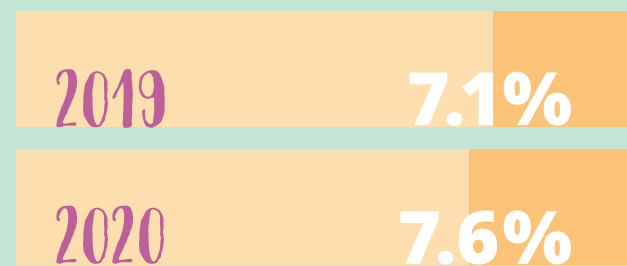


General Impact OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND LOCKDOWN IN CYPRUS

The COVID-19 pandemic in addition to the strict measures taken by Cyprus Government had a great impact on peoples' lives, families and communities. Its continued health threat had significant impact on businesses and the economy in general.

WORKING POPULATION



As a result of COVID-19 pandemic **unemployment rates in Cyprus stood at 7.6% in 2020, a raise from the 7.1% of 2019.**

Cyprus' economy lays heavily on tourism. The island is considered as one of the most popular destinations in Europe and travelling portals are a vital component of Cyprus' ability to sustain the high numbers of incoming visitors.

Subsequently, the internationally inflicted travel restraining measures had a calamitous impact on the country's economy and directly affected people who work in posts, services and amenities relevant to tourism (Europa, 2020).



THE CYPRUS CASE

When it comes to diplomatic relations, due to the unique character of the island; which is divided since the 1974 Turkish invasion, into the Greek Cypriot part controlled southern two-thirds of the island and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus a third, **the pandemic restrictions also halted any discussions** between Turkish-Cypriot President Ersin Tatar and Greek-Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2020).



THE ELDERLY

Older individuals (late adulthood 65+) were more concerned and exhibited greater interest in the emotional experience of significant others. Namely those groups offered more support during the pandemic to others (Mousoulidou et al., 2021).



Kapetanos et al. (2021) examining a sample of 318 healthcare professionals in Cyprus pointed out that the mental health of the aforementioned professionals was severely compromised, since the healthcare professionals came daily in direct contact aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic in parallel with several other changes in their lives like; being overworked due to the national needs, isolation and fear for their own safety.

OVERALL WELL-BEING

A worldwide project-study named "COVID-19 IMPACT", surveying 957 participants, indicated **no population-wide severe reactions and detrimental impact on stress and overall wellbeing of the Cypriot population.**

An explanation of this finding could be the perceived high levels of social support and capacity of psychological flexibility that safeguarded the Cyprus population.

The results; however suggested that **Cypriots experienced higher levels of negative emotions (anger, hopelessness, fear)**, in comparison to worldwide data (i.e., 78 countries participating), which could be a result of stricter lockdowns than the majority of the other countries (Papa-georgiou et al., 2021).

