



# What's up on work in agriculture?

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## Working during COVID-19

The outbreak of COVID-19 and the unprecedented measures taken by many countries to slow down the spread of the coronavirus caused large economic and psychological costs. This paper uses real time survey data from two waves run at the end of March and in mid-April to provide a snapshot of the actual labour market outcomes in twelve countries. Our study reveals large cross-country differences. At the end of March, when large disparity existed in the diffusion of the pandemic and in the lockdown measures, a large share of employed individuals had stopped working in France (38%) and Italy (47%), but much less in Australia (13%) and the US (10%). Large differences remained in mid-April. Yet, some common patterns emerge. Labour market outcomes varied according to workers' educational attainments and occupation types. College graduates and white collars worked more from home and less from the regular workplace. Instead, low educated workers and blue collars were more likely to remain in the regular work place or to stop working. Similar patterns emerge with respect to the workers' (family) income. This evidence

suggests that initial labour market effects of COVID-19 (and of the lockdown measures) may have contributed to increase pre-existing inequalities.

Links : [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/working-during-covid-19\\_34a2c306-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/working-during-covid-19_34a2c306-en)

Tags : Health and decent work

## Local Food Markets Orientation and Labor Intensity

In the new research “Local food market orientation and labor intensity” released in the Applied Economic Perspectives & Policy, Becca Jablonski, Allie Bauman, and AAEA President-Elect Dawn Thilmany McFadden look into repositioning food and agricultural supply chains towards more localized markets and how they affect the role of human capital in the business model.

Jablonski says, “Farm sales through local and regional food markets require more labor (as a percentage of total variable expenses). Given challenges accessing labor due to an increasingly difficult immigration system for employer and workers to navigate, and more recent issues related to COVID-19, this may create particular hardships for farms and ranches that depend on local food markets. Yet, the higher wages paid and nature of the work (focus post farmgate including on marketing, processing, distribution, and customer service) may be of interest to a broader set of workers.”

Links : <http://www.aaea.org/publications/publications-update/local-food-markets-orientation-and-labor-intensity>

## Agriculture and rural development are critical for the eradication of poverty, as the world’s poor fight the impact of COVID-19, says FAO Director-General

The Director-General highlighted that the role of agriculture and food systems was even more relevant today as COVID-19 had taken a heavy toll on rural communities and laid bare deep inequalities.

“The pandemic has hit the rural areas hard. One third of jobs and livelihoods in our food systems could be wiped out,” he said.

The High-Level Meeting was convened by the UN General Assembly to mark the inauguration of the United Nations’ Alliance for Poverty Eradication.

UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, told the event that poor people were paying a heavy price for COVID-19 as it had exposed structural inequalities and the lack of universal social protection. He called for an acceleration of global action to eradicate hunger and poverty.

In fact, FAO’s Director-General noted that restrictions on movement had stopped agricultural producers from getting full access to markets, seasonal workers had lost wages and unharvested produce had been rotting in the fields. As incomes fall and food prices rise, households have to compromise the quantity and quality of their food.

Qu also highlighted “new champions” were needed to lead the effort towards achieving the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals to eradicate hunger and poverty by 2030, stressing that rural development, agriculture and food systems should remain at the forefront of national development agendas.

Links : <http://www.fao.org/director-general/news/news-article/en/c/1296186/>

## 25 de julho - Dia do Trabalhador Rural e Dia Internacional da Agricultura Familiar

“Todo caminho da gente é resvaloso.

Mas também, cair não prejudica demais

A gente levanta, a gente sobe, a gente volta!

O correr da vida embrulha tudo, a vida é assim: esquenta e esfria, aperta e daí afrouxa, sossega e depois desinquieta.

O que ela quer da gente é coragem!”

Com esta mensagem de Guimarães Rosa, a Rede de Estudos Rurais homenageia todos os trabalhadores rurais pelo seu dia, e pelo dia internacional da agricultura familiar. 📅🌱

Links : <https://redesrurais.org.br/25-de-julho-dia-do-trabalhador-rural-e-dia-internacional-da-agricultura-familiar/>

## The ILO Global Summit Highlights: COVID-19 and the World of Work

From the 1st to the 9th of July, the ILO hosted the largest ever online summit of workers, employers and government representatives to address the impact of COVID-19 on the world of work, and how to build a better future of work after the pandemic. Find out more: [global-summit.ilo.org/en](http://global-summit.ilo.org/en)

Links : [http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/video/institutional-videos/WCMS\\_751643/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/video/institutional-videos/WCMS_751643/lang--en/index.htm)