

May 2021

# COVID-19 IMPACT SURVEY

**One Year of Corona: How people  
in Germany, Spain and Italy  
are experiencing the pandemic**



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by  
**Dr. Nuria Oliver**

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# Preface

by **Dr. Nuria Oliver**

Since March of 2020, we have been collectively fighting against the most impactful pandemic of the past 100 years, with over 140 million confirmed cases and over 3 million deaths worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic – or better said, syndemic – has brought to the surface pre-existing structural weaknesses in our societies, from a lack of digital capabilities in the governments – which has led to a scarcity of high-quality data related to the pandemic – to a widening gap of inequality and a disproportionate negative impact on the poor, women, migrants, and other minorities.

In this context, digital data and technology serve as lenses on the world, and as levers of change. The current crisis provides a unique opportunity to ask how digital data and technology can truly and structurally improve our world by both helping us better fight the pan-

demic and build back a better society. As we describe in our recent paper, this crisis ought to be a moment in our lifetimes where we reassess our ways of life, our incentives, our priorities, and push for real change with some of the powerful tools in our hands: the data and technology available to all of us.

Highly motivated to contribute towards realizing such a vision, I have been volunteering since March of 2020 as Commissioner to the President of the Valencian Region in Spain on AI and Data Science against COVID-19. For over one year, I have been leading an award-winning team of 20+ volunteer scientists working on Data Science to help support policy making during the pandemic. We have been working very intensely on 4 large areas: ① human mobility modeling; ② computational epidemiological models; ③ predictive models and a ④ citizen science project via a large-scale online survey called COVID-19 Impact Survey.

Launched on March 28th 2020, it has become one of the largest citizen surveys related to COVID-19, with over 600,000 collected answers from 11 different countries.<sup>1</sup> Our large sample is the result of an enthusiastic response from universities, townhalls, civil organizations and citizens who shared the survey using social media channels and messaging apps, together with our Facebook advertisement efforts.

With only 26 questions, it is short and anonymous yet incredibly valuable. We have invested significant resources to optimizing the user experience for a flawless, fast interaction on any kind of mobile device. Moreover, we have been committed to analyzing the answers weekly and publicly sharing all the results through an online, interactive visualization built in Tableau.

Not only our closest collaborator, the Presidency of the Valencian Government, but also civil organizations and the media regularly rely on the survey answers to support their decisions or simply have a better, evidence-driven, understanding of the situation.

We are aware that the survey is not exempt of limitations – including non-probabilistic sampling due to the self-selection nature of the survey distribution. However, we apply a range of techniques, such as sample re-weighting and noise filtering, to minimize the impact of such drawbacks. Moreover, we have corroborated the survey answers by contrasting our results with those of other, independent, and smaller surveys that might have been deployed by other institutions. Details on the methodology and the results of analyzing the first week of data can be found in this scientific publication.<sup>2</sup>

## Our motivation to deploy the survey was two-fold:

**FIRST**, there were important, yet unanswered questions related to people's behavior during the pandemic, their perception and compliance with the implemented confinement measures, the performance of public health systems and the health, psychological, economic, and labor impact that the pandemic was having on their (our) lives. We had no reliable data sources to get a pulse on reality and address such critical questions. Thus, we had to collect our own data by means of the survey.

**SECOND**, we wanted to listen to and involve citizens, to give them a voice and to tap on the collective experience of this *annus horribilis*. We all have been subjects of the myriad of public policies that have been deployed by our governments in their efforts to contain the spread of coronavirus. However, in rare occasions we have been given an opportunity to speak out and share our perceptions, behaviors, and impact that the pandemic and the government measures were having on our lives. The survey is a tool that enable such collective participation.

<sup>1</sup> [COVID-19-Impact-Survey](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Assessing the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Spain: Large-Scale, Online, Self-Reported Population Survey](#)

Despite such limitations, the value of the survey is unquestionable. In a situation where decisions need to be made quickly and ideally based on evidence – such as during this pandemic, online citizen surveys emerge as a fast, cheap, and reliable tool to support evidence-driven policymaking, to measure the impact of the deployed policies and to involve citizens in the process. We hope that our experience will inspire other governments into using similar tools to support their decision-making. And, of course, we would love to hear about your experience during the pandemic and hence invite you to participate in the survey.<sup>3</sup>

71% report psychological impacts of the pandemic that they consider to be negative to their health. Youth and women are the two most affected demographic groups.

71%

8% of those who work say they have also done telework.

48%

Only 48% of people report being able to self-isolate if needed, with clear gender and age differences.

43%

43% believe there is a low risk of contracting the coronavirus by going to the hospital.

90%

90% report that they wear a face mask.

Only 54% reported that they made an effort to ensure proper ventilation.

42%

Only 42% of those who had close contact with an infected person conducted contact tracing, with the impact of digital apps for contact tracing proving to be negligible

54%

12% report having lost all or part of their savings.

34%

34% consider going to school to be safe.

82%

82% of the population would be willing to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

<sup>3</sup> COVID-19-Impact-Survey

A selection of findings in the survey (with data given here for respondents in Spain)

# Why this report matters

The COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath have been the central topic in politics and society for over a year now – in every family, among friends, and in the workplace. Every day, politicians make new proposals, argue about curfews and relaxing pandemic containment measures. Almost as frequently, the media report on polls that purport to reflect the population's mood like a seismograph. But polls are volatile; depending on the data, one can draw different conclusions and it is becoming increasingly challenging to keep track. This makes it even more important to look at the long-term effects and consequences of the pandemic. Precisely these are reflected in the COVID-19 Impact Survey, one of the largest long-term surveys of the pandemic's impact. The survey was conducted in Spain, Italy, Germany, Brazil, and, most recently, Israel, and is based on more than 600,000 responses to date.<sup>4</sup>

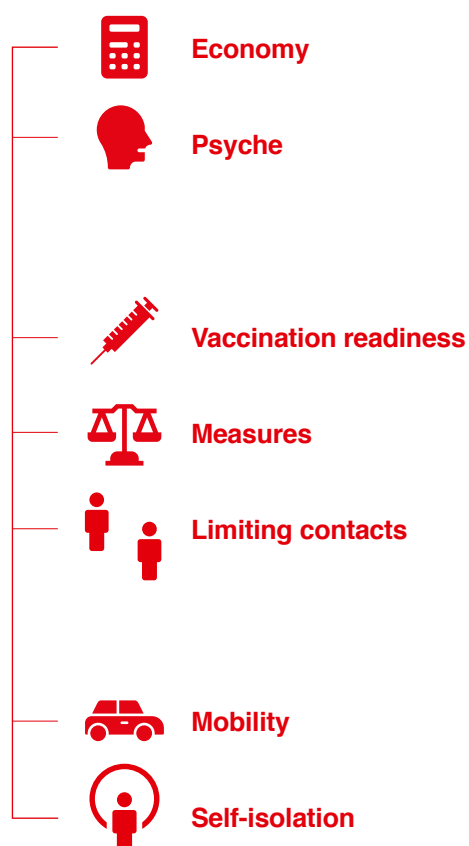
**With around 600,000 responses, the COVID-19 Impact Survey is one of the largest long-term surveys on the pandemic.**

The polarised nature of recent debates reflects the importance of having an independent, broad and balanced foundation of data to ascertain the mood of a population. The survey shows long-term developments, untethered from overlapping reports and heated discussions, and offers a sober view of the myriad consequences of the pandemic.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> The [research paper](#) based on the survey is also available for download online

<sup>5</sup> All figures refer to participants in the survey and not to the total population of the countries mentioned

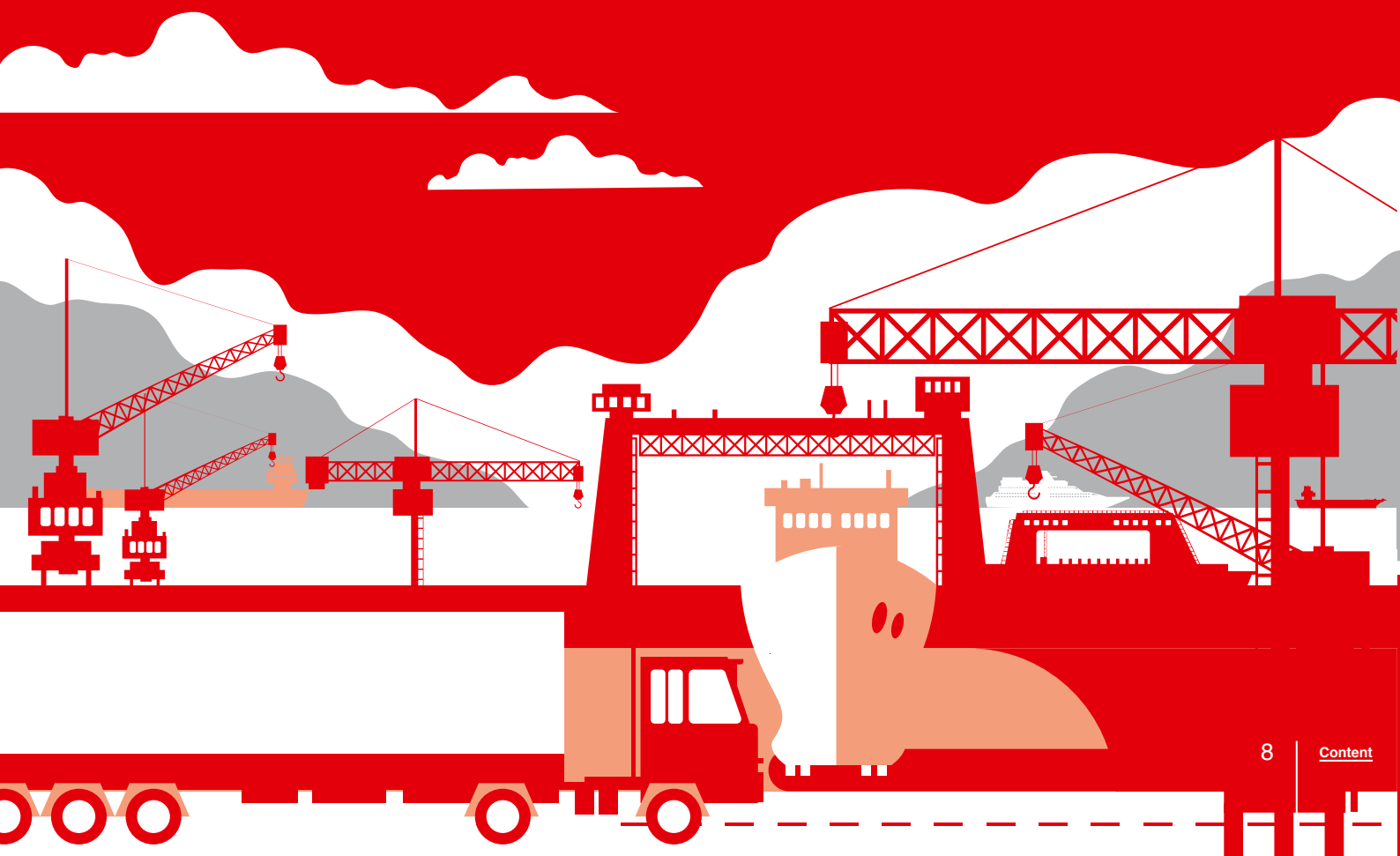
# The different faces of the pandemic



The death toll is shocking: More than 80,000 people in Germany, about 77,000 in Spain and 118,000 in Italy died from or with COVID-19 between March 2020 and mid-April 2021.<sup>6</sup> These numbers are the clearest and easiest to prove and yet, the pandemic has other faces: people, for instance, who fear for their economic livelihood, or are suffering psychologically from forced isolation or their fear of infection. The COVID-19 Impact Survey also shows these faces of the pandemic.

<sup>6</sup> As of April 22, 2021

# 1. Economic consequences of the pandemic





The pandemic's economic consequences are manifold. In Spain, the younger generation, which was already struggling with high youth unemployment before COVID-19, has been hit particularly hard: 18% of the 18- to 29-year-olds surveyed lost their savings, 11% have lost their jobs, and 13% have lost large portions or all of their income. In the 30-59 age group, 14% said they lost their savings, 8% lost their jobs and 12% lost their income.

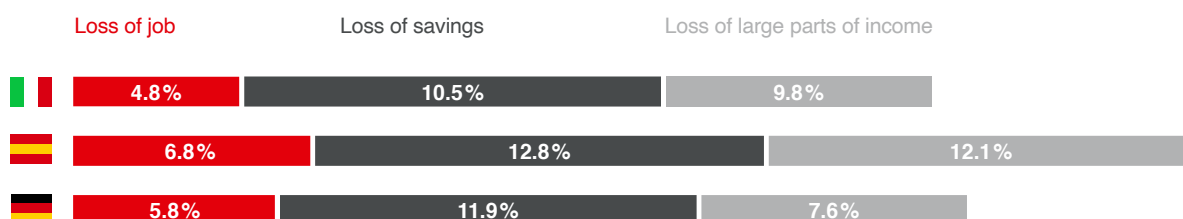
In Italy, younger people are also more affected by job loss, loss of savings and loss of income than those aged 30 to 59 and the 60+ generation. Among younger people, 9% have lost their jobs, 16% lost their savings and 14% have lost large parts or all of their income. Of those aged 60+, only 7% have lost their savings and 5% have lost large parts of their income. In the mid-aged group, 13% have lost their savings, 11% have lost their income and 7% have lost their job.

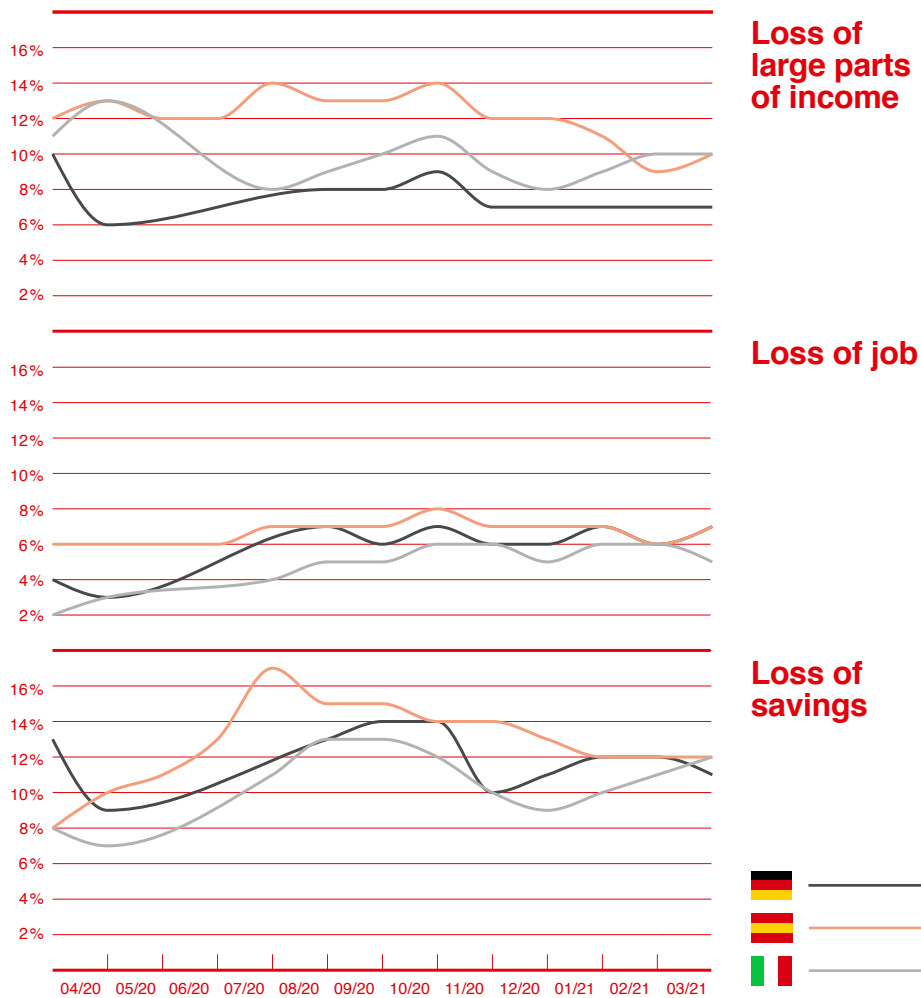
The economic consequences of the pandemic are less likely to affect people aged 30 to 59 in Germany than those of the same age group in Italy and Spain. But they are more affected by savings-loss (15%) and a loss in income (9%) than younger Germans. Only 13% of 18- to 29-year-olds in Germany said they lost their savings and 7% said they had lost large parts of their income. The numbers for those above the age of 60 in Germany were all under 5%, and thus lower than those of Spain and Italy.

The populations overall show a positive trend, at least in Germany and Spain: In both countries, the economic consequences of the pandemic are shrinking. In November 2020, 14% of respondents in Spain said they had lost large parts or all of their income, but in March 2021, it was only 10%. Moreover, in March, only 12% said they had lost their savings, compared with 16% in December. As many as 15% were even able to expand their savings. In Germany, the survey suggests a similar trend. In November, 14% said they had lost their savings, but in March that figure was only 11%.

**In Spain and Italy, the younger generation has been particularly hard hit.**

**Overall, Spain had to struggle more with the economic consequences.**





In Italy, on the other hand, the number of people who have lost savings or a large part of their income has jumped recently. But Spain shows the most clearly positive trend as of March 2021 – albeit with lower overall numbers than Germany.

From an economic perspective, the worst seems to have passed, at least in Germany and Spain. The reasons for this are diverse and difficult to pinpoint. It is possible that people have become accustomed to the lifestyle associated with the pandemic – less spending, no travel. People who have secure, well-paying jobs were seemingly even able to generate new savings. The pandemic is exposing new divisions: While some are able to save more, others are losing large parts of their savings and income. Moreover, it is unclear what will happen once government measures expire. It is also not out of the question that the current slightly positive trend will once again reverse itself.

**The populations overall show a positive trend, at least in Germany and Spain.**

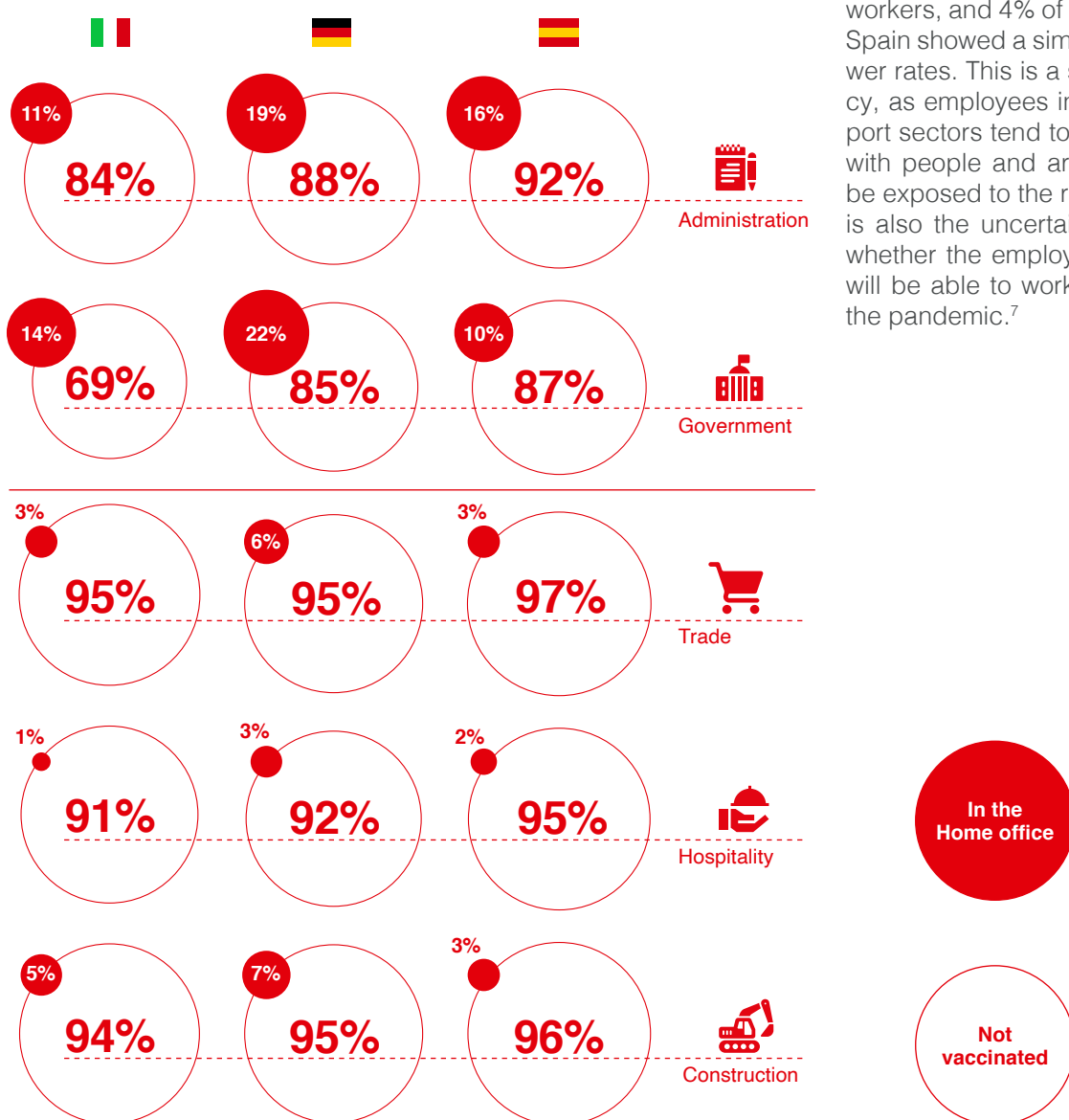
In Germany, as well as in Spain and Italy, workers in certain economic sectors have been particularly hard-hit, even if the extent of the impact varies from country to country. People in the restaurant and catering business, the cultural sector and employees in the entertainment or retail industries have felt the economic consequences the most.

## Industries suffering significant economic damage



## Administration, a privileged sector: Working from home, high vaccination rate.

## Contrasted with professions with compulsory presence, but with few contacts.



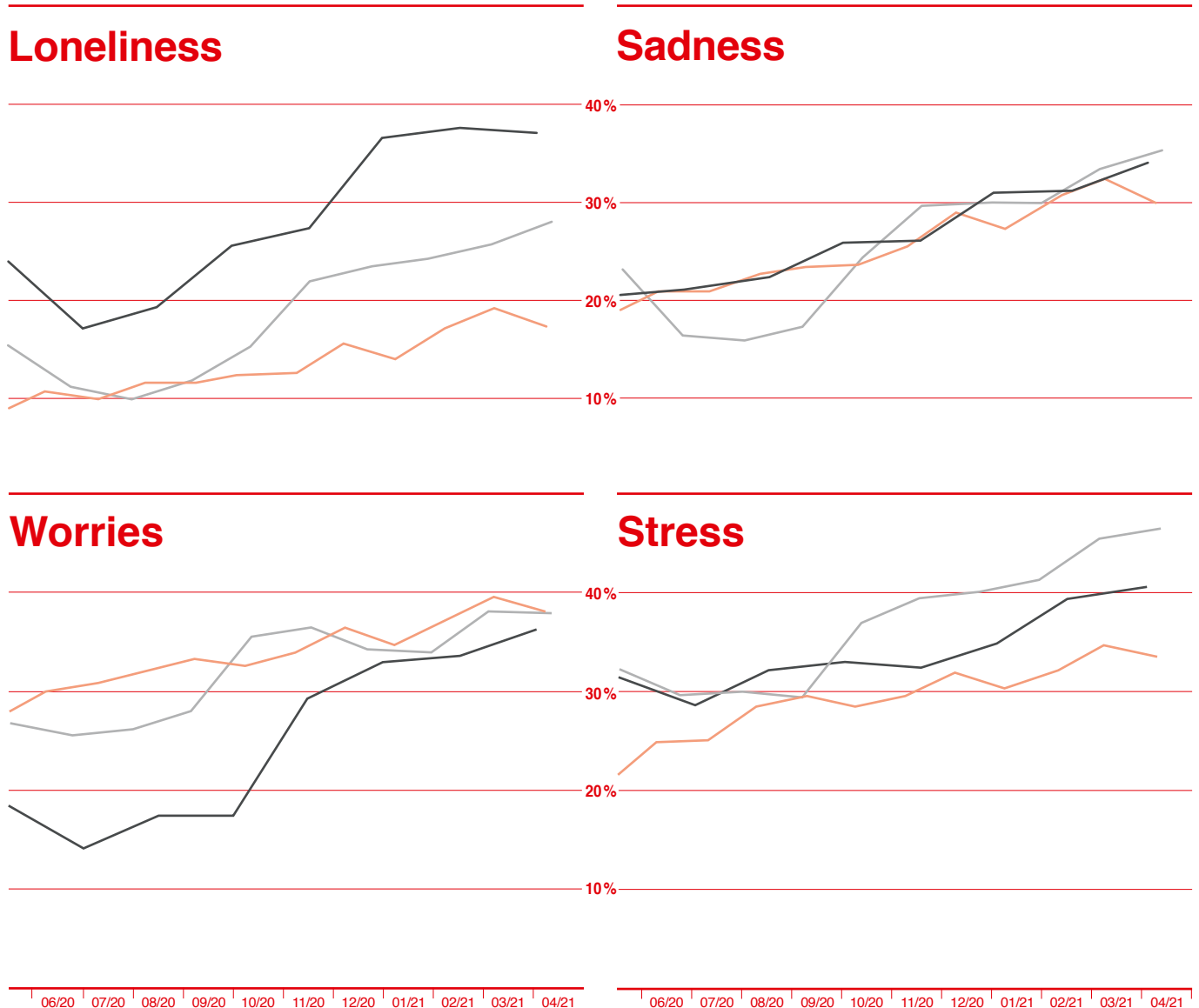
At this point, the workers in these sectors have also been less extensively vaccinated than others and work less from home than employees in the public sector. As of mid-April 2021 in Italy, only 4% of surveyed employees in the retail sector, 5% in the transport sector and 7% in the construction sector have been vaccinated, compared to 27% of those working in public administration. In Germany, 13% of respondents working in public administration had been vaccinated by mid-April, compared to only 3% of retail workers, 5% of transportation workers, and 4% of those in construction. Spain showed a similar result, albeit at lower rates. This is a surprising discrepancy, as employees in the retail and transport sectors tend to have a lot of contact with people and are thus more likely to be exposed to the risk of infection. There is also the uncertainty about when and whether the employees in these sectors will be able to work like they did before the pandemic.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> The sample might have a bias in terms of the job distribution of the respondents versus the actual distribution in the country, as we do not apply weights to the job distribution. We do apply weights so the sample matches the country's distribution in terms of sex and age. Hence, the figures of unemployment, loss of income etc. might be a bit biased.

# 2. the pandemic's psychological toll



**A look at the psychological consequences of the pandemic shows that, in all three countries, more people were affected by sadness, loneliness and stress in March 2021 than in April 2020.**



It is worth unpacking these figures: Fewer people in Spain noted an increase in sadness, loneliness or stress compared to Italy and Germany. Indeed, 18% of Spaniards reported a significant increase in loneliness in their households in March 2021, compared to 38% in Germany and 28% in Italy. The graphs show a clear rise in almost all indicators between April 2020 and March 2021.

The psychological consequences differ not only by country but also by population group within each country. The 18- to 29-year-olds, in particular, stand out: In Germany, 42% of women and 39% of men of this age suffer from loneliness, compared to 22% of women and 20% of men among the over-60s. The differences between the age groups are especially striking when it comes to stress, anxiety, and excessive alcohol consumption. Of German men between the ages of 18 and 29, 22% reported a significant increase in alcohol consumption in their household, compared to only 8% of men over the age of 60.

In Spain, the differences between the age groups are even more dramatic. Among 18- to 29-year-olds in the country, 42% of men and 53% of women complained of an increase in significant worries in their household, while, among the over 60s, only 17% of men and 23% of women reported the same. There were similarly large discrepancies when it came to stress and sadness. Another factor that has impacted younger people especially is the fear of stigmatisation. In Germany, 16% of men and 17% of women between the ages of 18 and 29 reported that they were fearful of being stigmatised or discriminated against due to their having contracted COVID-19 and having to quarantine as a result. The figures are similar in Italy and Spain. In those countries, as in Germany, younger people were also significantly more likely than older age groups to fear being stigmatised for an infection and the resulting quarantine.

**The psychological consequences not only affect the countries differently, but also the population groups.**

**The 18- to 29-year-olds are particularly affected.**

**42%**

42% of 18- to 29-year-old men in Spain lamented an increase in serious worries in their household.

**17%**

Only 17% of Spaniards over 60 years of age expressed similar concerns.

The discrepancy between men and women is striking. In almost all categories, women are more severely affected by the consequences of the pandemic in Germany, Spain, and Italy. More women reported having major concerns, stress and sadness in their households. For example, 57% of younger women and 48% of men aged 18 to 29 in Germany said they had observed stress in their households. Among younger women, 37% and 36% noted sadness and major concerns, respectively, while 30% and 31% of men felt the same. In Spain, there is a similar difference between the sexes, and an even more clear congruence in Italy. There, 71% of surveyed women between the ages of 18 to 29 reported increased stress in their household, compared to only 60% of the men. In the same age group in Italy, 58% of women and 46% of men complained about having major concerns. Although the figures can be interpreted in various ways, they show that women overall suffer more from the varied psychological consequences across national lines.

**In almost all categories, women have been more severely affected by the consequences of the pandemic.**



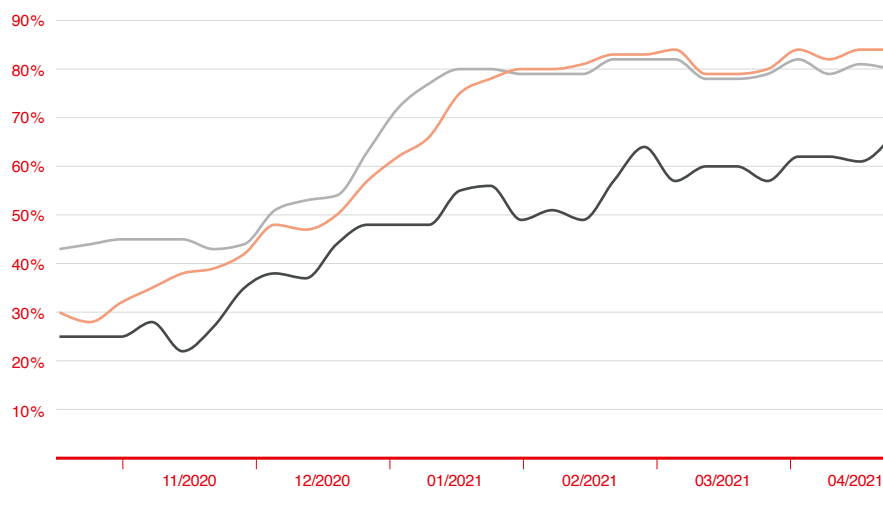
A stylized illustration on a red background. A white hand is shown from the top left, holding a syringe with a white plunger and a dark grey needle. The syringe is angled downwards towards the right. In the bottom right corner, a white hand is shown holding a small glass vial with a dark grey cap. A thin white line extends from the needle of the syringe towards the vial. The text '3. Vaccination readiness in comparison' is written in large, bold, white sans-serif font, centered on the page.

# 3. Vaccination readiness in comparison

## A look at the pandemic's economic and psychological consequences has shown that there are certainly similarities between Germany, Spain, and Italy. But there are considerable differences in people's willingness to get vaccinated in those countries.

In early December, that number was 37% in Germany, 48% in Spain, and 51% in Italy. That picture became clearer by April 2021: In Spain and Italy, 85% of people were willing to get vaccinated or have already done so, but only 59% share this view in Germany. Vaccine readiness was thus about 25 percent lower in Germany compared to Italy and Spain. Questions about the reasons for this hesitance offered surprising results: In Germany, 17% of those surveyed in mid-April did not want to be vaccinated because they did not trust the government's motives, while in Spain only 3% gave this answer, and in Italy only 1% did. In early January, 21% of respondents in Germany had said they did not want to be vaccinated because they distrusted the government.

Apparently, the German government did not manage to assuage people's concerns during this period. Respondents' willingness to get vaccinated in Germany also varied regionally. Willingness in mid-April 2021 in the eastern German states of Brandenburg, Saxony-Anhalt and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania was between 36% and 41%. By comparison, willingness in Bavaria was at 59% and Schleswig-Holstein had the highest at 74%. There were no comparable regional differences in Spain and Italy.

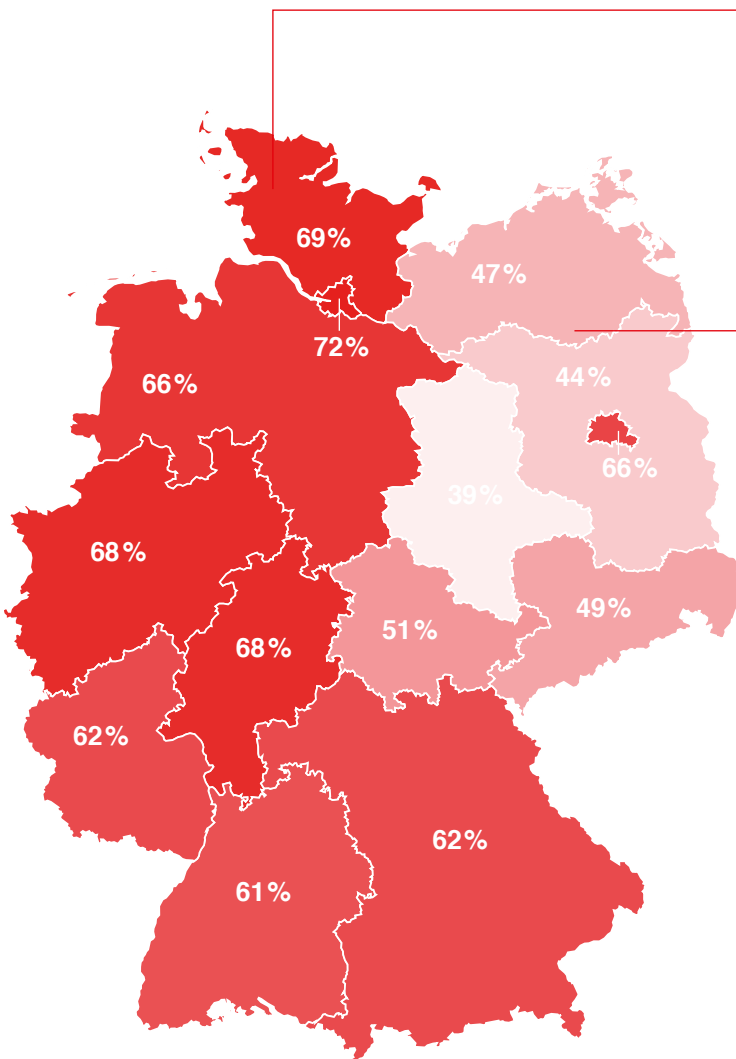


**The willingness to get vaccinated is about 25% lower in Germany than in Italy or Spain.**



The willingness to get vaccinated in the western German states is between 61% and 72%.

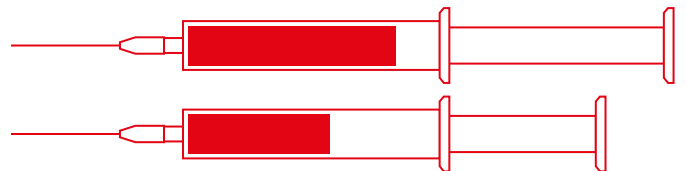
In the majority of the eastern German states, only 39% to 51% expressed that willingness.



There were no comparable regional differences in Spain and Italy.

In Spain and Italy, 85% of people were willing to be vaccinated in April 2021.

# 85%



# 59%

In Germany, only 59% of total respondents expressed a willingness.

# 4. Support for coronavirus containment measures



# 52%

52% of Spaniards felt the measures taken by their governments should be stricter.

# 40%

40% of Italians felt the measures taken by their governments should be stricter.

# 33%

33% of Germans felt the measures taken by their governments should be stricter.

In late March 2021, 52% of Spaniards, 40% of Italians and 33% of Germans felt that the measures taken by their governments to contain the spread of the coronavirus should be stricter. This seems plausible given that the third wave of the pandemic was already well underway at the time. It is interesting to note that support for tougher restrictions virtually parallels rising infection numbers. Just before Christmas 2020, 36% of respondents in Germany were calling for tougher measures, at a time when Germany was seeing up to 30,000 new COVID-19 cases per day. In late January, 67% of Spaniards wanted the government to do more to contain the virus, at a time when the third wave was well underway, with up to 30,000 new infections daily. When Spain had low case numbers compared to other European countries in late November and early December, only 45% called for tougher measures – the lowest since the survey began. These selected examples demonstrate that people almost reflexively seem to call for tougher measures from the government once numbers rise.

In Spain, the share of those who wanted tougher measures were higher than in Germany over the course of the pandemic so far. The number of people in Spain for whom the measures went too far never rose above 12%, except in June, when there was there a relative majority who thought that the measures were just right. Between the end of March 2020 and the end of March 2021, those in favour of tougher government measures predominated in Spain, with the exception of June 2020.

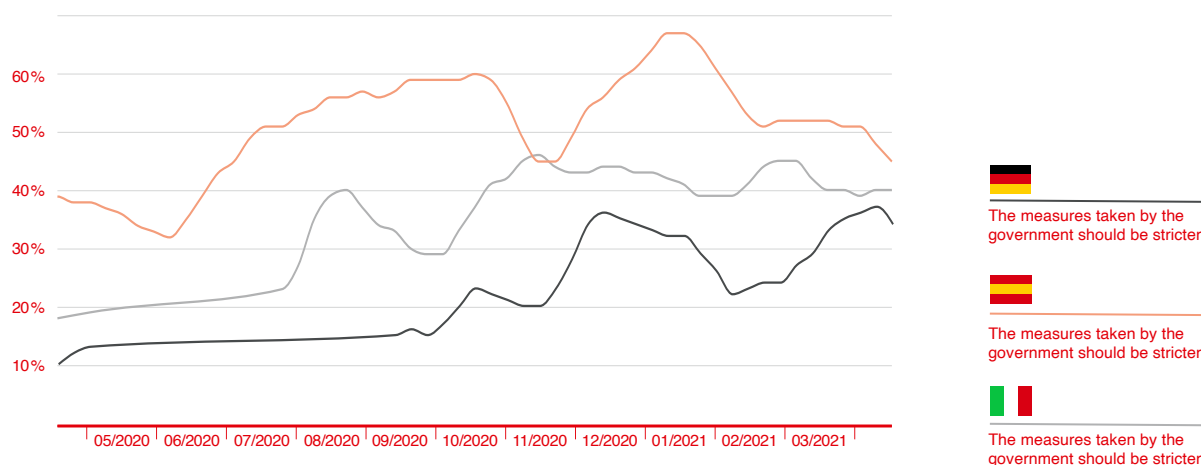
In Italy, the proportion of those who thought the measures being taken against the pandemic were sufficient declined rapidly since October – from 38% that month to 13% in late March. At every point in the survey since mid-October, at least 35% of Italians thought the government's actions needed to be tougher.

**In Italy and Spain over the past year, there was no point when more people supported looser measures than supported stricter rules.**

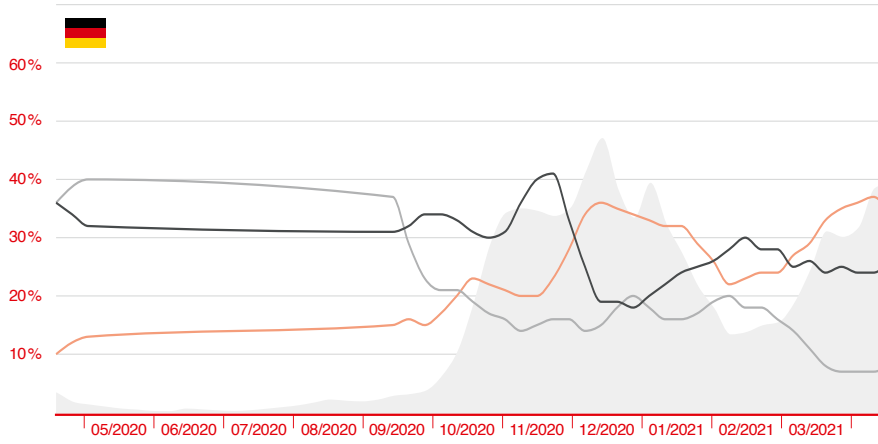
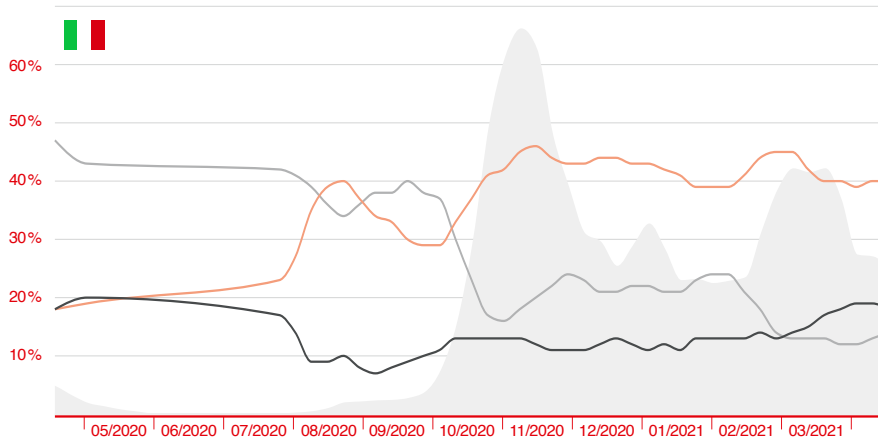
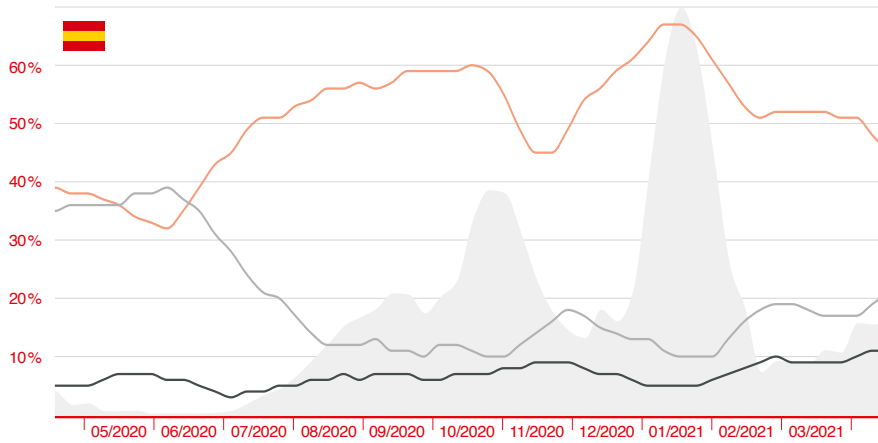
Such high approval ratings for stricter limitations were only measured in Germany during the second half of December and from the beginning of April 2021 – these were the only periods when at least 35% of those surveyed expressed support for stronger government intervention. At the beginning of March 2021, as many as 28% of respondents thought the restrictions were too strict, and only 24% advocated tightening them. However, support for the more restrictive measures also rose in Germany – from 22% at the beginning of December to 36% at the beginning of April.

In Italy and Spain over the past year, there was no point when more people supported looser measures than supported stricter rules. In Germany, that was still the case at the beginning of December, when well over 20,000 new infections were reported each day. The differences in support for tougher steps to contain the spread of the virus are astonishing in their clarity – especially when seen against the backdrop of much tougher lockdowns in Italy and Spain during the first wave. One possible explanation is that Italy and Spain had much higher death rates than Germany during the first wave.

**Approval for tougher measures is consistently high in Italy and Spain. For Germany, it is more difficult to determine a clear preference among the population because the proportion of supporters and opponents of stronger government intervention fluctuates more strongly.**



# Support for tougher restrictions is largely parallel to infection numbers.



The measures taken by the government should be stricter.

The measures taken by the government should be stricter.

The measures taken by the government are too strict.

New COVID-19 infections  
(% in graph apply only to approval of containment measures)

Since the beginning of the pandemic, it has become clear that no matter what measures politicians decide on, and how tough those measures are, they are not effective unless a population is willing to reduce its contacts and mobility. People's willingness to take responsibility for their own behaviour is undoubtedly crucial to success in fighting the pandemic.

## **Italians and Spaniards are much more willing to adhere to hygiene measures than Germans.**



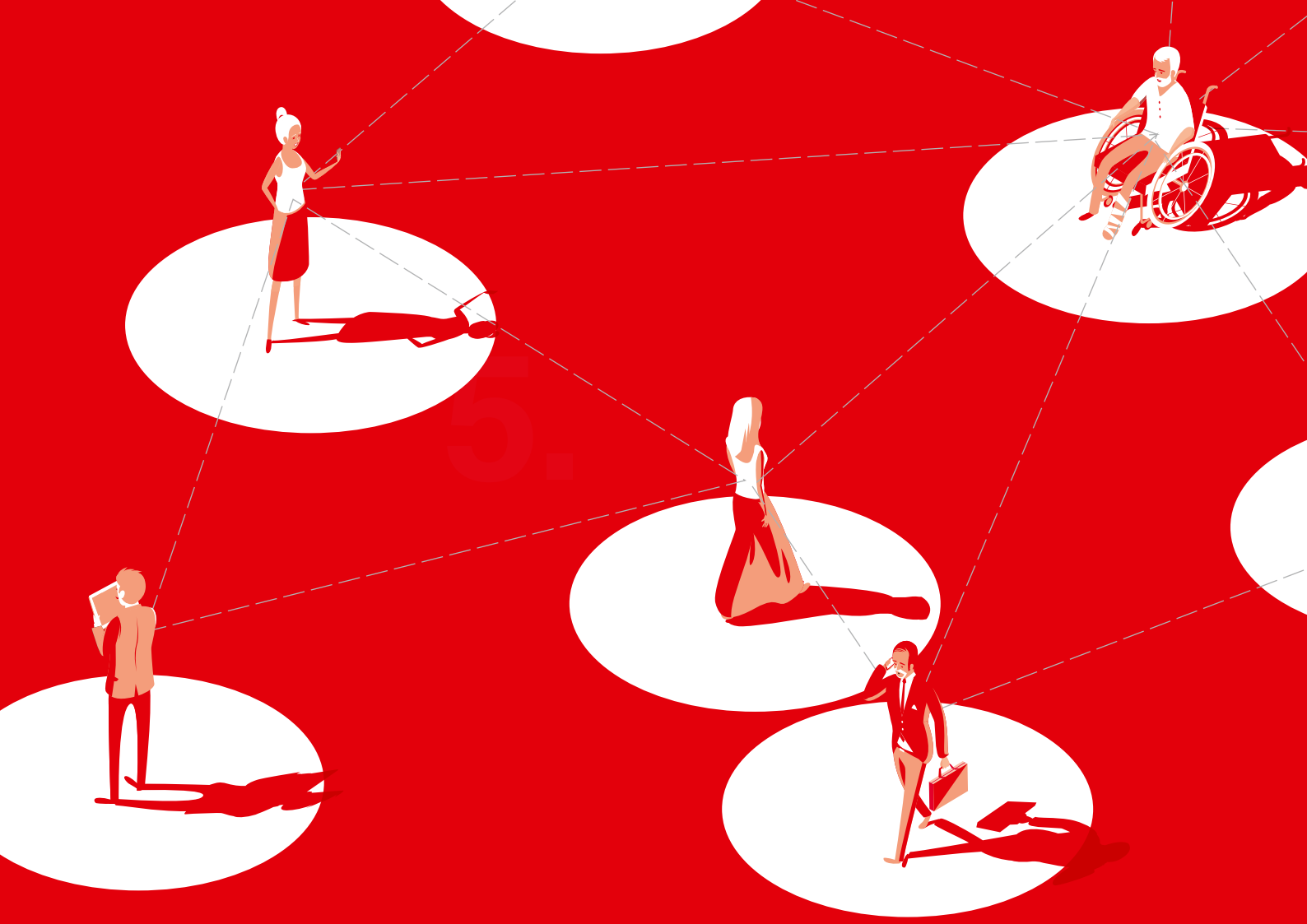
## **Women are more willing to contain the transmission of the virus through hygiene measures.**

Regardless of their country of origin, women appear to be more willing to adhere to hygiene measures to contain transmission of the virus. With the exception of the installation of the coronavirus tracking app in Germany and Spain, women outnumbered men in every single containment measure.

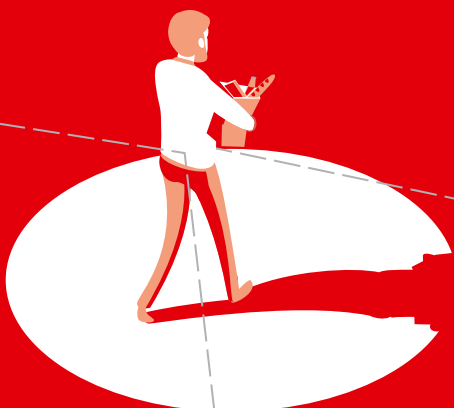
A national comparison shows that Germans are significantly less likely to adhere to hygiene measures than Italians and Spaniards.

For example, only 50% of men and 67% of women in Germany said they wore a mask. By comparison, in Spain it was 88% of men and 93% of women, and in Italy it was 78% of men and 85% of women.





# 5. Limiting contacts



There are also considerable differences between the countries when it comes to the restriction of contacts outside of people's own households. In Germany, all age groups had more than 10 close contacts in the last seven days in October, with 18- to 29-year-olds and 30- to 59-year-olds even having between 13 and 14. In Spain, all age groups have had fewer than 10 contacts since June, with the exception of three measurements taken in October. That month, the number of contacts in Germany peaked at over 15 contacts in the younger and mid-age ranges, and then a massive decline began by early January with 18- to 29- and 30- to 50-year-olds reducing their total number of contacts to five or six. However, it appears that as soon as the number of cases fell at the end of January and the beginning of February, the number of contacts within the last seven days (18- to 29-year-olds: six; 30- to 59-year-olds: seven) also increased again, but to a much lower level than in October.

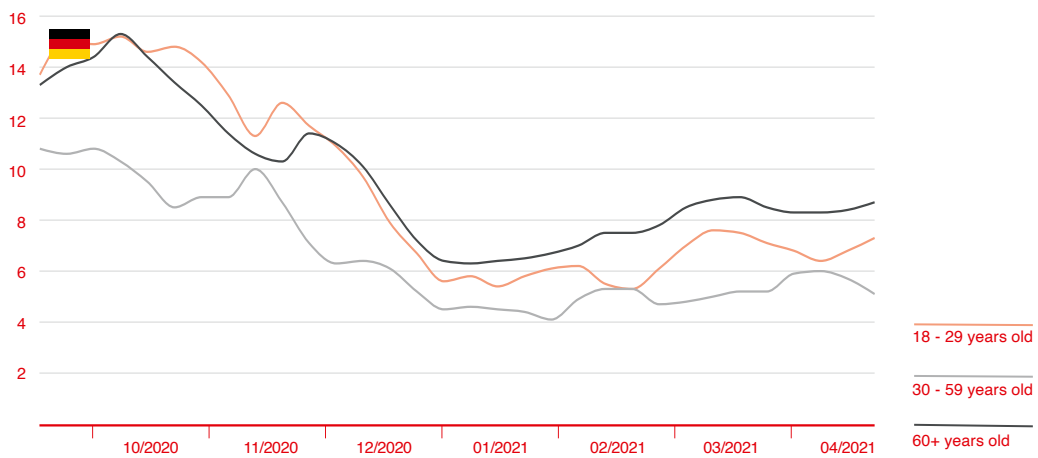
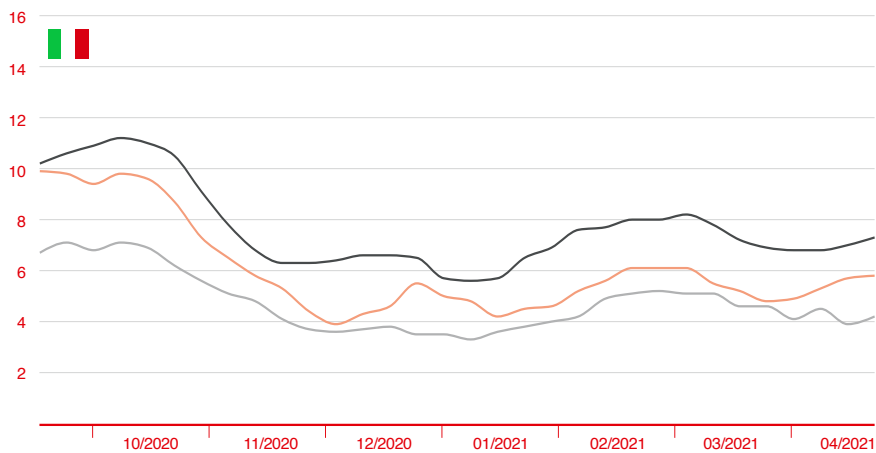
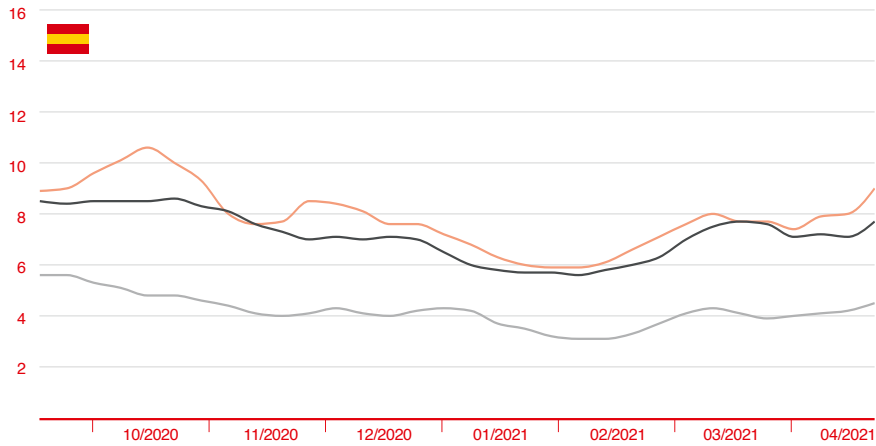
In Italy, contacts fell sharply last fall (from between nine and 11 contacts in October to between four and six contacts at the end of November among 18- to 29-year-olds and 30- to 59-year-olds). In December, the number of Italians who kept close contacts didn't decrease any further. From January to the end of February, the number of contacts actually increased again (to six to eight among 18- to 29-year-olds and 30- to 59-year-olds). Another interesting observation can be made in the data from Italy and Germany: The 18- to 29-year-olds, who are generally considered the most mobile age group, had fewer contacts over long periods than the group in the mid-age range. Since September, the 30- to 59-year-old age group in Italy has consistently had more contacts than the younger group; while in Germany, the number of contacts of the mid-aged group has been higher than that of the younger one since the end of November.

At the end of March 2021, the younger generation in all three countries had a comparable number of contacts (between four and nine per person). In all three countries, the 60+ generation had the least (between four and five); and in Italy and Germany, 30- to 59-year-olds had the most contacts (between seven and eight). The data shows that the younger generation seems to be more reluctant to have contacts. In Germany and Italy, people appear to reduce their number of contacts as the number of cases rises. Whether there is a correlation between rising case numbers and the subsequent drop in contacts and, vice versa, between rising numbers of contacts and falling case numbers can only be assumed and is not yet proven.

**In Germany and Italy, people appear to reduce their number of contacts as the number of cases rises.**

**Whether there is a correlation between rising case numbers and the subsequent drop in contacts and, vice versa, between rising numbers of contacts and falling case numbers can only be assumed and is not yet proven.**

# Number of close contacts outside of one's own household in the last seven days.





# 6. Mobility in the pandemic

Reducing contacts and reducing mobility are key measures in the fight against the virus, even one year after the start of the pandemic. When it comes to the numbers of contacts, interesting differences between countries and age groups have emerged, but the differences when it comes to mobility are smaller. Most people aren't travelling at all, and when they do, it is mostly within their own city or region.

In Spain, 61% of respondents who said they had travelled for work or for education or training in the last seven days and 46% of those who had travelled privately did so only within their own city or metropolitan area. Only 9% of professional trips and 2% of private trips took place more broadly within their own country.

In Germany, 70% of respondents who travelled for work or because of their training and 61% of those who travelled privately did so only within their city or metropolitan region. Only 17% of those who travelled for work or training and 9% of those who travelled privately did so more widely in their own state. Only 9% of those questioned who were travelling for business or privately travelled broadly in their own country. Some 3% of those who travelled privately went to other countries; while 23% stayed at home or stayed within their own neighbourhood.

Whether for private or professional reasons, when people were on the move, it was primarily within the boundaries of their city or metropolitan region. The number of domestic trips outside of people's hometowns was below 10% in Germany, Spain and Italy (as of mid-April 2021).

**Most people aren't travelling at all, and when they do, it is mostly within their own city or region.**

# 7. Ability to self-isolate



## It seems clear what one should do in case of an infection with the coronavirus: self-isolate immediately at home. But the survey shows that it often isn't that simple.

Among 18- to 29-year-olds in Germany, 55% of women and 47% of men said they did not have the ability to isolate themselves from others in their households. Of those aged 30 to 50, 38% of women and 26% of men said they would need to continue to care for others, such as family members, even if they were infected. Among the younger group, 33% of women and 28% of men said they feared that they would suffer psychologically from the isolation. At least the share of those who were afraid of losing their jobs was low.

Italy and Spain showed similar trends. In Italy, as many as 41% of women and 37% of men between the ages of 30 and 59 said they could not isolate themselves from the rest of the household. Within the same age group, 29% of women and 14% of men said they would need to continue caring for others. In Spain and Italy, too, the share of those who said they would have trouble coping psychologically with isolation was highest among younger people. In all three countries, the elderly were the most likely to be able to self-isolate. In Spain, among the over-60s, 73% of men and 71% of women said they would be in a position to self-isolate without difficulty. The survey showed a clear difference between age groups and genders in all countries – psychologically, younger people indicated they would suffer the most from quarantine. It is primarily the 30- to 59-year-olds – and particularly the women among them – who have to take care of other people in the same household.



# What the findings tells us

The COVID-19 Impact Survey highlights the many facets of the pandemic. For months now, it has provided data from different countries, broken down by age group, gender, region, etc. That data makes a significant contribution to our ability to identify the long-term effects and implications of the pandemic and to convey a nuanced sense of the mood in the general population.

Nevertheless, sweeping answers to the countless questions raised by the pandemic – including the economic and psychological impact – are often difficult to find because of the complexity involved, especially given that the survey is ongoing. Any analysis of the figures collected as part of the survey is subject to the caveat that no one can predict how the situation will change as the pandemic progresses.

That may seem disappointing at first glance, but on closer inspection, there is one central finding in this survey: If we want to better understand the pandemic and its consequences, we need to examine its progression and consider its many facets. We cannot allow ourselves to commit to a hasty and blanket view of what is actually a volatile and extremely complex situation. That means we must also be aware that while the available data may provide answers, it also raises new questions that will bring into focus what issues deserve our attention. And that, too, is a merit of the COVID-19 Impact Report: It raises those new questions based on sober, non-politically interpreted data. The discussion of the answers to these new questions is a task society faces as a whole. And translating the conclusions into political action is the job of politicians.

**You, too, can participate in the survey at the following link and help to provide further important insights into the pandemic and its consequences:**

**[www.covid19impactsurvey.org](http://www.covid19impactsurvey.org)**



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