

BELMOD

*How to improve the assessment of COVID-19 measures:
using admin data to identify atypical workers*

06/10/2021

Tine Hufkens & Natascha Van Mechelen

1. Admin data in general

2. Motivation paper & research question

3. Access to social protection in Belgium

4. First results

5. Future steps

Advantages of administrative data

Better coverage of population

More complete coverage of population (even when using a sample)

- longer tails, data on hard-to-survey groups
- no errors due to self-reporting

It's in the details

Income split in different components

- Exact computation of taxes and benefits

Data allows identification of specific groups

- especially relevant for COVID-19 shock or similar

- Existing research: impact of COVID-19 for employees as a whole
- No studies look at the role of **atypical workers** and the impact of COVID-19 measures
- Research shows tax-benefit systems were able to **absorb** large part of the **shock** on **market incomes**
- Limited information on numbers of atypical workers hit by the crisis & extent to which they were protected by discretionary measures.

1. Was the Belgian tax-benefit system able to protect atypical workers during the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. What was the role of discretionary policy measures in stabilizing the household income of atypical workers

Access to social protection in Belgium

Groups with limited access to social protection





- Part time workers - due to their lower wage, hence lower compensation benefits
- Temporary and seasonal workers – protected by covid measures for the duration of their contract but afterwards to employment (if entitled) + sector of temporary employment particularly hit by COVID-19 crisis
- Flexijobs – limited duration and additional to main job – protection (only) through main occupation
- Artists - working in event sector + different contract types and varying employment situation

Access to social protection in Belgium

Groups with limited access to social protection

- Groups as a percentage of total jobs

	Q4 2019
Part time workers	34,3%
Temporary and seasonal workers	4,2%
Flexi-jobs	1,6%
Artist	0,3%

- Temporary and seasonal workers: 17%  Q4 2019 – Q4 2020
- Artists: 39%  Q4 2019 – Q2 2020
- Flexi-jobs: 54%  Q1 2020 – Q1 2021
- Student jobs: 11%  2019 – 2020

Access to social protection in Belgium

UB: role of employment history

- 19% of working population is not protected against unemployment due to insufficient previous employment
- This share is particularly high among:
 - Young people
 - Non-EU citizens
 - Retail trade, cleaning services, food and beverage activities

BELMOD to assess impact on atypical workers

BELMOD

- Microsimulation model built in EUROMOD
- Using administrative data
- More detailed implementation of unemployment & other benefit schemes (e.g. sickness benefits)

Detailed information on contract type, labour market history

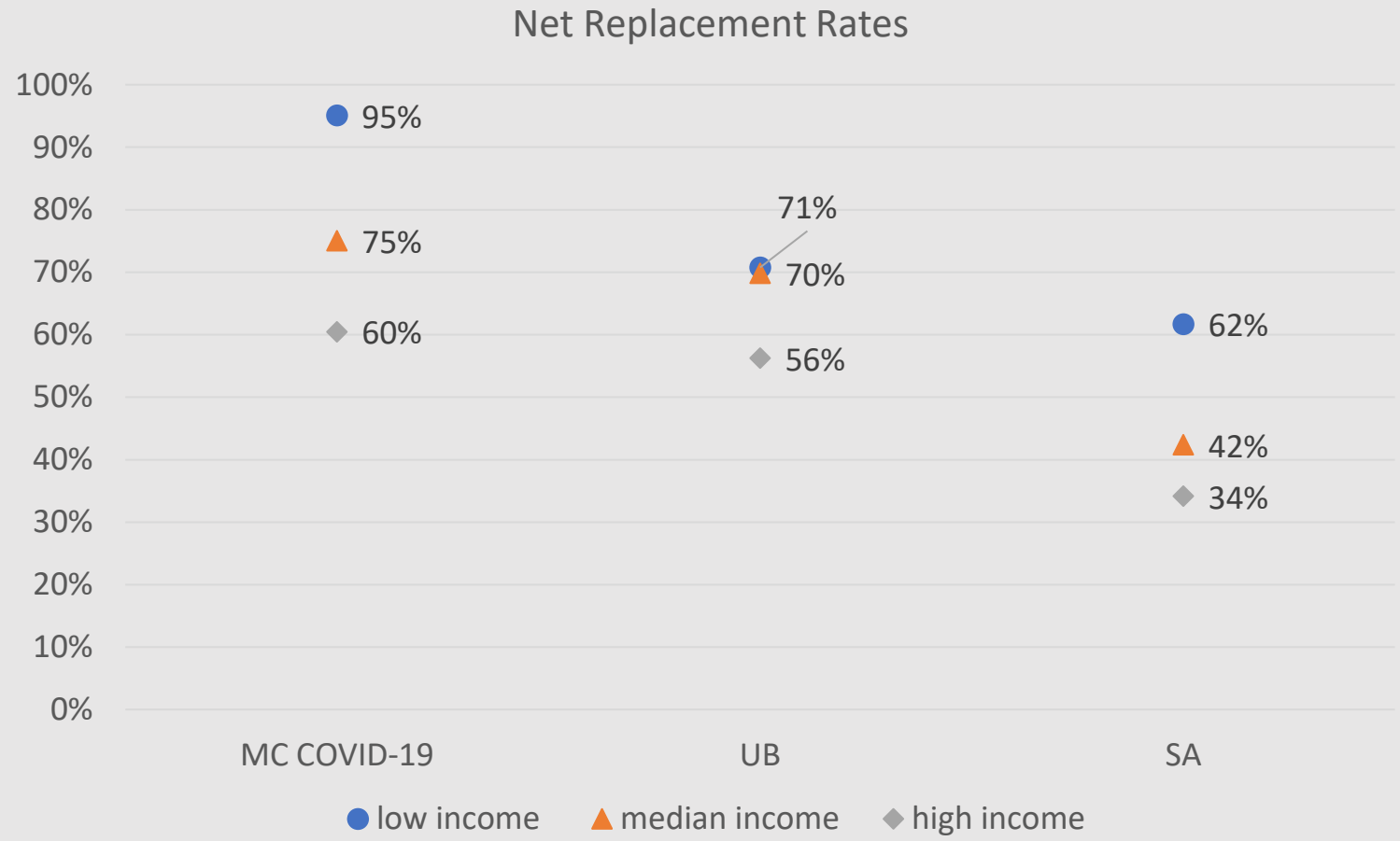
- Identify atypical workers through contract types and detailed information on sector (flexi jobs, temporary workers)
- Data allows to check access to social protection and possibly limited eligibility to unemployment benefits

BELMOD to assess impact on atypical workers

Social protection for employees

- Monetary compensation scheme for COVID-19
 - Limit loss of income for employees
 - Existing scheme of temporary unemployment extended
- Unemployment benefit
- Social assistance

BELMOD to assess impact on atypical workers



- Use similar method as the one presented in previous presentations to simulate labour market transitions
- Focus on atypical workers and using detailed benefit simulations
- Benefit entitlement will consider labour market history

Thank you

Interested in more BELMOD news and events?

<https://socialsecurity.belgium.be/en/shaping-social-policy/belmod-project>

Or send an e-mail to

belmod@minsoc.fed.be