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THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN LATVIA

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Introduction

The economic and labour market consequences of Covid-19 were immediate, very significant now and are likely to be felt in the future. These consequences affect many millions of workers in many countries; some workers can continue working remotely, but there are also a significant number of people who acknowledge that their standard of living has either fallen or that they have no income at all.

Research Aim

Within the framework of this study, the unemployed in Latvia were interviewed with the aim to find out and evaluate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the unemployment rate and the unemployed in Latvia.

Materials and Methods

In order to find out the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the unemployment rate in Latvia, a study was conducted, during which Latvian unemployed people were interviewed. The survey was completed by 216 unemployed people aged 18 and over. Data were collected in the time period from October 29, 2020 to November 2, 2020.

Results

Respondents who acknowledged that the Covid-19 pandemic played a role in making them unemployed also answered the question of whether they plan to return to work with their previous employer if they receive such an offer. 39% admitted that they plan to return to the previous employer and 61% indicated that they do not.

In response to a questionnaire, respondents expressed their views on whether the Covid-19 pandemic had affected their wage demands. All 216 respondents answered this question, and the majority of respondents (39.4%) answered that they plan to find a job with equal pay, 14.8% of respondents stated that they are ready to work for lower pay, 15.7% of respondents are aiming to find a job with a higher wage, while 30.1% of the unemployed answered that they do not plan to enter into employment at all, therefore there is good reason to believe that these unemployed will become long-term unemployed.

The Covid-19 pandemic has also changed the position of 29.3% of women surveyed against pay: 16.6% are aiming to find a better paid job, while 12.7% of women, on the contrary, will agree to work for a lower wage. 42.4% of men and 38.2% of women nevertheless want to find a job with equal pay. On the other hand, 23.7% of men and 32.5% of women do not plan to enter employment at all.

			Has the Covid-19 pandemic affected your pay claims?				Total
			Yes, I plan to find a better paid job	Yes, I am also willing to receive a lower salary	No, I plan to find a job with equal pay	I do not plan to enter an employment relationship	
Your gender	Male	% within Your Gender	13.6%	20.3%	42.4%	23.7%	100.0%
		% within Has the Covid-19 pandemic affected your pay claims?	23.5%	37.5%	29.4%	21.5%	27.3%
		% of Total	3.7%	5.6%	11.6%	6.5%	27.3%
	Female	% within Your gender	16.6%	12.7%	38.2%	32.5%	100.0%
		% within Has the Covid-19 pandemic affected your pay claims?	76.5%	62.5%	70.6%	78.5%	72.7%
		% of Total	12.0%	9.3%	27.8%	23.6%	72.7%
Total	% within Your gender	15.7%	14.8%	39.4%	30.1%	100.0%	
	% within Has the Covid-19 pandemic affected your pay claims?	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
	% of Total	15.7%	14.8%	39.4%	30.1%	100.0%	

Table 1