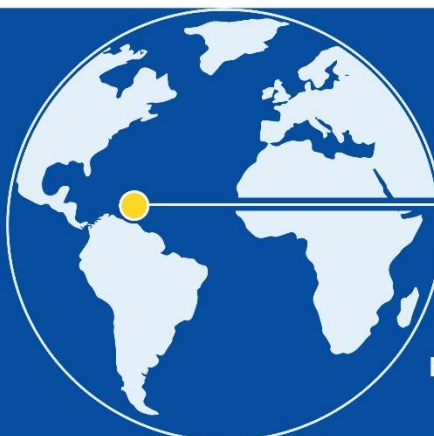


# Outermost Region Fiche

# GUADELOUPE

Study on the impact of  
the COVID-19 pandemic  
on the Outermost Regions

Region	Guadeloupe
Country	France
Size (2016)	1 685 Km <sup>2</sup>
Number of inhabitants (2020)	412 682
Population density (2019)	247 per Km <sup>2</sup>



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy  
Directorate A — Budget, Communication and General Affairs  
Unit A1 - Outermost Regions

*Contact:* Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, unit A1 - Outermost Regions

*E-mail:* [REGIO-A1-RUP@ec.europa.eu](mailto:REGIO-A1-RUP@ec.europa.eu)

*European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels*

# **Study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the outermost regions (OR)**

Outermost Region Fiche Guadeloupe

Manuscript completed in December 2021

1<sup>st</sup> edition

The European Commission is not liable for any consequence stemming from the reuse of this publication.

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2022

© European Union, 2022



For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the European Union, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective rightholders. The European Union does not own the copyright in relation to the following elements:

PDF ISBN 978-92-76-46554-6 doi: 10.2776/081192 KN-08-22-007-EN-N

**Legal Notice: This document has been prepared for the European Commission. However, the content of this publication does not reflect the official opinion of the European Commission. Responsibility for the information and views expressed in the publication lies entirely with the authors.**



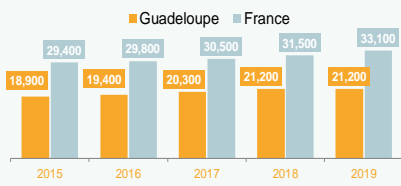
## INTRODUCTION

This fiche was prepared as part of a broader study assessing the impact of COVID-19 on the nine EU outermost regions (ORs). It provides an in-depth analysis of the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 in Guadeloupe, highlights the measures taken to halt the spread of the virus, and puts forward proposals for recovery and resilience-building measures addressing the major issues identified in this region.

This fiche first presents an overview of the health-related impacts of the pandemic in Guadeloupe, as well as the timeline of measures put in place to keep infection rates in check. It then examines the economic repercussions, starting at the macroeconomic level, followed by an analysis of the main sectoral impacts. The third section presents the social impacts and is followed by an identification of the most relevant policy measures implemented in the region to mitigate the negative consequences of the crisis. The last two sections look at the future prospects and suggest measures to support the recovery and to build resilience to similar challenges in the future.

## Overview and impact of COVID on the economy of Guadeloupe

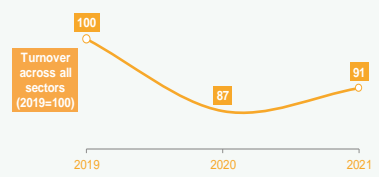
### GDP/capita



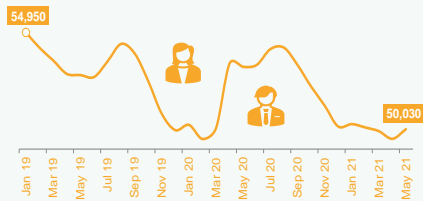
**-3.0%**

estimated drop in GDP in 2020

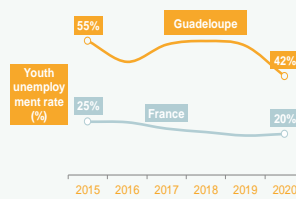
### Turnover forecast



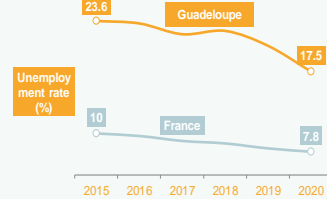
### Number of jobseekers



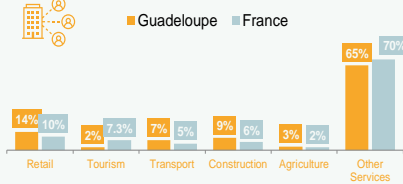
### Youth unemployment rate



### Unemployment rate



### Share of key sectors within the economy - Share of total production (2020)



### Share of key sectors within the economy - 2019

**72%**

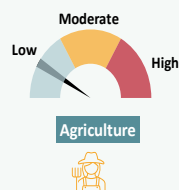
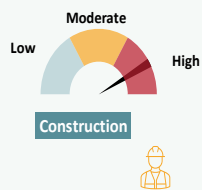
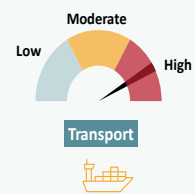
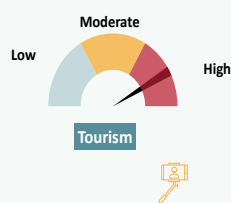
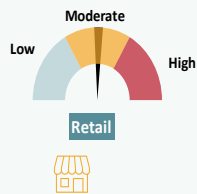
compared to the French average of 83%

### Young people neither in employment nor in education and training - 2020

**22.3%**

compared to the French average of 11.4%

## Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on specific sectors of the economy



## Recommendations

Supporting skills development among young entrepreneurs

Providing affordable digital solutions for all

Increasing the number of medical staff for the region

Reforming the fishery sector

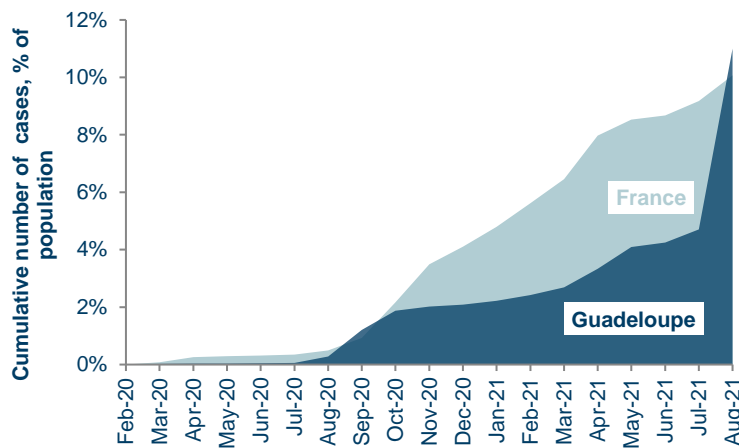
Public sector reform to increase its capacity



## 1. COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE REGION – HEALTHCARE STATISTICS AND TIMELINE

As of August 2021, the healthcare-related statistics indicate that Guadeloupe has suffered higher COVID-19 infection rates than mainland France, due to a peak in July and August 2021. With a daily high of 20 new reported cases in March 2020, Guadeloupe experienced a slow start to the pandemic with a mild first wave. Restrictive measures were put in place early on but did not prevent an outbreak of new cases triggered by an influx of tourists in summer 2020. While the cumulative percentage of cases initially grew in parallel with those in mainland France, they followed a much lower trajectory from October 2020. However, the situation drastically changed from July 2021, with a sharp increase in the number of cases. This has been driven by the spread of the Delta variant in the archipelago (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Cumulative number of cases over total population, in percentages (Feb 2020 – August 2021)



Source: Ecorys, based on WHO data

National (French) restriction measures were put in place early on, at a time when the archipelago was still considered to be a green zone. The first round of restrictions was imposed just three days after the detection of the first COVID-19 case in early March (Figure 2).<sup>1</sup> Initial measures included the closure of all non-essential services, such as shops and restaurants, and limitations on movement. This was followed by restricting flights between mainland France and Guadeloupe at the end of March 2020.

Guadeloupe saw four rounds of COVID-19 restriction measures, following the four infection waves. The first measures, introduced in March, lasted until mid-May 2020. According to the Regional Council of Guadeloupe<sup>2</sup>, case numbers increased rapidly in summer 2020 as more tourists arrived, which led to the proclamation of Guadeloupe as an 'active virus circulation zone' in August 2020. This was followed by the introduction of new restrictions at the end of September 2020, which was aligned with a strong spike in new cases, surpassing 1,000 new reported cases per day on 26 September 2020. As numbers started to fall, restrictions were relaxed.

Early 2021 saw a rise in new COVID-19 cases (Figure 2). Due to the rising number of new cases and fear of a third wave, new restrictions regarding travel to Guadeloupe were imposed at the beginning of February 2021. Authorities banned all non-essential travel between mainland France and Guadeloupe (with exceptions including travel for work or other justifiable reasons) and reintroduced curfew rules. Measures began to ease in June 2021, with restaurants, museums and cinemas reopening. This was accompanied by the relaxation of restrictions for transit to and from mainland France, meaning that compelling travelling reasons were no longer required.

Due to the rapid spread of the Delta variant in July and August 2021 (a fourth wave), local authorities were forced to introduce restrictive measures once again, such as extending the lockdown, closing beaches, and temporarily closing shops selling non-essential items.

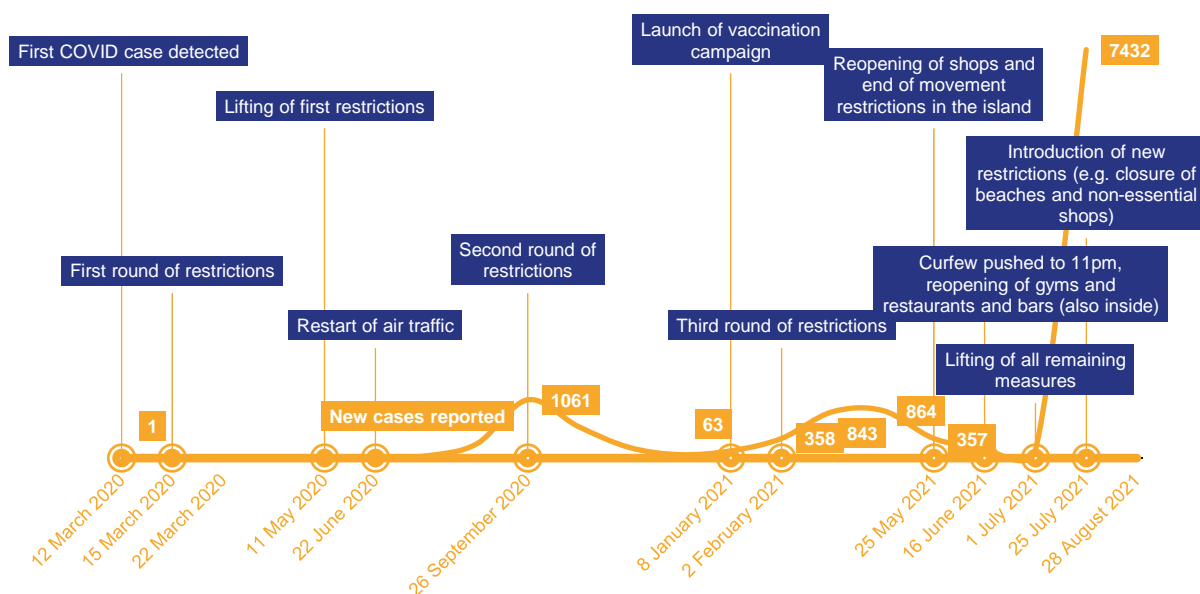
One of the main explanatory factors behind the fourth wave is the low vaccination rate in Guadeloupe. The regional COVID-19 vaccination campaign was launched on 8 January 2021, and 7,020 people were fully vaccinated by 31

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise mentioned, all information on restriction measures is from: Préfet de la région Guadeloupe (2021) Les communiqués de presse de la préfecture. Available at: <https://www.guadeloupe.gouv.fr/Politiques-publiques/Risques-naturels-technologiques-et-sanitaires/Securite-sanitaire/Informations-coronavirus/Les-communiques-de-presse/Les-communiques-de-presse-de-la-prefecture>

<sup>2</sup> Interviewed stakeholder

August 2021. As of August 2021, 33.1% of Guadeloupeans were fully vaccinated, which was consistently lower than the 84.1% fully vaccinated in France by this point in time.

Figure 2: Timeline of the health/social distancing measure and healthcare milestones and new COVID-19 cases reported in Guadeloupe



Source: Ecorys, based on WHO data

The impacts of the COVID-19 crisis have been heightened by Guadeloupe’s ‘double insularity’ as an archipelago, i.e. its limited access to both transport and healthcare, both between its six main (inhabited) islands and with mainland France. However, this insularity has also served as an unintended asset with regard to impeding the spread of the virus. Guadeloupe has very few urban areas, which means that mass contact can be more easily avoided. Additionally, Guadeloupean citizens have demonstrated a degree of resilience. With natural catastrophes such as cyclones being part of their everyday lives, there is general social acceptance of the measures imposed by regional authorities. The last large crisis to hit the archipelago was Hurricane Irma in 2017. In its wake, authorities quickly set up a crisis centre to support economic actors across multiple sectors. This experience served to underline the importance of flexibility in addressing the local needs once the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and implementing actions to inhibit the spread of the virus. The Guadeloupean authorities reacted quickly by modifying the ESF operational programme to redirect funding for masks and other protective equipment.<sup>3</sup>

Resilience and flexibility were key factors helping local authorities to react, and thus dealt relatively well with the spread of the pandemic. However, the situation registered in Guadeloupe in July and August 2021 seems to be quite different. At the end of August 2021, local authorities reported more than 6,000 covid cases in a week with 336 new patients hospitalised; more than triple the number of intensive care beds (92). This also led to a shortage of health personnel. In the first two weeks of August, around 500 volunteer doctors, nurses and firefighters were sent to Guadeloupe and Martinique from mainland France to support local authorities.

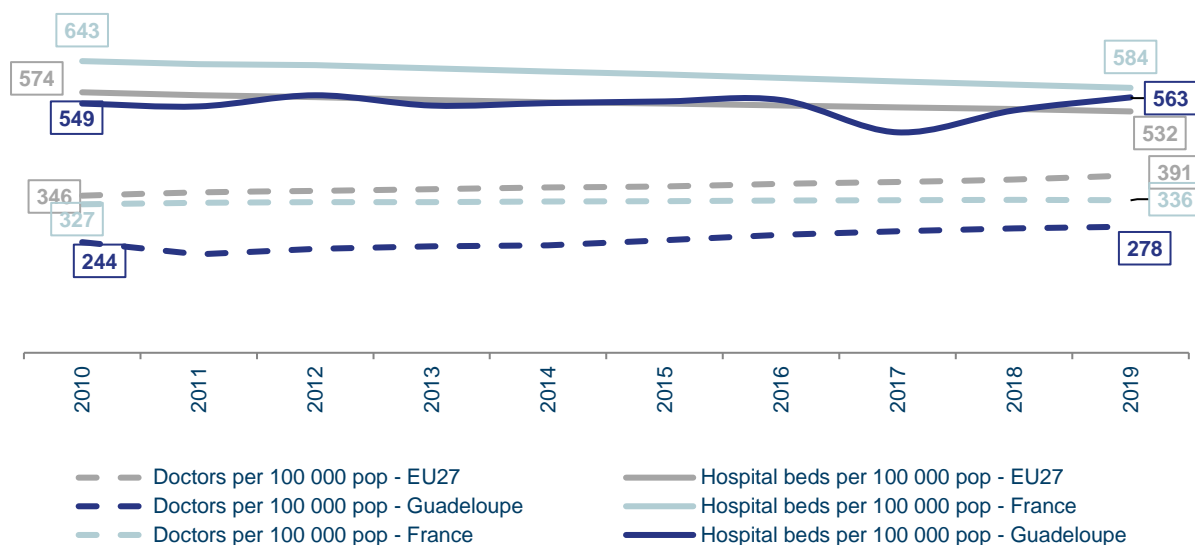
Medical infrastructure in Guadeloupe improved little from 2010-2019. While the number of doctors per 100,000 inhabitants increased by 14% in this period (to 278 in 2019) (Figure 3), it remains significantly lower than in mainland France (336) and the EU27 average (391). The situation in terms of the number of hospital beds per 100,000 inhabitants has slightly improved (+2.5% between 2010 and 2019). With 563 beds per 100,000 inhabitants in 2019, Guadeloupe ranks slightly lower than mainland France (584) but higher than the EU27 average (532). However, the number of beds decreased sharply in 2017. In addition to Hurricane Irma, which hit Guadeloupe that year, a fire took place in the University hospital<sup>4</sup> of Pointe-à-Pitre (the main hospital on the archipelago) in

<sup>3</sup> Information from interview with the Regional Council of Guadeloupe.

<sup>4</sup> Centre Hospitalier Universitaire (CHU)

November 2017 and destroyed part of the building. According to the Regional Council of Guadeloupe, around 20% of the hospital's capacity was lost as a result of this incident, which has made healthcare provision in Guadeloupe more challenging.

Figure 3: Number of hospital beds and medical doctors (per hundred thousand inhabitants)



Source: Ecorys, based on Eurostat data

## 2. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

### MACROECONOMIC OVERVIEW

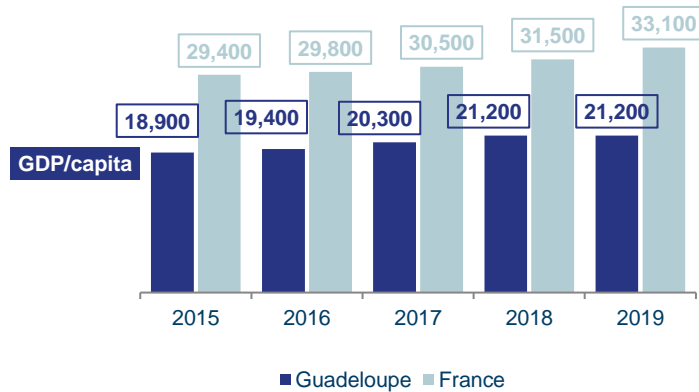
Guadeloupe's economy suffered significant economic consequences following the first round of restrictive measures in March 2020. CEROM (*Comptes Economiques Rapides pour l'Outre-mer*) data point towards a decrease in economic activity of 19.7% in the March-May (2020) period, and a 3% GDP decline in 2020 overall.<sup>5</sup> While the decline in GDP was smaller than that in mainland France - which registered a 7.9% decrease in the same period<sup>6</sup> - Guadeloupe's GDP per capita is only two-thirds of that of mainland France. According to the Regional Council of Guadeloupe, several important economic sectors were hit by a drop in demand, which negatively affected the regional economy. As reported by the Association des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie d'outre-mer (ACCIOM), around 95% of regional enterprises are micro-enterprises (compared to 92% in mainland France), and 80% are single-person companies.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Comptes Economiques Rapides pour l'Outre-mer (CEROM) (2020) Un recul de l'activité économique de 20 % pendant le confinement. Available at: [https://www.cerom-outremer.fr/IMG/pdf/ga\\_inc\\_29-cerom\\_covid.pdf](https://www.cerom-outremer.fr/IMG/pdf/ga_inc_29-cerom_covid.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Eurostat (online code TEC00115)

<sup>7</sup> Association des CCI d'outre-mer (ACCIOM) (2020) Outre-mer: L'état d'urgence. Available at: <https://www.guyane.cci.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/OUTRE-MER-L%C3%89TAT-DURGENCE.pdf>

Figure 4: GDP per capita (€), 2015-2019



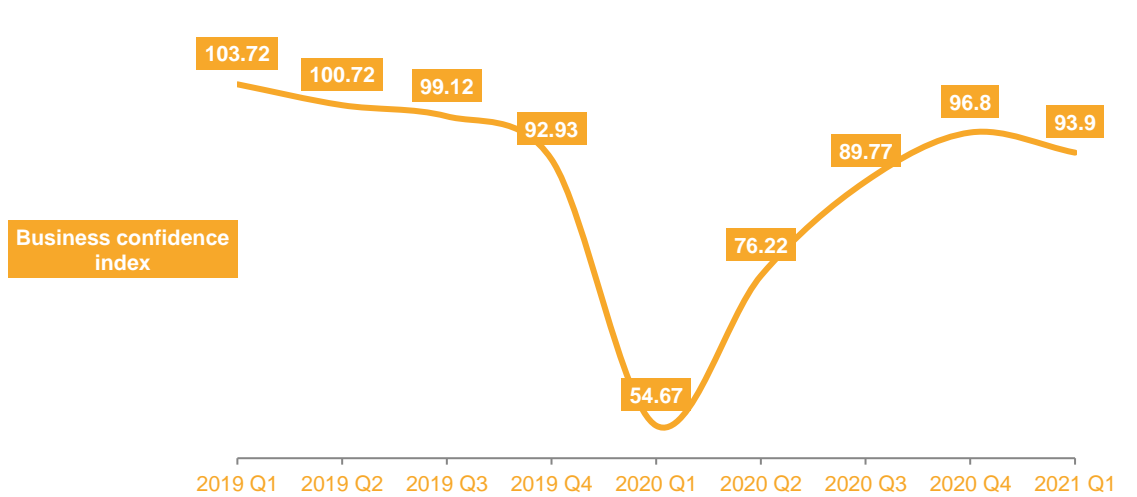
Source: Ecorys, based on Eurostat data

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy of Guadeloupe generally followed a positive growth trajectory, with GDP per capita increasing from €18,900 in 2015 to €21,200 in 2019. It is important to note that, even at its highest point in 2019, regional GDP per capita was 64% of that in mainland France (Figure 4). According to IEDOM, there has been a slowdown in regional economic growth since 2018 and divergence from the national average.<sup>8</sup>

Business confidence in Guadeloupe declined between Q1 2019 and Q1 2020. As IEDOM reports, COVID-19 accelerated a sharp reduction in business confidence that had first become noticeable in Q3 2019, following the *gilets jaunes* (yellow vests) social movement and strikes in French ports. Following this social unrest and the onset of the pandemic, a 38-point drop in the business confidence index was registered in Q1 2020 compared to the previous quarter<sup>9</sup> (Figure 5), and there was an average 52-point drop in 2020 when compared to the whole of 2019.

A V-shaped recovery then followed the lifting of restrictions and uptake in tourism activity. Business confidence continued to recover, despite further restrictions being subsequently imposed. A boost in business confidence in Q4 2020 was facilitated by support measures introduced by the government at the beginning of May 2020. In Q1 2021, the business confidence index registered a small contraction. This was mainly due to the new restrictions (a curfew in place in the evening, the closure of sports clubs, etc.) put in place in Guadeloupe in March 2021 as a consequence of the spread of the Delta variant. As IEDOM reports, the business confidence index is expected to further decrease in Q2 2021.<sup>10</sup>

Figure 5: Business confidence index, Guadeloupe

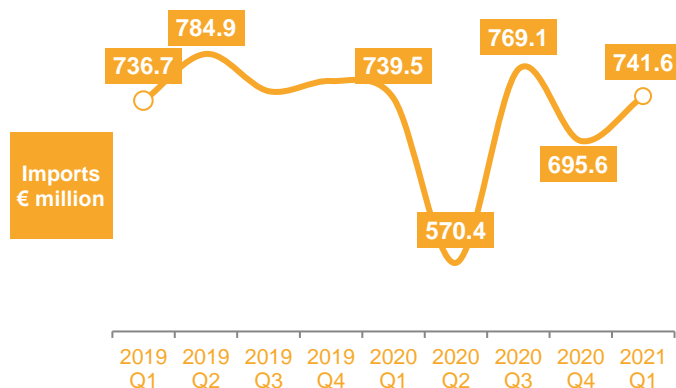


Source: Ecorys based on CEROM data

The crisis has also had an impact on regional public finances. The initial short-term effect on public finances was limited, with revenues only decreasing slightly.<sup>11</sup> The decrease was fuelled by the decline in revenue from taxes on fuels and the *octroi de mer* (customs) tax by 30% between May and July (INSEE), which represents 1% of the

annual revenues of municipalities. In the mid- and long-term, however, COVID-19 could put municipalities' finances under pressure as half of them were already in deficit before the pandemic. The ability of the public sector to support the private sector (notably the local companies, which already had difficulties in servicing debt prior to the pandemic) is, therefore, more limited as a result of the crisis.

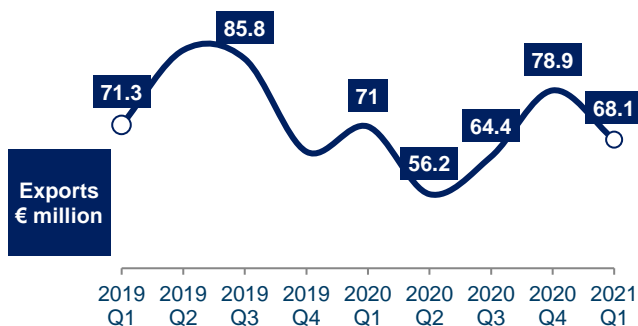
Figure 6: Imports, € million (2019 Q1 – Q1 2021)



Source: Ecorys, based on CEROM data

The impact on consumption levels and lower demand was reflected in the change in imports, which decreased by 23% during the second quarter of 2020, amounting to a loss of €169 million in absolute terms, as compared to the first quarter of 2020 (Figure 6). Imports remained mostly unchanged in 2019, but dropped significantly after restriction measures were imposed in March 2020. This was mainly due to a sharp drop in fuel imports, which decreased by as much as 60%. Imports recovered and spiked in Q3 2020, resuming the average import levels of the previous year, which was in line with regional GDP recovery and the reopening of the economy. Imports recovered thanks to internal consumption and foreign direct investment (FDI).<sup>12</sup> In Q4 2020, imports declined once again due to lower recorded demand from companies.<sup>13</sup> In Q1 2021, imports increased again by 6.6% on the previous quarter, driven by the imports of goods.

Figure 7: Exports, € million (2019 Q1 – Q1 2021)



Source: Ecorys, based on CEROM data

Exports followed a similar trajectory as imports, though without exhibiting a sharp V-like rebound. Exports declined in two waves, the first before the pandemic, in Q2 2019 and the second in Q1 2020. The first decline is strongly linked to the decrease of exports of capital goods and the reshipping of petroleum products. The second, sharper decrease, is linked to the restrictive measures put in place in March 2020, which led to a 21% reduction in exports in Q2 2020, compared to Q1 2020. This can be largely attributed to lower exported quantities of fruits and vegetables to mainland France. Because the production of perishable products cannot be easily redirected to alternative markets, the impact was particularly strong in these sectors (CEROM).

<sup>8</sup> Institut d'Emission des Départements d'Outre-Mer (IEDOM) (2020) L'économie de la Guadeloupe en 2019. Available at: <https://www.iedom.fr/guadeloupe/publications/publications-economiques-et-financieres/conjoncture-economique/panoramas-et-notes-de-synthese-annuelles/article/l-economie-de-la-guadeloupe-en-2019>

<sup>9</sup> IEDOM (2020) Impact de la crise du COVID-19 sur l'économie guadeloupéenne. Available at:

[https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/ne\\_impact\\_de\\_la\\_crise\\_du\\_covid-19\\_sur\\_l\\_economie\\_guadeloupeenne\\_vf.pdf](https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/ne_impact_de_la_crise_du_covid-19_sur_l_economie_guadeloupeenne_vf.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> IEDOM (2021) tendance Conjoncturelles, 1 trimestre 2021. Available at :

[https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/tendances\\_conjoncturelles\\_1t2021\\_quadeloupe.pdf](https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/tendances_conjoncturelles_1t2021_quadeloupe.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> CEROM (2020) Un recul de l'activité économique de 20 % pendant le confinement. Available at: [https://www.cerom-outremer.fr/IMG/pdf/ga\\_inc\\_29-cerom\\_covid.pdf](https://www.cerom-outremer.fr/IMG/pdf/ga_inc_29-cerom_covid.pdf)

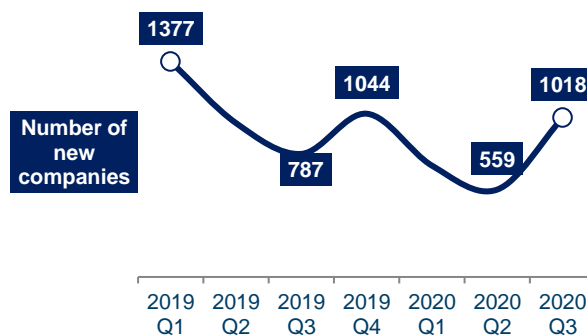
<sup>12</sup> Information from interview with CCI, Guadeloupe

<sup>13</sup> IEDOM (2020) L'économie de la Guadeloupe en 2020, April 2021. Available online:

[https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/nm\\_ne\\_portrait\\_economie\\_de\\_la\\_guadeloupe\\_en\\_2020\\_vf.pdf](https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/nm_ne_portrait_economie_de_la_guadeloupe_en_2020_vf.pdf)

The commercial impacts of COVID-19 are reflected in the business demography of Guadeloupe; 8 out of 10 companies report being affected by the crisis.<sup>14</sup> Figure 8 shows that the number of new Guadeloupean businesses has generally decreased over time; a trend that began in early 2019. After a slight recovery exhibited in Q3-Q4 2019, 2020 saw another downturn, although numbers had exhibited some recovery towards the second half of 2020. Supply chain delays and shortages have not been favourable for the business environment. According to CCI, a limited and competitive market has left more than 60,000 enterprises in the outermost regions fighting for customers; many businesses seek growth opportunities outside the region. Another challenge is the long-term sustainability of newly created companies, which on average do not last five years.<sup>15</sup> Enterprises can struggle to maintain their supply chains, and four in ten businesses find it difficult to pay their suppliers. Similarly, 4 in 10 companies are not always able to repay credit.<sup>16</sup> This may partially explain why one in every four Guadeloupean enterprises opted for partial unemployment, partial operation, or part-time unemployment as an adaptive response since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 8: Number of new companies (2019 Q1 – Q3 2020)



Source: Ecorys, based on CEROM data

### SECTORAL ANALYSIS

Guadeloupe's economy is mainly driven by the tertiary sector, with tourism and trade constituting the backbone of the economy. Guadeloupe's economic structure relies on microenterprises, given that 80% of enterprises are single-person companies.<sup>17</sup> This diminishes the capacity of the private sector to resist shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 1 shows the contribution made by each main sector to Guadeloupe's total economic production. The retail sector, construction, and real estate services are the main drivers of the economy following non-commercial sectors. Most notable amongst these are public administration activities, which is the highest contributor to total economic productivity in Guadeloupe, accounting for 26.3% in 2020. 'Other services', which account for 10.4% of economic productivity, include tourism activities (among others), which are of essential importance to the economy of Guadeloupe. Given that the biggest sectors rely on undisrupted supply chains and sales (of products and services), this leaves the archipelago's economy vulnerable to exogenous shocks.

Table 1: Economic structure of Guadeloupe

Sector	Share of total production (%)
Agriculture and agri-food	4.6
Energy and waste management	4.3
Manufacturing	4.4
Construction	9.2
Wholesale and retail trade <sup>18</sup>	14
Transport	7.3
Accommodation and food	2.1
Information and communication	5.5

<sup>14</sup> CCI Guadeloupe (2020) Les perspectives de rebond post COVID-19 en Guadeloupe – Enquête entreprise. Available at: [http://www.cciquadeloupe.com/fileadmin/pdf/Enquete\\_sur\\_les\\_Perspective\\_rebond\\_post\\_covid\\_des\\_entreprises\\_de\\_Guadeloupe\\_12-10-20.pdf](http://www.cciquadeloupe.com/fileadmin/pdf/Enquete_sur_les_Perspective_rebond_post_covid_des_entreprises_de_Guadeloupe_12-10-20.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> Information from interview with CCI, Guadeloupe

<sup>16</sup> Information from interview with CCI, Guadeloupe

<sup>17</sup> Sénat (2020) Urgence économique outre-mer à la suite de la crise du COVID-19. Available at: <http://www.senat.fr/rap/r19-620/r19-6206.html>

<sup>18</sup> Including repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles

Financial and insurance activities	4.2
Real estate activities	7.7
Other services	10.4
Public administration and other activities	26.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: CEROM (December 2020)

Table 2 provides an overview of economic losses in terms of production and value-added in key economic sectors. Service sectors see the highest decrease in activity, with accommodation and food leading (95%), followed by wholesale and retail trade (70%). The wholesale and retail trade sector leads both in production loss (€181 million) and value-added loss (€115 million). Looking at absolute numbers for the production loss, the construction sector (€141 million) and other services (€91 million) follow. Losses in value-added were otherwise most significant in the 'other services' sector and construction.

Table 2: Estimated economic loss for key sectors in Guadeloupe, 2020

Sector	Production		Value-added
	Decrease in activity (%) (March-May)	Loss in € million (March-May)	Loss in added value (€ million) (March-May)
Agriculture	-12	-6	-5
Energy and waste management	-30	-24	-8
Agri-food	-26	-10	-3
Manufacturing	-48	-39	-18
Construction	-83	-141	-51
Wholesale and retail trade	-70	-181	-115
Transport	-25	-34	-15
Accommodation and food	-95	-37	-11
Information and communication	-22	-23	-14
Financial and insurance activities	-18	-13	-13
Real estate activities	-24	-34	-37
Other services	-43	-91	-75
Public administration and other activities	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>-34</b>	<b>-633</b>	<b>-365</b>

Source: CEROM (Dec 2020)

### Retail

After public administration, the retail sector (wholesale and retail trade) accounts for the largest share of Guadeloupe's economy, and has been amongst the sectors hit hardest by the COVID-19 crisis. This is reflected in a decrease of 115% in the added value of the wholesale and retail sector during the 2020 lockdown (CEROM estimates). Before the lockdown, large and medium department stores (as well as markets) represented the main avenues for consumption, but consumer preferences shifted towards buying from smaller local stores during the lockdown.<sup>19</sup> However, small commerce selling non-essential items, especially those shops selling equipment goods and clothes, has seen the biggest losses as they were closed during the first lockdown (March-May 2020).<sup>20</sup> However, after the first (Q2 2020) lockdown ended, large department stores and markets recovered and once more took a leading role in retail sales.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>19</sup> CCI Guadeloupe (2020) Enquête sur les comportements de consommation des ménages en Guadeloupe pendant la crise COVID-19. Available at:

[https://www.cciquadeloupe.com/fileadmin/pdf/Enquete\\_les\\_comportements\\_de\\_consommation\\_des\\_menages\\_COVID19-1-9-2020.pdf](https://www.cciquadeloupe.com/fileadmin/pdf/Enquete_les_comportements_de_consommation_des_menages_COVID19-1-9-2020.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> Information from interview with CCI, Guadeloupe.

<sup>21</sup> CCI Guadeloupe (2020) Enquête sur les comportements de consommation des ménages en Guadeloupe pendant la crise COVID-19. Available at:

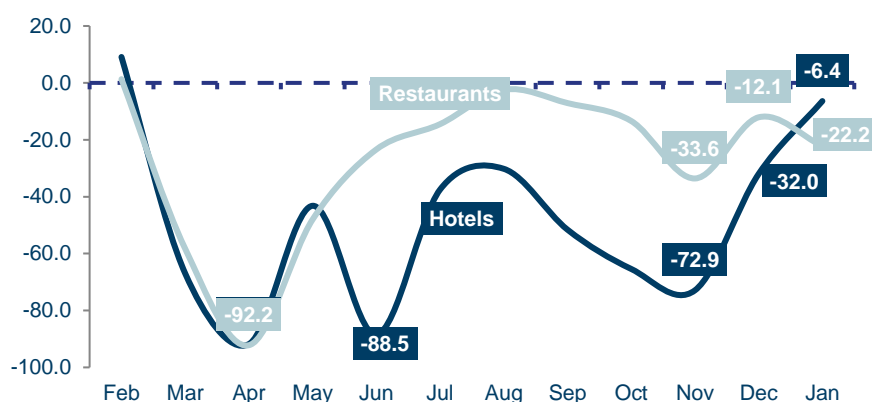
[https://www.cciquadeloupe.com/fileadmin/pdf/Enquete\\_les\\_comportements\\_de\\_consommation\\_des\\_menages\\_COVID19-1-9-2020.pdf](https://www.cciquadeloupe.com/fileadmin/pdf/Enquete_les_comportements_de_consommation_des_menages_COVID19-1-9-2020.pdf)

## Tourism

Tourism is one of the key sectors in Guadeloupe's economy, and has both direct and indirect impacts on other sectors and the whole supply chain, from commerce, fisheries, passenger transport, and restaurants all the way to the craft industry. However, this also makes the archipelago's economy prone to seasonal dependency and more vulnerable to external shocks, which can be exacerbated by a lack of international economic connections. Tourism represented 9.5% of GDP in 2019, with around 800,000 tourists visiting Guadeloupe, of which 90% were from mainland France.<sup>22</sup> Supporting 16.5% of total employment<sup>23</sup>, tourism activity had increased over the 2018–2019 period, with a 4.6% annual increase in 2018 and a 2.3% increase in 2019. This amounted to more than 2.2 million passengers in 2019.<sup>24</sup>

Data provided by Association des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie des Outre-mer (ACCIOM) quantifies the extent to which COVID-19 impacted Guadeloupe's tourism sector and activities related to tourism (e.g. accommodation and food). The tourism sector was severely hit, experiencing a 49% loss in turnover in Q4 2020. The reduction in tourist arrivals was immediately felt by the 4,740 employees working in the Horeca sector (CEROM estimates). Cruise tourism, a vital contributor to tourist activity on the archipelago, came to a halt with the spread of the pandemic.

Figure 9: Percentage turnover change in the tourism sector, 2020-2021



Source: Ecorys based on INSEE data. Percentage difference in relation to same month in 2019.

Figure 9 illustrates the effect of the fall in tourism (as the main explanatory factor) on accommodation and food providers. Hotel visits dropped by more than 63% in 2020 compared to 2019, and have not fully recovered.<sup>25</sup> Restaurants follow the same trend but had a stronger recovery than hotels. Tourism recovered somewhat in December 2020, mostly thanks to an influx of 40,000 tourists as France permitted the resumption of travel, while Guadeloupe registered 45,000 incoming tourists from September 2020 to January 2021.<sup>26</sup> INSEE data show that in July and August 2020, hotel stays began to pick up again, with a peak of 69,373 stays during August (this was, however, lower than August 2019).<sup>27</sup> This increase can be explained by the end of air travel restrictions at the end of June and the fact that this is also the period of summer school holidays in France.

The impact of COVID-19 was exacerbated by the timing of the first lockdown in spring 2020, which coincided with the beginning of the high season in Guadeloupe.<sup>28</sup> The impact on tourism was reflected in all related sectors - events, restaurants, accommodation, taxis, transport operators – which all benefit from tourism.<sup>29</sup> Even though

<sup>22</sup> Sénat (2020) Urgence économique outre-mer à la suite de la crise du COVID-19. Available at: <http://www.senat.fr/rap/r19-620/r19-6206.html>

<sup>23</sup> INSEE (2021) Guadeloupe: Activité dans le tourisme. Available at: [https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4625473?sommaire=4625628#tableau-figempnat\\_radio1](https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4625473?sommaire=4625628#tableau-figempnat_radio1)

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> Information from interview with CCI, Guadeloupe

<sup>26</sup> Information from interview with the Regional Council of Guadeloupe

<sup>27</sup> INSEE (2021) Guadeloupe: Activité dans le tourisme – Suivi des impacts de la crise sanitaire Covid19. Available at: [https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4625473?sommaire=4625628#graphique-figeflnatb\\_radio1](https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4625473?sommaire=4625628#graphique-figeflnatb_radio1)

<sup>28</sup> Information provided during an interview with the Regional Council of Guadeloupe

<sup>29</sup> Information from interview with the Regional Council of Guadeloupe



some operators were able to mitigate their losses (to an extent) in the period September 2020 to January 2021, the lockdown in spring 2020 represented the beginning of a downturn for the archipelago's economy.<sup>30</sup>

### Transport

Because of Guadeloupe's geographical insularity, the transport sector is of vital importance. While it was not the most severely affected sector in economic terms, activity in the transport sector fell by 25% during the lockdown period in comparison to the previous year (CEROM estimates). Airports and air operators suffered the highest impact; especially regional companies such as Air Caraïbes and Air Antilles. Airport Pôle Caraïbes registered a 49% decrease in traffic in 2020, registering 1.3 million passengers against the 2.5 million recorded in 2019.<sup>31</sup> As the number of daily flights fell from an average of 50 to three, the number of employees required fell as labour demands dropped.<sup>32</sup>

Lockdown measures imposed in France impacted passenger flows and disproportionately affected the outermost regions. While movement between French mainland regions was authorised, travel between the outermost regions was restricted. This particularly impacted inter-island maritime transport, as passenger transport between the Caribbean islands ceased. Transport connections between the main island and the other islands of the archipelago were not ensured. For example, the island of Marie-Galante was heavily affected because no one was allowed access without an essential reason for travelling. This prevented both seasonal residents and tourists from visiting.<sup>33</sup>

As an insular territory, Guadeloupe's economy is dependent on trade.<sup>34</sup> Freight cargo was heavily affected, suppressing trade flows between Guadeloupe and Europe, the USA, and other trade partners. Investment in infrastructure such as ports and airports was secured before the pandemic, but there is a lack of investment in the land transport network, which hampers internal regional connectivity.<sup>35</sup>

### Construction

After tourism and trade, the construction sector is the third driver of the Guadeloupean economy. The construction sector grew in the pre-COVID-19 period, thanks mainly to major worksites such as the expansion of the Pôle Caraïbes airport and the reconstruction of the university hospital centre.<sup>36</sup> Nevertheless, it was amongst the

Figure 10. Cement consumption (Q1 2019 – Q1 2021)



Source: Ecorys, based on CEROM data

hardest hit sectors in 2020, with an 83% drop in production. CEROM estimates that the added value of the sector decreased by 25% during the lockdown, and by 12.6% over 2020.<sup>37</sup> This can be attributed to the fact that the construction sector is driven by large projects and regular investments in infrastructure (airports, ports), which are made at the national level. After the start of the pandemic, investment

in infrastructure slowed down. Higher levels of cement consumption in 2019 were driven by airport expansion and

<sup>30</sup> Information from interview with the Regional Council of Guadeloupe

<sup>31</sup> IEDOM (2020) L'Aéroport Pôle Caraïbes subit une perte de 49% de son trafic en 2020. Available at: <https://www.iedom.fr/guadeloupe/actualites/la-lettre-de-l-iedom/fevrier-2021/actualites-economiques-locales/article/l-aeroport-pole-caraibes-subit-une-perde-de-49-de-son-traffic-en-2020>

<sup>32</sup> Information from an interview, no specific numbers available

<sup>33</sup> Information from interview with CCI, Guadeloupe

<sup>34</sup> Information from interview with CCI, Guadeloupe

<sup>35</sup> Association des CCI d'outre-mer (ACCIOM) (2020) Outre-mer: L'état d'urgence. Available at: <https://www.guyane.cci.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/OUTRE-MER-L%C3%89TAT-DURGENCE.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>37</sup> IEDOM (2021) L'économie de la Guadeloupe en 2020. Available at: [https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/nm\\_ne\\_portrait\\_economie\\_de\\_la\\_guadeloupe\\_en\\_2020\\_vf.pdf](https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/nm_ne_portrait_economie_de_la_guadeloupe_en_2020_vf.pdf)

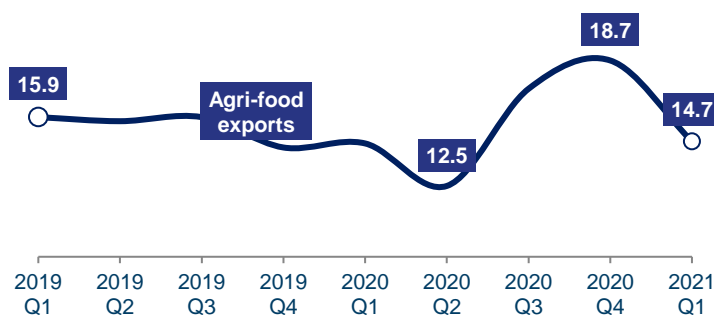
hospital construction (Figure 10). Following the onset of the lockdown, fewer infrastructure projects led to lower demand for cement; consumption levels decreased by almost 10 thousand tonnes in comparison with the same period in 2019.

### Agriculture and fisheries

The agriculture and agri-food sector has fared better than most other sectors in Guadeloupe. The agricultural sector recorded a 12% drop in economic production, while the agri-food sector showed slightly higher numbers, with a 26% drop in economic productivity. Although not negligible, such decreases were more limited when compared to the accommodation and food sectors, thanks to increased local demand. With a fall in imported agricultural products in Q2 of 2020, local production served to meet local demand during the lockdown period.<sup>38</sup> The main challenge for many farmers and small-scale producers was an inability to sell their products due to restrictive COVID-19 measures. Some local producers were able to adapt by developing direct sales channels.<sup>39</sup> The agro-processing industry tried to find ways of resuming production by relying more on local production; specifically the agri-food businesses.<sup>40</sup>

Agriculture in Guadeloupe relies on two main types of crops: bananas and sugar cane. While these, as well as other crops, were not affected at the level of agriculture production as farmers were able to work, many agricultural producers faced an issue with distribution, storage, and commercialisation. Producers needed to reinvent sales methods by switching to online sales and click & collect.<sup>41</sup> While this could cover local demand, it could not extend to consumers outside Guadeloupe. This is reflected in a drop in agri-food exports that began in late 2019 and continued until the second quarter of 2020, only to start recovering after the easing of restrictions in May 2020 (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Guadeloupe agri-food exports, € million



Source: Ecorys based on CEROM data

Guadeloupe has four main export products; banana, sugar, rum, and melon.<sup>42</sup> Q1 2021 saw a drop in agri-food exports, driven by a reduction in exports of rum, which almost halved from levels in Q4 2020.

The production and distribution of melons were also particularly heavily affected, with exports of melons decreasing by half (Sénat).<sup>43</sup> Restrictions on air travel imposed during the lockdown were a contributing factor, given that melons are transported primarily by plane. Bananas and sugar are transported primarily via maritime routes; thus, they were not affected as much by aviation restrictions; the banana sector recorded a 16.5% increase in exports from 2019 to 2020.

<sup>38</sup> IEDOM (2020) Tendances conjoncturelles – 2<sup>e</sup> trimestre 2020 – la conjoncture économique en Guadeloupe. Available at: [https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/tendances\\_conjoncturelles\\_2t2020\\_v1\\_dl\\_voem\\_valide\\_2\\_.pdf](https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/tendances_conjoncturelles_2t2020_v1_dl_voem_valide_2_.pdf)

<sup>39</sup> IEDOM (2020) Tendances conjoncturelles – 2<sup>e</sup> trimestre 2020 – la conjoncture économique en Guadeloupe. Available at: [https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/tendances\\_conjoncturelles\\_2t2020\\_v1\\_dl\\_voem\\_valide\\_2\\_.pdf](https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/tendances_conjoncturelles_2t2020_v1_dl_voem_valide_2_.pdf)

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>41</sup> Information from interview with Guadeloupe’s Regional Observatory

<sup>42</sup> IEDOM (2021), L’économie de la Guadeloupe en 2020, April 2021. [online] Available at [https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/nm\\_ne\\_portrait\\_economie\\_de\\_la\\_guadeloupe\\_en\\_2020\\_vf.pdf](https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/nm_ne_portrait_economie_de_la_guadeloupe_en_2020_vf.pdf)

<sup>43</sup> Sénat (2020) Urgence économique outre-mer à la suite de la crise du COVID-19. Available at: <http://www.senat.fr/rap/r19-620/r19-6206.html>

<sup>44</sup> IEDOM (2021) L’économie de la Guadeloupe en 2020. Available at [https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/nm\\_ne\\_portrait\\_economie\\_de\\_la\\_guadeloupe\\_en\\_2020\\_vf.pdf](https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/nm_ne_portrait_economie_de_la_guadeloupe_en_2020_vf.pdf)

The main impacts of COVID-19 were a drop in income, production losses due to difficulties in marketing through conventional channels, but also difficulties in managing farming systems due to reduced access to agricultural production inputs (e.g. fertilisers, pesticides, etc) and labour.<sup>45</sup> In order to cope, farmers had to adapt to become more self-sufficient, reducing the size of cultivated areas, searching for new marketing channels, diversifying production (e.g. export crops such as bananas and sugarcane are replaced by crops for local consumption) and reorienting towards the needs of the local market. Mutual aid between farmers became a more common recourse.

The fishing sector suffered comparatively greater consequences than the agricultural sector. The reason for this is twofold. Firstly, fishing is largely an informal activity on the islands of the archipelago, with fish being sold to customers directly rather than through commercial shops. Secondly, the fishing industry relies on its sales to restaurants and hotels. Following the closure of hotels and restaurants during the first lockdown, local producers faced difficulties when placing their products on the market. Both sales routes were obstructed due to lockdown.

#### Other sectors

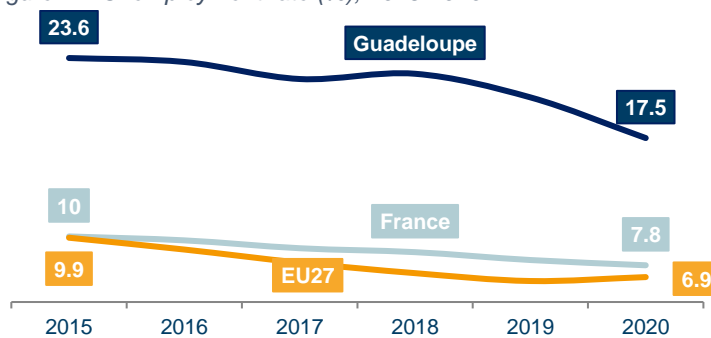
Companies in the digital sector (e.g. website developers and cybersecurity companies), account for just 2% of Guadeloupe's GDP.<sup>46</sup> Nevertheless, many sectors have seen digitalisation as an opportunity to recover from the pandemic, with plenty of opportunities related to the digitalisation of local companies. This is evidenced by the ICT Check, a measure implemented to support microenterprises and SMEs in the digital transition. The pandemic has also obliged many employees to switch to working from home, demonstrating how crucial a reliable digital network can be. Many enterprises have managed to transform constraints into an opportunity precisely thanks to digitalisation.<sup>47</sup> For instance, commerce assuaged the impact of the COVID-19 crisis through the development of new sales and networking platforms, while start-ups linked production closer to the consumer. Small commerce selling essential items, such as food commerce, did not face the negative consequences of the crisis.<sup>48</sup>

### 3. SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS

Even before the COVID-19 crisis, Guadeloupe faced several societal challenges, including poverty and unemployment. ACCIOM data show that even before the COVID-19 pandemic, four in 10 households could not easily pay rent, 32% of enterprises could not consistently pay salaries, and 62% of enterprises could not easily pay tax and social insurance fees.

Social inequality has increased as a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis. Unemployment levels were high before the pandemic (approx. 20-23%). This was above the French and EU rates (8.2% and 6.6% respectively in 2019). The unemployment rate had been declining since 2015, reaching 17.5% in 2020, but was still more than double the EU27 (6.9%) and French (7.8%) rates.

Figure 12: Unemployment rate (%), 2015-2020



Source: Ecorys, based on Eurostat data

The same trend is observed in long-term unemployment with rates declining since 2015, reaching 12.5% in 2020,

<sup>45</sup> Blazy, J.M, Causeret, F., Guyader, S. (2021) Immediate impacts of COVID-19 crisis on agricultural and food systems in the Caribbean. *Agricultural Systems*, vol. 190, 103-106. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agsy.2021.103106>

<sup>46</sup> Information from interview with the Regional Council of Guadeloupe

<sup>47</sup> ACCIOM (2020) Outre-mer: L'état d'urgence. Available at: <https://www.guyane.cci.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/OUTRE-MER-L%C3%89TAT-DURGENCE.pdf>

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*

---

which is however consistently higher than the national average (3%) and the EU27 average (2.5%).<sup>49</sup> In line with unemployment rates, youth unemployment had also decreased since 2015, standing at 42% in 2020. It remains higher than the French and EU27 averages of 20% and 17% respectively (2020).<sup>50</sup>

The social situation in Guadeloupe was further worsened by social unrest, which started at the beginning of March 2021, when the archipelago was paralysed by a social movement led by enterprises. Unable to keep up with government administrative requirements, fuelled by the lockdown and the curtailment of cargo flights, enterprises found themselves in a difficult situation. Many were pursued by the Organisations for the Collection of Social Security and Family Benefit Contributions (URSAFF) for failing to pay social and fiscal fees.<sup>51</sup>

The COVID-19 crisis exacerbated structural social problems linked to Guadeloupe's insularity.<sup>52</sup> Guadeloupe is facing an exodus of young people, which weakens regional human capital potential. The regional employment situation forces young people to look for opportunities elsewhere. They often leave to get training and acquire qualifications, but do not return to Guadeloupe. INSEE demographic projections reveal that in 2030, Guadeloupe and Martinique will be the oldest French departments in France in terms of population demography, in which 5 out of 10 young people are projected to be unemployed. Young people are more severely and disproportionately affected by economic hardship. According to Eurostat figures, the percentage of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) was 22.3% in 2020, double the French (11.4%) and EU27 (11.1%) average.

Guadeloupe has been struggling with high levels of poverty and inequality. In 2017, one person in three (34%) lived under the poverty threshold.<sup>53</sup> The poverty rate in Guadeloupe is double that in mainland France (17%)<sup>54</sup> and consistently higher than the EU27 (22.5%).<sup>55</sup> An increase in social inequality has been most evident through the situation faced by the most vulnerable individuals in the population, including those already lacking access to decent living conditions.<sup>56</sup>

Guadeloupe recorded a fall in employment following the imposition of restriction measures. Paid employment in Q2 2020 decreased by 1.7%, amounting to a loss of 2,000 jobs. This decrease was driven mainly by the private sector, which experienced a 2% decrease in employment, or 1,540 jobs lost. The public sector followed suit, albeit with a more moderate decrease of 1.1%, accounting for 460 jobs lost.<sup>57</sup> Excluding temporary employment contracts, the market services<sup>58</sup> sector suffered the highest losses with a 3.1% decrease in Q2 2020. This was driven by the accommodation and food sector (hotels/restaurants), in which 500 jobs were lost (a 10.1% decrease).<sup>59</sup> Temporary employment - a significant consideration in Guadeloupe due to the seasonality of its economic activity - fell as well. After a decrease of 39.6% (or 880 jobs lost) during the first trimester of 2020, temporary employment increased again by 21.1% during Q2 2020.<sup>60</sup>

---

<sup>49</sup> Eurostat (code: [lfst\_r\_lfu2ltu]), Long-term unemployment (12 months and more) by sex, age, educational attainment level and NUTS 2 regions (%), Percentage of population in the labour force.

<sup>50</sup> Based on Eurostat data

<sup>51</sup> Information from interview with CCI, Guadeloupe

<sup>52</sup> Information from interview with Regional Chamber for the Social and Solidarity Economy

<sup>53</sup> INSEE (2020) Niveaux de vie en Guadeloupe en 2017: la pauvreté touche un tiers de la population guadeloupéenne. Available at:

<https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4623253#:~:text=En%202017%2C%20134%20800%20Guadeloup%C3%A9ens,de%20moins%20de%20quatorze%20ans>

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>55</sup> Based on Eurostat data

<sup>56</sup> Information from interview with the Regional Council of Guadeloupe

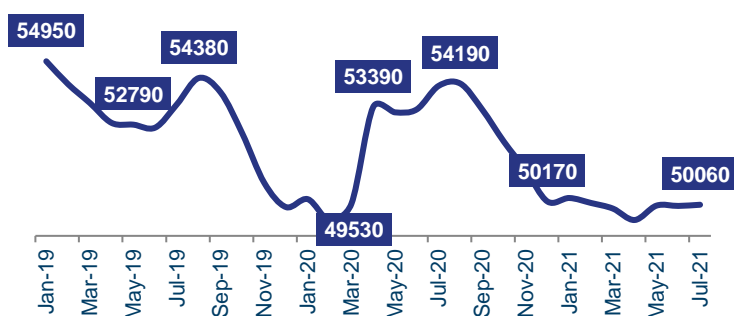
<sup>57</sup> INSEE (2020) Au deuxième trimestre 2020, la reprise économique en Guadeloupe reste confinée – Note de conjoncture régionale – 2<sup>e</sup> trimestre 2020. Available at: <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4800425#tableau-figure1>

<sup>58</sup> According to INSEE, market services are defined as services that are sold (totally or partially) at economically significant prices.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*

Figure 13: Jobseekers registered at the end of the month at Pôle emploi in Guadeloupe, Category: A



Source: Ecorys, based on Pole emploi data

Lower levels of employment were reflected in the growing number of registered jobseekers (Category A<sup>61</sup>) and requests for unemployment support schemes. Unemployment support has been in demand, as indicated by data on compensation claims made by workers and employees who lost their jobs due to the pandemic. The number of jobseekers jumped in March 2020 and, after a slight decline during the summer months, continued to increase until October 2020 (Figure 13). In May 2020, 50,870 employees were in partial unemployment

– approximately two-thirds of the private sector – which is likely linked to the closure of 8,330 establishments during the lockdown period.<sup>62</sup> The highest number of claims (Table 3) was registered during the first lockdown period (March-May 2020). From May 2020, compensation applications dropped in all sectors of the economy.

The immediate social impacts of unemployment have been partially mitigated thanks to the measures put in place by the state (compensation, unemployment benefits, facilitation for access to training, and so on). Guadeloupe has a partial unemployment compensation scheme in place, which is rolled out during periods of crisis (e.g. in the aftermath of hurricanes).<sup>63</sup>

Table 3: Partial unemployment compensation claims by sector (March 2020-April 2021)

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Agriculture and agri-food	350	435	380	175	95	65	75	65	60	55	20	30	40	30
Industry	425	510	435	145	75	45	35	25	20	20	15	15	20	10
Construction	1,000	1,140	835	300	120	70	65	50	50	45	15	20	20	15
Wholesale and retail trade	2,055	2,395	2,155	700	395	270	240	195	195	155	65	120	260	260
Transport	325	420	390	210	115	90	85	70	70	70	35	45	50	25
Accommodation and food	945	1,030	970	690	555	430	600	585	465	425	215	330	440	345
Services to enterprises	1,105	1,415	1,245	610	395	280	315	265	255	235	140	190	210	125
Other services	1,045	1,260	1,160	525	310	220	220	190	175	165	80	110	145	90
Non-market services	565	690	640	275	135	70	50	35	35	35	20	20	20	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,815</b>	<b>9,295</b>	<b>8,210</b>	<b>3,630</b>	<b>2,195</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>1,685</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>915</b>

Source: Ecorys, based on Dares data

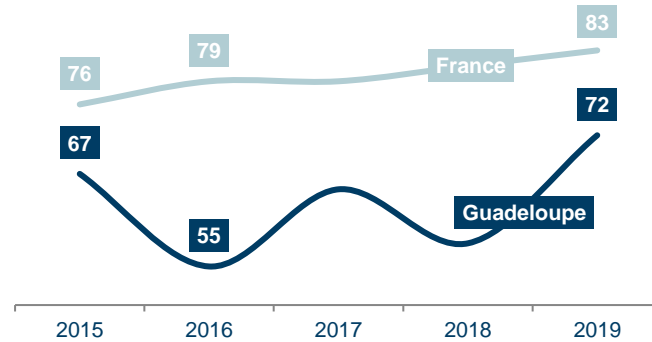
<sup>61</sup> According to Pole Emploi, Category A are all unemployed people who are actively looking for a job, regardless the type of contract (e.g. temporary or seasonal jobs, full-time, part-time jobs, etc)

<sup>62</sup> Information from interview with the Regional Council of Guadeloupe

<sup>63</sup> Direction des entreprises, de la concurrence, de la consommation, du travail et de l'emploi (DIRECCTE) (2020) L'activité partielle en Guadeloupe – Mars à Juin 2020 : Mobilisation exceptionnelle du dispositif pour faire face au COVID-19. Available at: [https://guadeloupe.diecccte.gouv.fr/sites/guadeloupe.diecccte.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/l\\_activite\\_partielle\\_en\\_guadeloupe\\_de\\_mars\\_a\\_juin\\_2020.pdf](https://guadeloupe.diecccte.gouv.fr/sites/guadeloupe.diecccte.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/l_activite_partielle_en_guadeloupe_de_mars_a_juin_2020.pdf)

Guadeloupe lags behind mainland France with regard to household internet connectivity. Guadeloupe has a lower percentage of households with broadband access than does mainland France. On average, 23% of Guadeloupean residents do not have access to the internet, which is largely a consequence of high internet costs (Figure 14).<sup>64</sup> With the latest data available only until 2019, it is difficult to comment on the current situation. Nevertheless, there was an improvement in the number of households with broadband access from 2017 to 2019. Access to digital infrastructure remains limited, which has a disproportionate impact on young people, who may not have the equipment required for educational purposes.<sup>65</sup>

Figure 14: Percentage of households with broadband access, Guadeloupe, 2015-2019



Source: Ecorys, based on Eurostat data

## 4. POLICY RESPONSES TO TACKLE THE EFFECTS OF THE CRISIS

### OVERVIEW

The EU has mobilised a number of tools and funding sources to help Guadeloupe to overcome the social and economic challenges brought on by the pandemic. The Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII) and Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus (CRII+) initiatives enabled the use of existing resources that had not been used, and their redirection to where they were most needed. The packages facilitated additional financial support for Guadeloupe's healthcare, enterprises and people in need through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF).<sup>66</sup> A few such examples include:

- *Prêt Rebond* were set in place, to support the needs in treasury – as of February 2021, €5 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) have been entirely consumed (as the Regional Council of Guadeloupe has pointed out).
- The European Commission has also facilitated the European Social Fund's (ESF) advance finance rate to:
  - Support the purchase of relevant equipment, including masks, gloves, and raw material for alcoholic gel production, to increase bed capacity and to support testing laboratories, costing €4.5 million.
  - Purchase computers and IT equipment to support work-from-home activities for companies, costing €2 million.
  - Provide virtual training for employees, costing €1 million.<sup>67</sup>

The EU Recovery and Resilience Facility is a key tool supporting the recovery. In this context, France developed the *Plan National de Relance et de Résilience*, the national Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021-2026 (RRP), which lays out nine investment priorities intended to guide recovery over the medium term.<sup>68</sup> In June 2021 the European Commission adopted a positive assessment of the French plan, indicating that the Recovery and Resilience Facility will provide €39.4 billion in grants to France over the next five years.

<sup>64</sup> INSEE (2019) L'usage d'internet varie fortement selon l'âge et le niveau d'études. Available at: <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4175675>

<sup>65</sup> Information from interview with Regional Chamber for the Social and Solidarity Economy

<sup>66</sup> Coronavirus Dashboard: EU Cohesion Policy Response to the Crisis. Available at: <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/stories/s/CORONAVIRUS-DASHBOARD-COHESION-POLICY-RESPONSE/4e2z-pw8r/>

<sup>67</sup> Information from interview with the Regional Council of Guadeloupe

<sup>68</sup> Gouvernement français (2021) Plan National de Relance et de Résilience. Available at: [https://www.economie.gouv.fr/files/files/directions\\_services/plan-de-relance/PNRR%20Francais.pdf](https://www.economie.gouv.fr/files/files/directions_services/plan-de-relance/PNRR%20Francais.pdf)

---

The French government launched the *France Relance* plan, funded with €100 billion, of which €1.5 billion was allocated to the French outermost regions. €205 million will be mobilised for the region of Guadeloupe, of which €135 million is from the state. The remainder is provided by the regional government. This recovery plan is deployed around three main components: (i) ecological transition, (ii) sovereignty and economic competitiveness, and (iii) social and territorial cohesion.<sup>69</sup>

Guadeloupe itself will invest €500 million over the next two years to implement financial tools to better support companies in managing their cashflow, and to better prepare for recovery. The regional plan aims to mobilise its resources in support of various economic players through a range of measures, outlined later in this fiche, and it is based on three principles: simplicity, efficiency, and unity.<sup>70</sup>

#### HEALTH SECTOR MEASURES AND LABOUR/SOCIAL SECTOR MEASURES

The REACT-EU package mobilised €13 million under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the healthcare sector in Guadeloupe.<sup>71</sup> In addition to REACT-EU, the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII) and Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus (CRII+) packages also facilitated investments for the health infrastructure as well as accessibility to healthcare services.<sup>72</sup> Both the regional and the national governments were also mobilised against COVID-19 in the health and social sectors. The measures taken include:

- **Plan Blanc:** After COVID-19 started rapidly spreading, one of the first measures implemented by the French government was the *Plan Blanc*.<sup>73</sup> The *Plan Blanc* was initially devised in 2004 to cope with a sudden inflow of patients in hospitals due to a pandemic or a terrorist attack. Consequently, the government aimed to increase hospital capacity to handle the increase by delaying non-essential treatments, postponing or changing non-urgent operations, transferring or discharging non-urgent patients, and/or rearranging available space to include more beds.<sup>74</sup>
- **Additional medical staff** as well as **oxygen supplies** were sent to Guadeloupe from France in August 2021, to aid the region with the surge of COVID-19 infections.
- **Distribution of facemasks:** On 24 April 2020, 50,000 face masks were distributed to organisations representing taxi drivers, ambulance attendants, funeral home workers, nurses, and doctors. The same week, town halls in all 32 municipalities received another 200,000 masks. Over time, the government distributed over 450,000 masks in the region, with priority afforded to professionals who were highly exposed to the virus.<sup>75</sup>
- **Social welfare provision:** The French government sought to safeguard the social welfare of those impacted by the pandemic and the associated recession. As of March 2020, furloughed employees were provided with 84% of their net pay, with a ceiling set at 4.5 times the current minimum wage.<sup>76</sup>
- **Activité Partielle:** This nationwide measure provided minimum wage (or lower) employees with 70% of their gross remuneration while employers were reimbursed by the government, covering 100% of the

---

<sup>69</sup> Gouvernement français (2020) Plan de relance. Available at: <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/plan-de-relance>

<sup>70</sup> Region Guadeloupe (2020) COVID 19: La Région Guadeloupe mobilise des moyens exceptionnels pour soutenir l'ensemble des acteurs économiques de l'archipel. Available at: <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/actualites-et-agendas/toute-lactualite-du-conseil/detail/actualites/covid-19-la-region-guadeloupe-mobilise-des-moyens-exceptionnels-pour-soutenir-lensemble-des-acteu/#>

<sup>71</sup> Latest figures provided by the European Commission.

<sup>72</sup> Coronavirus Dashboard: EU Cohesion Policy Response to the Crisis. [online] Available at: <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/stories/s/CORONAVIRUS-DASHBOARD-COHESION-POLICY-RESPONSE/4e2z-pw8r/>

<sup>73</sup> Strategic Comments (2020) France's response to COVID-19, 26:5, iv-vi, DOI: 10.1080/13567888.2020.1805910

<sup>74</sup> Hospitals in France initiate 'plan blanc' as Covid returns. Available at: <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/Hospitals-in-France-initiate-plan-blanc-as-COVID-19-cases-rise-and-return-in-possible-second-wave>

<sup>75</sup> Region Guadeloupe (2020) COVID-19: premières distributions de masques au profit des professionnels exposés. Available at: <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/actualites-et-agendas/toute-lactualite-du-conseil/detail/actualites/covid-19-premieres-distributions-de-masques-au-profit-des-professionnels-exposes/#>

<sup>76</sup> Dispositif Exceptionnel D'activité Partielle. Available at: <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/covid19-doc-precisions-activite-partielle.pdf>

---

compensation paid to employees to minimise redundancies during the pandemic. As of July 2021, €116.5 million had been mobilised to support partial activity in nearly 12,626 companies in Guadeloupe.

- **Fond National de l'Emploi (FNE formation):** Although this mechanism existed before the outbreak of the pandemic, amendments were made to make it more applicable to the COVID-19 crisis. Companies were 100% funded by the state to support training and retraining of employees while in partial or long-term partial activity. In 2021, €720,000 was mobilised for the FNE Formation.
- **Social security payment deferrals:** The French government also allowed the postponement of social contribution payments, which benefitted the most affected sectors and companies, including self-employed workers.<sup>77</sup> The most COVID-19 affected companies also benefitted from a deferral of tax payments and advanced tax reimbursements. The payment of those contributions resumed in January 2021.
- **France Relance:** As part of the France Relance plan, in 2020, 22 municipalities benefitted from €2,289 million in local investment allocations.
- **1 jeune, 1 solution:** This plan has provided young Guadeloupeans with employment opportunities during the pandemic.<sup>78</sup> As of July 2021, a total of 1,426 contracts and 151 apprenticeships were funded by the plan. Moreover, 500 additional civic service “recovery plan” positions for young people aged 18 to 25 were created in 2021, bringing the total to 1,250 civic service positions.

#### MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF THE ECONOMY

The EU also mobilised funds to support the regional economy. In Guadeloupe, the REACT-EU package mobilised €113 million under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in support of the regional economy.<sup>79</sup> In addition, the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII) and Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus (CRII+) packages also facilitated funds for Research and Innovation (R&I) processes and energy efficiency, as well as the development and promotion of tourism assets in SMEs.<sup>80</sup> Under the framework of the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII) and Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII+), the regional authorities also used some of the funding to purchase computers and IT equipment to support remote working.<sup>81</sup>

#### General support measures

The *France Relance* programme strives to strengthen the region's competitiveness, with a reduction in production taxes of €25.4 million for 3,395 companies in Guadeloupe.<sup>82</sup> Meanwhile, a long list of nationwide measures were rolled out to support all French territories, including the outermost regions, in the form of grants, loans, and subsidies. The targeted beneficiaries ranged from low-income households and young citizens to hospitals to SMEs and start-ups. Some examples include:

- **Fonds National de Solidarité (FNS):** In June 2020 the French government set up the *Fonds National de Solidarité* to support COVID-19-hit SMEs and micro-enterprises. The Guadeloupe region itself contributed €2.1 million to the fund.<sup>83</sup> The first phase was granted in the form of direct monthly payments of a maximum of €1,500 per firm of 10 or fewer employees whose turnover is less than €1 million and which

---

<sup>77</sup> Délais de paiement d'échéances sociales et/ou fiscales (Urssaf, impôts directs). Available at:

<https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/delais-de-paiement-decheances-sociales-et-ou-fiscales-urssaf#>

<sup>78</sup> Region Guadeloupe (2021) Déploiement du plan de relance en Guadeloupe. Available at:

<https://www.guadeloupe.gouv.fr/Politiques-publiques/Entreprises-economie-emploi-finances-publiques/FranceRelance-en-Guadeloupe/Deploiement-du-plan-de-relance-en-Guadeloupe>

<sup>79</sup> Latest figures provided by the European Commission.

<sup>80</sup> Coronavirus Dashboard: EU Cohesion Policy Response to the Crisis. Available at:

<https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/stories/s/CORONAVIRUS-DASHBOARD-COHESION-POLICY-RESPONSE/4e2z-pw8r/>

<sup>81</sup> Interview with Séverine Julan, Director of the European Partnership Unit - Regional Council of Guadeloupe

<sup>82</sup> Region Guadeloupe (2021) Déploiement du plan de relance en Guadeloupe. Available at:

<https://www.guadeloupe.gouv.fr/Politiques-publiques/Entreprises-economie-emploi-finances-publiques/FranceRelance-en-Guadeloupe/Deploiement-du-plan-de-relance-en-Guadeloupe>

<sup>83</sup> Region Guadeloupe (2020) COVID 19: La Région Guadeloupe Mobilise des Moyens Exceptionnels pour Soutenir L'ensemble des Acteurs Économiques de L'archipel. Available at: <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/actualites-et-agendas/toute-lactualite-du-conseil/detail/actualites/covid-19-la-region-guadeloupe-mobilise-des-moyens-exceptionnels-pour-soutenir-lensemble-des-acteu/#>



---

have experienced a decline in turnover of at least 30%. As of July 2021, €183 million from the FNS has been allocated to more than 91,000 assisted enterprises under phase one. Under the second phase of the FSN, € 4.42 million were paid to 1,259 companies.

- **Prêt garanti par l'État (PGE):** To mitigate the economic shock caused by COVID-19, the French government set up this exceptional guarantee mechanism to support bank financing of companies, amounting to €300 billion and it is open to all companies until 31 December 2021.<sup>84</sup> These are intended for all firms regardless of their location, size and legal form (SMEs, midcaps, farmers, artisans, merchants, liberal professions, innovative companies, micro-enterprises, associations and foundations with economic activity). Certain credit institutions and financial companies are excluded. To date, more than €690 million in loans guaranteed by the state has been distributed to 4,562 companies.
- **Subvention Innovation Outre-mer:** This measure provided direct grants, ranging from €20,000-€100,000, for regional start-ups and entrepreneurs in the French ORs.<sup>85</sup> These grants provide financing for innovative processes to ensure their entry into the market.
- **Subvention Investissement Outre-mer:** This grant scheme has supplied SMEs in the French outermost regions with direct grants, ranging from €20,000 to €100,000, to be used as investment expenditures for the reduction of energy consumption and environmental impacts.<sup>86</sup>

Further regional measures introduced in response to the COVID-19 crisis are:

- **Prêt Rebond:** Bpifrance, a French public investment bank, has introduced the Guadeloupe Prêt Rebond scheme.<sup>87</sup> The bank provides SMEs with zero-rate loans to support their cashflow, regardless of their industry sector. The region, in coordination with BPI, provides a total of €10 million for the scheme. The amount of the loan for firms ranges from €10,000 to €300,000 for a period of 7 years and a grace period of 2 years. In particular, applications for loans of under €50,000 are processed in a digital platform, which allows for a decision within 48 hours. Subsequently, the loan can be disbursed within 5-7 days. As of July 2021, €12.96 million has been disbursed in loans granted under the "Rebound Loan" scheme.
- **Fonds d'Urgence Régional TPE:** The government of Guadeloupe also set up the microenterprise regional emergency fund, worth €5 million, for all registered businesses, excluding agricultural businesses, civil real estate companies, and business groups.<sup>88</sup> The aim of the fund is to help those businesses which have been significantly affected by the slowdown of the economy due to the pandemic. Payments from this scheme have the form of a zero-rate refundable loan, and they range from €3,000-€15,000 per company. Firms can repay the loan over a period of 5 years, with a grace period of 2 years. This aid targets companies with an annual turnover of a maximum of €180,000.
- **Fond Régional de Résilience:** This mechanism aims to support the revival of the archipelago's economy by helping SMEs in certain sectors with cash flow difficulties following the health crisis.<sup>89</sup> The aid comes in the form of a zero-interest repayable loan ranging from €10,000 to €50,000 depending on the company's turnover in the last closed financial year. The loan can be repaid over a period of 5 years, with a grace period of 24 months.

#### Sector-specific support measures

- **Digitalisation:** The *Cheque TIC* came into existence in an effort to financially support Guadeloupe's micro-entrepreneurs and SMEs digital transition during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>90</sup> These vouchers allow for the development of IT services and security and the acquisition of specific hardware and software.

---

<sup>84</sup> Le prêt garanti par l'État. Available at: <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/pret-garanti-par-letat>

<sup>85</sup> Subvention Innovation Outre-mer. Available at: <https://www.bpifrance.fr/Toutes-nos-solutions/Aides-concours-et-labels/Aides-a-l-innovation-projets-individuels/Subvention-Innovation-Outre-mer>

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>87</sup> Prêt Rebond Pour Les TPE-PME. Available at: <https://pret-rebond.regionguadeloupe.fr/>

<sup>88</sup> Région Guadeloupe (2020) COVID-19: Fonds D'urgence Régional TPE. Available at: <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/les-aides-les-services/guide-des-aides/detail/actualites/covid-19-fonds-durgence-regional-tpe/categorie/entreprise/#>

<sup>89</sup> FOND RÉGIONAL DE RÉSILIENCE. Available at: <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/les-aides-les-services/guide-des-aides/detail/actualites/fond-regional-de-resilience/categorie/entreprise/#>

<sup>90</sup> Chèque TIC. Available at: <https://les-aides.fr/fiche/apJgDXtGxftfBGdJSUzZ4vdp4WQi/region-guadeloupe/cheque-tic.html>

---

The *Cheque TIC* takes the form of grants amounting to a maximum of €10,000, and are co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The services benefitting from the scheme include the company's web presence (supporting up to 80% of the cost of the development or redesign of a company's website) and the digital transition (supporting up to 30%). Since July 2020, 94 applications have been approved for the *Chèque TIC* scheme, for a total amount of more than €538,000.<sup>91</sup>

- **Agriculture:** €2.49 million was released in Guadeloupe to support agricultural producers. This temporary measure to combat the negative effects of the pandemic on the agricultural sector was launched by Guadeloupe's regional government.<sup>92</sup> The scheme's aim is to support farmers and SMEs with liquidity problems resulting from COVID-19. Eligible enterprises must have fewer than 250 employees and less than €50 million in annual turnover. The financial support is paid out in one instalment, and it amounts to €7,000 for farmers and up to €50,000 for agricultural products, processing, and marketing businesses.

The regional government also partnered with professional organisations to help agricultural producers by purchasing part of their production. One example is the *Panier Peyi* initiative. The regional government distributed 6,000 baskets of fruit and vegetables across the 32 municipalities to people aged 80 years and over, and people in need, sourcing the produce from local agricultural businesses.<sup>93</sup>

In addition, Caraibes Melonniers (the organisation of producers in Guadeloupe and Martinique) established 'flash sales' of melons in several towns to support farmers who saw their turnover significantly decrease.<sup>94</sup> Caraibes Melonniers were also aided with €350,000 from the regional government to cover the additional costs of chartered flights.<sup>95</sup>

In June 2020, the *Opération Sécheresse 2020* agreement came into place. *Opération Aliment du bétail 2020* aims to aid cattle and small ruminant breeders who have been impacted by the pandemic and are currently suffering from drought.<sup>96</sup> The aid will support 1,904 breeders. The total cost of the operation amounts to €187,844.

- **Maritime and fisheries sector:** The region is releasing €337,815 to assist in the development and restructuring of professional fishing and aquaculture (acquisition of materials necessary for the pursuit of their activity, modernisation etc.).<sup>97</sup> The community will also mobilise the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in order to compensate for: financial losses incurred by fishermen and aquaculturists; and losses to blue economy businesses such as those engaged in shipbuilding, protection

---

<sup>91</sup> Region Guadeloupe (2020) La région soutien les petites entreprises dans leur transition numérique. Available at: <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/actualites-et-agendas/toute-lactualite-du-conseil/detail/actualites/la-region-soutien-les-petites-entreprises-dans-leur-transition-numerique/#>

<sup>92</sup> Region Guadeloupe (2020) COVID-19: Fonds D'urgence Régional TPE. Available at: <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/les-aides-les-services/guide-des-aides/detail/actualites/covid-19-fonds-durgence-regional-tpe/categorie/entreprise/#>. Aide aux Agriculteurs et Entreprises Impactés par la Crise COVID-19. Available at: <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/les-aides-les-services/guide-des-aides/detail/actualites/aide-aux-agriculteurs-et-entreprises-impactes-par-la-crise-covid-19/categorie/entreprise/#>

<sup>93</sup> Region Guadeloupe (2020) COVID-19: la région guadeloupe agit à vos côtés. Available at: [https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/fileadmin/Site\\_Region\\_Guadeloupe/Mediatheque/Brochures\\_et\\_publications/COVID19\\_LaRegionavoscotes.pdf](https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/fileadmin/Site_Region_Guadeloupe/Mediatheque/Brochures_et_publications/COVID19_LaRegionavoscotes.pdf)

<sup>94</sup> Ventas flashes de melons, sur la voie publique. Available at: <https://la1ere.francetvinfo.fr/guadeloupe/ventes-flashes-de-melons-sur-la-voie-publique-956569.html>

<sup>95</sup> Region Guadeloupe (2020) sauver le melon de guadeloupe la région s'engage. Available at: <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/actualites-et-agendas/toute-lactualite-du-conseil/detail/actualites/sauver-le-melon-de-guadeloupe-la-region-sengage/#>

<sup>96</sup> Region Guadeloupe (2020) sécheresse-covid-19: signature avec l'iguavie de la convention opération sécheresse 2020. Available at: <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/actualites-et-agendas/toute-lactualite-du-conseil/detail/actualites/secheresse-covid-19-signature-avec-iguavie-de-la-convention-operation-secheresse-2020>

<sup>97</sup> Region Guadeloupe (2020) COVID-19: la région guadeloupe agit à vos côtés. Available at: [https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/fileadmin/Site\\_Region\\_Guadeloupe/Mediatheque/Brochures\\_et\\_publications/COVID19\\_LaRegionavoscotes.pdf](https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/fileadmin/Site_Region_Guadeloupe/Mediatheque/Brochures_et_publications/COVID19_LaRegionavoscotes.pdf)

---

of the marine environment, and marine ecotourism, which are ineligible for support from the Fonds National de Solidarité (FNS).<sup>98</sup>

- **Transportation sector:** The regional government will give fuel tax refunds to taxi drivers to compensate their turnover losses.<sup>99</sup> The refunds are calculated on a flat rate volume of 5,000 litres of fuel per vehicle and per year, and they amount to €361,725 in total.

Several national sector-specific measures have also benefitted outermost regions, including:

- **Publishing industry:** The French government also supports firms in the publishing industry (bookstores, publishing houses etc.).<sup>100</sup> More than €230 million was mobilised by the state to financially support the publishing industry in 2020. €25 million will be allocated to support independent bookstores. A second fund worth €5 million will be set up to aid publishing houses, and a €12 million grant scheme will support the modernisation of bookstores to better organise their online selling platforms and improve their performance.
- **Landlords and tenancy companies:** Another nationwide measure proposed that a tax credit should be introduced in the 2021 finance bill to encourage landlords to cancel part of the rent owed by their tenant companies that are administratively closed or particularly affected by the health restrictions implemented.<sup>101</sup> The rent lost will be covered by the government in the form of a tax credit.

#### *Reflections on measures*<sup>102</sup>

Due to the stage of implementation and lack of available monitoring information, it is difficult to fully assess the effectiveness of the above-mentioned measures. However, based on information available and stakeholder interviews, the majority of the measures have been relevant, and stakeholders in Guadeloupe have generally rated the overall response to the crisis positively. The funding provided by the EU and the support measures rolled out by both the French and regional governments have played a vital role in minimising the impact of the pandemic on the region. The EU's contributions were particularly important in enabling Guadeloupe to purchase medical equipment (e.g. masks and gloves) and IT equipment for remote working.

At the national level, the *Activité Partielle* scheme helped businesses in all sectors to maintain employee incomes and avoid mass redundancies. Meanwhile, the PGE loan, the *Fonds National de Solidarité* and regional support measures have assisted businesses. Stakeholders confirm that the available funds of measures have been largely used by beneficiaries, indicating that they have been effective in reaching the target group.

At the same time, there have also been some challenges around the implementation of the measures. Interviewees have expressed concern regarding the approval process for PGE financial support. Although SMEs face higher indebtedness than the larger enterprises, the amount of fiscal and/or social debt was an eligibility criterion, making it challenging for some small companies to access support. Moreover, stakeholders felt that these support schemes should have been based on subsidies due to the current decreased profitability of entities.

---

<sup>98</sup> Region Guadeloupe (2020) COVID 19: la région guadeloupe mobilise des moyens exceptionnels pour soutenir l'ensemble des acteurs économiques de l'archipel. Available at: <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/actualites-et-agendas/toute-lactualite-du-conseil/detail/actualites/covid-19-la-region-guadeloupe-mobilise-des-moyens-exceptionnels-pour-soutenir-lensemble-des-acteu>

<sup>99</sup> Region Guadeloupe (2020) COVID-19: la région guadeloupe agit à vos côtés. Available at: [https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/fileadmin/Site\\_Region\\_Guadeloupe/Mediatheque/Brochures\\_et\\_publications/COVID19\\_LaRegio\\_navoscotes.pdf](https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/fileadmin/Site_Region_Guadeloupe/Mediatheque/Brochures_et_publications/COVID19_LaRegio_navoscotes.pdf)

<sup>100</sup> L'Etat renouvelle son soutien à la filière du livre. Available at: <https://www.culture.gouv.fr/Presse/Communiques-de-presse/L-Etat-renouvelle-son-soutien-a-la-filiere-du-livre>

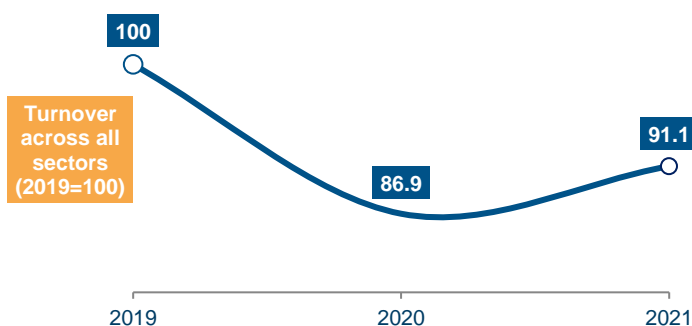
<sup>101</sup> Crédit d'impôt bailleur. Available at: <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/report-paiement-loyers>

<sup>102</sup> The reflections on the measures are mainly based on stakeholder feedback collected in the period January-July 2021. These should be treated as initial feedback and insights from the measures rather than an evaluation. The final report attempts to provide a more detailed review of the measures in terms of relevance and outputs achieved.

## 5. FUTURE PROSPECTS

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated some of the long-term challenges that Guadeloupe was already facing, many of which stem from the region's geographic insularity (such as its vulnerability to supply chain disruption and youth emigration). This has impacted the economy of the archipelago. IEDOM data suggest that cross-sectoral turnover is estimated to increase by 4.8% in 2021 but will remain far below pre-crisis levels (Figure 15). This increase in turnover is expected to be driven by sectors that in 2020 were highly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. In particular, tourism and construction are expected to register a 14.5% and 13.1% respective increase in cross-sectoral turnover in 2021.<sup>103</sup> However, uncertainties related to global economic and pandemic-related developments (e.g. vaccine rollout, emergence of new, more contagious variants) remain, and affect the growth of Guadeloupe's economy.

Figure 15: Probable cross-sectoral turnover change, 2019-2021



The regional chamber for the social and solidarity economy of Guadeloupe (CRESS) developed a roadmap for the social and solidarity economy, which outlined six challenges/strategic axes: training, support, deploying new financial mechanisms in the territory (e.g. France Active), training elected officials, and ecological transition (Guadeloupe intends to achieve zero waste by 2035).<sup>104</sup>

After a decline of almost 50% in air traffic in 2020 compared to 2019, the air transportation industry projects a similar trend for 2021.<sup>105</sup> Energy transition measures may lead to additional investment costs and reduce competition. The Pôle Caraïbes Airport anticipates that in 2022, air traffic will return to the equivalent of 85% of 2019 levels. This is seen as an optimistic scenario that will not be enough to return the company to pre-pandemic turnover levels.<sup>106</sup>

As mentioned above, despite the steep reduction suffered during March-May 2020, tourism is expected to drive the economic recovery of Guadeloupe as data show that the performance of the sector rapidly improved with the easing of restrictions. However, considering the spread of the fourth wave of cases in summer 2021 and the need to introduce further restrictions affecting bars and restaurants, the tourism situation remains fragile and uncertain.

Although the construction sector experienced an economic decline during the lockdown period (March-May 2020), the beginning of 2021 saw an increase in activity which is expected to continue for the rest of the year, with an expected 13.1% increase in turnover by the end of 2021. However, the fact that the construction sector in Guadeloupe is driven by large projects and regular investment in infrastructure (airports, ports) - which can be affected by new restrictions – causes some uncertainty regarding sectoral recovery.

In Guadeloupe, commercial sector economic activity is expected to rebound by 4.8% in 2021, according to IEDOM forecasts.<sup>107</sup> When it comes to investment, 62% of Guadeloupian companies surveyed by IEDOM plan to maintain investment levels at those of 2020, while 27% of companies plan to increase it, and 11% plan to reduce it.<sup>108</sup>

<sup>103</sup> IEDOM (2021), L'économie de la Guadeloupe en 2020. Available at [https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/nm\\_ne\\_portrait\\_economie\\_de\\_la\\_guadeloupe\\_en\\_2020\\_vf.pdf](https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/nm_ne_portrait_economie_de_la_guadeloupe_en_2020_vf.pdf)

<sup>104</sup> Information from interview n°04 with CRESS

<sup>105</sup> Information from interview n°06 with Pôle Caraïbes Airport

<sup>106</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>107</sup> IEDOM (2020) Conjoncture Outre-Mer 2020 et Perspectives 2021: Apres le Choc de la Crise COVID. Available at: [https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/ce\\_conjoncture\\_outre-mer\\_2020\\_vf-csc.pdf](https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/ce_conjoncture_outre-mer_2020_vf-csc.pdf)

<sup>108</sup> *Ibid.*

---

## 6. SUGGESTIONS FOR RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE MEASURES

### RECOMMENDATION 1: SUPPORTING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AMONG YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

**Type of measure:** Youth employment, business support and skills

**Duration:** Medium-term

**Challenge:** Guadeloupe has historically struggled to retain young people, and encourage skills development. It suffers from significant 'brain drain', i.e. the emigration of young and more skilled workers. This has been further exacerbated by the impact of the pandemic. Youth unemployment in Guadeloupe reached 41.5% in 2020; an all-time high. The region struggles to offer employment to its younger population, and INSEE demographic projections reveal that by 2030, Guadeloupe will be one of the oldest French departments in France. However, the pandemic also creates some opportunities, as lockdowns and post-lockdown periods saw the return of some young skilled workers.

Moving forward, it will be critical for the region to economically engage its young population. The region is making efforts to retain its youth by providing financial aid and training opportunities such as the annual *Stage régional, Jeunes en entreprise (SRJE)* programme, which provides 90-hour paid internships to high school students and individuals aged 18-25 years in partnership with professional organisations and the University of the West Indies.<sup>109</sup> However, these efforts do not sufficiently address the challenge. Stakeholders stress that while Guadeloupe's private sector is very entrepreneurial, with high start-up rates, the long-term sustainability of newly created businesses is an issue, as they struggle with scaling up and maintaining profitability in the medium- to long-term.

**Objective:** To encourage youth entrepreneurship and restart employment in Guadeloupe by investing in training.

**Actions:** A twofold approach might be considered to address the current challenges. First, a needs assessment could be conducted to identify the main skills shortcomings, and where an increase in the level of skills among the young population is mostly needed. Regional authorities could consider providing training courses through the SRJE (as outlined above) to young entrepreneurs based on this assessment, focussing on growth strategies, resilient business plans, information on available funding opportunities, and digital tools to expedite administrative practices, and to encourage and support business creation. It could also be beneficial to encourage the sharing of best business practices between different generations of entrepreneurs.

In parallel, entrepreneurship may be encouraged by providing grants or financial incentives to young entrepreneurs in the region seeking to establish a business in one of the recognised sectors with untapped potential; digitalisation, marine resources, clean energy and the blue economy.<sup>110</sup> In addition to financial incentives and grant support, given that the population has varied skills levels, these support packages might be combined with hands-on business advisory services to ensure the sustainability of these start-ups (for example, possibly through the Chamber of Commerce and Industry).

Guadeloupe could explore national and EU sources of support. EU sources could include the European Social Fund (ESF), the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), the Single Market Programme (SMP) – including the scheme Erasmus for Young entrepreneurs – and the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) funds could also be further

---

<sup>109</sup> STAGE RÉGIONAL, JEUNES EN ENTREPRISE. Available at: <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/les-aides-les-services/guide-des-aides/detail/actualites/stage-regional-jeunes-en-entreprise/categorie/economie-emploi-entreprises/#>

<sup>110</sup> According to Guadeloupe's RIS3 Strategy (2014), strategic priorities were set for the sectors of renewable energy, ICT, the creative industries, biodiversity and agriculture.

---

explored. At the regional level, business funds may be used where available, such as the ARDDA (Regional Aid For The Start-Up And Development Of Activities) and ARICE (Regional Aid For Investment And Job Creation), both of which provide financial aid to individuals who wish to start a business or undertake investment in specific sectors.

## RECOMMENDATION 2: PROVIDING AFFORDABLE DIGITAL SOLUTIONS FOR ALL

**Type of measure:** Investment and access to digital tools

**Duration:** Short to medium-term

**Challenge:** To support businesses during the lockdown, the regional government introduced a *Cheque TIC* for digitalising operations by developing IT services and purchasing IT equipment. However, the pandemic has had an impact at various levels. This is due to the fact that remote working became the norm for ‘white collar’ workers. In addition, school closures caused a disruption in education as students had to study remotely. Many family households experienced disruption in access to education, as students lacked the necessary equipment or broadband access needed to attend virtual classes. Although there has been an improvement since 2017, 23% of Guadeloupe’s population still does not have access to the internet, due mainly to its high cost.

**Objective:** Increase access to digital tools among households across the region by providing financial support.

**Actions:** Accelerating the digitalisation of the region has been identified by local stakeholders as a priority, which would strengthen resilience to future shocks. Support has also been mobilised through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) Operational Programmes. In the short term, local authorities could support low-income families with children in school in a similar manner to the *Cheque TIC* (as outlined above). Private households could be provided with grants to enable them to purchase digital equipment to allow for the continuation of children’s education, on a remote basis.

In the longer term, a public, territorial wi-fi network would benefit the entire population. Guadeloupe has already adopted a *Schéma Directeur Territorial d’Aménagement Numérique* in 2013, which aims to achieve digital coverage of the entire territory by 2022. This plan, through the provision of a free of charge territorial wi-fi connection, would bring low-income private households and disadvantaged groups, such as students, online. Depending on its reach, this could also lower the initial threshold costs for businesses to move services online or for individuals to launch their own businesses.

The French government has allocated €7 billion for digital investments for the next two years as part of a stimulus package to help the country recover economically. Guadeloupe could explore the possibility of accessing this fund to support its digital transformation. Guadeloupe could also explore possibilities under EU funds.

## RECOMMENDATION 3: INCREASING THE NUMBER OF MEDICAL STAFF FOR THE REGION

**Type of measure:** Healthcare capacity and employment

**Duration:** Medium to long-term

**Challenge:** The current healthcare system is under pressure due to the lack of equipment, staff and facilities. The construction of the new University Hospital of Guadeloupe (CHU), which commenced in 2016 and is expected to be completed in 2023, is expected to reduce the burden on current healthcare facilities. It will have a capacity of

---

more than 600 beds and 14 operating rooms.<sup>111</sup> While this is an important step towards improving the health infrastructure, the challenge has been to ensure effective capacity as the authorities have not been able to identify enough healthcare workers to fill the vacancies for this new hospital.<sup>112</sup>

**Objective:** Improve healthcare capacity by increasing the number of medical staff in the region.

**Actions:** Guadeloupe is focussing its effort towards increasing the number of medical staff, including more doctors, that serve the region. The *Médecine Vallée* project (part of the new University Hospital project) concerns the construction of a new campus within the CHU. It will house the faculty of medicine, a training centre for health carers, and a campus comprising public and private laboratories specialising in health issues. The main goal is to allow medical school students to continue their studies in the territory until the end of their course and to allow them to work directly within the hospital. This €50 million project also aims to attract more researchers to the region and reinforce sustainable tourism attractiveness. Guadeloupe also plans to prioritise investment for actions to develop and promote health, social and medical facilities in the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) Operational Programmes 2021-2027, with new training courses and improvements to the current training offer.

Although the *Médecine Vallée* project provides solutions for the shortage of staff in the longer term, a shorter-term approach in parallel may be helpful. To complement France's investment and ensure effectiveness, the regional authorities could scale up recruitment efforts in the short-term through career booths in specific locations, and increase awareness and visibility. Some short-term measures could be explored to address capacity constraints and attract staff with 'soft' incentives. These could include liaising with banks to set up new 'welcome account' offers for arriving healthcare workers, promoting free air miles to new nurses/doctors, or offering three-month introductory income tax reductions for new healthcare workers, amongst others. In the medium-term more structural approaches could be explored through reward packages (i.e. higher wages and/or higher holiday allowances) coupled with the option to work in the new hospital once it is completed to employees choosing to work in Guadeloupe. A short-term increase in medical staff would also boost capacity to respond to the current vaccination rollout challenges. In addition, this may attract more healthcare workers from outside the region and encourage them to stay in the longer term. However, this would also warrant a review of the current work permit system to attract healthcare workers from non-EU countries.

Guadeloupe could explore national and EU sources of support. EU sources could include the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF). At the same time, Guadeloupe could also benefit from the €7 billion public funding plan that the French government has announced for the national healthcare system.

#### RECOMMENDATION 4: REFORMING THE FISHERY SECTOR

**Type of measure:** Legislation, training, and infrastructure

**Duration:** Medium to long-term

**Challenge:** The fishing sector has been identified by local stakeholders as a sector with significant potential that can benefit from further development. The sector has significant economic potential; however it also faces both regulatory and financial constraints. Guadeloupe's fishing activity suffers from a lack of modern equipment, resources and training. There are also concerns due to an ageing fleet, decreasing turnover due to the rising average age of fishermen, and challenges caused by the prominence of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUUF).

---

<sup>111</sup> <https://chu-guadeloupe.info/en/home-site-internet-dedie-a-la-construction-du-nouveau-chu-de-la-guadeloupe/>

<sup>112</sup> As indicated on local news.

---

**Objective:** Increase the sector's added value through diversification and increased professionalism.

**Actions:** In response to the challenge outlined above, there is potential for two forms of action:

1. **Non-legislative measures:** It is essential to develop knowledge-sharing activities between fishermen and increase their access to capital, to diversify the sector and to upgrade the existing fleet: First, raising awareness among fishermen regarding best practices to reduce overfishing on the coast is of great importance. In parallel, the region could consider offering specialised training locally by relevant agencies such as the 'Cluster Maritime Guadeloupe', which also provides maritime training. There is a need to increase levels of knowledge on fish resources, particularly that of younger professionals, to promote sustainable fishing practices. In addition, technical support could be provided to support both the agency and professionals to access public funding.
2. **Legislative changes:** While existing international fisheries agreements focus on important areas, such as state cooperation to ensure conservation and promote the optimum utilisation of marine resources,<sup>113</sup> and tackling IUUF through the adoption and implementation of effective port measures (as a means of ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources.<sup>114</sup>), there are also practical issues related to the implementation of standards and sustainability. Based on the existing structural challenges, revisiting the regional legal framework could yield benefits. This revision may simplify administrative burdens for professionals and could include the harmonisation of standards and the introduction of clear codes of conduct, encouraging a more modern and professionalised industry practice framework.

Guadeloupe could explore funding opportunities for these actions through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and/or the Loan Scheme for the Support of Fisheries.

## RECOMMENDATION 5: PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM TO INCREASE ITS CAPACITY

**Type of measure:** Reform, Public Finance Management (PFM), and capacity building

**Duration:** Medium to long-term

**Challenge:** The public sector in Guadeloupe faced financial difficulties, with many municipalities experiencing high deficits prior to the outbreak of the pandemic. COVID-19 caused a further decline in public finances following a decline in tax revenues, and put them under extreme pressure. For instance, in December 2019, Pointe-à-Pitre already faced a budget deficit of € 81.7 million. In the same year, 21 of 32 municipalities were in the 'red zone' of the alert system used to monitor municipal finances. As a result, the ability of the public sector to support the private sector is even more limited following the COVID-19 crisis.

**Objective:** Reform the public sector through Public Finance Management (PFM) to increase its capacity.

**Actions:** Guadeloupe's public revenues (similarly to other French ORs) are particularly sensitive to economic fluctuations due to the region's size and its high social expenditure. Consequently, two levels of interventions are recommended to increase public sector capacity in Guadeloupe.

---

<sup>113</sup> The United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

<sup>114</sup> The Agreement On Port State Measures To Prevent, Deter And Eliminate Illegal, Unreported And Unregulated Fishing (Revised Edition, 2016) aims to prevent vessels engaged in IUU fishing from using ports and landing their catches.



The first is a Public Finance Management (PFM) reform, focusing on municipal finance in the medium term. This means assessment at three levels: planning, finance, and service provision. The planning dimension will entail assessing the capacity of the municipalities to forecast and oversee its own progress. This may require updates and capacity support in relation to management information systems, monitoring and evaluation, planning, and investment strategies. The finance dimension would require a deeper assessment of how the municipalities manage the resources needed and the types of resources needed for service provision. This may require support in relation to a streamlined financial management system, access to credit, and clear financial plan towards sustainability. Finally, the service provision would entail a closer examination and reorganisation on services delivered and required by residents and businesses through the effective prioritisation of investments, managing procurement, projects and sustaining of services through operations and maintenance.

In the medium to long term, an overarching PFM reform plan would be key. While France has set out a number of PFM reforms at the national level, it will be beneficial to streamline the public finance management and expenditure effectively in the region. This would imply an effective redirection of public finances to the regional authorities' priorities and the creation of a long-term funding package to finance these priorities. This may be achieved through the transition to long-term rather than annual planning. In addition, staff capacity development could be integrated into this reform process, which would mean applying change management at all levels, and developing mechanisms to implement these reforms effectively.

## REFERENCES

- Association des CCI d'outre-mer (ACCIOM) (2020) *Outre-mer : L'état d'urgence*. Available at: <https://www.guyane.cci.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/OUTRE-MER-L%C3%89TAT-DURGENCE.pdf> [Accessed 23 March 2021]
- CCI Guadeloupe, 2020. *Les perspectives de rebond post COVID-19 en Guadeloupe – Enquête entreprise* [online] Available at: [http://www.cciguadeloupe.com/fileadmin/pdf/Enquete\\_sur\\_les\\_Perspective\\_rebond\\_post\\_covid\\_des\\_entreprises\\_de\\_Guadeloupe\\_12-10-20.pdf](http://www.cciguadeloupe.com/fileadmin/pdf/Enquete_sur_les_Perspective_rebond_post_covid_des_entreprises_de_Guadeloupe_12-10-20.pdf)
- CCI Guadeloupe, 2020. *Enquête sur les comportements de consommation des ménages en Guadeloupe pendant la crise COVID-19* [online] Available at: [https://www.cciguadeloupe.com/fileadmin/pdf/Enquete\\_les\\_comportements\\_de\\_consommation\\_des\\_menages\\_COVID19-1-9-2020.pdf](https://www.cciguadeloupe.com/fileadmin/pdf/Enquete_les_comportements_de_consommation_des_menages_COVID19-1-9-2020.pdf)
- Comptes Economiques Rapides pour l'Outre-mer (CEROM), 2020. *Un recul de l'activité économique de 20 % pendant le confinement*. [online] Available at: [https://www.cerom-outremer.fr/IMG/pdf/ga\\_inc\\_29-cerom\\_covid.pdf](https://www.cerom-outremer.fr/IMG/pdf/ga_inc_29-cerom_covid.pdf) [Accessed 23 March 2021]
- Direction des entreprises, de la concurrence, de la consommation, du travail et de l'emploi (DIRECCTE), 2020. *L'activité partielle en Guadeloupe – Mars à Juin 2020 : Mobilisation exceptionnelle du dispositif pour faire face au COVID-19*. [online] Available at: [https://guadeloupe.dieccte.gouv.fr/sites/guadeloupe.dieccte.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/l\\_activite\\_partielle\\_en\\_guadeloupe\\_de\\_mars\\_a\\_juin\\_2020.pdf](https://guadeloupe.dieccte.gouv.fr/sites/guadeloupe.dieccte.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/l_activite_partielle_en_guadeloupe_de_mars_a_juin_2020.pdf)
- Gouvernement français (2020) *Plan de relance*. Available at: <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/plan-de-relance>
- IEDOM (2020) *Conjoncture Outre-Mer 2020 et Perspectives 2021: Apres le Choc de la Crise COVID*. Available at: [https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/ce\\_conjoncture\\_outre-mer\\_2020\\_vf-csc.pdf](https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/ce_conjoncture_outre-mer_2020_vf-csc.pdf)
- INSEE, 2019. *L'usage d'internet varie fortement selon l'âge et le niveau d'études*. [online] Available at: <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4175675>
- INSEE, 2019. *L'accès au numérique pour les ménages des DOM : les jeunes bien connectés*. [online] Available at: <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4174498#tableau-Figure2>

- INSEE, 2020. *Niveaux de vie en Guadeloupe en 2017 : la pauvreté touche un tiers de la population guadeloupéenne*. [online] Available at: <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4623253#:text=En%202017%2C%20134%20800%20Guadeloup%C3%A9ens.de%20moins%20de%20quatorze%20ans>.
- INSEE, 2020. *Au deuxième trimestre 2020, la reprise économique en Guadeloupe reste confinée – Note de conjoncture régionale – 2<sup>e</sup> trimestre 2020* [online] Available at: <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4800425#tableau-figure1>
- INSEE, 2021. *Guadeloupe : Activité dans le tourisme – Suivi des impacts de la crise sanitaire Covid19*. [online] Available at: [https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4625473?sommaire=4625628#graphique-figeflnatb\\_radio1](https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4625473?sommaire=4625628#graphique-figeflnatb_radio1)
- Institut d'Emission des Départements d'Outre-Mer (IEDOM), 2020. *L'économie de la Guadeloupe en 2019*. [online] Available at: <https://www.iedom.fr/guadeloupe/publications/publications-economiques-et-financieres/conjoncture-economique/panoramas-et-notes-de-synthese-annuelles/article/l-economie-de-la-guadeloupe-en-2019>
- Institut d'Emission des Départements d'Outre-Mer (IEDOM), 2020. *Impact de la crise du COVID-19 sur l'économie guadeloupéenne*. [online] Available at: [https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/ne\\_impact\\_de\\_la\\_crise\\_du\\_covid-19\\_sur\\_l\\_economie\\_guadeloupeenne\\_vf.pdf](https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/ne_impact_de_la_crise_du_covid-19_sur_l_economie_guadeloupeenne_vf.pdf)>
- Institut d'Emission des Départements d'Outre-Mer (IEDOM), 2020. *Tendances conjoncturelles – 2<sup>e</sup> trimestre 2020 – la conjoncture économique en Guadeloupe*. [online] Available at: [https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/tendances\\_conjoncturelles\\_2t2020\\_v1\\_dl\\_voem\\_valide\\_2\\_.pdf](https://www.iedom.fr/IMG/pdf/tendances_conjoncturelles_2t2020_v1_dl_voem_valide_2_.pdf)
- Institut d'Emission des Départements d'Outre-Mer (IEDOM), 2020. *L'Aéroport Pôle Caraïbes subit une perte de 49 % de son trafic en 2020*. [online] Available at: < <https://www.iedom.fr/guadeloupe/actualites/la-lettre-de-l-iedom/fevrier-2021/actualites-economiques-locales/article/l-aeroport-pole-caraibes-subit-une-perde-de-49-de-son-traffic-en-2020>>
- Préfet de la région Guadeloupe, 2021. *Les communiqués de presse de la préfecture*. [online] Available at: <https://www.guadeloupe.gouv.fr/Politiques-publiques/Risques-naturels-technologiques-et-sanitaires/Securite-sanitaire/Informations-coronavirus/Les-communiques-de-presse/Les-communiques-de-presse-de-la-prefecture>
- Regional Health Agency, 2021. *Coronavirus COVID-19: point de situation n°120 (hebdomadaire)*. [online] Available at: < <https://www.guadeloupe.ars.sante.fr/coronavirus-informations-et-recommandations-0>
- Region Guadeloupe (2020) *COVID-19: la région guadeloupe agit à vos côtés*. Available at: [https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/fileadmin/Site\\_Region\\_Guadeloupe/Mediatheque/Brochures\\_et\\_publications/COVID19\\_LaRegionavoscotes.pdf](https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/fileadmin/Site_Region_Guadeloupe/Mediatheque/Brochures_et_publications/COVID19_LaRegionavoscotes.pdf)
- Region Guadeloupe (2020) *sécheresse-COVID-19: signature avec l'iguavie de la convention opération sécheresse 2020*. Available at: <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/actualites-et-agendas/toute-lactualite-du-conseil/detail/actualites/secheresse-covid-19-signature-avec-liguavie-de-la-convention-operation-secheresse-2020>
- Region Guadeloupe (2020) *COVID 19: La Région Guadeloupe mobilise des moyens exceptionnels pour soutenir l'ensemble des acteurs économiques de l'archipel*. Available at: <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/actualites-et-agendas/toute-lactualite-du-conseil/detail/actualites/covid-19-la-region-guadeloupe-mobilise-des-moyens-exceptionnels-pour-soutenir-lensemble-des-acteu/#>
- Region Guadeloupe (2020) *sauver le melon de guadeloupe la région s'engage*. Available at: <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/actualites-et-agendas/toute-lactualite-du-conseil/detail/actualites/sauver-le-melon-de-guadeloupe-la-region-sengage/#>
- Region Guadeloupe (2020) *COVID-19: premières distributions de masques au profit des professionnels exposés*. Available at: <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/actualites-et-agendas/toute-lactualite-du-conseil/detail/actualites/covid-19-premieres-distributions-de-masques-au-profit-des-professionnels-exposes/#>

- Region Guadeloupe (2020) *COVID-19: Fonds D'urgence Régional TPE*. Available at: <https://www.regionguadeloupe.fr/les-aides-les-services/guide-des-aides/detail/actualites/covid-19-fonds-durgence-regional-tpe/categorie/entreprise/#>
- Region Guadeloupe (2021) *Déploiement du plan de relance en Guadeloupe*. Available at: <https://www.guadeloupe.gouv.fr/Politiques-publiques/Entreprises-economie-emploi-finances-publiques/FranceRelance-en-Guadeloupe/Deploiement-du-plan-de-relance-en-Guadeloupe>
- Sénat, 2020. *Urgence économique outre-mer à la suite de la crise du COVID-19*. Rapports d'information. [online] Available at: <http://www.senat.fr/rap/r19-620/r19-6206.html>
- Strategic Comments (2020) *France's response to COVID-19*, 26:5, iv-vi, DOI: 10.1080/13567888.2020.1805910



## 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://op.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.

