

GALLUP PAKISTAN ECONOMIC WELLBEING INDEX

Gallup Pakistan's findings of Wave 9 of the Coronavirus Attitude Tracker Survey in Pakistan. This nation-wide poll includes more than 1,000 randomly chosen respondents. This report shares findings from one of the sections of the report which aims to look at how Covid 19 is impacting households in economic terms.

GALLUP FINDS ECONOMIC WELLBEING TO BE IMPROVING ONCE AGAIN IN WAVE 9 AS 6 OF 7 INDICATORS IMPROVE.

While the economic impact of COVID-19 has been immense, statistics show somewhat improvement in Wave 9 of December.

METHODOLOGY:

A nationally representative sample of men and women from across Pakistan, hailing from over 100 districts were interviewed using CATI methodology from 24th December 2020 to 15th January 2021. These respondents were chosen statistically so that all adult population in the country, having access to a mobile phone has an equal probability of being selected.

DETAILED NOTE ON METHODOLOGY:

Gallup Pakistan's usual approach of fieldwork is conducting face-to-face interviews in households using geographical sampling. The sampling is done using the census as the frame. Due to coronavirus lockdown, as well as health and safety concerns, we have halted all face-to-face interviews, therefore CATI methodology has been employed. This methodology uses Random Digit Dialling approach where all mobile phone numbers in Pakistan (130 million active sims) are the universe.

Exclusion in sample: According to PSLM (a government survey), 90% of households in Pakistan claim someone in their household owns a mobile phone. This means that 10% households are excluded from the sample.

7 STRANDS OF GALLUP PAKISTAN ECONOMIC WELLBEING INDEX



**1. REDUCING MEALS TO
SUSTAIN HOUSEHOLD
BUDGET**



**2. USE LESS PREFERRED
MEALS TO AFFORD
FOOD**



**3. BORROWING FOOD
FOR SURVIVAL**



**4. RELYING ON
SAVINGS**



**5. LOOKING FOR
ADDITIONAL WAYS
TO MEET NEEDS**



**6. RELYING ON
GOVERNMENT OR
NGO ASSISTANCE**



**7. SELL ASSETS TO
COVER BASIC NEEDS**

The survey findings show following key trends with respect to impact of COVID-19 on their household economics and wellbeing.

1/ REDUCING MEALS TO SUSTAIN HOUSEHOLD BUDGET:

From 12% of people in Wave 8 in September, only 2% in Wave 9 reported to have reduced the number or size of meals of some household members in the last 7 days to meet basic needs.

2/ USING LESS PREFERRED MEALS TO AFFORD FOOD:

Likewise, only 3% had to rely on less preferred food items which is much lesser than the previously 16% of people who had to do so.

3/ BORROWING FOOD FOR SURVIVAL.

Similarly, the number of people having to borrow from a friend or family members or having to rely on NGOs in the past 7 days has reduced from 21% in September 2020 to 13% in December 2020

Bilal Gilani, Executive Director Gallup Pakistan comments:

“The economy has started to emerge from the worst recession since 1950’s. With this increased economic activity, we see that economic wellbeing is improving. Moreover, inflation in Pakistan has been slowing down (though it is still at 8%, which is much higher than the historic average in Pakistan). This easing of inflation is also ameliorating the negative effects of COVID-19 related shocks to the economy. How do these improvements sustain remains to be seen and coming few weeks would be crucial in this regard”



Source: Gallup Pakistan Coronavirus Attitude Tracker Survey, Wave 9.

4/ RELYING ON SAVINGS.

The number of people who previously had to rely on bank savings or their cash savings has gone down from 6% in Wave 8 of September to 4% in Wave 9 of December. This is approximately 1.3 Mn households.

5/ LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL WAYS TO MEET NEEDS.

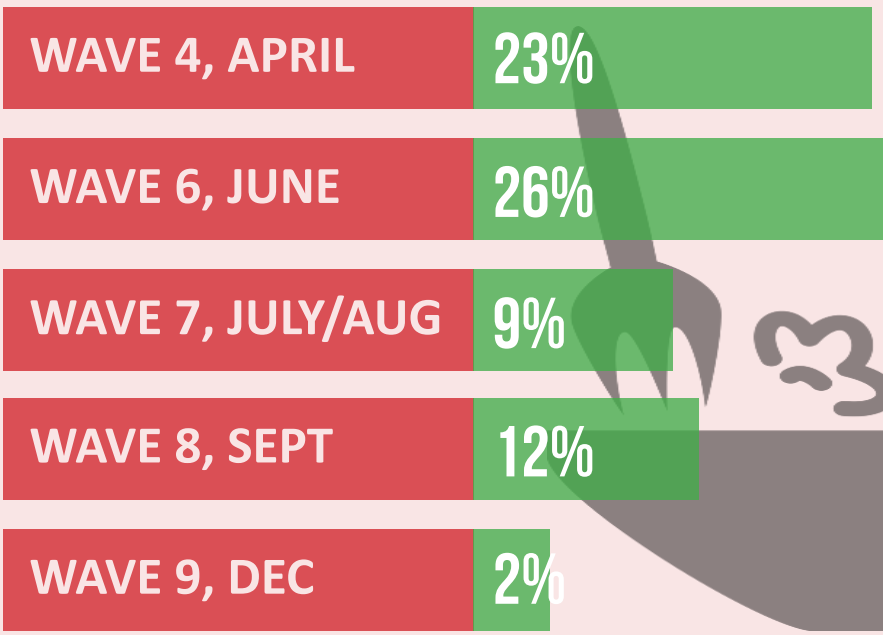
When respondents were asked 'have you found alternate ways to earn additional money to meet the needs of their households' we see that there is a 9% increase from the previous Wave in September. Though the economic impact of Covid-19 remains, it has lessened to an extent which is a positive sign amidst the pandemic.

6/ RELYING ON GOVERNMENT OR NGO ASSISTANCE.

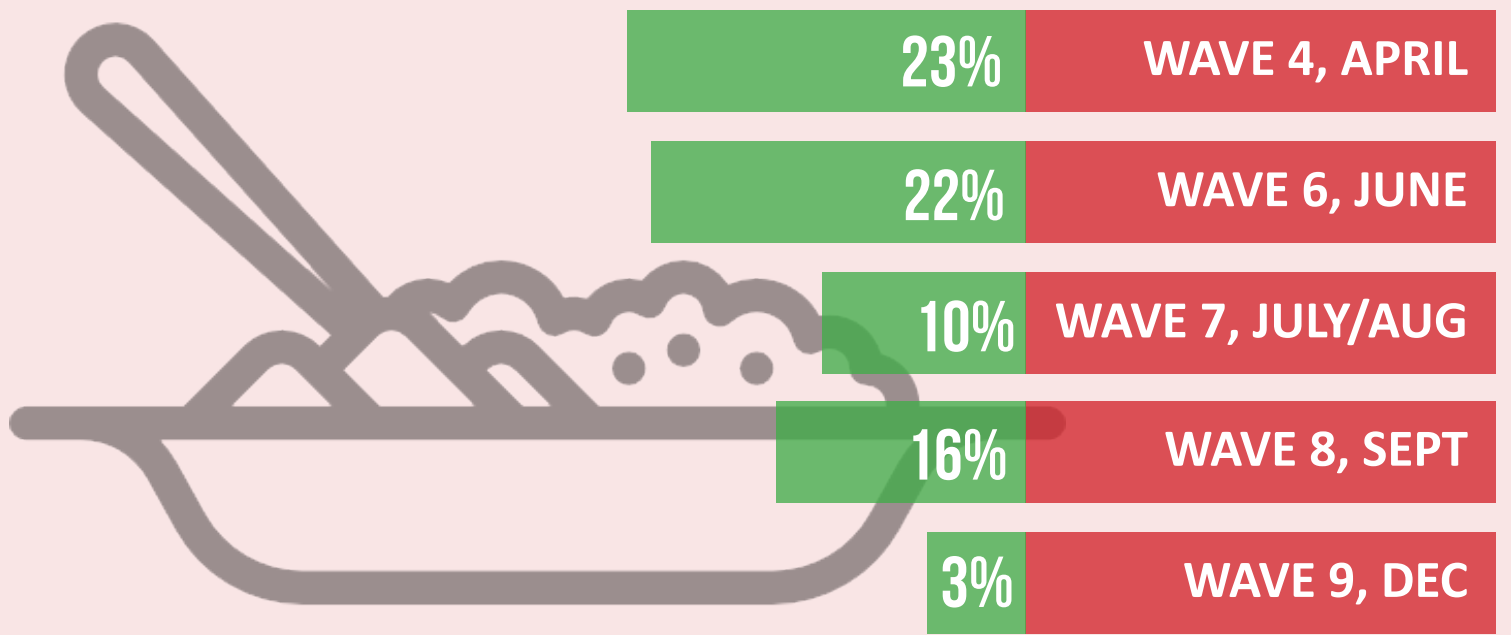
In Wave 8 of September 2020, while 4% respondents claimed they had to rely on government or NGO assistance in the last 7 days to cover their household's basic needs, the figures have reduced to 1% in Wave 9 of December 2020.

QUESTION: IN THE PAST 7 DAYS, HAVE YOU:

‘Reduced the number or size of meals for some household members’ to cover your household's basic needs?’



Relied on less preferred and less expensive foods’ to cover your household’s basic needs?’

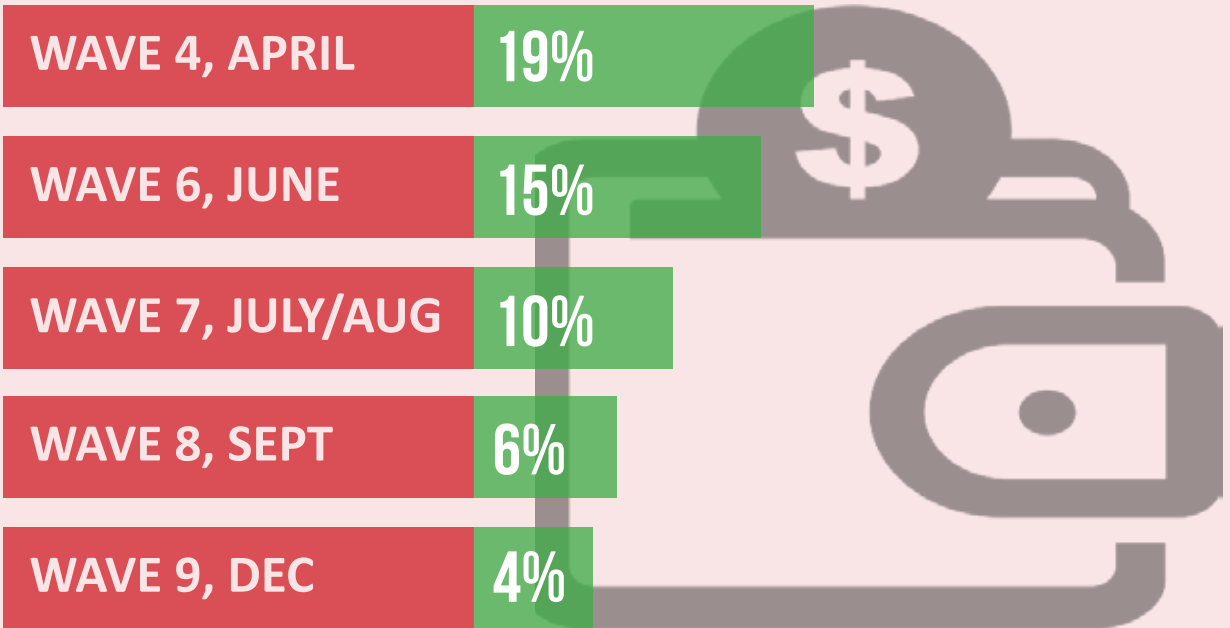


Source: Gallup Pakistan Coronavirus Attitude Tracker Survey, Wave 9.

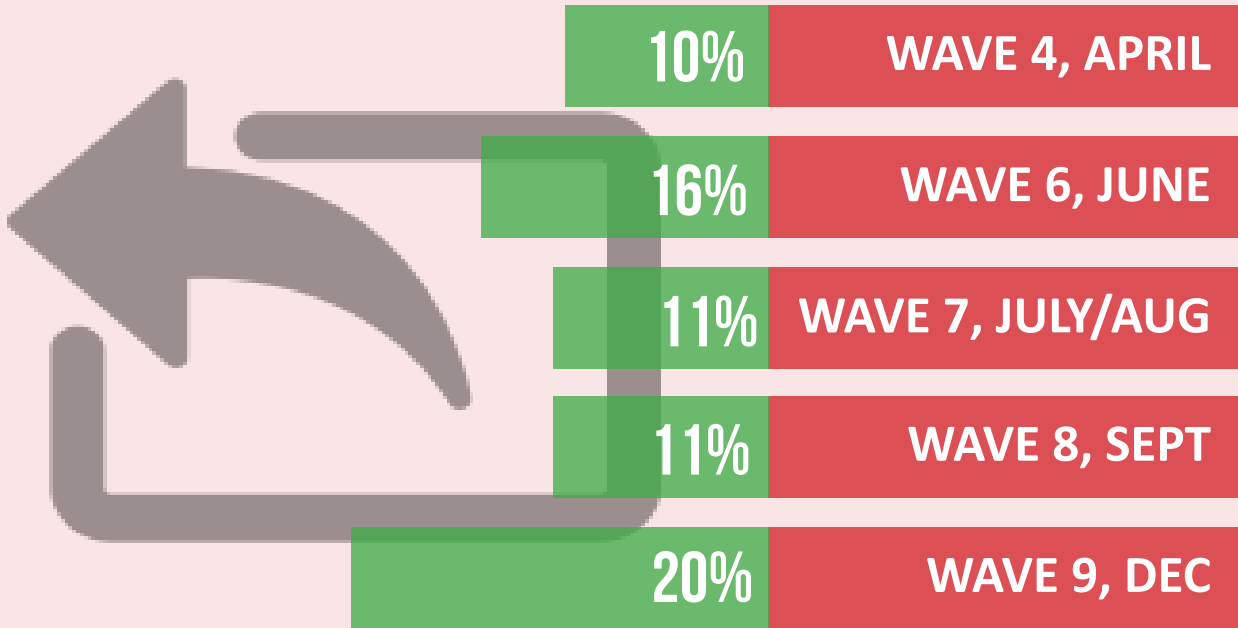


QUESTION: IN THE PAST 7 DAYS, HAVE YOU:

‘Used cash or bank savings’ to cover your household’s basic needs?’



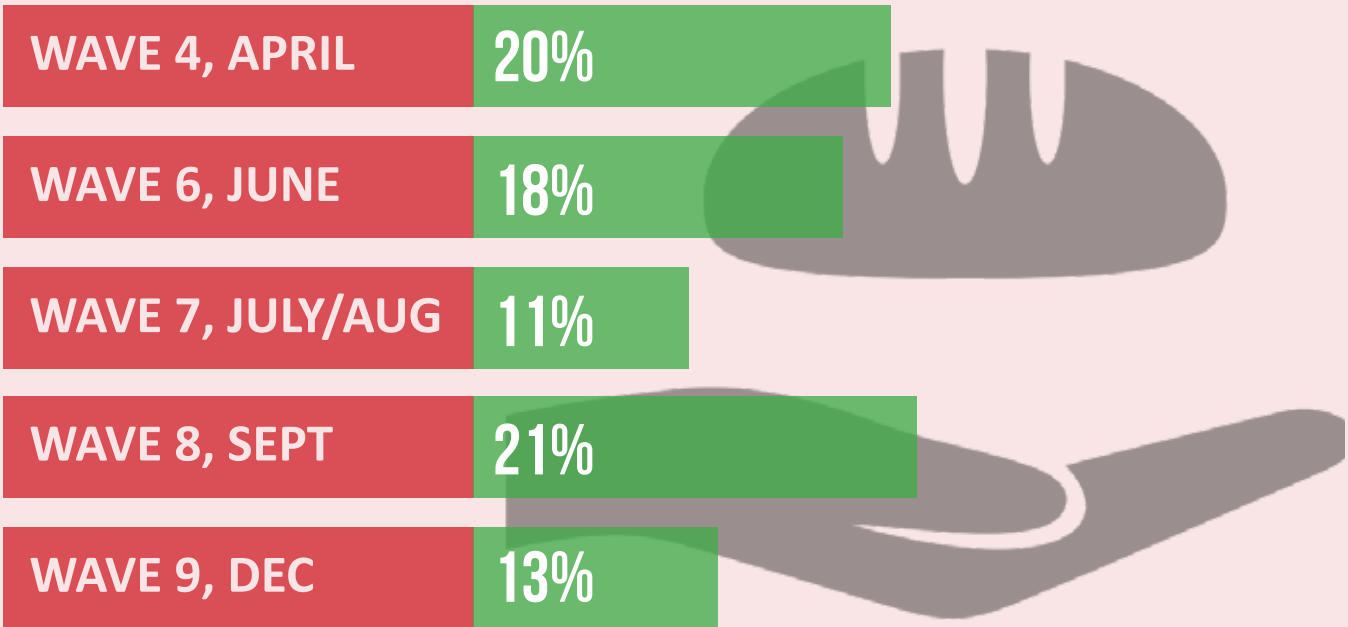
Looked for ways to earn additional money (e.g. work more hours, do an occasional job etc.) to cover your household’s basic needs?’



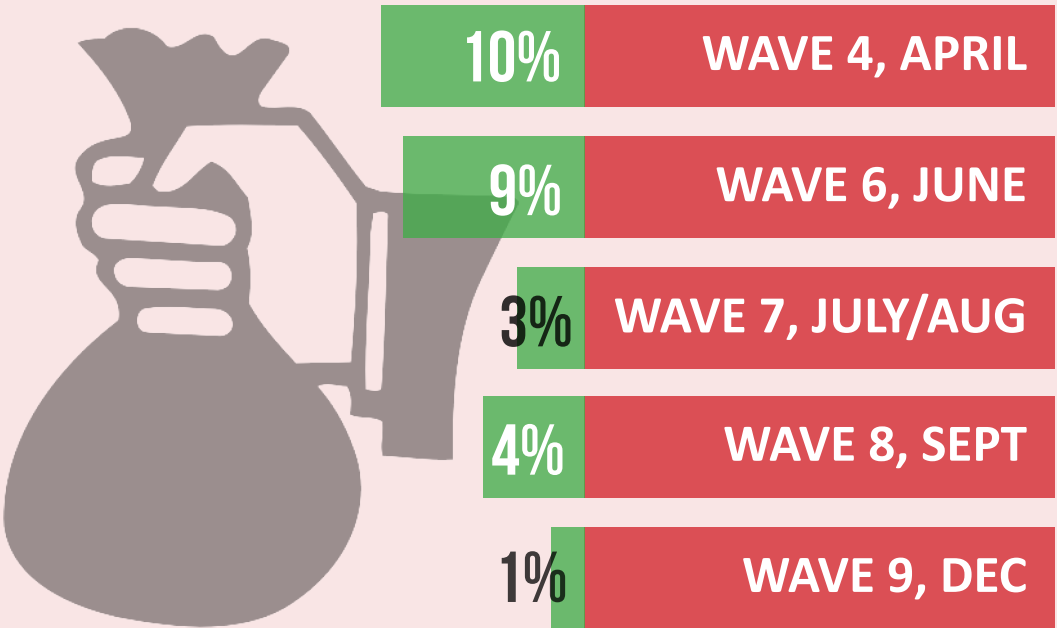
Source: Gallup Pakistan Coronavirus Attitude Tracker Survey, Wave 9.

QUESTION: IN THE PAST 7 DAYS, HAVE YOU:

‘Borrow food or ask for help from a friend or relative’ to cover your household’s basic needs?’

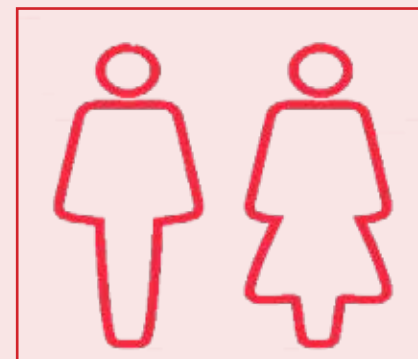


‘Rely on government or NGO assistance to cover your household’s basic needs?’



Source: Gallup Pakistan Coronavirus Attitude Tracker Survey, Wave 9.

The study was carried out by Gallup & Gilani Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. The survey was carried out among a sample of 1081 men and women in urban and rural areas of all four provinces of Pakistan, between 24th December 2020 and 15th January 2021. The error margin is estimated to be approximately ± 2 -3 percent at the 95% confidence level for national level results.



TOTAL
1081
INDIVIDUALS SURVEYED

Gilani Research Foundation is a not for profit public service project to provide social science research to students, academia, policy makers and concerned citizens in Pakistan and across the globe. Gilani Research Foundation is headed by Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani who pioneered the field of opinion polling in Pakistan and established Gallup Pakistan in 1980. Currently Dr. Gilani, who holds a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and has taught at leading universities in Pakistan and abroad, is Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.



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