of vulnerable workers is over 50%. In contrast, only in two (Poland and Slovenia) non-teleworkable occupations absorb about one fourth of total employment (European Commission, 2020b).

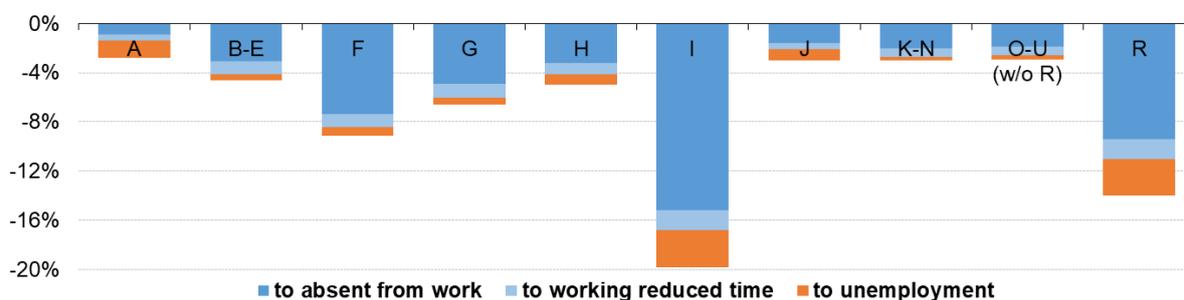
<sup>22</sup> The ILO Global Wage Report 2021 estimates a figure slightly higher for the employment-income loss for the EU (6.5% on 2019).

<sup>23</sup> While the estimations for employees are based largely on administrative data on the number of beneficiaries of wage compensation schemes, the estimates for self-employed are based on a proxy of people being affected by the lockdown from the Labour Force Survey.

<sup>24</sup> The sectors marked as non-essential, substantially closed due to high contagion risk, involve around 10% of overall EU employment. However, the variation is large as in Spain, Greece or Ireland they account for more than 13% of total employment as opposed to below 8% in Romania, Poland, Belgium and Germany. These sectors are projected to continue suffering until the infection rate is fully under control, since they will continue to be either forcefully closed or suffer from very weak demand (Fana et al., 2020). The case of Greece is discussed also in Betcherman et al. (2020).

<sup>25</sup> OECD (2020).

**Chart 12: Employment-income loss (% on 2019) by economic sector and transition from employment (2020Q2, EU-27)**



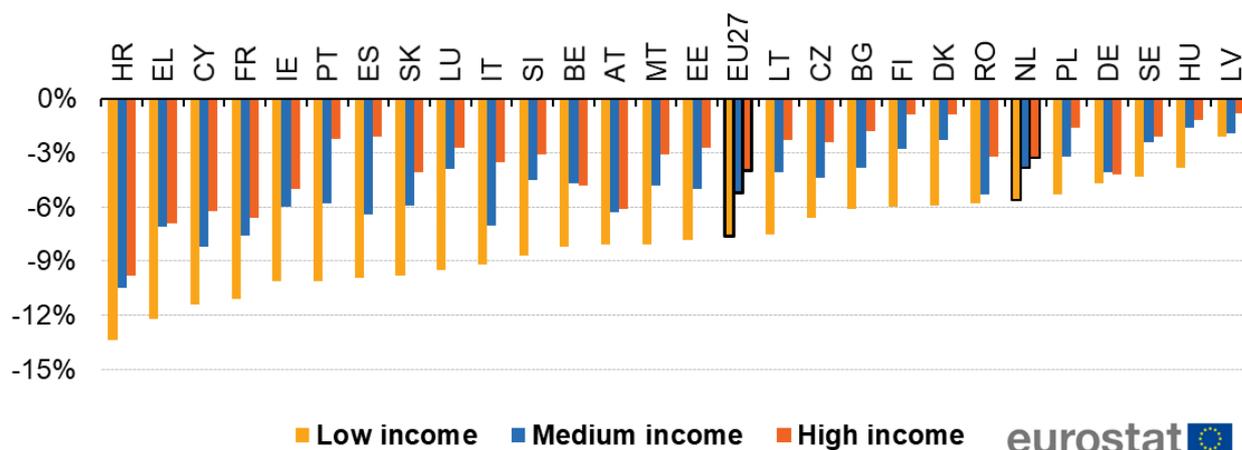
A: Agriculture, forestry and fishing  
 B-E: Manufacturing, mining, and other industry  
 F: Construction  
 G: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles  
 H: Transportation and storage  
 I: Accommodation and food service  
 J: Information and communication  
 K-N: Finance and insurance; real estate; professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service  
 O-U: Public administration, defence, education, health and social work  
 R: Arts, entertainment and recreation

eurostat 

Source: Eurostat calculations

**The employment-income reduction had a high degree of regressivity, impacting disproportionately low-paid workers.** The pandemic exacerbated previous labour-market inequalities and exacted a toll on already vulnerable employment groups as the severe employment-income losses recorded affect disproportionately the young, workers in non-standard contracts and, in some Member States, women. These employment groups were already disadvantaged as they tended to be in the lowest 30% of the employment-income distribution. In fact, the reduction in the employment-income share for the three bottom deciles peaked at over 7% compared to a 4% reduction for the three top deciles in the EU (Chart 13). The difference in the employment-income loss between high-paid and low-paid workers was the highest in Portugal, Spain and Luxembourg.

**Chart 13: Employment-income losses (% on 2019) by income group**



Source: Eurostat calculations

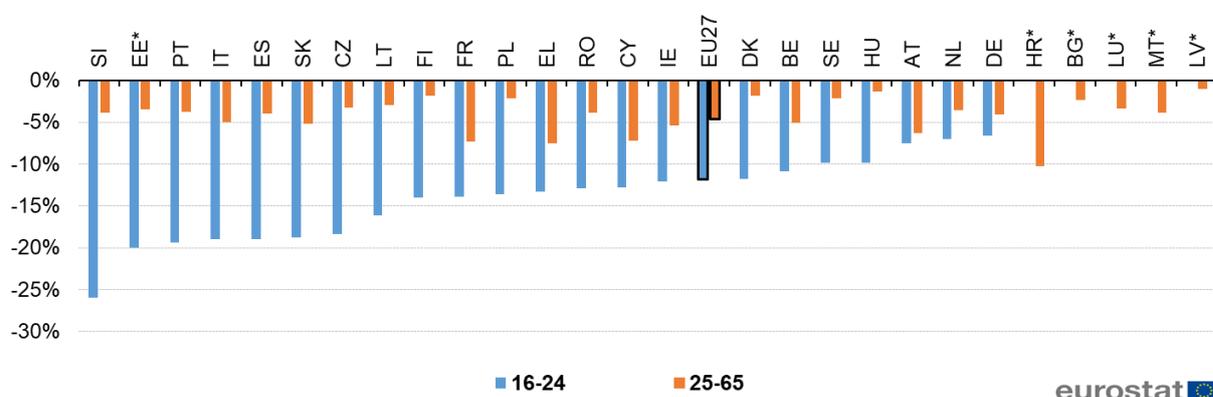
Reading note: low-income group: deciles [1-3]; medium-income group: deciles [4-7]; high-income group: deciles [8-10]. Employment income.

Thus, it appears inevitable that employment-income inequalities will worsen in the near future. In turn, the extent to which these inequalities will translate into disposable-income inequalities will crucially depend on the

cushioning effect of tax-and-transfer systems and the exceptional income support measures implemented in the crisis<sup>26</sup>.

**Younger workers have been severely affected by employment-income losses.** They are more likely to be in temporary contracts than older cohorts, work in smaller firms and overrepresented in retail and accommodation and food services. A JRC publication estimates that in the EU as a whole, almost one third (28%) of the workers employed in the sectors most adversely impacted were younger than 30 years old, compared to 15-16% in the essential sectors<sup>27</sup>. As those sectors are less likely to turn to telework, they have faced higher risk of dismissal or working hours reduction and have therefore been exposed to heavy employment-income losses. The yearly loss of employment-income share peaks at 12% for those below 24 as compared to a 5% reduction for older workers (Chart 14). This implies a negative impact on their current employment situation and in their first phase of transition to work. It also worsens future prospects of securing quality jobs in a context of subdued economic activity and employment scarcity<sup>28</sup>. Furthermore, the income loss for the young is the largest in Mediterranean and Central-Eastern Member States where their working conditions and prospects were already problematic.

**Chart 14: Employment-income losses (% on 2019) by age bracket**



Source: Eurostat calculations

**Temporary workers have lost a significant share of employment income due to transition to unemployment.** The employment-income loss among temporary contracts was consistently higher than for permanent ones as temporary contracts have been exposed to the risk of not being renewed<sup>29</sup>. The largest employment-income drops were reported in Slovakia, Spain, Denmark and Sweden (-6pp or above for all four), while Poland showed both the smallest decrease and the smallest gap compared with permanent contracts (both below -1 pp), followed by the Netherlands and Germany<sup>30</sup>.

**Employment-income losses did not affect women disproportionately, except for a few EU Member States.** Indeed, while women tend to work in the most affected sectors like health, accommodation and food services, they are on average slightly more likely to be in jobs amenable to telework<sup>31</sup>. The drop of the employment-income share do not seem higher for women than for men in most EU Member States. The EU average shows a similarly severe loss of employment-income shares between men and women, with a 5%

<sup>26</sup> See European Commission (2020a) for an assessment of the income losses of the bottom 40% of the population in the previous crisis.

<sup>27</sup> In their classification of sectors, those most impacted are the *closed* sectors, not essential nor teleworkable (Fana et al., 2020).

<sup>28</sup> Unemployment scarring effects on young workers are known to have a life-long impact in terms of subsequent lower pay, higher unemployment and reduced life chances.

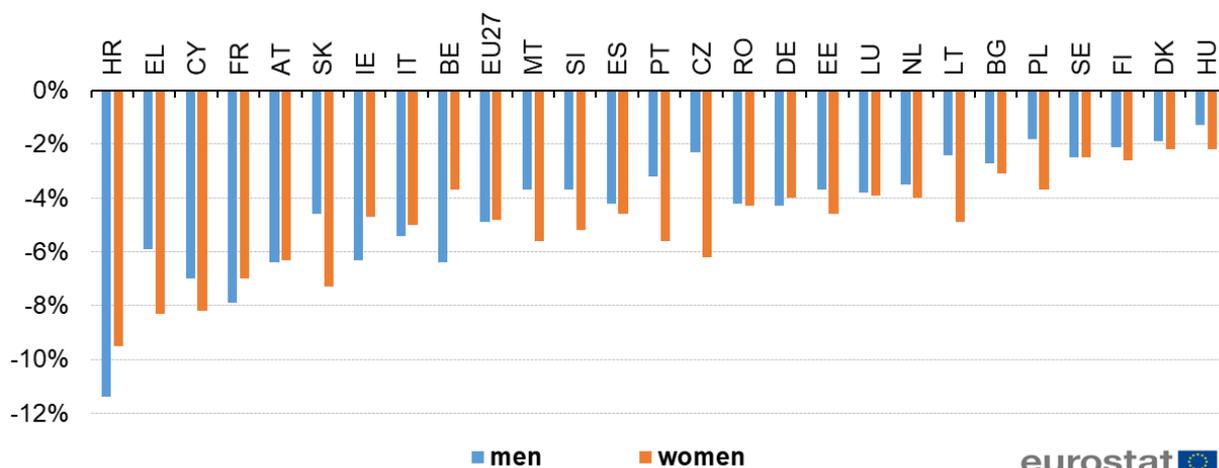
<sup>29</sup> The number of employees on temporary contracts decreased starkly in the second quarter of 2020 in most Member States.

<sup>30</sup> See Eurostat (2020)

<sup>31</sup> European Commission (2020b) and Fana et al. (2020).

reduction for both groups compared to the 2019 (Chart 15). However, the employment-income loss has been more severe for women than men in Greece, Portugal, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Lithuania and Poland.

**Chart 15: Employment-income losses (% on 2019) by gender**



Source: Eurostat calculations

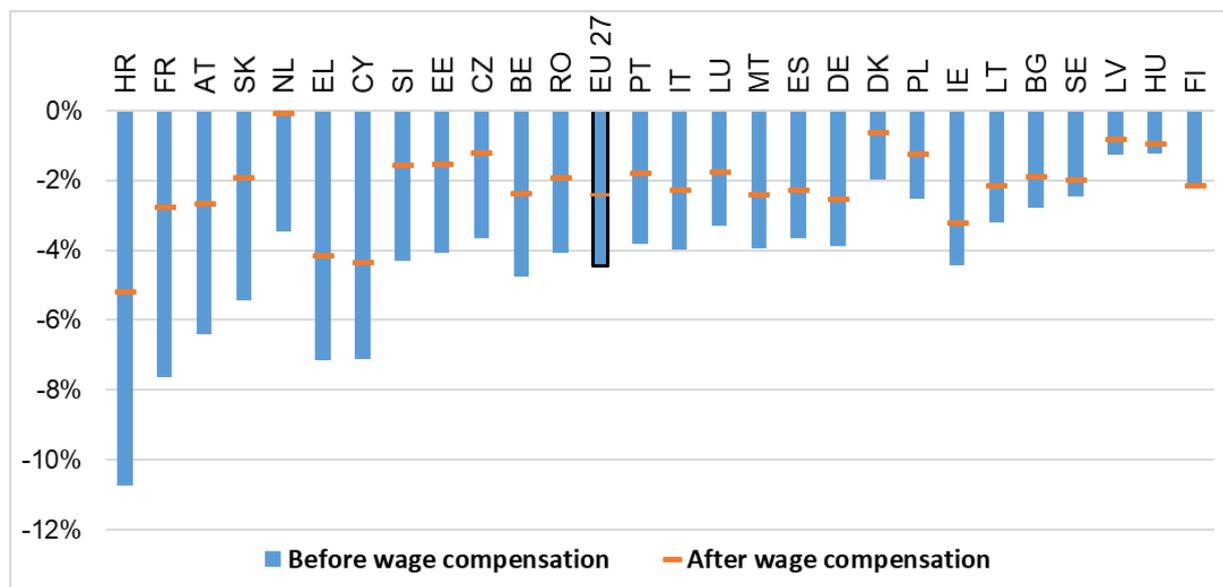
**In the face of such an unprecedented employment-income shock, traditional and exceptional income-support measures have had a mitigating impact on the employment-income losses.** Due to the uneven and regressive employment effects, with income losses concentrated on already vulnerable employment groups, labour policies have been crucial to ensure workers' income stability. Wage compensation measures, often taking the form of short-time work schemes<sup>32</sup>, have provided a monetary compensation to employees absent from work due to COVID-19 restrictions. Some Member States have resorted to existing short-time work schemes to cushion employment-income losses; while most other Member States have adopted them to target workers in non-essential sectors or in occupations that cannot be performed remotely. EUROMOD simulations illustrate the alleviating effect of these policies measures<sup>33</sup> on the employment income of employees in short-time work schemes or otherwise classified as absent from work due to COVID-19 restrictions<sup>34</sup>. Without wage compensation measures, employment-income losses for employees would have been remarkably higher for all Member States (Chart 16). For some (Croatia, France, Austria and Slovakia), wage compensation measures have significantly contained the employment-income share loss, by more than 3 pps.

<sup>32</sup> In addition to provide employment-income replacement, short-time work schemes have eased labour costs for employers, retained trained workforce within firms and allowed workers to avoid unemployment scarring effects For a more thorough assessment of their cost-effectiveness see European Commission (2020a).

<sup>33</sup> Henceforth, wage compensation measures.

<sup>34</sup> EUROMOD is used to simulate the impact of discretionary policy measures exceptionally introduced or already existing (wage compensation schemes). Differently from previous estimates, self-employed, and the policy measures targeted at them, are not considered in **Chart 15** and **Chart 16**. In EUROMOD, there are 25 EU countries (i.e. except Finland and the Netherlands) with wage compensation schemes to provide a monetary compensation to employees absent from work due to COVID-19 restrictions. The compensation are paid solely by the State or both by the State and the firm (10 countries have a compensation paid by the firm simulated in EUROMOD). Employees receive either a fixed amount (Greece, Croatia, Malta) or a percentage of their employment income or net earnings (Austria, Ireland) that replaces at least partially their employment income during the period where they are unable to work. This percentage is often subject to a minimum and/or maximum threshold. For a more thorough review of the income-support measures associated to short-time work schemes simulates see Eurostat (2020).

**Chart 16: Employment-income losses (% on 2019) before and after wage compensation.**



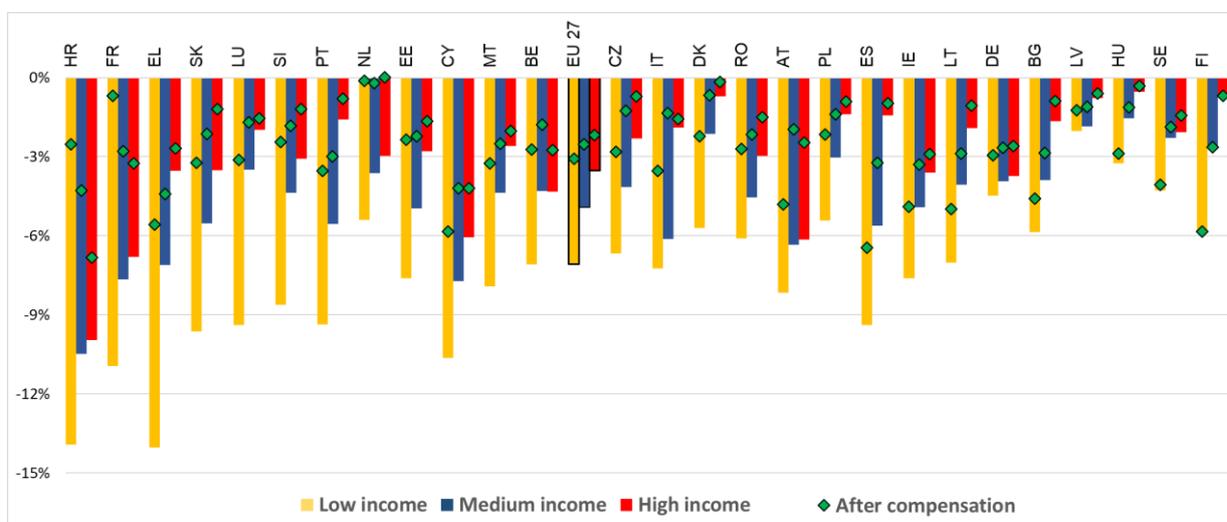
Source: JRC simulations with EUROMOD

Reading note: countries sorted by mitigation impact of wage compensation.

**The impact of wage compensation policies has been progressive.** In turn, wage compensation measures have cushioned the income fall for the workers absent to work due to COVID restrictions who are likely to be found in the bottom deciles of the wage distribution (Chart 11)<sup>35</sup>. In general, these measures have managed to cushion the fall in the employment income more for the lowest-paid employees in the three bottom deciles of the wage distribution in all Member States (only in Italy and Austria, the medium wage group had a lower difference in the loss of employment income before and after wage compensation than the bottom wage group, Chart 17). In some countries, such as Croatia and France, wage compensation measures protected low-paid workers more effectively than the medium and the high-wage group against employment income loss than, and thereby reversing the uneven market impact of the pandemic (Chart 17).

<sup>35</sup> It should be noted that in countries where a minimum threshold is applied, EUROMOD could oversimulate the replacement income for individuals with low incomes (e.g. employees earnings below minimum wage who do not have a contract). Sometimes not all eligibility criteria can be simulated in the model.

**Chart 17: Employment-income losses (% on 2019) by wage group, before and after wage compensation**



Source: JRC simulations with EUROMOD

Reading note: countries sorted by mitigation impact of wage compensation for the lowest wage group.

**The COVID-19 crisis is causing large losses in disposable income for households.** The reduction of employment income marks a historic low and poses problems of financial stability for many workers, especially those who were in households at socio-economic risk already before the pandemic. However, the fall in GDHI (documented in Part 1) has been unprecedentedly countered by governments' income support. The aggregate disposable-income loss and its distributional impact depends on household composition and on the effectiveness of tax-transfer systems to cushion employment-income shocks. In the meantime, the impact of wage compensation policies, in a traditional or exceptional framework, is proving to be fundamental in mitigating employment-income losses and alleviating the regressive impacts produced in the labour market. Finally, EUROMOD estimates show that the overall impact of tax-benefit policies adopted since March in conjunction with automatic stabilisers have been crucial in curbing the regressive impact on the poorest income deciles, resulting in a rather homogeneous impact along the disposable-income distribution<sup>36</sup>.

## References

Almeida V., Barrios S., Christl M., De Poli S., Tumino A. and van der Wielen W. (2020). *Households' income and the cushioning effect of fiscal policy measures during the Great Lockdown*, JRC Working Papers on Taxation and Structural Reforms No 06/2020, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Seville. JRC121598

Betcherman, G., Giannakopoulos, N., Laliotis, I., Pantelaiou, I., Testaverde, M. and Tzimas G. (2020). 'Reacting Quickly and Protecting Jobs: The Short-Term Impacts of the Covid-19 Lockdown on the Greek Labor Market', *Covid Economics* 43: 95–136.

European Commission (2020a). 'Inclusive growth and solidarity in the EU: challenges, policy levers and the way forward'. Chapter 3 in *Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2020*, pp. 109-114. Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL), Brussels.

European Commission (2020b). *Labour Market and Wage Developments in Europe 2020*. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.

<sup>36</sup> Almeida et al (2020).

---

Eurostat (2020). *Impact of COVID-19 on employment income - advanced estimates*, Statistics explained, [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Impact\\_of\\_COVID-19\\_on\\_employment\\_income\\_-\\_advanced\\_estimates&stable=1](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Impact_of_COVID-19_on_employment_income_-_advanced_estimates&stable=1).

Fana, M., Tolan, S., Torrejón, S., Urzi Brancati, C. and Fernández-Macías, E (2020). *The COVID confinement measures and EU labour markets*, EUR 30190 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020, ISBN 978-92-79-18812-4 doi:10.2760/079230, JRC120578.

ILO (2020). *Global Wage Report 2020–21: Wages and minimum wages in the time of COVID-19*. International Labour Office – Geneva

OECD (2020), *OECD Regions and Cities at a Glance 2020*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/959d5ba0-en>.

---

## Annexes

- 1) Quarterly recurrent Excel file with main charts
- 2) Excel files with charts per Member State and for the EU and euro area
  - i. Real GDP growth, real GDHI growth, employment growth and unemployment rates
  - ii. Real GDP growth, employment growth, real GDHI growth and its main components
  - iii. Employment growth by sectors
  - iv. Beveridge curves

## GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE EU

### In person

All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct information centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest you at: [https://europa.eu/european-union/contact\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en)

### On the phone or by email

Europe Direct is a service that answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service:

- by freephone: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (certain operators may charge for these calls),
- at the following standard number: +32 22999696 or
- by email via: [https://europa.eu/european-union/contact\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en)

## FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE EU

### Online

Information about the European Union in all the official languages of the EU is available on the Europa website at: [https://europa.eu/european-union/index\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en)

### EU publications

You can download or order free and priced EU publications at: <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publications>. Multiple copies of free publications may be obtained by contacting Europe Direct or your local information centre (see [https://europa.eu/european-union/contact\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en)).

### EU law and related documents

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1952 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

### Open data from the EU

The EU Open Data Portal (<http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en>) provides access to datasets from the EU. Data can be downloaded and reused for free, for both commercial and non-commercial purposes.

