

# Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment and income in South Africa

20 May 2020

Risenga  
Maluleke



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Statistics South Africa  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# Background

<b>Survey status</b>	To provide information on the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on employment, income and hunger
<b>Selection criteria</b>	Non-probability convenience sample
<b>Number of respondents</b>	<b>2 688</b> . Only residents of SA and persons 18 years and older
<b>Collection period</b>	29 April to 6 May 2020



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# Females made up the bulk of the respondents



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*Respondent characteristics- Sex*

## 2 688 Respondents



*\*23 people indicated other*



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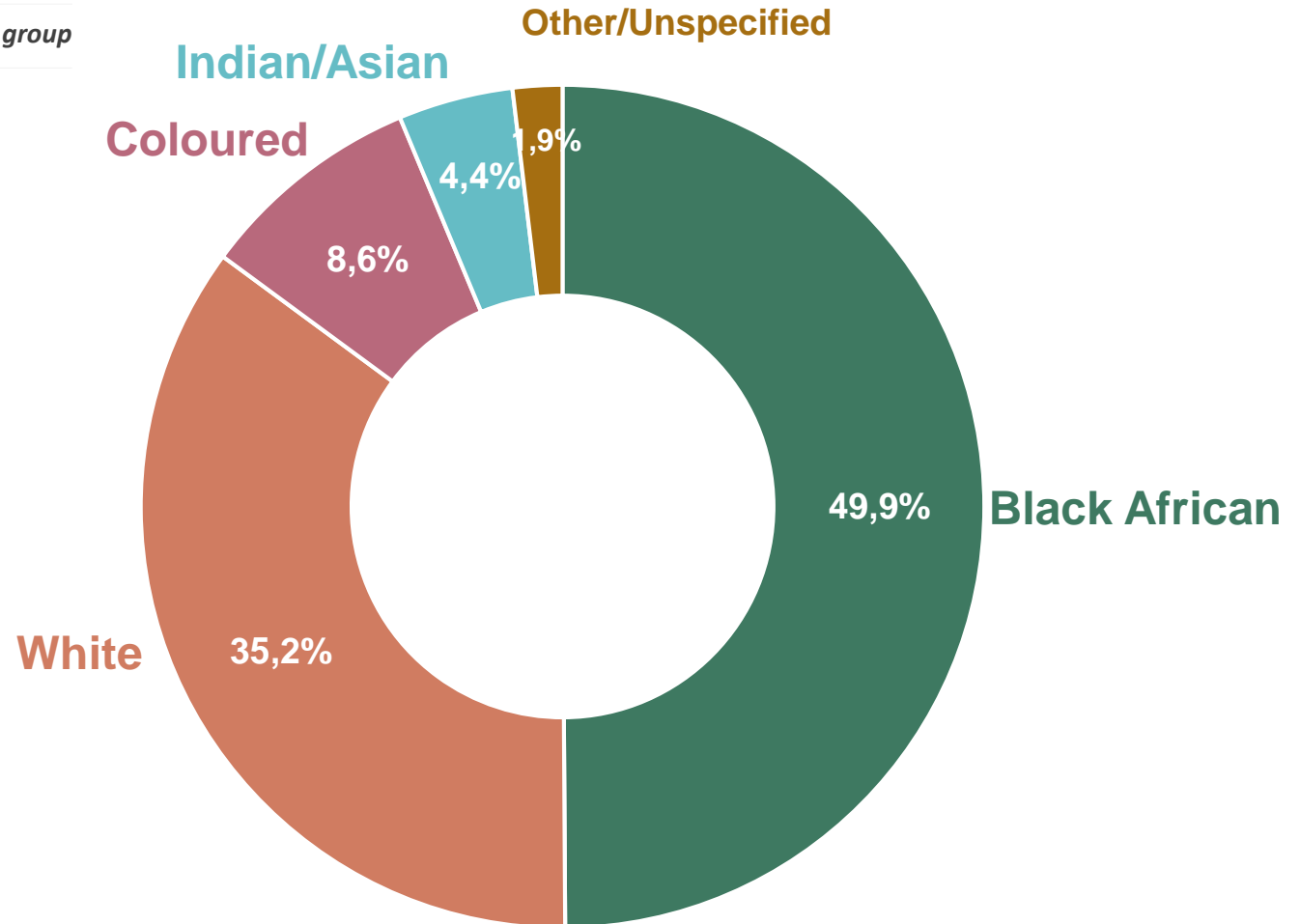


The largest proportion of participants were black African (57,6%), followed by white (35,2%), coloured (8,6%), and Indian/Asian (4,4%).



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Respondent characteristics- Race group



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# Results on Employment



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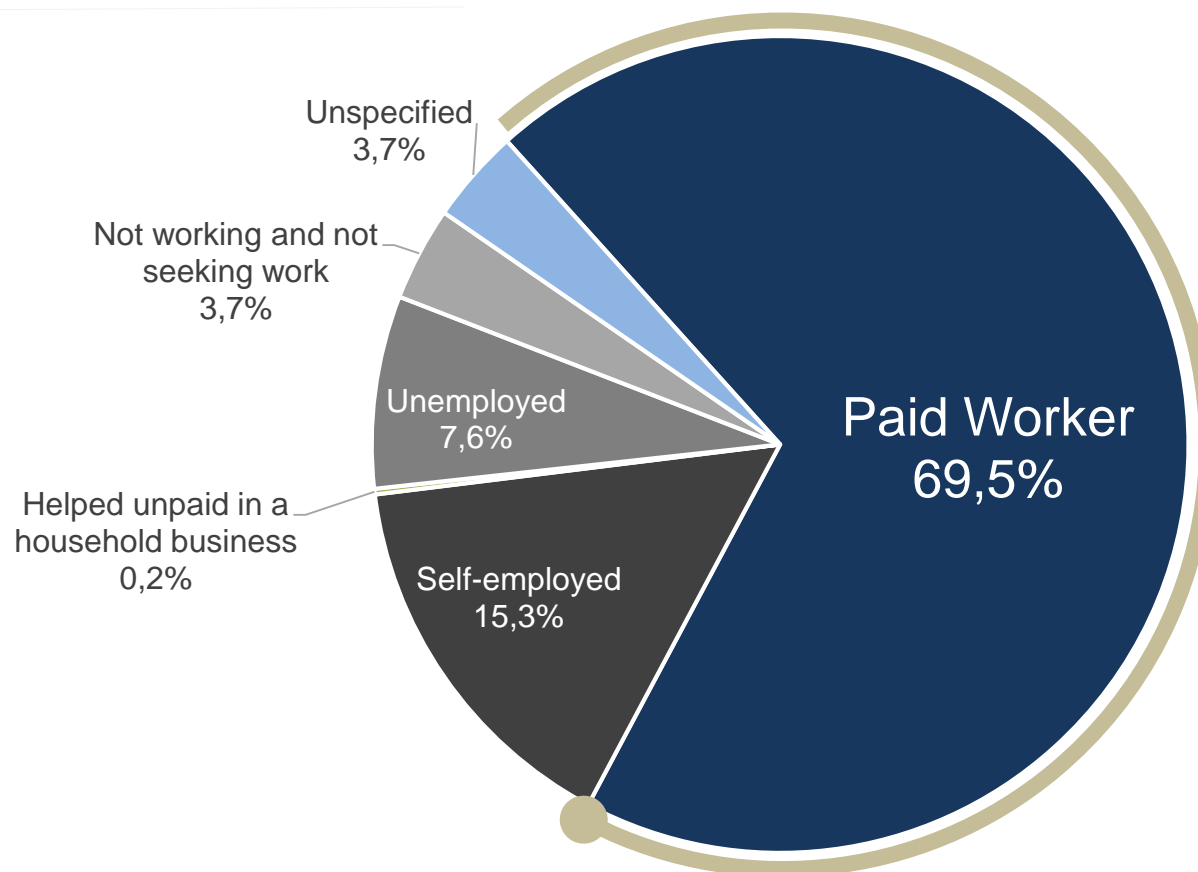
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The majority of respondents (almost 70%) indicated that they were in paid employment before the national lockdown, followed by those in self-employment at 15,3%.

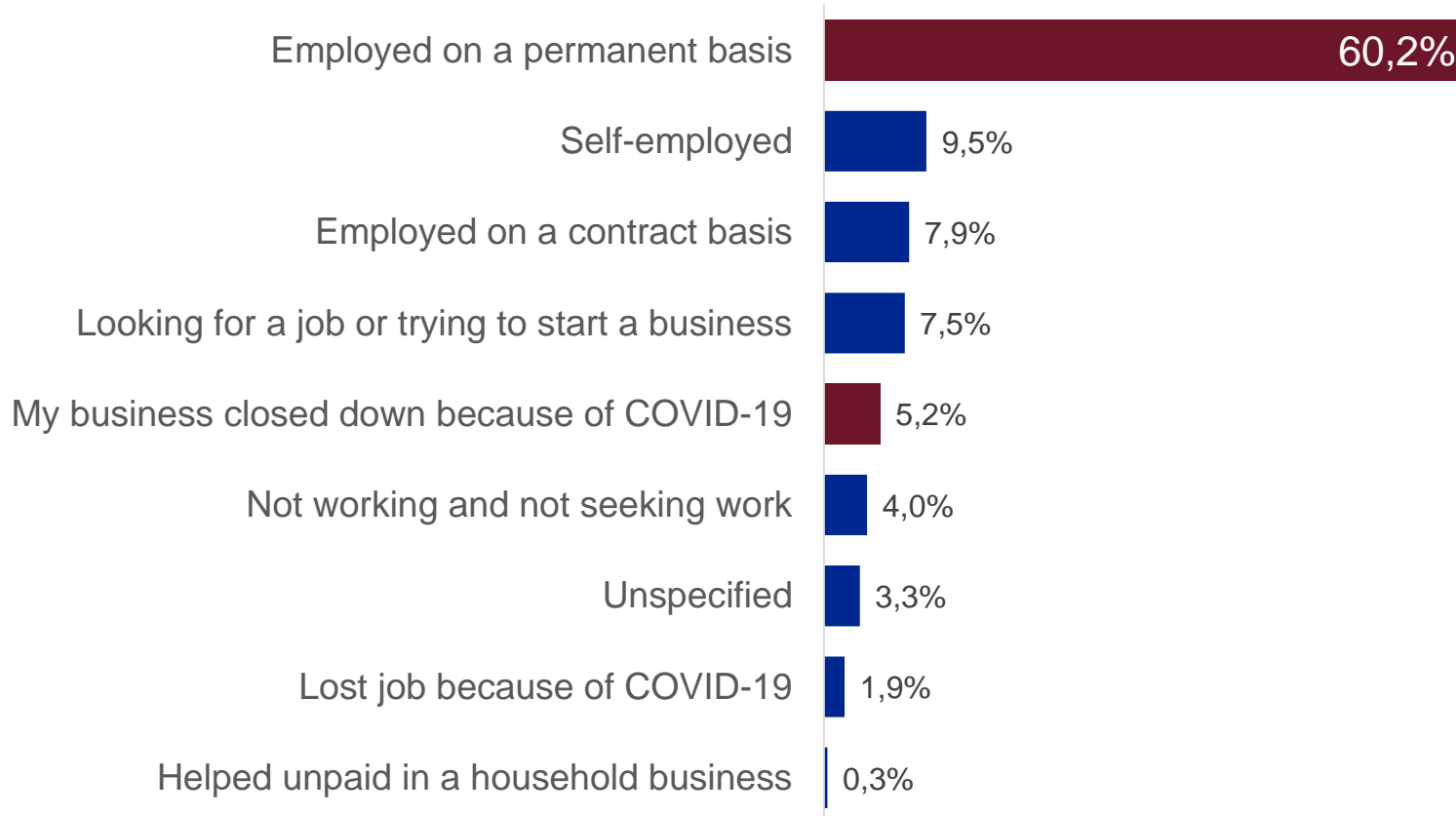
*Respondents' employment situation prior to the national lockdown*





# 60,2% of respondents were employed on a permanent basis during the national lockdown, 5,2% said their business closed down, while less than 2% lost their job due to COVID-19

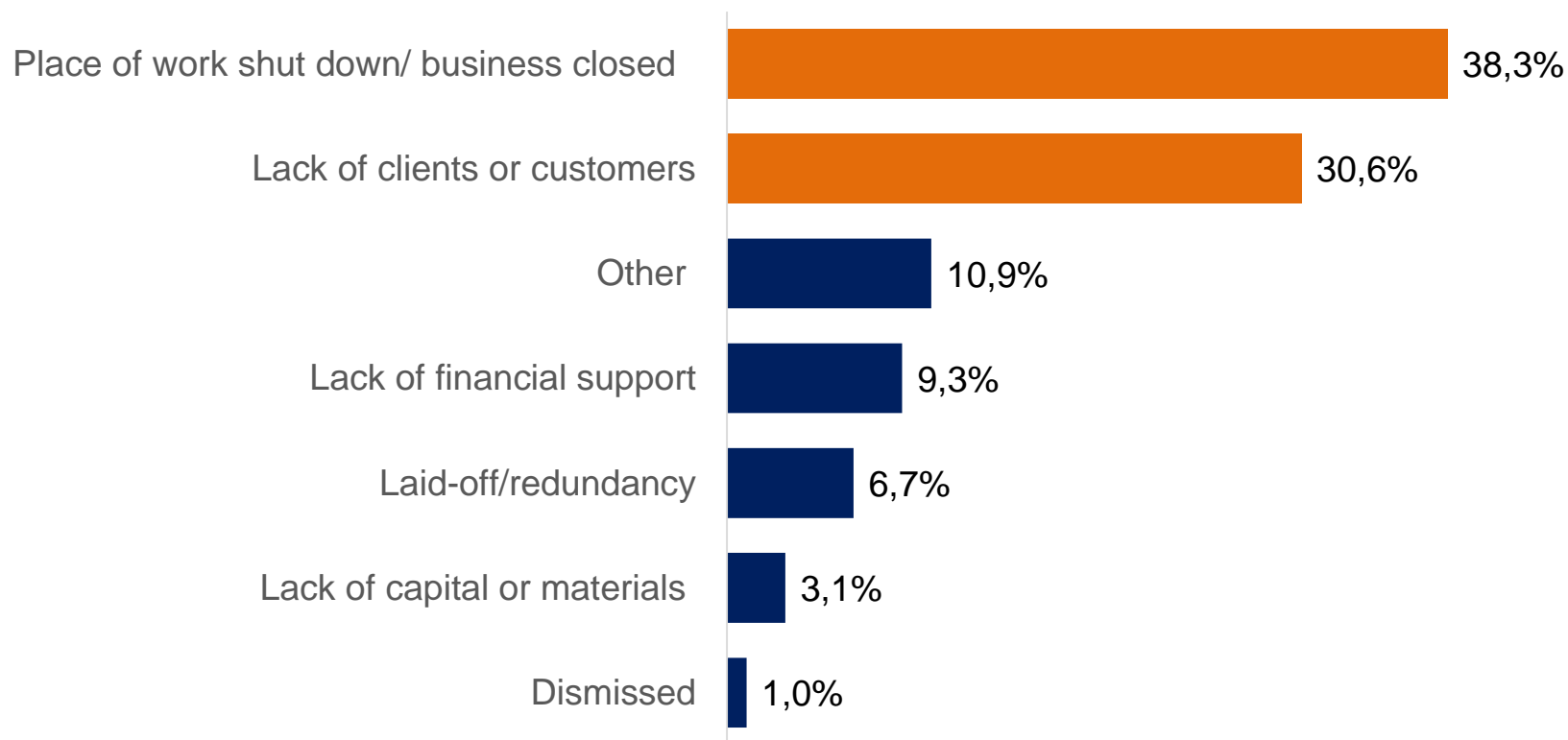
## Employment situation during the national lockdown





**Of the 2% of respondents that lost their jobs almost 70% of those reported it was due to their place of work or business shutting down or due to lack of customers.**

*Main reason for job loss or business closure during national lockdown*

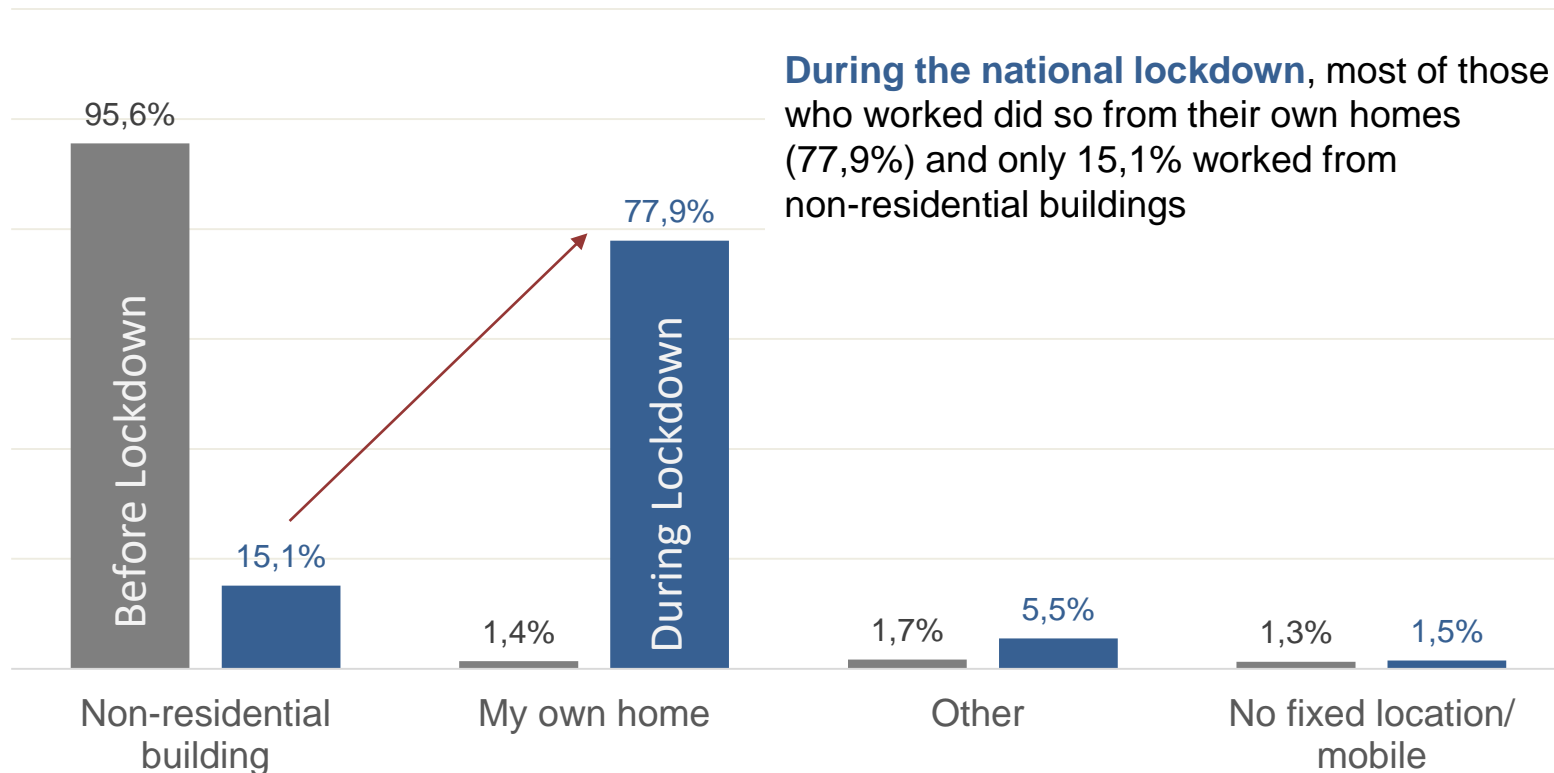






Before the national lockdown, the majority of respondents indicated that they had worked from non-residential buildings, while only 1,4% of those in employment worked from home.

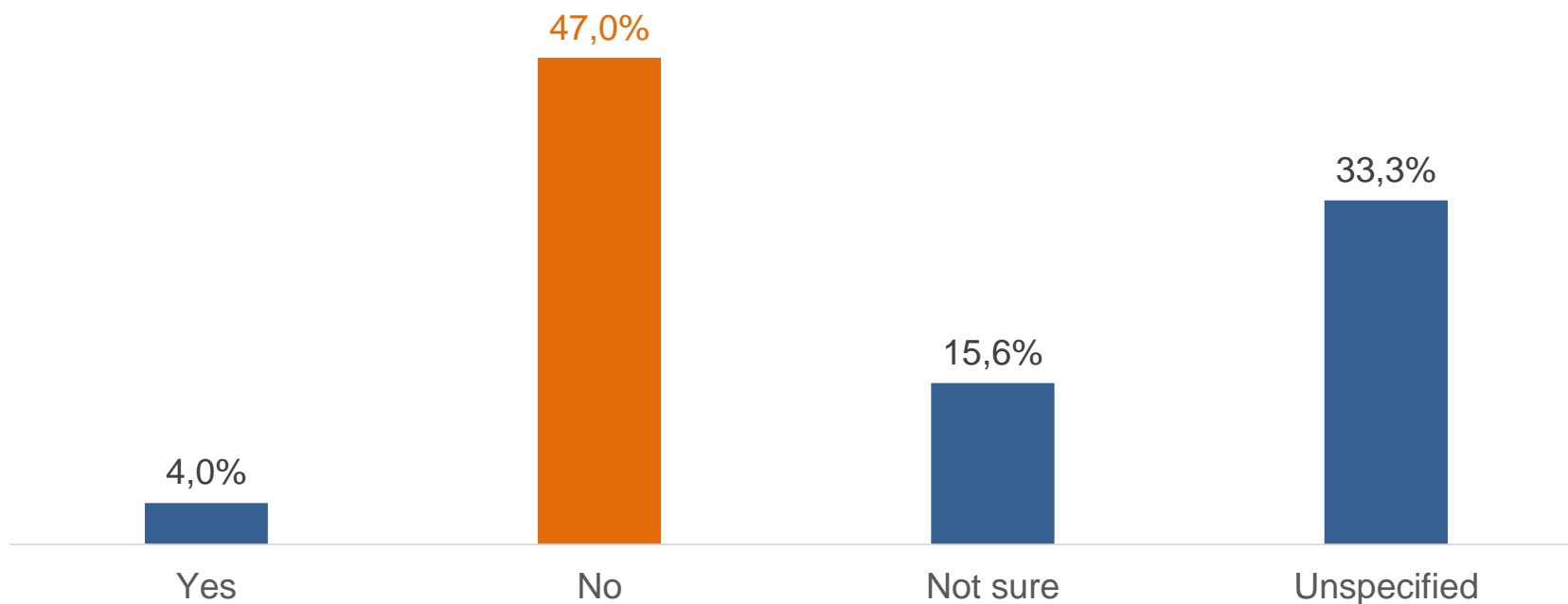
*Place of work before national lockdown*





47,0% of those who had paid jobs or businesses during the national lockdown **do not think they will lose their jobs** or close their businesses in the four weeks succeeding the survey interview due to COVID-19.

*Loss of job or business closure in the four weeks succeeding the survey interview due to COVID-19*



# Results on income and hunger



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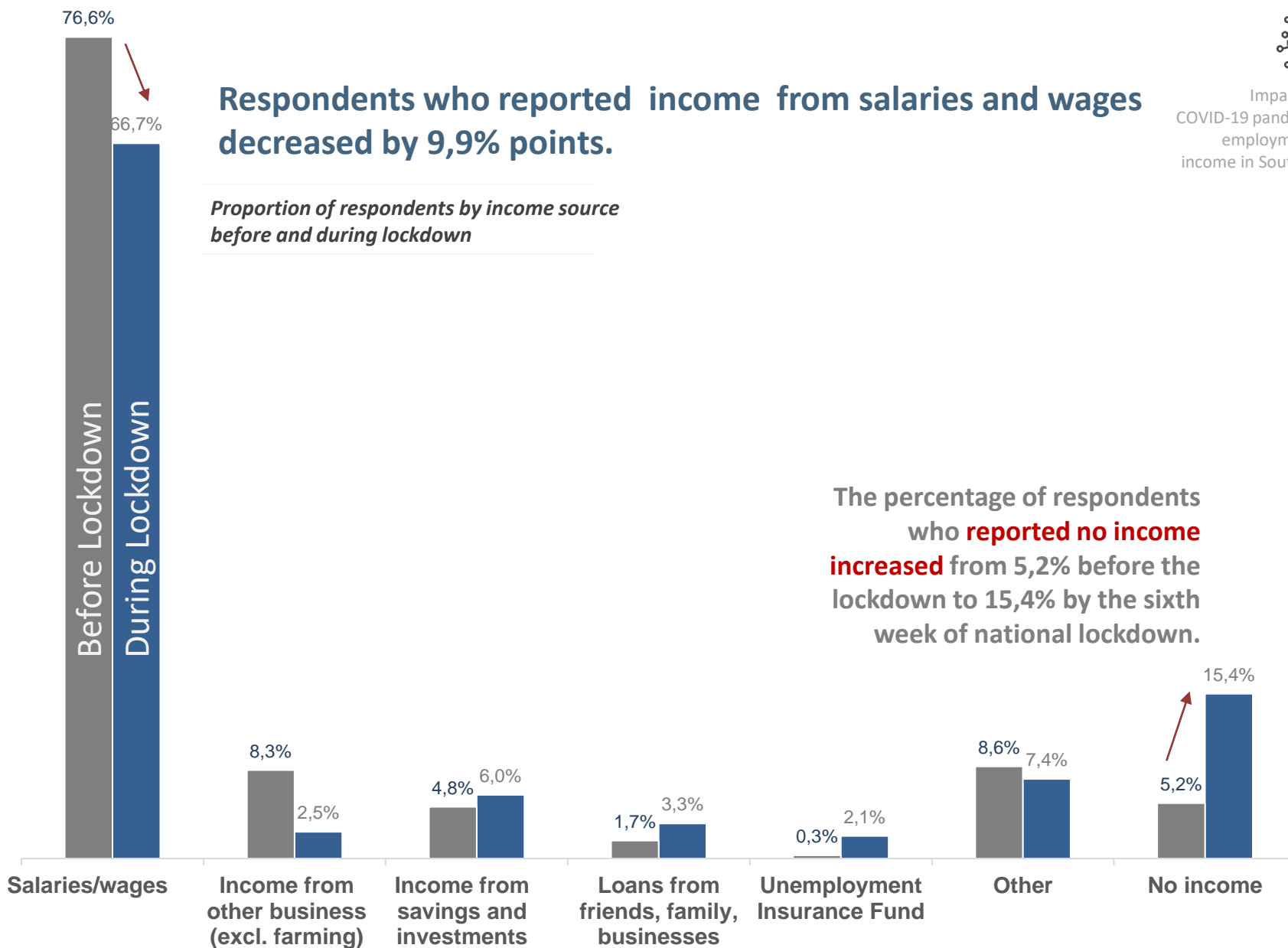
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## Respondents who reported income from salaries and wages decreased by 9,9% points.

*Proportion of respondents by income source before and during lockdown*



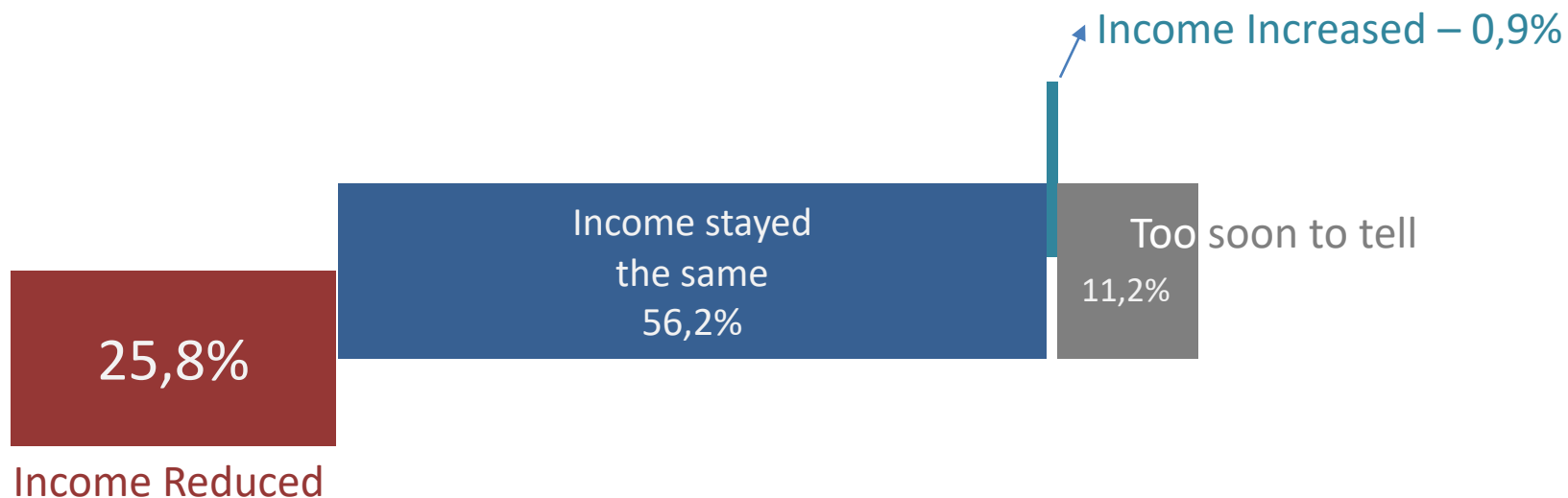
The percentage of respondents who **reported no income increased** from 5,2% before the lockdown to 15,4% by the sixth week of national lockdown.





## 25,8% of respondents reported a decrease in their income.

*Percentage distribution of respondents by whether or not their income was impacted during the national lockdown*





## 38,6% reported that they were spending less per week during the lockdown compared to before the national lockdown

*Percentage distribution of respondents by the type of change in their weekly spending behaviour during the national lockdown as compared to before the lockdown*



38,6% Spending less

Spending about the same

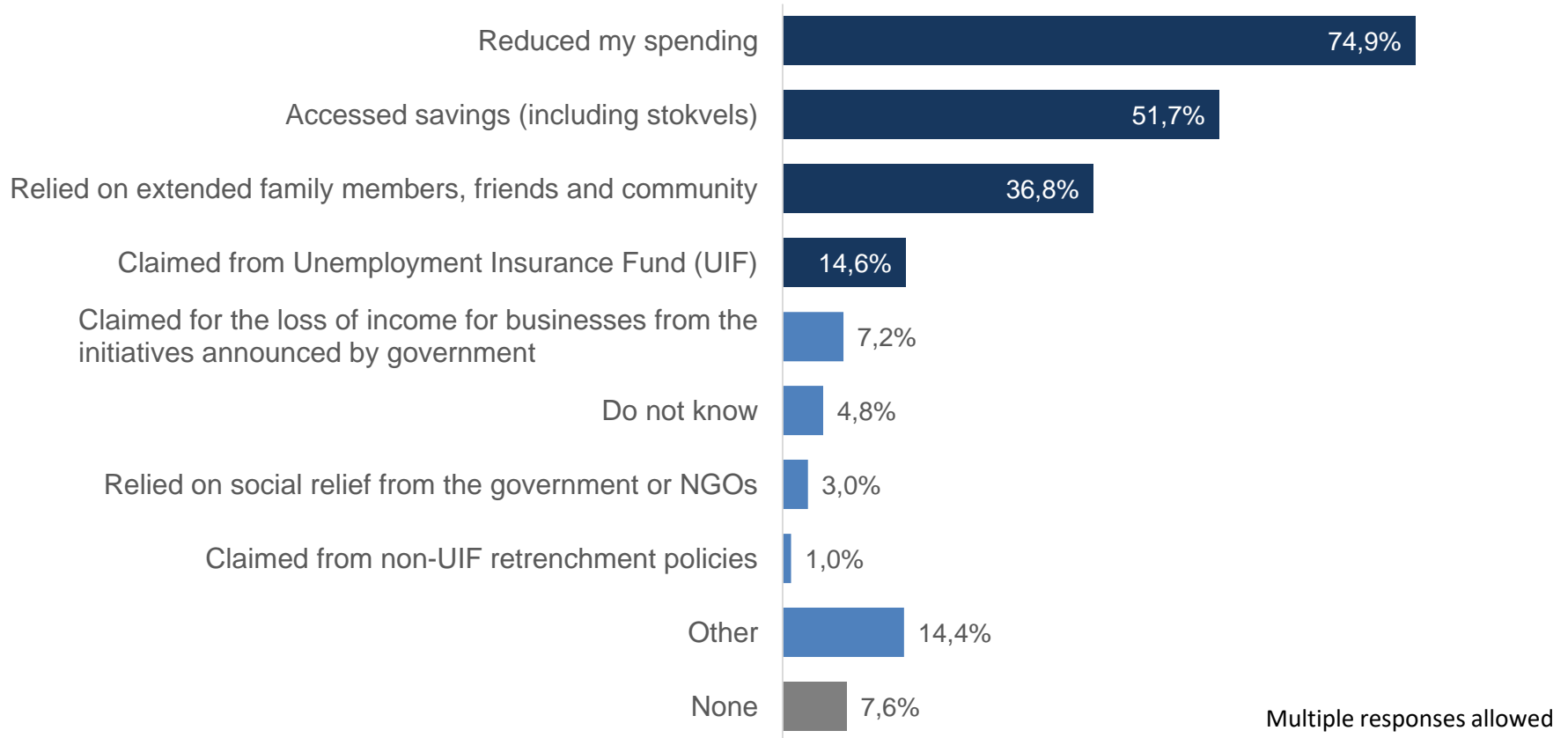
19,5%

Spending more 35,8%



## The main coping mechanisms used to fill income gaps for **respondents who reported a reduction in their income** was the reduction of spending.

*Proportion of respondents whose income reduced by the coping strategies used to fill the income gap*

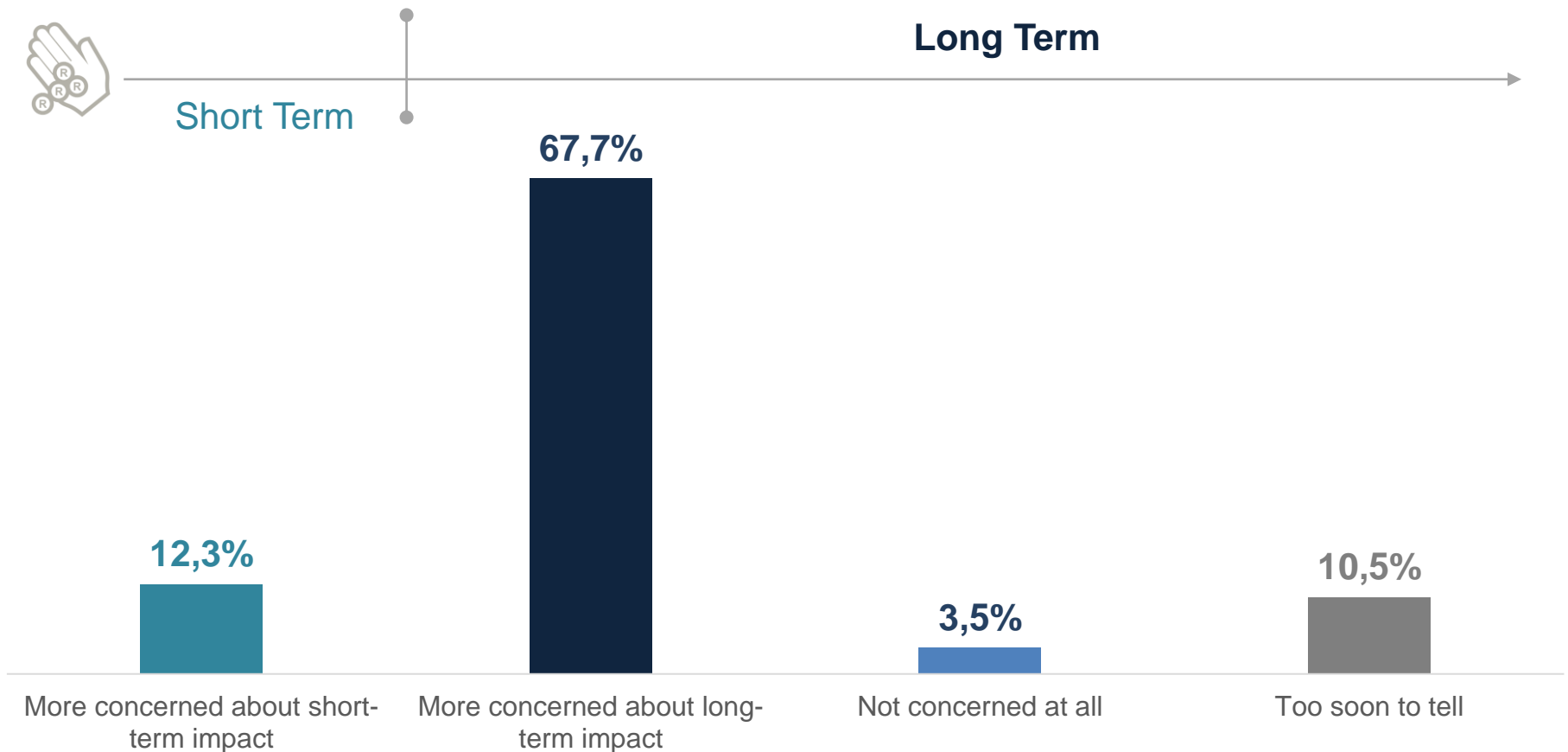


# 67,7% of respondents stated that they are more concerned about the potential long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their financial situation



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*Percentage distribution of respondents by their concern regarding the impact COVID-19 will have on their financial situation*



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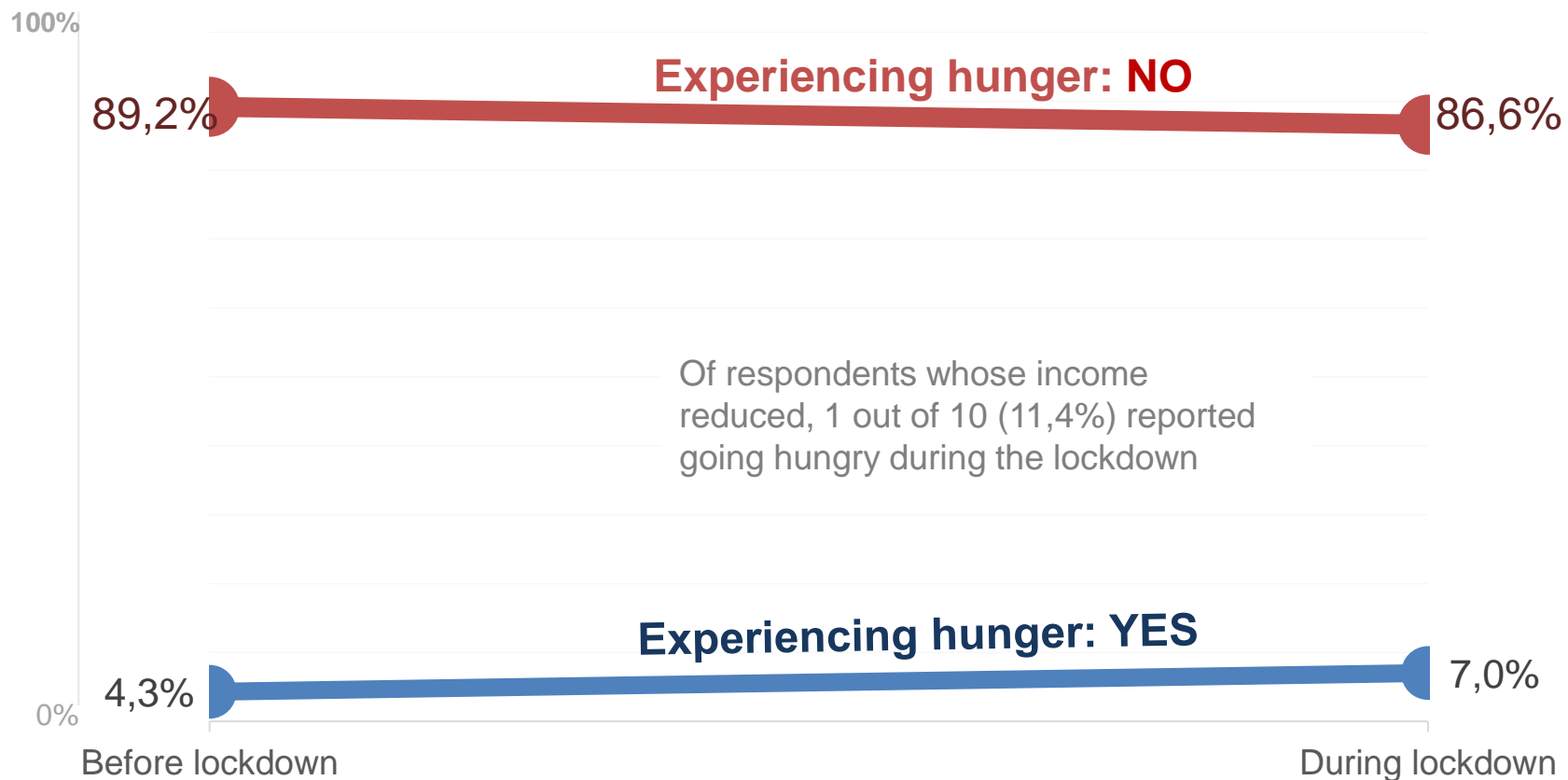






Since the start of the national lockdown, the proportion of respondents who reported experiencing hunger increased from 4,3% to 7,0%.

*Proportion of respondents who reported experiencing hunger before and during the national lockdown*





Ndzi hela kwala!



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