



AA

- Disclaimers
- Tables and Graphs
- Foreword
- Editorial: Seizing the moment to build a more inclusive labour market
- Executive summary
  - The burden of the COVID-19 crisis has fallen disproportionately on already vulnerable groups**
  - Soaring long-term unemployment is a tangible risk
  - After protecting jobs during the height of the crisis, the design of job retention schemes must be adjusted to support the recovery
  - Countries have strengthened employment services and adapted their delivery to cope with increased numbers of jobseekers in the pandemic
  - Domestic outsourcing is growing across

## Executive summary

### The burden of the COVID-19 crisis has fallen disproportionately on already vulnerable groups

The initial shock of the COVID-19 crisis was felt across large swathes of the economy, as fear of contagion and strict restrictions on social proximity severely dampened economic activity in OECD countries. As people and governments have learnt how to live alongside the virus, behaviours have adapted and restrictions have become looser and more targeted. This has enabled many to return to work. But the deeply sectoral nature of the crisis and differences in the sheltering offered by various types of jobs have left some to shoulder the bulk of the burden in terms of job losses and reduced working time. Those in low-paying occupations, often with fixed-term contracts, holding a low level of education, and youth have been particularly affected by the ravages of the crisis; hours worked by these groups have fallen disproportionately, and joblessness has accounted for a larger share of the adjustment, while other groups were better able to adjust through working time reductions and telework. Firms are also restructuring in ways that are accelerating pre-existing megatrends, such as automation and digitalisation. All this will have implications for the strength and extent of recovery.