



Home-based Workers in the World: A Statistical Profile

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Globally, 260 million women and men are employed in home-based work, including 35 million in developed countries.

Globally, there are 260 million home-based workers (**table 1**).¹ While the overwhelming majority (86 per cent) of home-based workers are in developing and emerging countries, the number in developed countries (35 million) is substantial. Asia and the Pacific, which has the largest population among the regions, accounts for 65 per cent of home-based workers (**figure 1**). Globally, and in developing and emerging countries, most home-based workers (84 and 82 per cent, respectively) are in non-agricultural work. In developed countries, the proportion in non-agricultural work is even higher (93 per cent).

¹ The data in this brief are based on the 118 countries in the ILOSTAT Database that have a place of work question in their survey. The data are from the years 2000 to 2019. Annex I contains the classification of countries in the geographic regions and country income groups; the specific surveys used are in Annex II.

Figure 1: Distribution of home-based workers by country income groups and geographic regions

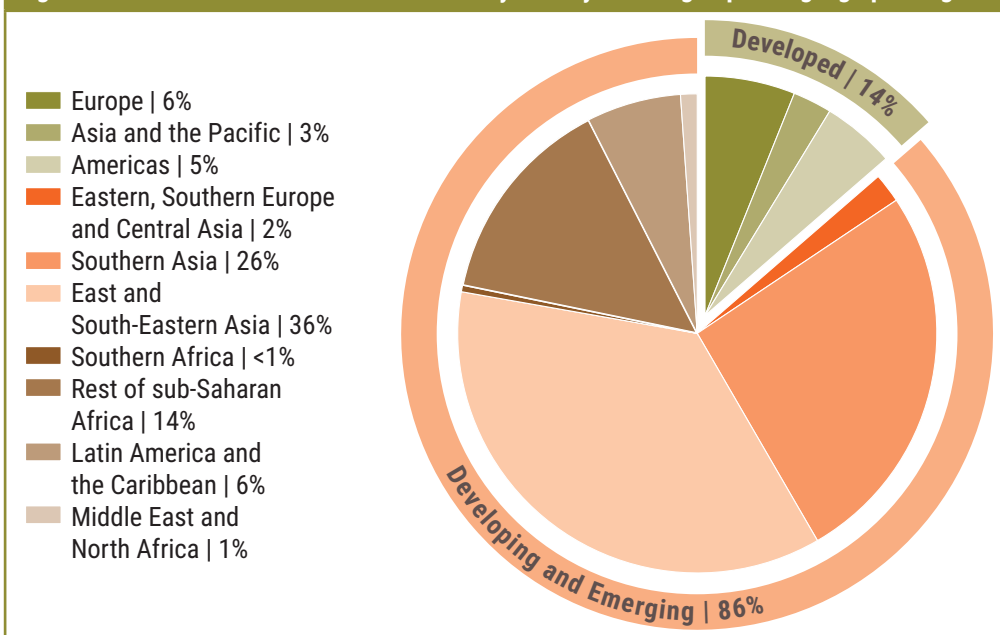


Table 1: Home-based workers in total and non-agricultural employment by country income groups, geographic regions and sex: Numbers in million and per cent of total (in parentheses)

	TOTAL			NON-AGRICULTURAL		
	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men
World	259.6 (8)	146.8 (11)	112.8 (6)	217.5 (9)	119.9 (13)	97.9 (7)
Developed	35.4 (6)	17.3 (7)	18.0 (6)	32.8 (6)	16.2 (6)	16.5 (5)
Europe	15.8 (7)	6.6 (6)	9.2 (7)	14.6 (6)	6.2 (6)	8.4 (6)
Asia and the Pacific	6.8 (5)	3.8 (7)	3.1 (4)	5.5 (4)	3.1 (6)	2.4 (3)
Americas	12.7 (7)	6.9 (8)	5.8 (6)	12.7 (7)	6.9 (8)	5.8 (6)
Developing and Emerging	224.2 (8)	129.4 (13)	94.8 (6)	184.6 (10)	103.6 (15)	81.3 (7)
Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia	5.2 (3)	2.5 (3)	2.7 (3)	3.6 (2)	1.7 (2)	1.9 (2)
Asia and the Pacific	161.4 (9)	88.6 (14)	72.8 (6)	130.1 (11)	68.3 (16)	62.2 (8)
Southern Asia	67.5 (10)	35.3 (24)	32.3 (6)	45.4 (12)	19.0 (29)	26.6 (8)
East and South-Eastern Asia	93.8 (8)	53.3 (11)	40.5 (6)	85.0 (11)	49.5 (14)	35.6 (8)
<i>East and South-Eastern Asia (excluding China)</i>	<i>63.8 (18)</i>	<i>38.1 (26)</i>	<i>25.7 (13)</i>	<i>52.7 (23)</i>	<i>33.2 (33)</i>	<i>19.6 (15)</i>
Sub-Saharan Africa	38.2 (9)	25.3 (14)	12.8 (6)	33.1 (18)	22.2 (25)	10.9 (11)
Southern Africa	1.1 (6)	0.5 (6)	0.7 (6)	1.1 (6)	0.5 (6)	0.7 (7)
Rest of sub-Saharan Africa	37.1 (10)	24.8 (14)	12.2 (6)	31.9 (19)	21.7 (27)	10.2 (12)
Latin America and the Caribbean	16.6 (6)	11.0 (10)	5.5 (3)	16.2 (7)	10.8 (10)	5.4 (4)
Middle East and North Africa	2.9 (3)	2.0 (11)	0.9 (1)	1.8 (3)	0.9 (8)	0.9 (2)

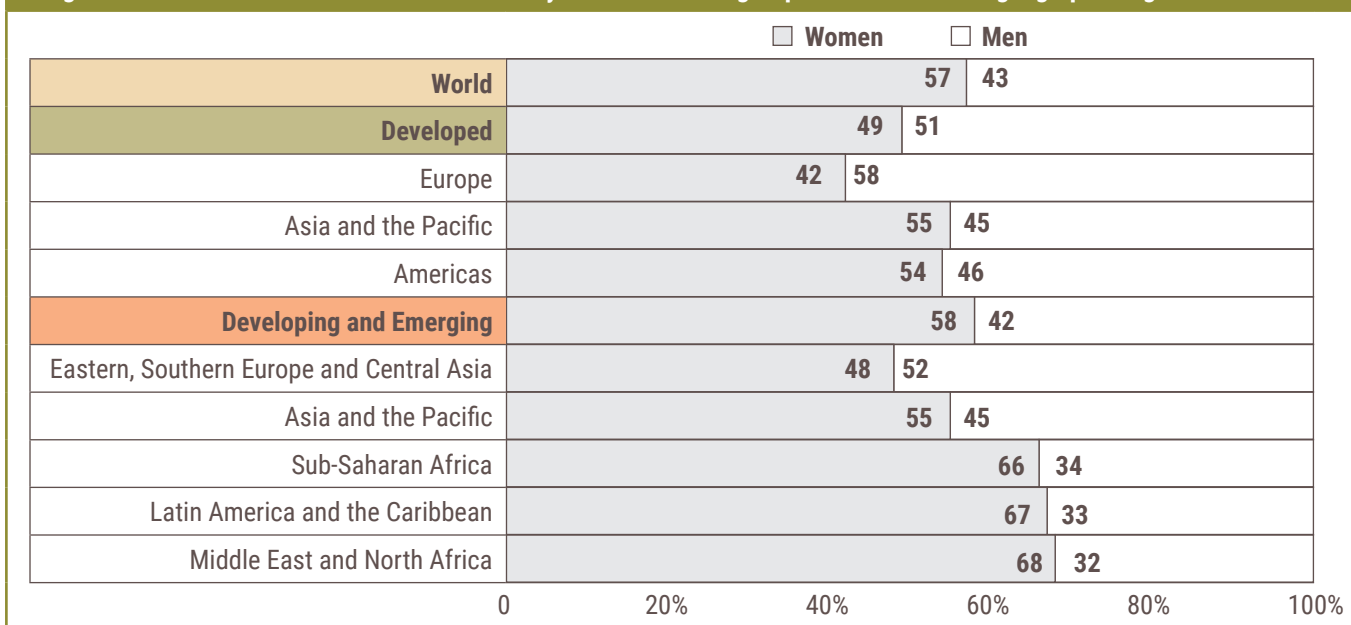
Source: ILO calculations based on labour force survey (or similar household survey) data from 118 countries representing 86 per cent of global employment.

Although there are large differences in the *numbers* of home-based workers across regions, the *percentage* of home-based work as a share of total employment varies only from 3 to 10 per cent. The exception is in East and South-Eastern Asia (excluding China), where home-based work is 18 per cent of total employment and 23 per cent of non-agricultural employment.

Although labour force participation rates for women are lower than for men in most countries, more women than men are home-based workers globally; women's share is 57 per cent in comparison to 43 per cent for men (**figure 2**). In developing and emerging countries, the share of women and men are similar to those worldwide: 58 per cent of women in comparison to 42 per cent of men. However in developed countries,

there are slightly more men than women; the anomaly is due to Europe, where men represent 58 per cent of home-based workers and women 42 per cent. In the developed countries of the Americas, as well as Asia and the Pacific, women outnumber men in home-based work. In both Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, there are nearly twice as many women home-based workers as men. In only two other

Figure 2: Distribution of home-based workers by sex and income groups of countries and geographic regions



A home-based worker who makes hair accessories in Lima, Peru. Photo by Sofia Trevino.

Figure 3: Home-based workers as per cent of total employment



Source: ILO calculations based on labour force survey (or similar household survey) data from 118 countries.

Front page photos clockwise from the top left:
 A home-based weaver in Laos. Photo by Marty Chen.
 A home-based tailor in Cape Town, South Africa. Photo by Sofia Trevino.
 A home-based hairdresser in Pleven, Bulgaria. Photo by Svetlin Ivanov.
 A home-based garment worker in Tiruppur, India. Photo courtesy of HNSA.

sub-regions are there more men home-based workers than women – Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia and Southern Africa – but the difference is relatively small.

In most of the countries with data, home-based workers comprise less than 10 per cent of all employed persons (dark and light brown in the map), but in some countries, home-based workers account for more than 15 per cent of the workforce (dark grey) (**figure 3**).

Table 2: Home-based workers as per cent of total employment by country income group and geographic regions: Number of countries in percentage categories

	Less than 5%	5-10%	10-14%	15% and more	Total
World	44	41	21	12	118
Developed	21	14	7	0	42
Europe	16	9	5	0	30
Asia and the Pacific	4	3	0	0	7
Americas	1	2	2	0	5
Developing and Emerging	23	27	14	12	76
Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia	9	3	0	0	12
Asia and the Pacific	1	5	3	7	16
Southern Asia	0	2	0	2	4
East and South-Eastern Asia	1	3	3	5	12
Sub-Saharan Africa	4	11	7	5	27
Southern Africa	0	2	0	0	2
Rest of sub-Saharan Africa	4	9	7	5	25
Latin America and the Caribbean	3	8	4	0	15
Middle East and North Africa	6	0	0	0	6

Source: ILO calculations based on labour force survey (or similar household survey) data from 118 countries representing 86 per cent of global employment.

Box 1: Types of Home-Based Worker

Home-based workers are those who produce goods or provide services from in or around their own home, including in a structure attached to their home. Home-based workers can be found in all branches of the economy (agriculture, services, and manufacturing and other industry activities) and many sub-branches: from traditional sectors such as textiles, garments and shoes to professional services to modern sectors, including the manufacturing of automobile parts and airplane cushions, electronic assembly, data collection and processing.

While all types of home-based work can be found around the world, certain types predominate in specific geographic regions and country income groups. Among home-based workers, self-employed professionals, teleworkers (white-collar and pink-collar) and digital platform workers are more common in developed and emerging countries; traditional self-employed, industrial outworkers and contributing family workers are more common in developing countries. Digital platform workers who perform “crowdwork” from their homes are dispersed across all country income groups

It is important to understand which types of home-based work expanded and contracted during the lockdowns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The category that has expanded during COVID-19 are workers who used to commute to an office, both professional and clerical workers, but began working from home using information and communications technologies (ICTs). The categories of home-based workers who suffered the greatest loss of work and income during COVID-19 are the ones who do not use ICTs in their work, both traditional self-employed and (more so) industrial outworkers, as well as the contributing family workers who depend on them for work.

Among developed countries, home-based work is less than 5 per cent of total employment in half of the countries and less than 15 per cent of total employment in the other half (**table 2**). In developing and emerging countries, home-based work is a higher proportion of total employment, representing over 5 per cent of total employment in around 70 per cent of the countries and less than 5 per cent of total employment in only two sub-regions, specifically in most countries of Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia and all countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

In all other sub-regions of developing and emerging countries, it represents a higher share of employment, including 15 per cent or more in five countries each in sub-Saharan Africa and in East and South-Eastern Asia.

Home-based workers are found in all sectors of the economy and in all statuses in employment (**boxes 1 and 2**). This brief presents key indicators on home-based workers and their work across the world.

Box 2: Improving the Measurement of Home-Based Workers and the Dependency in their Work Arrangements

Some home-based workers are independent self-employed workers who take entrepreneurial risks. Other home-based workers are dependent on a firm or its contractors for work orders, supply of raw materials and sale of finished goods. Those in this second category are referred to as homeworkers, piece-rate workers or sub-contracted workers. In recent years, better measurement of a broad work arrangement that includes homework has received increased attention due to its growth, as well as to the types of authority and economic risk under which these workers operate.

In 2018, the International Conference of Labour Statisticians agreed on a revised International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-18) to include a new category, *dependent contractor*, which reflects aspects of both self- and wage employment. This category has special relevance to homeworkers. Dependent contractors are workers who have contractual arrangements of a commercial nature to provide goods or services for another economic unit, are not employees of that economic unit but are dependent on that unit for the organization and execution of the work or for access to the market.¹ Another recommendation places priority on a survey question on place of work. The implementation of these recommendations in labour force surveys will lead to improved data on home-based work.

However, in the data presented in this brief, independent home-based workers could not be fully distinguished from homeworkers. For this reason, this brief does not include data on the dependency of home-based workers. It includes the status in employment categories, based on the earlier ICSE statuses. The estimates for own account workers are likely to include misclassified dependent contractors — that is, sub-contracted piece-rate homeworkers.

¹ International Labour Office (ILO), 2018 Resolution concerning statistics on work relationships. 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), Geneva.

cent in urban areas, whereas in the Americas the shares are reversed, with 77 per cent in rural areas and 23 per cent in urban. Among developing and emerging countries, at least 80 per cent of home-based workers are in rural areas in two sub-regions: Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia; and Southern Africa. In two other sub-regions, a relatively high proportion are also in rural areas: the Middle East and North Africa at 73 per cent; and Southern Asia at 68 per cent. However, in Latin America and the Caribbean, only 28 per cent of home-based workers are in rural areas.

The percentage distribution of women and men home-based workers across rural and urban areas is fairly similar at the global level and across the country income groups and geographic regions, with two exceptions. In Eastern and Southern Europe and Central Asia, 95 per cent of women home-based workers and 73 per cent of men are in rural areas; in the Middle East and North Africa, 81 per cent of women home-based workers and 54 per cent of men are in rural areas.

Rural/Urban

Globally, around 56 per cent of home-based workers are in rural areas and 44 per cent in urban areas.

Around 56 per cent of home-based workers globally are in rural areas and 44 per cent in urban areas; these percentages are mirrored in

developing and emerging countries as a group. In developed countries, urban areas are 2 per cent higher (**table 3**). However there are large differences in the percentage distribution of home-based workers across rural and urban areas within the geographic/country income groups and sub-regions. Among developed countries, in Europe only 28 per cent of home-based work is in rural areas and 72 per

Table 3: Home-based workers by urban and rural location, country income groups, geographic regions and sex: Per cent distribution

	TOTAL		WOMEN		MEN	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
World	56	44	57	43	55	45
Developed	54	46	52	48	56	44
Europe	28	72	28	72	28	71
Asia and the Pacific	62	39	58	42	66	34
Americas	77	23	71	29	84	16
Developing and Emerging	56	44	57	43	55	45
Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia	82	15	95	5	73	22
Asia and the Pacific	59	41	61	39	57	43
Southern Asia	68	32	72	28	63	37
East and South-Eastern Asia	47	53	47	53	47	53
Sub-Saharan Africa	51	49	51	48	50	50
Southern Africa	80	20	79	18	78	22
Rest of sub-Saharan Africa	50	50	51	49	48	52
Latin America and the Caribbean	28	72	31	69	22	78
Middle East and North Africa	73	27	81	19	54	46

Source: ILO calculations based on labour force survey (or similar household survey) data from 109 countries.

Status in Employment

The share of own account home-based work for both women and men is higher in the developing and emerging countries than in developed countries and, conversely, the share of employees is higher in developed countries.

Globally, women home-based workers are more than twice as likely as men to be contributing family workers. Conversely, men are more likely than women to be employers or own account workers. But men and women home-based workers are equally likely to be employees (**table 4**). This pattern is also reflected in developing and emerging countries, where the overwhelming majority of home-based workers are concentrated: 13 per cent of both women



*A home-based Nubian craft producer in Kenya.
Photo by Leslie Vryenhoek*

and men are employees; 58 per cent of women and 69 per cent of men are own account workers; and 25 per cent of women but only 12 per cent of men are contributing family workers. However, in developed countries the pattern is different. A much larger share of women home-based workers than men are employees (59 per cent in comparison to 47 per cent) and, conversely, a larger share of men than women are own account workers (45 per cent in comparison to 27 per cent).

While the share of own account home-based work for both women and men is higher in developing and emerging countries, the share of employees is higher in developed countries. Among developing and emerging

Table 4: Home-based workers by status in employment, country income groups, geographic regions and sex: Per cent distribution

	WOMEN				MEN			
	Employer	Own account worker	Employee	Contributing family worker	Employer	Own account worker	Employee	Contributing family worker
World	5	54	19	23	7	65	19	10
Developed	5	27	59	8	6	45	47	3
Europe	3	42	52	3	4	57	38	1
Asia and the Pacific	6	27	36	31	11	55	24	10
Americas	7	12	80	1	6	21	73	0
Developing and Emerging	4	58	13	25	7	69	13	12
Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia	1	32	62	5	4	8	86	0
Asia and the Pacific	2	56	13	29	5	72	10	13
Southern Asia	1	61	7	30	5	79	6	10
East and South-Eastern Asia	2	53	17	27	5	67	14	15
<i>East and South-Eastern Asia (excluding China)</i>	3	58	15	24	8	58	19	15
Sub-Saharan Africa	19	55	12	14	24	49	19	8
Southern Africa	5	33	58	3	19	32	48	0
Rest of sub-Saharan Africa	19	56	11	14	24	50	17	8
Latin America and the Caribbean	2	82	8	8	8	74	12	6
Middle East and North Africa	1	35	6	58	9	59	27	5

Source: ILO calculations based on labour force survey (or similar household survey) data from 118 countries.

countries, the one exception to this pattern of higher proportions of home-based workers in own account work and lower proportions as employees is Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia. All countries in this sub-region are classified as emerging economies and have a legacy of a centralized economy.

Branch of Economic Activity/Industry

Services is the main branch of home-based employment for both men and women.

Services is the main branch of home-based employment for both women and men everywhere (**table 5**). Globally, 55 per

cent of home-based workers are engaged in the services sector with almost no difference between women and men in the share of services. In developed countries, services comprise a much greater share of home-based work than in developing and emerging countries as a group: 79 per cent in comparison to 51 per cent. Industry with manufacturing as the major component is

Table 5: Home-based workers by branch of industry, country income groups, geographic regions and sex: Per cent distribution

	TOTAL			WOMEN			MEN		
	Agriculture	Manufacturing*	Services	Agriculture	Manufacturing*	Services	Agriculture	Manufacturing*	Services
World	16	29	55	18	25	56	13	32	55
Developed	7	14	79	7	9	84	8	17	75
Europe	7	15	78	6	8	86	8	20	72
Asia and the Pacific	20	11	69	19	14	67	23	6	71
Americas	1	14	85	0	8	91	1	18	81
Developing and Emerging	18	31	51	20	28	52	14	35	51
Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia	30	16	54	31	21	49	29	14	56
Asia and the Pacific	19	32	49	23	28	50	15	36	50
Southern Asia	33	34	33	46	33	20	17	33	49
East and South-Eastern Asia	9	30	60	7	23	69	12	37	50
<i>East and South-Eastern Asia (excluding China)</i>	17	23	59	13	22	66	24	24	52
Sub-Saharan Africa	13	28	58	12	28	60	15	31	54
Southern Africa	0	11	89	0	1	99	0	20	79
Rest of sub-Saharan Africa	14	29	57	13	28	59	16	32	52
Latin America and the Caribbean	2	34	64	2	33	65	3	34	63
Middle East and North Africa	39	17	44	53	13	34	6	27	67

Source: ILO calculations based on labour force survey (or similar household survey) data from 118 countries.

*Manufacturing is the main component of this category, which also includes related industries, specifically: mining and quarrying; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities; and construction. These additional activities will have limited relevance to home-based work.

second in importance at 29 per cent globally: 14 per cent in developed countries and 31 per cent in developing and emerging countries. Agriculture comprises 16 per cent of home-based employment globally, 7 per cent in developed countries and 18 per cent in developing and emerging countries. However in some sub-regions, agriculture is a larger

share of home-based work, specifically 30 per cent in Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia, 33 per cent in Southern Asia, and 39 per cent in the Middle East and North Africa.

At the global level there is little difference in the percentage distribution of women and men home-based workers across the

different branches. However, in developed countries, services comprise a somewhat higher percentage of women's home-based work than men's – 84 per cent in contrast to 75 per cent. Women are less likely to be in manufacturing than men – 9 per cent in contrast to 17 per cent. In developing and emerging countries, there is little difference

Table 6: Percentage of home-based workers who are informally employed in developing and emerging countries, by geographic regions and sex

	TOTAL	WOMEN	MEN	Difference Women-Men (% points)
Developing and Emerging	90	92	88	4
Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia	63	78	35	43
Asia and the Pacific	92	92	91	2
Southern Asia	98	98	98	0
East and South-Eastern Asia	80	83	74	9
Sub-Saharan Africa	88	92	81	11
Southern Africa	74	80	64	16
Rest of sub-Saharan Africa	88	92	81	11
Latin America and the Caribbean	85	88	77	12
Middle East and North Africa	98	99	94	5

Source: ILO calculations based on labour force survey (or similar household survey) data from 70 developing and emerging countries representing 72 per cent of employment in developing and emerging countries when China is excluded, and representing 52 per cent when China is included in the total.

in the percentage of women and men home-based workers in services. Women are less likely to be in manufacturing than men (28 per cent in contrast to 35 per cent) and are more likely to be in agriculture than men (20 per cent in contrast to 14 per cent). However, this pattern is not consistent across two sub-regions of Asia and the Pacific. In Southern Asia, the per cent of home-based workers in services is much lower for women than men (20 per cent in contrast to 49 per cent), while the per cent of women in agriculture is far higher than for men (46 per cent compared to only 17 per cent of men). The shares of women and men in home-based manufacturing,

however, are the same. By contrast, women in East and South-Eastern Asia, both with and without China, are more likely to be in services than men (more than 65 per cent in contrast to around 50 per cent). Large differences between women and men home-based workers are also found in the Middle East and North Africa, where 34 per cent of women compared to 67 per cent of men are in services; 53 per cent of women home-based workers but only 6 per cent of men are in agriculture. Finally, in Southern Africa almost all women in home-based work are in services (99 per cent) with a much lower, but still high, per cent of men (79 per cent).

Informal Employment

In developing and emerging countries, the proportion of home-based workers that are informal ranges from 60 to 98 per cent.

Estimates of the informality of home-based employment in developed countries, and therefore for the world, are not possible with the data now available; the surveys used to identify home-based workers in developed countries did not include questions that would allow an assessment of informality. In developing and emerging countries, where the data do exist, home-based work is overwhelmingly informal. Overall, 90 per cent of home-based workers across all developing and emerging countries are informal; and in every sub-region, over 60 per cent are informal (**table 6**). The proportion who are informal ranges from 98 per cent in both Southern Asia and the Middle East and North Africa to 63 per cent in Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia.

In developing and emerging countries, informality is only slightly higher among women than among men home-based workers: 92 per cent in comparison to 88 per cent. However, in several sub-regions the difference between women and men is large – especially in Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia, where 78 per cent of women home-based workers are informal in comparison to 35 per cent of men. This

is also true among home-based workers in Southern Africa, where 80 per cent of women and 64 per cent of men are informal.

Occupations

The largest occupational group for home-based workers is services and sales, followed closely by craft and trade.

Globally, the majority of home-based workers are in two major occupational categories: services and sales (32 per cent) plus craft and trades (29 per cent) (**table 7**). The latter includes handicraft, garment and related craft workers, goods processing workers, and workers in building trades and in repair. These two major occupational groups account for 83 per cent of home-based workers in developing countries, 60 per cent in the emerging countries but only 26 per cent in developed countries. In contrast, in developed countries, professionals and technicians comprise 47 per cent of home-based workers and managers an additional 10 per cent.

Services and sales plus craft and trades account for a higher per cent of women's and men's home-based work in developing countries (87 per cent in contrast to 77 per cent); a lower share for women and men in emerging countries (65 per cent and 55 per cent, respectively); and a still lower share for women and men in developed countries (29 per cent of women and 24 per cent for men).

In all three country income groups, men home-based workers are more likely than women to be in managerial and professional occupations. Professional/technician and managerial occupations account for: 47 per cent of

women and 69 per cent of men in home-based work in developed countries; 13 per cent of women and 24 per cent of men in emerging countries; and 3 per cent of women and 10 per cent of men in developing countries.

Table 7: Home-based workers (outside agriculture) by occupations, country income groups and sex: Per cent distribution

	Managers	Professionals and Technicians	Clerks	Services and Sales	Craft and Trades*	Plant operators and Assemblers	Elementary occupations**	Other
Total								
World	9	10	7	32	29	3	6	3
Developed	10	47	8	19	8	1	5	2
Emerging	10	8	8	30	30	4	6	4
Developing	2	4	0	49	34	2	8	0
Women								
World	6	8	10	35	30	2	5	4
Developed	8	39	13	22	7	1	7	3
Emerging	7	6	11	33	32	2	4	4
Developing	1	2	0	55	32	1	8	0
Men								
World	13	13	4	27	28	5	7	2
Developed	12	57	2	15	9	2	2	1
Emerging	14	10	5	27	28	6	7	3
Developing	2	8	1	39	38	4	8	0

Source: ILO calculations based on labour force survey (or similar household survey) data from 99 countries.

* Includes construction, metal machinery, electrical and electronic workers, handicraft and printing, food processing and crafts.

** Includes occupations that typically involve the performance of simple and routine physical tasks that may require considerable physical effort and limited skills, e.g. cleaners, street sales and service workers, and refuse workers.

Hours of Work

Home-based workers have a longer workweek in developing and emerging countries than in developed countries.

The data in this section represent only one part of the workweek, the time spent in market-oriented work. Especially for women, another important component of the total time spent in work is the non-market activities performed to maintain the household and family. Thus, it is not surprising that women home-based workers tend to spend fewer hours in home-based work than men (**table 8**). A larger share of men than women work more than 48 hours a week in home-based work at each country income level. Conversely, more women than men work less than a 35 hour week at every country income level.

Globally, around one third of women and men home-based workers work 35-48 hours a week. In developed countries, a little less than



*A beadworker in Pakistan.
Photo courtesy of HomeNet Pakistan.*

half of women home-based workers and a little more than half of men work 35-48 hours a week. In emerging countries, around 30 per cent of women and men work 35-48 hours,

while in developing countries, around one quarter of women and men work 35-48 hours.

A larger percentage of women and men home-based workers work 49 or more hours per week in emerging and developing countries than in developed countries: in emerging countries, 32 per cent of women and 54 per cent of men; in developing countries, 31 per cent of women and 44 per cent of men; and in developed countries, only 15 per cent of women and 28 per cent of men.

Education

In developing and emerging countries, nearly one-third of women home-based workers and one-quarter of men have no education.

A larger percentage of home-based workers have completed secondary education than other levels of education: around 44 per cent of women and 48 per cent of men globally

Table 8: Home-based workers by hours worked, country income groups and sex: Per cent distribution

	WOMEN					MEN				
	Less than 20h	20h-34h	35h-48h	49h-60h	More than 60h	Less than 20h	20h-34h	35h-48h	49h-60h	More than 60h
World	18	21	32	16	13	6	11	35	25	22
Developed	16	20	49	11	4	7	10	54	19	9
Emerging	19	20	29	18	14	6	11	30	27	27
Developing	20	24	25	13	18	14	17	26	18	26

Source: ILO calculations based on labour force survey (or similar household survey) data from 114 countries.

and in developing and emerging countries; and 57 per cent of women and 50 per cent of men in developed countries (**table 9**). However, in developing countries, nearly one third of women and one quarter of men have no education. In some sub-regions, the per cent with no education is even higher. In both Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, around 46 per cent of women home-based workers and 25 per cent of men have no

education; in the Middle East and North Africa, 54 per cent of women and 45 per cent of men have no education. By contrast, many home-based workers in developed countries have completed tertiary education: 39 per cent of women and 42 per cent of men.

It is noteworthy that in East and South-Eastern Asia, women in home-based work are better educated than men. In this sub-

region, fewer women home-based workers than men have no education (20 per cent of women in contrast to 31 per cent of men), and more women than men have completed primary education (13 per cent of women and 11 per cent of men), secondary education (54 per cent of women and 49 per cent of men) and tertiary education (12 per cent of women and 9 per cent of men).

Table 9: Home-based workers by education, country income groups, geographic regions and sex: Per cent distribution

	WOMEN					MEN				
	No education	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Other	No education	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Other
World	27	15	44	13	0	22	13	48	16	0
Developed	2	2	57	39	1	1	6	50	42	1
Europe	1	1	43	53	2	2	1	48	46	3
Asia and the Pacific	1	2	76	22	0	0	2	53	46	0
Americas	4	2	61	33	0	1	15	51	33	0
Developing and Emerging	31	17	42	9	0	26	15	48	11	0
Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia	5	9	41	46	0	1	1	57	42	0
Asia and the Pacific	31	15	45	9	0	28	13	49	10	0
Southern Asia	46	17	33	4	0	25	15	49	11	0
East and South-Eastern Asia	20	13	54	12	0	31	11	49	9	0
<i>East and South-Eastern Asia (excluding China)</i>	20	24	45	10	0	18	21	49	12	0
Sub-Saharan Africa	46	25	24	3	2	27	27	40	5	2
Southern Africa	1	6	79	14	0	7	4	83	7	0
Rest of sub-Saharan Africa	47	25	23	2	2	28	29	36	5	2
Latin America and the Caribbean	16	22	44	18	0	14	23	46	17	0
Middle East and North Africa	54	14	29	3	0	45	18	25	11	0

Source: ILO calculations based on labour force survey (or similar household survey) data from 118 countries.

Annex I - Classification of countries/territories by region

Developed countries

Europe & Western Asia

Austria
Belgium
Croatia
Cyprus
Czechia
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom

Asia and the Pacific

Australia
Brunei Darussalam
Cook
Japan
New Zealand
Republic of Korea
Taiwan (China)

Americas

Chile
Panama
Trinidad and Tobago
United States
Uruguay

Emerging countries

Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia

Albania
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Georgia
Kyrgyzstan
Montenegro
North Macedonia
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Serbia
Turkey

Asia and the Pacific

Southern Asia
Bangladesh
India
Pakistan
East and South-Eastern Asia
Cambodia
China
Fiji
Indonesia
Lao PDR
Mongolia
Myanmar
Philippines
Samoa
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Tonga

Sub-Saharan Africa

Southern Africa
Namibia
South Africa
Rest of sub-Saharan Africa
Angola
Comoros
Congo
Cote d'Ivoire
Ghana
Mauritania
Mauritius
Senegal
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Latin America and the Caribbean

Argentina
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Brazil
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Guyana
Jamaica
Mexico
Suriname
Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)

Middle East and North Africa

Egypt, Arab Rep.
Jordan
Lebanon
Sudan
Tunisia

Developing countries

Asia and the Pacific

Southern Asia
Nepal

Sub-Saharan Africa

Rest of sub-Saharan Africa
Benin
Burundi
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Ethiopia
Gambia
Guinea
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Niger
Rwanda
Togo
United Republic of Tanzania
Uganda

Latin America and the Caribbean

Haiti

Middle East and North Africa

Yemen

Annex II

Surveys included: Household surveys (76 countries/territories)

Albania	Labour Force Survey, 2013	Dominican Republic	Permanent Labour Force Survey (Encuesta de fuerza de trabajo, ENFTC), 2018
Angola	Integrated Population Welfare Survey (Inquérito Integrado sobre o Bem-Estar da População, IBEP), 2009	Ecuador	National Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment Survey (Encuesta Nacional de Empleo, Desempleo y Subempleo, ENEMDU), 2019
Argentina	Permanent Household Survey (Encuesta Permanente de Hogares, EPH), 2018	Egypt	Labour Force Survey, 2017
Austria	Labour Force Survey, 2018	El Salvador	Multipurpose Household Survey (Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, EHPM), 2018
Bangladesh	Labour Force Survey, 2017	Ethiopia	Labour Force Survey, 2013
Benin	Modular Integrated Household Survey (Enquête Modulaire Intégrée sur les Conditions de Vie des ménages, EMICOV), 2011	Fiji	Employment and Unemployment Survey, 2016
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Household Survey (Encuesta de Hogares, EH), 2017	Gambia	Labour Force Survey, 2012
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Labour Force Survey, 2019	Georgia	Labour Force Survey, 2018
Brazil	National Household Sample Survey (Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra de Domicílios, PNADC), 2018	Ghana	Labour Force Survey, 2015
Brunei Darussalam	Labour Force Survey, 2014	Guatemala	National Employment and Income Survey (Encuesta Nacional de Empleo e Ingresos, ENEI), 2018 (Q2)
Burundi	Household Survey (Enquête sur les Conditions de Vie des Ménages), 2014	Guinea	Integrated Regional Employment and Informal Sector Survey (Enquête Régionale Intégrée sur L'Emploi et le Secteur Informel, ERI-ESI), 2019
Cambodia	Labour Force Survey, 2012	Guyana	Labour Force Survey, 2017
Chile	National Employment Survey (Encuesta Nacional del Empleo, ENE), 2018	Haiti	Household Survey (Enquête sur les conditions de vie des ménages, ECVMAS), 2012
Colombia	Global Integrated Household Survey (Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares, GEIH), 2018	India	Employment and Unemployment Survey, 2018
Comoros	Employment and Informal Sector Survey (Enquête sur l'emploi et le secteur informel, ENESI), 2014	Indonesia	National Labour Force Survey, 2018 (Q3)
Congo	Employment and Informal Sector Survey (Enquête sur l'emploi et le secteur informel, EESIC), 2009	Jamaica	Labour Force Survey, 2014
Cook Islands	Labour Force Survey, 2019	Jordan	Labour Market Panel Survey JLMPS, 2016
Costa Rica	National Household Survey (Encuesta Nacional de Hogares, ENAHO), 2018	Kyrgyzstan	Labour Force Survey, 2017
Côte d'Ivoire	Labour Force Survey, 2016	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Labour Force Survey, 2017
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Employment and Informal Sector Survey (Enquête sur l'emploi, le secteur informel et la consommation des ménages), 2012	Lebanon	Labour Force Survey, 2019
		Liberia	Labour Force Survey, 2010
		Madagascar	National Employment and Informal Sector Survey (Enquête Nationale sur l'Emploi et le secteur Informel, ENESI), 2015
		Malawi	Labour Force Survey, 2013
		Mali	Modular Permanent Household Survey (Enquête Modulaire et Permanente auprès des Ménages, EMOP), 2018

Mauritania	Integrated Regional Employment and Informal Sector Survey (Enquête Régionale Intégrée sur l'Emploi et le Secteur Informel, ERI-ESI), 2017
Mauritius	Labour Force Survey, 2018
Mexico	Labour Force Survey, 2019 (Q2)
Mongolia	Labour Force Survey, 2018
Myanmar	Labour Force Survey, 2018
Namibia	Labour Force Survey, 2018
Nepal	Labour Force Survey, 2017
Niger	Integrated Regional Employment and Informal Sector Survey (Enquête Régionale Intégrée sur l'Emploi et le Secteur Informel, ERI-ESI), 2017
Pakistan	Labour Force Survey, 2018
Panama	Labour Market Survey (Encuesta de Mercado Laboral, EML), 2018
Republic of Moldova	Labour Force Survey, 2018
Republic of Korea	Labour and Income Panel Survey, 2016
Rwanda	Labour Force Survey, 2018
Samoa	Labour Force Survey, 2017
Senegal	National Employment Survey (Enquête Nationale sur l'Emploi au Sénégal, ENES), 2015
Serbia	Labour Force Survey, 2018
Sudan	Labour Force Survey, 2011
Thailand	Informal Employment Survey, 2018
Timor-Leste	Labour Force Survey, 2013
Togo	Integrated Regional Employment and Informal Sector Survey (Enquête Régionale Intégrée sur l'Emploi et le Secteur Informel, ERI-ESI), 2017
Tonga	Labour Force Survey, 2018
Trinidad and Tobago	Continuous Sample Survey of Population, 2016
Tunisia	Labour Market Panel Survey, 2014
Turkey	Labour Force Survey, 2017
Uganda	Labour Force and Child Labour Survey, 2017
United Kingdom	Labour Force Survey, 2018
United Republic of Tanzania	Labour Force Survey, 2014
Uruguay	Permanent Household Survey (Encuesta Continua de Hogares, ECH), 2018
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Household Sample Survey (Encuesta de Hogares por Muestreo), 2017
Yemen	Labour Force Survey, 2014
Zambia	Labour Force Survey, 2017
Zimbabwe	Labour Force Survey, 2014

European Labour Force Survey, 2017 (28 countries/territories)

Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland

ISSP 2015 (11 countries/territories)

Australia, China, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Russian Federation, South Africa, Suriname, Taiwan (China), United States

EU Working Conditions Survey, 2015 (3 countries/territories)

Germany, Montenegro, North Macedonia



A home-based worker in Nongchok, Bangkok, Thailand.
Photo by Marty Chen

This brief was prepared jointly by WIEGO and the ILO (INWORK). WIEGO is collaborating with HomeNet International (HNI) on the launch of this new global network.

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Statistical Briefs

WIEGO Statistical Briefs are part of the WIEGO Publication Series. They 1) provide statistics on the informal economy and categories of informal workers in accessible formats at the regional, country and city levels; or 2) describe the methods for the collection, tabulation and/or analysis of statistics. See www.wiego.org/wiego-publication-series.

HomeNet International (HNI) is a proposed global network of membership-based organizations representing home-based workers from, Africa, Eastern Europe & Central Asia, Latin America & the Caribbean, South Asia and South East Asia. The vision of HNI “is for greater visibility and recognition of home-based workers and a strong, united and representative voice on global platforms, where they effectively engage and challenge those who have power over their working lives, such as governments and employers”.

About WIEGO

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) is a global network focused on empowering the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy to secure their livelihoods. We believe all workers should have equal economic opportunities, rights, protection and voice. WIEGO promotes change by improving statistics and expanding knowledge on the informal economy, building networks and capacity among informal worker organizations and, jointly with the networks and organizations, influencing local, national and international policies.

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