

The Caribbean

Special Report No.9: The economic autonomy of women in a sustainable recovery with equality

General projections 2020						
Dimension	Indicator		Year	Data	Analysis	
Growth	Growth projections ¹ (%)		2020	-7.9	The economic and social effects of the crisis on tourism will be particularly crucial in Caribbean countries. The contraction of Caribbean economies will be closely related to the reduction in demand for tourism services. ECLAC projects that in 2021, economic growth in the Caribbean will be 4.2%.	
Trade	Projected variation in trade of goods ^{2a} (%)	Imports	Price	2020	-9.0	In the Caribbean countries, excluding Trinidad and Tobago, the terms of trade would improve by 3.4%, as a result of the large weight of energy in their import basket. In 2019, tourism services revenues accounted for approximately 75% of Caribbean services exports.
			Volume	2020	-13.0	
			Value	2020	-22.0	
		Exports	Price	2020	-12.0	
			Volume	2020	-6.0	
			Value	2020	-18.0	

Preliminary labour market figures 2019 and 2020 (available countries)					
Dimension	Country	Indicator	Sex	Data	Analysis
Labour market	Jamaica	Participation rate, up to Sept/2019 ¹ (%)	Women	56.2	The contraction of tourism significantly harms Caribbean countries, which will affect 1 out of every 10 women employed in this sector.
			Men	70.5	
		Participation rate, up to Sept/2020 ¹ (%)	Women	57.9	
			Men	70.5	
		Unemployment rate, up to Sept 2019/2019 ¹ (%)	Women	6.3	
			Men	4.4	
		Unemployment rate, up to Sept/2020 ¹ (%)	Women	5.9	
			Men	4.4	

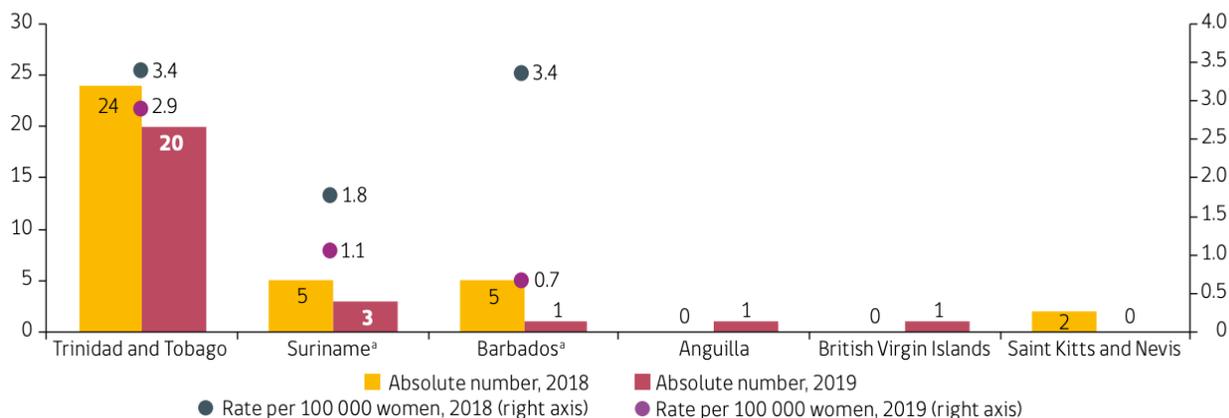
Digitization indicators (available countries)			
Dimension	Indicator	Sex	Data
Teleworking	Belize: probability of teleworking for employed persons, latest year available ³ (%)	Men and Women	About 18% could telework.
Teleworking	Guyana: probability of teleworking for employed persons, latest year available ³ (%)	Men and Women	About 20% could telework.

Structural data					
Economic autonomy					
Dimension	Indicator		Sex	Data	Analysis
Labour market	Distribution of the population employed in high-risk sectors 2019 ⁴ (%)		Women	54.3	In the Caribbean subregion, tourism accounts for 11.9% of female employment and 5.7% of male employment. In some countries the figure exceeds or equals that average for female employment, as is the case in Saint Lucia (20.8%), Barbados (16.2%) and Jamaica (11.9%).
			Men	38.7	
	Distribution of the population employed in key sectors related to COVID-19 in 2017 ⁴ (%)	Tourism	Women	11.9	
			Men	5.7	

Autonomy in decision-making			
Dimension	Indicator	Information	Comments
Local power	Proportion of elected seats held by women in local government deliberative bodies, latest year available ⁶ (%)	Belize 2019: 31,0	Monitoring Indicator SDG 5.5.1b
		Jamaica 2018: 18,4	
		Suriname 2017: 35,6	

Physical autonomy				
Dimension	Indicator	Type of data	Data	Analysis
Violence	Feminicides, 2018 ⁵	Absolute	36	
	Feminicides, 2019 ⁵	Absolute	26	

The Caribbean (6 countries): femicide or gender-based violent deaths, 2018/2019
(Absolute numbers and rates per 100,000 women)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <https://oig.cepal.org/en>.

^a Barbados and Suriname only report cases of intimate femicide.

COVID-19 Observatory measures

Care Economy

- In **Trinidad and Tobago**, there are incentives to explore alternative measures to working in person, such as teleworking, flexible schedules and other care arrangements; if no caregiving solution can be found, "Pandemic Leave" can be used for busy parents without access to childcare support during school closures.
- In **Barbados**, the Ministry of Health and Welfare established guidelines aimed at protecting domestic workers to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Employment and income generation

- In **St. Vincent and the Grenadines**, the COVID-19 temporary unemployment benefit, which was implemented from March 2020 together with the Displacement Supplementary Income scheme, mainly benefited women, who made up 60% of the total number of beneficiaries as of June 23, 2020.

Measures linked to the tourism sector (Women represent about 61% of workers in accommodation and food activities in the Caribbean).

- In **Grenada**, the payment of 40% of the salaries of hotel workers for three months was established as part of the stimulus package to help the tourism industry that was severely affected by COVID-19.
- **Jamaica**: CARE Program: provides temporary cash transfers to companies operating in the tourism industry based on the number of workers they employ. Companies receive \$9,000 per fortnight for each person retained on their payroll (BEST CASH). In addition, tourism workers who lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are also eligible for a cash transfer (SET CASH).
- **Bahamas**: Government Funded Unemployment Assistance for COVID-19. Financial support to self-employed workers in the tourism and other sectors whose sources of income have been disrupted by COVID-19. This measure does not require compliance with National Unemployment Insurance contribution conditions. Food assistance vouchers under this initiative are valued at \$100 each, to be paid out every two weeks, primarily to individuals within the hospitality industry who are facing reduced workweeks due to the pandemic. This would allow for up to eight weeks of benefit payments, but can be adjusted as needed.

Social Protection

-In **St. Lucia**, as part of the Economic Recovery and Resilience Plan, COVID-19 protection kits and care and hygiene packages were provided to vulnerable people, including sanitary napkins for women.

- In **Antigua and Barbuda**, the "COVID-19 Emergency Food Assistance Programme" was established, a program that distributes food packages and essential medicines for vulnerable populations, especially elderly people living alone, single-parent households, people with disabilities and unemployed people with dependent children.

- **Jamaica**: Support for adolescent and expectant mothers to compensate for the closure of the Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial support is provided, as well as "dignity packages" containing food, toiletries, baby diapers and nutrition for women who are still pregnant.

-In **St. Kitts and Nevis**, care and food packages have been provided to vulnerable groups, including teenage mothers, single-parent households and the elderly. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture's stimulus package has distributed free seeds to farmers and gardeners, most of whom are women.

References

¹ Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean 2020

² International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean 2020: Regional integration is key to recovery after the crisis

³ Special Report No. 7: Universalizing access to digital technologies to address the consequences of COVID-19

⁴ Special Report No. 9: The economic autonomy of women in a sustainable recovery with equality

⁵ Addressing violence against women and girls during and after the COVID-19 pandemic requires FINANCING, RESPONSES, PREVENTION AND DATA COMPILATION

⁶ SDGs: United Nations SDG Database - Compiled by the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

^a Data correspond to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

