

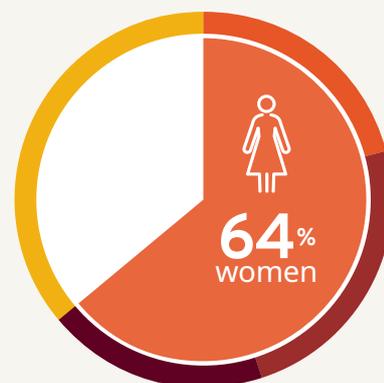


## Haiti COVID-19 economic impact survey results

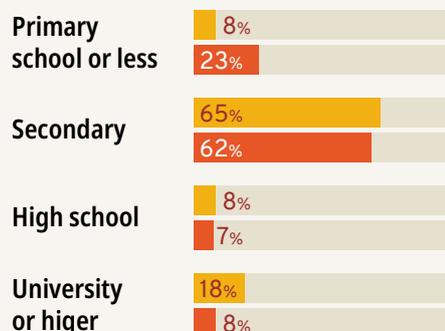
The world of work is being profoundly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the threat to public health, economic and social disruptions threaten the livelihoods and well-being of millions of workers and their families. These economic shocks can be especially acute for workers with jobs within disrupted global supply chains, particularly when they do not have access to formal social protection. In Haiti, where the garment industry has recently accounted for as many as 65,000 formal jobs and 90 per cent of national exports, political instability has also compounded the uncertainties for workers and their families. This brief provides insight into the key issues and concerns workers have expressed related to their livelihoods during a COVID-19 economic impact survey conducted in late 2020 among 3,330 workers in 38 garment factories.

Key findings touch upon three main themes: take-home pay, support networks, and safety and well-being. Although take-home pay has recovered from employment disruptions in mid-2020, financial stress remains a primary concern among workers. The survey results also show that workers and their dependents are relying heavily on familial support networks. Finally, beyond stresses at the workplace, the well-being of workers is affected by external factors, including political instability and deteriorating public safety.

### Basic attributes of respondents



### Highest education level, some variation by gender at the extremes



## Reported take-home pay

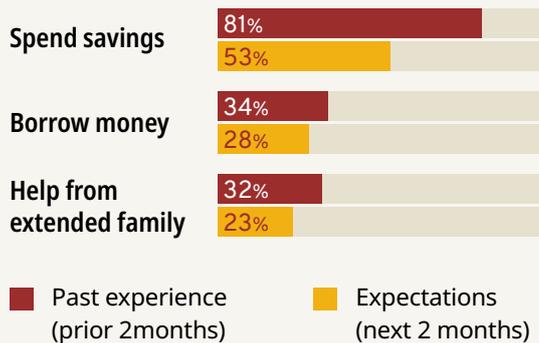
November compared to February (2020)



Half of workers surveyed said they were paid the same in November 2020 compared to February 2020, 20 per cent reported a pay decrease, and 29 per cent reported a pay increase in the same time period.

## Pay disruptions

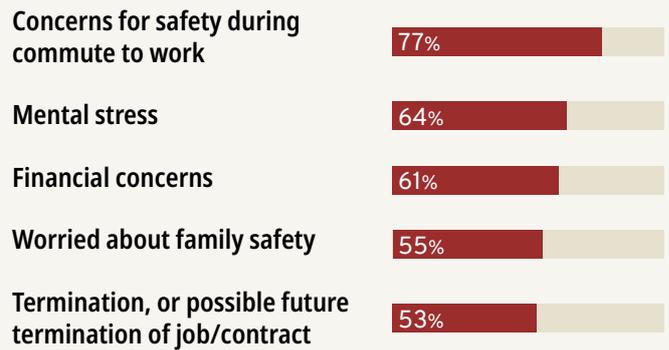
Strategies to pay for living expenses



Eight in ten workers have spent down savings in the past two months to cover their living expenses, while one-third have borrowed money in past two months to pay for living expenses.

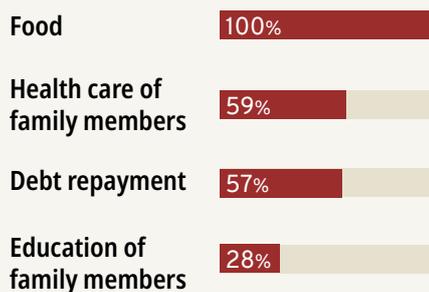
## Main concerns of workers

(% of workers with concern)



Over 60 per cent of respondents reported “financial stress” as a concern. Safety when commuting to and from work is the most common concern mentioned by workers during interviews.

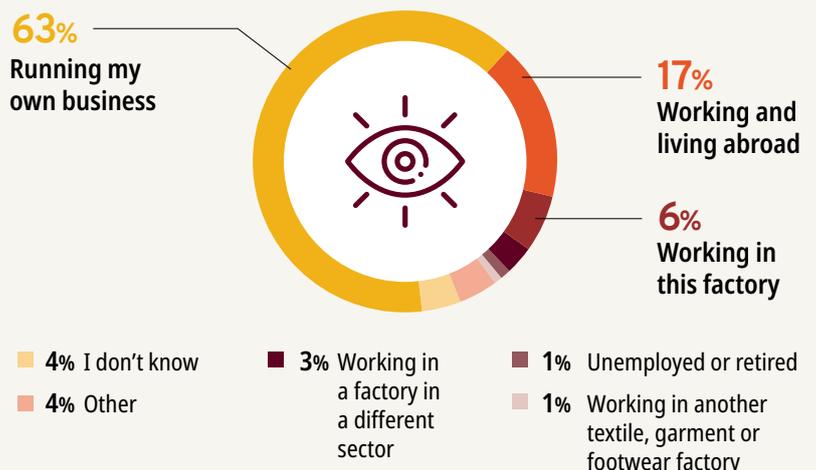
## Spending of money sent home to family



Half of workers regularly remit money to family members. Money sent home is spent on essentials: nearly all workers sending money home say it is used for food. Half report health care spending, as well as paying down debt. A quarter report remittances supporting education of family members.

## Thinking about working life,

what would you like to be doing in 3 years?



When looking ahead to the future, only six per cent of workers would like to envision themselves working in their current factory three years from now, and fewer yet see themselves in another garment factory or industrial setting.

Results from this survey exercise in late 2020 has given insight into the typical background and perspective of workers in the Haitian garment sector. While the industry continues to provide critical jobs tens of thousands of workers in Haiti, the current survey suggests workers face challenges to meeting basic needs during the pandemic even as incomes for the sampled workers have largely recovered from reductions in 2020. Few workers wish to see themselves in the medium-term future in the sector, reflecting their broader aspirations for their working life while simultaneously suggesting there is room for improvement to ensure these jobs can support a viable livelihood. Better Work Haiti and its partners recommit to their mandate to ensure improved working conditions and competitiveness for firms in a sustainable sector.