

PANDEMIC Research News - August 21

Pandemic Life in Luxembourg in 2021

This research news presents a new data set from two interviews with individuals in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in March and June 2021. These interviews covered their socio-demographic characteristics, work and living situations, income, compliance with health and confinement guidelines, and pre-and post-pandemic health characteristics. The sample (807 individuals in March 2021, 643 of whom were re-interviewed in June) is nationally-representative, and the interviews were conducted by TNS Ilres.

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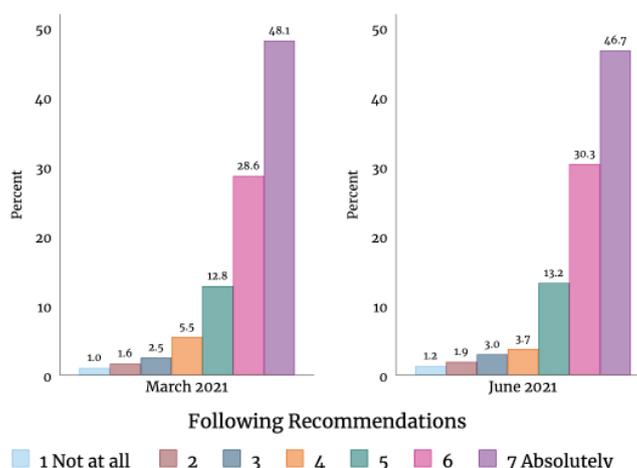
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We here highlight some of the key survey results, which offer a snapshot of the pandemic-induced experiences, behavioural responses, and mental-health outcomes in Luxembourg.

Covid-induced Changes and Behavioural Responses

The great majority of people follow the recommendations to practice social distancing as well as the sanitation and hygiene measures. In both survey rounds, close to half of the respondents indicated that they absolutely follow the official guidelines. In both surveys, only under 10% of participants reported disregard for the official recommendations.

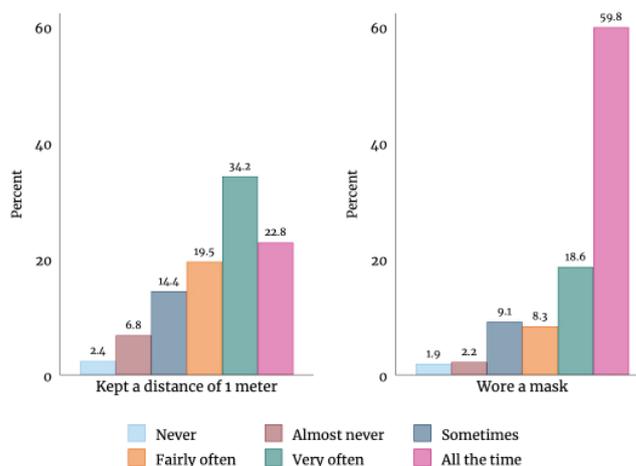
Figure 1: Compliance with official recommendations in March and June 2021



Notes: This figure represents the percentage of responses to the question "Are you following the recommendations from authorities to prevent the spread of Covid-19?". Individuals answered on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 indicates "Not at all" and 7 indicates "Absolutely".

In June 2021, we asked respondents how well they adhered to some specific social-distancing and sanitary rules. 60% of individuals stated that they wear masks all the time, and more than half of them very often keep a distance of at least one meter.

Figure 2: Adherence to recommendations in June 2021

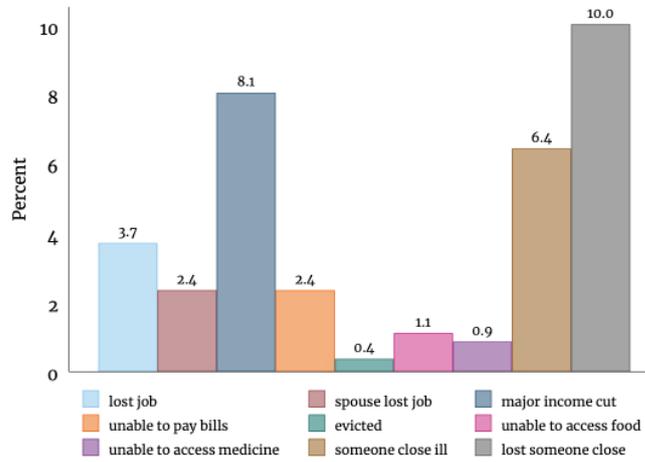


Notes: This figure represents the participants' responses to how often they (i) kept a distance of one meter from other people and (ii) wore a mask when the two-metre distance could not be respected. Participants could answer on a 6-point Likert scale where 1 indicates "Never" and 6 indicates "All the time".

The pandemic has undoubtedly had adverse effects on individuals' lives, work and livelihoods. Since the onset of the pandemic in February 2020, 10% of our sample respondents had lost someone close, 8% experienced a major income loss, and almost 4% lost their jobs. On the contrary, being evicted, and being unable to access sufficient food or required medication were only rare.

Figure 3: Adverse experiences due to COVID-19

Notes: This figure shows the percentage of people who have experienced the named adverse life events since the start of the pandemic.



The work situations of people who report being in employment were affected by the pandemic. 15% individuals worked from home at the onset of the pandemic in February 2020. This figure then rose dramatically to almost 50% in April 2020 during the first pandemic wave, before dropping to 27% in August 2020. By May 2021, 31% of respondents reported still working from home.

Figure 4: Percentage of people working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic

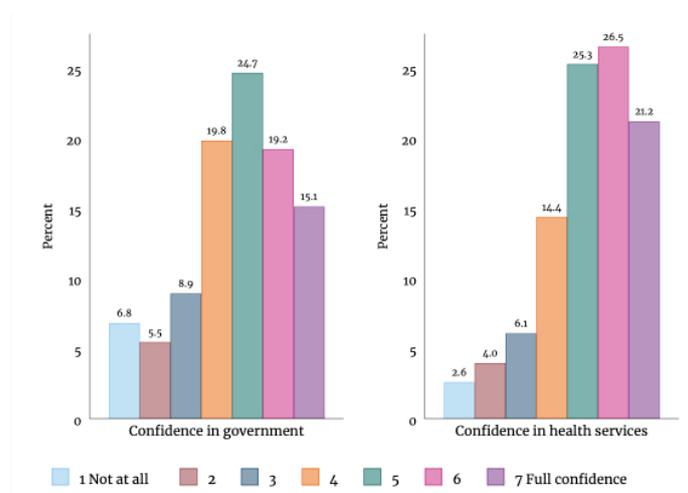


Confidence in Institutions and Government Support

Participants rated their confidence that the government could handle Covid-19 well on a 7-point Likert scale. In March 2021, 15% of respondents reported full confidence (a score of 7), and 54% high confidence (with a score of 5 or 6). Participants have greater confidence that the health services can cope during Covid-19 (24% report full confidence, and a further 52% high confidence). Only 7% have no confidence at all in the government, and just 3% lack confidence in the health services.

Figure 5: Degree of confidence in the Government and the Health Services

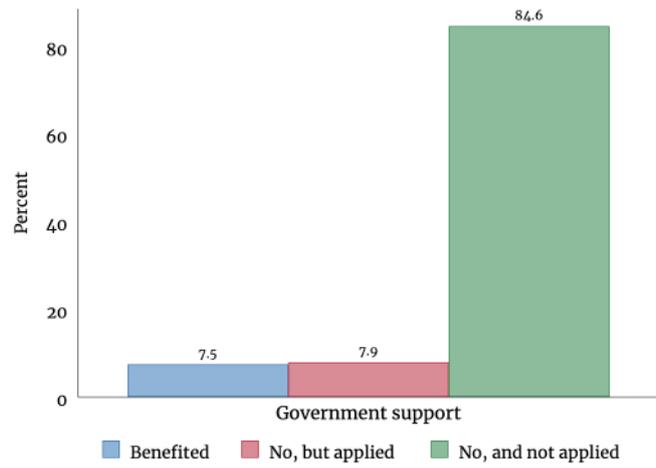
Notes: This figure represents the percentage of responses to the questions "How much confidence do you have that the government of your Luxembourg can handle Covid-19 well?" and "How much confidence do you have that the health service of your current country of residence can cope during Covid-19?". Individuals answered on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 indicates "no confidence at all" and 7 indicates "full confidence".



Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Luxembourg government has implemented a number of schemes to help individuals cope with the worsening economic conditions. We asked participants if they had benefited from any support schemes, such as extended unemployment benefits, self-employment income support, and a freeze on loan repayments. 8% of participants had received some support since March 2020, and another 8% had applied but had not yet received the support.

Figure 6: Government support

Notes: This figure represents the percentage of people who benefited from government support.

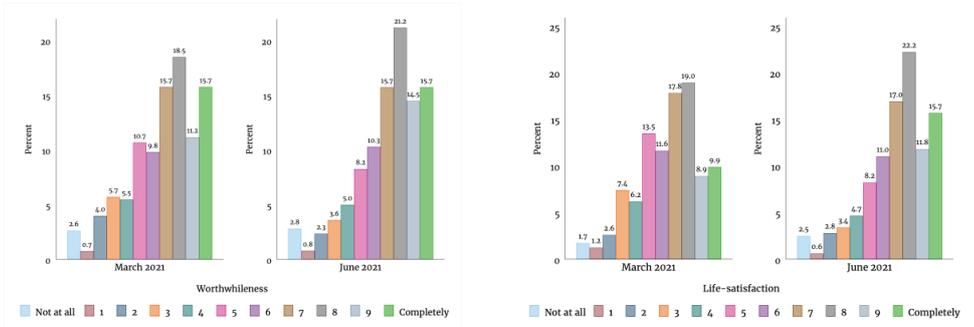


Mental health and well-being

Our survey includes a wide range of questions that measure mental health and well-being. Well-being is measured by two questions on satisfaction with own life and the worthwhileness of life. Both are assessed on a scale from 1, “not at all”, to 10, “completely”. Overall, participants have a favourable view of the quality of their lives, a view that improved on average from March to June 2021.

Figure 7: Individual Well-being in March and June 2021

Notes: This figure represents the percentage of responses to the questions “Overall, in the past week, how satisfied have you been with your life?” and “In the past week, to what extent have you felt the things you are doing in your life are worthwhile?”. Individuals answer on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 indicates “Not at all” and 10 indicates “Completely”.



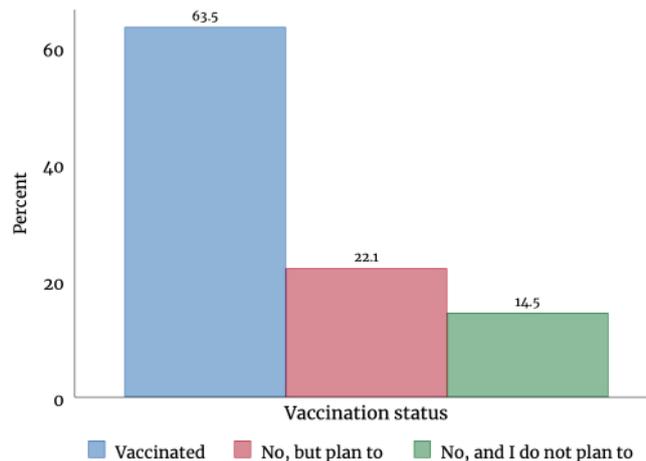
For mental health we focus on anxiety (using the 7-item measure of generalized anxiety disorder symptoms, the GAD-7) and depression (using a 9-item measure of depression severity, the PHQ-9). In March 2021, over 13% of participants suffered from moderate anxiety, and a further 8% from severe or moderately-severe anxiety. The figures for depression are similar, with 21% of participants reporting moderate to severe depressive symptoms. Both mental-health indicators were stable between March and June 2021.

Vaccination

On a positive note, a large majority of the survey participants (64%) have already been vaccinated against Covid-19, and 22% are waiting their turn to receive the jab. 15% of participants reported that they do not intend to get the vaccine.

Figure 9: Vaccination Status

Notes: This figure represents the percentage of people who have been vaccinated, have not yet been vaccinated but plan to, and who have not been vaccinated and do not plan to do so.



Research sponsors

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