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Monitoring the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Employment in the G20

Originally published by: International Labor Organization (ILO) & The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Introduction

The rapid spread of COVID-19 developed into a global health crisis, endangering lives and livelihoods of billions of workers across the globe, exacerbating a widening divergence between and within advanced and emerging economies. There also exists significant cross-country and within-country heterogeneity in the impact of the pandemic on labour markets. However, labour markets have experienced some recovery owing to exceptional measures taken by governments to mitigate the shock by expanding social protection and income support, as well as the rapid rise of teleworking.

Key Highlights

Some of the important observations and findings of the report have been listed down below:

- Workers in the informal sector fared systematically worse than those in the formal sector, with employment reductions 3 to 6 times larger for the former than the latter.
- The deeply sectoral nature of the crisis has led to workers of a low level of education, low-paying occupations, young age and temporary contracts being disproportionately affected and struggling to benefit from recovery.
- Job retention (JR) schemes were widely used to prevent the number of job losses from soaring. They need to be scaled back carefully and flexibly in response to health situations and restrictions.
- Simultaneously, job creation and reducing the risk of infection in the workforce hold paramount importance.
- A national framework of occupation safety and health (OSH) risks which could reflect new work practices and enable social dialogue is much needed to support safe and healthy working environments in times of the pandemic.
- The extent of income support demonstrated by G20 economies at the early state of the crisis was also substantial, such as waiving minimum contribution requirements and extending the qualification period. In countries like Argentina, Brazil and India, income support was extended to informal workers as well.
- More efforts are needed to establish a support structure to allow both working women and men to equitably benefit from care leave policies.
- The recovery process is a unique opportunity to address challenges caused by digitalization and automation as well as other challenges exposed by the pandemic to ensure a job-rich and broad-based recovery.
- The COVID-19 crisis has provided an impulse for G20 countries to increase the spending on public employment services and reinforce online and offline training programmes for upskilling and reskilling those at risk of displacement.
- Active labour market policies (ALMPs) must be flexible and responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups to realize inclusive recovery. Addressing gaps in social protection for part-time, temporary and self-employed workers should be made a priority.

Read More: [ILO+OECD Monitoring the impact of the COVID-19 on Employment in the G20.pdf](#)

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