

Street Vendors and Market Traders in 12 Countries: A Statistical Profile

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Key Points

- This brief compiles statistics on street vendors and market traders in 12 countries and a major city in each country: Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Ghana, India, Mexico, Peru, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, Türkiye and Uganda.
- Market traders and street vendors together comprise a larger share of total employment in the countries of Africa than in the other regions – as high as 24% in Senegal and 52% in Dakar. In six of the 12 countries, women comprise the majority of market traders, and women predominate among street vendors in nine countries – with women the overwhelming majority in Ghana at 83% for both worker groups.
- In most of the countries, the overwhelming majority of market traders and an even higher share of street vendors are in informal employment.
- Most women in market trade and street vending are own-account workers, self-employed with no employees. Generally, men are more likely to be employees than women.
- Market traders generally have longer working hours than street vendors, and women work fewer hours than men in both worker groups. The educational levels of market traders and street vendors vary widely across the 12 countries. Regarding age, most women and men working in both street vending and market trade are in the peak employment years of 25 to 54 years old.



| A street vendor in Brazil. Credit: Marty Chen

Introduction

Street vendors sell goods and offer services in broadly defined public spaces such as streets, parks and open spaces near transport hubs and construction sites. Market traders sell goods and provide services in stalls or built markets on publicly or privately owned land. Statistics on street vendors and market traders are generally not available in the standard tabulations of national statistical offices. Although data to identify street vendors and market traders are collected in labour force surveys, often limitations in the data make it difficult to obtain a full measure of these groups of

workers. For its series of statistical briefs on informal workers, WIEGO prepared estimates of the two groups. This brief compiles statistics on the numbers and characteristics of street vendors and market traders based on the series and on more recent data for the 12 countries: Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Ghana, India, Mexico, Peru, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, Türkiye and Uganda. The briefs in the list below provide additional data on market traders and street vendors as well as data on other groups of workers mainly in informal employment.

Africa

William Baah-Boateng and Joann Vanek. 2020. **Informal Workers in Ghana: A Statistical Snapshot.** [WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 21.](#)

Gayatri Koolwal. 2022. **Informal Workers in Senegal: A Statistical Profile.** [WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 31.](#)

Gayatri Koolwal (forthcoming). **Workers in Informal Employment in Uganda: A Statistical Profile, 2018–2021.** WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 41.

South Africa. The tabulations were prepared by Mike Rogan, WIEGO Research Associate.

Asia

Wissanee Poonsab, Joann Vanek and Françoise Carré. 2019. **Informal Workers in Urban Thailand: A Statistical Snapshot.** [WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 20.](#)

India. The tabulations were prepared by Raveendran Govindan, former Additional Director General of the Central Statistical Organization, Government of India.

Latin America

Mathilde Bouvier, Joann Vanek and François Roubaud. 2022. **Informal Workers in Brazil: A Statistical Profile.** [WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 33.](#)

José de Jesús Luján Salazar and Joann Vanek. 2022. **Informal Workers in Chile: A Statistical Profile.** [WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 30.](#)

Mathilde Bouvier and Joann Vanek. 2023. **Workers in Informal Employment in El Salvador: A Statistical Profile, 2019–2021.** [WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 36.](#)

Tomás Ramírez and Joann Vanek. 2023. **The Impact of COVID-19 on Employment in Mexico, 2020–2023.** [WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 37](#) and additional tabulations.

Tomás Ramírez, Renato Carcelén, Carmen Roca and Joann Vanek. 2023. **Informal Workers in Peru: A Statistical Profile, 2015–2021.** [WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 34.](#)

Europe

Gayatri Koolwal (forthcoming). **Workers in Informal Employment in Türkiye, 2019–2022.** WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 42.

Numbers of Market Traders and Street Vendors

Market traders and street vendors together comprise a larger share of total employment in the countries of Africa than in other regions (**table 1**): in Senegal 23 per cent nationally and 52 per cent in Dakar; in Ghana 21 per cent nationally and 28 per cent in Accra. The lowest share is in Türkiye with 2 per cent nationally and in Istanbul.

Over one million workers are in the two groups nationally in countries of Africa (Ghana, Senegal and

Uganda) and in Peru and Thailand. Over two million workers are in the two groups in the larger countries of South America (Brazil and Mexico). In India, market traders and street vendors together comprise 16.5 million workers.

In the African countries and in Thailand, market traders comprise a larger number of workers than street vendors nationally and in the large cities, except in South Africa and Johannesburg/Pretoria and in Kampala (Uganda) where the number of street vendors is larger. By contrast, street vendors are more numerous than market traders in Türkiye and the Latin

Table 1: Market traders and street vendors by geographic area and sex for selected countries: Numbers and per cent of total employment in parentheses

Country/ Geographic areas	Year	Market traders						Street vendors					
		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total	
Africa													
Ghana	(2015)												
National		1,366,125	(29.1)	275,425	(6.8)	1,641,550	(18.7)	142,308	(3.0)	30,233	(0.7)	172,541	(2.0)
Greater Accra		332,852	(39.3)	72,296	(9.9)	405,148	(25.7)	31,606	(3.7)	3,895	(0.5)	35,501	(2.3)
Senegal	(2019)												
National		448,507	(13.7)	738,512	(19.4)	1,187,019	(16.9)	284,907	(9.4)	215,450	(4.9)	500,358	(6.8)
Dakar		45,203	(27.4)	119,157	(45.4)	164,360	(38.4)	35,531	(21.5)	23,444	(8.9)	58,975	(13.8)
South Africa	(2023)												
National		46,417	(0.7)	57,458	(0.6)	103,875	(0.7)	392,520	(5.1)	236,710	(2.6)	629,230	(3.7)
Johannesburg/ Pretoria		10,369	(0.5)	11,084	(0.5)	21,453	(0.5)	89,048	(4.5)	45,309	(1.8)	134,357	(3.0)
Uganda	(2021)												
National		431,885	(10.1)	316,822	(5.2)	748,707	(7.2)	372,252	(8.7)	313,743	(5.2)	685,995	(6.6)
Kampala		31,285	(10.5)	23,218	(6.1)	54,504	(8.0)	39,670	(13.4)	48,197	(12.7)	87,867	(13.0)
Asia													
India¹	(2022-23)												
National								6,900,000	(4.5)	9,640,000	(2.5)	16,540,000	(3.1)
Delhi								298,000	(27.3)	354,000	(5.7)	652,000	(8.9)
Thailand	(2017)												
National		518,503	(3.0)	373,313	(1.8)	891,816	(2.4)	425,140	(2.5)	379,868	(1.9)	805,008	(2.1)
Bangkok		95,465	(3.9)	71,652	(2.6)	167,118	(3.2)	80,935	(3.3)	62,898	(2.2)	143,833	(2.7)
Latin America													
Brazil	(2020)												
National		191,914	(0.5)	315,064	(0.6)	506,978	(0.6)	1,216,893	(3.4)	1,092,456	(2.2)	2,309,349	(2.7)
Sao Paulo		30,063	(0.7)	47,154	(0.8)	77,217	(0.8)	90,578	(2.1)	120,051	(2.0)	210,629	(2.2)
Chile	(2020)												
National		65,353	(2.0)	80,396	(1.7)	145,749	(1.8)	107,652	(3.3)	129,323	(2.7)	236,995	(3.0)
Metropolitan Santiago		20,959	(1.4)	25,150	(1.2)	46,109	(1.3)	60,598	(4.0)	72,558	(3.4)	133,156	(3.7)
El Salvador	(2021)												
National		44,935	(3.9)	17,846	(1.1)	62,781	(2.3)	147,565	(12.9)	71,575	(4.5)	219,140	(8.0)
San Salvador		12,433	(3.6)	5,077	(1.3)	17,510	(2.3)	43,029	(12.5)	22,653	(5.6)	65,681	(8.8)
Mexico	(2023)												
National		535,984	(2.3)	440,252	(1.3)	976,236	(1.7)	999,532	(4.2)	781,841	(2.2)	1,781,373	(3.0)
Mexico City		197,916	(4.8)	194,716	(3.6)	392,632	(4.1)	191,337	(4.6)	151,090	(2.8)	342,427	(3.6)
Peru	(2019)												
National		235,980	(3.2)	115,048	(1.2)	351,029	(2.1)	803,913	(10.8)	379,931	(3.9)	1,183,845	(6.3)
Metropolitan Lima		107,908	(4.7)	62,514	(2.2)	170,422	(3.4)	291,472	(12.8)	155,532	(5.6)	447,004	(8.8)
Europe													
Türkiye	(2022)												
National		21,341	(0.3)	128,208	(0.7)	149,549	(0.6)	70,119	(0.9)	403,273	(2.3)	473,392	(1.8)
Istanbul		3,388	(0.2)	25,817	(0.6)	29,205	(0.5)	24,193	(1.2)	69,719	(1.7)	93,912	(1.5)

¹ The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) of India does not have separate categories for market traders and street vendors.

American countries and their major cities, except in Mexico City where the numbers of market traders are larger.

Women and Men

In six of the twelve countries, women comprise the majority of market traders – Ghana, Uganda, Thailand, El Salvador, Mexico and Peru (**table 2**). In two of these countries, women are the overwhelming majority of market traders: Ghana, where women comprise 83 per cent, and El Salvador with 72 per cent. Among

the countries where men are the majority, Türkiye stands out, with men comprising 86 per cent of market traders.

Women predominate among street vendors in nine countries: Ghana, where they are 83 per cent of the worker group, Peru with 68 per cent, El Salvador (67 per cent), South Africa (62 per cent), Senegal (57 per cent), Mexico (56 per cent), Uganda (54 per cent), Brazil and Thailand (both at 53 per cent). The countries where men predominate are Chile (55 per cent) and Türkiye (85 per cent).



A market trader member of the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India. Credit: Paula Bronstein/Getty Images/Images of Empowerment

Table 2: Market traders and street vendors by geographic area and sex for selected countries: Per cent distribution

Country/ Geographic areas	Year	Market traders		Street vendors	
		Women	Men	Women	Men
Africa					
Ghana	(2015)				
National		83.2	16.8	82.5	17.5
Greater Accra		82.2	17.8	89.0	11.0
Senegal	(2019)				
National		37.8	62.2	56.9	43.1
Dakar		27.5	72.5	60.2	39.8
South Africa	(2023)				
National		44.7	55.3	62.4	37.6
Johannesburg/ Pretoria		48.3	51.7	66.3	33.7
Uganda	(2021)				
National		57.7	42.3	54.3	45.7
Kampala		57.4	42.6	45.1	54.9
Asia					
India¹	(2022-23)				
National				41.7	58.3
Delhi				45.7	54.3
Thailand	(2017)				
National		58.1	41.9	52.8	47.2
Bangkok		57.1	42.9	56.3	43.7
Latin America					
Brazil	(2020)				
National		37.9	62.1	52.7	47.3
Sao Paulo		38.9	61.1	43.0	57.0
Chile	(2020)				
National		44.8	55.2	45.4	54.6
Metropolitan Santiago		45.5	54.5	45.5	54.5
El Salvador	(2021)				
National		71.6	28.4	67.3	32.7
San Salvador		71.0	29.0	65.5	34.5
Mexico	(2023)				
National		54.9	45.1	56.1	43.9
Mexico City		50.4	49.6	55.9	44.1
Peru	(2019)				
National		67.2	32.8	67.9	32.1
Metropolitan Lima		63.3	36.7	65.2	34.8
Europe					
Türkiye	(2022)				
National		14.3	85.7	14.8	85.2
Istanbul		11.6	88.4	25.8	74.2

¹ The PLFS of India does not have separate categories for market traders and street vendors.

In India, 58 per cent of the two groups taken together are men.

Informality

All workers in market trade and street vending in India, and almost all workers in these groups in Ghana and Uganda, are informally employed (**table 3**). In most of the other countries, at least 80 per cent of market traders are informal, with the exceptions of Türkiye at 62 per cent and Chile at 23 per cent. Among street vendors in Mexico, South Africa, Senegal, Peru, El Salvador and Thailand, more than 90 per cent are informally employed. In three other countries (Türkiye,

Brazil and Chile), between 77 per cent and 79 per cent are in informal jobs.

Generally, the percentage of informal employment tends to be lower in the major city than nationally among market traders, with the exception of Mexico City where it is slightly higher than nationally. However, among street vendors the percentage is slightly higher in the major city (Dakar, Kampala, Bangkok, Sao Paulo, Santiago and Mexico City) than nationally. The differences between the national average and the major city are not great except in Türkiye, where 62 per cent of market traders nationally are informally employed compared to 53 per cent in

Table 3: Informal employment among market traders and street vendors by geographic area and sex for selected countries: Per cent of employment

Country/ Geographic areas	Year	Market traders			Street vendors		
		Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
Africa							
Ghana	(2015)						
National		99.2	98.3	99.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Greater Accra		97.7	94.6	97.1	100.0	100.0	100.0
Senegal	(2019)						
National		90.4	79.1	82.8	98.6	92.2	95.5
Dakar		82.8	73.5	75.7	99.5	93.9	97.0
South Africa	(2023)						
National		88.1	91.3	89.9	98.4	94.7	97.0
Johannesburg/Pretoria		79.7	91.3	85.7	95.9	96.6	96.1
Uganda	(2021)						
National		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	97.5	98.1
Kampala		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Asia							
India ¹	(2022-23)						
National					100.0	100.0	100.0
Delhi					100.0	100.0	100.0
Thailand	(2017)						
National		86.4	82.1	84.6	92.8	91.4	92.2
Bangkok		83.4	73.0	78.9	92.6	93.4	93.0
Latin America							
Brazil	(2020)						
National		80.2	80.8	80.5	81.7	71.1	76.7
Sao Paulo		74.1	60.6	65.9	83.2	72.4	77.1
Chile	(2020)						
National		22.5	23.1	22.8	86.5	68.2	76.5
Metropolitan Santiago		20.9	21.5	21.2	91.6	72.2	81.0
El Salvador	(2021)						
National		90.1	91.3	90.5	95.7	91.6	94.4
San Salvador		85.8	88.3	86.5	92.8	89.6	91.7
Mexico	(2023)						
National		98.2	95.3	96.9	98.6	96.9	97.8
Mexico City		99.0	97.9	98.5	99.7	96.5	98.3
Peru	(2019)						
National		88.6	86.2	87.8	96.9	92.5	95.5
Metropolitan Lima		84.3	83.8	84.1	95.1	89.0	93.0
Europe							
Türkiye	(2022)						
National		81.7	58.6	61.9	79.2	78.8	78.8
Istanbul		66.2	51.4	53.1	83.4	68.4	72.3

¹ The PLFS of India does not have separate categories for market traders and street vendors.



| A street vendor in Bangkok, Thailand. Credit: Paula Bronstein/Getty Images/Images of Empowerment

Istanbul, and 79 per cent of street vendors nationally in comparison to 72 per cent in Istanbul.

In Ghana, Senegal, Thailand, Mexico, Peru and Türkiye, the percentage with informal jobs among women market traders is higher than among men; while in Uganda, Brazil, Chile and El Salvador it is roughly the same. Only in South Africa are the rates of informality several percentage points higher for men. Among street vendors, the percentage of informality is higher among women than among men in all countries, except in Ghana where all street vendors are informally employed.

Status in Employment

The majority of women in market trade and street vending are own-account workers (**table 4**). The exceptions are women market traders in Türkiye, where 33 per cent are own-account workers, and women in the combined group in India, where 76 per cent nationally and 90 per cent in Delhi are employees. The percentages of women in own-account employment among market traders nationally range from 50 per cent in Peru to 86 per cent in Ghana. The percentages of own-account workers among women in street vending are even higher than in market trade, ranging from 72 per cent to 89 per cent across the countries, except in Türkiye and India.

Generally, men in market trade and street vending are more likely to be employees than women, with the exception of market traders in Brazil (21 per cent of women and 15 per cent of men) and Chile (7 per cent of women and 4 per cent of men). Further, the combined groups in India stand out with 76 per cent of women working as employees in comparison to 27 per cent of men.

Contributing family workers are a larger part of employment in market trade than in street vending. Further, in seven of the countries a larger percentage of women in market trade are contributing family workers than men. The largest difference between women and men in contributing family work is in Türkiye, where 61 per cent of women in market trade are contributing family workers compared to 7 per cent of men. The unusually high share of women in this category suggests a misclassification. Many women have a decision-making role in the family business and therefore should not be classified as a contributing family worker but as an own-account worker, dependent contractor or, if they are paid, an employee.

The status of employer applies to only a small percentage of workers in these groups, except in Chile – a higher-income country – where 31 per cent of women and 48 per cent of men in market trade are employers, and in South Africa where 12 per cent of

Table 4: Status in employment of market traders and street vendors by geographic area and sex for selected countries: Per cent distribution¹

Country/ Geographic areas	Year	Market traders								Street vendors							
		Employer		Own-account		Employee		CFW ⁵		Employer		Own-account		Employee		CFW ⁵	
		Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Africa																	
Ghana	(2015)																
National		3.2	11.4	86.2	68.1	4.1	8.1	6.5	12.4	3.9	0.0	72.4	74.0	14.9	26.0	8.8	0.0
Greater Accra		6.1	14.0	84.7	66.5	5.2	2.7	4.0	16.8	6.2	0.0	64.4	50.0	29.4	50.0	0.0	0.0
Senegal	(2019)																
National		1.3	4.3	63.7	40.4	23.1	32.0	11.9	23.2	0.1	1.5	89.4	74.1	3.7	11.1	6.8	13.2
Dakar		3.0	6.0	42.9	34.3	43.2	42.4	10.9	17.4	0.0	1.8	91.5	85.4	3.4	5.9	5.2	6.8
South Africa	(2023)																
National		11.9	16.3	62.0	46.2	20.1	37.1	6.0	0.3	5.2	6.4	84.9	83.4	5.6	9.1	4.4	1.1
Johannesburg/ Pretoria		26.7	31.6	67.3	48.6	6.0	19.8	0.0	0.0	8.3	5.3	77.1	91.3	8.9	3.4	5.8	0.0
Uganda	(2021)																
National		5.0	15.1	75.4	66.2	7.4	12.1	12.0	6.6	5.9	10.1	79.4	49.2	7.9	37.1	6.7	3.5
Kampala		11.9	21.3	65.9	55.0	22.2	20.7	0.0	3.1	1.4	8.7	66.3	24.1	27.5	66.6	4.8	0.6
Asia																	
India²	(2022-23)																
National										0.2	0.6	13.4	66.5	76.1	26.6	10.4	6.3
Delhi										0.0	0.0	9.4	63.3	90.0	32.4	0.5	4.3
Thailand³	(2017)																
Bangkok		0.0	1.9	60.1	70.1	14.1	11.4	25.8	16.5	0.3	1.4	68.6	85.3	1.5	2.1	29.6	11.2
Latin America																	
Brazil	(2020)																
National		4.1	7.6	65.0	73.7	20.5	15.4	10.4	3.3	0.5	1.2	88.7	65.7	8.8	31.4	2.0	1.7
Sao Paulo		0.3	15.1	55.8	70.1	35.9	9.1	8.0	5.7	0.0	0.2	83.2	73.1	15.9	24.5	0.9	2.2
Chile	(2020)																
National		31.3	47.6	56.5	45.3	7.0	3.6	5.2	3.5	2.9	6.8	79.4	65.7	14.1	25.1	3.6	2.4
Metropolitan Santiago		36.4	55.3	52.6	38.6	9.9	4.8	1.1	1.3	3.6	8.3	81.7	71.8	12.3	17.0	2.4	2.9
El Salvador⁴	(2021)																
National		7.1	3.1	51.9	27.3	24.4	55.6	16.6	14.0	4.6	4.5	86.9	80.9	5.1	11.5	3.4	3.0
Mexico	(2023)																
National		6.4	9.5	56.7	58.6	21.5	27.1	15.4	4.8	3.8	5.8	74.8	75.8	9.4	13.9	12.0	5.5
Mexico City		4.1	4.0	60.4	65.4	20.1	28.7	15.4	1.9	3.9	5.6	83.0	80.8	6.1	12.8	7.0	0.9
Peru	(2019)																
National		9.2	12.7	50.3	33.3	24.2	27.2	16.3	26.8	1.6	1.3	72.6	73.8	15.2	11.3	10.7	13.7
Metropolitan Lima		12.4	16.7	50.3	28.6	24.0	28.8	13.3	25.9	1.8	0.8	72.7	81.2	15.5	9.5	10.0	8.5
Europe																	
Türkiye	(2022)																
National		0.4	3.1	32.6	59.5	6.4	30.3	60.6	7.1	0.4	0.7	65.5	79.2	13.7	14.8	20.4	5.2
Istanbul		0.0	6.3	42.0	49.0	0.0	44.7	58.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	91.7	88.6	4.9	8.6	3.4	2.2

¹ The sum of the percentages does not necessarily equal 100, due to rounding.

² The PLFS of India does not have separate categories for market traders and street vendors.

³ Data are not available in WIEGO Statistical Brief No, 20.

⁴ San Salvador data are not available in WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 36.

⁵ CFW (Contributing Family Workers) include the "other" category in Ghana (1.3 per cent market traders and 2.7 per cent street vendors) and in Senegal the "apprentice" category (9.5 per cent market traders and 1.4 per cent street vendors).

women and 16 per cent of men in market trade employ others. In addition, a higher percentage of market traders generally are employers in major cities than nationally. For example, in Johannesburg/Pretoria 27

per cent of women and 32 per cent of men in market trade are employers, and in Metropolitan Santiago 36 per cent of women and 55 per cent of men. Among street vendors there is not a consistent pattern.



A market trader in Uganda. Credit: Jonathan Torgovnik/Getty Images/Images of Empowerment

Hours Worked

Market traders tend to have longer working hours than street vendors, and women work fewer hours than men in both worker groups (**table 5**).

In most of the countries, the majority of market traders work 40 or more hours a week: Senegal (59 per cent of women and 90 per cent of men), Uganda (83 per cent of women and 88 per cent of men), South Africa (81 per cent of women and 89 per cent of men), El Salvador (75 per cent of women and 78 per cent of men), Peru (70 per cent of women and 71 per cent of men), Thailand (68 per cent of women and 70 per cent of men), Chile (61 per cent of women and 64 per cent of men), Ghana (56 per cent of men and 34 per cent of women) and Mexico (62 per cent of men and 41 per cent of women).

Among street vendors, a higher proportion of men than women generally have very long working hours (more than 48 hours a week): 57 per cent of men and 24 per cent of women in Senegal, 53 per cent of men and 33 per cent of women in El Salvador, 17 per cent of men and 8 per cent of women in Chile, 36 per cent of men and 15 per cent of women in Mexico, 37 per cent of men and 22 per cent of women in Peru, and 33 per cent of men and 11 per cent of women in Türkiye.

In India, in the combined group of market traders and street vendors, 35 per cent of women and 75 per cent of men work 48 hours or more nationally, and in Delhi the share of women working long hours reached 46 per cent for women and 94 per cent for men.

Generally in the 12 countries, the hours of work for market traders and for street vendors are longer in the major city than nationally.

Table 5: Hours worked per week of market traders and street vendors by geographic area and sex for selected countries: Per cent distribution¹

Country/ Geographic areas	Year	Market traders								Street vendors							
		Less than 15 hours		15-39 hours		40-48 hours		> 48 hours		Less than 15 hours		15-39 hours		40-48 hours		> 48 hours	
		Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Africa																	
Ghana²	(2015)																
National		19.7	14.5	46.5	29.3	33.8	56.2			28.3	53.2	53.1	20.3	18.6	26.5		
Greater Accra		16.5	15.5	37.8	20.4	45.7	64.1			26.0	100.0	55.5	0.0	18.5	0.0		
Senegal	(2019)																
National		7.6	2.0	33.8	8.3	25.3	29.4	33.2	60.3	8.4	6.3	48.2	19.2	18.6	17.1	23.8	57.3
Dakar		2.7	0.9	25.6	5.1	31.8	32.9	39.8	61.1	5.1	4.7	49.3	13.2	23.7	17.8	21.9	64.2
South Africa	(2023)																
National		7.1	1.8	12.0	9.0	15.6	6.1	65.4	83.1	9.5	6.8	29.7	20.5	18.9	24.9	41.8	47.8
Johannesburg/ Pretoria		0.0	7.5	34.7	10.4	0.5	0.0	64.9	82.2	6.0	0.0	38.8	31.3	17.2	23.6	38.0	45.1
Uganda	(2021)																
National		1.3	1.9	16.0	9.7	16.2	9.8	66.5	78.6	5.3	4.8	37.6	24.3	19.9	18.4	37.1	52.6
Kampala		0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	16.8	21.3	80.3	78.7	2.3	0.6	22.0	33.4	17.8	19.5	57.9	46.5
Asia																	
India³	(2022-23)																
National										6.7	2.2	38.3	9.7	20.0	13.6	35.0	74.5
Delhi										0.0	0.0	34.8	6.2	19.7	0.0	45.5	93.8
Thailand⁴	(2017)																
National		2.1	10.2	20.6	20.1	68.1	69.7			1.9	8.9	22.5	22.1	63.9	69.0		
Bangkok		6.0	0.7	12.2	17.1	81.8	83.2			4.7	0.8	22.4	17.6	72.9	81.6		
Latin America																	
Brazil	(2020)																
National		21.2	8.8	38.7	34.0	24.7	34.5	15.4	22.7	24.0	5.6	44.9	28.4	24.1	48.4	7.0	17.6
Sao Paulo		33.5	5.7	29.6	14.7	17.1	31.5	19.8	48.1	9.9	5.8	39.7	24.2	37.0	39.7	13.4	30.3
Chile	(2020)																
National		6.3	10.5	32.3	24.8	29.2	25.6	32.1	39.1	37.8	17.4	42.2	37.1	11.5	28.7	8.4	16.9
Metropolitan Santiago		5.8	18.6	43.6	28.0	26.2	19.9	24.4	33.6	32.4	16.3	45.9	47.2	13.1	23.8	8.7	12.7
El Salvador⁵	(2021)																
National		4.2	2.4	20.8	19.6	15.5	14.3	59.5	63.8	13.7	4.6	34.4	22.7	18.1	20.0	33.1	52.7
Mexico	(2023)																
National		15.4	6.7	43.4	31.0	18.8	22.5	22.3	39.8	27.5	7.6	45.2	32.3	12.6	23.9	14.6	36.2
Mexico City		9.4	5.1	43.1	27.8	17.1	19.9	30.4	47.2	27.7	7.3	45.5	30.2	11.3	27.5	15.5	35.0
Peru	(2019)																
National		4.9	3.3	25.4	25.8	18.7	11.2	51.0	59.7	24.6	8.4	39.0	36.2	14.1	18.5	22.3	36.9
Metropolitan Lima		3.6	1.4	11.8	20.0	23.7	11.4	60.9	67.2	22.7	4.7	36.0	26.5	16.9	23.7	24.5	45.0
Europe																	
Türkiye	(2022)																
National		20.9	6.7	51.9	28.9	11.4	22.0	15.8	42.4	35.1	9.5	39.7	32.1	14.3	25.7	10.8	32.8
Istanbul		8.8	2.6	45.2	22.7	8.3	18.5	37.6	56.1	36.3	9.5	41.6	34.8	9.5	24.3	12.6	31.4

¹ The sum of the percentages does not necessarily equal 100, due to rounding.

² The data refer to the following categories: less than 20 hours, 20-34 hours, 35-40 hours and more than 40 hours.

³ The PLFS of India does not have separate categories for market traders and street vendors.

⁴ The data in the first three categories refer to the following: less than 35 hours, 35-40 hours and more than 40 hours.

⁵ San Salvador data are not available in WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 36.



| A market trader in Dakar, Senegal. Credit: Olga Abizaid

Education

The educational levels of market traders and street vendors vary widely across the countries (**table 6**). In Senegal and El Salvador, a large share of market traders and street vendors have less than a primary education: among Senegal's market traders, 63 per cent of women and 49 per cent of men, and among street vendors, 68 per cent of women and 66 per cent of men. In El Salvador, among market traders, 35 per cent of women and 23 per cent of men, and among street vendors, 42 per cent of women and 34 per cent of men. In India, 53 per cent of women and 25 per cent of men in the combined groups had not completed primary school, and 37 per cent of women and 46 per cent of men had completed primary school.

Completion of secondary-level schooling accounts for the largest share of market traders for both women and men in Ghana, South Africa, Uganda, Chile, Mexico and Peru. In Türkiye, completion of secondary

education accounts for a little over one half of men market traders but less than one-third of women market traders. Among street vendors, completion of secondary-level schooling is the largest share in Ghana, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Peru.

In other countries – including Uganda, Chile, Mexico and Peru – a substantial share of market traders has post-secondary/tertiary education. In the three countries in Latin America, the share ranges from 22 per cent to 35 per cent for women and 25 to 38 per cent for men. In Bangkok, 30 per cent of women and 24 per cent of men in market trade have post-secondary education. Among street vendors, the share of women with post-secondary education is 16 per cent and men 12 per cent in Brazil, 12 per cent and 17 per cent respectively in Chile, and around 21 per cent for both women and men in Mexico and Peru.

Table 6: Highest level of education¹ of market traders and street vendors by geographic area and sex for selected countries: Per cent distribution²

Country/ Geographic areas	Year	Market traders								Street vendors							
		None		Primary		Secondary		Tertiary		None		Primary		Secondary		Tertiary	
		Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Africa																	
Ghana	(2015)																
National		23.3	13.8	17.1	5.6	55.6	69.4	4.0	11.2	16.7	40.6	18.8	8.1	60.7	51.3	3.8	0.0
Greater Accra		13.8	9.3	14.7	2.7	63.3	66.8	8.2	21.2	24.6	0.0	6.2	0.0	63.0	100.0	6.2	0.0
Senegal³	(2019)																
National		63.0	49.1	18.1	26.9	16.6	19.9	2.3	4.1	67.9	65.8	20.7	19.4	10.7	12.8	0.7	2.0
Dakar		38.7	35.6	29.1	32.7	27.0	24.7	5.2	7.0	57.3	50.6	28.7	27.6	12.9	18.9	1.1	2.9
South Africa	(2023)																
National		10.0	11.6	51.3	39.2	35.7	46.8	3.0	2.4	16.1	9.4	51.0	54.8	26.5	27.6	6.5	8.2
Johannesburg/ Pretoria		1.8	36.2	64.6	19.0	27.7	44.7	6.0	0.0	16.7	11.4	49.9	54.3	29.7	30.7	3.7	3.5
Uganda	(2021)																
National		10.8	5.9	32.2	32.3	44.4	50.6	11.5	8.7	22.7	10.6	41.5	40.2	33.3	40.5	2.5	6.8
Kampala		5.2	0.0	18.6	14.7	51.9	68.7	24.4	16.6	19.6	1.7	27.1	30.3	53.3	54.8	0.0	13.2
Asia																	
India⁴	(2022-23)																
National										52.6	24.8	37.3	46.2	9.1	22.7	0.9	6.3
Delhi										32.3	28.3	64.0	52.7	3.7	16.6	0.0	2.4
Thailand⁵	(2017)																
Bangkok		1.6	1.7	31.0	21.5	37.5	52.6	29.9	24.3	1.9	4.3	49.8	44.8	38.7	40.6	9.6	10.3
Latin America																	
Brazil	(2020)																
National		3.8	5.9	45.9	52.3	42.0	34.9	8.2	6.9	1.5	3.3	33.8	41.1	48.8	43.5	16.0	12.1
Sao Paulo		8.0	5.5	46.5	39.8	34.0	48.5	11.5	6.2	0.8	0.0	31.5	33.6	45.3	42.3	22.4	24.1
Chile	(2020)																
National		0.1	0.2	13.4	10.2	51.9	51.9	34.5	37.7	2.8	1.4	33.1	29.9	52.2	50.0	11.6	17.0
Metropolitan Santiago		0.0	0.0	3.9	6.1	50.5	50.9	45.6	43.0	2.7	1.6	28.8	25.8	55.9	51.5	12.3	18.2
El Salvador⁶	(2021)																
National		34.6	22.9	33.4	47.7	27.8	25.5	4.1	3.9	42.3	33.9	34.8	39.0	18.3	22.7	4.6	4.4
Mexico	(2023)																
National		7.8	7.4	22.0	19.3	43.6	42.2	26.6	31.0	17.2	15.5	23.2	26.8	37.3	37.3	22.3	20.5
Mexico City		4.7	5.8	19.9	15.6	44.6	44.0	30.7	34.6	11.3	11.5	21.3	17.8	39.5	41.9	27.9	28.8
Peru	(2019)																
National		16.3	8.4	25.3	24.9	36.3	41.2	22.1	25.6	17.3	12.9	28.7	33.2	32.1	33.4	21.8	20.4
Metropolitan Lima		12.2	9.0	20.6	20.6	44.4	49.8	22.8	19.6	13.3	9.8	25.1	31.5	41.0	38.5	20.6	20.3
Europe																	
Türkiye	(2022)																
National		12.9	4.5	51.8	37.3	28.6	52.4	6.6	5.9	24.7	16.3	34.6	37.5	30.4	39.9	10.2	6.4
Istanbul		8.2	3.2	33.6	32.6	41.5	55.6	16.7	8.6	32.3	7.0	37.6	36.5	26.7	45.2	3.4	11.3

¹ Educational levels are: None (less than completed primary); Primary (completed primary); Secondary (completed secondary); Tertiary (some years of post-secondary training or college or higher).

² The sum of the percentages does not necessarily equal 100, due to rounding.

³ None includes Koranic or Islamic.

⁴ The PLFS of India does not have separate categories for market traders and street vendors.

⁵ WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 20 does not include national level data.

⁶ San Salvador data are not available in WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 36.



A street vendor during the COVID-19 pandemic in Lima, Peru.
Credit: Victor Mallqui

Age Ranges

The majority of women and men working in market trade and street vending are in the peak employment years – aged 25 to 54 – across all 12 countries (**table 7**). For example, in Ghana, 76 per cent of women and 67 per cent of men in market trade and 73 per cent of women and 58 per cent of men in street vending are ages 25–54; in Mexico, 61 per cent of women and 57 per cent of men in market trade and in street vending are in this age group. In Türkiye, among market traders, 75 per cent of women and 67 per cent of men are between 25 and 54 years old, and among street vendors this is the case for 82 per cent of women and 70 per cent of men.

Workers in the oldest ages (65 and older) account for a small portion of employment in market trade and street vending (generally under 6 per cent or non-existent) in the African countries and India, but higher in the Latin American countries. The highest share of workers aged 65 and older in these worker groups is in Chile, with 28 per cent of women and 39 per cent of men in market trade and 30 per cent of women and 35 per cent of men in street vending. In Mexico, 10 per cent of women and 8 per cent of men in market trade and 10 per cent of women and 13 per cent of men in street vending are in the oldest age category.

The youngest (15 to 24 years old) account for almost one-quarter or more of employment in market trade in Uganda (21 per cent for women and 26 per cent for men), El Salvador (23 per cent for women and 37 per cent for men) and Peru (25 per cent for women and 31 per cent for men). Among street vendors, employment is high in this age group in Ghana (22 per cent for women and 25 per cent for men), Senegal (10 per cent for women and 19 per cent for men), Uganda (17 per cent for women and 24 per cent for men), El Salvador (16 per cent for women and 21 per cent for men) and Peru (26 per cent for women and 29 per cent for men).

Table 7: Ages of market traders and street vendors by geographic area and sex for selected countries: Per cent distribution¹

Country/ Geographic areas	Year	Market traders										Street vendors										
		15-24 years		25-34 years		35-54 years		55-64 years		65 + years		15-24 years		25-34 years		35-54 years		55-64 years		65 + years		
		Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	
Africa																						
Ghana	(2015)																					
National		8.7	15.4	28.7	32.3	46.9	34.3	9.6	11.9	6.1	6.1	21.5	24.5	36.0	30.2	36.8	28.2	1.8	10.5	3.9	6.6	
Greater Accra		5.8	12.8	32.6	40.1	44.1	35.1	11.6	6.6	5.9	5.4	29.4	50.0	37.0	50.0	27.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.2	0.0	
Senegal	(2019)																					
National		14.0	25.7	26.2	28.4	44.5	36.3	11.1	7.0	4.2	2.7	9.6	19.0	24.3	29.6	52.1	39.7	10.4	8.8	3.6	2.9	
Dakar		14.2	21.8	30.4	31.3	45.5	38.1	5.7	6.1	4.3	2.8	8.7	14.9	20.9	32.2	56.2	42.0	11.7	8.8	2.4	2.2	
South Africa	(2023)																					
National		4.4	11.6	30.5	34.1	45.2	38.9	17.0	11.6	2.9	3.8	5.8	9.3	22.1	33.1	56.7	47.6	11.1	7.7	4.4	2.3	
Johannesburg/ Pretoria		0.0	0.0	32.4	9.3	38.2	62.9	29.5	20.1	0.0	7.7	5.7	3.4	23.1	17.5	58.9	58.5	8.5	17.8	3.8	2.8	
Uganda	(2021)																					
National		21.1	25.8	36.9	33.4	37.0	34.8	4.4	5.8	0.0	0.0	16.6	23.8	29.9	32.7	46.1	38.5	6.7	4.7	0.0	0.0	
Kampala		13.8	24.4	36.0	48.7	42.3	16.7	7.9	10.2	0.0	0.0	22.8	16.1	36.7	59.9	26.5	21.2	14.1	2.8	0.0	0.0	
Asia																						
India²	(2022-23)																					
National												6.4	14.8	19.9	23.0	55.1	46.6	15.0	11.4	3.6	4.3	
Delhi												10.3	8.6	55.2	21.5	18.2	58.5	16.4	11.1	0.0	0.3	
Thailand³	(2017)																					
Latin America																						
Brazil⁴	(2020)																					
National		13.9	15.2	41.8	40.3	24.1	21.5	12.2	15.3	8.0	7.7	13.2	16.6	49.5	48.5	20.1	18.4	12.7	12.4	4.5	4.1	
Sao Paulo		20.4	18.3	33.5	28.9	15.0	20.0	10.5	21.7	20.6	11.1	7.0	16.7	43.4	49.2	24.8	15.7	18.9	13.7	5.9	4.7	
Chile⁵	(2020)																					
National		5.6	3.0	18.3	9.7	22.4	25.9	25.5	22.5	28.2	38.8	9.1	6.8	18.4	17.4	26.3	17.0	16.2	23.3	30.0	35.4	
Metropolitan Santiago		3.9	2.8	26.0	6.3	20.9	28.1	29.3	19.4	19.9	43.4	7.5	5.4	22.2	22.0	28.4	16.3	13.6	23.8	28.4	32.5	
El Salvador⁶	(2021)																					
National		22.6	37.2	33.9	34.7	28.1	20.7	7.0	1.5	8.4	5.9	15.9	21.4	40.4	29.2	27.7	31.2	6.7	6.6	9.2	11.6	
Mexico	(2023)																					
National		14.9	17.2	20.0	16.8	41.3	40.9	14.2	17.3	9.7	7.8	10.4	13.4	17.4	16.5	43.1	40.1	18.6	17.1	10.4	12.9	
Mexico City		14.6	15.9	19.7	14.8	41.5	41.4	14.7	19.3	9.5	8.6	8.4	12.1	15.9	14.4	45.3	39.7	19.8	18.9	10.6	15.0	
Peru⁷	(2019)																					
National		24.8	30.5	30.5	27.5	29.2	23.7	7.0	7.1	8.5	11.2	25.7	28.6	35.3	27.9	26.6	23.6	7.1	7.5	5.4	12.5	
Metropolitan Lima		20.8	31.0	31.4	30.0	33.1	21.6	7.5	5.7	7.1	11.7	23.0	25.7	33.9	27.9	29.0	23.5	8.4	8.6	5.7	14.3	
Europe																						
Türkiye⁸	(2022)																					
National		4.7	17.5	7.1	18.2	67.4	49.2	20.8	15.1			7.4	17.0	20.0	20.3	62.0	49.5	10.6	13.2			
Istanbul		0.0	22.9	5.1	21.3	77.9	44.6	17.0	11.2			8.0	12.5	20.0	19.3	59.2	51.2	12.7	17.0			

¹ The sum of the percentages does not necessarily equal 100, due to rounding

² The PLFS of India does not have separate categories for market traders and street vendors.

³ Numerical data for age groups do not appear in WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 20.

⁴ The data refer to the following categories: 14-24 years, 25-44 years, 45-54 years, 55-64 years and 65 and more years.

⁵ The data refer to the following categories: 15-24 years, 25-34 years, 35-44 years, 45-54 years and 55 and more years.

⁶ The data refer to the following categories: 16-29 years, 30-44 years, 45-59 years, 60-64 years and 65 and more years. San Salvador data are not available in WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 36.

⁷ The data refer to the following categories: 14-29 years, 30-44 years, 45-59 years, 60-64 years and 65 and more years.

⁸ The data refer to the following categories: 15-24 years, 25-34 years, 35-54 years and 55 and more years.



| A street vendor in Mexico City, Mexico, during the pandemic. Credit: César Parra



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