



The Employment Committee The Social Protection Committee

Monitoring Report on the Employment and Social Situation in the EU Following the Outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Spring 2021 Report

OVERVIEW OF KEY INDICATORS FOR THE EU27

GDP growth

	2019 Q4	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4
% change on previous quarter	0.1	-3.3	-11.2	11.7	-0.5
% change on same quarter of previous year	1.2	-2.7	-13.8	-4.0	-4.6

Employment growth

	2019 Q4	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4
% change on previous quarter	0,1	-0,1	-2,7	0,9	0,4
% change on same quarter of previous year	0,9	0,4	-2,8	-1,9	-1,6

Unemployment (rate (%) and total (mlns), seasonally adjusted)

	2020M02	2020M03	2020M04	2020M05	2020M06	2020M07	2020M08	2020M09	2020M10	2020M11	2020M12	2021M01	2021M02
Total unemployment (millions)	14,0	13,5	14,0	14,3	15,3	16,3	16,6	16,6	16,2	15,8	15,8	15,9	15,9
Unemployment rate (%)	6,5	6,4	6,7	6,9	7,3	7,7	7,8	7,8	7,6	7,4	7,4	7,5	7,5

Other Labour Market indicators

	2019q4	2020q1	2020q2	2020q3	2020q4
Labour market slack (% of extended labour force 20-64, seasonally adjusted)	12,5	12,8	14,3	14,1	13,7
Absence from work (million persons aged 20-64, seasonally adjusted)	18,1	23,5	35,3	17,9	22,3
Index of total actual hours worked in the main job (2006 = 100)	101,8	97,1	85,9	97,6	96,8

Developments in household income

	2019 Q2	2019 Q3	2020 Q4	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3
<i>GDI growth (% change on same quarter of previous year)</i>	2.3	2.5	1.3	1.4	-3.0	1.3

	2020M01	2020M02	2020M03	2020M04	2020M05	2020M06	2020M07	2020M08	2020M09	2020M10	2020M11	2020M12	2021M01	2021M02
<i>Financial distress in lowest income quartile (% of low income group)</i>	23.1	23.2	23.5	23.6	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.6	23.6	23.3	23.6	23.5	23.6	23.7

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Synopsis

This report uses a wide range of more timely sources of data and analysis¹ to provide a regular update on the very latest evolution in the employment and social situation, with preference given to timeliness and relevance of data/indicators rather than their precision, together with some initial estimates and research findings of the expected impact of the pandemic on employment, household incomes and poverty or inequality.

Compared to the previous quarter, EU GDP decreased by 0.5% in the fourth quarter of 2020, reflecting the reintroduction of COVID-19 containment measures. Economic output remains well below the level observed one year before (down 4.8%) while for 2020 as a whole, GDP in the EU was down by 6.2% compared to the previous year.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the main labour market indicators remains visible. The rise in unemployment in the initial phase of the pandemic in the second quarter of 2020 was contained by short-time work schemes and other measures, but labour market slack in the fourth quarter of 2020 stood at 13.7% (of the extended labour force aged 20-64), 1.2pp higher than in the fourth quarter of 2019. Overall, for the year 2020 as a whole, total employment decreased by 1.5% in the EU, with approximately 3 million fewer people in employment compared to 2019. Compared to February 2020, just before the pandemic hit in Europe, the unemployment rate in the EU was 1 pp higher in February 2021, at 7.5%.

¹ Including the [Employment and Social Developments in Europe Quarterly Review](#) produced by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and other relevant reports produced by Eurostat.

The aggregate financial situation of households, as measured through gross household disposable income (GHDI), recovered in the third quarter of 2020, after the sharp fall experienced in the preceding quarter. Real household disposable income in the EU27 was up by 1.3% compared to a year earlier, a strong improvement on the previous quarter's figure of a decrease of 3% year-on-year. Underlying the overall figure was a strong positive contribution from social benefits, which more than offset the decline in the compensation of workers.

Nevertheless, figures on "financial distress" derived from harmonised EU consumer surveys continue to suggest that the financial impact of the crisis is felt much more strongly by those in the lower part of the income distribution. Latest figures indicate that the overall share of people reporting financial distress continued to edge down in recent months, but remains particularly high for those on low incomes for whom, unlike for other income groups, it has not reduced since the April peak and is actually slightly higher.

In many Member States there has been an (often sharp) uptick in unemployment benefit recipients during the crisis. However, in several Member States the number of unemployment benefit recipients has declined in recent months, in contrast to the sharp rises in the months following the COVID outbreak and the peak levels recorded in 2020. In contrast, apart from a few countries there has so far not been much to signal in terms of increases in the number of recipients of social assistance benefits, with no clear signs through to the end of 2020 of a marked rise in recipient levels.

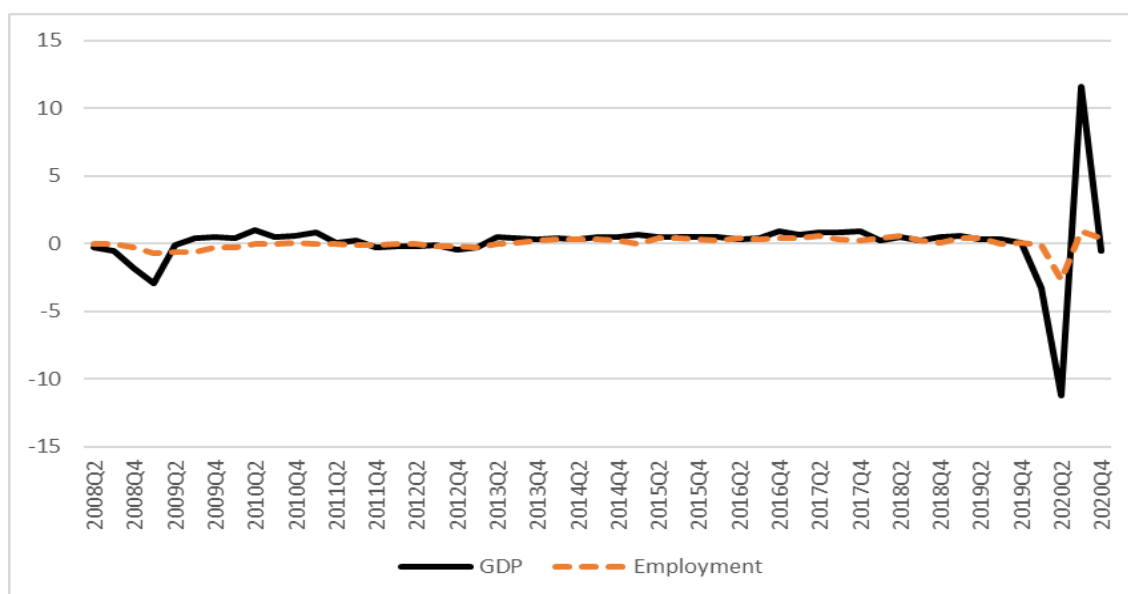
Special emergency support measures such as short time work schemes and similar measures, together with other main emergency measures aimed at providing support to the self-employed and to households, have been extensively deployed across EU countries and have played an important role in mitigating the employment and social effects of the crisis. Regarding short time work schemes or similar measures such as partial unemployment schemes, temporary unemployment schemes and furlough, for most Member States the number of recipients seems to have peaked in April or May last year and then declined markedly through to the summer. Although figures then started to rise again in October, following the second wave of COVID infections and related sanitary measures, the number of recipients did not rise to anywhere near the levels seen during the first wave. Similar trends over time are seen in the numbers of recipients of support schemes for the self-employed, sickness benefits schemes to protect workers and the self-employed in quarantine or self-isolation and "caring benefits", as well as further schemes providing income support to households and individuals.

Detailed developments in the social situation following the COVID-19 outbreak

Economic and labour market developments

Following the tightening of the COVID-19 related containment measures in the fourth quarter of 2020, economic output decreased again, with GDP down by 0.5% in the EU compared to the previous quarter and down by 4.8% compared to the fourth quarter of 2019. These declines followed a strong rebound in the third quarter of 2020 (up 11.6% in the EU) and the sharpest decreases since the time series started in 1995 observed in the second quarter of 2020 (down 11.2% in the EU) (Figure 1). For the year 2020 as a whole, GDP fell by 6.2% in the EU compared to the previous year. The Spring 2021 Commission Economic Forecast projects that the EU economy will expand by 4.2% in 2021 and by 4.4% in 2022.

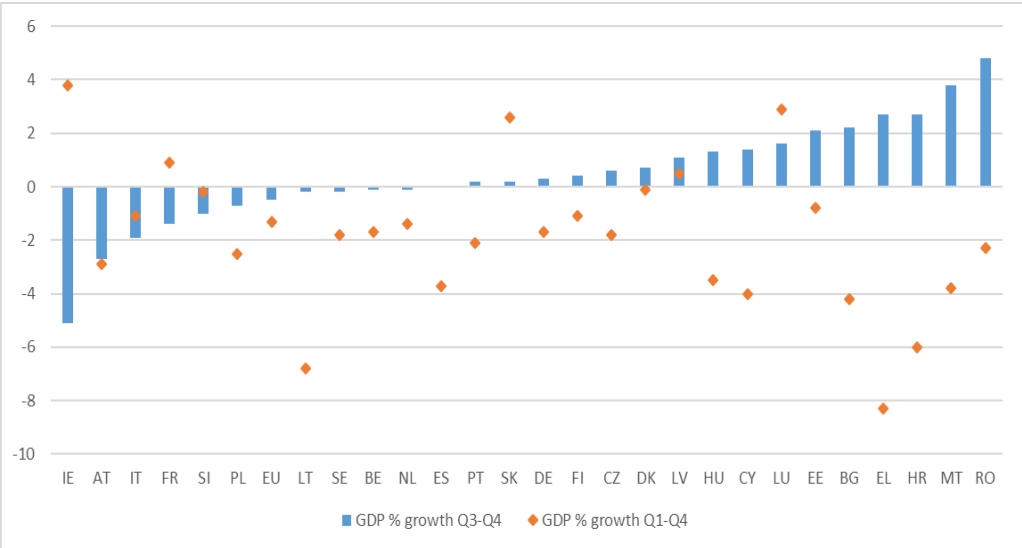
Figure 1: Real GDP and employment growth (% change on previous quarter) in the EU27, 2008-2020



Source: Eurostat, National Accounts, data seasonally adjusted

Among Member States, Romania (+4.8%) and Malta (+3.8%) recorded the sharpest increases of GDP compared to the previous quarter, followed by Croatia and Greece (both +2.7%). The strongest declines were observed in Ireland (-5.1%) and Austria (-2.7%), followed by Italy (-1.9%) and France (-1.4%). For most MS the cumulative effect of the crisis meant GDP growth remained negative in the fourth quarter compared to the first quarter, with only a few recording positive growth, most notably Ireland, Luxembourg and Slovakia. The most heavily impacted countries have been Greece, Lithuania and Croatia (Figure 2).

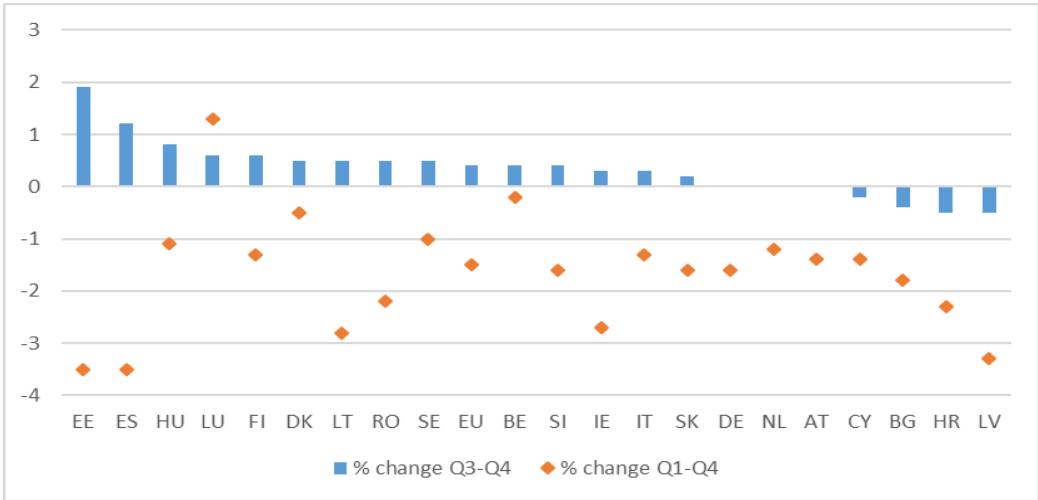
Figure 2: Recent GDP changes in EU Member States (% change).



Source: Eurostat, national accounts, data seasonally and calendar adjusted. Note: GDP % growth Q1-Q4 own calculations, Eurostat, national accounts, Chain linked volumes million (2015).

In the fourth quarter of 2020 the number of people in employment in the EU increased by 0.4% compared to the third quarter, to a seasonally adjusted total of 206 million. However, for the year 2020 as a whole, total employment decreased by 1.5% in the EU with approximately 3 million fewer people employed when compared to 2019. Estonia (+1.9%) and Spain (+1.2%) recorded the highest growth in employment compared with the previous quarter. The largest decreases were observed in Croatia and Latvia (-0.5%) (Figure 3). When comparing the fourth quarter to the first, the biggest employment losses were recorded in Estonia (-3.5%), Spain (-3.5%), Latvia (-3.3%) and Lithuania (-2.8). Only Luxembourg recorded an overall increase in employment between the first and the fourth quarters of 2020.

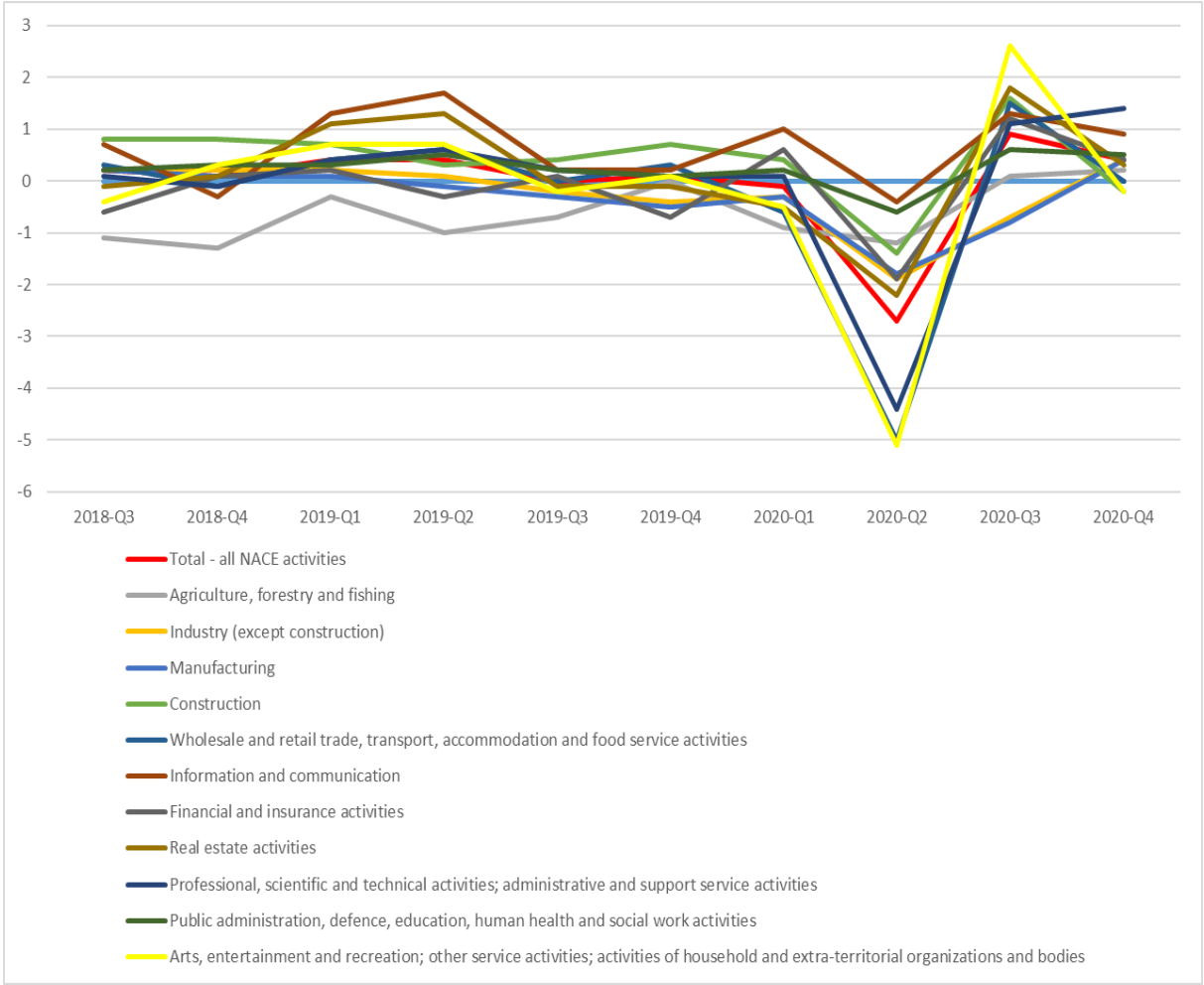
Figure 3: Employment changes (as %) in EU Member States in 2020 Q4 and compared to the first quarter of 2020



Source: Eurostat national accounts, data seasonally adjusted. Figures for CZ, EL, FR, MT, PL, PT, SK not available. Note: % change Q1-Q4 own calculations, Eurostat, national accounts, total employment thousand persons.

In terms of sectoral developments, in the fourth quarter increases in employment (Figure 4) were recorded in the *professional, scientific and technical activities (up 1.4%), information and communication activities (0.9%), public administration etc. (0.5%), industry (except construction) (0.4%) and manufacturing (0.4%)* sectors. However, employment declined in the *arts, entertainment and recreation activities (down 0.2%) and construction (also down 0.2%)* sectors. Employment remained at the same level in the *wholesale and retail trade, transport and accommodation sector*.

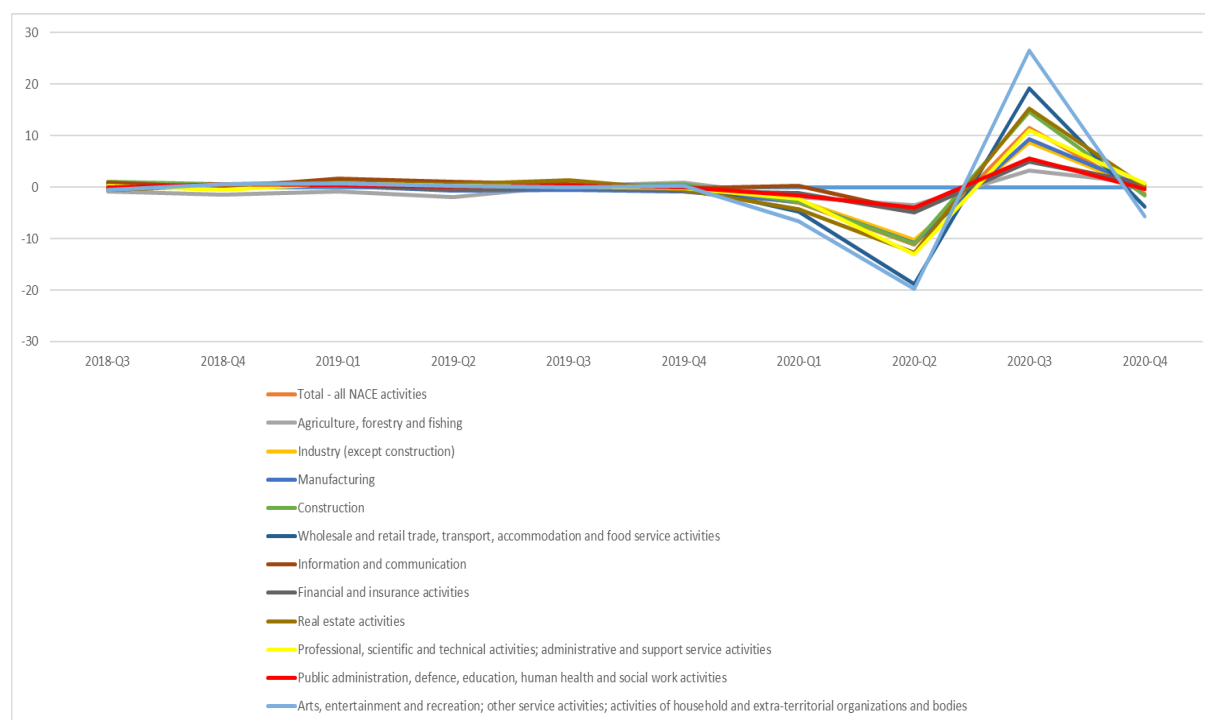
Figure 4: Employment change breakdowns by sector in the EU27, 2018 Q3 - 2020 Q4 (% change on previous period (based on persons))



Source: Eurostat national accounts, seasonally adjusted

Concerning hours worked (Figure 5), increases in the fourth quarter were recorded in the *agriculture, forestry and fishing (up 0.7%), professional, scientific and technical activities (0.7%), information and communication activities (0.6%), financial and insurance activities (0.6%) and real estate activities (0.1%)* sectors. However, developments were negative in the *arts, entertainment and recreation activities (-5.7%), wholesale, and retail trade, transport and accommodation (-3.8%), construction (-1.6%) and public administration and related activities sectors (-0.4%)*.

Figure 5: Employment change breakdowns by sector in the EU27, 2018 Q3 - 2020 Q4 (% change on previous period (based on hours worked))



Source: Eurostat national accounts, seasonally adjusted

Unemployment remained relatively stable in February 2021, standing at 7.5% (Table 1). However, it was up by 1pp when compared to February 2020. Unemployment for men was 7.1 in February 2021 (up from 6.3% in February 2020), while for women it stood at 7.9% (up from 6.9% in February 2020). Youth unemployment (Table 2) in the EU27 was at 17.2% in February 2021, slightly down compared to its summer peak but still 2.2pp higher than one year earlier. Unemployment for young men was 16.9% in February (up from 15.2% in February 2020) while for young women it was 17.5% (up from 14.7% in February 2020).

Table 1: Unemployment (rate (%) and total (mlns), seasonally adjusted)

	2020M06	2020M07	2020M08	2020M09	2020M10	2020M11	2020M12	2021M01	2021M02
Unemployment rate	7,3	7,7	7,8	7,8	7,6	7,4	7,4	7,5	7,5
Total unemployment (thousands)	15.323	16.280	16.642	16.628	16.215	15.777	15.772	15.919	15.953

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

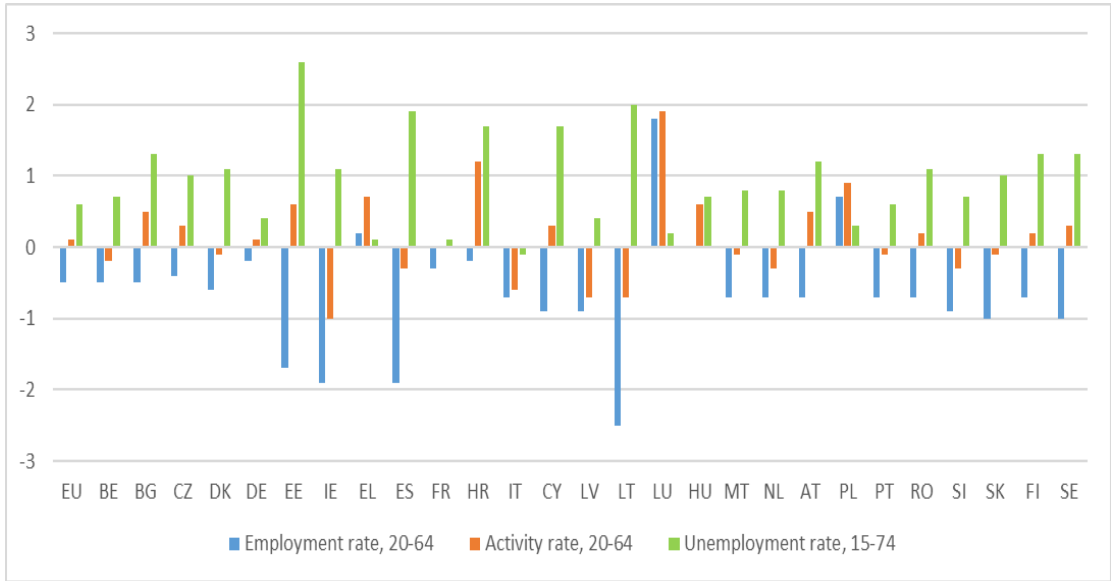
Table 2: Youth Unemployment (rate (%) and total (mlns), seasonally adjusted)

	2020M06	2020M07	2020M08	2020M09	2020M10	2020M11	2020M12	2021M01	2021M02
Youth unemployment rate	17,6	18,1	18,2	17,5	17,0	16,9	17,0	17,4	17,2
Total youth unemployment (thousands)	3.007	3.159	3.222	3.086	2.970	2.929	2.936	3.001	2.967

Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

The employment rate in the EU stood at 72.6% in the fourth quarter of 2020, having dropped from 73.1% in the first quarter. The overwhelming majority of MS saw their employment rates decrease during this period (Figure 6). At EU level, the employment rate for men was 78.2% in the fourth quarter (compared to 78.9% in the first quarter) while that for women was 67% (down from 67.5% in the first quarter). The EU activity rate was 78.2% in the fourth quarter (little changed from 78.1% in the first quarter), while activity rates edged upwards between the first and the fourth quarters in slightly more Member States (14) than for those where it declined (12). The activity rate of men at EU level was 83.9% in the fourth quarter (compared to 84% in the first quarter) while that of women was 72.4% (versus 72.3% in the first quarter).

Figure 6: Change in employment, unemployment and activity rates in the EU-27: cumulative change (in pps) between 2020 Q1 and 2020 Q4



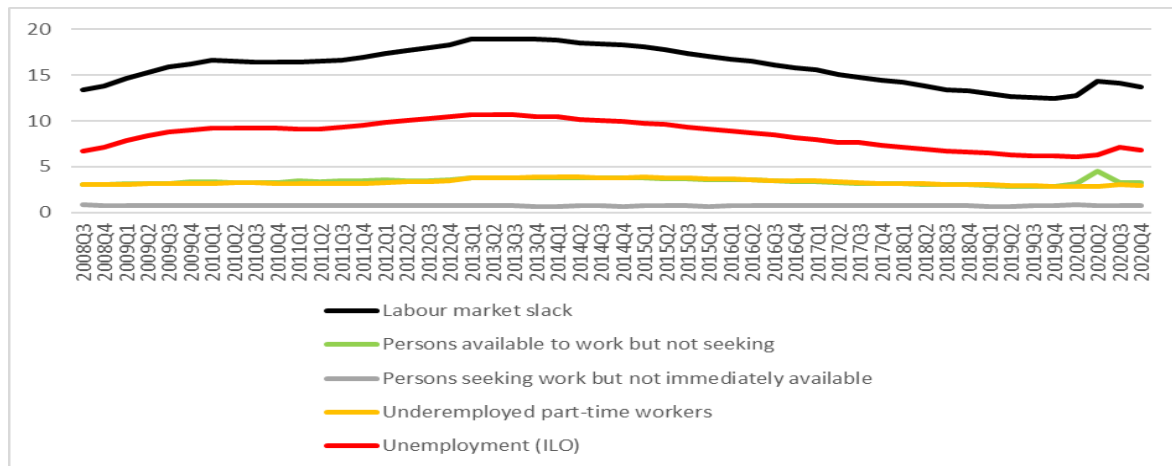
Source: Eurostat, LFS. Seasonally adjusted data, not calendar adjusted

In terms of annual developments, the employment rate for persons aged 20-64 dropped to 72.4% in 2020, down by 0.7 percentage points (pp) in comparison to 2019. The employment rate for men in that age group stood at 78.1%, down from 79.0% in 2019. The employment rate for women was 66.8%, down from 67.3%. According to LFS data, male employment in the EU decreased by 1.7 million from the fourth quarter of 2019 to the fourth quarter of 2020, while female employment went down by 1.0 million over this period.

Additionally, in the fourth quarter of 2020 seasonally adjusted total labour market slack² in the EU (consisting of all persons who have an unmet need for employment) amounted to 29 million persons, which represented 13.7% of the extended labour force, up from 12.8% in the first quarter (Figure 7). Labour market slack for men amounted to 13.2 million in the EU while the figure for women was 15.8 million. There was a slight reduction in the level of slack over the second half of the year, reflecting a small pick up in people seeking work again.

² The sum of unemployed persons, underemployed part-time workers, persons seeking work but not immediately available and persons available to work but not seeking, expressed as percentage of the extended labour force.

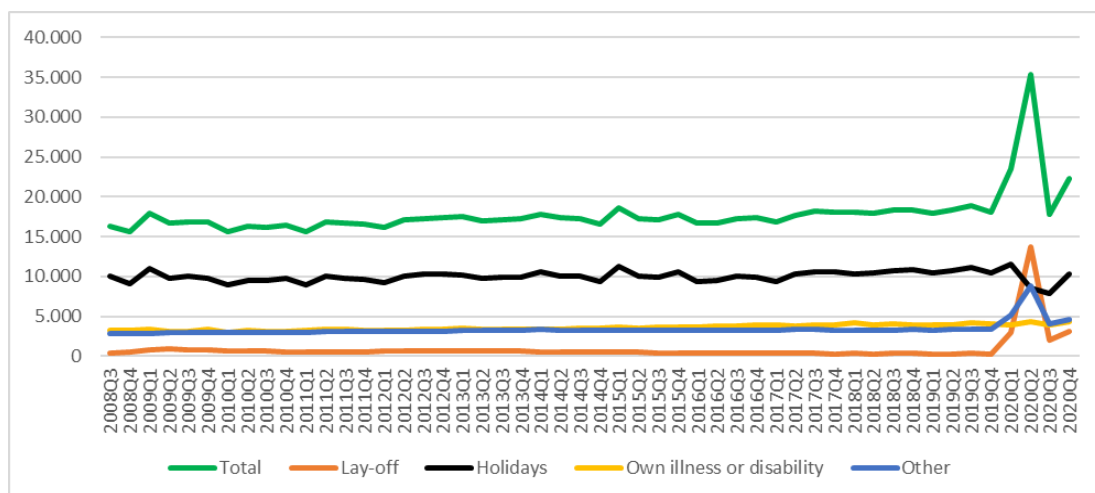
Figure 7: Labour market slack in the EU27 (% of extended labour force), 2008 – 2020 Q4



Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey. Note: Total labour market slack is the sum of the four components shown.

In the fourth quarter of 2020, a total of 22.3 million people aged 20-64 were absent from work in the EU, 13 million fewer than in the second quarter of 2020 (35.3 million), but 4.5 million more people than in the third quarter (17.8 million) (Figure 8).

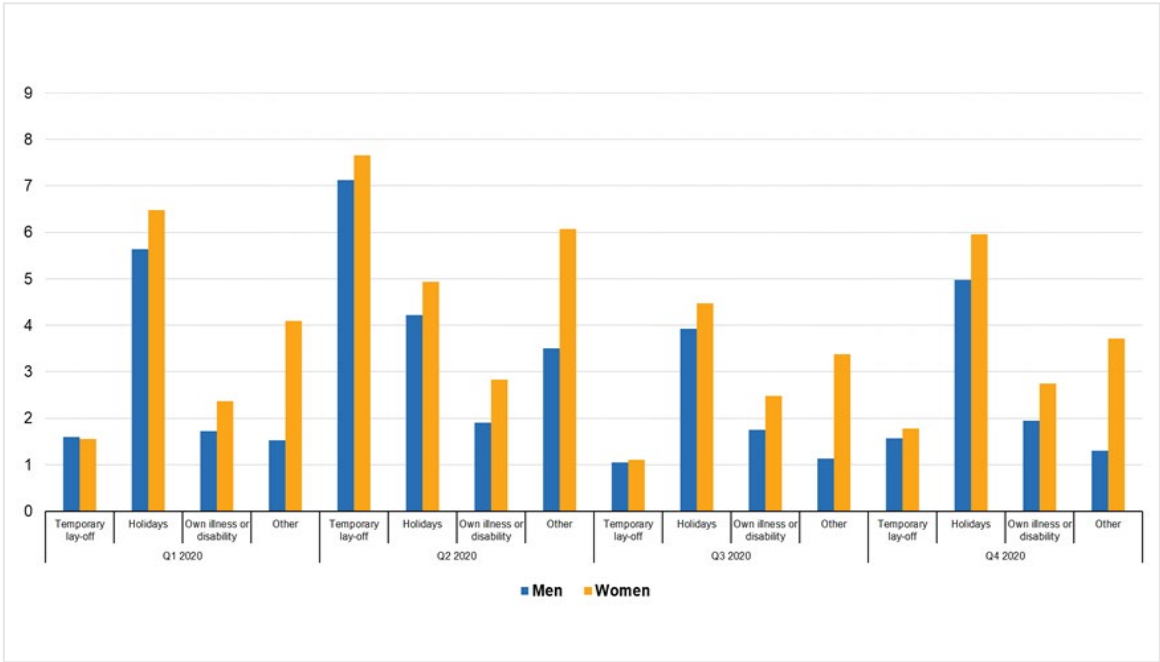
Figure 8: Trends in absences from work by reason in the EU27 (thousands, 20-64 years), 2008 – 2020 Q4



Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey. Seasonally adjusted data, not calendar adjusted.

Figure 9 indicates that at EU level the share of absences for women was higher than the share for men during all four quarters of 2020, regardless of the reason for absence. The temporary lay-offs, with 1.6 % for both genders in Q1 2020, were an exception. The size of the gap between men and women's shares varied depending on the reason for absence. Indeed, temporary lay-off showed the least different shares between both genders throughout the four quarters of 2020. The proportion of women laid-off was on average 0.2 pp higher than the proportion of men. On the other hand, the difference was the most pronounced for absences for “other” reasons, which include, but are not limited to, absences for personal or family responsibilities. On average, for the four consecutive quarters of 2020, the shares of women giving this reason for being absent from work were 2.5 p.p. higher than for men.

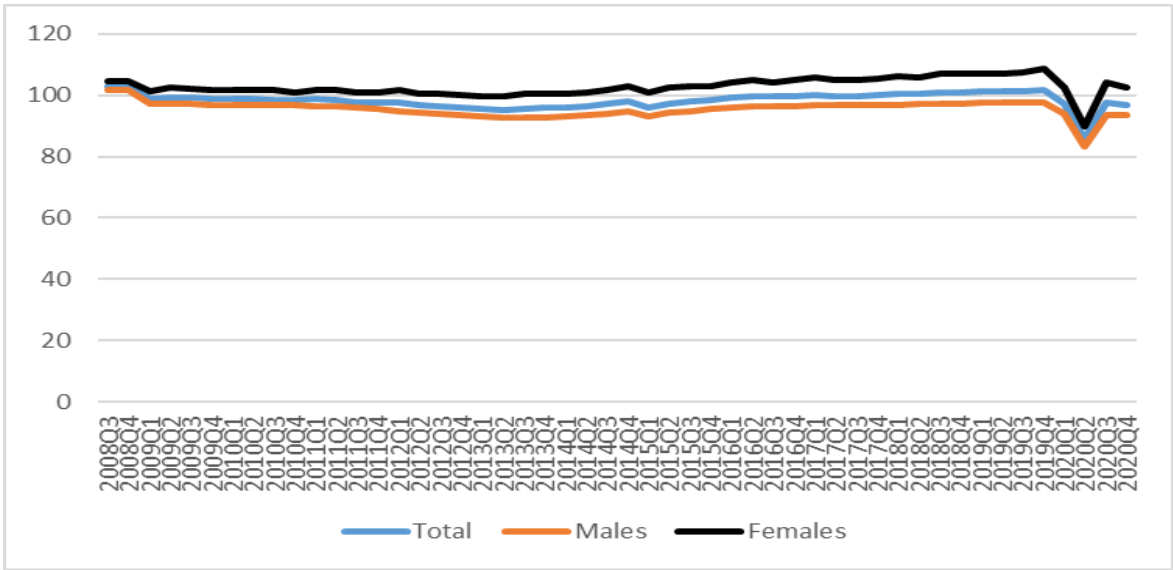
Figure 9: Absences from work by reason and sex in the EU, Q1 - Q4 2020 (as % of employment, 20-64 years)



Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey. Seasonally adjusted data, not calendar adjusted

Between the third and the fourth quarter of 2020, total actual hours worked recorded a slight decrease, with the index dropping from 97.6 points to 96.8. The index of total actual working hours for women decreased from 104 points in the third quarter to 102.3 points in the fourth. At the same time, the index for men decreased marginally from 93.5 points in the third quarter to 93.3 points in the fourth. (Figure 10). When compared to the fourth quarter of 2019 the index for the female population showed a decrease of 6.1 points (the level was 108.4 points at the end of 2019), while that for men dropped by 4.3 points (the level was 97.6 points one year before).

Figure 10: Trends in actual hours worked in main job in the EU27, 2008 – 2020 Q4 (20-64 years)



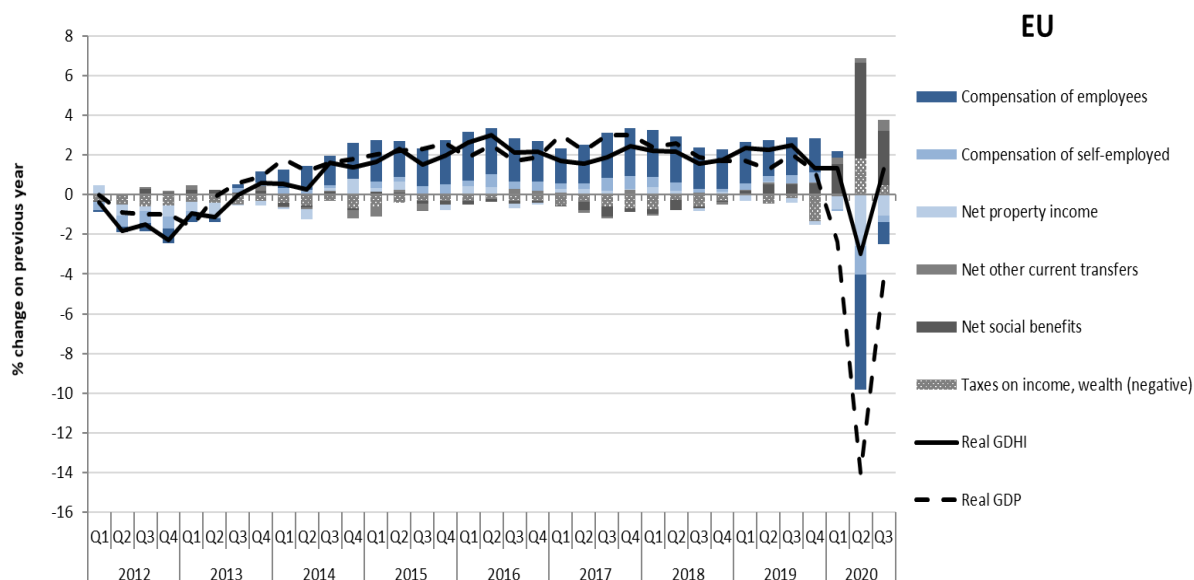
Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey. (2006=100). Seasonally adjusted data, not calendar adjusted.

Developments in household income

The aggregate financial situation of households, as measured through gross household disposable income (GHD), recovered in the third quarter of 2020, after the sharp fall experienced in the preceeding quarter. Household disposable income in the EU27 was up by 1.3% compared to a year earlier, a strong improvement on the previous quarter's figure of a decrease of 3% year-on-year (Figure 11). Underlying the overall figure was a strong positive contribution from social benefits (up 2.8%), which together with more limited increases due to taxes on income and wealth and other tranfers (both up around 0.5%), more than offset the declines of 1.1% in the compensation of employees and of 0.3% for that of the self-employed, and a fall of 1.1% in net income from property. Although the contribution from social benefits was lower than in the previous quarter, the negative effect from the decline in workers' compensation was much reduced compared to the figure for the previous quarter. Contrary to the positive development in real GDHI, real GDP remained around 4% down year-on-year, indicating that policies in place continued to mitigate the effect of the fall in GDP on household incomes and reflecting a continuing strong automatic stabilisation effect of social protection on household incomes.

Year-on-year changes in the index of real GDHI per capita were slightly positive or stable in the third quarter for most Member States for which such data is available, while Greece, the Netherlands, Poland and Slovenia recorded more substantial increases. Only Portugal and Spain recorded negative developments in real GHD per capita compared to a year earlier.

Figure 11: Real GDP growth, real GHD growth and its main components in the EU, 2012 – 2020 Q3



Source: [Employment and Social Developments in Europe Quarterly \(March 2021 edition\)](#), Eurostat, National Accounts [nasq_10_nf_tr and namq_10_gdp]. Data non-seasonally adjusted.

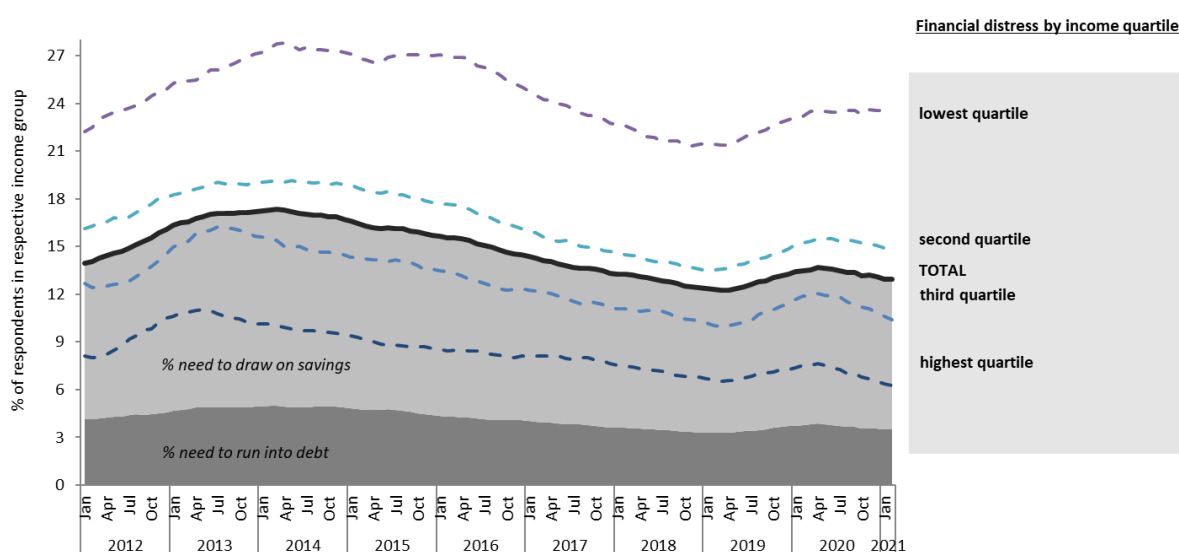
Notes: DG EMPL calculations. The nominal GHD is converted into real GHD by deflating with the deflator (price index) of household final consumption expenditure. The real GHD growth for the EU is DG EMPL estimation, and it includes Member States for which quarterly data based on the ESA2010 are available (which account for 95% of EU GHD). It is a weighted average of real GHD growth in Member States.

Financial distress among consumers based on EU consumer surveys

The “financial distress” indicator derived from harmonised EU consumer surveys³ indicates that the overall share of people reporting financial distress continued to edge down in recent months. After peaking in April last year it has been on a gradually reducing trend since then (Figure 12). In February, 12.9% of the population reported being in financial distress, 0.5 pp lower than the same month one year before and 0.7 pp lower than the peak of 13.7% reached in April. Underlying the February figure, 9.5% reported a need to draw on savings and 3.5% the need to run into debt.

This reduction in financial distress following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic may appear counterintuitive, but seems to reflect lower household expenditure coupled with a higher household saving rate. Data show that in the second quarter of 2020 household final consumption expenditure in the EU27 suddenly fell year-on-year (falling 17.3%) and was still 3.6 % lower in the third quarter compared to a year earlier. At the same time, the household saving rate was 4.5pp higher in the third quarter compared to a year earlier.

Figure 12: Reported financial distress in the EU by income quartile, 2012 to February 2021



Source: [Employment and Social Developments in Europe Quarterly \(March 2021 edition\)](#), European Commission, Business and Consumer Surveys. 12-month moving average (DG EMPL calculations)

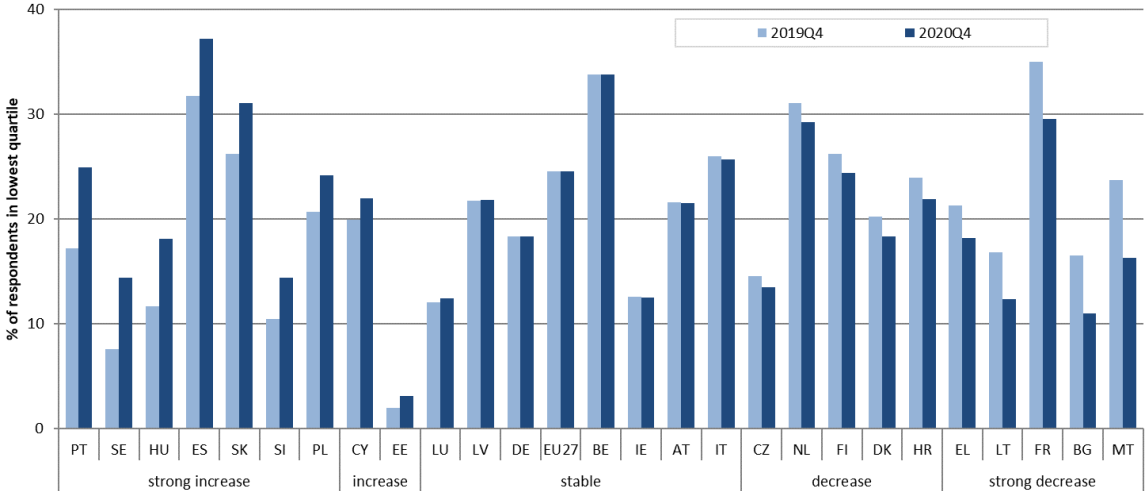
Notes: Reported financial distress by income quartile, and components of reported financial distress (share of adults reporting necessity to draw on savings and share of adults reporting need to run into debt). The overall share of adults reporting having to draw on savings and having to run into debt are shown respectively by the light grey and dark grey areas, which together represent total financial distress

³ Reported financial distress is defined as the need to draw on savings or to run into debt to cover current expenditures, based on personal perceptions

However, financial distress remains particularly high for those on low incomes and, unlike for other income groups, has not reduced since the April peak and is actually slightly higher. In fact, the overall improvement in the financial distress indicator mainly reflects the reductions for the more affluent groups in the third and fourth income quartiles, which saw falls of 1.6pp and 1.4 pp respectively compared to their corresponding peaks in April. In February, 23.7% of those in the lowest income quartile reported being in financial distress, compared to 6.2% for those in the highest income quartile, and with the gap between them increasing noticeably since the outbreak of the pandemic. Shares of those in financial distress in the second and third quartiles were 14.9% and 10.4% respectively. These results continue to suggest that the financial impact of the crisis is felt much more strongly by those in the lower part of the income distribution.

Reported financial distress has increased for the lowest income quartile in several Member States, but there is a wide diversity in levels and trends (Figure 13). On a year-on-year basis, by the fourth quarter of 2020 financial distress had increased in several countries, most markedly in Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. Spain was the country with the highest overall share of people in the lowest income quartile reporting financial distress, followed by Belgium, Slovakia, France and the Netherlands. In a few countries (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia and Luxembourg) shares remained rather stable. In contrast, decreases were recorded in ten Member States, most notably in Bulgaria, France, Greece, Lithuania and Malta.

Figure 13: Reported financial distress in the lowest income quartile across the EU Member States, 2019 Q4 and 2020 Q4



Source: [Employment and Social Developments in Europe Quarterly \(March 2021 edition\)](#), European Commission, Business and Consumer Surveys. 3-month moving average (DG EMPL calculations)

Trends in the take-up of selected standard social benefits

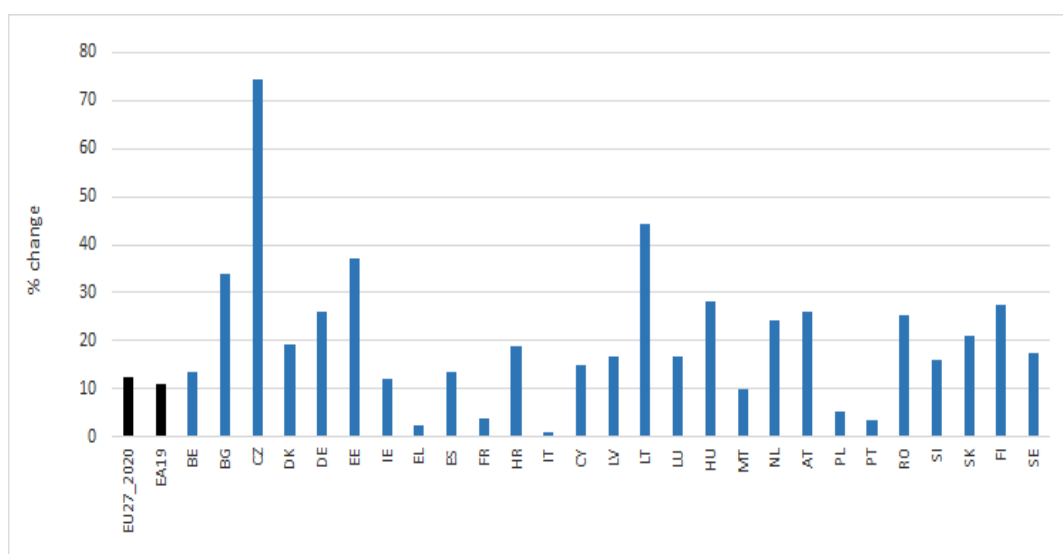
Since the financial crisis of 2008, the SPC⁴ has been collecting data on the number of social benefit recipients for different standard social benefit schemes (generally unemployment, social assistance and disability benefits). Trends in Member States regarding the number of benefit recipients in the different schemes can be found in the charts in annex 1 to this report.

The latest figures, generally covering up to the start of 2021 for around two-thirds of Member States, suggest the following main recent developments identified from the administrative data:

- In the initial period following the COVID-19 outbreak in the EU the recourse to emergency support measures which preserved the link with employment was massive and this prevented a sudden, substantial increase of ‘classic’ unemployment. However, in spite of the important government measures adopted to protect workers, the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on EU employment is very significant and unemployment in the EU rose from May onwards to peak at 16.6 million in August and September, before edging down over the following months.
- There remains a notable increase in the number of unemployed in many Member States (Figure 14), and in many an (often sharp) uptick in unemployment benefit recipients compared to the situation before the crisis hit (in AT, BG, CZ, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, HU, LU, LT, LV, MT, NL, PT, RO, SI, SK and SE). Among those countries for which more recent data are available, the relative rise in unemployment benefit recipients since February 2020 to late 2020/early 2021 has been especially strong (a rise of around 40% or more) in EE, LT, MT, PT RO and SE (Table 3). However, in several Member States the number of unemployment recipients has declined in the latest months, in contrast to the sharp rises in the months following the COVID outbreak and the peak levels recorded in 2020.
- In contrast, apart from some countries (CZ, EL, ES, FR and SI) there was not much to signal up to the end of 2020/early 2021 in terms of increases in the number of recipients of social assistance benefits, with no clear signs of a marked rise in recipient levels (Table 4).

⁴ Although this information needs to be assessed with due caution (as it does not offer cross-country comparability due to the diversity of concepts and underlying definitions used) the numbers of beneficiaries are available every month in most Member States, and help to observe trends and the timing of the impact of crises.)

Figure 14: Rise in unemployment levels (ILO definition) since the crisis – percentage change in total unemployment from February 2020 to February 2021



Source: Eurostat, monthly unemployment figures, seasonally adjusted data, not calendar adjusted data.

Notes: *For EL and FI, change from February to December 2020

Table 3: Change in unemployment benefit recipient numbers from February 2020 to latest month of data available

	Change in unemployment benefit recipient numbers from February 2020 to latest month of data available			Change in unemployment benefit recipient numbers from February 2020 to peak month of data available		
	Absolute change (1000s)	Relative change (%)	Latest month of data	Absolute change (1000s)	Relative change (%)	Month of post-February 2020 peak
BE	-6	-1.6	Sep 2020	25	6.6	Aug 2020
BG	23	30.5	Aug 2020	60	80.3	May 2020
CZ	16	17.8	Feb 2021	18	20.0	Jan 2021
DK	24	26.0	Jan 2021	29	31.1	May 2020
DE	288	6.3	Feb 2021	443	9.7	July 2020
EE	8	67.3	Jan 2021	9	68.4	Aug 2020
IE	5	2.9	Oct 2020	17	10.0	July 2020
EL	0	0.0	Jan 2021	0	0.0	Jan 2021
ES	257	28.8	Jan 2021	2847	319.1	May 2020
FR	212	7.2	Nov 2020	789	26.8	May 2020
HR	-4	-11.4	Feb 2021	5	14.3	May 2020
IT	na	na	-	na	na	-
CY	-12	-60.0	Oct 2020	2	10.0	March 2020
LV	1	2.7	Dec 2020	13	35.1	July 2020
LT	25	37.3	Jan 2021	25	37.3	Jan 2021
LU	2	20.1	Jan 2021	2	22.8	June 2020
HU	na	na	-	na	na	-
MT	0	45.6	Jan 2021	2	211.1	May 2020
NL	22	10.7	Jan 2021	65	31.6	June 2020
AT	44	14.5	Nov 2020	159	52.3	April
PL	21	13.4	Jan 2021	31	20.0	June 2020
PT	67	37.9	Jan 2021	67	37.9	Jan 2021
RO	42	73.7	Jan 2021	44	77.2	Dec 2020
SI	4	16.1	Jan 2021	7	29.5	May 2020
SK	6	14.4	Feb 2021	35	86.0	Sep 2020
FI	55	16.7	Sep 2020	180	54.7	April 2020
SE	101	41.8	Dec 2020	105	43.3	Oct 2020

Source: SPC data collection on social benefits recipients

Table 4: Change in social assistance benefit recipient numbers from February 2020 to latest month of data available

	Change in social assistance benefit recipient numbers from February 2020 to latest month of data available			Change in social assistance benefit recipient numbers from February 2020 to peak month of data available		
	Absolute change (1000s)	Relative change (%)	Latest month of data	Absolute change (1000s)	Relative change (%)	Month of post-February 2020 peak
BE	4.4	3.0	June 2020	5	3.6	April 2020
BG	5.0	25.1	Sep 2020	5	25.1	Sep 2020
CZ	6.0	10.3	Jan 2021	6	14.3	Jan 2021
DK	-4.8	-6.9	Jan 2021	2	3.2	May 2020
DE	na	na	-	na	na	-
EE	na	na	-	na	na	-
IE	-2.0	-13.3	Oct			
EL	71.6	16.5	Jan 2021	72	16.5	Jan 2021
ES	110.8	11.3	Jan 2021	111	11.3	Jan 2021
FR	133.2	6.9	Dec 2020	151	7.8	Nov 2020
HR	-3.0	-5.0	Feb 2021	<i>Figures lower than Feb 2020</i>		
IT	na	na	-	na	na	-
CY	-7.2	-20.4	Jan 2021	<i>Figures lower than Feb 2020</i>		
LV	0.0	0.0	Dec 2020	1	10.0	June 2020
LT	-27.3	-40.7	Jan 2021	6	8.5	June 2020
LU	0.5	5.2	Jan 2021	1	5.4	Aug 2020
HU	na	na	-	na	na	-
MT	-0.1	-1.4	Jan 2021	<i>Figures lower than Feb 2020</i>		
NL	16.0	3.9	Jan 2021	16	3.9	Jan 2021
AT	na	na	-	na	na	-
PL	na	na	-	na	na	-
PT	12.2	6.1	Jan 2021	12	6.1	Jan 2021
RO	4.0	2.4	Feb 2021	7	4.1	Jan 2021
SI	14.9	15.7	Feb 2021	15	15.7	Feb 2021
SK	-0.2	-0.3	Feb 2021	4	6.0	July 2020
FI	3.0	2.0	Dec 2020	29	19.6	June 2020
SE	-10	-10.0	Nov 2020	<i>Figures lower than Feb 2020</i>		

Source: SPC data collection on social benefits recipients

Trends in the number of recipients of special crisis support measures

This section presents the latest figures⁵ collected via the SPC-ISG and EMCO-IG on the following sorts of measures:

- the take up of short time work schemes⁶ or similar measures such as temporary unemployment schemes (e.g. furlough, or temporary layoff from work) where a link to the job is maintained;
- other main emergency measures aim to support the self-employed and households (e.g. extraordinary payments as income support, sickness benefits schemes to protect workers and self-employed in quarantine or self-isolation for a limited period of time, “caring benefits” (i.e. earnings replacement paid to people who need to suspend earnings activities to take care of a child or a sick relative), etc.

⁵ It should be noted that the figures present information on the developments in the emergency benefits situation in Member States and are not fully comparable across countries, and for this reason the focus should be on the evolution in numbers of the recipients within countries, rather than on the levels.

⁶ Those receiving benefits compensating for the loss of wage or salary due to formal short-time working arrangements, and/or intermittent work schedules and where the employer/employee relationship continues.

Short time work schemes or similar measures

Regarding short time work (STW) schemes or similar measures such as partial unemployment schemes, temporary unemployment schemes, furlough etc., where a link to the job is maintained, for those Member States for which figures are available⁷ there were a total of at least 17.5 million people receiving benefits under such schemes in March 2020, massively up from 0.6 million in February (Table 5 in annex 2). The number of persons receiving support continued to increase in April, reaching more than 32 million people, before reducing slightly in May.

For most Member States the number of recipients seems to have peaked in April or May and then declined markedly through to the summer to reach below 9 million in September. Although figures then started to rise again in October, following the second wave of COVID infections and related sanitary measures, the number of recipients did not rise to anywhere near the levels seen during the first wave, remaining below 12 million over the last three months of 2020.

A rough comparison of the maximum reported monthly number of recipients of such support to date in each Member State to the size of the active population (Table 6) shows that the schemes in Croatia, Cyprus and Luxembourg were the most important in terms of peak coverage to date, with 30-40% of the active population receiving support. In contrast, countries such as Bulgaria, Finland, Latvia, Poland and Sweden seem to have made much lower recourse to the use of STW or similar measures, with less than 10% of the active population receiving support from such measures. Some of these have employed different measures to address the impacts of the crisis on household incomes, which are described later on in this report.

The number of companies receiving support from STW or similar schemes (Table 10 in annex) stood at around one million in November 2020 (based on data for 16 MS) and at 867 thousand in December 2020 (15 MS)⁸.

Table 6: Comparison of the maximum available monthly figure in the period April 2020 – January 2021 for the number of recipients of STW or similar measures to the active population in the corresponding quarter of 2020/21 (%)

BG	SE	LV	FI	PL	RO	DE	SK	EL	SI	EE	IE	IT	BE	MT	AT	ES	FR	HR	CY	LU
4.4	6.2	6.5	6.7	8.8	13.3	13.6	15.2	15.8	17.2	17.5	21.3	21.8	22.9	23.3	23.4	29.1	29.3	32.5	33.4	40.0

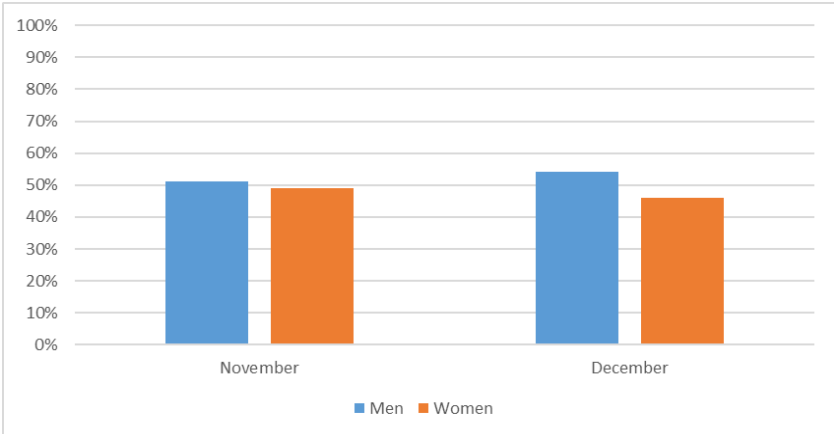
Source: Author's calculations based on EMCO/ SPC data collection on crisis support measure recipients and Eurostat LFS

⁷ BE, BG, DK, DE, EE, IE, EL, ES, FR, HR, IT, LV, LU, HU, NL, AT, PL, RO, SI, SK, FI, SE

⁸ BE, BG, CZ, DE, IE, HR, IT, CY, LV, LT, MT, AT, RO, SI, SK, SE for November. BE, BG, CZ, DE, IE, HR, IT, CY, LV, LT, MT, RO, SI, SK, SE for December.

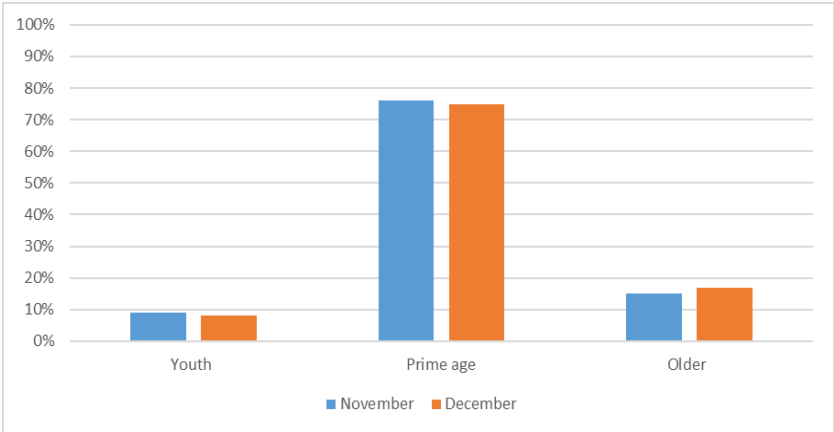
In terms of breakdowns for individual recipients of STW or similar schemes, for those ten MS reporting such data, 51% of individual recipients were men and 49% were women in November 2020 (Figure 15). In December 2020, the figures were 54% for men and 46% for women for the 9 countries reporting data. As regards age, in November 2020 76% of individual recipients were of prime working age; 9% were youth and 15% were older workers (9 MS). The figures for December 2020 were 75%, 8% and 17% respectively (8 MS) (Figure 16).

Figure 15: Individual recipients (STW or similar) by gender



Notes: November 2020 based on data from AT, BE, BG, CY, ES, FI, IT, LV, RO, SI. December 2020 based on BE, BG, CY, ES, FI, IT, RO, SI.

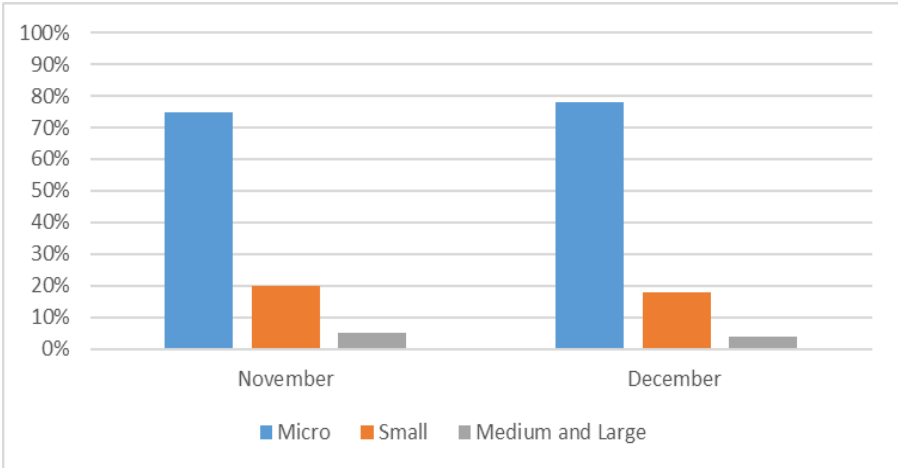
Figure 16: Individual recipients (STW or similar) by age



Notes: November 2020 based on data from AT, BE, BG, CY, FI, IT, LV, RO, SI. December 2020 based on BE, BG, CY, FI, IT, RO, SI.

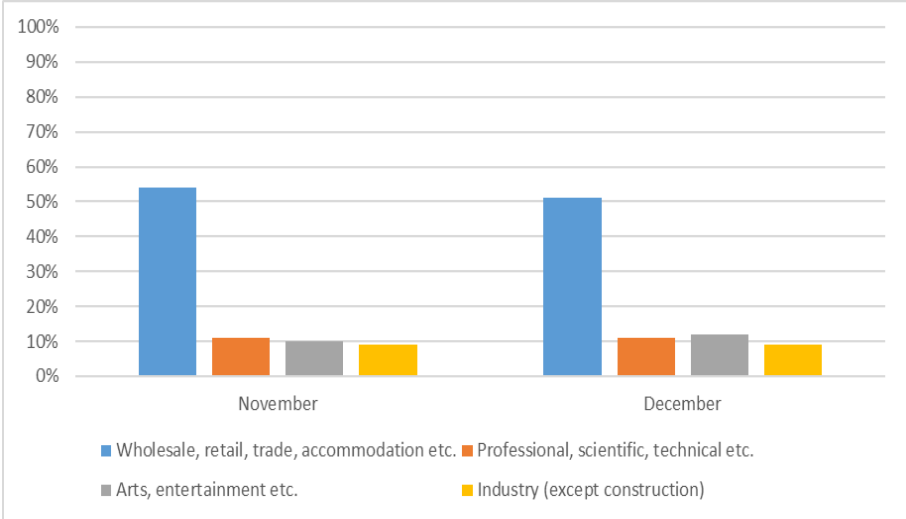
With regard to the types of companies receiving support, for those ten MS reporting breakdowns with such data, in November 2020, 75% of companies benefiting were micro and 20% were small (Figure 17). The figures for December 2020 were 78% and 18% (for 9 MS). There was a strong sectoral concentration of companies receiving support (Figure 18). In November, for those 11 MS reporting relevant breakdowns, 54% of companies benefiting belonged to the *Wholesale, retail and trade, accommodation, transport and food services* sector. A further 11% belonged to the *professional, scientific and technical* sector, 10% to the *Arts and entertainment* sector and 9% to *industry (except construction)*. The figures for December were 51%, 11%, 12% and 9% respectively (10 MS).

Figure 17: Companies receiving support (STW or similar) by size



Notes: November 2020 based on data from AT, BE, BG, CY, DE, HR, IT, LV, RO, SK. December 2020 based on BE, BG, CY, DE, HR, IT, LV, RO, SK.

Figure 18: Companies receiving support (STW or similar) by sector



Notes: November 2020 based on data from AT, BE, BG, CY, DE, IE, IT, LT, LV, RO, SK. December 2020 based on BE, BG, CY, DE, IE, IT, LT, LV, RO, SK.

Other main emergency measures aim to support the self-employed and households

Beyond the support to employees, many Member States have implemented specific schemes to support the self-employed (see Table 7 in annex). For those countries for which data has been provided, there were over 5 million self-employed people receiving income support in April, with 2.8 million in Italy alone. Support levels to the self-employed peaked in the spring, and have generally declined subsequently in most Member States through to September (with the number of recipients falling to around 350 thousand), before rising again subsequently with the second COVID wave.

Further, exceptional income support schemes have also been a feature of the COVID-19 crisis. This has included extraordinary payments under sickness benefits schemes to protect workers and the self-employed in quarantine or self-isolation for a limited period of time and “caring benefits” (i.e. earnings replacement paid to people who need to suspend earnings activities to take care of a child or a sick relative). Such measures have been particularly significant in Czechia, Ireland, Luxembourg, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden (Table 8 in annex). Again, there are signs of a rise in the figures after the summer in several Member States, especially among many of those that made extensive use of such measures, reversing the declining trends to the lows observed in the summer.

There are also a range of further schemes providing income support to households and individuals. In terms of size, these are generally less significant than the schemes previously mentioned, although in Austria, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovenia the numbers of households or individuals that have been supported by these particular schemes has been substantial (Annex Table 9). For some Member States the number of recipients of support under such schemes has also been rising in recent months.

Recent studies, forecasts and early estimates of the impact of the pandemic on employment, household incomes and poverty

Latest European Commission Economic Forecast

The Spring 2021 Commission Economic Forecast projects that the EU economy will expand by 4.2% in 2021 and by 4.4% in 2022. This represents a significant upgrade of the growth outlook compared to the Winter 2021 Economic Forecast that came out in February. While growth rates will continue to vary across the EU, all Member States should see their economies return to pre-crisis levels by the end of 2022.

The rebound in Europe's economy that began last summer stalled in the fourth quarter of 2020 and in the first quarter of 2021, as fresh public health measures were introduced to contain the new COVID-19 wave. However, the EU economies are expected to rebound strongly as vaccination rates increase and restrictions are eased. This growth will be driven by private consumption, investment, and a rising demand for EU exports from a strengthening global economy.

The Spring Economic Forecast notes that labour market conditions are slowly improving after the initial impact of the pandemic. Employment rose in the second half of 2020, and unemployment rates have decreased from their peaks in most Member States. The unemployment rate in the EU is now forecast at 7.6% in 2021 and 7.0% in 2022. Nonetheless, these rates remain higher than pre-crisis levels. Employment will take time to fully recover, as there is scope for working hours to increase before companies need to start hiring again. The labour market outlook hinges not only on the speed of the economic recovery, but also on the timing of policy support withdrawal and the pace at which workers are reallocated across sectors and firms.

Other studies

Eurofound report: Living and working in Europe 2020⁹

A recent report published by Eurofound notes that the shutdown of businesses in an attempt to contain the transmission of the coronavirus led to the layoff of 5.7 million EU workers in the first six months of 2020, while many millions more held on to their jobs thanks only to government schemes designed to shore up employment. The report shows that schemes did buffer the impact of COVID-19 on the labour market, but the scope and level of income protection they offered varied significantly between countries. OECD simulations estimate that short-time work subsidies reduced the share of jobs at risk by 10 percentage points, from 22%. Additionally, a Eurofound survey showed that individuals benefiting from such schemes are less likely to experience financial hardship, help to support aggregate consumption and expressed greater trust in their governments.

Workers employed in commerce and hospitality and in construction were most affected by reductions in working time, with 52% of workers in both sectors on reduced hours. Similarly, large numbers of workers in transport (48%) and in industry (47%) sectors saw their working time fall. However, according to Eurofound, as governments wind down support measures, the impact of COVID-19 risks to be felt more keenly across all sectors and not just in a few particularly vulnerable areas.

The report points out that while the level of job loss following the COVID-19 lockdowns has been modest so far, the cuts that have been made have affected temporary employees most. As in most crises, non-renewal of temporary contracts was the first workforce adjustment made by employers. The EU saw a 16.7% year-on-year fall in fixed-term employment up to June 2020, and this loss (amounting to 4.3 million jobs) accounted for well over three-quarters of the decline in EU employment. In Spain, where around one-quarter of all jobs are temporary, nearly a million such jobs disappeared in a 12-month period. Permanent employment remained stable during the pandemic, however, thanks to the extensive implementation of employment protection measures.

Furthermore, the report shows that only 37% of jobs currently being performed in the EU are teleworkable (according to a joint study conducted by Eurofound and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre). Most of these are found in white-collar employment classified under ISCO-08 occupational groups 1 to 4 (managers, professionals, technicians and associate professionals, and clerical support workers). The great teleworking shift could thus lead to a 'digital divide', separating well-educated, well-paid knowledge workers from workers with lower educational attainment on lower pay in manual jobs. There are dramatic differences by wage and by education level in the teleworkability of jobs. Nearly three-quarters of those in the top wage quintile could potentially telework compared to around 1 in 20 in the bottom wage quintile, while those with third-level qualifications are around three times as likely to telework as those without.

⁹ [Living and working in Europe 2020 | Eurofound \(europa.eu\)](https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/living-and-working-in-europe-2020)

Additionally, one fault line in the post-pandemic world might be the gulf that opened up between those for whom the lockdown measures had little material impact and those who saw their economic bedrock crumble. The first group consist of urban-based, white-collar, well-educated office employees who were able to work from home with little disruption to their working lives. While some had to cope with stresses such as trying to home-school children during the working day, they kept their livelihoods and salaries. Of those teleworking, for instance, 24% had difficulty making ends meet (compared to 44% of the population in general). They were also more likely to have financial buffers if they had lost their income: only 10% of those who worked all the time at home and 15% of those who worked part of the time from home had no savings at all, compared to an average of 26% across the EU. In fact, these workers were able to accumulate savings because so many outlets for spending were closed.

On the other side are those who underwent an employment upheaval – workers in ‘non-essential’ sectors who could not work from home. Some lost their jobs with the shutdowns and saw their incomes evaporate while having little prospect of finding work in an unsettled labour market. Furlough consigned others to a living dormancy, many uncertain whether their job would survive the pandemic. Still others were in and out of work as restrictions were tightened and eased. On top of a diminished income, they had to cope with idleness and limited social contact for weeks on end – a perfect storm for a mental health crisis. In July 2020, the average mental health scores of these workers was less than 50 on the WHO index, a marker for risk of depression: unemployed people and those with low job security returned scores of 43 on average, while those who recently lost their jobs had an average score of 42. Unemployed people struggled financially more than any other group: in July, 69% indicated that their financial situation had worsened since April; 79% reported that their household had difficulty making ends meet, more than twice the rate of households in employment (36%); and the rates of arrears in their households was much higher than those in work – for instance, 20% of unemployed people were in arrears on their rent or mortgage payments compared to 8% of the population as a whole.

Eurostat study on the COVID-19 impact on employment income¹⁰

Please see the previous version of this monitoring report for initial estimates of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment income, focusing on the income losses in 2020 and their distribution.

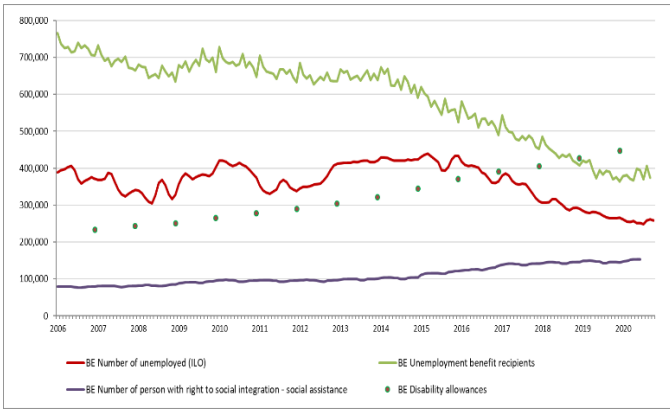
Eurostat 2020 flash estimates on key indicators on the income distribution will be included in a future edition of the report as soon as they are available.

¹⁰ For further details please see the Statistics Explained report here: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Impact_of_COVID-19_on_employment_income_-_advanced_estimates&stable=1

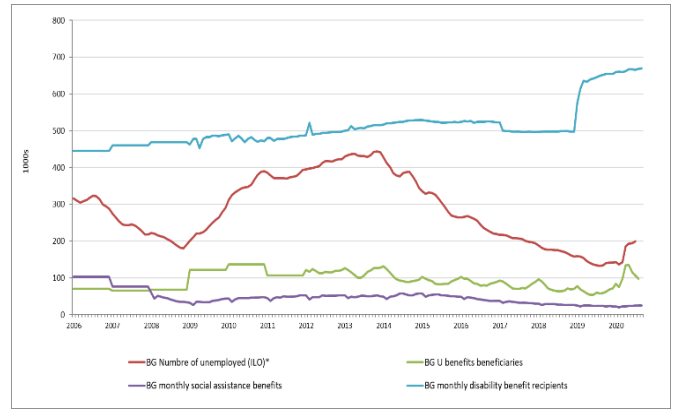
ANNEXES

Standard benefit recipient numbers charts

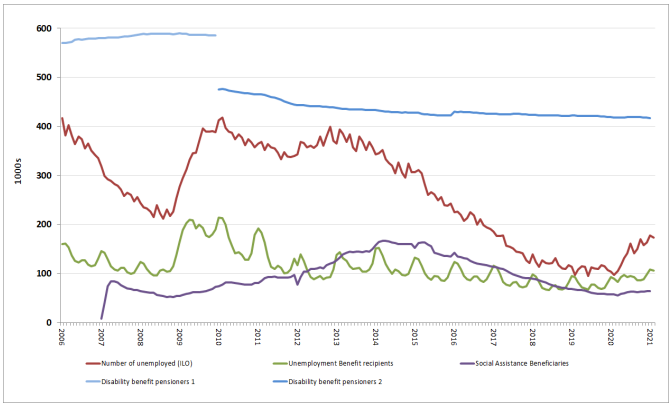
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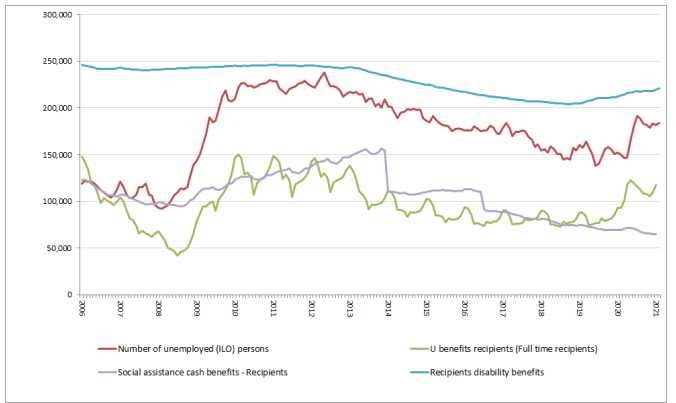
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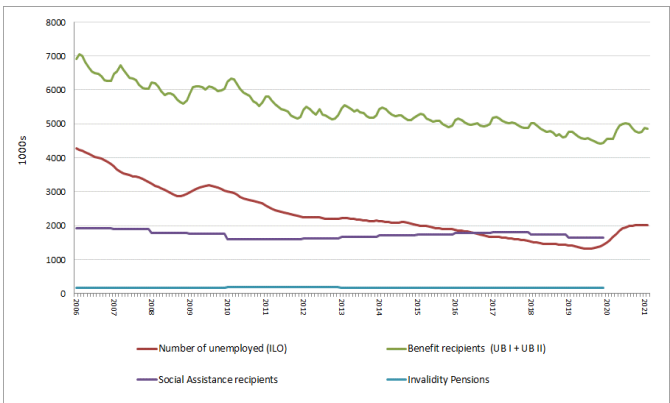
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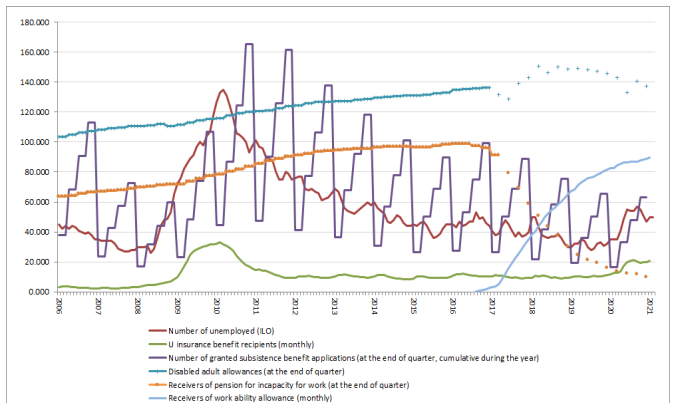
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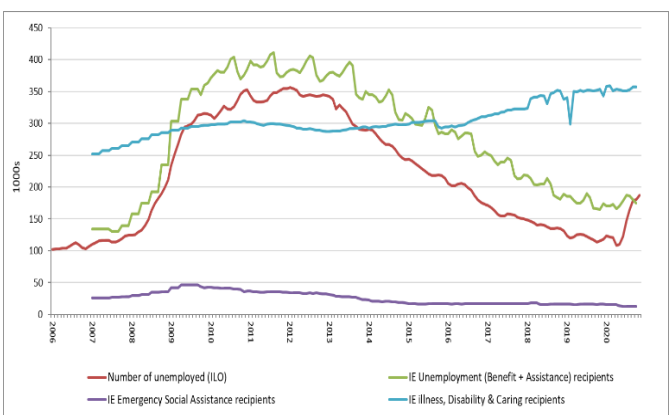
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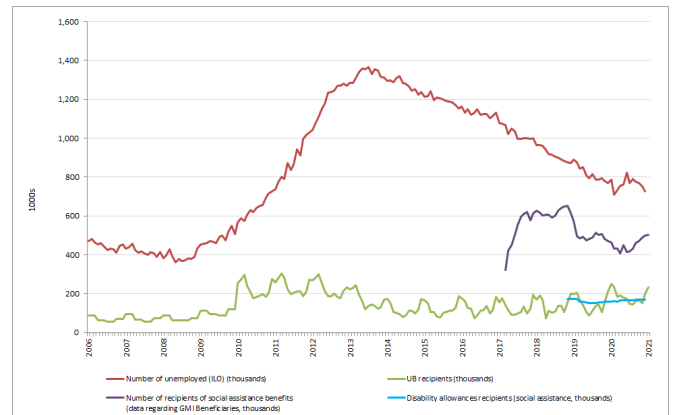
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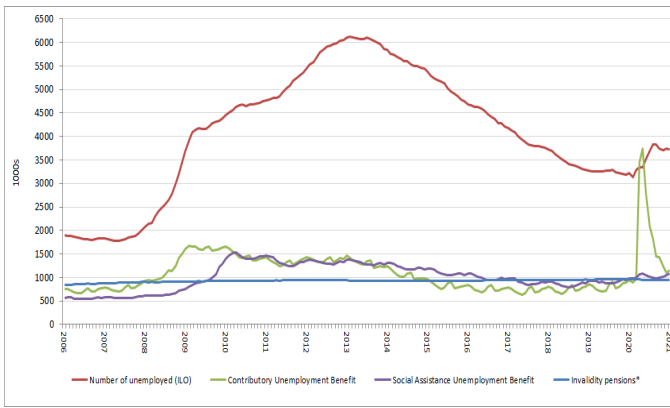
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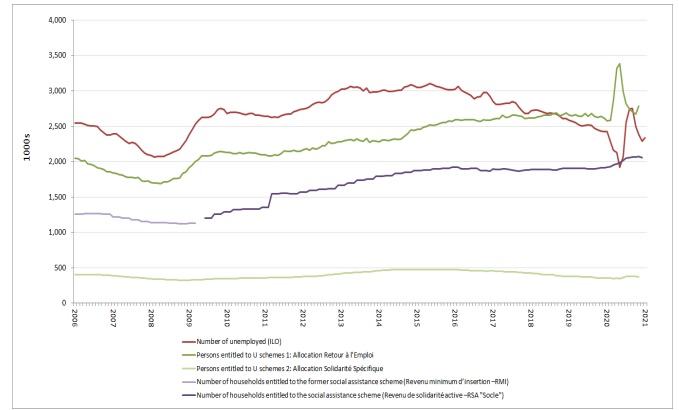
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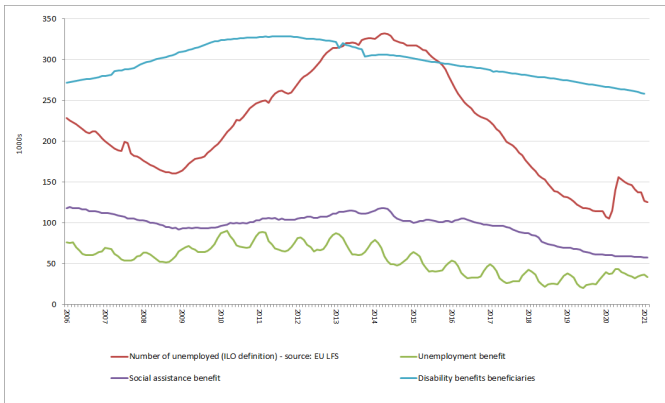
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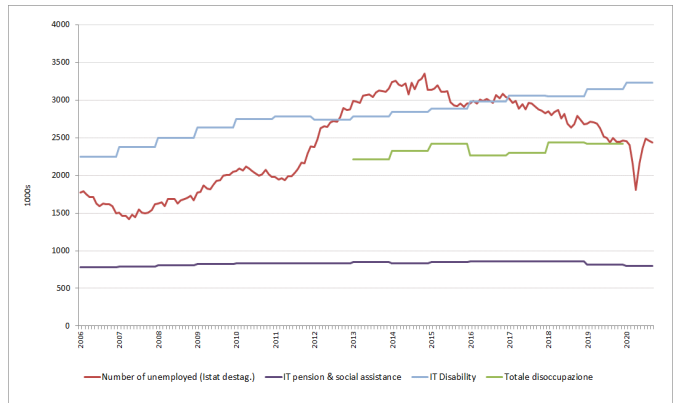
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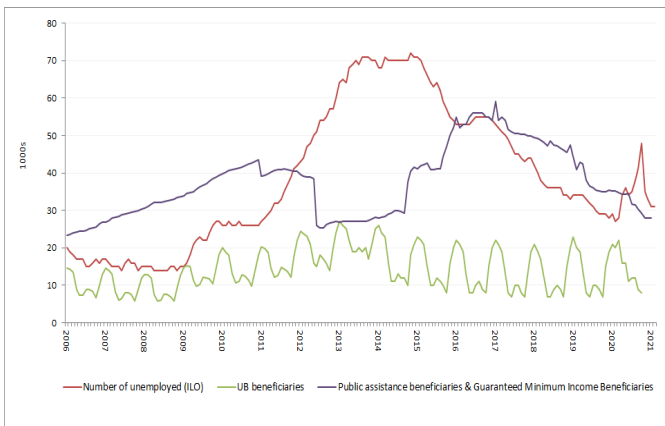
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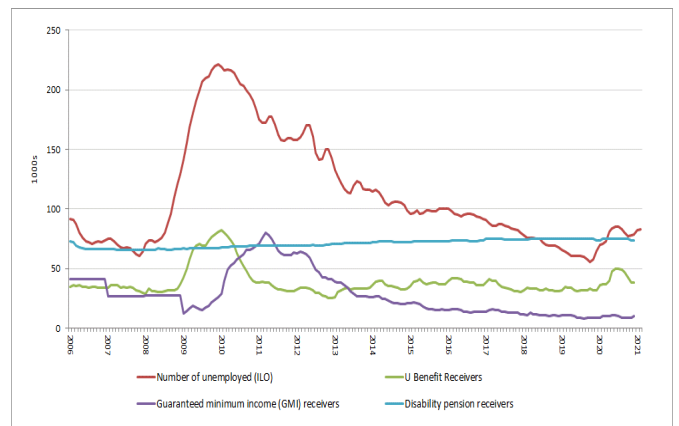
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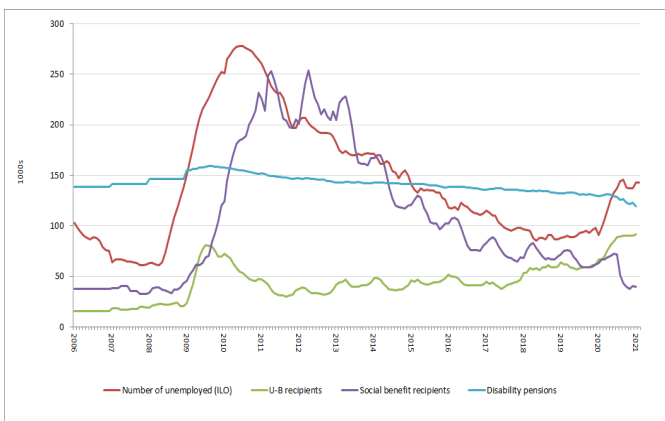
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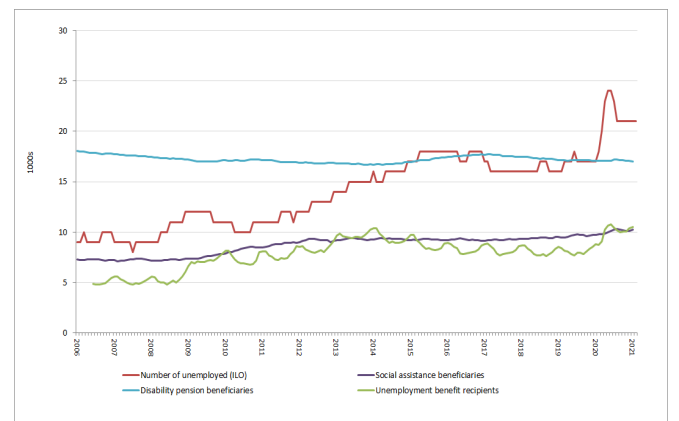
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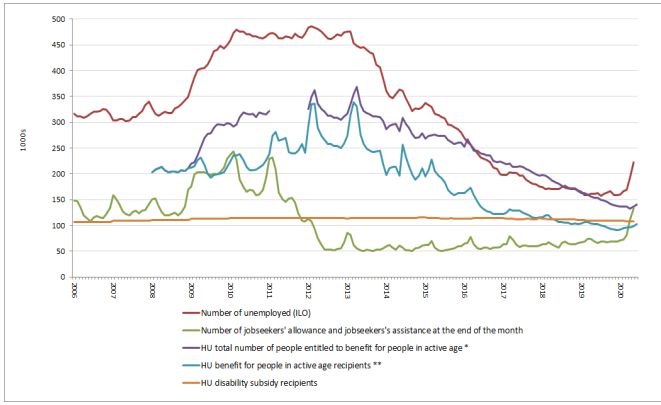
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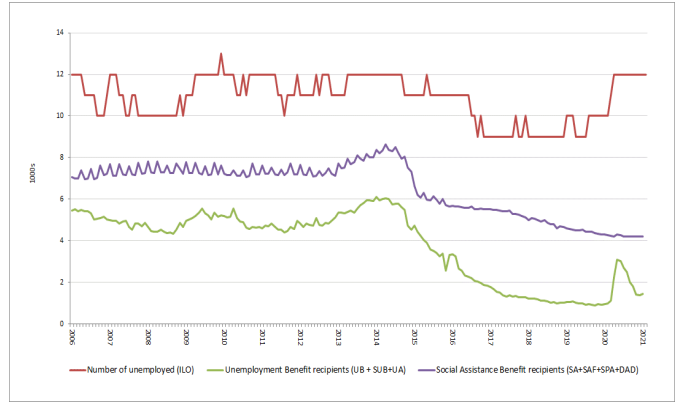
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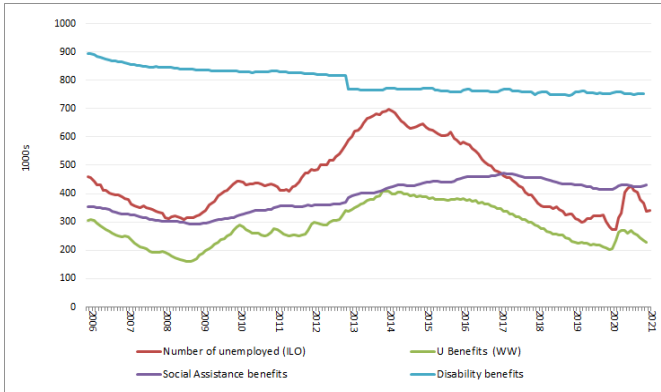
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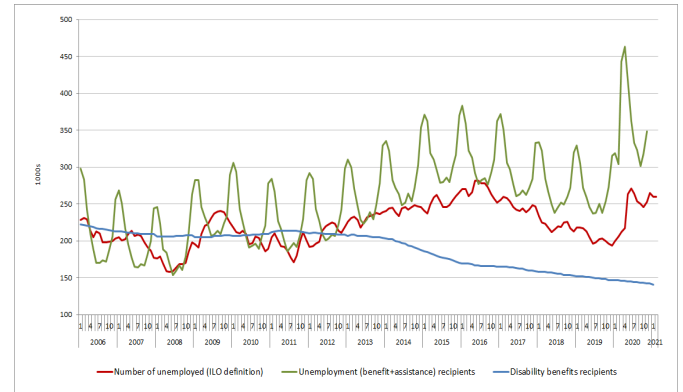
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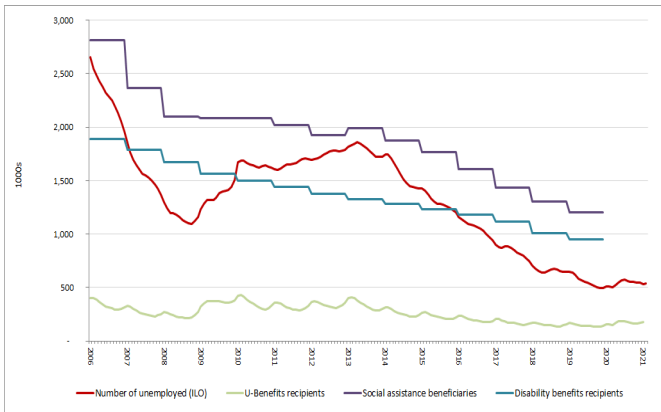
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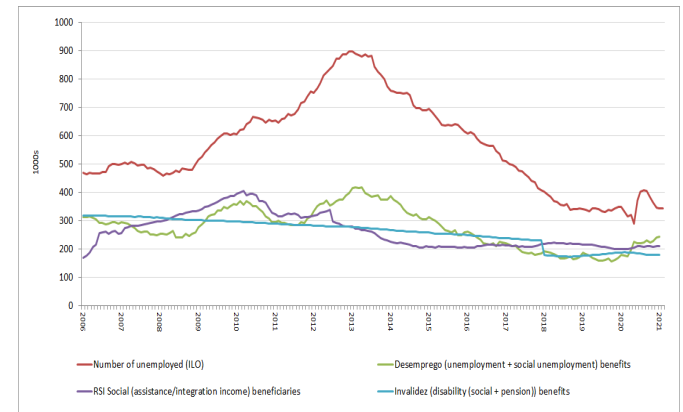
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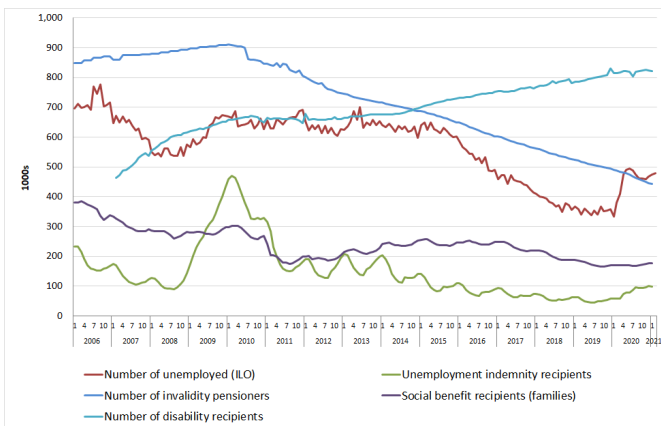
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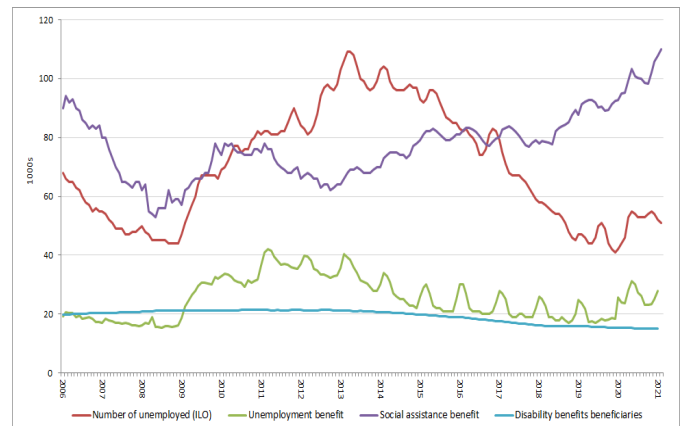
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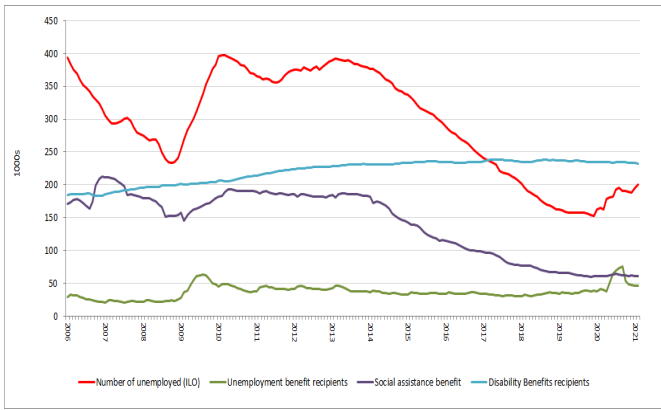
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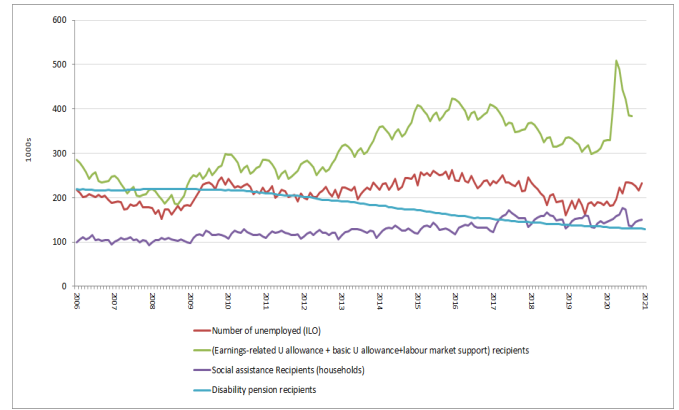
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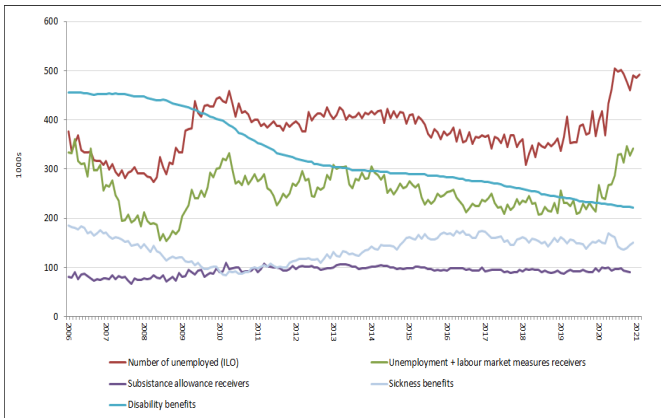


Table 5: Number of recipients of benefits under short time work schemes or similar support measures

		BE	BG	DK			DE	EE		IE				EL				ES						FR	HR		IT							
Scheme name		Chômage temporaire / Tijdelijke werkloosheid	Unemployment fund (wage subsidies under the Temporary Framework for State aid measures to support the economy in the current COVID-19 outbreak)	Division of labor	Division of labor (temporary) - from 14 September 2020	Temporary Wage Compensation Scheme	Short time work (Kurzarbeit/tegel)	Temporary subsidy program (töötasu hüvitus)	Salary grant (töötasu toetus)	Short Time Work Support	Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme	Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme	*Casual jobseekers	SYN-ERGASIA	Special purpose compensation for employees	Open programme of 100.000 new subsidized jobs (started on 01.10.2020)	ERTE - job suspension or reduction of working hours	Extraordinary Unemployment Benefit for permanent seasonal workers	Extraordinary Unemployment Subsidy for temporary workers	Subsidio especial por agotamiento de prestaciones (SACO)	Prestación o subsidios extraordinarios entorno artístico, cultural y personal técnico de sector cultura	Subsidio Especial Empleados de Hogar	ERTE - Social contribution exemptions	Activite partielle	Job preservation support for sectors hit by Coronavirus (COVID-19)	Shorter workweek support	Ordinary Wage Compensation Fund (CIGO)	Extraordinary Wage Compensation Fund (CIGS)	Wage Compensation Fund in Exception (CIGD)	Solidarity Funds				
Year	Month																																	
2018	Jan	131,986		312			22,520			426			50,231																		110,470	98,231	3,095	4,562
	Feb	143,724		7			23,137			461			50,317																		186,643	100,847	3,123	4,073
	Mar	137,221		161			26,837			390			49,466																		193,871	103,276	3,160	3,616
	Apr	74,949		92			13,315			313			48,127																		106,242	102,216	3,245	3,206
	May	57,793		20			11,631			332			46,917																		125,637	99,743	3,158	3,125
	Jun	62,724		.			16,466			281			45,988																		95,179	123,410	2,922	3,046
	Jul	59,713		.			13,954			281			45,145																		60,593	116,185	477	2,238
	Aug	80,103		.			32,697			287			43,594																		39,720	111,727	461	2,388
	Sep	62,745		30			34,138			768			42,124																		55,108	112,118	571	3,811
	Oct	93,166		39			37,443			796			41,653																		168,169	109,542	691	3,708
	Nov	90,012		398			42,990			826			41,759																		154,827	106,342	665	1,798
	Dec	102,243		144			25,589			806			41,751																		114,426	103,851	580	1,659
2019	Jan	154,864		315			41,568			449		41,240				4,044														149,752	100,795	138	2,150	
	Feb	120,124					28,621			484		41,264				3,947															119,490	100,134	176	4,057
	Mar	125,357		31			32,375			496		40,759				3,889															105,409	104,423	170	4,072
	Apr	86,287		37			40,170			388		39,683				3,947															144,838	106,238	2,528	2,172
	May	85,392		74			44,986			376		38,396				3,947															146,772	114,216	2,816	1,850
	Jun	78,305		4			42,570			334		38,115				3,944															55,054	82,351	3,158	1,729
	Jul	65,249		154			46,827			369			37,586				4,289														94,683	80,099	383	3,782
	Aug	67,088		21			51,248			326			36,779				4,164														50,913	77,384	293	3,397
	Sep	75,870		44			75,249			304			36,111				3,909														89,849	81,817	898	3,399
	Oct	107,222		164			101,747			402			35,949				3,629														150,136	85,451	1,119	4,183
	Nov	92,727		68			115,193			406			36,526				3,821														205,973	84,263	1,055	3,400
	Dec	119,868		26			97,298			400			36,816				3,880														158,591	79,351	3,518	1,112
2020	Jan	125,117		48			133,198			385		36,355				1,141							34,881							84,323	87,010	3,213	1,201	
	Feb	131,019		208			133,924			416		36,606				1,207								21,543							95,417	83,183	12,755	6,775
	Mar	929,714	89,348	5,471			2,579,666	33,674		350	71,847		36,607			10,522							258,645		6,869,545	501,645				1,832,487	99,207	1,085,414	1,315,273	
	Apr	1,145,571	142,292	2,822			5,995,429	121,490		282	428,565		36,297			808,673		2,563,893	511				3,386,765		8,378,059	577,700				2,308,806	69,087	1,315,710	1,648,069	
	May	916,569	129,802	1,005			5,714,842	91,130		365	459,642		36,516			542,014		3,387,280	4,182	5,455			2,988,970		6,959,794	485,995				1,587,990	76,654	1,155,907	1,470,428	
	Jun	560,765	79,021	707			4,452,284	32,109		457	441,109		36,656			29,892		2,840,735	4,020	1,858			1,830,664		3,570,773	83,802	7,973			1,136,804	83,991	659,692	1,037,614	
	Jul	339,898	132,882	122			3,305,887			451	441,896		37,221			44,528		70,234					936	67	1,118,540		1,949,315	71,789	11,430		769,049	92,095	403,697	611,188
	Aug	310,214	137,221	1,099			2,537,053			452	397,328	30,600	36,681			39,316		101,406					1,668	8,482	894,478		1,242,152	51,386	9,799		535,276	85,308	225,766	375,891
	Sep	246,707	132,352	533	1,631		2,229,430			876		347,400	36,862			42,459		120,397					1,002	7,559	752,711		1,278,513	44,482	9,103		513,181	79,140	214,264	346,017
	Oct	376,354	136,179	95	5,946		2,020,994			1,009		347,600	41,988			41,144		134,738		8,544			836	9,187	728,321		1,843,490	19,716	10,140		563,635	71,095	276,843	387,685
	Nov	459,893	136,671	54	3,080		2,378,835			1,367		272,400	41,742					937,804					681	5,831	746,900		3,114,916	18,682	10,621		554,734	60,678	499,383	564,094
	Dec	342,881	127,407	43	3,359		2,603,030			1,348		320,800	40,758					1,027,742					810	2,091	755,613		2,545,590	15,850	9,531		532,286	40,402	410,980	450,672
2021	Jan	329,582		41	2,987		2,850,880			1,328		352,700					983,298																	
	Feb			33	3,498					1,601		311,600																						

Table 7: Recipients of income support payments for the self-employed

Country	BE	CZ		DK	DE	EL	ES	IE	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU		MT	NL	AT	PL			SI	SK		FI			
Scheme name/type	Overbruggingsrecht/ Droit passerelle	Compensatory bonus: Self-Employed	Income support payments of small Limited Liability Companies (Compensatory bonus: Ltd)	Compensation scheme for the self-employed (lost turnover)	Soforthilfe*	Support to self-employed & sole proprietorships (excluding scientific occupations)	Income support payments to the self-employed (Extraordinary benefit due to cessation of activity)	Pandemic Unemployment Payment (available to employees and self-employed who lost their job from March 13 due to COVID-19 pandemic) Numbers provided here refer to the self-employed.	Allowance for self-employed workers	Special Scheme for self-employed	Allowance for idle time for self-employed	Income support payment to the self-employed	1st support for self-employed	Self-employed support	Annex A	Annex B	Tozo - Number of subsidies (paid to households of 1 or 2 self-employed)	Income support payments to the self-employed (hardship fund - Härtefallfonds)	Income support payments to the self-employed (name of scheme: 15zcc - Co-financing of business activities conducted by natural persons not hiring employees)	15zdd - A low-interest loan to cover the costs of running business for a micro-entrepreneur, including self-employed persons - redeemable if the business activity is maintained for 3 months	Universal income for self-employed	Self-employed persons whose sales decreased by at least 20% or had to close their operations on the basis of a decision of the Public Health Authority	Self-employed persons who have no other income	Self-employed receiving unemployment benefits including under temporary changes relaxing eligibility requirements and improving benefit levels			
2020	January																										
	February																										
	March	392,400	537,268	39,528				78,335	2,851,320	19,941	1,455	87,964															
	April	412,030				1,338,979	453,780		119,037	2,831,716	21,683	2,025	88,275										50,622	39,555	10,574		
	May	377,132	384,570	41,516				120,224		17,103	1,798	87,984															
	June	178,658				1,681,109	79,000		95,092		0	1,293	87,220														
	July	125,162						1868,609	20,920		68,568		1,040														
	August	123,518							4,000		56,719		963														
	September	90,845									49,588		951														
	October	116,035									212,237	65,818		1,016													
	November	162,555										346,814	71,250		3,294												
	December	132,269	775,291									349,342	64,362		3,048												
2021	January	115,605									96,157			8,151													
	February	99,546									96,830																

Source: Data on recipients of crisis support measures collected via the SPC-IG and EMCO-IG. Notes: Figures are generally the total number of benefit recipients during the month in question (i.e. the stock of all recipients of benefits) except for AT, DK, DE, HU and LV. For AT, HU and LV figures are the new recipients in the month only. For DK the figure shown is the total number for those who received compensation/benefit at one point in time from the beginning of the start of the scheme, i.e. for unique recipients during the period from March to February 2021. For DE the figures for the self-employed are cumulative i.e. total number of recipients up to the respective month.

Table 8: Recipients of sickness benefits schemes to protect workers and self-employed in quarantine and “caring benefits”

Country	BE	CZ		DK	EE		IE	ES	CY		LV			LU	MT				SI	SK		FI		SE			
Scheme name/type	Corona parental leave	Attendance Allowance for Employees (Benefits compensating the loss of income of employees caused by the need to take care of their children or care-dependent people)	Nursing Allowance for Self-Employed (Benefits compensating the loss of income of S/E caused by the need to take care of their children or care-dependent people)	Temporary right to sickness benefits	Temporary financial support to parents of children with special needs (erivajadusega lapse vanema erakorraline toetus)	Sickness leave (haigusühvitis)	Illness Benefit (paid if you cannot work because you are sick or ill)	IT (Temporary Disability)	Special Parenting Leave Scheme for working parents with young children	Special Sickness Leave Scheme for working persons that were quarantined or had to self-isolate or were diagnosed with Covid-19 virus	Sickness benefit	Sickness aid allowance	Parental benefit (continued)	Lump-sum payment to supplement to family state benefit for child with disability	Congé pour raisons familiales CPF (“caring benefit”)	Quarantine Leave	Covid Disability Benefit	Covid Medical Benefit	Covid Parent Benefit	Sickness benefits schemes to protect workers and self-employed in quarantine	Pandemic Sickness Benefit	Pandemic Nursing Benefit	Sickness allowance on account of an infectious disease, without Temporary financial assistance due to an epidemic outbreak	Temporary financial assistance due to an epidemic outbreak	Compensation of qualifying deduction in sickness benefit	Changes in temporary parental benefit for caring of sick child	
Year	Month	Number of benefits paid out each month														Number of Individuals receiving (cumulative)	Number of Individuals receiving (cumulative)	Number of Individuals receiving (cumulative)									
2020	January						47,744							7,427										12	0	208,519	
	February						47,133							7,256										7	0	287,653	
	March						53,002	252,744	11,514	8,641				44,300		13	0	312	21				65	0	304,715		
	April		132,076	60,772	923		292	54,526	325,823	11,127	6,215	833		191		36,089	334	1,239	3,868	472	19,915	60,289	604	0	530,165	363,148	
	May		217,338	47,698			1,104	52,243	119,790	7,242	2,621	1,135		682		37,020	368	1,663	4,292	257	27,627	144,096	1,964	1,913	373,424	210,070	
	June		291,008	21,296			1,140	49,251	68,180	0	0	429		1,025	7,678	16,465		0	0	4,038	114	9,187	129,002	3,713	694	281,646	225,545
	July		152,877	N/A				48,526	105,195	0	0	214		906	25	14,219					375	5,315	52,444	3,218	242	192,789	154,022
	August		N/A	N/A				50,705	269,129	0	0	278		3	2	1,312					1,166	3,142	21,305	1,062	70	260,722	55,662
	September		N/A	N/A				53,937	444,871	0	0	446		0	0	3,865					6,872	4,960	20,058	1,659	30	327,130	232,892
	October		43,228	22,469				53,022	482,042	0	0	1,615		0	0						23,444	9,977	12,569	3,019	9	401,991	260,152
	November		82,877	21,995					49,683	464,996	0	0	6,524		0	0					15,230	51,948	20,687	4,629	2	395,177	258,564
	December		103,642						48,157	240,091	0	0	17,244	295	0	0					8,813	102,033	18,472	8,404	1	393,011	276,150
2021	January		59,659					8,816	57,026		0	0								321	104,008	20,162	9,574	0	300,999	176,438	
	February							9,073	49,139								12,223							11,842	0	309,539	209,714

Source: Data on recipients of crisis support measures collected via the SPC-ISG and EMCO-IG.

Notes: Figures are generally the total number of benefit recipients during the month in question (i.e. the stock of all recipients of benefits). For BE the figure shown is the total number for the period (i.e. those who received compensation/benefit at one point in time from the beginning of the start of the scheme). For LV figures are the new recipients in the month only. For MT, number of Individuals receiving the benefit (cumulative). Numbers of unique beneficiaries are for Covid Disability Benefit 379, for Covid Medical Benefit 1679, and for Covid Parent Benefit 4570.

Table 9: Recipients of further income support measures for households and individuals

Country		CZ					FR			EL			IE	IT					CY	LV						LT		LU
Scheme name/type	Extraordinary Emergency Assistance (for people in material need in situations that have to be resolved immediately due to Covid-19.)	Program COVID - rent I: income support payments to the self-employed and companies	Program COVID - rent II: Income support payments to the self-employed and companies	Income support payments to the self-employed and companies (Program COVID - rent III)	Income support payments to the self-employed and companies (Program COVID - Culture), Call, No. 2)	Exceptional solidarity aid (aide exceptionnelle (AES)) - an allowance provided to the most deprived families and children	Prime jeunes précarité (an exceptional allowance for young people (not for students))	The €1 meal (offering students with social security scholarships a full meal for €1 in university restaurants)	One-off compensation (600 Euro) to 6 categories of scientific discipline	Special purpose compensation for special categories	Special purpose compensation for persons in the tourism sector (who had worked in 2019)	Pandemic Unemployment Payment (available to employees and self-employed who lost their job from March 13 due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic.) Numbers here cover both.	Allowance for "Parasubordinati" workers	Allowance for seasonal workers in the sector of tourism and thermal baths	Allowance for fixed-term employees in agriculture	Allowance for workers in the entertainment industry	Allowance for on-call workers, seasonal workers of other sectors than tourism and thermal baths, casual workers, door-to-door sellers	Special Scheme for supporting unemployed persons that have exhausted their 6 months of unemployment benefit within 2020 and cannot find work due to the pandemic	Unemployment assistance benefit	Assistance benefit for idle time	Supplement to allowance for the idle time	Supplement to assistance benefit or the idle time	Crises benefit	Allowance for new specialists	Temporary jobseeker's allowance	Lump-sum children's benefit to reduce the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic	1st support of 5000 EUR	
Year	Month	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of households receiving	Number of households receiving	Number of students	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	
2020	January																											
	February																											
	March	18									393,970	413,248	225,843	554,339	33,251	83,277	0											
	April	341							182,955		596,669	385,721	227,855	553,010	38,599	86,917	2,288				4,298							
	May	506				4,100,000	560,000				580,881	121,666	159,756		38,715	95,932	5,171	901	7,022	9,672	684	4,520						
	June	354								61,158	102,426	439,744		77,326		41,012	100,527	5,156	2,018	4,481	8,838	366	2,083					
	July	143	2,041								68,335	288,181		57,950		45,740	104,233	4,369	3,140	2,379	5,149	151	772	30	12,637			
	August	58	3,239								42,226	232,099		80,284		45,248	103,917	3,767	4,247	7	7	2	324	83	153,635			
	September	33	3,377						188,500		37,379	217,002						3,614	4,840	1	3	1	359	94	198,989			
	October	65	6,370						210,700		57,954	320,978						3,785	5,552	2	0	1	372	84	230,197	336,172		
	November	280	2,833	7,840		1,268			43,200			352,784						3,691	5,627	3	0	0	385	70	242,997			
	December	305	N/A	8,288		3,378	4,100,000	560,000	49,100			291,998						3,938	5,934	0	4,723	0	662	41				
2021	January	183	N/A	13,808		3,981		72,300			477,507							4,971								7,982		
	February	139	N/A	9,027		4,052		127,400			473,605																	

Country		LU (cont)					MT	NL	AT			PL			RO					SI					SK		SE		
Scheme name/type		2nd support of 5000 EU	12500 EUR support	Reimbursable advance	Retail trade support - aide commerce de détail	Recovery and solidarity fund - fonds de relance et de solidarité	Covid Additional Unemployment Benefit	TOFA (income support for flexible workers).	Income support payments to artists: COVID-19-Fonds KSVF	Income support payments to the dependent employed (NEUSTARTBONUS)	One-time payment to unemployed (EINMALZAHLUNG)	15zszb - Co-financing of part of employee remuneration costs and social security contributions	15sze - Co-financing of remuneration of persons employed by non-governmental organisations and entities referred to in Act on Public Benefit and Volunteer Work	15sgg - Co-financing of part of the employee remuneration costs and social security contributions	Technical unemployment supported by state for other professionals as defined by the Civil Code	Technical unemployment supported by state for persons with individual labour agreements based on law regarding the organization and functioning of the cooperation	Technical unemployment supported by state for sportsmen, as they defined of the law on physical education and sport	Technical unemployment supported by state for persons who obtain income exclusively from copyright and related rights, as defined by specific legislation	Technical unemployment supported by state for lawyers whose activity was reduced due to the effects of the coronavirus SARS-COV-2 under the conditions of GEO no.30/2020	Financial support given to employers who restarted their activity after suspension due to Covid-19	One off allowance for Child benefit recipient	One off allowance for Pension recipients	One off allowance for Students	One off allowance for large families	One off allowance for deprived	Sole partner of limited liability company (single-member LLC) with no other income	Citizens who find themselves in a crisis situation without income during a coronavirus pandemic ("SOS grant")	Compensation to risk-groups	
Year	Month	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of recipients	Number of corresponding individuals (employees)	Number of households receiving	Number of households receiving	Number of households receiving	Number of households receiving	Number of households receiving	Number of households receiving	Number of households receiving	Number of recipients		
2020	January																												
	February																												
	March						157							63,434	4,327	5,031	1,192	3,141								966	10,161		
	April						982				29,153	325		64,998	8,624	7,255	2,396	5,757			302,224	49,250	29,150	49,728	1,127	12,792			
	May						1,794				356,333	4,741		75,314	5,005	5,272	2,774	4,581								966	11,916		
	June	7,324	683	1,531	2,527	3,472	1,872	7,500		85	441,665	3,880		7,125	70	1,832	2,210			191,272						680	11,097		
	July									626	349,722	4,724	354,653	4,337	69	506	2,359		584,884							558	8,492		
	August								2,188	819		109,200	4,622	375,755	4,171	44	350	2,743	753,815							523	7,448	2,420	
	September								3,709	948	403,131	47,055	2,446	101,886	2,731	9	156	2,816	598,971							582		1,437	
	October								1,970	974	1,766	8,106	1,700	218,591	3,664	21	67	2,957	96,784							830	0	1,792	
	November									958	326	19,389	1,090	68,260	4,571	69	180	4,972	6,755							927	66	1,876	
	December									1,031	460,436	26,071	491	96,572	4,491	73	136	4,349	781							866	7,907	2,799	
2021	January										13,929	442	34,643	3,946	46	78	4,697			329,168		54,249	31,587			697	12,879	2,903	
	February										2,103	439	41,379														21,754	2,420	

Source: Data on recipients of crisis support measures collected via the SPC-IG and EMCO-IG.

Notes: For AT, figures on recipients of wage subsidy (Neustartbonus) are monthly totals, for Einmalzahlung it is the total of one-time payments in the month. For CZ, for COVID rent schemes figures are new recipients only. For LV, figures other than for crisis benefit recipients are the new recipients in the month only.

Scheme name	LV		LT		MT		LU	HU		NL	AT	PL		RO		SI		SK				SE	
	Allowance for idle time for employees	Furlough support for part-time workers (subsidies)	Wage subsidies during idle time (Scheme1 name)	The subsidies for wages aimed to help to recover after idle time (Scheme2 name)	Wage supplement	Annex A	Annex B	Partial Unemployment - chômage partiel	Job Protection Wage Support Programme	Sectoral wage subsidy programme	NOW (Temporary Emergency Bridging Measure for Employment)	Kurzarbeit	STW - 15g Number of employees receiving STW benefit (economic downtime + reduction of working hours)	Scheme 8 name: Downtime benefits for non-standard form of employment (civil law contracts: commissions on contracts, agency contracts and contracts for specific work)	Technical unemployment for employees supported by state (measure 1)	Short time working scheme for employees (measure 7)	Furlough	Subsidizing short term work	SCHEME 1* - Employers who had to close their operations on the basis of a decision of the Public Health Office	SCHEME 3A* - Employers (incl self employed who are employees) who keep jobs even in the event of interruption or reduction of their activity during a declared emergency situation - payment of compensation of the employee's salary up to 80% of his average	SCHEME 3B* - Employers (incl self employed who are employees) who keep jobs even in the event of interruption or reduction of their activities during a declared emergency situation - flat-rate contribution to cover part of wage costs per employee depending on the decrease in sales	SCHEME 6 - Employers who keep jobs in kindergarten even in the event of interruption or reduction of their activities on the basis of a decision of the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic*	Korttidsarbete (Short-time work Allowance)
Year	Month																						
2018	1						5					8											
	2						6					7											
	3						5					6											
	4						6					4											
	5						5					4											
	6						9					4											
	7						6					5											
	8						10					6											
	9						10					6											
	10						14					5											
	11						14					10											
	12						9					10											
2019	1						16					12											
	2						16					11											
	3						20					8											
	4						18					12											
	5						20					12											
	6						19					14											
	7						19					14											
	8						17					12											
	9						20					13											
	10						21					14											
	11						13					17											
	12						16					18											
2020	1						13					29											
	2						17					33											
	3	3.570		17898*			12.928				66.590			56.308		23.266		13.692	2.648	12.587		-	
	4	5.929		22573*	7.757		14.257	230		139538 a	104.485	7.453	5.400	131.486		27.667		11.257	4.546	17.817		48.391	
	5	4.459		18888*	3908*	11.562	3.783	1.157	10.976		99.938	13.622	128.500	118.567		24.956		4.048	4.477	17.591		13.396	
	6	3.410		12239*	17737*	6.410			4.298		61.373	11.271	184.700	18.299		7.584	3.354	350	3.245	12.200		5.296	
	7			3274*	22.505	12.688			2.895	954	63671 b	40.048	4.988	136.300	5.211	6.029	4.352	78	2.701	9.742	0	1.879	
	8			2538*	23.467	10.054			2.366	374		38.797	1.124	60.900	7.100	5.368	4.365	53	2.558	10.342	1.013	1.348	
	9			2037*	23.267	11.701			1.976	247		26.503	475	18.000	2.440	5.030	4.479	72	2.609	10.849	1.164	1.074	
	10			2238*	15.690	10.825				16		18.442	172	8.400	3.845	93	10.249	5.214	988	4.677	16.935	330	729
	11	3.728	2.182	7486*	26.145	12.767			7	25	77747 c	47.995	114	6.400	102.143	198	12.445	5.253	966	4.793	17.011	151	1.664
	12	6.181	2.931	14365*	14.102	12.394			64	386			132	8.013	9.684	2.458	13.435	4.820	1.711	5.198	15.139	64	1.065
2021	1	9.456	3.656									69	5.690			12.773	2.161	1.425	3.267	9.643	22	9	
	2											86	9.075			3.789						8	
	3																						

Source: Data on recipients of crisis support measures collected via the SPC-ISG and EMCO-IG.

Notes: Figures show the number of companies receiving benefits for employees. Figures are generally the total number of benefiting companies during the month in question (HU, PL only new beneficiaries; those that started receiving benefits in the month in question for 3 months). For DK (**) the figure shown is the total number (unique companies) from March 2020 to 7 March 2021. For LT (*) the data are updated (some companies returned subsidies because of irregularities or other reasons). For NL, figures cover four phases a=NOW 1 March-May 2020, b=NOW 2 June-September 2020, c=NOW 3.1 October - December 2020, d=NOW 3.2 January-5 March 2021.