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TRENDS RESEARCH & ADVISORY



## **Survey: The Second Wave Effects of Covid-19**

**December 2020**

## Executive Summary

- ✓ Arabs made up the overwhelming majority of total respondents in the survey (82.7 percent), while other nationalities constituted 17.3 percent.
- ✓ Male participation was 58.0 percent, and female participation was 42.0 percent.
- ✓ The age group 50 years and above registered the highest participation (37.0 percent), followed by the age group 40-49 years (32.1 percent), and 18-19 years (30.9 percent).
- ✓ Married respondents constituted 51.9 percent of total participants, singles 44.4 percent, and the remaining respondents were 3.7 percent.
- ✓ 98.5 percent of the respondents were university graduates, reflecting the educated people's concern about the second wave of Covid-19 and its repercussions. In comparison, the participation of those with high education level or its equivalent amounted to 1.2 percent.
- ✓ 66.7 percent of the respondents think that the impact of the second wave of Covid-19 will not be stronger than the first one.
- ✓ The overwhelming majority of the respondents (82.7 percent) do not expect another economic lockdown in their countries due to a surge in new infections.
- ✓ 65.4 percent of the respondents believe that full lockdown is not the best way to fight the second wave of Covid-19.
- ✓ 49.4 percent of the respondents think that the impact of a second economic lockdown on the community will be more substantial than the first one, while 35.8 percent of them expect the effects not to be stronger than the first one.
- ✓ 48.1 percent of the respondents have high confidence in the economy's ability to recover from the Covid-19 crisis in the coming months, while 38.3 percent have average confidence in this regard.

**Introduction:**

As part of its survey series, TRENDS Research & Advisory carried out a survey from November 25 to December 23, 2020, on the effects of the second wave of Covid-19.

The survey focused on the respondents' opinions about the effects of the second wave of Covid-19. TRENDS posed the following five questions to the respondents:

1. Do you think the impact of the second wave of Covid-19 will be stronger than the first one?
2. Do you expect another economic lockdown due to a surge in new infections in your country?
3. Do you think a complete lockdown is the best way to fight the second wave of Covid-19?
4. Will the economic effect of a second economic lockdown be much stronger than the first one?
5. How confident are you that the economy will recover from the Covid-19 crisis in the coming months?

A random sample of 405 individuals participated in this survey, including males and females from different nationalities, age groups, and education levels.

**Objectives:**

1. To understand the effect of the second wave of Covid-19 and whether it will be stronger than the first one.
2. To see whether the community members expect a second full economic lockdown in their countries due to a surge in new infections.
3. To learn the community's views on whether a full lockdown is the best way to fight the second wave of Covid-19.
4. To understand whether the community members think the economic impact of a second economic lockdown will be much stronger than the first one.
5. To know how confident the community members are about their economies' ability to recover from the Covid-19 crisis in the coming months.

## **Methodology**

### **1- The questionnaire**

Written in Arabic and English, the questionnaire was designed to capture the respondents' opinions about the second wave of Covid-19. It used the Likert Tripartite Scale, with (1) meaning "Yes," (2) meaning "No," and (3) meaning "I don't know."

### **2- Sample selection**

A simple random sampling technique was used to select the sample size from TRENDS databases and its social media platforms. The sample size was 405 individuals with an error margin of  $\pm 4.7$  percent.

### **3- Data collection**

An electronic method of data collection was used and was posted on TRENDS website.

### **4- Duration**

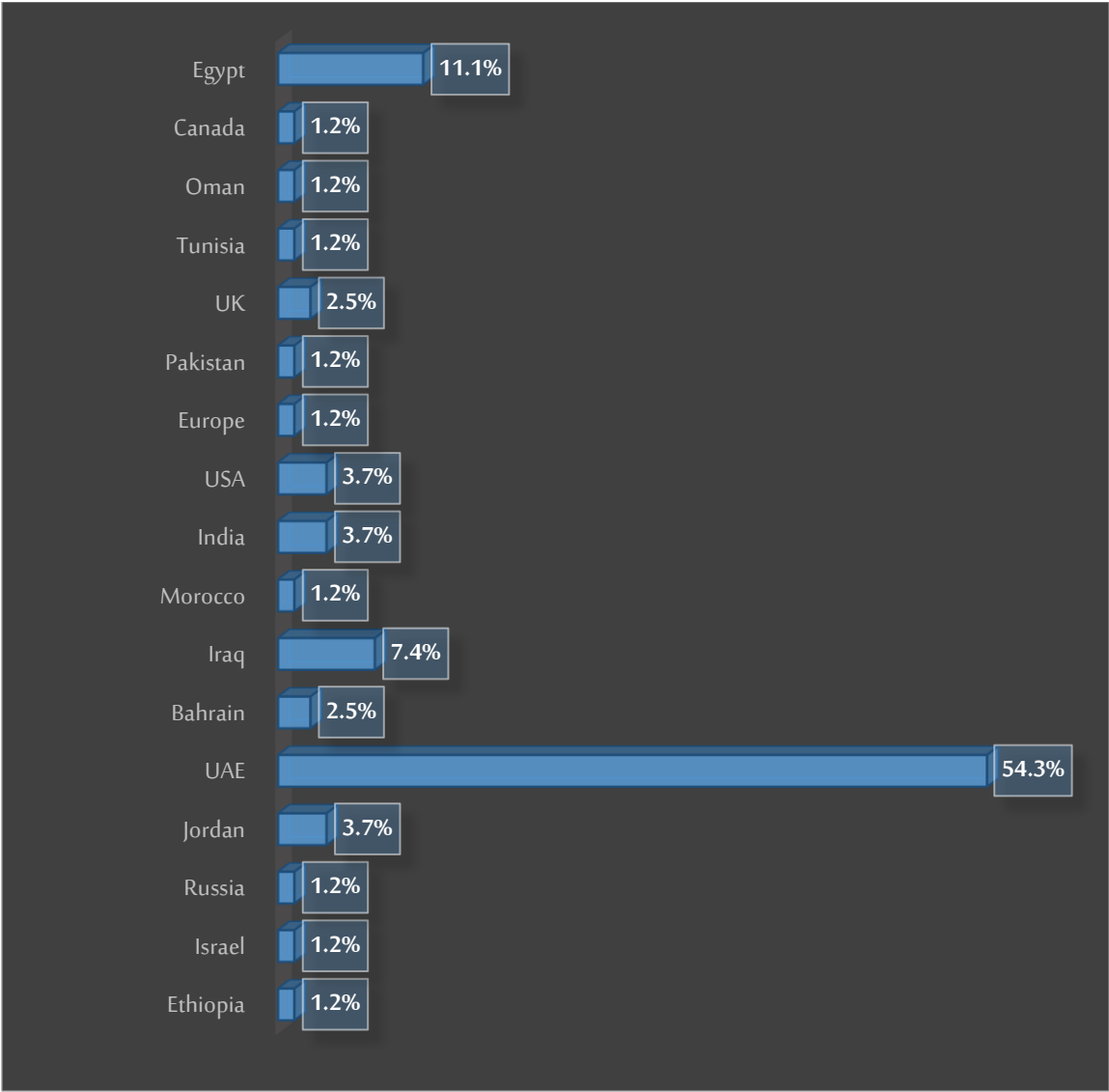
Data collection was carried out from November 25 till December 23, 2020.

### **5- Data analysis**

TRENDS used Excel and SPSS statistical packages to analyze the data. It also used these packages to ensure the data's precision and processing accuracy, besides extracting explanatory tables and charts and preparing the statistical report.

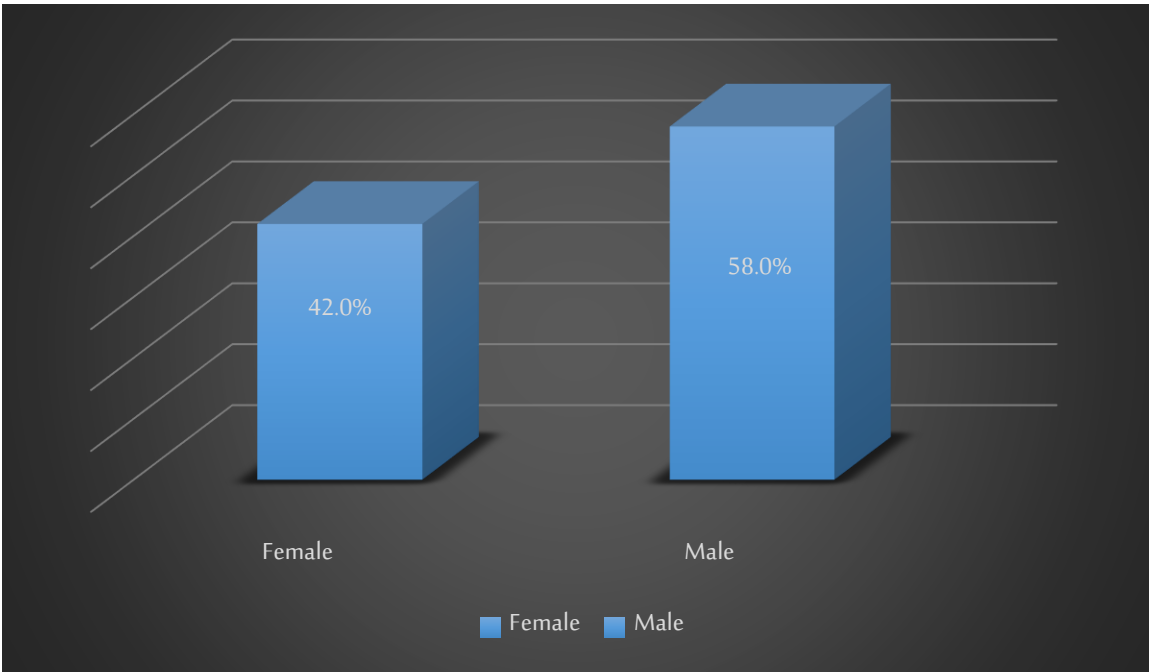
Sample composition:

Sample composition by countries

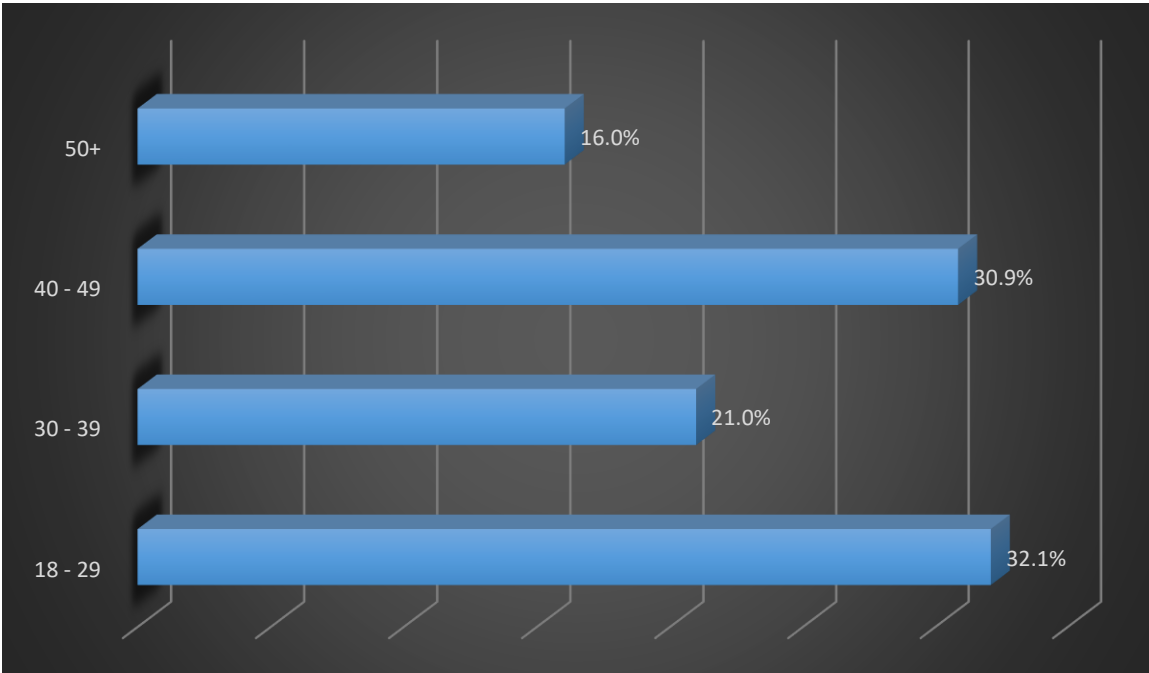




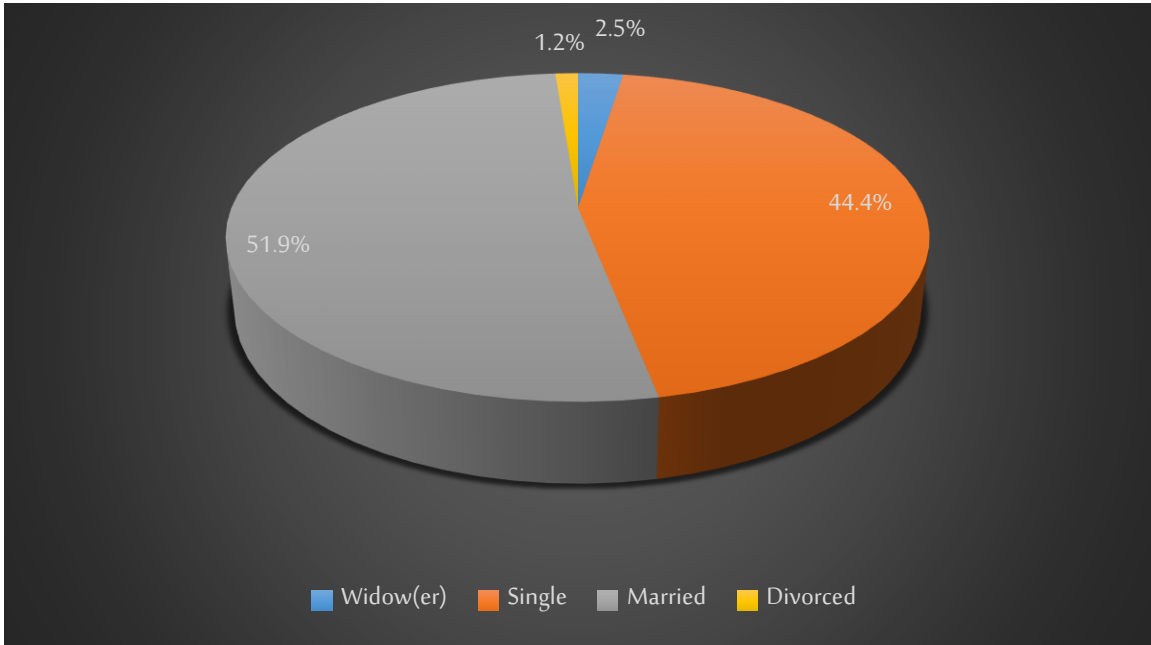
Sample composition by gender



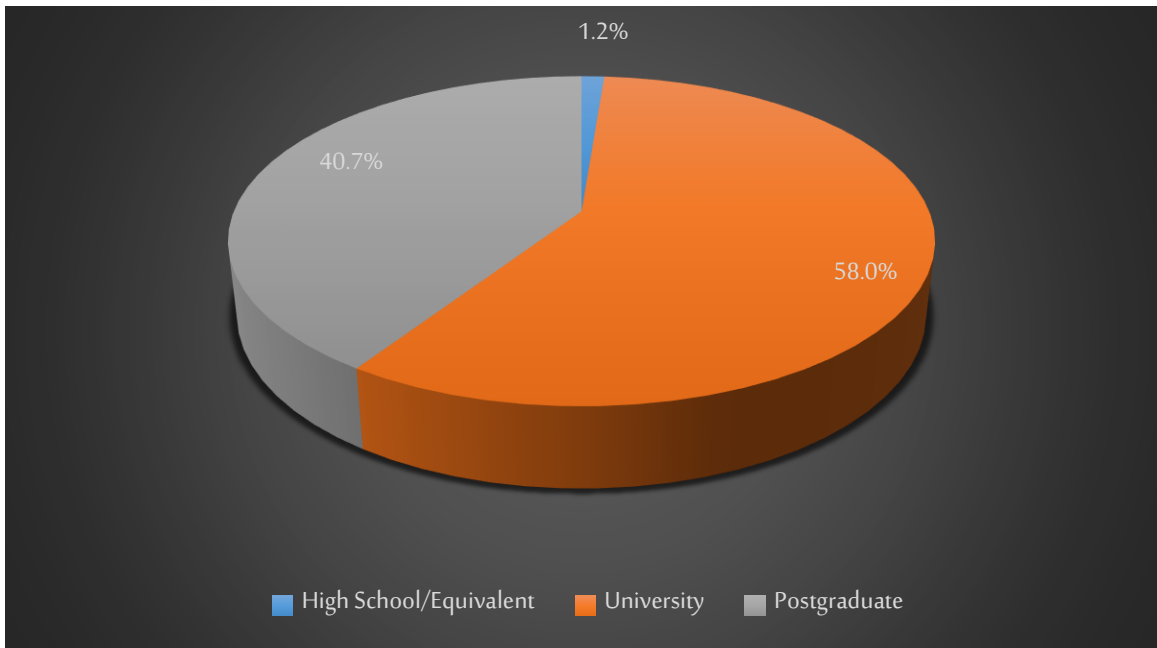
Sample composition by age group



Sample composition by marital status



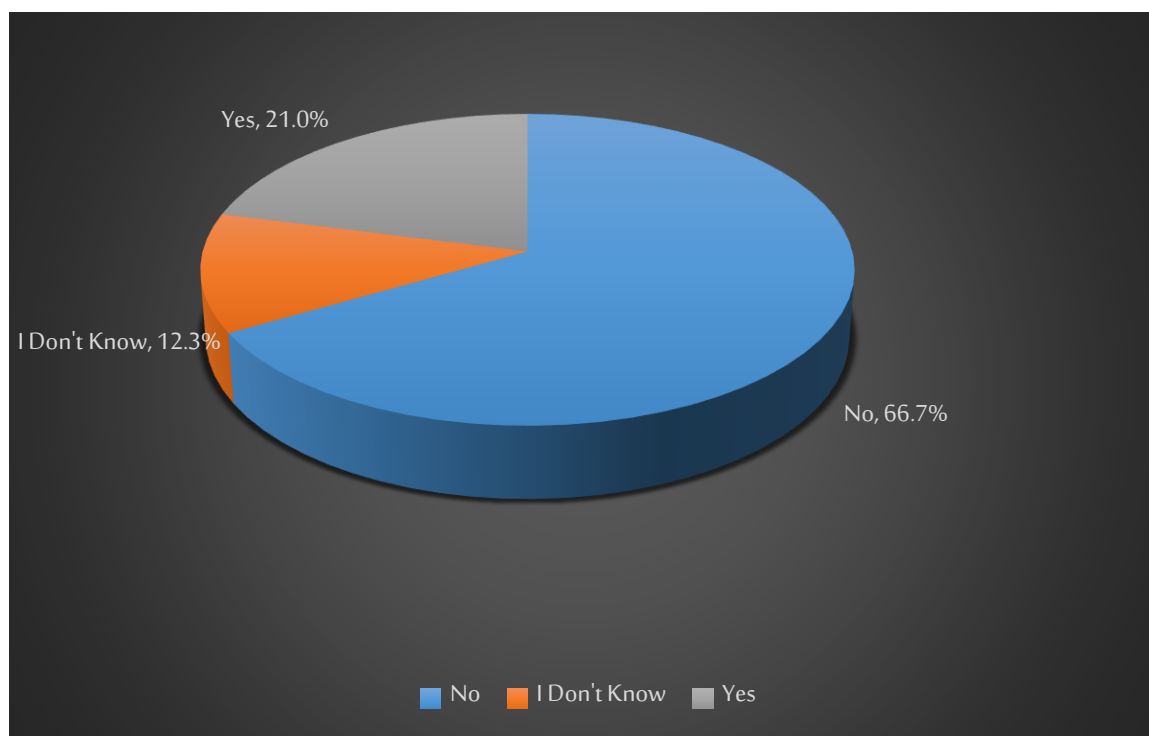
Sample composition by education level



## Main findings

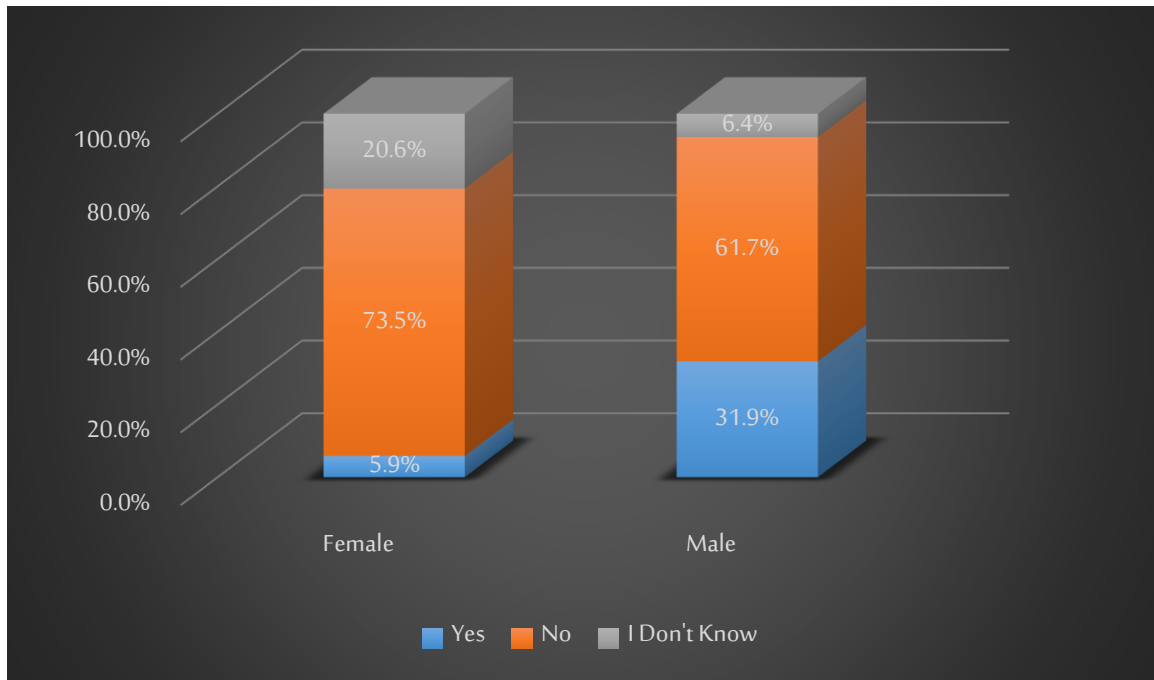
### Question 1: Do you think the impact of the second wave of Covid-19 will be stronger than the first one?

TRENDS asked the respondents a direct question about their belief in whether the second wave's impact will be much more substantial than the first one. The idea was to determine the effects of the second wave of Covid-19 on community members. In their answers, 66.7 percent said the second wave's impact would not be stronger than the first one, while only 21.0 percent said it would be much more robust.

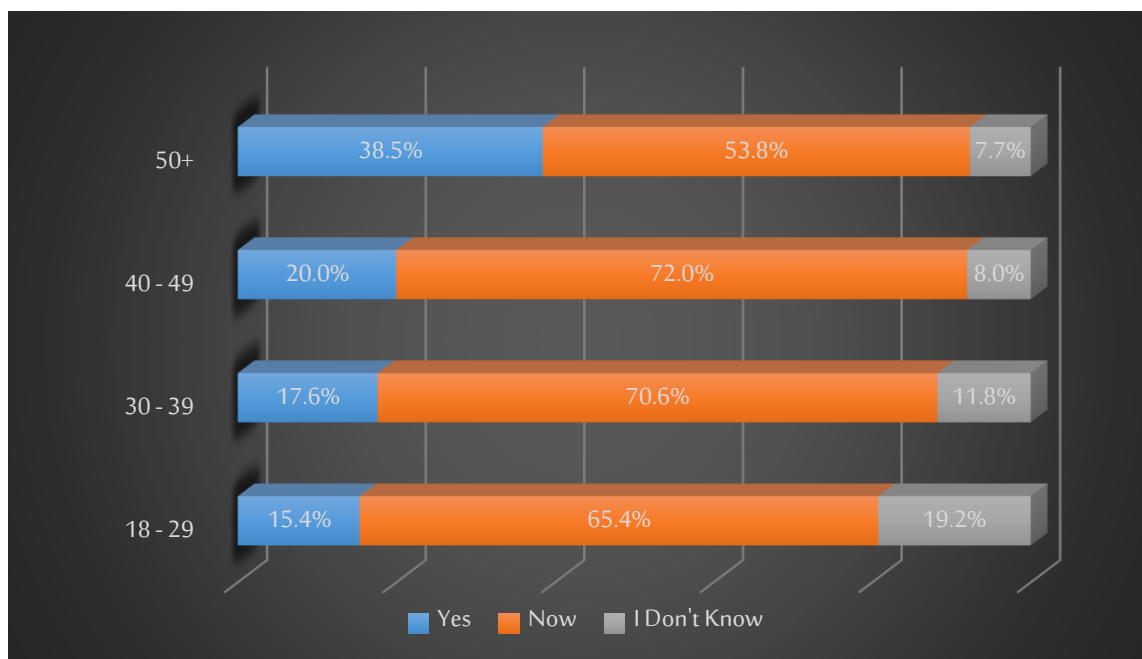




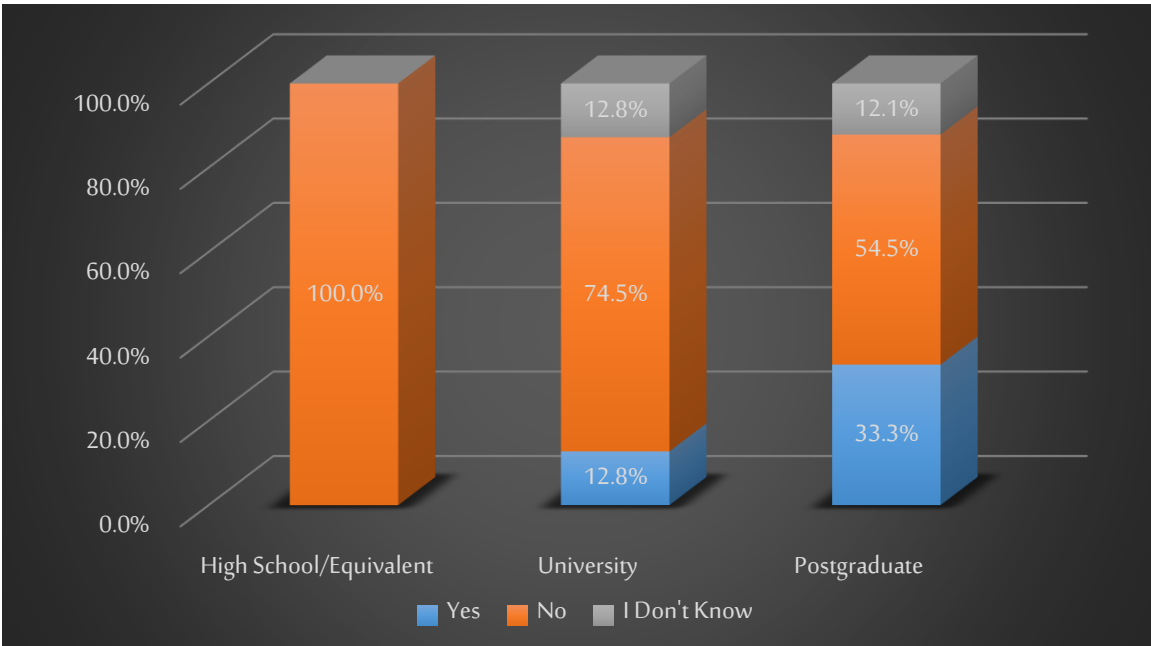
The findings showed that 73.5 percent of females do not think the second wave's impact will be stronger than the first one, compared to 61.75 percent of male respondents.



The response also varied with the age groups of respondents. As many as 72 percent of respondents in the age group of 40-49 years said the impact of the second wave would be stronger than the first one, followed by the age group of 30-39 years (70.6 percent), 18-29 years (65.4 percent), and 50 years old and above (53.8 percent).



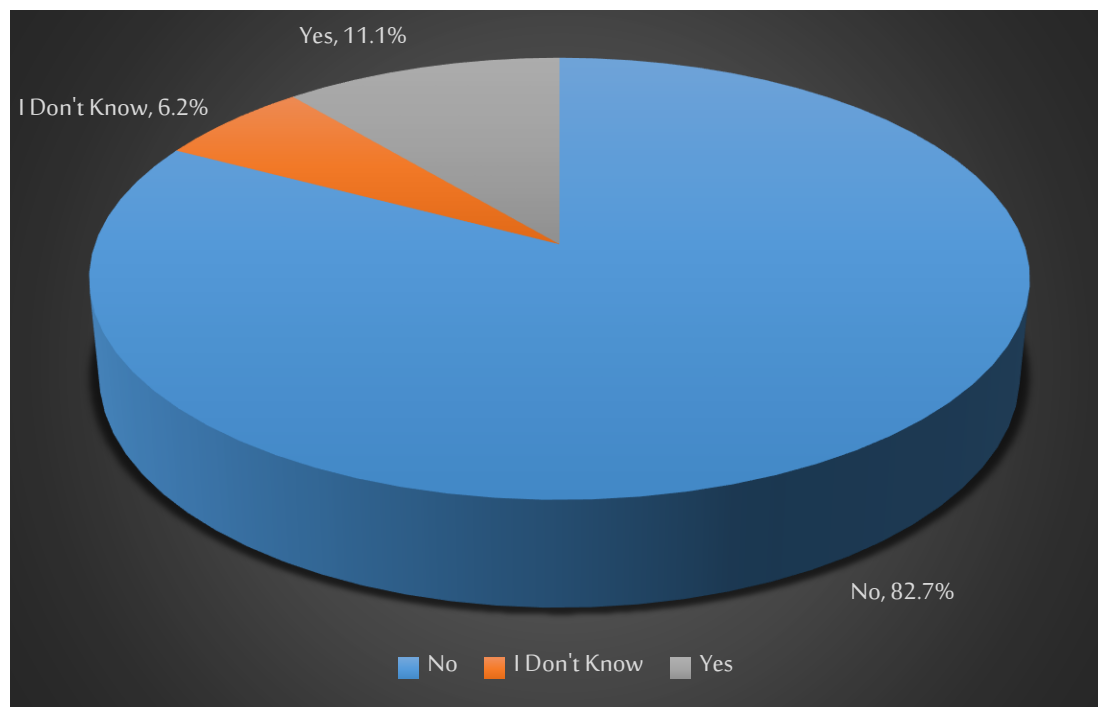
The classification of the response also varied based on the education level. One hundred percent of respondents with a high school education level or equivalent said the second wave’s effect would not be stronger than the first one, followed by university graduates (74.5 percent). In comparison, 54.5 percent of postgraduates expressed this view.



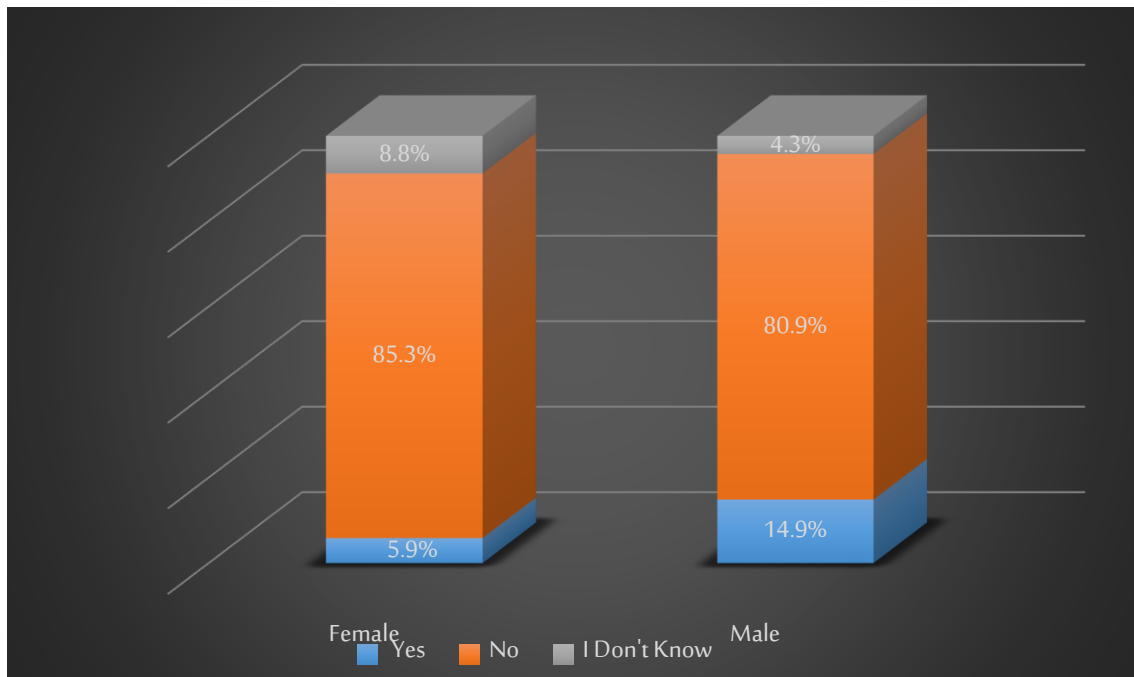
**Question 2: Do you expect another complete economic lockdown due to a surge in new cases of infection?**

To assess whether there has been a rise in the community members' expectation of another complete lockdown, TRENDS asked the respondents the following question: Do you expect another complete economic lockdown in your country due to a surge in new infections?

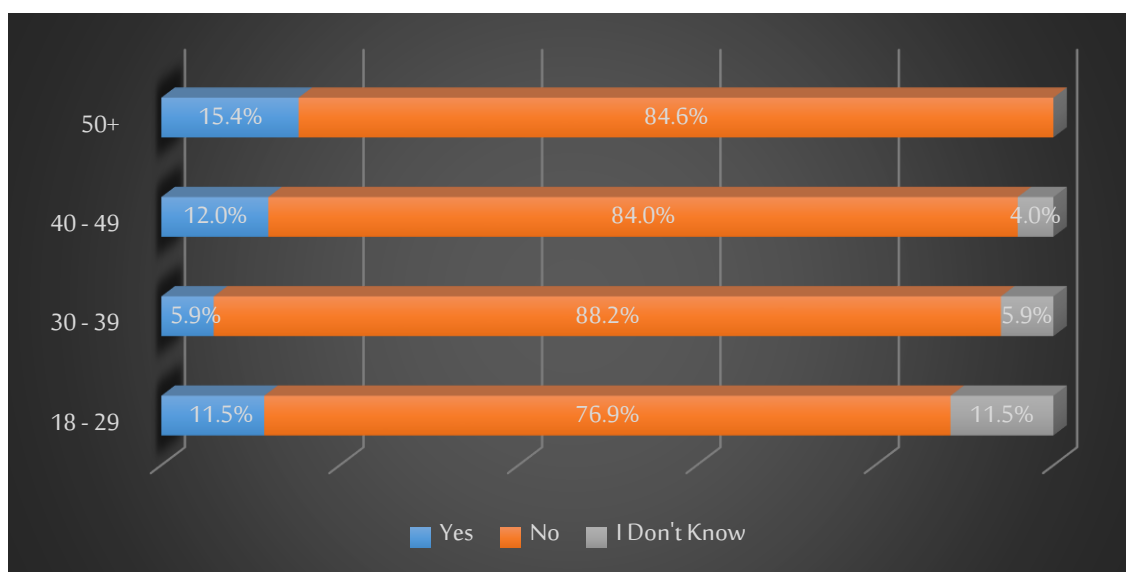
In response, 82.7 percent of respondents did not expect a second complete economic lockdown in their countries due to a surge in new infections. In comparison, 11.1 percent expected such a lockdown if the number of new infections increased.



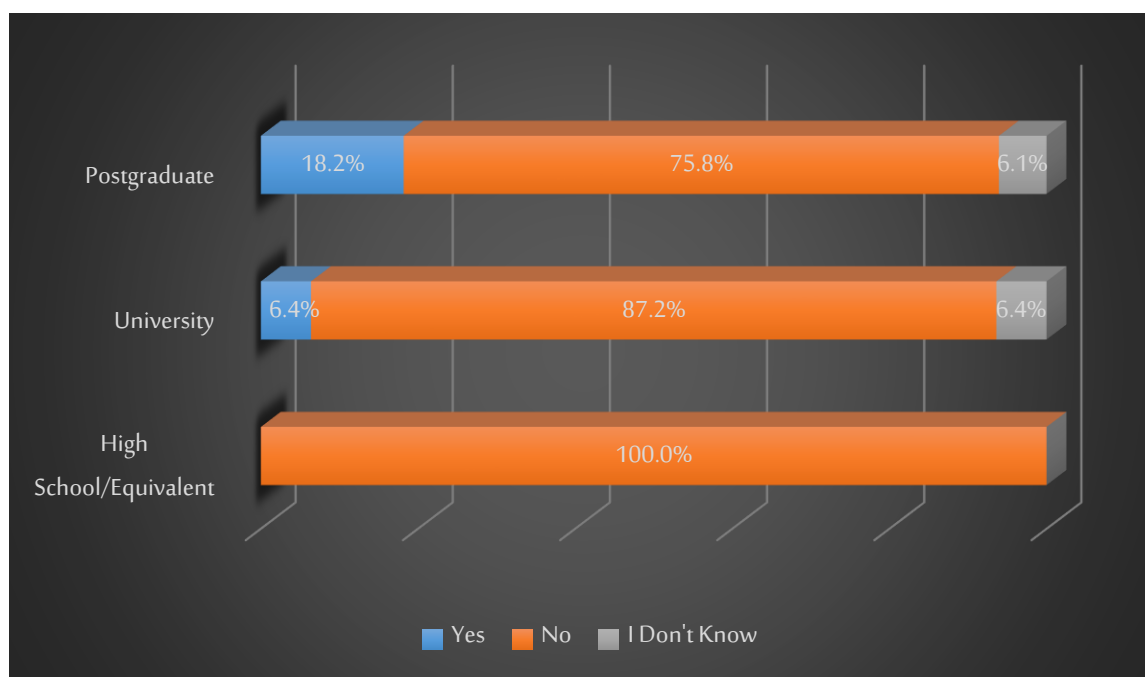
A total of 85 percent of female respondents did not expect a second complete lockdown in their countries due to a surge in new infections, while 80.9 percent of male respondents did not expect a second total lockdown.



A total of 88.2 percent of respondents in the age group of 30-39 did not expect a second lockdown, followed by those in the age group of 50 and above (84.6 percent), 40-49 years (84.0 percent), and 18-29 (76.9 percent).

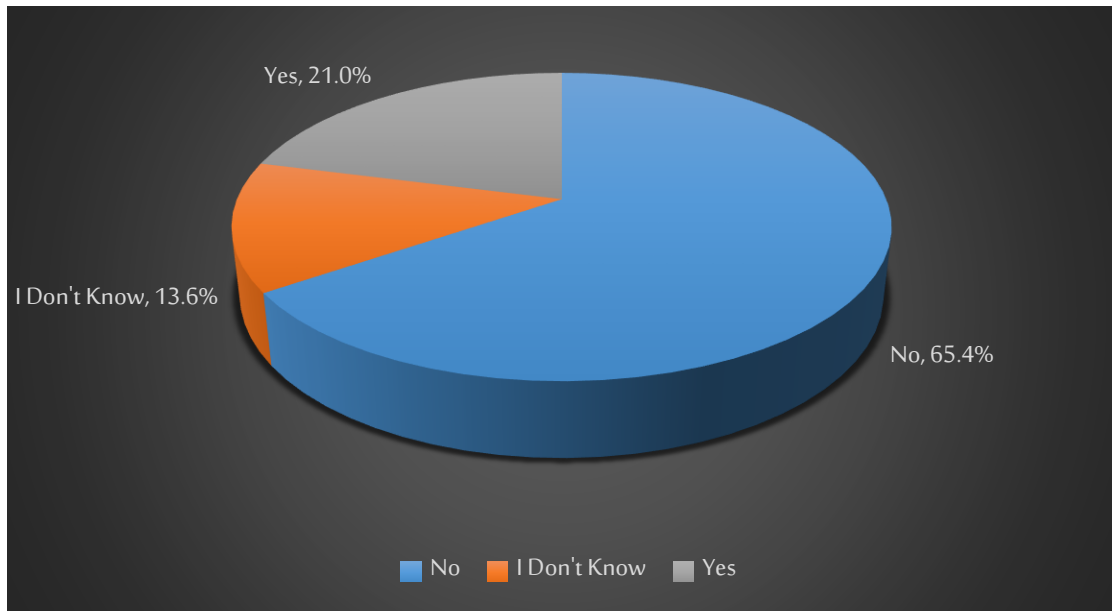


On the level of education, 100 percent of the respondents with high school education or equivalent said they did not expect a second lockdown due to an increase in new infections in their countries, followed by university graduates (87.2 percent), and those with postgraduate education (75.8 percent).

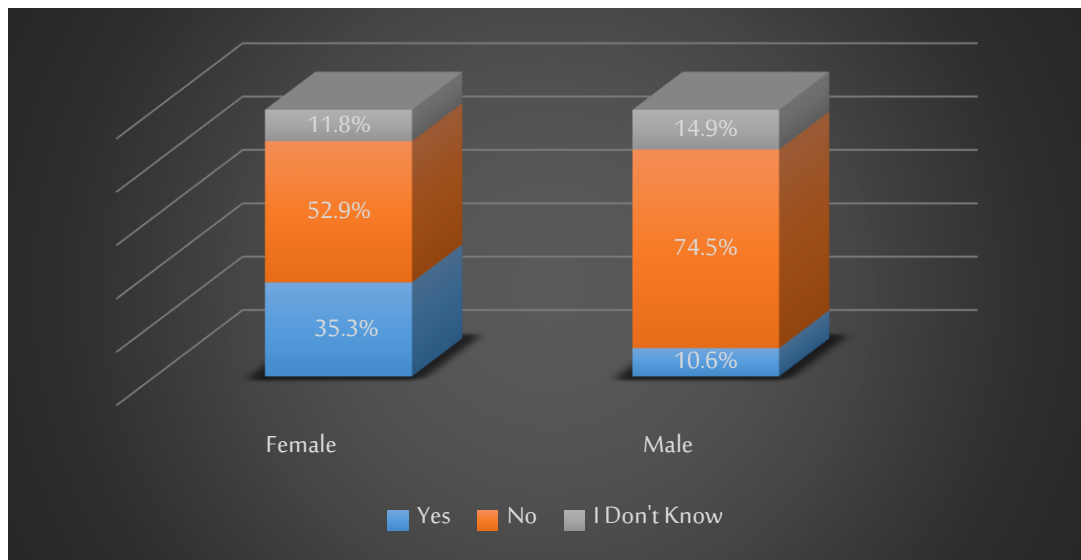


### Question 3: Is a complete lockdown the best way to fight the second wave of Covid-19?

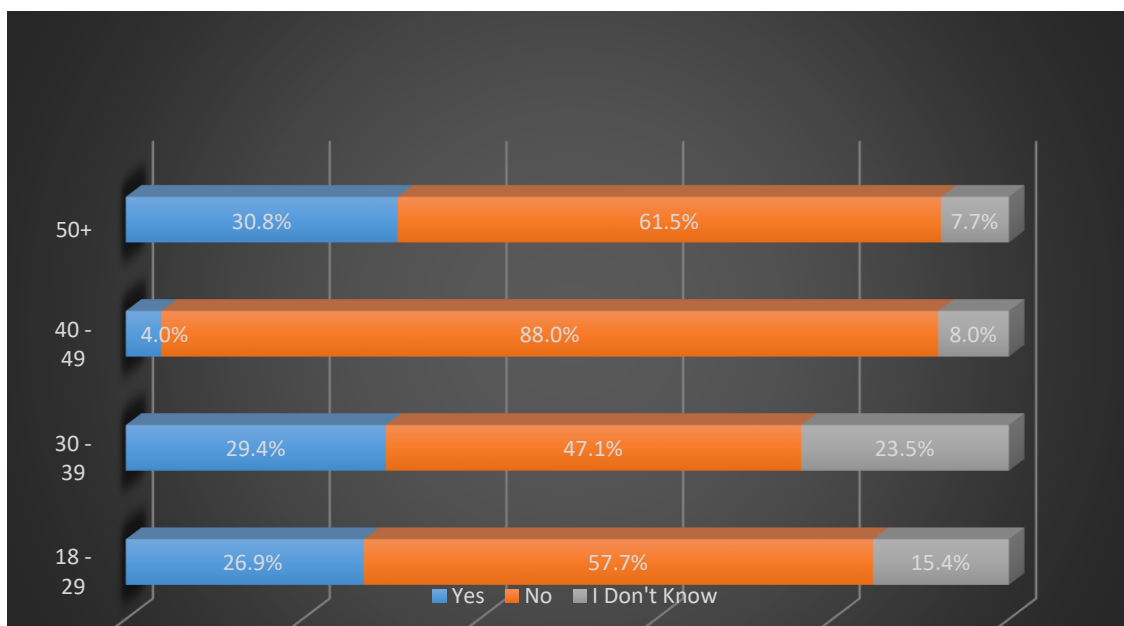
To explore the community members' opinion on the best way to fight the second wave of Covid-19, the respondents were asked whether they believed complete lockdown as the best way forward. As many as 65.4 percent said it is not the best way to combat the second wave, while 21.0 percent believed that a full lockdown is the best way.



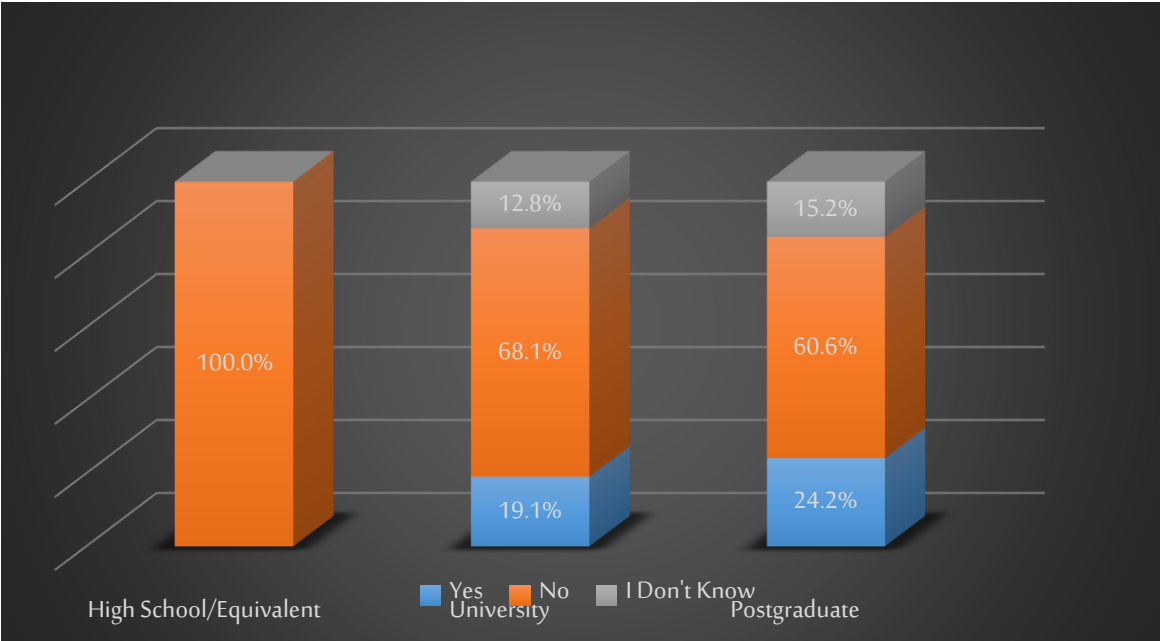
In terms of gender, 74.5 percent of male respondents said a complete lockdown is not the best way to fight the second wave of Covid-19, compared to 52.95 percent of females who said the same.



The responses from different age groups suggested a difference of opinion on this count. Around 88 percent in the age group of 40-49 believed that a complete lockdown of countries is not the best way to fight the second wave of Covid-19, followed by the age group of 50 and above (61.5 percent), 18-29 (57.7 percent), and 30-39 (47.1 percent).



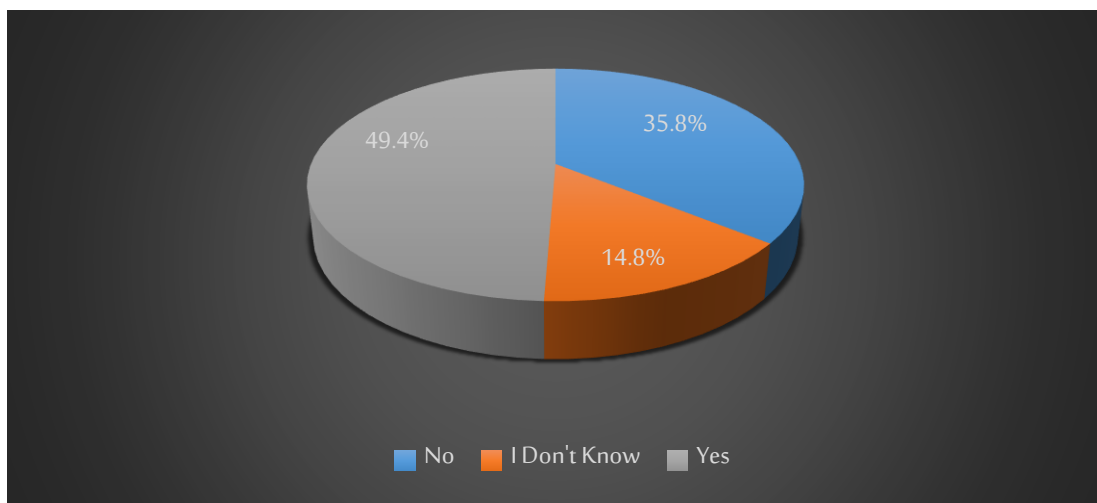
In terms of the education level, 100 percent of the respondents with high school education level or equivalent said a complete lockdown is not the best way to fight the second wave of Covid-19, followed by university graduates (68.1 percent) and postgraduates (60.6 percent).



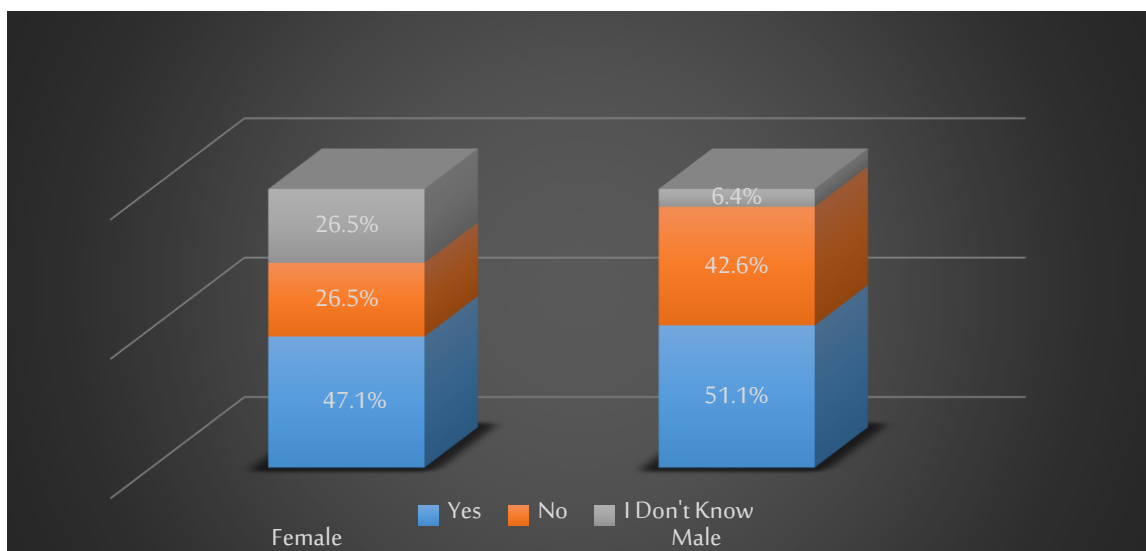


#### Question 4: Do you think the economic impact of a second economic lockdown will be much stronger than the first one?

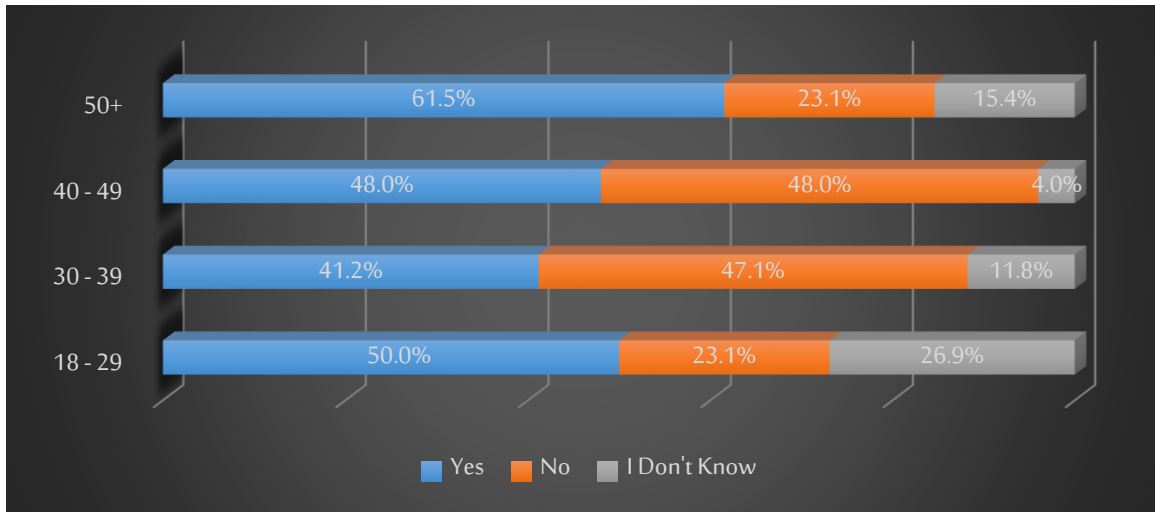
In response to this question, 49.9 percent of the respondents said the impact of a second economic lockdown would be much stronger than the first one, while 35.8 percent did not think so.



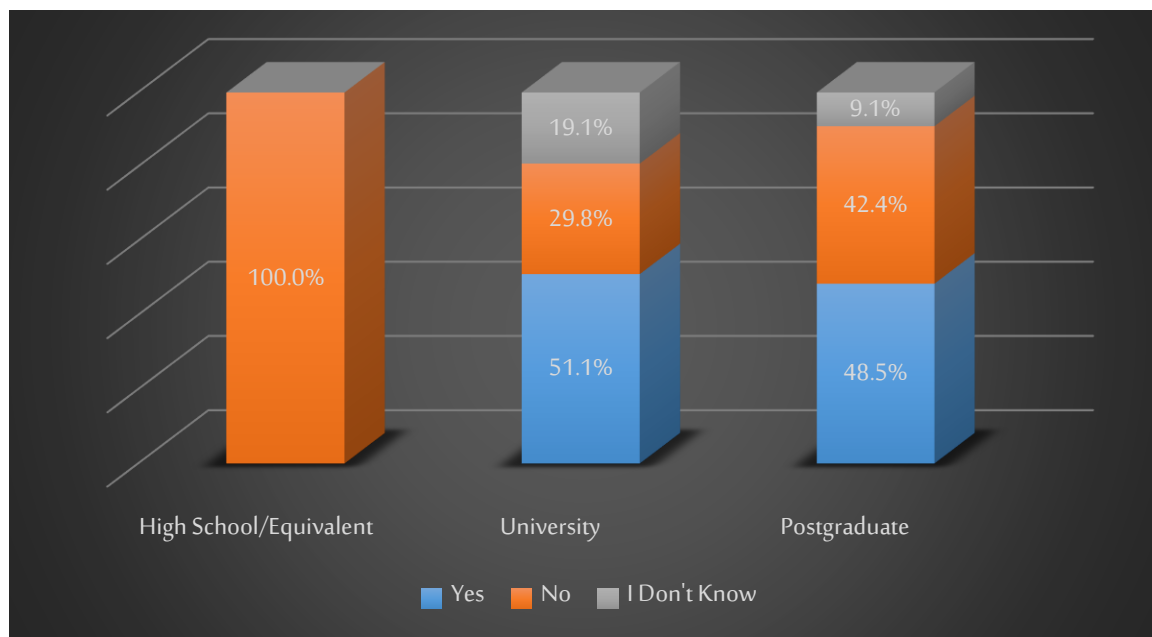
In terms of gender, 51.1 percent of male respondents said the economic impact of a second economic lockdown would be much more substantial than the first one, while 47.1 percent of female respondents think so.



A total of 61.5 percent in the age group of 50 and above said the economic impact of a second economic lockdown would be much stronger than the first one, followed by the age group of 18-29 (50.0 percent), the age group of 40-49 (48.0 percent), and the age group of 30-39 (41.2 percent).

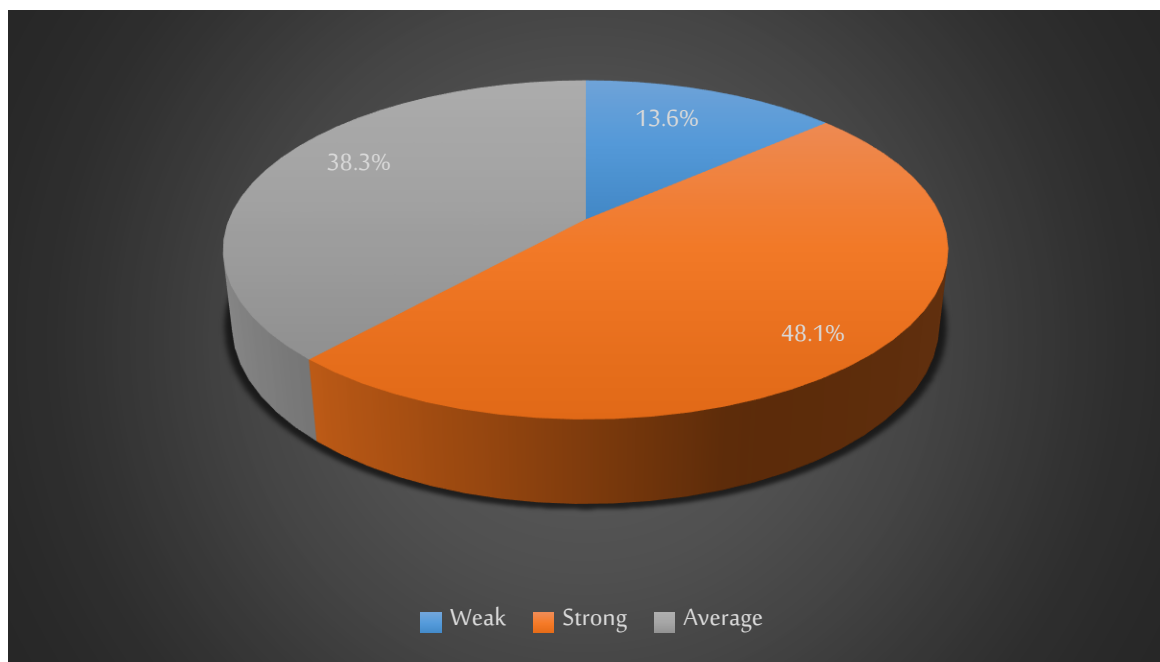


Responses also varied based on the education level of respondents. All respondents with high school education or equivalent said a second economic lockdown would not impact like the first one, followed by university graduates (51.1 percent). In contrast, 48.5 percent of postgraduates said the economic impact of a second economic lockdown would be much stronger.

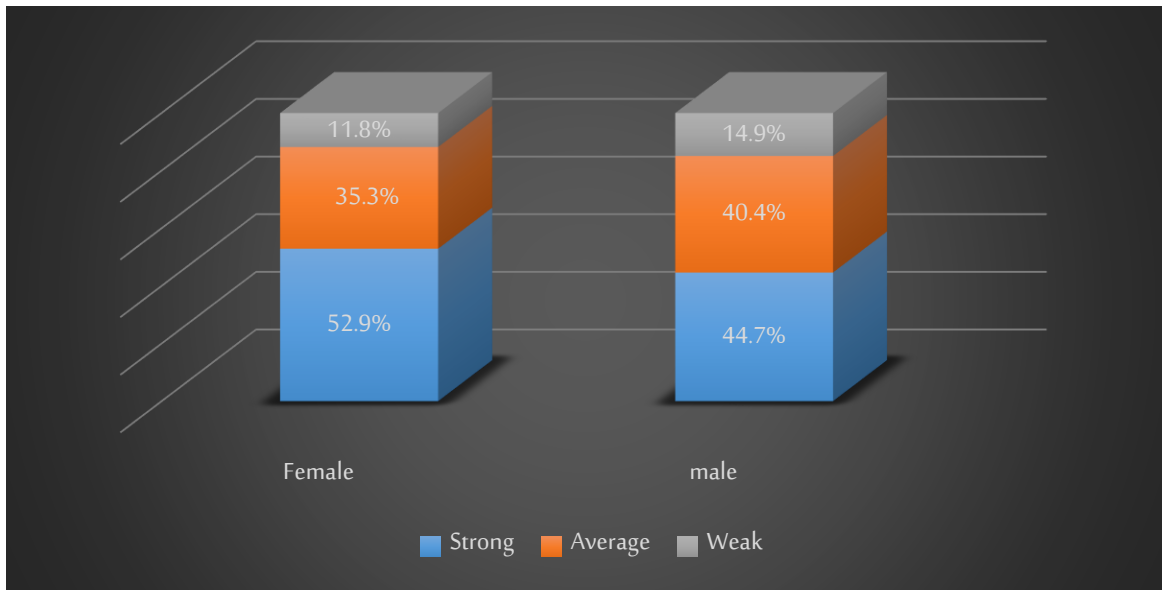


**Question 5: How confident are you that the economy will recover from the Covid-19 crisis in the coming months?**

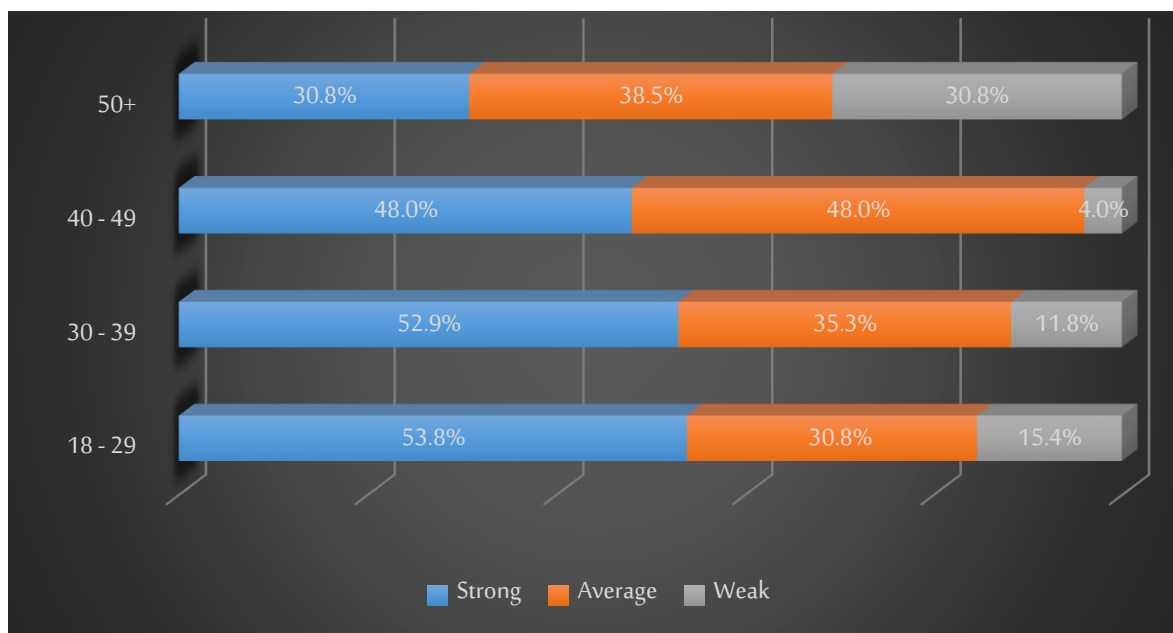
While answering this question, 48.1 percent of the respondents expressed strong confidence in the economy's ability to recover from the Covid-19 crisis in the coming months. However, 38.3 percent expressed average confidence, and 13.6 percent expressed weak confidence.



In gender terms, 52.9 percent of the female respondents said they have strong confidence in the economy's ability to recover from the Covid-19 crisis in the coming months, compared to 44.7 percent of male respondents who expressed the same degree of confidence.



In terms of age groups, 53.8 percent in the 18-29 category said they have strong confidence in the economy's ability to recover from the Covid-19 crisis in the coming months, followed by the 30-39 age group (52.8 percent), the 40-49 age group (48.0 percent), and the 50 and above age group (30.8 percent).



The results also showed that 100 percent of the respondents with high school education or its equivalent had strong confidence in the economy's ability to recover from the Covid-19 crisis in the coming months, followed by university graduates (55.3 percent). However, 45.5 percent of postgraduates expressed average confidence in the economy's ability to recover from the Covid-19 crisis in the coming months.

