

Online Meetings on Gender Statistics 12–14 October 2020

ABSTRACT

Title	COVID-19 and the CSO, Ireland
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Session	Solutions to COVID-19 challenges

As the COVID-19 pandemic developed in Ireland in March 2020, the CSO quickly included new questions in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for Q2 and also introduced several new surveys. This presentation will discuss some of these new questions in the LFS and will also focus on one of the new reports ‘Social impact of COVID-19 on Women and Men, April 2020’. The new questions in the LFS asked respondents about changes to their employment and their day-to-day life since the start of pandemic. The results provide an insight into how personal, home and work lives have changed and the impact on well-being. Several new surveys were initiated, including ‘Social impact of COVID-19’ which was carried out at the end of April. The topics covered were well-being, personal concerns, working life, consumption of alcohol, tobacco and junk food as well as compliance with official COVID-19 advice. LFS results COVID-19 had an effect on the employment of 50% of males and 44% of females. Men were more negatively impacted by COVID-19, with 25% of men losing employment or having a temporary layoff compared with 20% of women. Men were also more likely to be unable to work remotely at 17% compared with 12% for women. These statistics from the LFS were published in a new report ‘Employment and Life Effects of COVID-19’. They are based on a survey of 2,288 persons aged 15 years and over gathered using computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) during April 2020. Social impact of COVID-19 on Women and Men, April 2020 People who were newly working from home in April 2020 were asked would they like to remain working from home or return to their place of work after the pandemic. Nearly half of women (49%) said they would like to return to their place of work compared with 32% of men. A small proportion of women and men had low overall life satisfaction in 2018 but the proportions grew sharply by April 2020. Less than 10% of women and men had low overall life satisfaction in 2018. However, the proportion of women with low overall life satisfaction increased strongly to 37% by April 2020, while the proportion for men rose to 22%. Women were far more likely to increase consumption of junk food and alcohol. In April 2020, 50% of women had a rise in their consumption of junk food compared with 32% of men. An increase in alcohol consumption was seen for 19% of women compared with 17% of men. Nearly four in ten women increased their frequency of exercise compared with just over three in ten men. These statistics were published in a new report ‘Social impact of COVID-19 on Women and

Men, April 2020' and are based on responses from 1,362 persons aged 15 years and over using a sample generated from LFS respondents who agreed to be contacted for further research. The respondents were contacted using a mix of emailed questionnaires and computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) during the last week of April 2020.

Further information: For more information, see the COVID-19 hub on the CSO website:
<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-Covid19/Covid-19informationhub/>