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*Evolution of household income
during the COVID-19 crisis in
Austria – where to look for clues*

“Standard approach” of household income collection in EU-SILC:

Household composition at time of interview (N)

and **income** from income reference year, the **calendar year before interview (N-1)**

▪ **Pros:**

- **Full information** on income of one year, not disturbed by seasonal effects
- Possibility to use **register data**

▪ **Cons:**

- If there is a **change of household composition**: the current household composition used for equivalisation doesn't suit the income situation
- If there are **changes in the income situation or social/employment status**: the income/employment situation of last year may not reflect the current situation
- Time lag between **current living standard** and **previous income situation**
- **Time lag of results**

-> in situation of a crisis time lag and not capturing changes is a problem!

Current monthly household income (CMHI) at **time of interview (N)**

- **Pros:**
 - Easy to collect and to edit
 - Proxy for income situation
 - No time lag: CMHI reflects current situation
 - Timely available
- **Cons:**
 - Not very accurate
 - Cannot capture seasonal effects, holiday payments, christmas allowance, etc.
 - No register availability
 - Not available in all countries

What would you say is the net disposable income of your household per month?

Please think of all income components of all household members: income from work, pensions, social transfers (e.g. family allowance), regular private transfers aso. and tell me the sum of it (BEFORE deducting expenses like rent etc).

Potential remedies (2)

Household income evolution

- **at time of interview (N)**
- **income considered: net total income of the household**
- **subjective evaluation of respondents**
 - **Past year:** Change in income compared to previous year
 - **Reasons** for those changes
 - **Coming year:** Expected change in income compared to recent situation
 - **Pros:**
 - gives a feeling about income evolution
 - ready to use
 - **Cons:**
 - inaccurate
 - especially future evolution might be different

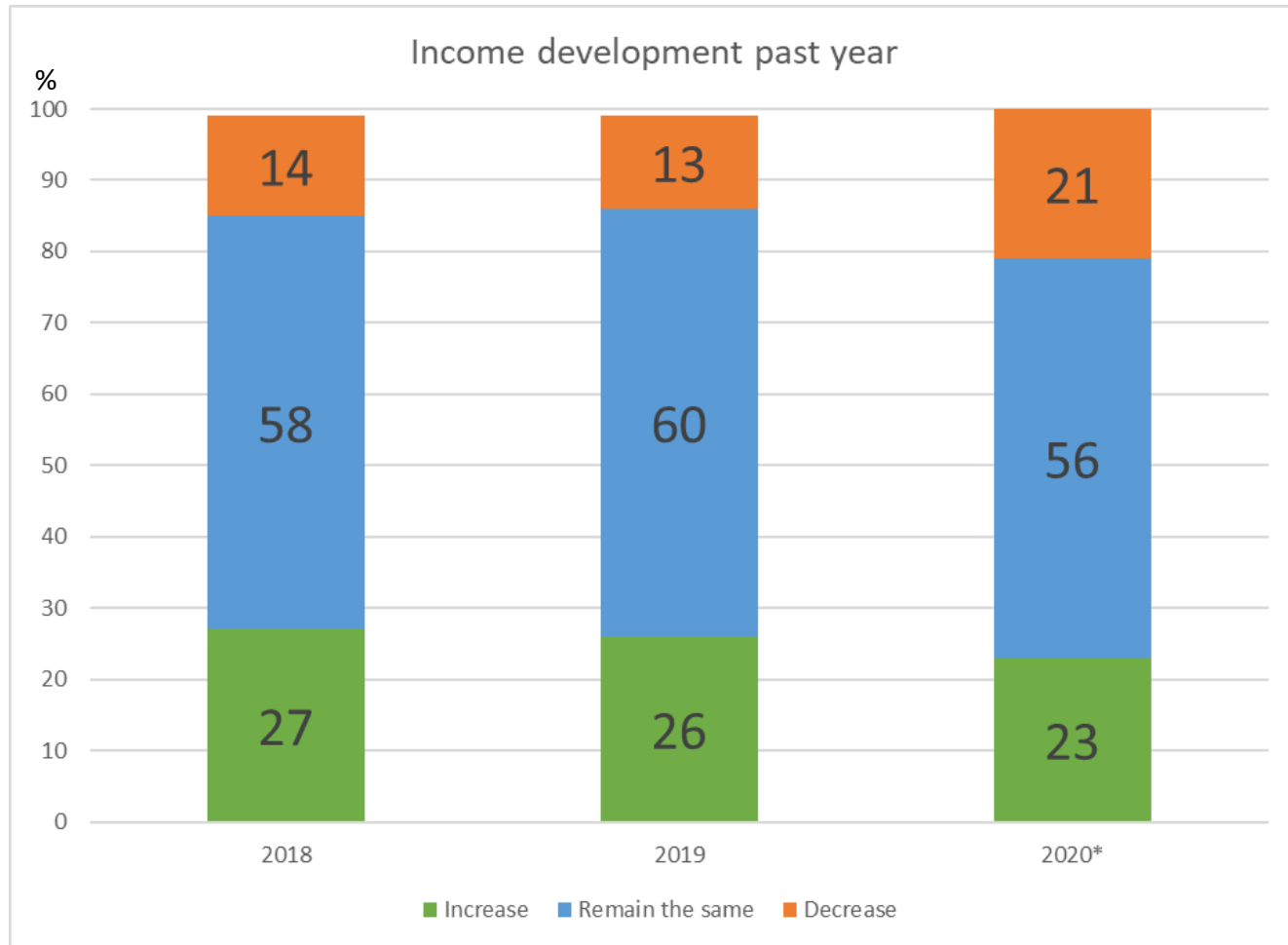
What would you say how your household income developed over the past 12 months?

Increased
Remained more or less the same
Decreased

And when thinking about the 12 months to come: Do you expect your household income to

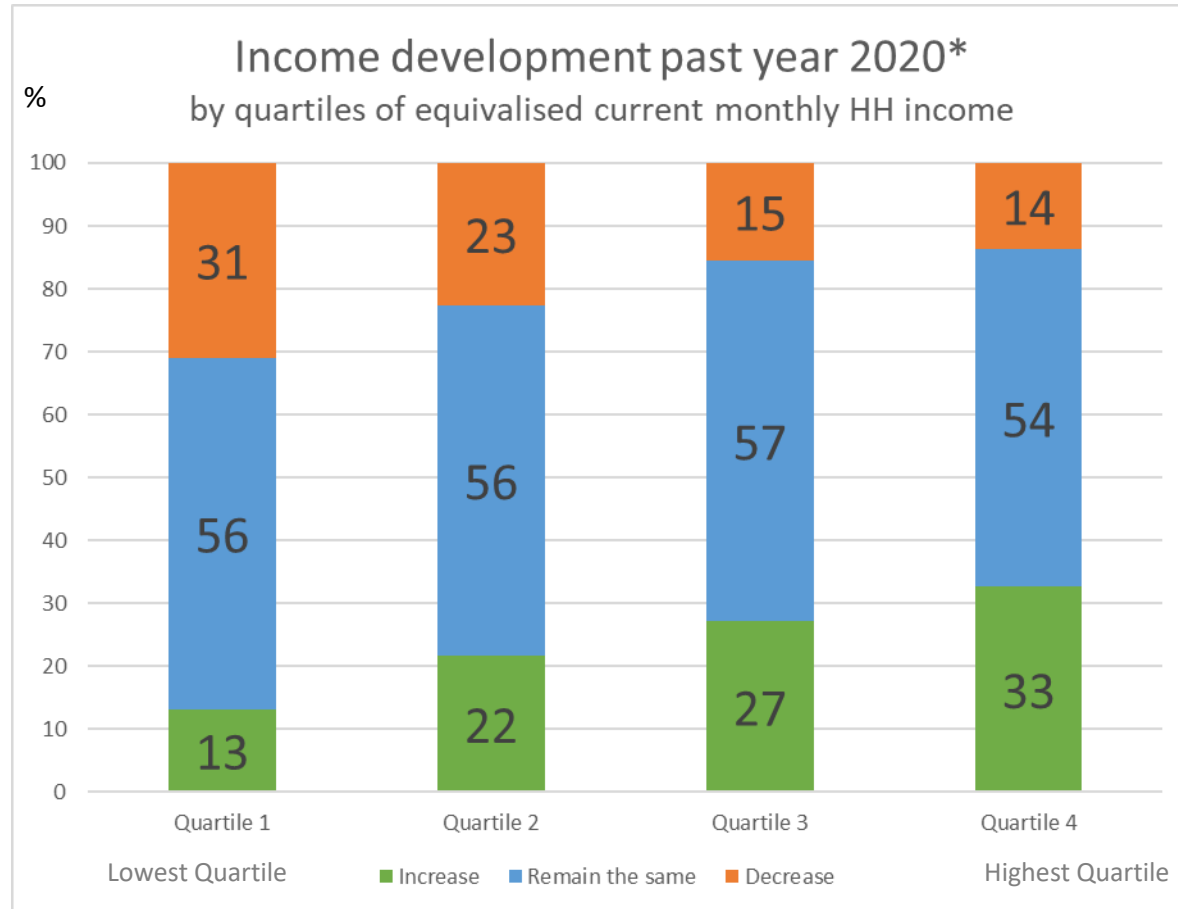
Increase
Remain more or less the same
Decrease

Examples for analysis of HH income in COVID-19 crisis (1)



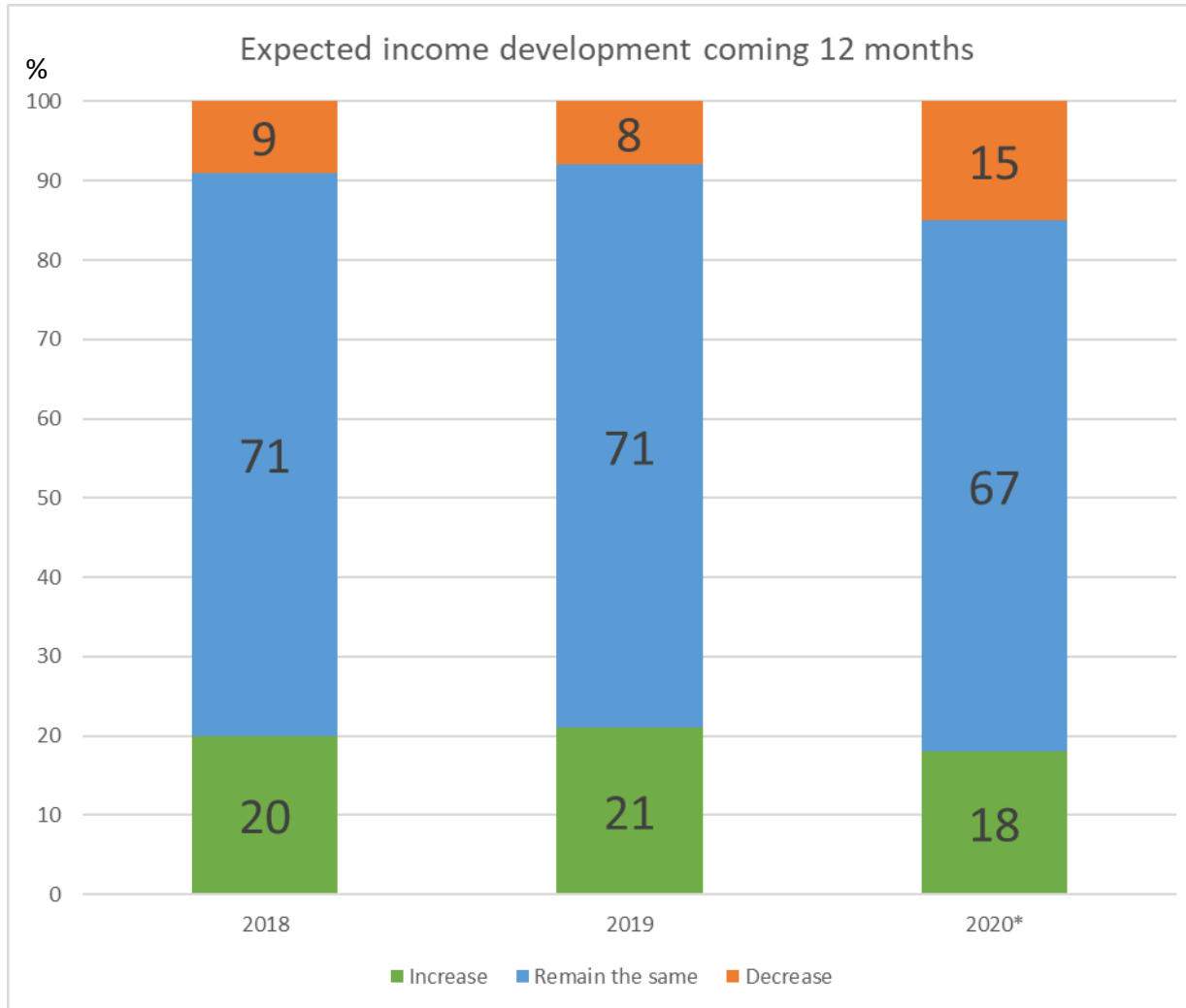
Source: EU-SILC 2018-2020, Austria. *For 2020 preliminary results with provisional weights.

Examples for analysis of HH income in COVID-19 crisis (2)



Source: EU-SILC 2020, Austria. *Preliminary results with provisional weights.

Examples for analysis of HH income in COVID-19 crisis (3)



Source: EU-SILC 2018-2020, Austria. *For 2020 preliminary results with provisional weights.

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Thank you for your attention!