

# Informal Workers in Senegal: A Statistical Profile

Gayatri Koolwal

This brief focuses on six groups of informal workers who comprised over three-quarters of total employment in 2019 in Senegal, where 84 per cent of employment is informal.

In Dakar, a city of about 1.1 million and the largest city in Senegal, 165,230 women and 262,511 men (a total of 427,741) were employed in 2019 (**table 1**).<sup>1</sup> Across the three geographic areas examined in this brief,<sup>2</sup> about 40 per cent of women aged 15 and older were employed, and about 65 per cent of men. The vast majority of those who are employed in Dakar and in urban Senegal are in non-agricultural work. In each geographic area,

women accounted for about 40 per cent of the total employed – a little lower in Dakar (39 per cent) and a little higher in urban Senegal and nationally (44 per cent and 43 per cent, respectively) (**figure 1**).

Informal employment refers to economic activities that are not covered or insufficiently covered in law or in practice by formal arrangements through work – including, for

<sup>1</sup> The data in this brief are based on the 2019 Senegal Quarterly Labour Force Survey (*Enquete Nationale sur L'Emploi au Sénégal*, or ENES). The sample is restricted to individuals aged 15 and older. All estimates are weighted.

<sup>2</sup> The geographic areas are Dakar, Urban Senegal and Senegal nationally. The urban population was identified through a question in the survey on place of residence, with the response options as rural or urban. The population of Dakar was determined through an additional question, asking the respondent to provide the name of the place where they lived.

**Table 1. Employment in Dakar, urban Senegal and Senegal nationally by sex: Numbers, and as per cent of working age population<sup>(1)</sup>**

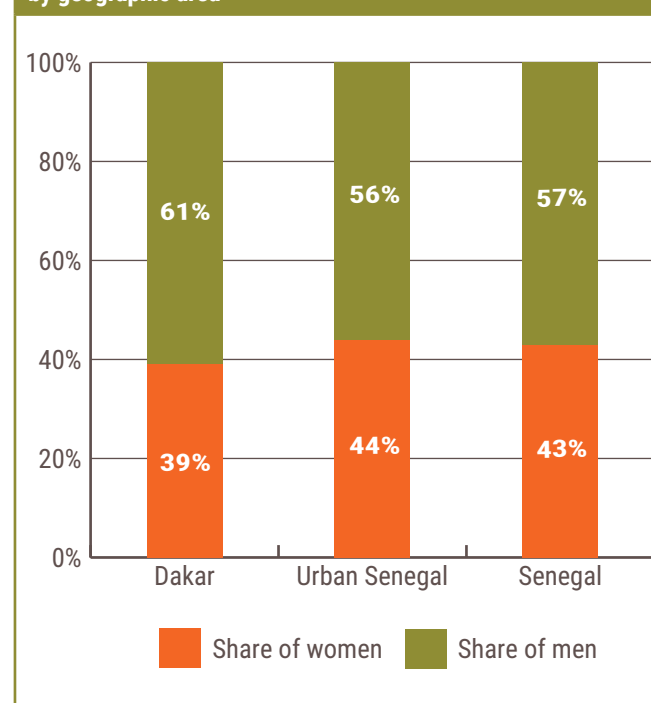
Numbers and per cent (in parentheses)	Women	Men	Total
<b>Total employment</b>			
Dakar	165,230 (40.5)	262,511 (67.2)	427,741 (53.6)
Urban Senegal	1,035,739 (39.6)	1,344,127 (64.8)	2,379,866 (50.7)
Senegal nationally	1,922,542 (38.2)	2,533,333 (64.3)	4,455,875 (49.7)
<b>Non-agricultural employment</b>			
Dakar	162,637 (39.9)	244,017 (62.4)	406,654 (50.9)
Urban Senegal	905,789 (34.6)	1,094,654 (52.8)	2,000,443 (42.7)
Senegal nationally	1,480,586 (29.4)	1,760,683 (44.7)	3,241,269 (36.1)
<b>Agricultural employment</b>			
Dakar	2,593 (0.6)	18,494 (4.7)	21,087 (2.6)
Urban Senegal	129,951 (4.9)	249,472 (12.0)	379,423 (8.1)
Senegal nationally	441,956 (8.7)	772,650 (19.6)	1,214,606 (13.5)

<sup>(1)</sup> For women or men, the base on which percentages are calculated is the number of working-age women or men, respectively. For total, the base is the total number of working-age individuals, across men and women.

example, contributions to pensions and medical insurance or entitlement to paid sick leave or annual leave.<sup>3</sup> In 2019, informal employment comprised 78 per cent of all employment in urban Senegal, 81 per cent in Dakar and 84 per cent in Senegal nationally (**table 2**).

Women were much more likely than men to be informally employed (91 per cent in Dakar and Senegal nationally for women, compared to 77 per cent for men in Dakar and 82 per cent nationally). Within non-agricultural activities, 90 per cent of women and 74 per cent of men

**Figure 1. Share of women and men in total employment by geographic area**



in Dakar were employed informally, and in Senegal nationally, 84 per cent of women and 72 per cent of men. Nearly all workers employed in agriculture were informal.

<sup>3</sup> The statistical definition of informal employment as it relates to specific worker categories (such as dependent contractors and contributing family workers) is being currently discussed as part of the International Labour Organization's (ILO's) Working Group on the Revision of Statistical Standards on Informality. The group is developing recommendations to be presented at the 21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 2023.

**Table 2. Informal employment<sup>(1)</sup> as a per cent of total employment, non-agricultural and agricultural employment by sex in Dakar, Urban Senegal and Senegal nationally**

	Women	Men	Total
<b>Per cent of total employment</b>			
Dakar	91.2	77.3	81.0
Urban Senegal	86.5	76.0	78.2
Senegal nationally	90.7	81.9	83.5
<b>Per cent of non-agricultural employment</b>			
Dakar	90.3	74.3	78.8
Urban Senegal	82.2	68.6	72.3
Senegal nationally	84.1	71.9	75.2
<b>Per cent of agricultural employment</b>			
Dakar	96.3	95.4	95.5
Urban Senegal	99.2	97.3	98.0
Senegal nationally	99.1	98.2	98.6

<sup>(1)</sup> Employees are classified as informal if they did not receive employment benefits, specifically: medical, paid annual or sick leave, or contributions to social security. Self-employed are classified as informal if they are not registered or do not keep formal accounts. Contributing family workers are also included in informal employment.



A laundress in Dakar. Photo credit: Dean Saffron.

### Box 1. The six worker groups: Identification and measurement issues

The 2019 ENES asked questions on place of work as well as occupation. The identification of the specific and primarily informal, groups were based on these variables.

<b>Domestic workers:</b>	Provide personal or household care in others' household(s)
<b>Home-based workers:</b>	Produce goods or provide services within one's own home or in a structure adjacent to one's home (work on a farm excluded)
<b>Market traders:</b>	Sell goods or provide services in built markets on publicly or privately owned land
<b>Street vendors:</b>	Sell goods or provide services in public spaces, for example a fixed or rotating stall on the street
<b>Informal Waste pickers:</b>	Engage in recycling of waste materials from the street or dump sites
<b>Informal Transport workers:</b>	Transport people and goods, usually via a (motorized/non-motorized) vehicle

#### Measurement issues

The identification of these worker groups was based on a place of work variable, along with an occupational classification variable.<sup>(1)</sup> For transport, which is a large sector with both formal and informal workers and no specific categories to identify workers that are likely to be informal, the data (except in table 4) include only informal workers.

A small number of respondents – in home-based work, market trading and street vending – reported work in agriculture. Clarifying these distinctions highlights a measurement issue in surveys that needs to be addressed to improve understanding of individuals' productive activities.

To better understand activities of workers in these groups, occupational classification variables were cross-classified with disaggregated industry classifications.<sup>(2)</sup> A sizable share of market traders, one of the largest groups of workers – particularly in Dakar – also reported manufacturing within the industry classification. This is likely to be related to the production of products they are selling – for example, food, beverage and/or textiles – so such workers were classified as market traders. This discrepancy is another measurement issue that is connected to the identification of groups of workers who are largely informal.

Concerning waste pickers, the number of workers identified in the 2019 ENES was not large enough to provide reliable estimates of the characteristics of waste pickers (age and education, for example) and their working arrangements. As a result, only **table 3** includes waste pickers and the numbers provided are likely an underestimate. Censuses of waste pickers in Dakar have identified much greater numbers of waste pickers than the national labour force survey. One reason for this may be that the labour force survey is based on a sample of persons living in households, which may miss those waste pickers who have other living arrangements.

<sup>(1)</sup> This occupational classification is the *Classification Internationale Type des Professions* (CITP), based on the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO).

<sup>(2)</sup> The industry classification follows the [UNSD International Standard Industrial Classification \(ISIC\) of All Economic Activities](#) (p. vii).

## Groups of Workers in Urban Senegal

This brief focuses on six worker groups central to the economy of Dakar and Senegal: *domestic workers, home-based workers, market traders, street vendors, waste pickers* and *transport workers* (see **Box 1** for a description of these occupations).

In Dakar, the 330,000 workers (about 185,000 men and 145,000 women) in these six groups (**table 3**) comprise over three-quarters (77 per cent) of the city's employment. In urban Senegal, the groups are 70 per cent of employment. In Senegal nationally, the share of the groups in total employment was much less (37 per cent) due to the inclusion of rural areas with agricultural employment.

Across the geographic areas, a greater share of employed women than men work in these six groups: in Dakar, 88 per cent of employed women compared to 70 per cent of employed men, and in urban Senegal, 82 per cent of employed women and 61 per cent of employed men. Nationally, the employment of women and men in these groups declined to about 44 per cent and 32 per cent respectively, in large part due to the agricultural employment in rural areas.

There are large gender differences in men's and women's participation across the groups. Market traders are the largest group, in Dakar, for both women and men. However, men are more likely than women to be market traders

(45 per cent of men, compared to 27 per cent of women). In Dakar, the next largest group is street vendors, where women are more heavily concentrated (about 21 per cent of employed women, compared to 9 per cent of employed men). Women are also more likely to be in home-based work (19 per cent of women compared to 5 per cent of men) and in domestic work (19 per cent for women and 3 per cent for men). In the other two geographic areas, market trade is also the predominant group for both women and men, with higher percentages for men than for women. In urban Senegal, 37 per cent of men's employment is in market trade compared to 26



Home-based workers in Dakar. Photo credit: G Tanvé

**Table 3. Groups of workers by sex in Dakar, urban Senegal and Senegal nationally: Numbers and per cent of total employment**

Numbers and per cent (in parentheses)	Women	Men	Total
<b>Dakar</b>	145,049 (87.8)	184,497 (70.3)	329,545 (77.0)
Domestic workers	30,692 (18.6)	8,749 (3.3)	39,440 (9.2)
Home-based workers	32,065 (19.4)	13,029 (5.0)	45,095 (10.5)
Market traders	45,203 (27.4)	119,157 (45.4)	164,360 (38.4)
Street vendors	35,531 (21.5)	23,444 (8.9)	58,975 (13.8)
Waste pickers	301 (0.2)	752 (0.3)	1,053 (0.2)
Informal transport workers	1,257 (0.8)	19,366 (7.4)	20,622 (4.8)
<b>Urban Senegal</b>	846,970 (81.8)	814,228 (60.6)	1,661,199 (69.8)
Domestic workers	131,428 (12.7)	36,809 (2.7)	168,237 (7.1)
Home-based workers	265,907 (25.7)	61,032 (4.5)	326,939 (13.7)
Market traders	264,008 (25.5)	490,566 (36.5)	754,575 (31.7)
Street vendors	179,848 (17.4)	123,688 (9.2)	303,536 (12.8)
Waste pickers	1,203 (0.1)	1,655 (0.1)	2,858 (0.1)
Informal transport workers	4,576 (0.4)	100,478 (7.5)	105,054 (4.4)
<b>Senegal nationally</b>	1,447,372 (44.1)	1,323,198 (32.1)	2,770,571 (37.3)
Domestic workers	176,274 (6.8)	59,018 (1.5)	235,292 (3.8)
Home-based workers	529,457 (13.8)	121,900 (2.4)	651,356 (7.3)
Market traders	448,507 (13.7)	738,512 (19.4)	1,187,019 (16.9)
Street vendors	284,907 (9.4)	215,450 (4.9)	500,358 (6.8)
Waste pickers	1,203 (0.1)	2,557 (0.1)	3,761 (0.1)
Informal transport workers	7,024 (0.2)	185,761 (4.0)	192,785 (2.4)

per cent of women's; in Senegal nationally, 19 per cent for employed men compared to 14 per cent for employed women. Home-based work is second in importance with 26 per cent of

employed women and 5 per cent of employed men in urban Senegal and 14 per cent of women and 2 per cent of men nationally.



A waste picker working at the Mbeubeuss dumpsite.  
Photo by Marta Moreiras.

## Informal Employment

With the exception of market trade and informal transport, 90 per cent or more of workers in the other worker groups are informally employed.

Across five groups and in all geographic areas, most workers are in informal employment. With the exception of market trade and informal transport, 90 per cent or more of workers are informally employed (**table 4**).

In all groups except transport, women have higher rates of informality than men. Nearly all women and men in domestic work, home-based work and street vending are informal, with higher rates for women than for men. In Dakar, for example, 98 per cent of women and 91 per cent of men domestic workers are informal. Among market traders, from 83 to 90 per cent of women and from 74 to 79 per cent of men are informally employed across the geographic areas. However, in transport, women are less likely to be informal than men – in Dakar, for example, 55 per cent of women are informal compared to 73 per cent of men; in urban Senegal, 58 per cent of women to 80 per cent of men; and in Senegal nationally, 65 per cent of women to 83 per cent of men.

**Table 4 Groups of workers by sex and whether informally employed: Dakar, urban Senegal and Senegal nationally**

	Women	Men	Total
<b>Dakar</b>			
Domestic workers	97.9	90.9	96.1
Home-based workers	99.2	97.7	98.8
Market traders	82.8	73.5	75.7
Street vendors	99.5	93.9	97.0
Transport workers*	54.9	72.6	71.4
<b>Urban Senegal</b>			
Domestic workers	96.5	91.6	95.2
Home-based workers	99.0	96.1	98.3
Market traders	87.8	77.2	80.3
Street vendors	98.4	92.1	95.4
Transport workers*	57.9	80.3	79.3
<b>Senegal</b>			
Domestic workers	96.5	92.8	95.4
Home-based workers	99.1	95.4	98.3
Market traders	90.4	79.1	82.8
Street vendors	98.6	92.2	95.5
Transport workers*	65.4	82.6	82.0

\* Unlike in the other tables, total employment in the transport sector was used to estimate the percentage informal.



A waste picker working at the Mbeubeuss dumpsite.  
Photo by Marta Moreiras.

## Home-based Workers by Industry

Among home-based workers, wholesale and retail trade is the most prevalent industry for women and of greater importance in Dakar than in other geographic areas.

Among home-based workers, the majority of women are in wholesale and retail trade, followed by other goods and services (**table 5**). The majority of men home-based workers are in other goods and services, followed by manufacturing (which includes a wide range of goods production, including food and beverages, textiles and apparel, wood products, chemicals, metals, equipment and machinery). The importance of wholesale and retail trade is greater in Dakar for women than in other areas (60 per cent of women's employment in Dakar, 51 per cent in urban Senegal, and 47 per cent nationally), while the percentage in other goods and services is lower in Dakar (20 per cent) than nationally (30 per cent). Among men home-based workers, 60 per cent are in other goods and services in Dakar, 54 per cent in urban Senegal, and 50 per cent nationally. Across geographic areas, about one-quarter of men and 16–17 per cent of women home-based workers are in manufacturing.

**Table 5. Industry of home-based workers in Dakar, urban Senegal and Senegal nationally by sex (per cent distribution)**

	Women	Men	Total
<b>Dakar</b>			
Wholesale and retail trade	59.3	14.6	48.1
Manufacturing activities	15.5	24.9	17.8
Accommodation, food/catering	5.6	-	4.2
Other goods and services	19.7	60.5	29.9
<b>Urban Senegal</b>			
Wholesale and retail trade	50.7	18.8	45.3
Manufacturing activities	16.1	26.9	18.0
Accommodation, food/catering	6.6	0.04	5.5
Other goods and services	26.6	54.2	31.3
<b>Senegal</b>			
Wholesale and retail trade	46.5	22.4	42.3
Manufacturing activities	17.2	27.1	18.9
Accommodation, food/catering	6.4	0.3	5.4
Other goods and services	29.9	50.2	33.4

## Status in Employment

**In Dakar in all five groups, workers tend to be either employees or own-account self-employed workers (table 6). However, there may be some degree of misclassification of own-account workers.**

Home-based workers may be sub-contracted piece-rate workers, and domestic workers may be working through a service placement agency. Both types of working arrangements reflect dependency and these workers are likely to be classified as dependent contractors in the International Classification of Status in Employment-18 (ICSE-18). Among market traders and informal transport workers, apprentices are the third most common group. In urban Senegal and Senegal nationally, a substantial share of women and men – particularly in home-based work – report being contributing family workers.

Around 70 per cent of women domestic workers and 44 to 54 per cent of men domestic workers are employees across the geographic areas. In Dakar, almost all home-based workers are classified as own-account self-employed (96 per cent of women and 82 per cent of men), while around 3 per cent of women and 4 per cent of men are contributing family workers. In urban Senegal, just over 77 per cent of women and men in home-based work are reported as own-account and a relatively large number

as contributing family workers (20 per cent among women and 8 per cent among men). Nationally among home-based workers, 69 per cent of women and 75 per cent of men are own-account workers, and there is a high per cent of contributing family workers (29 per cent among women and 13 per cent among men).

Market traders are the only group that reflects all of the employment status categories. In Dakar, for example, large proportions are employees (43 per cent of women and 42 per cent of men) and own-account workers (43

per cent of women and 34 per cent of men). In addition, 3 per cent of women and 6 per cent of men are employers, 1-2 per cent of women and men are contributing family workers, and a relatively large per cent are apprentices (10 per cent for women and 15 per cent for men). Among market traders, apprentices are also common in the other geographic areas (10 per cent for women in both areas and about 20 per cent for men).

Among women street vendors in all geographic areas, around 90 per cent are own-account



*A market trader at the Marche de Diola Dakar. Photo credit: Olga Abizaid.*



self-employed, while around 5 per cent are contributing family workers. In urban Senegal, 11 per cent of women in street vending are apprentices, but the percentage is only 1 per cent in Dakar and in Senegal nationally. Among men street vendors, 85 per cent are

own-account self-employed in Dakar, and around 75 per cent in the other two geographic areas. In all areas, 2 per cent of men street vendors are employers, 3 to 6 per cent are contributing family workers and 3 to 7 per cent are apprentices.

**Table 6. Groups of workers by status in employment and sex in Dakar, urban Senegal and Senegal nationally (per cent)**

	Women					Men					Total				
	Employee	Employer	Contributing family worker	Own account	Apprentice	Employee	Employer	Contributing family worker	Own account	Apprentice	Employee	Employer	Contributing family worker	Own account	Apprentice
<b>Dakar</b>															
Domestic workers	69.6	-	-	30.4	-	52.5	-	-	47.5	-	65.3	-	-	34.7	-
Home-based workers	1.9	-	2.5	95.6	-	10.4	1.6	3.9	81.7	2.3	4.5	0.5	2.9	91.3	0.8
Market traders	43.2	3.0	1.0	42.9	9.9	42.4	6.0	2.0	34.3	15.4	42.6	5.3	1.7	36.3	14.1
Street vendors	3.4	-	4.1	91.5	1.1	5.9	1.8	3.4	85.4	3.4	4.5	0.8	3.8	88.8	2.1
Informal transport workers	81.9	-	-	-	18.1	61.7	-	-	27.0	11.2	62.8	-	-	25.7	11.6
<b>Urban Senegal</b>															
Domestic workers	69.6		0.8	29.6		53.9	1.3	0.1	44.5	0.3	65.4	0.3	0.6	33.6	0.1
Home-based workers	1.9	0.4	19.6	77.9	0.1	10.4	2.2	8.1	77.4	1.9	3.8	0.8	17.0	77.8	0.5
Market traders	29.8	1.8	2.1	56.3	10.0	35.4	5.1	2.4	37.3	19.8	33.7	4.2	2.3	42.9	16.9
Street vendors	4.0	0.1	4.6	89.7	1.6	11.2	2.0	4.8	74.9	7.1	7.4	1.0	4.7	82.7	4.2
Informal transport workers	85.7	-	0.8	-	13.5	52.7	0.2	1.1	32.9	13.2	53.7	0.2	1.1	31.8	13.2
<b>Senegal nationally</b>															
Domestic workers	66.3	0.1	1.7	31.8	-	43.6	1.7	0.1	54.1	0.6	59.6	0.6	1.3	38.4	0.2
Home-based workers	1.7	0.4	28.7	69.0	0.2	7.9	1.5	13.0	75.1	2.6	3.1	0.7	25.2	70.4	0.7
Market traders	23.1	1.3	2.4	63.7	9.5	32.0	4.3	2.5	40.4	20.7	29.1	3.3	2.5	48.0	17.1
Street vendors	3.7	0.1	5.4	89.4	1.4	11.1	1.5	6.3	74.1	6.9	7.3	0.8	5.8	82.0	4.1
Informal transport workers	80.9	-	2.5	6.9	9.6	45.9	0.3	2.1	37.0	14.6	46.9	0.3	2.1	36.2	14.5

## Education

Education, as measured by the highest level of schooling attended, is quite low among these groups of workers. This is especially true for women.

A greater share of women than men have no formal education, within each worker group. For example, in Dakar, 47 per cent of women street vendors have no schooling, compared to 15 per cent of men (**table 7**). Similarly, among women in Dakar, 40 per cent of domestic workers, 45 per cent of home-based workers, and 32 per cent of market traders have no schooling, compared to less than 15 per cent of men in these groups. It is not common for women to have attended secondary school.

Women market traders in all three geographic regions have the highest per cent of secondary school attendance – 27 per cent in Dakar, 21 per cent in urban Senegal, and 17 per cent nationally. For all other groups, less than 15 per cent of women have attended secondary school at the national level, the per cent of women (as well as men) with no education increase, but substantial gender disparities persist. Among men, about a third of domestic and home-based workers in Dakar, and about 20 per cent nationally, have completed secondary schooling. Across all groups, the shares of women and men with completion of tertiary schooling is generally less than 5 per cent.



A street vendor in Dakar. Photo credit: Dean Saffron.

Table 7. Groups of workers by highest level of education and sex in Dakar, urban Senegal and Senegal nationally (per cent)<sup>(1)</sup>

	Women					Men					Total				
	None	Koranic (Islamic)	Primary*	Secondary*	Tertiary*	None	Koranic (Islamic)	Primary*	Secondary*	Tertiary*	None	Koranic (Islamic)	Primary*	Secondary*	Tertiary*
<b>Dakar</b>															
Domestic workers	40.3	16.0	28.9	13.6	1.2	12.5	13.4	35.2	33.9	5.0	33.3	15.4	30.5	18.7	2.2
Home-based workers	45.3	12.0	29.4	11.8	1.5	11.6	29.4	21.2	30.9	6.8	34.8	17.4	26.9	17.8	3.1
Market traders	31.8	6.9	29.1	27.0	5.2	11.6	24.0	32.7	24.7	7.0	16.5	19.9	31.8	25.2	6.6
Street vendors	46.7	10.6	28.7	12.9	1.1	15.1	35.5	27.6	18.9	2.9	32.7	21.6	28.3	15.6	1.9
Informal transport workers	-	-	100.0	-	-	19.2	10.3	42.6	27.0	0.9	18.3	9.8	45.5	25.7	0.8
<b>Urban Senegal</b>															
Domestic workers	43.4	15.7	25.5	14.5	0.9	16.7	18.6	33.8	27.0	3.9	36.3	16.4	27.8	17.8	1.7
Home-based workers	47.5	17.2	21.9	12.4	0.9	17.8	34.1	19.3	24.8	4.0	40.8	21.0	21.3	15.2	1.6
Market traders	39.7	12.6	23.1	21.5	3.1	14.6	28.2	30.2	22.0	5.0	22.0	23.6	28.1	21.9	4.4
Street vendors	49.0	14.5	23.7	11.9	0.9	22.9	36.5	21.8	16.0	2.7	36.8	24.8	22.8	13.8	1.8
Informal transport workers	6.7	7.1	84.9	1.3	-	18.7	26.6	31.2	23.0	0.4	18.4	26.0	32.8	22.4	0.4
<b>Senegal nationally</b>															
Domestic workers	46.7	15.6	23.2	13.7	0.8	20.6	24.5	30.1	21.7	3.1	39.0	18.2	25.2	16.1	1.5
Home-based workers	53.3	18.9	17.7	9.5	0.6	22.8	41.1	15.0	18.4	2.8	46.5	23.8	17.1	11.5	1.1
Market traders	47.6	15.4	18.1	16.6	2.3	15.8	33.3	26.9	19.9	4.1	26.2	27.4	24.0	18.8	3.5
Street vendors	52.5	15.4	20.7	10.7	0.7	26.0	39.8	19.4	12.8	2.0	39.8	27.1	20.1	11.7	1.3
Informal transport workers	15.4	13.5	66.9	4.2		20.6	33.1	26.1	19.7	0.5	20.5	32.6	27.2	19.3	0.4

<sup>(1)</sup> Cells are shaded green for those with shares 20 per cent or greater.

Koranic schools, which are informal Islamic schools, are an alternative that many seek, based on cultural and other factors, given the absence of religious teaching in state schools. For some workers among the six groups, a substantial

share of women – and a larger share of men – across worker groups have only achieved education levels in Koranic schools: nationally, about 14–18 per cent of women and 25–40 per cent of men fall in this category. Men who are

street vendors and home-based workers are, in particular, more likely than other groups to have only Koranic education: 30–35 per cent in Dakar, 34–37 per cent in urban Senegal, and about 40 per cent nationally.

## Age

Across the geographic areas, 27–30 per cent of women domestic workers are in the young ages of 15-24. Among men, employment in this age group is highest among market traders (22–26 per cent) and in street vending (15–19 per cent).

While the vast majority of workers are in the peak employment ages of 25-54, there are important age differences among women and men workers in the groups (**table 8**). Many women domestic workers are young. In Dakar, 27 per cent of women in domestic work and around 30 per cent in urban Senegal and nationally are ages 15-24. A substantial per cent of women market traders (14 per cent across the three areas) and home based workers (15 per cent nationally, 11 per cent in urban Senegal but less in Dakar at 4 per cent) are also in this age group. Among men, employment at ages 15-24 is highest for market traders – around 22–26 per cent across the geographic areas. It is also relatively high at ages 15-24 for men in street vending (15–19 per cent) across the areas.

Among those aged 55 and older, the highest percentages of workers are in home-based work (16–19 per cent for women across the areas, and 16–22 per cent for men). Among street vendors, around 14 per cent of women and 11

per cent of men are ages 55 and above. Among those ages 55 and over, a higher percentage of men than women are in domestic work (8–14 per cent for men across areas, and around 4 per cent for women).

**Table 8. Groups of workers by age and sex in Dakar, urban Senegal and Senegal nationally (per cent distribution)**

	Women					Men				
	15-24	25-34	35-54	55-64	65+	15-24	25-34	35-54	55-64	65+
<b>Dakar</b>										
Domestic workers	26.9	35.2	33.4	3.9	0.6	6.0	39.2	46.8	3.7	4.3
Home-based workers	4.2	19.3	58.4	13.9	4.1	13.6	27.8	42.9	14.5	1.1
Market traders	14.2	30.4	45.5	5.7	4.3	21.8	31.3	38.1	6.1	2.8
Street vendors	8.7	20.9	56.2	11.7	2.4	14.9	32.2	42.0	8.8	2.2
Informal transport workers	-	65.6	34.4	-	-	15.1	38.6	40.6	5.0	0.8
<b>Urban Senegal</b>										
Domestic workers	29.6	32.9	33.1	3.5	0.8	6.3	36.1	46.3	5.5	5.7
Home-based workers	11.4	25.0	45.8	12.1	5.7	12.9	26.4	39.5	15.1	6.1
Market traders	13.5	27.9	44.2	9.9	4.5	24.8	29.9	36.2	6.5	2.7
Street vendors	8.8	23.6	52.8	11.6	3.1	18.1	29.7	40.7	8.6	2.9
Informal transport workers	4.7	61.1	33.4	0.8	-	19.4	36.7	36.7	5.6	1.6
<b>Senegal nationally</b>										
Domestic workers	31.4	31.4	32.5	4.0	0.8	5.8	35.8	44.0	9.1	5.3
Home-based workers	14.7	26.0	43.0	11.1	5.2	15.3	24.0	38.3	14.9	7.5
Market traders	14.0	26.2	44.5	11.1	4.2	25.7	28.4	36.3	7.0	2.7
Street vendors	9.6	24.3	52.1	10.4	3.6	19.0	29.6	39.7	8.8	2.9
Informal transport workers	10.8	45.6	36.5	7.2	-	22.0	34.3	37.1	5.3	1.3

## Hours Worked

The majority of men and women in these groups work more than 40 hours a week.

Higher shares of men work longer work weeks than women (**table 9**). This pattern occurs in each geographic area. The highest percentages of women and men working longer work weeks are in Dakar, slightly lower percentages in urban Senegal and the lowest in Senegal nationally.

The exception to this pattern is informal transport workers. For this group, the majority of workers have an average work week of over 48 hours: 54 per cent in Dakar and 62–63 per cent in urban Senegal and nationally.

Table 9. Groups of workers by hours worked per week and sex in Dakar urban Senegal and Senegal nationally (per cent distribution)<sup>(1)</sup>

	Women					Men					Total				
	<15 hours	15-34 hours	35-39 hours	40-48 hours	>48 hours	<15 hours	15-34 hours	35-39 hours	40-48 hours	>48 hours	<15 hours	15-34 hours	35-39 hours	40-48 hours	>48 hours
<b>Dakar</b>															
Domestic workers	11.4	17.4	4.6	18.4	48.1	2.4	17.9	10.5	30.1	39.0	9.2	17.5	6.1	21.3	45.8
Home-based workers	8.6	26.1	7.0	15.8	42.4	5.2	15.9	-	14.4	64.5	7.6	23.0	4.9	15.4	49.2
Market traders	2.7	16.2	9.4	31.8	39.8	0.9	4.0	1.1	32.9	61.1	1.3	6.9	3.1	32.7	56.0
Street vendors	5.1	26.3	23.0	23.7	21.9	4.7	10.3	2.9	17.8	64.2	4.9	19.2	14.1	21.1	40.7
Informal transport workers	-	46.8	-	36.1	17.1	-	16.5	4.3	23.0	56.3	-	18.0	4.0	23.7	54.3
<b>Urban Senegal</b>															
Domestic workers	11.1	18.1	4.8	21.1	44.8	2.6	17.1	10.5	26.9	42.6	8.8	17.8	6.3	22.7	44.2
Home-based workers	11.4	28.2	10.1	13.6	36.6	9.6	17.0	2.5	15.1	55.5	11.0	25.6	8.4	13.9	40.9
Market traders	4.7	18.8	11.6	27.7	37.3	1.4	4.7	1.8	28.7	63.4	2.4	8.8	4.7	28.4	55.8
Street vendors	6.9	27.9	19.2	20.4	25.6	4.5	11.0	4.5	19.3	60.6	5.8	20.0	12.3	19.9	42.1
Informal transport workers	3.7	40.3	-	33.6	22.5	1.0	13.1	4.0	18.2	63.7	1.1	13.9	3.9	18.7	62.4
<b>Senegal nationally</b>															
Domestic workers	11.1	20.0	5.1	22.2	41.6	4.0	17.8	10.4	27.1	40.5	9.0	19.4	6.6	23.6	41.3
Home-based workers	11.9	29.0	9.5	14.8	34.8	12.4	16.8	3.7	12.6	54.3	12.0	26.3	8.2	14.3	39.1
Market traders	7.6	21.3	12.5	25.3	33.2	2.0	5.8	2.5	29.4	60.3	3.8	10.9	5.8	28.1	51.4
Street vendors	8.4	31.0	18.2	18.6	23.8	6.3	13.4	5.8	17.1	57.3	7.4	22.5	12.2	17.9	39.9
Informal transport workers	4.8	41.1	1.8	33.2	19.0	2.1	10.6	4.3	18.7	64.4	2.1	11.4	4.2	19.1	63.2

<sup>(1)</sup> Cells are shaded green for those with shares 20 per cent or greater.

Among women, more than a 40-hour work week is the average for 50–60 per cent of home-based workers, 60–70 per cent of domestic workers and market traders, about 55 per cent of informal transport workers, and 45 per cent of street vendors. Among men, a work week longer than 40 hours is the average for 70–80 per cent of domestic workers, home-based workers, and street vendors, 80 per cent of transport workers, and 90 per cent of market traders.

Women in domestic work, home-based work and street vending are more likely than men to work less than a 40-hour week. In all geographic areas, about 30 to 55 per cent of women in these groups work a shorter work week, compared to about 20 to 30 per cent of men. Market traders are the least likely of the groups to work fewer hours, especially among men: only 6 per cent of men in Dakar, 8 per cent in urban Senegal and 10 per cent nationally, compared to 28 to 42 per cent of women across the geographic areas.

## Regularity of Payment

**Only 9 per cent of employees across the five worker groups reported receiving a pay slip and thus a fixed or regular payment. However almost all domestic workers (97 per cent of women and 84 per cent of men) receive regular payments.**

The 2019 ENES included questions on earnings that were asked only of employees. A high

percentage of employees across the six worker groups (close to 60 per cent) did not report earnings. However, nearly all employees answered the question on the regularity of payment (whether fixed, such as weekly or quarterly, as opposed to whether their payments were variable or non-uniform) (**table 10**).

Domestic workers – both women and men – are the most likely group of workers to receive regular payments. Almost all domestic workers (97 per cent of women, 84 per cent of men) who responded in Dakar receive regular payments. This was true for a high proportion in the other areas as well: 92 per cent of women and 82 per

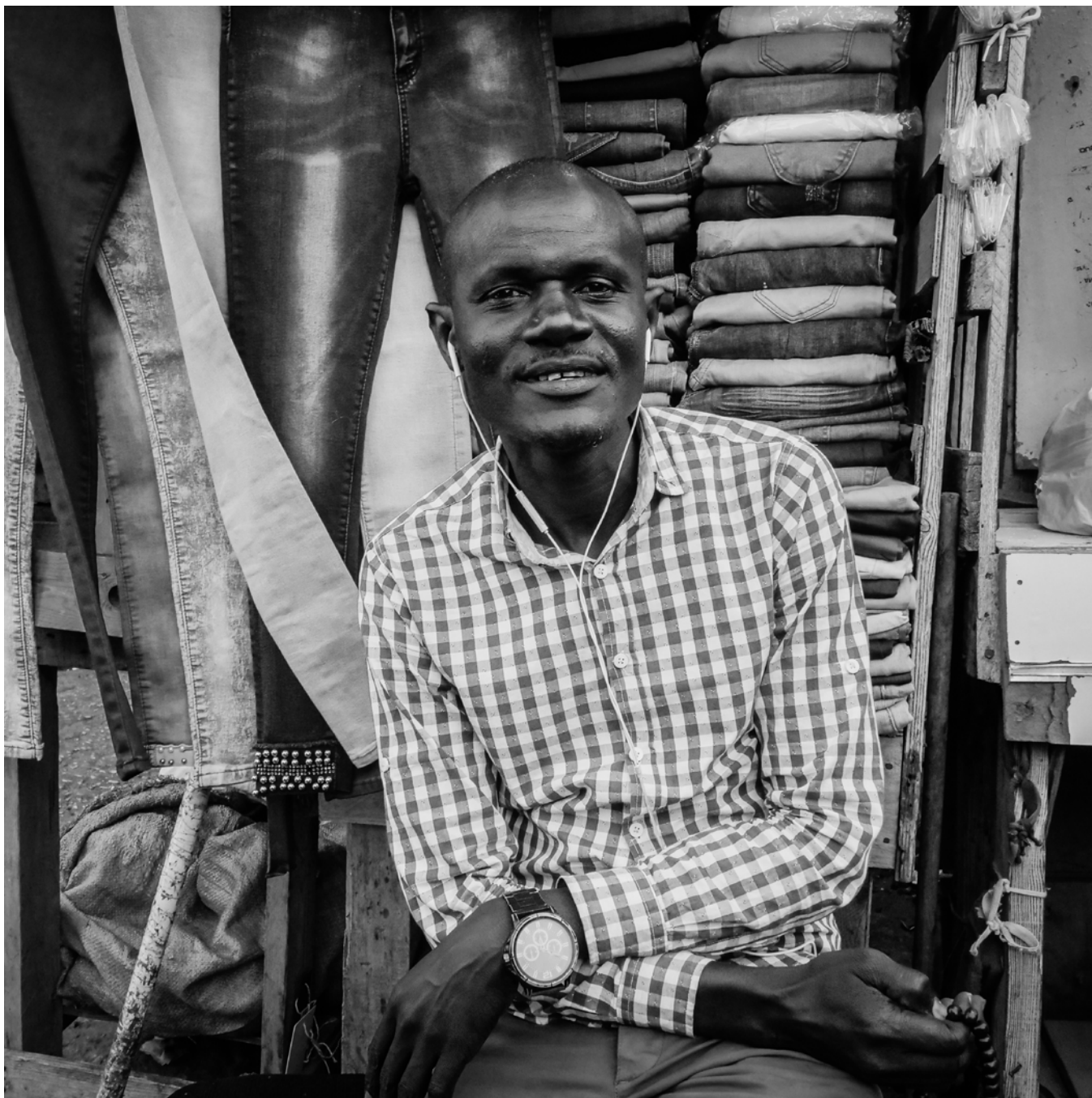
**Table 10. Employees in groups of workers by regularity of payment and sex: Dakar, urban Senegal and Senegal nationally (per cent)**

	Women		Men		Total	
	Fixed frequency	Variable/non-uniform	Fixed frequency	Variable/non-uniform	Fixed frequency	Variable/non-uniform
<b>Dakar</b>						
Domestic workers	97.1	2.9	84.2	15.8	94.5	5.5
Home-based workers	34.1	65.9	40.8	59.2	39.1	60.9
Market traders	69.1	30.9	59.6	40.4	61.8	38.2
Street vendors	45.5	54.5	23.0	77.0	31.4	68.6
Informal transport workers	70.5	29.5	54.6	45.4	55.7	44.3
<b>Urban Senegal</b>						
Domestic workers	92.1	7.9	82.3	17.7	90.0	10.0
Home-based workers	40.4	59.6	34.1	65.9	36.4	63.6
Market traders	59.7	40.3	49.5	50.5	51.8	48.2
Street vendors	43.3	56.7	23.0	77.0	28.2	71.8
Informal transport workers	60.5	39.5	45.5	54.5	46.2	53.8
<b>Senegal nationally</b>						
Domestic workers	90.8	9.2	80.8	19.2	88.7	11.3
Home-based workers	34.6	65.4	26.0	74.0	29.4	70.6
Market traders	54.5	45.5	46.6	53.4	48.4	51.6
Street vendors	47.9	52.1	28.2	71.8	32.8	67.2
Informal transport workers	66.4	33.6	42.3	57.7	43.3	56.7

cent of men in urban Senegal and 91 per cent of women and 81 per cent in Senegal nationally. Market traders are the next highest group to receive a regular payment, though it is a much lower percentage than among domestic workers: in Dakar, 69 per cent of women and 60 per cent of men; in urban Senegal 60 per cent of women and 50 per cent of men; and in Senegal nationally, 55 per cent of women and 47 per cent of men.

Among home-based workers, street vendors and informal transport workers, there are large differences between women and men in receipt of regular pay, with women much more likely than men to be paid on a fixed schedule in all three geographic areas. Home-based workers in Dakar are the exception: 34 per cent of women and 41 per cent of men receive regular payments. However in the other geographic areas, women are more likely to receive regular payments than men: in urban Senegal 43 per cent of women in contrast to 23 per cent of men in home-based work, and in Senegal nationally 35 per cent of women in comparison to 26 per cent of men. Among street vendors, 43–48 per cent of women receive regular pay compared to 23–28 per cent of men across areas.

The results underscore the vulnerabilities faced by the majority of workers across these different groups of workers, which are related to the informality of their work.



*A street vendor in Dakar. Photo credit: Dean Saffron.*



The brief was prepared with the guidance of an advisory group comprised of the authors and François Roubaud and Mireille Razafindrakoto of The French Research Institute for Development (IRD-DIAL) and the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ); and Gayatri Koolwal, Françoise Carré and Joann Vanek of the WIEGO Statistics Programme.

### **Author**

**Gayatri Koolwal** is a member of the Statistics Programme Team for WIEGO and an international consultant in economic development.

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