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Working Paper: Job Insecurity during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Spain

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Working Papers



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Abstract: In a period in which COVID-19 began tospread quickly around the world, and the WHOhad just declared a public health emergency ofinternational concern, we examine the impact ofthese circumstances on perceived job insecurity inthe entire population of Spain (both employed andnon-employed). We also analyse the role ofresidential environments (urban/rural) and labourstatus on these job perceptions. To this end, we conducted a large-scale survey inSpain just before and after the nationwide lockdown was implemented on March 14,2020, and a law with extraordinary urgent measures to address the economic,labour, and social impact was passed on March 17, 2020 (ERTE in Spanish). Ourresults show that the lockdown increased job insecurity for individuals not in paidemployment but that these perceptions were fully offset by the new law. Regardingthe role of place of residence, living in rural areas increased perceived job insecurityfor females in paid employment, individuals with children not in paid employment,middle-aged individuals either in paid or unpaid employment, and young individualsnot in paid employment, although at different points of time. However, for males inpaid employment and older individuals not in paid employment, living in rural areaswas accompanied by lower perceived job insecurity. Finally, towns and suburbs also played a role in feelings of job insecurity but only for middle-aged (higher insecurity) and older individuals (lower insecurity).

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