

UNECE Data Collection in Times of Covid-19

Virtual event, 7th October 2020

Impacts of the closure of economic activities and the use of the Wages Guarantee Fund and smart working in the propensity to participate in the business surveys (structural & short term) underway during the pandemic

Giampaola Bellini, Silvia Binci, Massimo Piaggese

Istat (Italian Institute of Statistics) – Dips, Dcrr, Division for data collection implementation from direct surveys – Surveys on businesses

Context and main aim of the study

- ❑ Pandemic periods occurring in Italy (Lock down, Re-opening, Economic recovery)
- ❑ The analyses is made by using the results of the **Survey on the impact of the pandemic on Italian companies(*)** run in May
 - 90,000 companies (3+ employees) respondents to the permanent census of businesses in 2019
 - Response rate 46.5 percent
- ❑ The analyses focus on the effects of
 - the use of *Ordinary Wages Guarantee Fund (WGF)* and *smart working (SW)*
 - the suspension (imposed by decree or voluntary) and the re-opening of some specific economic activities

on the participation rates of business enterprises to structural and short-term surveys during the pandemic.

(*) see more details in the presentation made on Monday by Istat - Bosso, Curatolo, Fazzi, Murgia,

2

- ❑ Structural survey ongoing during the pandemic
 - ✓ Structure of Earning Survey - SES

- ❑ Short term surveys
 - ✓ Employment in large enterprises
 - ✓ Turnover and orders
 - ✓ Industrial production
 - ✓ Retail trade

Tks to Francesca Monetti for supporting data analyses on short-term surveys

Structural survey – matching Covid and SES surveys units

SES sample
units

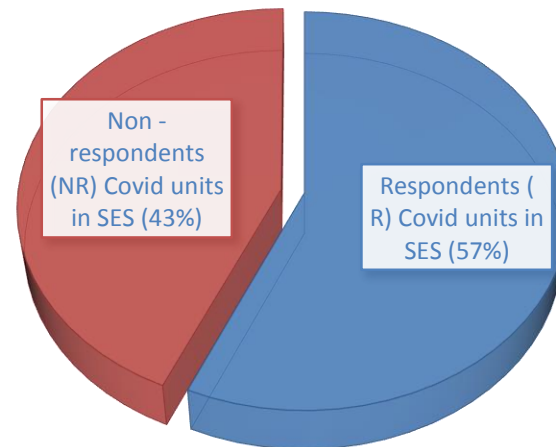
Covid survey units
matching SES units

22.099

7.879

36%

Partecipazione rate to Covid survey

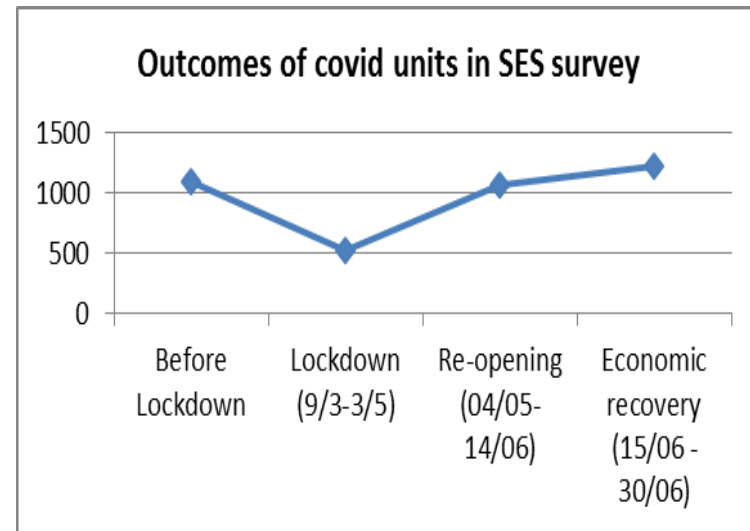


Structural survey – trend of SES outcomes

- SES Response rate decreased since last edition of 3.5 pp

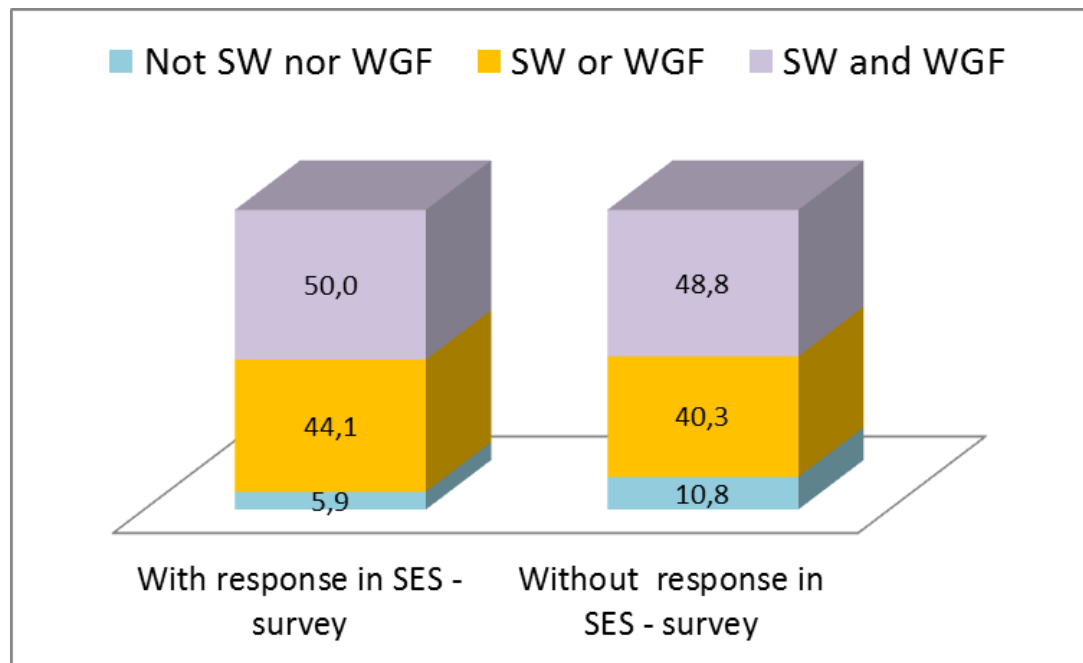
Trend of units responding to Covid survey and to SES – survey by Covid-19 Phase

- A big decrease in SES – survey participation is recorded in the most critical pandemic period
- Around 59 percent of the considered units transmitted data after strict lock down measures were over, after 3rd of May
- Several deadlines postponement has been set by Istat, from 23rd March until 30th of June



Structural survey – Adoption of SW and/or WGF

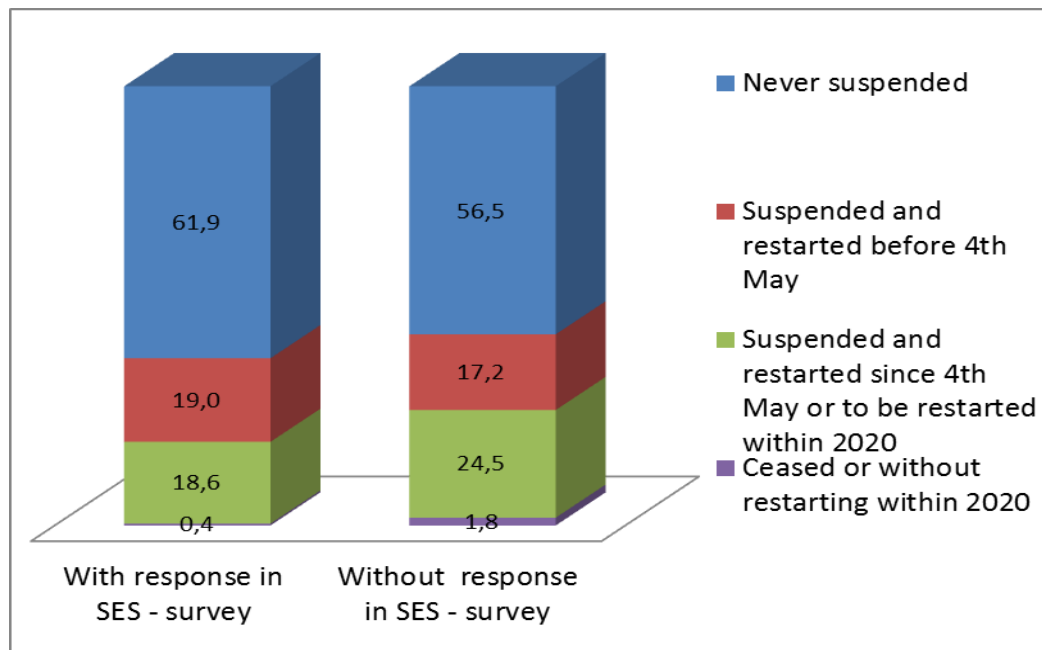
- SW and WGF have been used by a large majority of the enterprises, and mostly SW and WGF were adopted jointly
- Units Respondent to SES – showed a larger use of SW and WGF than Non Respondent units



For responding units to SES – survey, only those responding after 9 March (83,3% of total R) have been considered

Structural survey – Adoption of activity suspension

- Most of the observed units never suspended the economic activity
- Units Respondent to SES – survey showed to keep on the economic activity or to have resumed it promptly more often than Non Respondent units



Short-term surveys - matching Covid and surveys units

Context of reference

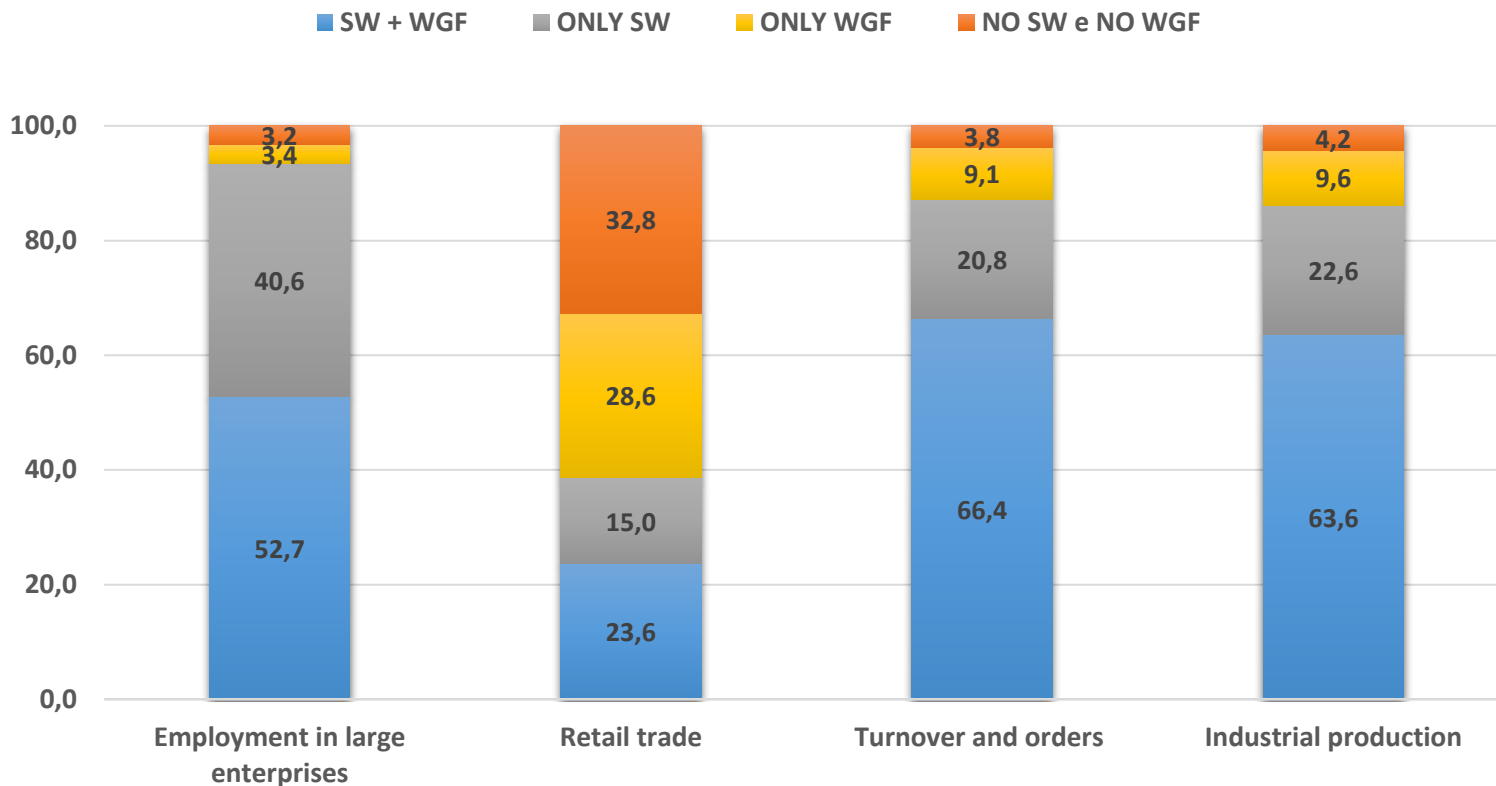
for enterprises with greater difficulties, Istat provided the possibility to transmit the requested data by 30 June with reference to the months from January to April

Surveys	Number of units involved in months Jan-Apr 2020	% of units involved in Covid survey	% of units responding by the monthly deadlines and to Covid survey	% of units responding by the monthly deadlines in 2019 and to Covid survey	% of units responding by June 30 th and to Covid survey
Employment in large enterprises	1.586	86,7	72,6	86,3	94,5
Retail trade	7.626	16,7	68,8	76,2	94,5
Turnover and orders	7.682	58,5	85,9	94,2	98,1
Industrial production	6.362	60,2	76,6	91,2	97,2

- In 2020, compared to 2019, there is an average decrease of about 11 pp in RR at the deadline set by the information letter, due mainly to Industrial production survey (14.6 pp) and Employment in large enterprises survey (13.7 pp).
- The RR recorded a remarkable increase at the extended deadline on June 30th, on average by 20 pp. In particular, the most significant rise has been gained by Retail trade survey, with 25.7 pp.

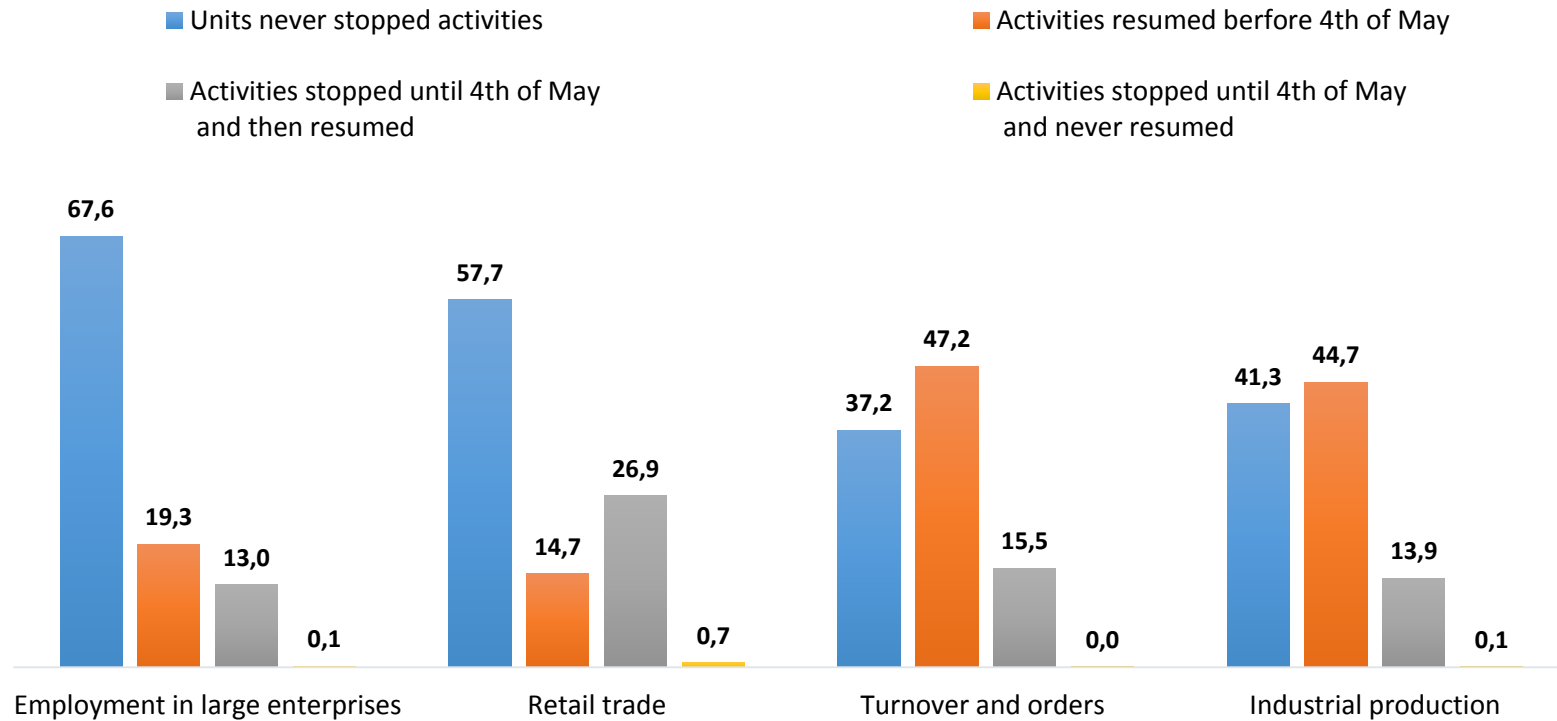
Short-term surveys– Adoption of SW and/or WGF

USE OF SMART WORKING AND WGF BY UNITS ALWAYS RESPONDING BY MONTHLY DEADLINES 2020



- Companies mainly resorted to the combined use of the Ordinary Wages Guarantee Fund (WGF) and smart working (SW), on average the 51,6%, except for those involved in the Retail trade survey (only 23,6%).
- The Retail trade is the survey with the highest percentage of enterprises that did not resort to facilitated measures (32,8%), but is the one that has used the most only the WGF (28.6%).

Short-term surveys - Adoption of activity suspension



- Considering the four surveys overall, about 51% of enterprises never stopped activities. Looking at results by survey, Employment in large enterprises survey and Retail trade survey have the highest number of companies that did not go out of business, respectively 67.6% and 57.7%.
- About 31.5% of enterprises stopped the activity but managed to resume it before May 4th. Considering the surveys individually, Turnover and orders survey and Industrial production survey have the highest percentage of companies involved in the suspension of activities, respectively 62.7% and 58.7%.

During the pandemic,

- ❑ there was a massive resort to SW and WGF by the businesses involved in the structural and short-term surveys analysed
 - Particularly for SES, the adoption of SW and/or WGF was more spread in SES responding units than in non responding units

- ❑ The majority of the units didn't stop the economic activity, both in structural and short term surveys
 - In SES, the sample units either didn't suspend the economic activity or resumed it before May 4 th in a larger quota in the responding units group compared to the non responding one

Conclusion and further development

- ❑ Time was a relevant factor in determining the final participation rates
 - ✓ Posponement of informative letter deadline, for structural survey
 - ✓ Possibility to transmit the data referring to the terms set by the informative letter with delay, within the June 30th, for short-term surveys

meaning that strategies adopted by Istat, in order to cope with the crisis that enterprises were facing, played a relevant role (see presentation made by Istat, in the next workshop session) and response rates were kept in line with results obtained in the past

For the future

- deeper analysis of the factors affecting participation rate during pandemic, such as dimension and economic sector of the enterprises involved
- further analysis on results of the new wave of the **Survey on the impact of the pandemic on Italian companies** that will be run soon.

Thank you for paying attention !