



# ITUC Frontline Poll 2021

## The impact of COVID-19 on jobs and working hours in G20 countries



JOBS  
CLIMATE-FRIENDLY JOBS  
RIGHTS  
SOCIAL PROTECTION  
EQUALITY  
INCLUSION

A New Social Contract for Recovery and Resilience



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# Methodology

This report summarises the results of a survey commissioned by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). The fieldwork was conducted by YouGov. Fieldwork was conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2021. The surveys were carried out online in ten countries, with a total sample size of 12,265. The sample size for each country is as follows:

Country		N
Australia		1062
Brazil		1009
France		1016
Great Britain		1684
India		1000
Indonesia		2119
Italy		1036
Japan		1006
Mexico		1006
USA		1327

**Note:** Sample sizes vary per country due to the standard survey samples in each region. All sample sizes are 1,000 respondents or over, meaning they're significantly above the minimum requirement for statistical reliability.

The figures have been given an even weighting for each country to produce an “average” value.

The questionnaire was developed by the ITUC in consultation with YouGov. This report was prepared by Kate Whelan Consulting.

# Executive Summary

Over half of respondents are calling for governments to do more to create jobs as loss of jobs and working hours take their toll on G20 countries.

A year on from the WHO declaring COVID-19 a global pandemic, the impact of the virus on working people is profound.

Across the ten G20 countries surveyed in this report, more than one in four people (27%) reported that they or someone in their household had lost their job due to the pandemic.

A staggering 42%, or nearly half of people, reported that they or someone in their household had had their working hours reduced due to the pandemic.

Combining these results shows that almost half (49%) of people live in a household where someone has either lost their job or had their working hours reduced due to the pandemic.

While this pandemic and its impacts have been global, the shock has been greater on the populations of some countries than others:

- In **Indonesia**, almost half (47%) of people reported a lost job in their household, while almost two in every three (65%) reported lost working hours.

- In **Brazil**, 41% of people said that they or someone in their household had lost their job, and more than half (53%) said that working hours had been reduced.
- **Mexico** (38% of households lost a job, 56% experienced reduced working hours) and **India** (39% lost a job and 48% lost working hours) have had a similar experience.

In this context, there has been an arguably unsurprising call for governments to do more to create jobs. Over half (54%) of people surveyed believe that their government should be doing more to create jobs for workers affected by the pandemic.

The call for government to do more is loudest from people in those countries reporting the greatest loss of household jobs and working hours – 71% of those in **Mexico**, 67% of those in **Brazil** and 65% of those in **Japan** believe their government should be doing more to create jobs for workers affected by the pandemic.

# Key Insights – Lost Jobs

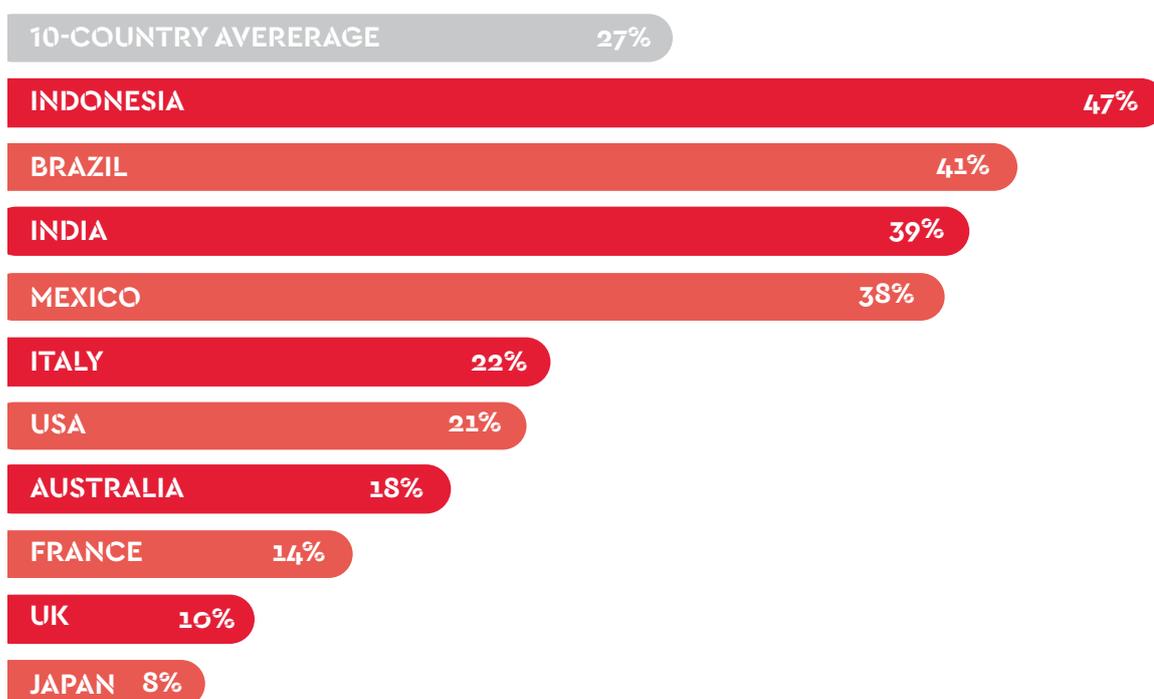
More than one in four households in the countries surveyed have had someone lose their job due to the pandemic.

Across the ten countries surveyed, 27% of people (or just over one quarter) reported that either they (15%) or someone in their household (13%) had lost their job due to the pandemic.

This figure was highest in **Indonesia** (47%) and **Brazil** (41%), with close to half of people reporting that they or someone in their household had lost their job. **India** (39%) and **Mexico** (38%) also reported that well over one third of households had had someone lose their job due to the pandemic.

Even countries lower than the average across the 10 countries surveyed faced significant loss of jobs. More than one in five households in **Italy** (22%) and the **US** (21%) have had a household member lose a job due to the pandemic. In **Australia**, just under one in five households (18%) have lost a job, while around one in 10 households in **Great Britain** (10%) and **Japan** (8%) have lost a job due to the pandemic.

Have you or anyone in your household lost their job due to the pandemic? “Yes”



**Figure 1: Question 1a** Have you or anyone in your household lost a job due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic? “Yes”. Note N=12265 N is about 1000 for each individual country, except for GB (1684), Indonesia (2119) and the USA (1327). Countries ordered highest to lowest score for “Yes”.

**Table 1: Question 1a** *Have you or has anyone in your household lost a job due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic?*

	NET Household Lost Hours	I have	Someone in my household has	No one in my household	Don't know	Prefer not to say
<b>10-COUNTRY AVERAGE</b>	<b>27%</b>	15%	13%	64%	5%	5%
<b>AUSTRALIA</b> 	<b>18%</b>	10%	9%	76%	3%	3%
<b>BRAZIL</b> 	<b>41%</b>	22%	22%	52%	4%	2%
<b>FRANCE</b> 	<b>14%</b>	7%	7%	78%	3%	4%
<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b> 	<b>10%</b>	6%	4%	83%	4%	4%
<b>INDIA</b> 	<b>39%</b>	17%	24%	36%	11%	13%
<b>INDONESIA</b> 	<b>47%</b>	30%	19%	43%	4%	6%
<b>ITALY</b> 	<b>22%</b>	11%	12%	72%	4%	2%
<b>JAPAN</b> 	<b>8%</b>	3%	4%	86%	3%	4%
<b>MEXICO</b> 	<b>38%</b>	20%	19%	55%	3%	3%
<b>USA</b> 	<b>21%</b>	11%	11%	66%	7%	6%

## Demographic Analysis

### Younger people are most affected by jobs losses.

Those aged 18 to 34 were significantly more likely to report both that they personally had lost their job due to the pandemic or that a member of their household had.

One in five (or 20%) of those aged 18 to 34 in the ten countries surveyed stated that they personally had lost their job to due to the pandemic. This compares to 13% of those aged 35+.

Across the households as a whole, 35% – or more than one in three – people aged 18-34 reported that someone in their household (either they or someone else) had lost their job due to the pandemic. This compares to 24% (or just under one quarter) of those aged 35+.

**Note:** Question 1a: Have you and/or anyone in your household had either of the following happen due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic? (Please select all that apply on each row.) Row: Lost my/their job.

# Key Insights – Reduced Working Hours

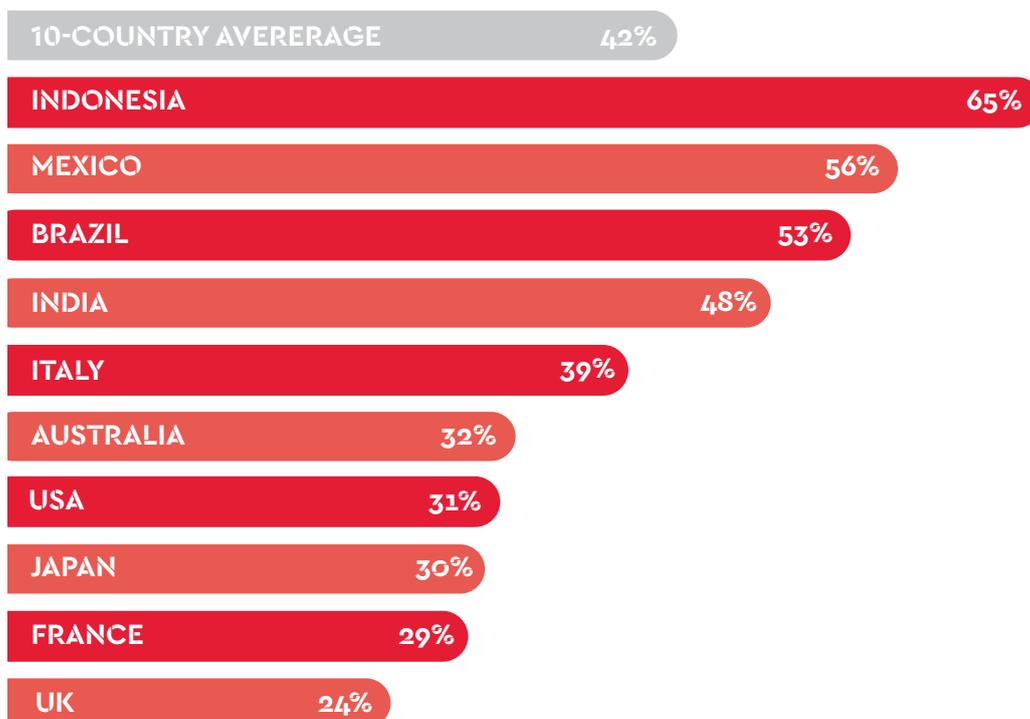
Almost half of households have had someone have their working hours reduced due to the pandemic.

42% of people reported that they or someone in their household have had their working hours reduced.

Those that responded to the survey in **Indonesia** (65%), **Mexico** (56%) and **Brazil** (53%) were most likely to report that someone in their household had lost working hours due to the pandemic. Just under half of those in

India (48%), and around one in three of those in **Italy** (39%), **Australia** (32%), the **US** (31%), **Japan** (30%) and **France** (29%) also reported lost working hours. 24% (or almost one in four) people in **Great Britain** reported that someone in their household had lost working hours.

**Have you or anyone in your household lost working hours due to the pandemic? “Yes”**



**Figure 2: Question 1b** Have you or anyone in your household lost working hours due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic? “Yes”.

Note N=12265 N is about 1000 for each individual country, except for GB (1684), Indonesia (2119) and the USA (1327). Countries ordered highest to lowest score for “Yes”.

**Table 2: Question 1b** *Have you or anyone in your household lost working hours due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic?*

	NET Household Lost a Job or Working Hours	I have	Someone in my household has	No one in my household	Don't know	Prefer not to say
<b>10-COUNTRY AVERAGE</b>	<b>42%</b>	24%	21%	49%	5%	5%
<b>AUSTRALIA</b> 	<b>32%</b>	21%	15%	62%	3%	3%
<b>BRAZIL</b> 	<b>53%</b>	30%	27%	39%	5%	3%
<b>FRANCE</b> 	<b>29%</b>	16%	14%	62%	4%	4%
<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b> 	<b>24%</b>	15%	10%	69%	3%	4%
<b>INDIA</b> 	<b>48%</b>	23%	28%	27%	12%	13%
<b>INDONESIA</b> 	<b>65%</b>	43%	26%	25%	5%	5%
<b>ITALY</b> 	<b>39%</b>	18%	24%	56%	4%	2%
<b>JAPAN</b> 	<b>30%</b>	20%	14%	65%	2%	3%
<b>MEXICO</b> 	<b>56%</b>	29%	32%	37%	5%	3%
<b>USA</b> 	<b>31%</b>	17%	17%	56%	5%	7%

## Demographic Analysis

### Younger people are most affected by reduced working hours.

53% of those aged under 35, compared to 38% of those aged 35+, reported that they or someone in their household had had their working hours reduced due to the pandemic.

**Note:** Question 1b: Have you and/or anyone in your household had either of the following happen due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic? (Please select all that apply on each row) Row: Had my/their working hours reduced.

# Key Insights – Combined Loss of Jobs or Working Hours

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Almost one in three people have lost their job or experienced a reduction in working hours due to the pandemic.

31% of people across the countries included in this survey have either lost their job or had their working hours reduced.

Almost half (49%) of people live in a household where someone has either lost their job or had their working hours reduced due to the pandemic.

These figures are highest in **Indonesia**, where 54% of people reported that they personally had either lost their job or had experienced a reduction in working hours. Almost three-quarters (74%) of those in Indonesia reported that they live in a household where someone has lost their job or had their working hours reduced due to the pandemic.

This was followed by those in **Brazil**, where 43% have lost their job or experienced a reduction in working hours, and where 66% live in a household where someone has lost a job or working hours due to the pandemic. **Mexico** (38% have personally lost a job or working hours, 63% live in a household where someone

has lost job or working hours) and **India** (32% have personally lost a job or working hours, 61% live in a household where someone has lost a job or working hours) also reported large numbers of households impacted by the pandemic.

In **Italy**, almost half of people (47%) reported living in a household where someone has lost a job or working hours due to the pandemic.

Respondents in **Japan** (33%), **France** (35%), **Australia** (37%) and the **US** (38%) all reported that at least one in three people live in a household where someone has lost a job or working hours due to the pandemic.

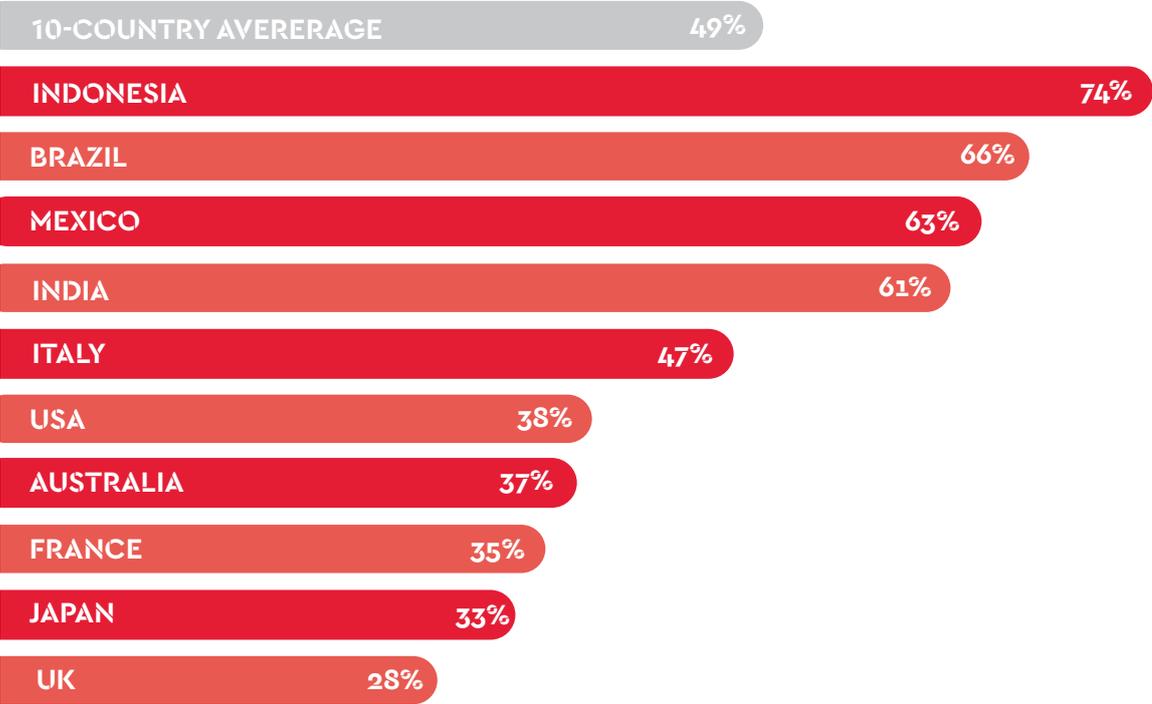
**Great Britain** reported 28% for people who have either personally lost a job or working hours due to the pandemic or live with someone who has. At 28%, this means that more than one in four people live in a household where someone has lost a job or working hours due to the pandemic.

## Demographic Analysis

**Younger people are far more likely to be living in households with a job loss or reduction in working hours.**

62% of those aged 18-34 compared to 45% of those aged 35+ live in a household where someone has lost their job or experienced a loss of working hours.

### NET Household Lost a Job or Working Hours



**Figure 3: Question 1a and 1b Have you or anyone in your household lost a job OR working hours due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic? “Yes”.** Note N=12265 N is about 1000 for each individual country, except for GB (1684), Indonesia (2119) and the USA (1327). Countries ordered highest to lowest score for “Yes”.

**Table 3: Question 1a and 1b** *Have you or anyone in your household lost **working hours** due to the pandemic? AND Have you or anyone in your household lost **a job** due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic?*

	NET Household Lost a Job or Working Hours	I have	Someone in my household has	No one has, don't know or prefer not to say
<b>10-COUNTRY AVERAGE</b>	<b>49%</b>	31%	28%	51%
<b>AUSTRALIA</b> 	<b>37%</b>	24%	19%	63%
<b>BRAZIL</b> 	<b>66%</b>	43%	41%	34%
<b>FRANCE</b> 	<b>35%</b>	19%	19%	65%
<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b> 	<b>28%</b>	18%	13%	72%
<b>INDIA</b> 	<b>61%</b>	32%	40%	39%
<b>INDONESIA</b> 	<b>74%</b>	54%	36%	26%
<b>ITALY</b> 	<b>47%</b>	25%	31%	53%
<b>JAPAN</b> 	<b>33%</b>	22%	17%	67%
<b>MEXICO</b> 	<b>63%</b>	38%	41%	37%
<b>USA</b> 	<b>38%</b>	23%	23%	62%

**Note:** Question 1a: Have you and/or anyone in your household had either of the following happen due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic? (Please select all that apply on each row.) Row: Lost my/their job.

Question 1b: Have you and/ or anyone in your household had either of the following happen due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic? (Please select all that apply on each row.) Row: Had my/their working hours reduced.

# Key Insights – Government Action

Over half of people believe their government should be doing more than it is to create jobs for workers affected by the pandemic.

54% of people across the 10 countries included in this survey believe that their government should be doing more than it is to create jobs for workers affected by the pandemic.

This figure is highest in **Mexico**, where 71% – almost three-quarters – of people believe that their government should be doing more to create jobs for workers. **Brazil** (67%) and **Japan** (65%) have around two-thirds of people who think their government should be doing more in this

area. Half or more of people in **Indonesia** (58%), the **US** (51%) and **India** (50%) believe their government should be doing more, as do 45% of those in **Great Britain** and 43% in **Australia**.

Respondents in **France** differed significantly from the other nine countries included in this survey, with 28% believing their government should be doing more to help workers affected by the pandemic.

## Is your government doing enough to create jobs for workers affected by the pandemic? "Should be doing more"

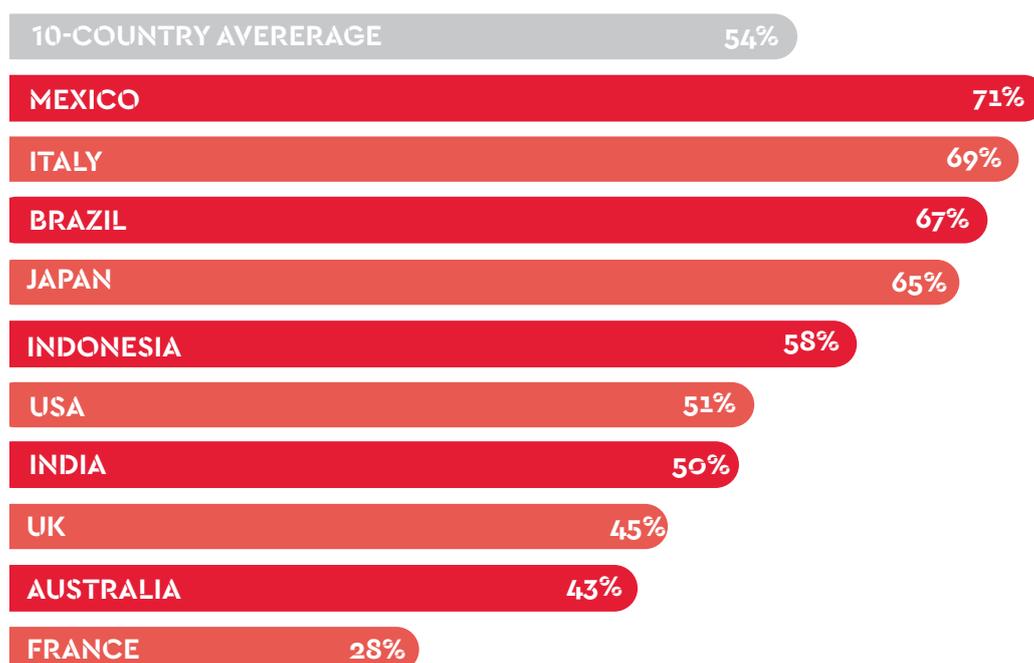


Figure 4 Question 2 Thinking about what the government can do to help working people affected by the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic in terms of **job creation**, which of these statements comes closest to your view about the following? "Should be doing more". Note N=12265 N is about 1000 for each individual country, except for GB (1684), Indonesia (2119) and the USA (1327). Countries ordered highest to lowest score for "Should be doing more".

**Table 4:** Thinking about what the government can do to help working people affected by the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic in terms of **job creation**, which of these statements comes closest to your view about the following?

	The government should be doing more in this area to help workers affected by the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.	The government is doing all it reasonably can in this area to help workers affected by the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.	Don't know
<b>10-COUNTRY AVERAGE</b>	<b>54%</b>	33%	12%
<b>AUSTRALIA</b> 	<b>43%</b>	49%	8%
<b>BRAZIL</b> 	<b>67%</b>	28%	5%
<b>FRANCE</b> 	<b>28%</b>	47%	25%
<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b> 	<b>45%</b>	38%	17%
<b>INDIA</b> 	<b>50%</b>	34%	16%
<b>INDONESIA</b> 	<b>58%</b>	38%	4%
<b>ITALY</b> 	<b>69%</b>	24%	6%
<b>JAPAN</b> 	<b>65%</b>	22%	13%
<b>MEXICO</b> 	<b>71%</b>	23%	6%
<b>USA</b> 	<b>51%</b>	27%	22%

## Demographic Analysis

### Younger people want their government to do more to create jobs.

Across the 10 countries included in this survey, those aged under 35 were slightly more likely to believe that their government should be doing more to create jobs for workers affected by the pandemic (59% compared to 53% of those aged 35+).

There were no significant differences between males and females, with more than half of each believing that their government should be doing more to create jobs for workers affected by the pandemic (53% of males and 56% of females).

**Note:** Question 2: Thinking about what the government can do to help working people affected by the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic in terms of job creation and increasing working hours (i.e., the amount of paid hours employers are able to offer workers), which of these statements comes closest to your view about the following? Row: Creating jobs for workers affected by Covid-19.

# Toplines

## Q1 (a and b)

Have you and/or anyone in your household had either of the following happen due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic? (Please select all that apply on each row).

	I have	Someone in my household has	No one in my household had (i.e., including myself)	Don't know/can't recall	Prefer not to say
Lost my/their job	15	13	64	5	5
Had my/their working hours reduced	24	21	49	5	5

## Q2 (a)

Thinking about what the government can do to help working people affected by the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic in terms of job creation and increasing working hours (i.e., the amount of paid hours employers are able to offer workers), which of these statements comes closest to your view about the following?

	The government should be doing more in this area to help workers affected by the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.	The government is doing all it reasonably can in this area to help workers affected by the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.	Don't know
Creating jobs for workers affected by the coronavirus (Covid-19)	54	33	12



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