

# Employment and labour markets in the EU



Ensuring workers remain close to the labour market and enhancing their skills are critical to the EU's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The EU employment rate stood at 73% pre COVID-19, but over 3 million jobs were lost as a direct result of the pandemic.



## Labour market segmentation

6 out of 10 EU workers have open-ended, non time-limited contracts.

The growth of various types of non-standard work and precarious jobs in the labour market is creating deeper divisions between well-protected workers and those with limited access to social protection and employment rights.



Temporary workers account for over 3/4 of the decline in employment levels caused by the pandemic.

The share of workers with 'other or no contracts' is increasing and the COVID-19 pandemic is worsening their situation.



## Where are the jobs?

Employment growth is consistently weakest in mid-paid jobs, and strongest in well-paid jobs.

While the decline in working hours during the pandemic was sharpest in 'socially interactive' sectors, employment grew in some knowledge-intensive sectors.

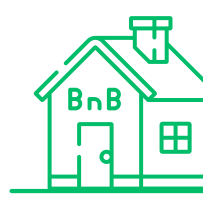
### Social interaction services



Leisure



Air travel

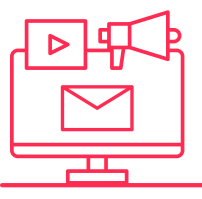


Accommodation

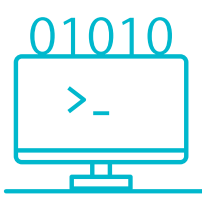


Restaurants

### Knowledge-intensive services



Information and communication



Computer programming

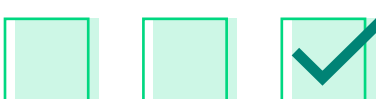


Accommodation was hardest hit, with an unprecedented 2/3 reduction in working hours.

## COVID-19 and teleworking

The majority of jobs cannot be teleworked.

Only 37% of jobs can be done via telework based on task content.



During COVID-19, the share of people working exclusively from home trebled.

Jobs that can be teleworked tend to be 'good jobs', well paid, requiring higher qualifications, with significant worker autonomy.

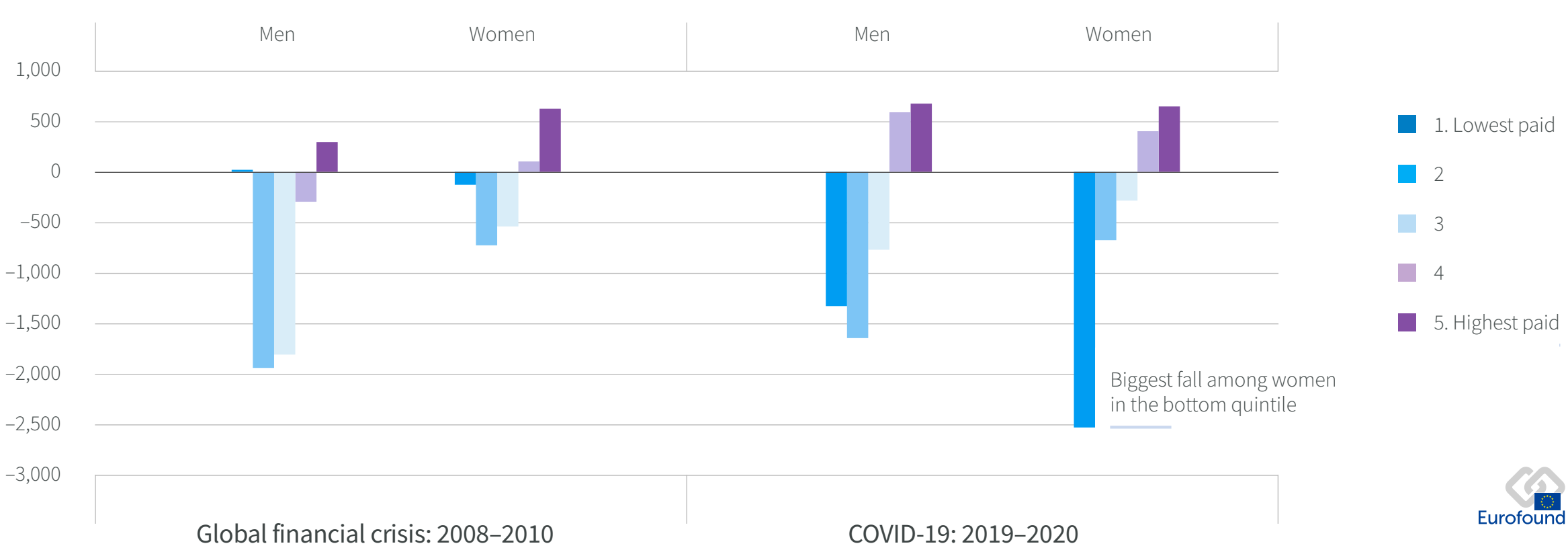


## The gender divide

Employment loss during the COVID-19 crisis has been more balanced compared to the global financial crisis in terms of gender, but this loss has been felt most sharply by women working in low-paid service sectors.

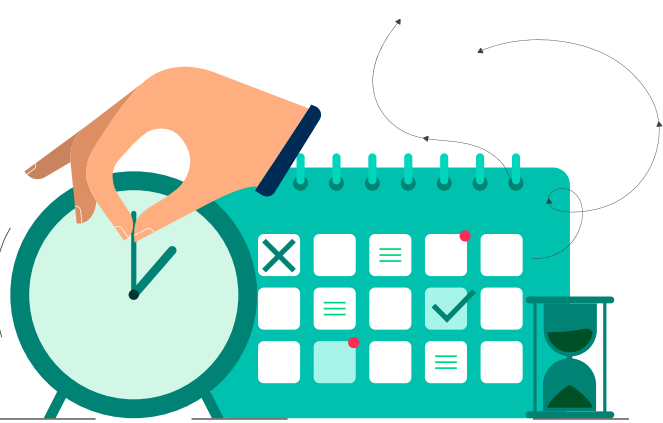


Low-paid female workers hit most by job loss



## Protecting vulnerable workers during the pandemic

Policy solutions have been introduced to support precarious and self-employed workers who have limited social protection and representation.



### Short-time working schemes

Between March and September 2020, close to 4 million employers and over 40 million workers in the EU made use of short-time working schemes, compared to fewer than 1.8 million at the peak of the financial and economic crisis in 2009.



### Income support protections

Expenditure on these short-time working schemes was 8 times higher in the first wave of the pandemic than during the whole of the 2008-2010 financial and economic crisis.

