

What is the Impact of the Prolonged COVID-19 Crisis on Young Women's Jobs?



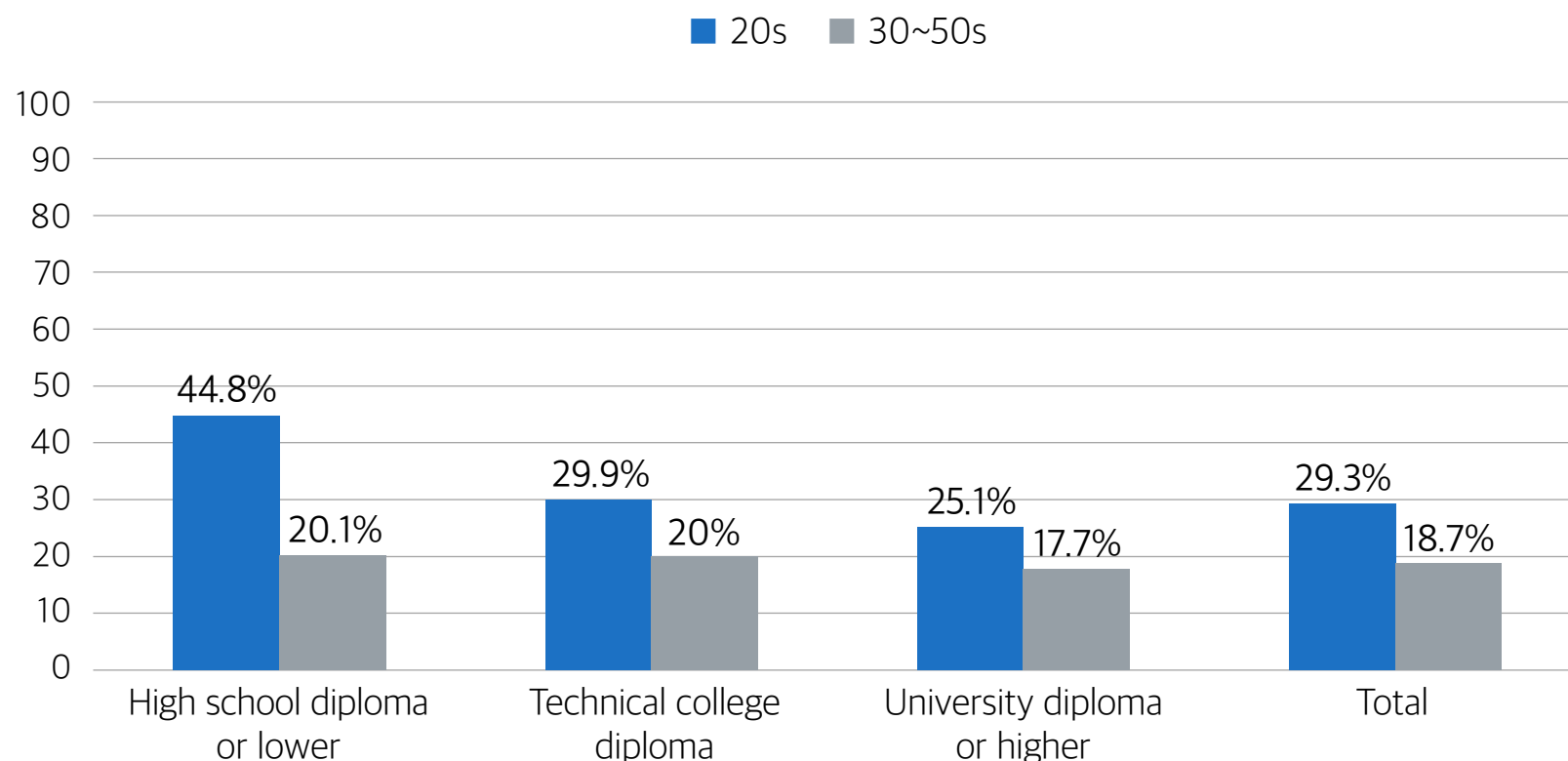
The prolonged COVID-19 crisis has negatively affected female workers employed in small businesses and temporary/daily works.

Young women are no exception to the impact.



At least 1 out of 4 women in their 20s became unemployed due to COVID-19

29.3% of women in their 20s quit their jobs during the COVID-19 crisis, and among them, those with low levels of education were more likely to leave their employment compared to others.

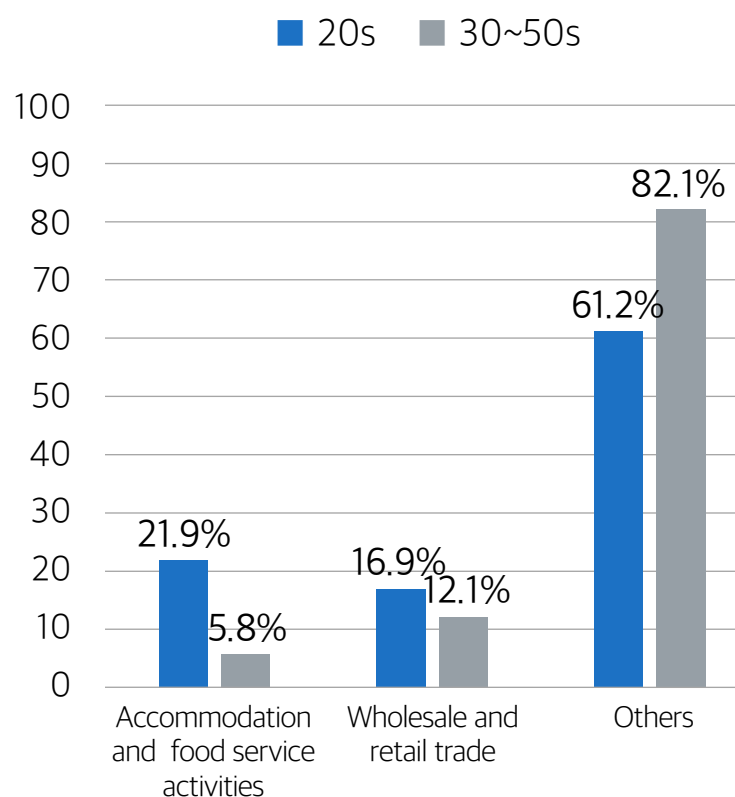


[Figure 1] Experience of employment loss during the COVID-19 crisis by age group and educational attainment

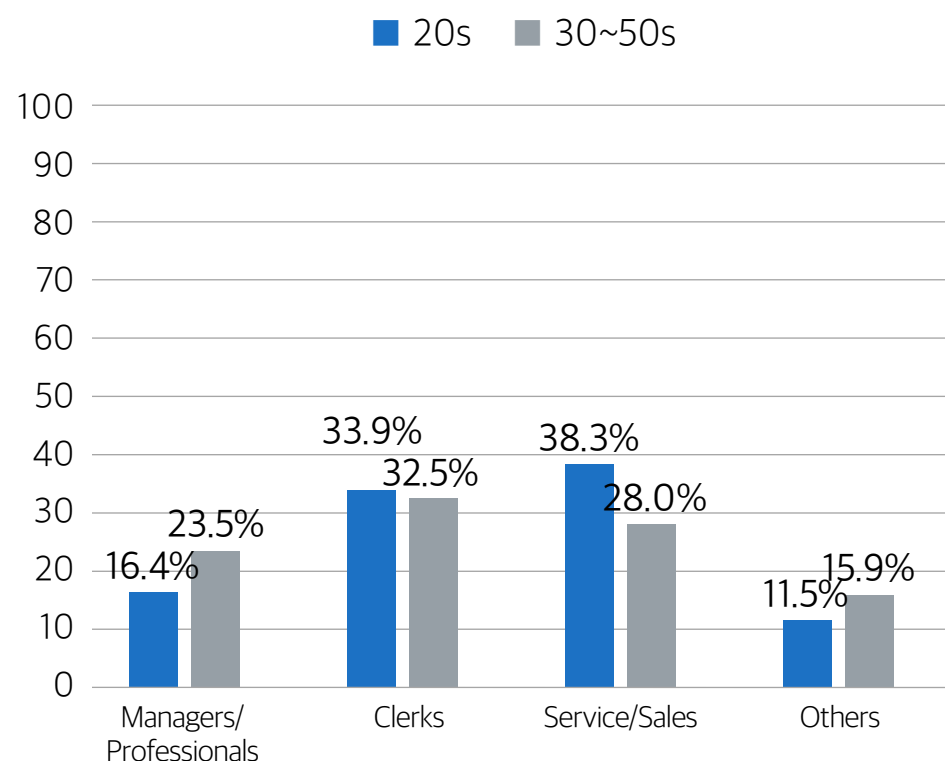
(N=625(20s)/2,382(30-50s), Unit: %)

The rate of employment loss was high among those working in jobs that were vulnerable to infectious diseases, such as face-to-face contact works, etc

Compared to other age groups, women in their 20s were more likely to experience employment loss if they had jobs that were vulnerable to infectious diseases. 1 in every 5 women in their 20s who lost their employment was engaged in the accommodation and food service activities, and 2 out of 5 were engaged in services/sales activities.



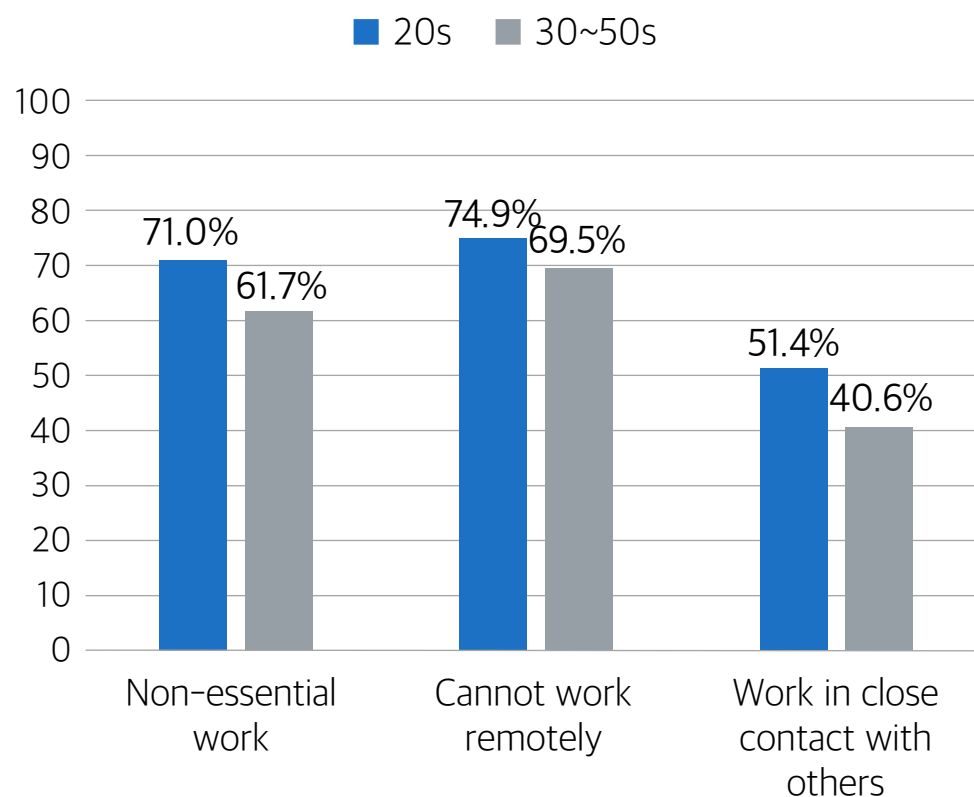
[Figure 2-1] Previous job characteristics of those who left their employment during the COVID-19 crisis by age group: Industry (N=183(20s)/446(30-50s), Unit: %)



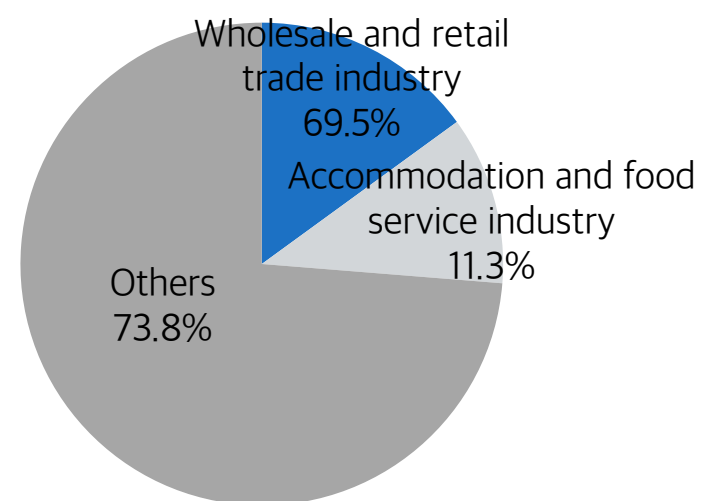
[Figure 2-2] Previous job characteristics of those who left their employment during the COVID-19 crisis by age group: Occupation (N=183(20s)/446(30-50s), Unit: %)

Vulnerable groups were exposed to recurrent job crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Those in their 20s working in non-essential jobs, face-to-face contact jobs, or jobs that could not be performed remotely were also more likely to leave their employment than other age groups, and about a quarter of reemployed women in their 20s obtained employment in the face-to-face contact jobs. This indicated that they were likely to lose their employment again in the future.



[Figure 3] Previous job characteristics of those who left their employment during the COVID-19 crisis by age group: Non-essential work, remote work availability, face-to-face contact work (N=183(20s)/446(30-50s), Unit: %)

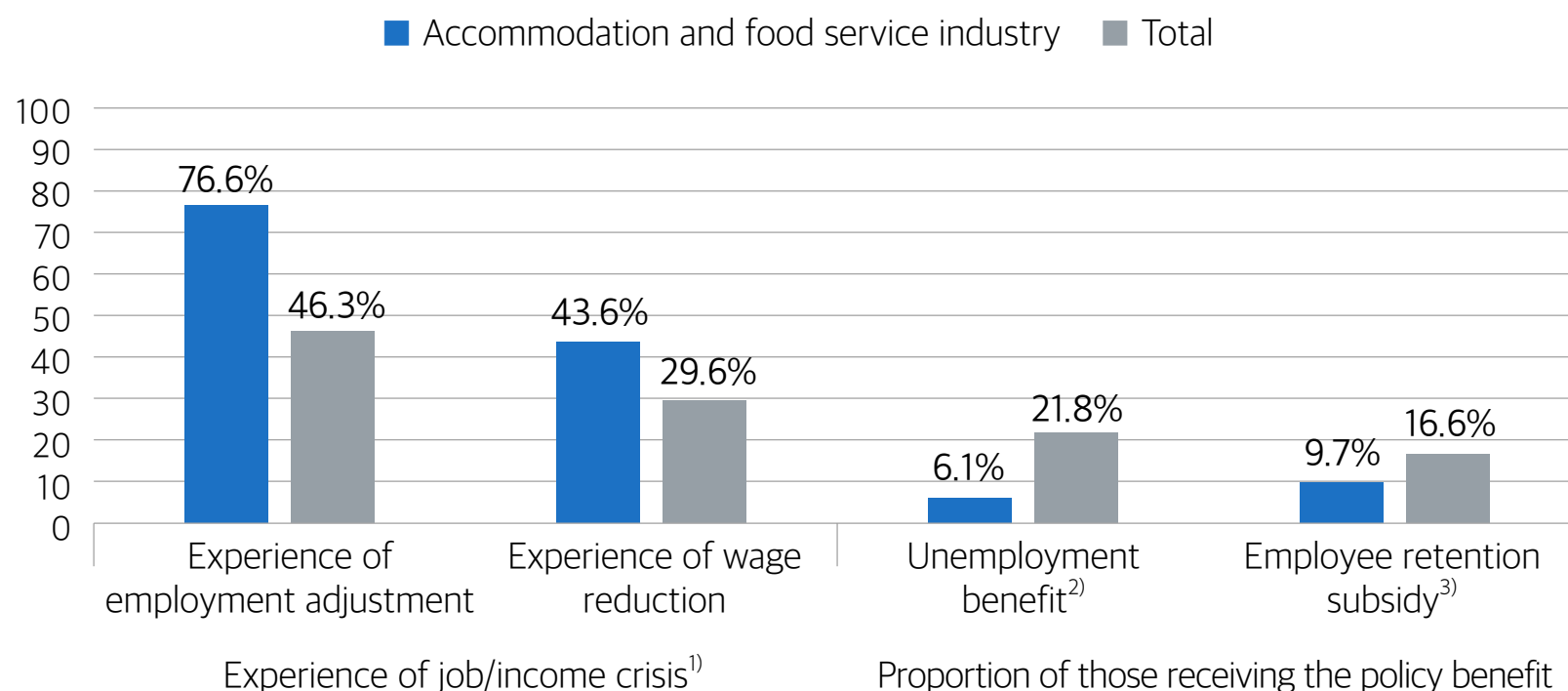


[Figure 4] Current job industries of women in their 20s who obtained reemployment after leaving their employment during the COVID-19 crisis (N=80, Unit: %)

The proportion of those receiving any benefit from major support policies was low, and this aggravated their struggles

Meanwhile, the accommodation and food service industry, which was responsible for the large proportion of female workers in their 20s losing their employment (10.5% for all women, 22.5% for women in their 20s), was most likely to implement employment adjustment such as business closure, leave of absence, etc. (76.6%) and wage reduction (43.6%).

However, due to extensive blind spots on employment insurance in the accommodation and food service industry, those receiving the unemployment benefits and employee retention subsidies amounted to 6.1% and 9.7% respectively, the lowest rates among all industries.



[Figure 5] Experience of job and income crisis among female workers in the accommodation and food service industry and the proportion of those benefiting from policies that address employment crisis

Note: 1) The responses regarding the experience of employment adjustment and income reduction were collected only from the women respondents who had maintained their employment throughout the COVID-19 crisis (N=1,906).

2) The responses regarding the proportion of those who received the unemployment benefits were collected only from those who left their employment during the COVID-19 crisis (N=629).

3) The responses regarding the proportion of those who received the employee retention subsidies were collected only from those who experienced employment adjustment at their workplace that they maintained throughout the COVID-19 crisis (N=833).

There is an urgent need for measures to address the blind spots for the vulnerable people and resolve the job crisis triggered by COVID-19


The damage of the COVID-19 crisis to female workers was found to be extremely serious, but the proportion of those benefiting from related policies was very low.

It is urgent to design policies that address the damages caused by the COVID-19 crisis to support the vulnerable groups, including young women in their 20s.

- ☑ Prepare measures to support the workers who did not subscribe to employment insurance in the industries that suffered major damages, such as restaurants, cafes, etc.
- ☑ Expand jobs tailored to young women in their 20s.
- ☑ Resolve the blind spots in labor laws and systems such as those involving small businesses and temporary/daily workers.
- ☑ Prepare workplace guidelines and strengthen labor supervision to prevent gender discriminatory restructuring.

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A Year After COVID-19 - Changes and Prospects for Women's Work and Care
Policy Issues for Addressing the Changes in Women's
Employment and Job Crisis After COVID-19

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● Marking the end of the first year of the COVID-19 crisis, the Korea Women's Development Institute (KWDI) decided to publish three special briefs in order to reflect on the transformed lives of women over the past year and predict how the crisis, which has yet to end, will shift the characteristics of gender inequality in our society. Based on the survey conducted from November to December last year targeting 3,007 female workers, this special report diagnoses the changes in women's work and care along with the government policies designed to address them, and thereby proposes policy implications for achieving a sustainable gender equal society during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Category	Detail
Target population	Among women aged 20~59 (international age) nationwide, those who were wage earners at the time of the survey or those who were unemployed who had worked as wage earners at some point between March and November, 2020
Sample size	3,007 people
Sampling	Proportional distribution by age group according to wage worker population composition ratio (Based on the data from the Economically Active Population Survey of the Statistics Korea in October 2020)
Sampling error	95% confidence level ±1.8%p
Survey method	Online survey using the Internet - CAWI (Computer Aided Web Interview)
Survey period	November 26 ~ December 11, 2020
Survey agency	Hankook Research Co., Ltd.

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