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# COVID-19 Survey Report Vietnam

Covid situation and survey context

Sample description and methods

Public opinion on the COVID-19 pandemic

- Government response evaluation
- Human rights sacrifice
- Travel restrictions
- Vaccine's acceptance
- Pandemic impact & Economic optimism

Survey data collected in November 2020 | Report updated in July 2021
Prepared by Ms. Huyen Chang, Data Analyst

# The COVID-19 situation and survey's context

The survey was **conducted between October and November 2020**, at a time when Vietnam had just experienced two major outbreaks across the country in March and July. From the end of September, this is the period without any new confirmed cases following Danang's summer outbreak.

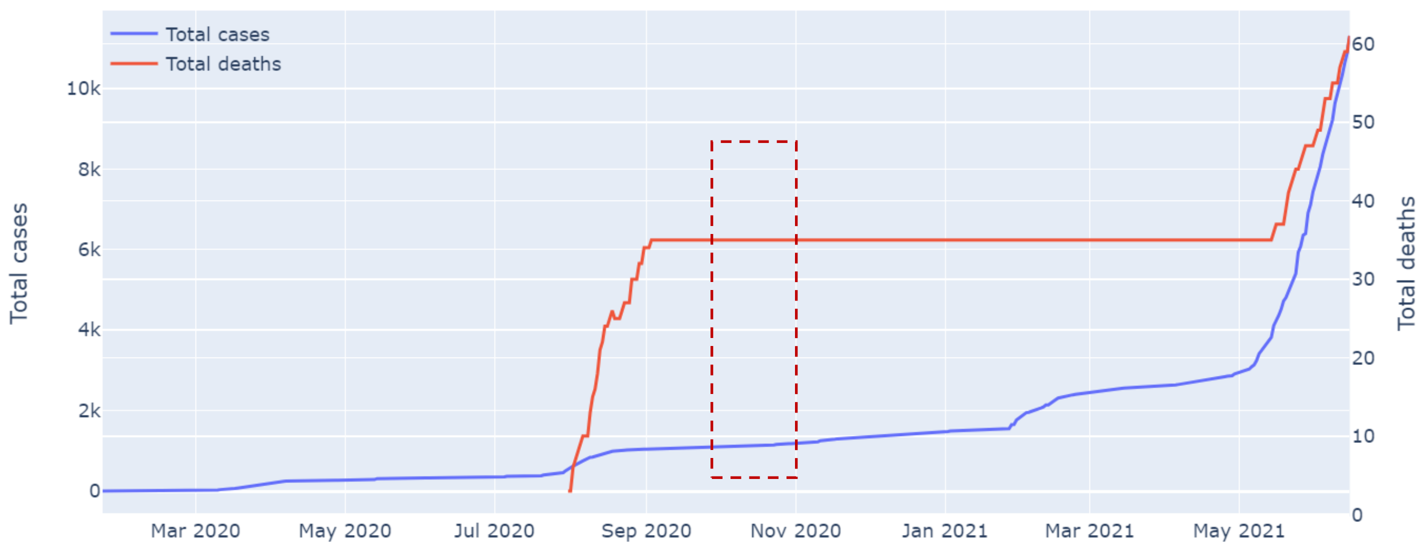
It can be said that the people and Government of Vietnam had dealt well with the pandemic, so people's views at the time of the survey were relatively objective.

When the survey was launched, there were only about 1100 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Vietnam and 35 deaths attributed to the pandemic. By the close of the survey, on November, these numbers had grown to 1300 confirmed COVID-19 cases but with rather low mortality (35 attributed deaths), **representing nearly 20% increase in cases over a two - month period** (figure 1).

The COVID-19 survey focused on 5 areas: namely, (1) **people's opinion about government response to the COVID-19 pandemic, (2) human rights restrictions, (3) travel restrictions, (4) the acceptance of vaccination, (5) the impact of COVID-19 and prospects about future**. It explored people's crisis-response behaviors, how the pandemic had affected their lives as well as what factors mostly drive these effects.

**Participants to the survey (n=604)** are representative of the Vietnamese population from Hanoi and HCM city urban districts, in terms of age and gender.

*Figure 1: Total confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths before and after the survey period*




Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Our World in Data.

# Sample description

Non weighted

Survey data collected in November 2020 | Report updated in July 2021

Analysis is based on **604 responses** received from people in 2 largest cities **Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city.** These two cities are also the political and economic hubs of the country.

The results are to be considered regarding the population of these two key cities only.


The sample comprises primarily **young workers with a high school level education.** However, the percentage of people under 40 is more dominant (about 70%) and almost all respondents having a full-time or part-time jobs, unemployed are few. The most common education level is high school level with more than 59%, followed by 21% having a university degree or studying in a university.

To a varying degree, the survey sample **represents Gen Y and Gen Z** (accounting for 70%) **predominantly with middle household income** ranging from 10 to 25 million VND/month.

*Figure 2: Respondents' household income (in million VND)*

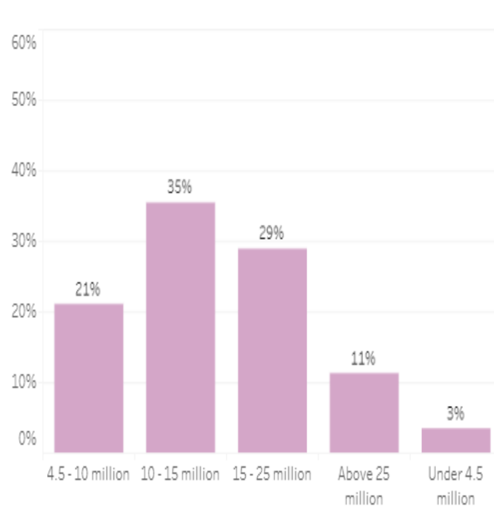



*Figure 3: Respondents' education level*

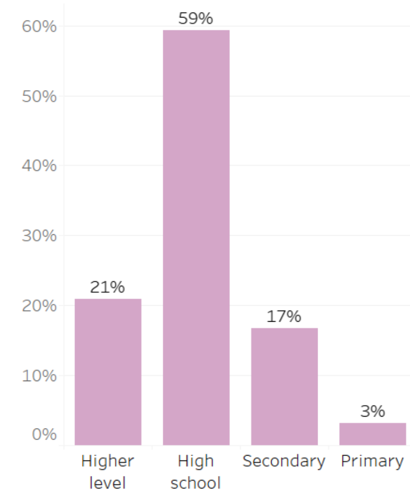
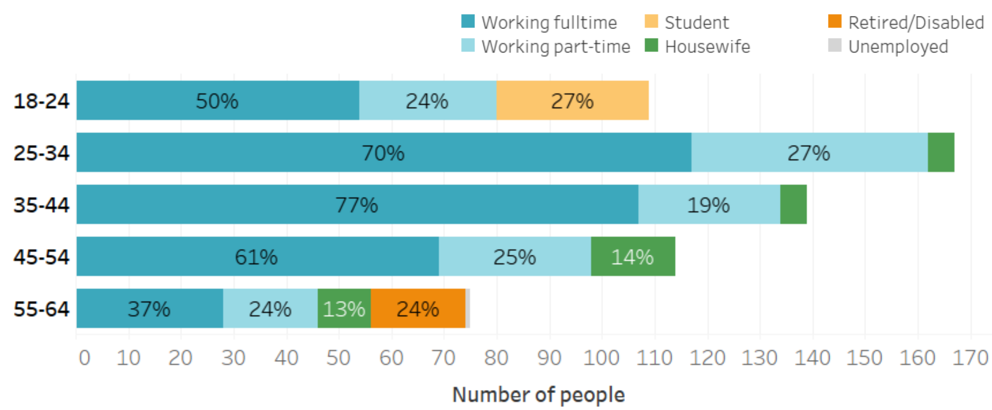



*Figure 4: Respondents' labor market status, by age*



Below is a detailed description of the survey sample, according to several demographic criteria.

*Table 1: Sample characteristics*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| City (N=604) | | |
| HCMC | 300 | 50% |
| HN | 304 | 50% |
| Age group (N=604) | | |
| 18-24 | 109 | 18% |
| 25-34 | 167 | 28% |
| 35-44 | 139 | 23% |
| 45-54 | 114 | 19% |
| 55-64 | 75 | 12% |
| Gender (N=604) | | |
| Female | 305 | 50% |
| Male | 299 | 50% |
| Marital status (N=604) | | |
| Married | 412 | 68% |
| Single | 172 | 28% |
| Other | 20 | 3% |
| Highest education level (N=604) | | |
| Primary school | 19 | 3% |
| Secondary school | 101 | 17% |
| High school | 358 | 59% |
| Higher education | 126 | 21% |
| Total | 604 | 100% |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Personal income (N=583*) | | |
| Under 4.5 million | 112 | 19% |
| 4.5 - 7.5 million | 220 | 36% |
| 7.5 - 12.5 million | 196 | 32% |
| Above 12.5 million | 55 | 9% |
| Household income (N=604) | | |
| Under 4.5 million | 21 | 3% |
| 4.5 - 10 million | 127 | 21% |
| 10 - 15 million | 214 | 35% |
| 15 - 25 million | 174 | 29% |
| Above 25 million | 68 | 11% |
| Employment (N=604) | | |
| Working fulltime | 375 | 62% |
| Working part-time | 145 | 24% |
| Housewife | 36 | 6% |
| Student | 29 | 5% |
| Retired/Disabled | 18 | 3% |
| Unemployed | 1 | 0% |
| Total | 604 | 100% |

* Does not count number of people with the answer of don't know or no response (DK/NR)

# Public opinion on the COVID-19 pandemic

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# Government's response evaluation

In the period before the survey was taken, Vietnam experienced 2 outbreaks with high risk of infection, and **people's opinions on how the government handled and prevented the disease showed the trust in government.**

In general, **consumer sentiment is positive when placing faith in the Government's relatively successful efforts** to combat the Covid-19 pandemic.

*Figure 6: Share of respondents by appreciation on the way the government handle the crisis*

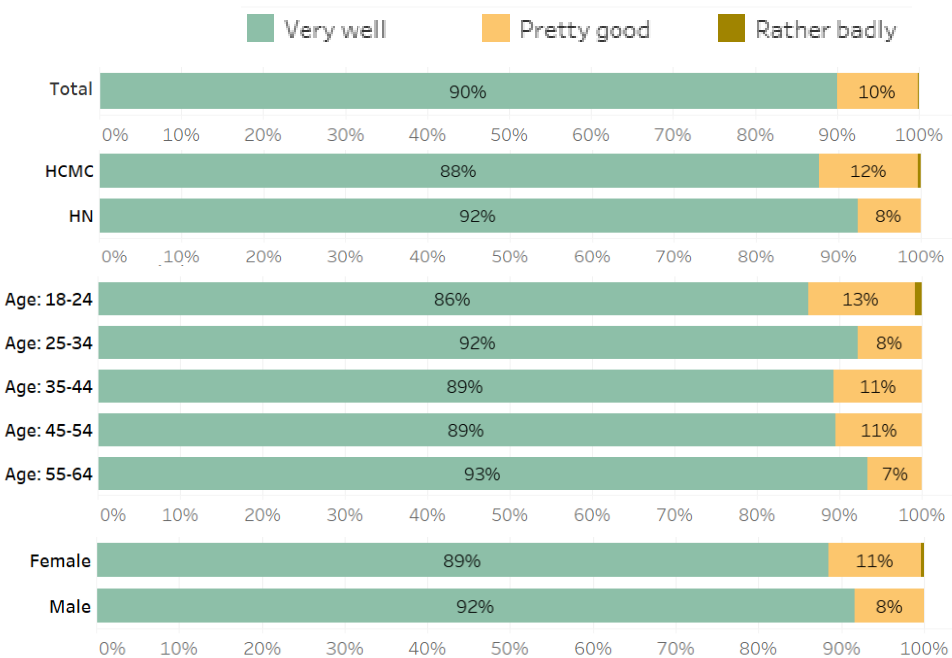
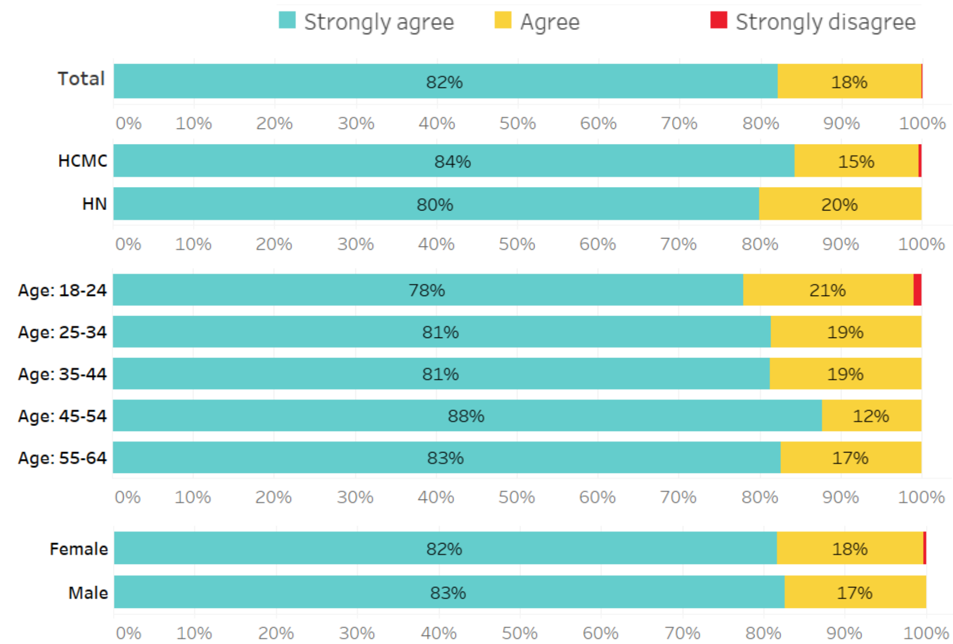



*Figure 5: Share of respondents who agreed with the way the government handle the coronavirus situation*




Across the survey, 82% people strongly agreed and 18% agreed with the statement that ***the government has had applied appropriate and effective policies to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.***

For all other groups, by location, age group or gender, there is a very high rate of trust in government (>99%).

Regarding the crisis issue, over 99% of respondents said that the government had early responses to stabilize the economy and handled the post-pandemic crisis.

However, there is a small group of people aged 18-24 (just about 0.9%) who disagreed with the government on both aspects.

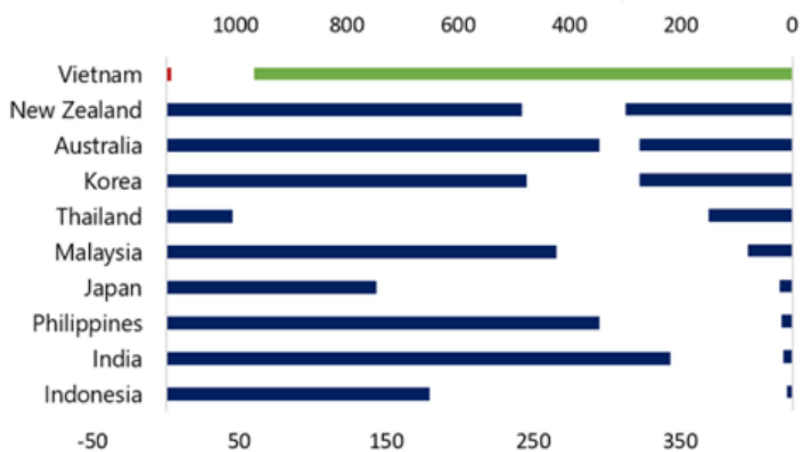
## What has the government done to cope with the pandemic?

To bring the outbreak under control, Vietnam implemented the same strategies through the outbreaks: targeted lockdowns, travel bans, business closures, mass quarantines, and widespread testing.

**Vietnam had the highest rate of covid test cases for a new confirmed case compared to some countries in the block (figure 7).** At the time of the first outbreak, the number of tests reached nearly 1000 test cases/new case.

The number of people under quarantine during the previous two outbreaks also demonstrated the quick respond of the government. The second outbreak quarantine time lasted longer, and the average number of people quarantined or isolated were also higher than the first outbreak due to its further complexity (Figure 8 &9).

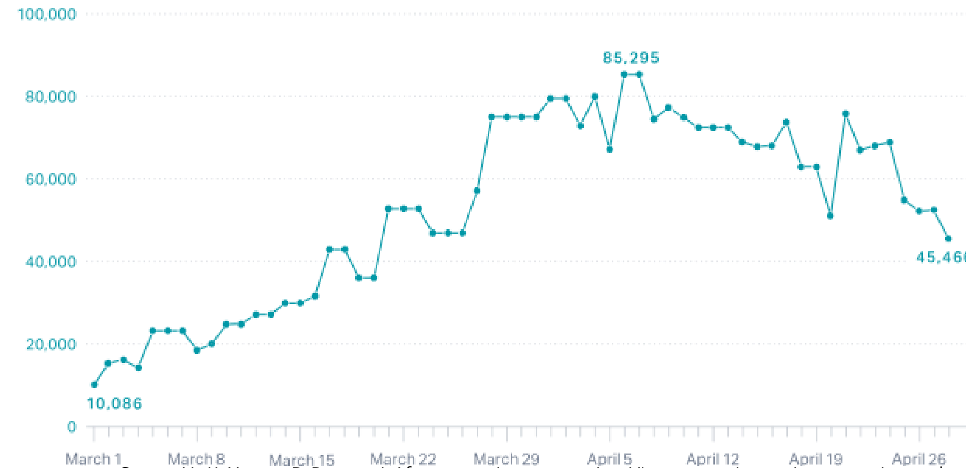
*Figure 7: Number of confirmed cases per million test case in some countries*




Source: Our World in Data

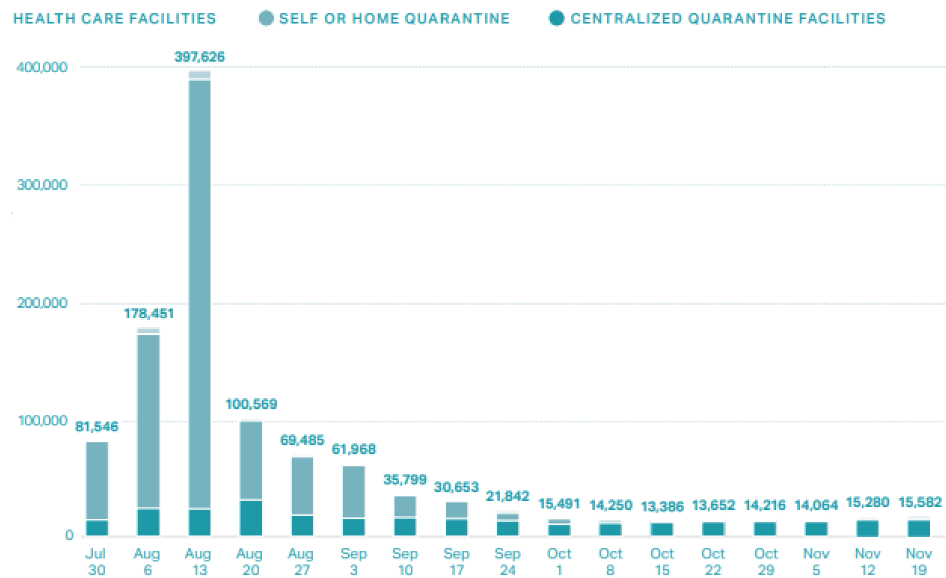
Note: Data tests for Vietnam (April 29), Thailand (June 5), Philippines (June 21), India, Indonesia (June 23), Japan, New Zealand, Malaysia (june 22), Korea, Australia (June 21)

*Figure 8: Total people under quarantine in Vietnam between March and May 2020*




Source: Vu K, Nguyen P, Pearson J. After aggressive mass testing, Vietnam says it contains coronavirus outbreak. Reuters. April 29, 2020

*Figure 9: Total people under quarantine in Vietnam between July and November 2020*



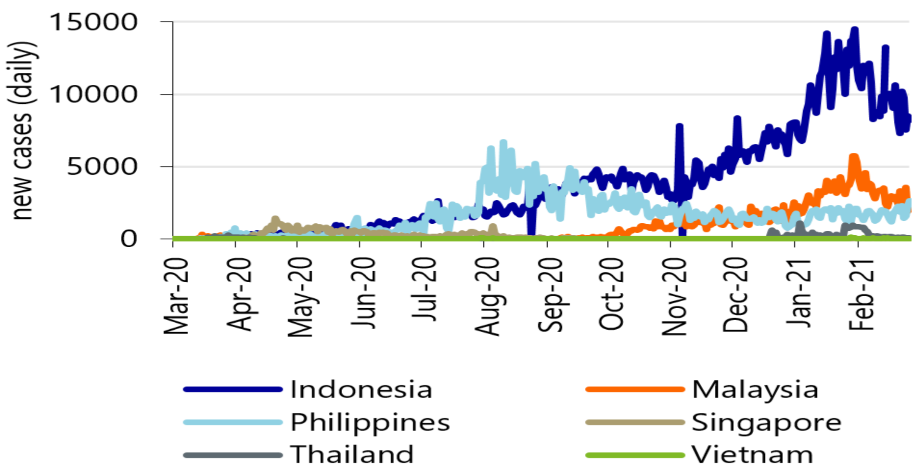

Source: WHO Situation Reports. Published December 31, 2020

## What were the outcomes of all the strict strategies?

This is clearly shown by the results of the proposed anti-epidemic measures that have made Vietnam maintain the lowest number of infections and death cases.

Compared with many ASEAN countries, **Vietnam had a significantly lower number of case and the growth rate was much lower compared to other countries in the region.**

*Figure 10: New COVID-19 cases in some Asean countries*

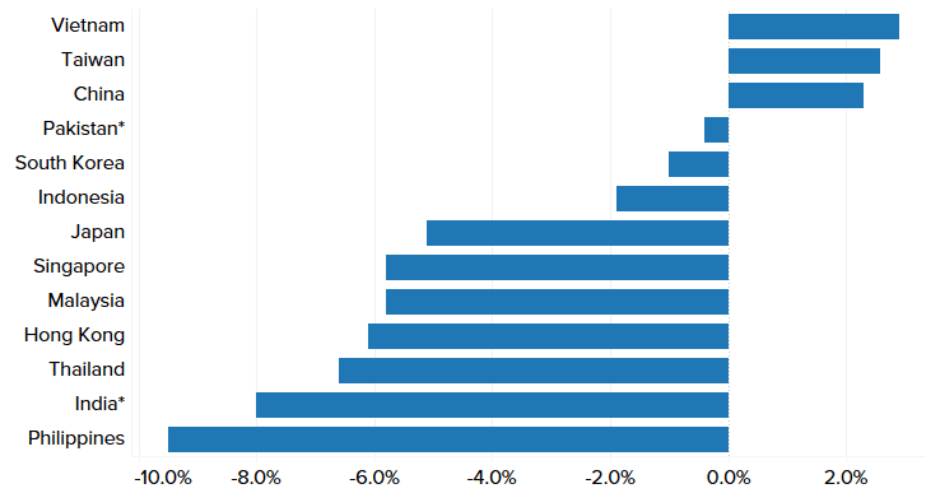



Source: Macrobond, RaboResearch

On the economic side, **Vietnam has delivered one of the highest growth rates in 2020** while a lot of countries in the world were in deep recessions.

The Vietnamese economy grew 2.9% in 2020,  and 5,65% in H1 2021 according to government estimates.

*Figure 11: 2020 GDP growth/contraction of major Asian economies*




Source: Vietnam's General Statistics Office, Central Bank of the Republic of China (Taiwan), National Bureau Statistics of China, Bank of Korea, Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry, Hong Kong's Census and Statistics Department, Philippines Statistics Authority, IMF World Economic Outlook (Jan 2021)
* Data for India and Pakistan are on fiscal year 2020/2021 basis

# Human rights sacrifice

When it came to the rights people were willing to sacrifice**, most people were willing to sacrifice their rights** (to go out, to share information with the government, etc) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Of all respondents, **96% agree to sacrifice some of their human rights** if it helps reduce the spread of the virus in the community.

98% in Hanoi responded positively to the question about human rights sacrifice whilst a slightly lower rate in HCMC (94%). The only the difference in their response was the level of 'willing to sacrifice' between the two locations.

*Figure 12: Willingness to sacrifice human rights to prevent the spread of the virus*

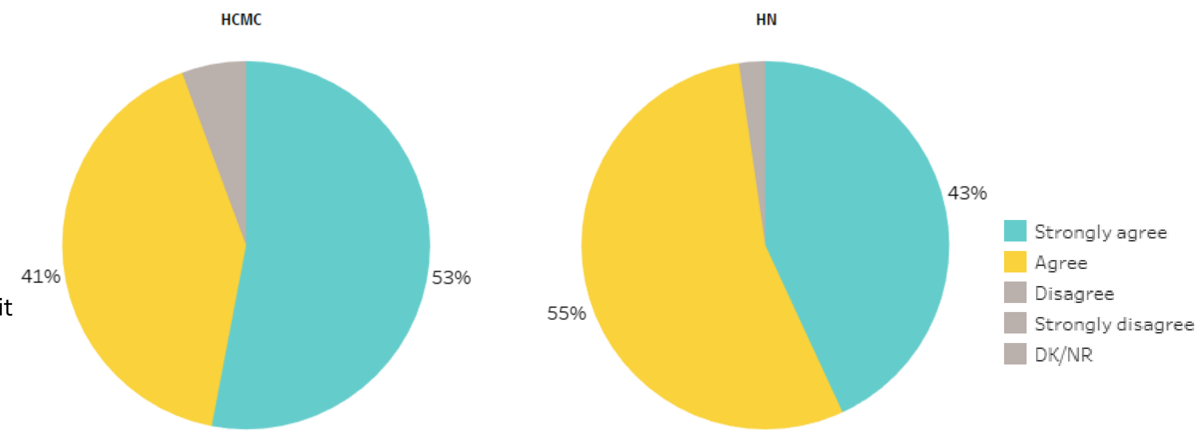
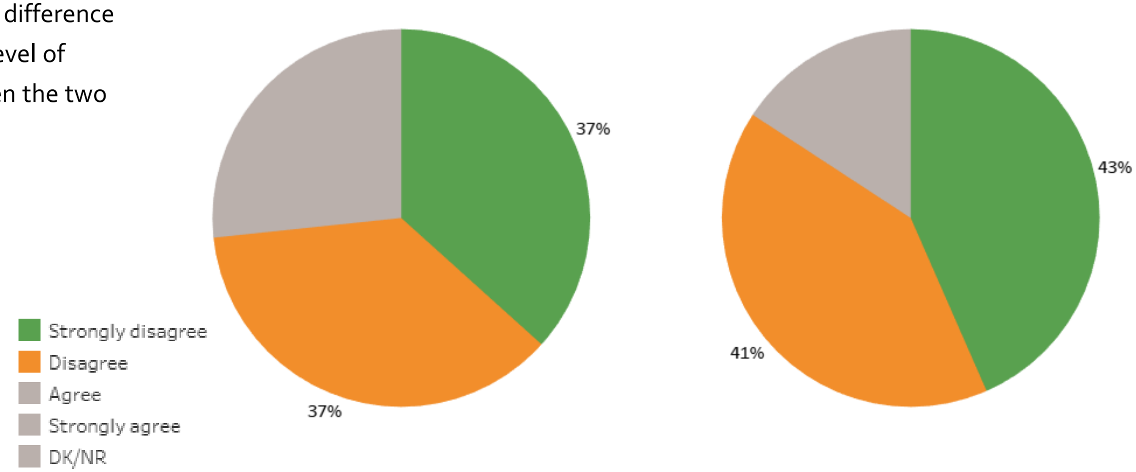



*Figure 13: Share of respondents who agreed coronavirus is exaggerated*

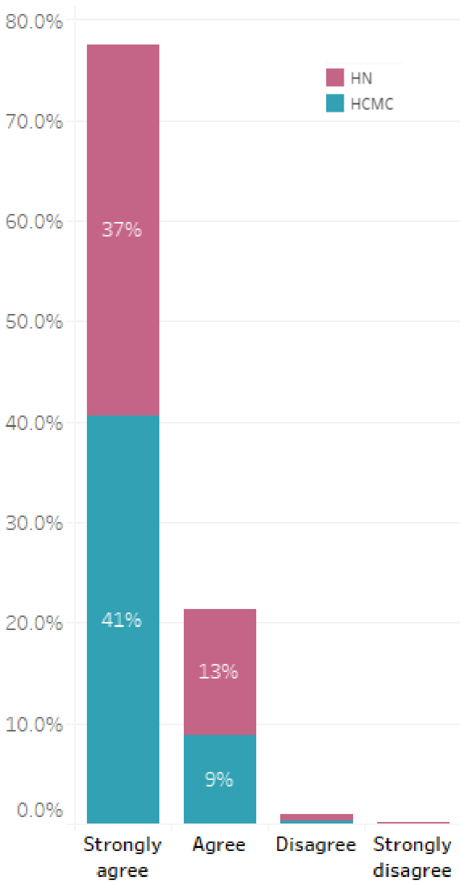



However, **people in Ha Noi showed a more serious concern about the disease's danger** with nearly 85% of people objecting to downplaying the danger of the virus, while this figure was only 74% in HCM.

People of the capital city felt this disease is more dangerous and thus are more willing to sacrifice some human rights to prevent the spread of disease compared to people in HCMC.

# Travel restrictions

*Figure 14: Willingness to restrict travelling of respondents*




**Most people think that travel restrictions are reasonable and necessary in the pandemic situation**, in which the proportion of agreement is evenly distributed across the two cities.

For future travel needs, most people consider to limit their traveling abroad for the purpose of holiday or business, but the number of people travel for holiday potentially higher than for business purpose. In HCMC, only 54% people not tend to travel for holiday next year.

Specifically, **HCMC residents have a much higher proportion of people willing to travel on holiday in 2021 (44% in HCMC and 18% in Hanoi).** This travel will comes mostly from male aged 25-35 with an average household income of 15-20 million/month.

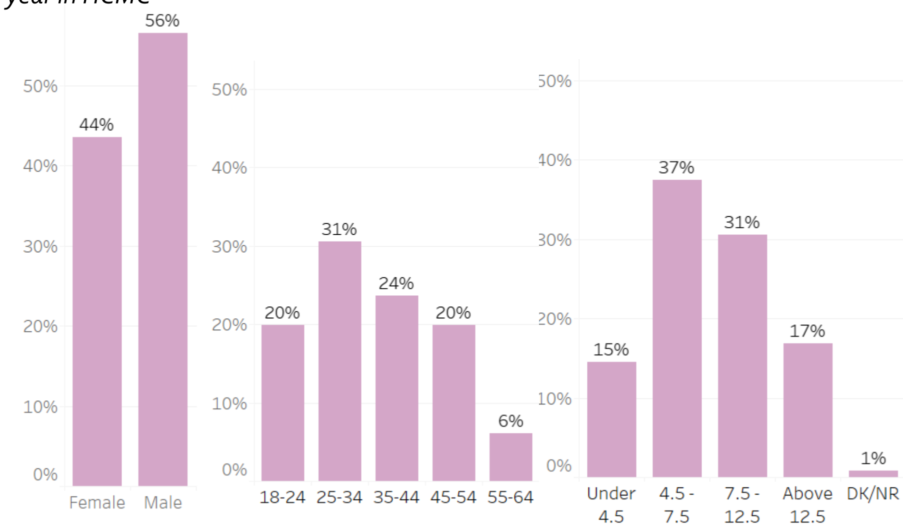
Being among the most at-risk population, **the elderly group (55-64 years old) has the highest rate of agreeing to travel restriction** (96% agree with 85% not likely to travel for holiday and 94% not likely to travel for business).

*Figure 15: Shares of respondents consider to travel abroad next year on business or holiday, respectively*

| On business | Not at all likely | Not very likely | Quite likely | Very likely | DK/NR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HCMC | 36% | 43% | 15% | 4% | 2% |
| HN | 48% | 42% | 6% | 2% | 2% |
| Total | 42% | 42% | 10% | 3% | 2% |

| On holiday | Not at all likely | Not very likely | Quite likely | Very likely | DK/NR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HCMC | 19% | 35% | 31% | 13% | 2% |
| HN | 38% | 43% | 12% | 6% | 2% |
| Total | 28% | 39% | 21% | 9% | 2% |

*Figure 16: Demographic characteristics of people reported likely to travel on holiday next year in HCMC*



# Vaccine's acceptance

At the time the survey was taken, COVID-19 vaccines were still in the testing phase in the world. However, when asked about taking vaccine after it is successfully developed, **over 90% of respondents agree or strongly agree to get vaccinated (Figure 17).** The situation is also considered to promote overall vaccination (Figure 18).

The percentage of people who think that the community will also get vaccinated soon is very high (92%) across both cities. This proved people's awareness of the general safety of the community.

*Figure 17: Percentage of people reported willing to take the Covid-19 vaccine*

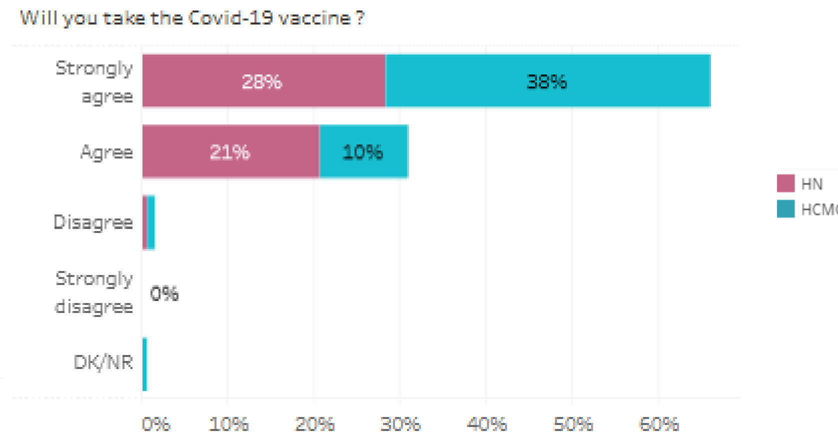
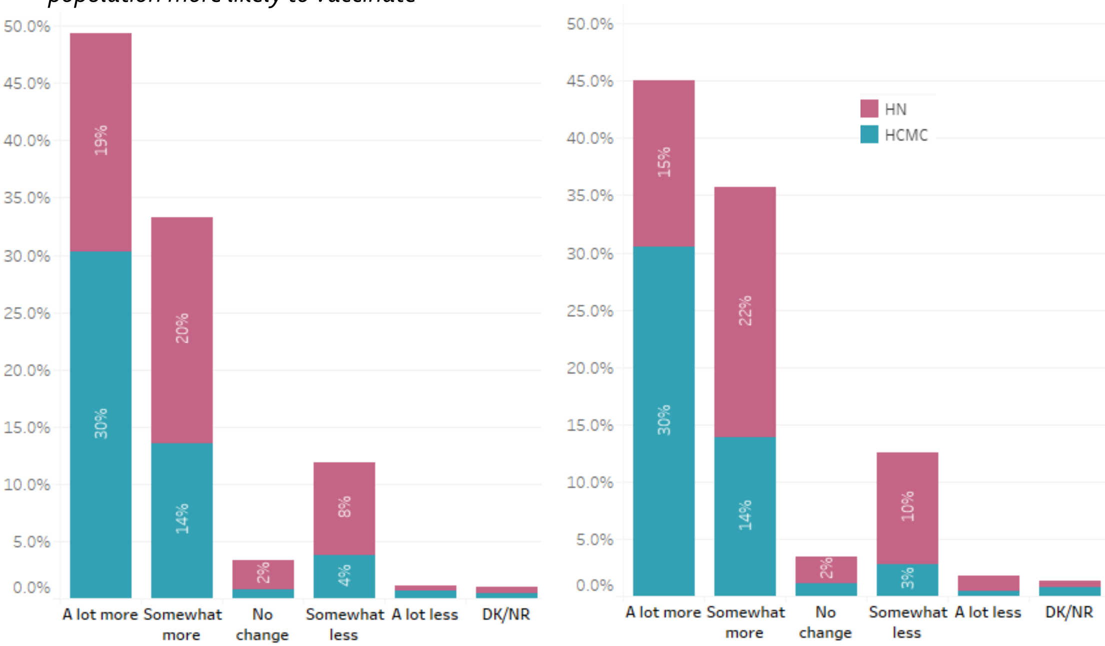



*Figure 18: Percentage of people reported COVID-19 has made them and the population more likely to vaccinate*




However, the difference is in the percentage of people who think this pandemic has raising self-vaccination. People in HCMC say that the pandemic has made themselves more likely to be vaccinated (over 60%), while in Hanoi it is only above 30%.

# Pandemic impact & Economic optimism

**A majority of people (66%) reported being negatively or very negatively affected by the pandemic**. This rate in Hanoi is 73%, while in HCMC is just 60%. Besides, in HCMC, up to 24% of people reported that COVID-19 had made a positive or even extremely positive impact on their lives. This number is double the one from Hanoi.

About the people's prospect of the economy in the coming year 2021, only 62% of respondents believed in economic prosperity, 25% think that the economy will stay the same and 13% have more negative thoughts when thinking that the economy will go down. **More Hanoian believe in a better economy next year than HCMC people.** This can be understood that due to being more heavily affected by the pandemic, people in Hanoi were more optimistic about the economy.

**<u>Update July 2021</u>**

**At the time of the publication, the 3rd wave is putting HCM and Hanoi under strict lockdown. The social and economic impact are not measured in this study and should be further evaluated.**

*Figure 19: Pandemic impacts on people's lives*

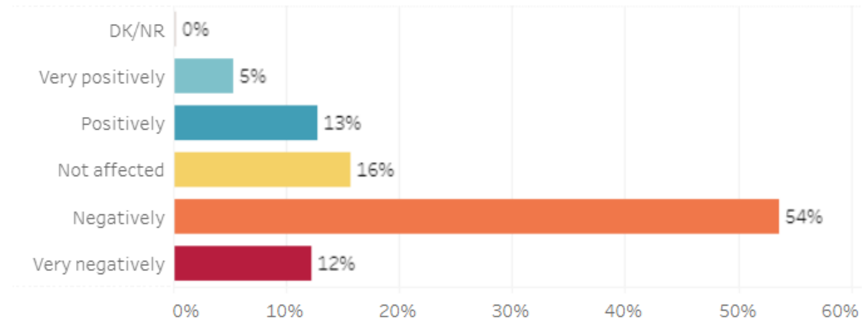



*Figure 20: People's prospects about next year's economy*

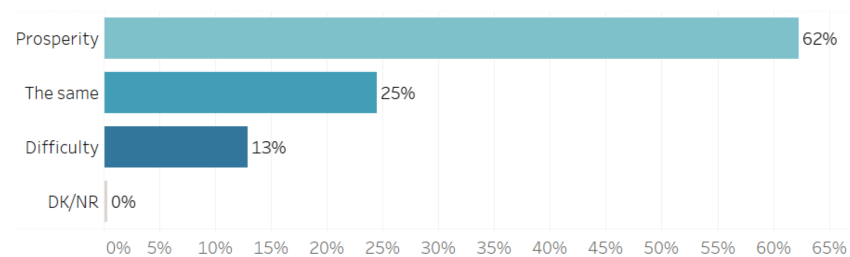
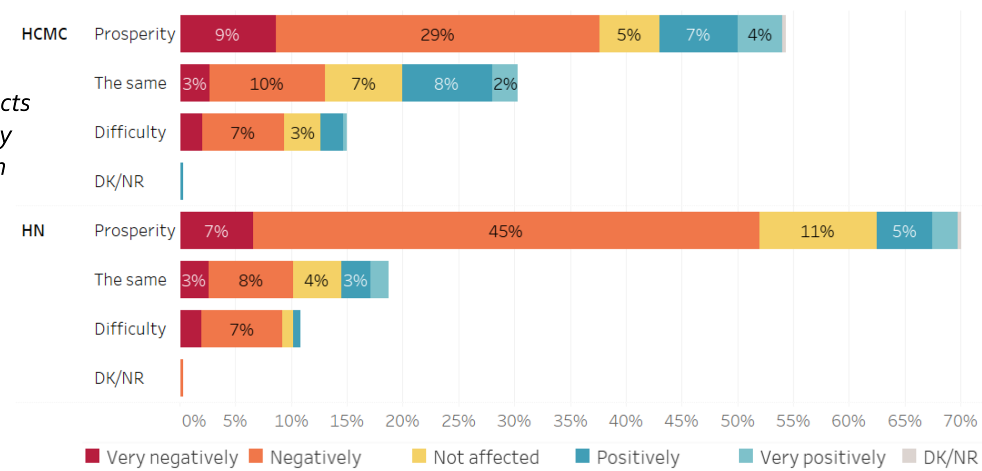



*Figure 21: People's prospects about next year's economy and Covid impact on them*



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