

Domestic Workers in the World: A Statistical Profile

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Globally, there are almost 76 million domestic workers, and 76 per cent of them are women.¹

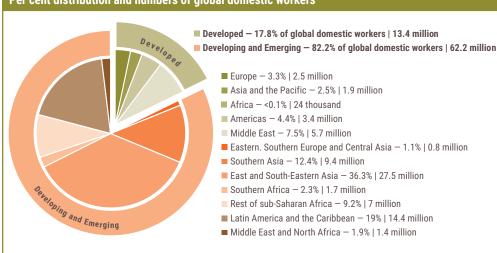
Globally there are 75.6 million domestic workers aged 15 years and above (**table 1**). The reference or benchmark year for these estimates and all of the data in this brief is 2019 (see Box 1). The overwhelming majority (82 per cent) of domestic workers are in developing and emerging countries, while the number in developed countries is a substantial 13.4 million (**figure 1**). Over half (55 per cent) of the world's domestic workers are in two regions: East and South-eastern Asia has the highest share at 36 per cent, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean at 19 per cent.

Although there are large differences in the numbers of domestic workers across regions, the share of domestic workers in total employment is from 1 to 2 per cent almost everywhere (**table 1**). The exceptions where domestic workers comprise a larger share of total employment are: the developed countries of the Middle East at 20 per





Figure 1: Domestic workers by country income groups and geographic region: Per cent distribution and numbers of global domestic workers



¹ For a more comprehensive discussion of domestic work, see ILO, 2021, "Making decent work a reality for domestic workers: Progress and prospects ten years after the adoption of the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189)". https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS 802551/lang--en/index.htm

Table 1. Domestic workers by country income group, geographic region and sex: Numbers in thousands and per cent of total employment (in parentheses)								
	To	tal	Now	nen	Me	en		
	Number (thousands)	Per cent	Number (thousands)	Per cent	Number (thousands)	Per cent		
Developed	13 430	(2.2)	8 614	(3.3)	4 816	(1.4)		
Developed (except Middle East) (1)	7 754	(1.4)	6 596	(2.5)	1 158	(0.4)		
Europe	2 490	(1.0)	2 211	(2.0)	279	(0.2)		
Asia and the Pacific	1 885	(1.4)	1 708	(3.0)	177	(0.2)		
Africa	24	(4.3)	20	(9.3)	4	(1.2)		
Americas	3 354	(1.7)	2 656	(3.0)	698	(0.7)		
Middle East	5 676	(20.1)	2 018	(47.0)	3 658	(15.3)		
Developing and Emerging	62 200	(2.3)	49 042	(4.8)	13 157	(0.8)		
Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia	832	(0.5)	597	(0.8)	234	(0.2)		
Asia and the Pacific	36 858	(2.1)	28 554	(4.5)	8 304	(0.7)		
Southern Asia	9 376	(1.4)	5 342	(3.6)	4 034	(0.8)		
East and South-Eastern Asia	27 482	(2.5)	23 212	(4.8)	4 270	(0.7)		
East and South-Eastern Asia (excluding China)	5 043	(1.5)	4 052	(2.8)	991	(0.5)		
Sub-Saharan Africa	8 702	(2.2)	6 099	(3.3)	2 603	(1.2)		
Southern Africa	1 709	(8.8)	1 281	(14.9)	428	(4.0)		
Rest of sub-Saharan Africa	6 993	(1.9)	4 818	(2.8)	2 174	(1.1)		
Latin America and the Caribbean	14 364	(5.2)	13 108	(11.6)	1 256	(0.8)		
Middle East and North Africa	1 443	(1.6)	684	(4.1)	760	(1.0)		
Total	75 630	(2.3)	57 656	(4.5)	17 973	(0.9)		

⁽¹⁾ Because the countries of the Middle East are so different than other developed countries with information, a separate average excluding the Middle East is shown for the developed countries.

cent of total employment; Southern Africa at 9 per cent of total employment; and Latin America and the Caribbean at 5 per cent of total employment. Globally, domestic work is 4 per cent of women's employment and 1 per cent of men's. In the developed countries of the Middle East,

almost half (47 per cent) of employed women are domestic workers, in comparison to 15 per cent of employed men.

Box 1: Estimating the World's Domestic Workers

The data in this brief are based on 155 countries and territories, including 145 countries in the ILOSTAT Database that provide the information required to apply the common approach to identify domestic workers. For an additional 10 countries, for which labour force survey data were not available, data from secondary sources were used. All tables/graphs are for the 155 countries unless otherwise indicated.

The current estimates have a benchmark year of 2019 and input data range from 2009 to 2019, with 67 per cent of the countries referring to 2018 or 2019. In preparing the estimates, the proportion of domestic workers in total employment as estimated for the latest available year is applied to the absolute number of persons in employment in 2019. Benchmark employment data from 2019 are derived from the ILO modeled estimates.

Annex I contains the countries classified by geographic regions and country income groups; the specific surveys are in Annex II. All country data refer to ages 15 and above.

ILO's identification of domestic workers in national labour force surveys follows the statistical definition of domestic workers in the Resolution

concerning statistics on work relationships adopted at the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Domestic workers are defined as: "workers of any sex employed for pay or profit, including in-kind payment, who perform work in or for a household or households to provide services mainly for consumption by the household. The work may be performed within the household premises or in other locations" (ILO 2018b, para. 104). Based on the statistical definition of domestic work and domestic workers, the ICLS established the following categories of domestic workers in employment:

- (a) **Domestic employees:** all workers engaged directly as employees of households to provide services mainly for consumption by the household members, irrespective of the nature of the services provided including:
 - (i) live-in domestic employees;
 - (ii) live-out domestic employees.
- (b) **Domestic workers employed by service providers:** employees engaged by economic units such as agencies that provide domestic services to households.
- (c) **Domestic service providers employed for profit:** domestic service providers employed for profit to provide domestic services to private households as independent workers or dependent contractors.

For the purpose of estimating the total number of domestic workers, a multi-step set of approaches was adopted:

- 1. the approach based on the industry classification;
- 2. the approach based on status in employment;
- 3. the approach based on the relationship to the head of the household, allowing for the identification of live-in domestic workers; and
- 4. the occupation-based or task-based approach, in combination with information on the place of work.

Each step captures domestic workers not yet identified in the previous steps.

The first three approaches (1–3) identify domestic workers who are directly employed by households, while the additional domestic workers identified through the task-based approach (4) are considered to be domestic workers employed by or through service providers. A rough approximation of the number of domestic workers employed by entities other than households is therefore the subtraction of the number of domestic workers directly employed by the household (approaches 1, 2 and 3) from the total number of domestic workers.

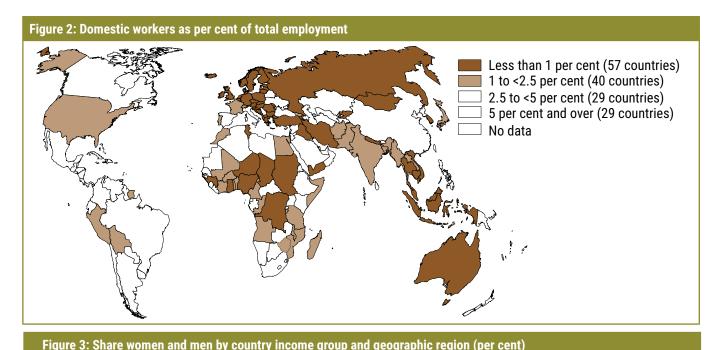
Front page photos clockwise from the top left:

- 1. A domestic worker in Johannesburg, South Africa. Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik/Getty Images Reportage.
- 2. A domestic worker in Kathmandu, Nepal. Photo by Ray Suk Maya.
- 3. A domestic worker in Lima, Peru. Photo by Juan Arredondo/Getty Images Reportage.
- 4. A domestic worker in Brisa del Este, Santo Domingo. Photo by Wendy Gonzalez.

In a little over half (97) of the 155 countries with data, domestic work accounts for less than 2.5 per cent of total employment (**figure 2**). In 29 countries, domestic work accounts for 2.5 to less than 5 per cent of total employment; and in another 29 countries, it accounts for 5 per cent or more of total employment.

Globally, 76 per cent of domestic workers are women (**figure 3**). Women comprise a higher share of domestic workers (85 per cent) in developed countries, excluding the developed countries of the Middle East, than in developing and emerging countries (79 per cent).

Women account for a higher share than men in all regions except the Middle East and North Africa. In the developed countries of the Middle East, only 36 per cent of domestic workers are women; in the emerging and developing countries of the Middle East and North Africa, 47 per cent are women. Women's share is highest in the developed countries of Asia and the Pacific and in the developing and emerging countries of Latin America—91 per cent in both regions.



			■ Women	□Men		
World	76					24
Developed	64					36
Developed (except Middle East)	85					15
Europe	89					11
Asia and the Pacific	91					9
Africa	83					17
Americas	79					21
Middle East	36					64
Developing and Emerging	79					21
Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia	72					28
Asia and the Pacific	77					23
Sub-Saharan Africa	70					30
Latin America and the Caribbean	91					9
Middle East and North Africa	47					53
()	20%	40% Distribution do	60% mestic worker	80%	100

Informal Employment

Around 80 per cent of domestic workers are informal; 79 per cent of women domestic workers and 87 per cent of men are informal.

Around 80 per cent of domestic workers are informal.² A larger proportion of men domestic workers than women are informal: 87 per cent of men domestic workers in comparison to 79 per cent of women (table 2). Additional tabulations show the share of informal employment among domestic workers is twice the share of informal employment of non-domestic employees (40 per cent). A larger percentage of domestic workers in developing and emerging countries are informal than in developed countries: 85 per cent in comparison to 62 per cent, respectively. However, when the Middle East countries are excluded, the developed country average is only 34 per cent. There is substantial variation in rates of informality across the geographic regions. In the developed region, informality ranged from 7 per cent in the developed countries of Asia and the Pacific to 99 per cent in the countries of the Middle East. Among developing and emerging countries, over 96 per cent of domestic workers were informal in Southern Asia, while 74 per cent were informal in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Table 2. Domestic workers who are informally employed by country income groups, geographic regions and sex: Per cent								
	Total	Women	Men					
Developed	62	51	81					
Developed (except Middle East)	34	36	25					
Europe	63	64	56					
Asia and the Pacific	7	8	2					
Africa	81	82	76					
Americas	29	31	19					
Middle East	99	99	99					
Developing and Emerging	85	85	89					
Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia	74	69	88					
Asia and the Pacific	88	88	89					
Southern Asia	96	99	93					
East and South-Eastern Asia	85	85	86					
East and South-Eastern Asia (excluding China)	86	86	87					
Sub-Saharan Africa	93	92	94					
Southern Africa	82	80	89					
Rest of sub-Saharan Africa	95	95	95					
Latin America and the Caribbean	74	74	68					
Middle East and North Africa	95	94	97					
World	81	79	87					

In both developed and the developing and emerging country groups, a higher percentage of men than women domestic workers are informally employed. The largest difference is in developed countries (81 per cent of men and to 51 per cent women) in comparison

to 89 per cent of men and 85 per cent of women in emerging and developing countries. This is largely because the majority of men domestic workers are in the two regions where informality among domestic workers is the highest: the Middle East and North Africa and

² Most domestic workers are employees. Employees are considered informally employed if their employer does not contribute to social security on their behalf or if they do not benefit from paid annual leave or sick leave. Domestic workers who are statistically classified as independent workers are in informal employment if their activity (economic unit) is a non-incorporated private enterprise without a formal bookkeeping system or is not registered with relevant national authorities.

Asia and the Pacific. Thus, when the countries of the Middle East are excluded from the developed region average, a higher percentage of women than men in domestic work are informally employed (36 per cent for women in comparison to 25 per cent for men). In two of the regions under the emerging and developing country group, men domestic workers are more likely than women to be informally employed. In Eastern and Southern Europe and Central Asia, 88 per cent of men and 69 per cent of women domestic workers are informally employed and in Southern Africa 89 per cent of men and 80 per cent of women. However in two other regions, women domestic workers have higher rates of informality than men: in Southern Asia, 99 per cent of women domestic workers in comparison to 93 per cent of men; in Latin America and the Caribbean, 74 per cent of women domestic workers in comparison to 68 per cent of men. In the other regions, the rates of informality for women and men are fairly similar.

Specific Occupational Categories

The overwhelming majority of women in domestic work (around 80 per cent) are engaged as cleaners and helpers while men in domestic work are engaged in a wider range of activities.

Across the 32 countries with available data in **Table 3**, the overwhelming majority of women in domestic work (around 80 per cent) are engaged as cleaners and helpers. Men in

domestic work are engaged in a wider range of activities: around one third report the broad category: security guards, gardeners and building maintenance; around one quarter are cleaners and helpers, and a little less than one quarter are drivers.

In only a few countries, work in cleaning and helping accounts for less than 80 per cent of what women domestic workers do. The countries where cleaning and helping among women domestic workers is not so prominent fall into two categories. In some countries (Brazil, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Serbia and the United States) relatively large percentages of women are engaged in direct care—ranging from 43 per cent of women in domestic work in Serbia to 14 per cent in Ecuador.

A very small percentage of men are engaged in direct care. The United States is the exception, with 16 per cent of men in domestic work and 20 per cent of women providing direct care.

Hours worked

Domestic workers tend to be overrepresented among those who work more or less than 35 to 48 hours per week, which is considered the normal or standard work week.

Domestic workers tend to be over-represented among all workers who put in both shorter and longer hours per week than the 35 to 48 hour

range considered as the normal or standard work week. Globally among women, 39 per cent of domestic workers compared to 58 per cent of non-domestic employees work the standard range of hours; among men, 31 per cent of domestic workers in comparison to 52 per cent of non-domestic employees (**table 4**). The same pattern is shown in each country income group.

Domestic workers are more likely than non-domestic employees to have longer hours in each country income group and especially in developing and emerging countries. For example, in emerging countries among women, 35 per cent of domestic workers and only 30 per cent of non-domestic employees work longer than 48 hours a week; among men, 57 per cent of those in domestic work in comparison to 44 per cent of non-domestic employees work these longer hours. Another section of the brief will analyze long hours of work among live-in and live-out domestic workers.

Domestic workers, especially women, are also more likely than other workers to work fewer hours per week. Among women in developed countries, 48 per cent of domestic workers and 34 per cent of non-domestic employees work less than 35 hours a week; among men, 25 per cent of domestic workers and 17 per cent of non-domestic employees work these lesser hours. Additional tabulations show that countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe and Central Asia, domestic workers have fewer hours than non-domestic employees, and that the difference

Table 3. Occupational distribution of domestic workers by country income groups, geographic regions and sex: per cent, latest available year (1)										
	Cleaners a	nd helpers	Direct	care ⁽²⁾	Driv	vers	Co	oks		ds, gardeners, aintenance
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Simple average (32 countries)(3)	81	26	7	2	<1	23	3	3	4	31
Developed										
Brunei Darussalam	100	25	<1	<1	<1	62	<1	<1	<1	<1
Saudi Arabia	88	21	<1	<1	9	76	1	2	1	2
United Arab Emirates	94	27	3	<1	0	47	1	12	1	9
United States	78	76	21	16	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	2
Developing and Emerging										
Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia (emerging)										
Serbia	53	29	43	4	0	5	1	4	2	21
Asia and the Pacific										
Bangladesh	84	7	1	<1	1	55	5	8	4	23
Cambodia	41	6	3	1	1	36	12	12	16	15
India	85	28	5	2	0	23	1	1	1	6
Lao People's Democratic Republic	94	4	<1	<1	1	78	5	2	1	16
Mongolia	45	10	21	<1	0	9	11	<1	<1	8
Myanmar	30	4	<1	<1	0	6	2	<1	46	67
Pakistan	87	24	4	1	0	16	1	11	<1	41
Philippines	93	98	7	2	0	0	1	1	<1	<1
Sri Lanka	64	7	8	<1	<1	7	1	<1	16	31
Thailand	76	24	10	1	<1	52	8	7	2	15
Timor-Leste	76	6	<1	1	0	85	16	1	<1	5
Viet Nam	90	70	7	4	0	3	<1	<1	<1	3
Sub-Saharan Africa										
Lesotho	96	11	<1	<1	0	3	1	<1	1	80
Rwanda	89	69	<1	<1	0	3	6	7	3	19

Table 3 (Continued). Occupational distribution of domestic workers by country income groups, geographic regions and sex: per cent, latest available year (1)										
	Cleaners a	nd helpers	Direct	care ⁽²⁾	Drivers		Cooks		Security guards, gardeners, building maintenance	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
South Africa	97	18	2	<1	0	<1	<1	<1	1	81
Tanzania, United Republic of	82	33	8	3	<1	2	<1	<1	3	40
Togo	91	<1	<1	<1	0	19	<1	5	6	67
Uganda	82	12	1	3	0	7	<1	<1	7	52
Latin America and the Caribbean										
Brazil	77	60	20	6	<1	8	2	1	<1	24
Dominican Republic	76	6	15	2	0	29	9	13	<1	31
Ecuador	84	28	14	4	0	20	2	1	<1	45
El Salvador	90	10	6	<1	<1	26	1	<1	1	15
Honduras	90	31	8	0	0	5	<1	<1	1	49
Jamaica	76	5	22	2	0	0	<1	1	1	85
Peru	97	65	3	<1	0	11	<1	<1	<1	22
Middle East and North Africa										
Jordan	99	7	<1	<1	0	<1	<1	<1	<1	90
Lebanon	95	14	1	1	<1	53	1	2	<1	13

⁽¹⁾ The data do not add to 100 per cent for some countries due to non-response.

between domestic workers and non-domestic employees is even greater when the countries of the Middle East are excluded from the developed country average. The developing country group is an exception to this pattern. Among men, 26 per cent of domestic workers in comparison to 30 per cent of non-domestic employees have a shorter work week. Among women in developing countries, the two groups

have similar average work weeks: 42 per cent of domestic workers and 41 per cent of non-domestic employees have a shorter work week.

Earnings

Globally, the wages of domestic workers are only about 56 per cent of those of non-domestic employees,

with domestic workers in developing countries earning less than one-third of what non-domestic employees do. Women earn considerably less than men in each country income group.

Globally, domestic workers earn about 56 per cent of the wages of all non-domestic

⁽²⁾ Direct care refers to face-to-face personal care activities for children, the elderly or other family members.

⁽³⁾ Because data are available for only four developed countries and many more emerging and developing countries, the averages for all countries and emerging and developing countries are almost the same.

Table 4. Dor	Table 4. Domestic workers and non-domestic employees by hours worked per week, country income group and sex: Per cent distribution										
				Women					Men		
		<20h	20-34h	35-48h	49-60h	>60h	<20h	20-34h	35-48h	49-60h	>60h
Developed	Domestic workers	24	24	39	7	6	8	17	54	13	9
	Non-domestic employees	11	23	58	6	1	5	12	65	15	3
Emerging	Domestic workers	11	14	40	24	11	5	8	29	33	24
	Non-domestic employees	3	9	58	24	6	2	6	48	31	13
Developing	Domestic workers	28	14	19	15	24	14	12	26	21	27
	Non-domestic employees	20	21	38	13	9	15	15	38	17	16
World	Domestic workers	13	15	39	21	11	7	10	31	30	23
	Non-domestic employees	6	14	58	18	5	3	8	52	27	11

Table 5. Average monthly wages of domestic workers as a percentage of average monthly wages of all non-domestic employees by country income group and sex⁽¹⁾

	Domestic workers Total	Domestic workers Women	Domestic workers Men
Developed	53	49	67
Emerging	58	53	69
Developing	32	27	43
World	56	51	67

⁽¹⁾ Based on 104 countries

employees (**table 5**). Domestic workers in developed countries earn 53 per cent of the average wages of non-domestic employees. Their lower earnings may be related to their shorter working hours, since about half work less than 35 hours a week (**table 4**). By contrast, domestic workers in developing countries earn the least compared to non-domestic employees, but they tend to work longer hours on average.

There are also large differences between women and men. Women fare less well than men: women and men domestic workers earn 51 and 67 per cent, respectively, of what all non-domestic employees earn on average.

Women in the developing country group earn only a small proportion (27 per cent) of the non-domestic employees' earnings. Men in developing countries fare slightly better, earning 43 per cent. The relative earnings of



Myrtle Witbooi, President of the International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF). Photo by Kendra Hughes.

domestic workers, compared to non-domestic employees, are somewhat higher in the emerging region: 53 per cent for women and 69 per cent for men. In developed countries, women's earnings average 49 per cent of what non-domestic employees earn, while men earn 67 per cent.

Live-in and Live-out Arrangement and Hours of Work

Live-in domestic workers are twice as likely as live-out domestic workers to work more than 48 hours per week.

In the subset of countries with data on living arrangements of domestic workers, live-in domestic workers are two times as likely as live-out domestic workers to work more than 48 hours per week: among women, 65 per cent of live-ins compared to 33 per cent of live-outs; and among men, 56 per cent of live-ins and 52 per cent of live-outs (**table 6**). Further, among women domestic workers, 70 per cent or more of live-ins work longer than a 48-hour week in 21 (of the 39) countries, while live-outs had long workweeks in only 2 countries; among men, live-ins had a long workweek in 12 of the 35 countries with data, and live-outs in 8 of the 39 countries.

A related question is whether the live-in/ live-out arrangement has a different effect on working a long workweek for women and for men. Among those who live in, a greater proportion of women than men work a long

Table 6. Percentage of live-in and live-out domestic workers working more than 48 hours/week by sex in selected countries ⁽¹⁾								
		ge live-in		Percentage domestic workers working more than 48h per week				
	domestic workers		Wo	men	Men			
	Women	Men	Live-in	Live-out	Live-in	Live-out		
Simple average (39 countries)	29	23	65	33	56	52		
Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia (emerging)								
Turkey	6	4	71	20	0	41		
Asia and the Pacific								
Bangladesh	11	3	81	31	76	77		
Cambodia	9	2	79	51	0	42		
India	5	14	99	35	90	83		
Indonesia	34	21	89	29	81	41		
Nepal	10	10	36	21	63	58		
Pakistan	2	27	100	12	92	70		
Philippines	27	15	81	42	77	38		
Sub-Saharan Africa								
Burkina Faso	39	11	68	45	93	68		
Burundi	76	78	81	76	78	71		
Cabo Verde	7	0	18	24	n/a ⁽²⁾	76		
Cameroon	9	19	79	47	61	60		
Chad	9	37	68	29	44	61		
Congo, DR.	10	14	48	34	51	49		
Côte d'Ivoire	60	16	65	45	0	49		
Eswatini	11	14	35	38	40	62		
Ethiopia	21	51	65	9	39	30		
Gambia	39	36	77	30	100	49		
Mali	68	37	72	20	46	71		
Mauritania	9	33	60	55	67	32		
Namibia	22	25	58	25	31	33		

Table 6 (Continued). Percentage of live-in and live-out domestic workers working more than 48 hours/week by sex in selected countries ⁽¹⁾							
		ge live-in c workers	Percentage domestic workers working more than 48h per week				
	domestic	workers	Wo	men	Men		
	Women	Men	Live-in	Live-out	Live-in	Live-out	
Rwanda	85	75	79	22	67	48	
Senegal	17	11	91	54	100	65	
Tanzania United Rep.	73	86	81	76	65	80	
Togo	56	13	73	34	61	60	
Uganda	66	80	75	49	49	63	
Latin America and the Caribbean							
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	8	2	53	16	0	20	
Chile	13	3	14	6	47	11	
Colombia	12	29	53	21	48	34	
Haiti	34	40	74	35	52	67	
Honduras	21	0	75	42	n/a ⁽²⁾	68	
Jamaica	13	2	64	15	39	12	
Panama	16	11	15	7	15	7	
Paraguay	8	2	36	20	72	40	
Peru	8	4	58	29	76	36	
Middle East and North Africa							
Jordan	91	0	88	63	n/a ⁽²⁾	89	
Tunisia	7	0	100	13	n/a ⁽²⁾	58	
United Arab Emirates	97	83	89	44	77	41	
Yemen	25	5	0	18	67	70	

 $^{^{(1)}}$ Only countries with over 5 per cent of total domestic workers who are live in are included.

workweek in 19 of the 32 countries where data are reported for both women and men. Among those who live out, a higher

proportion of men work a long workweek in 32 (of the 39) countries.



A domestic worker in Chile. Photo courtesy of IDWF.

⁽²⁾ Not ascertained as no men in the country were reported as live-in domestic workers.

Hiring Directly by Households or by/ through Service Providers

Around 27 per cent of domestic workers globally were hired by or through a service provider.

Domestic workers may be employed directly by households or indirectly by or through service providers, including agencies and platforms (**table 7**). Most domestic workers were hired directly by a household. Of the sub-set of countries with data, only around 27 per cent of domestic workers globally were hired indirectly by or through a service provider. The data available for the seven developed countries show large differences among the countries. European Commission data were used to supplement these data: the European Commission found that 70 per cent of domestic workers in Europe are employed by public or private organizations, while only 30 per cent are directly hired by households.3

In 12 of 61 countries, over half of domestic workers were hired indirectly through a service agency. The countries with large percentages of indirect hiring are diverse—from Niger, where 69 per cent of domestic workers are hired indirectly, to the United States at 57 per cent, to Timor-Leste at 88 per cent.

Table 7. Domestic workers hired by or through service providers by total, women, and men: Country income group, geographic region (per cent)

graphic region (per cent)				
	Percentage of women domestic workers hired indirectly ⁽¹⁾	Percentage of men domestic workers hired indirectly ⁽¹⁾	Percentage of all domestic workers hired indirectly ⁽¹⁾	
Simple average (all 61 countries)	25	27	27	
Developing and emerging (54 countries)	26	27	27	
Developing and emerging				
Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia (Emerging)				
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2019)	36	0	34	
Kyrgyzstan (2018)	71	50	66	
North Macedonia (2019)	79	51	77	
Serbia (2019)	30	14	28	
Asia and the Pacific				
Bangladesh (2017)	9	37	17	
Cambodia (2019)	39	50	43	
Iran, Islamic Republic of (2018)	22	67	49	
Kiribati (2015)	43	69	56	
Maldives (2016)	14	22	17	
Mongolia (2019)	54	0	38	
Myanmar (2019)	22	79	63	
Nepal (2017)	43	59	51	
Samoa (2017)	13	8	11	
Sri Lanka (2018)	16	26	23	
Thailand (2018)	22	61	34	
Timor-Leste (2013)	81	92	88	
Tonga (2018)	43	67	52	
Viet Nam (2018)	19	32	19	
Sub-Saharan Africa				
Botswana (2012)	46	22	39	

³ See European Commission. Personal and household services webpage: https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.isp?catId=1427&langId=en

Table 7 (Continued). Domestic workers hired by or through service providers by total, women, and men: Country income group, geographic region (per cent)

	Percentage of women domestic workers hired indirectly ⁽¹⁾	Percentage of men domestic workers hired indirectly ⁽¹⁾	Percentage of all domestic workers hired indirectly ⁽¹⁾
Burkina Faso (2018)	30	33	31
Cameroon (2014)	4	9	5
Comoros (2014)	31	9	27
Côte d'Ivoire (2017)	0	7	1
Eswatini (2016)	88	86	87
Ethiopia (2013)	3	5	4
Ghana (2015)	13	21	16
Guinea (2019)	21	0	20
Malawi (2013)	12	11	12
Mali (2018)	19	43	23
Namibia (2018)	13	11	12
Niger (2017)	83	33	69
Nigeria (2016)	19	19	19
Rwanda (2018)	1	2	1
Senegal (2015)	24	24	24
Sierra Leone (2014)	14	9	12
South Africa (2019)	2	2	2
Tanzania, United Republic of (2014)	5	1	4
Togo (2017)	32	79	41
Uganda (2017)	1	2	1
Zambia (2018)	25	24	25
Latin America and the Caribbean			
Argentina (2019)	5	19	6
Brazil (2019)	0	1	0
Dominican Republic (2019)	16	34	18

In Asia and the Pacific, men in domestic work are more likely to be hired indirectly than women; in the other regions, however, there is no regular pattern by sex.

Education

Around one-half of women and men domestic workers have a secondary level of education.

Globally, secondary is the highest level of education for around half of domestic workers (52 per cent of women and 51 per cent of men) compared to a somewhat lower per cent of women (48 per cent) and higher per cent of men (53 per cent) among the non-domestic employed (**table 8**). However in developing countries, domestic workers are much less likely to have secondary education (22 per cent of women and 29 per cent of men); and, among non-domestic employed, the percentages with secondary education are even lower (17 per cent for women and 27 per cent for men).

Domestic workers are much less likely to have tertiary education compared to the non-domestic employed in every country income group. Conversely, they are more likely to have primary education only compared to the non-domestic employed. A large share of domestic workers have no education. Globally, the percentage who have no education is higher among domestic workers in comparison to the non-domestic employed. However, in developing countries 55 per cent of women and 40 per cent of non-domestic employed

Table 7 (Continued). Domestic workers hired by or through service providers by total, women, and men: Country income group, geographic region (per cent)

	Percentage of women domestic workers hired indirectly ⁽¹⁾	Percentage of men domestic workers hired indirectly ⁽¹⁾	Percentage of all domestic workers hired indirectly ⁽¹⁾
Ecuador (2019)	18	49	21
El Salvador (2019)	2	12	3
Guyana (2018)	20	4	14
Honduras (2017)	7	0	6
Jamaica (2016)	2	5	3
Suriname (2016)	58	0	46
Middle East and North Africa			
Egypt (2018)	50	64	60
Iraq (2012)	34	5	9
Lebanon (2019)	1	3	1
Tunisia (2014)	18	100(2)	27
Yemen (2014)	8	0	1
Developed			
Brunei Darussalam (2019)	2	0	2
Cook Islands (2019)	25	28	26
Japan (2010)	10	18	11
Seychelles (2019)	69	36	61
United Arab Emirates (2018)	1	0	1
United States (2019)	56	66	57
Uruguay (2019)	10	39	15

⁽¹⁾ Hired indirectly means hired by or through service providers.

have no education in comparison to 43 per cent of women and 36 per cent of men domestic workers.

Among domestic workers, the differences in the educational levels across the country income groups are much greater than the

differences between women and men within each group. The developing countries are the exception where women domestic workers have less education than men: 43 per cent of women domestic workers have no education in comparison to 36 per cent of men and only 22 per cent of women have secondary education in comparison to 29 per cent of men.

Age

Half of women domestic workers are ages 15-24 in developing countries, compared to less than 10 per cent in developed countries.

Globally, the per cent distribution across the age categories for domestic workers and for the non-domestic employed are very similar (**table 9**). Only 12 per cent of women in both worker groups are ages 15-24, compared to 18 per cent of male domestic workers and 13 per cent of male non-domestic employed. For ages 55 and above, the percentages are also similar for the two worker groups: 15 per cent for women and men domestic workers in comparison to 13 per cent of women non-domestic employed and 15 and 16 per cent of men.

Further, the patterns for developed and emerging countries are similar. However developing countries show striking differences. Among the developing countries, a large share of domestic workers are young in ages: 15-24 (50 per cent of women and 44 per cent of men). This is a much larger proportion

⁽²⁾ The number of men in the Tunisia sample is extremely small and not representative of the situation of male domestic workers nationally.

than for the non-domestic employed (25 per cent for women and 22 per cent for men). It is also much larger than for domestic workers in emerging and developed countries. In emerging countries, among domestic workers

only 10 per cent of women and 15 per cent of men are ages 15 to 24, in comparison to 12 to 13 per cent for both women and men nondomestic employed. The proportions of young domestic workers is even lower for developed countries. By contrast, in developed countries, 55 per cent of women domestic workers and 45 per cent of non-domestic workers (women and men) are ages 45 or older.

Table 8. Dom	Table 8. Domestic workers and non-domestic employed by highest level of education, country income group and sex: Per cent distribution														
				Domestic	c workers		Non-domestic employed ⁽¹⁾								
		None	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Other	Total	None	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Other	Total		
Developed	Women	7	22	55	16	0	100	1	3	48	49	0	100		
	Men	11	21	41	27	0	100	1	6	54	39	0	100		
Emerging	Women	21	21	54	3	0	100	18	14	52	16	0	100		
	Men	21	18	56	4	0	100	17	16	55	13	0	100		
Developing	Women	43	32	22	1	2	100	55	21	17	4	2	100		
	Men	36	31	29	4	1	100	40	25	27	6	2	100		
World	Women	21	22	52	4	0	100	18	12	48	20	0	100		
	Men	22	20	51	6	0	100	16	15	53	16	0	100		

 $[\]ensuremath{^{(1)}}$ Includes all persons employed and not only employees.

Table 9. Domestic workers and non-domestic employed by age, country income groups and sex: Per cent distribution																		
					Domesti	c workers			Non-domestic employed ⁽¹⁾									
		15-24	25-29	30-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total	15-24	25-29	30-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total	
Developed	Women	7	7	10	21	27	21	7	100	10	11	11	23	23	17	5	100	
	Men	9	12	12	24	22	15	6	100	9	10	11	24	22	17	6	100	
Emerging	Women	10	8	10	28	29	11	3	100	12	13	13	29	22	9	3	100	
	Men	15	13	11	23	22	12	4	100	13	13	12	25	22	12	4	100	
Developing	Women	50	13	9	14	7	3	2	100	25	16	13	22	14	7	4	100	
	Men	44	15	11	13	11	5	2	100	22	14	13	22	15	9	5	100	
World	Women	12	9	10	27	28	12	3	100	12	13	13	27	21	10	3	100	
	Men	18	13	11	22	20	11	4	100	13	13	12	25	21	12	4	100	

⁽¹⁾ Includes all persons employed and not only employees.

Annex I - Classification of countries/territories by region

Developed countries

Europe

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 Islands

Hong Kong, China

Japan

Korea, Republic of

Sub-Saharan Africa

Mauritius

Seychelles

Americas

Canada

Chile

Panama

Trinidad and Tobago United States

Uruguay

Middle East

Bahrain

Kuwait

Qatar

Saudi Arabia

United Arab Emirates

Emerging countries

Eastern, Southern Europe and

Central Asia

Albania Armenia

Bosnia And Herzegovina

Bulgaria Georgia

Kosovo Kyrgyzstan

Moldova, Republic of

Montenegro

North Macedonia Russian Federation

Serbia Turkey

Asia and the Pacific

Southern Asia

Bangladesh

India

Iran, Islamic Republic of

Maldives

Nepal Pakistan

Sri Lanka

East and South-Eastern Asia

Cambodia

China

Fiji Indonesia

Kiribati

Lao People's Democratic

Republic

Malaysia Micronesia

Mongolia

Myanmar Philippines

Samoa

Thailand Timor-Leste

Tonga Tuvalu

Viet Nam

Sub-Saharan Africa

Southern Africa

Botswana

Eswatini Lesotho

Namibia

South Africa

Rest of sub-Saharan Africa

Angola

Benin

Cabo Verde

Cameroon Comoros

Diibouti

Congo

Côte d'Ivoire

ica

Iraq Jordan

Egypt

Lebanon Morocco

Ghana

Nigeria

Senegal

Zambia

Zimbabwe

Argentina

Colombia

Costa Rica

Ecuador

Guyana

Jamaica

Mexico

Honduras

Nicaragua

Paraguay

Saint Lucia

Republic of

Suriname

Peru

El Salvador

Guatemala

Dominican Republic

Brazil

Mauritania

Tanzania, United Republic of

Latin America and the Caribbean

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

Occupied Palestinian

Venezuela, Bolivarian

Middle East and North Africa

Territory Tunisia

Developing countries

Central Asia

Tajikistan

Asia and the Pacific

Southern Asia

Afghanistan

Sub-Saharan Africa

Rest of sub-Saharan Africa

Burkina Faso

Burundi

Chad

Congo, Democratic Republic

of the

Ethiopia

Gambia Guinea

Liberia

Madagascar

Malawi

Mali

Mozambique

Niger

Rwanda

Sierra Leone Somalia

Togo

Uganda

Latin America and the Caribbean

Haiti

Middle East and North Africa

Sudan

Yemen

Annex II National sources Household surveys (145 countries/territories)

Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey, 2017 Albania Labour force survey, 2019

Inquérito Integrado sobre o Bem-estar da Angola

População, 2009

Encuesta Permanente de Hogares, 2019 Argentina

Labour force survey, 2019 Armenia

Austria European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018

Bangladesh Labour Force Survey, 2017

Belgium European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 Enquête Modulaire Intégrée sur les Conditions Benin

de Vie des Ménages, 2011

Encuesta de Hogares, 2019 Bolivia (Plurinational State of) Labour Force Survey, 2019 Bosnia and Herzegovina Labour Force Survey, 2012 Botswana

Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra de Domicílios Brazil

Contínua, 2019

Labour Force Survey, 2019 Brunei Darussalam

European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 Bulgaria Enquête Régionale Intégrée sur l'Emploi et le Burkina Faso

Secteur Informel, 2018

Enquête sur les conditions de vie des Burundi

ménages, 2013

International Maritime Organization, 2015 Cabo Verde

Cambodia Labour force survey, 2019

Quatrième Enquête Camerounaise auprès des Cameroon

Ménages, 2014

Canada Labour Force Survey, 2018

Enquête Harmonisée sur les Conditions de Vie Chad

des Ménages, 2019

Encuesta Nacional del Empleo, 2019 Chile China Household Income Project and China

administrative sources, 2014

Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares, 2019 Colombia Enquête sur l'emploi et le secteur informel aux Comoros

Comores, 2014

Enquête sur l'emploi et le secteur informel, 2009 Congo Congo, Democratic Republic of

Enquête sur l'emploi, le secteur informel et sur la

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Cook Islands Labour Force Survey, 2019 Costa Rica Encuesta Nacional de Hogares, 2019

Côte d'Ivoire Enquête Régionale Intégrée sur l'Emploi et le

Secteur Informel, 2017

Croatia European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 Cyprus Czechia European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 Denmark Diibouti Quatrième Enquête Diiboutienne Auprès des Ménages pour les Indicateurs Sociaux, 2017

Dominican Republic Labour Force Survey, 2019

Fcuador Encuesta Nacional de Empleo, Desempleo v

Subempleo, 2019

Labour Force Survey, 2018 Egypt

Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos FI Salvador

Múltiples, 2019

Fswatini Labour Force Survey, 2016

European Union Labour Force Survey, 2017 Estonia

Labour Force Survey, 2013 Ethiopia

Employment and Unemployment Survey, 2016 Fiii European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 Finland France European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018

Labour Force Survey, 2018 Gambia Labour Force Survey, 2019 Georgia Labour Force Survey, 2015 Ghana

European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 Greece Guatemala Encuesta Nacional de Empleo e Ingresos, 2019 Enquête Régionale Intégrée sur L'Emploi et le Guinea

Secteur Informel, 2019 Guvana Labour Force Survey, 2018

Enquête sur les conditions de vie des Haiti

ménages, 2012

Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Honduras

Múltiples, 2017

European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 Hungary Periodic Labour Force Survey, 2019 India

Indonesia National Labour Force Survey, 2018

Iran, Islamic Republic of Labour force survey, 2018

Household Socio Economic Survey, 2012 Iraq European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 Ireland Israel

Labour Force Survey, 2017

Italy European Union Labour Force Survey, 2017

Jamaica Labour Force Survey, 2016

Japanese General Social Surveys, 2010 Japan

Jordan Labour Force Survey, 2019 Panama Encuesta de Mercado Laboral, 2019 Kiribati Census, 2015 Encuesta Permanente de Hogares Paraguav Labour Force Survey, 2019 Kosovo Continua, 2019 Encuesta Nacional de Hogares, 2019 Kyrgyzstan Labour Force Survey, 2018 Peru Labour Force Survey, 2017 Lao People's Democratic Rep. Philippines Labour Force Survey, 2018 Latvia European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 Poland European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 Labour Force Survey, 2019 European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 Lebanon Portugal Labour Force Survey, 2019 Lesotho Labour Force Survey, 2019 Republic of Korea Liberia Labour Force Survey, 2010 Republic of Moldova Labour Force Survey, 2018 European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 Lithuania Romania Luxembourg European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 Russian Federation Labour Force Survey, 2019 Enquête Nationale sur l'Emploi et le secteur Labour Force Survey, 2018 Madagascar Rwanda Informel, 2015 Saint Lucia Labour Force Survey, 2019 Malawi Labour Force Survey, 2013 Labour Force Survey, 2017 Samoa Enquête Nationale sur l'Emploi au Sénégal, 2015 Maldives Household Income and Expenditure Senegal Survey, 2016 Serbia Labour Force Survey, 2019 Labour Force Survey, 2019 Mali Enquête Modulaire et Permanente auprès des Sevchelles Labour Force Survey, 2014 Ménages, 2018 Sierra Leone European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 Malta Slovakia Mauritania Enquête Régionale Intégrée sur l'Emploi et le Slovenia European Union Labour Force Survey), 2018 Secteur Informel, 2017 Somalia Labour Force Survey, 2019 Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Quarterly Labour Force Survey, 2019 Mauritius South Africa European Union Labour Force Survey, 2017 Survey, 2018 Spain Encuesta Nacional de Ocupación y Empleo, 2019 Labour Force Survey, 2018 Mexico Sri Lanka Micronesia Household Income, Consumption and Sudan Labour Force Survey, 2011 Expenditure Survey, 2014 Suriname Suriname Survey of Living Conditions 2016 Labour Force Survey, 2019 Sweden European Union Labour Force Survey, 2017 Mongolia Labour Force Survey, 2019 Living Standards Measurement Study, 2009 Montenegro **Tajikistan** Morocco Household and Youth Survey, 2010 Tanzania (United Republic of) Labour Force Survey, 2014 Morocco Inquérito aos Orçamentos Familiares, 2015 Informal Employment Survey, 2018 Mozambique **Thailand** Myanmar Labour Force Survey, 2019 Timor-Leste Labour Force Survey, 2013 Namibia Labour Force Survey, 2018 Enquête Régionale Intégrée sur l'Emploi et le Togo Labour Force Survey, 2017 Secteur Informel, 2017 Nepal European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018 Labour Force Survey, 2018 Netherlands Tonga Encuesta Nacional de Hogares sobre la Medición Trinidad and Tobago Continuous Sample Survey of Population, 2016 Nicaragua Tunisia Labour Market Panel Survey, 2014 del Nivel de Vida, 2014 Enquête Régionale Intégrée sur l'Emploi et le Turkey Labour Force Survey, 2018 Niger Secteur Informel, 2017 Tuvalu Household Income and Expenditure Living Standards Measurement Study, 2016 Survey, 2016 Nigeria Labour Force Survey, 2019 Labour Force Survey, 2017 North Macedonia Uganda

European Union Labour Force Survey, 2018

Labour Force Survey, 2019

Labour Force Survey, 2018

United Arab Emirates

United Kingdom

United States

Labour Force Survey, 2018

Labour Force Survey, 2018

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Norway

Pakistan

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Uruguay Encuesta Continua de Hogares, 2019 Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of) Encuesta de Hogares por Muestreo, 2017

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Note: Criteria used to identify domestic workers in countries are available in Annex 3 of "Making decent work a reality for domestic workers: Progress and prospects ten years after the adoption of the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189)" (ILO, 2021). The methodology is available in Annex 4 and country data for the latest available year in Annex 5.



A domestic worker in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Photo by Fanuel Halelwa.





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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. Visit www.wiego.org

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