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Women in development

	Female population % of total 2007	Life expectancy at birth years		Pregnant women receiving prenatal care % 2002-07 ^a	Teenage mothers % of women ages 15-19 2002-07 ^a	Women in nonagricultural sector % of nonagricultural wage employment 2006	Unpaid family workers		Women in parliaments % of total seats	
		Male 2007	Female 2007				Male % of male employment 2002-07 ^a	Female % of female employment 2002-07 ^a	1990	2008
		Afghanistan
Albania	50.3	73	80	97	..	..	..	..	29	7
Algeria	49.5	71	74	89	..	17	7.1	13.6	2	8
Angola	50.7	41	44	80	..	..	..	..	15	37
Argentina	51.1	72	79	99	..	45	0.7 ^b	1.6 ^b	6	40
Armenia	53.5	68	75	93	5	46	..	..	36	8
Australia	50.2	79	84	..	..	49	0.2	0.4	6	27
Austria	51.0	77	83	..	..	47	2.0	2.9	12	32
Azerbaijan	51.4	64	71	77	6	50	16.8	16.8	..	11
Bangladesh	48.8	63	65	51	33	..	9.7	60.1	10	15
Belarus	53.5	65	76	99	..	..	..	..	..	29
Belgium	51.0	77	83	..	..	46	0.4	2.9	9	35
Benin	49.6	56	58	84	21	..	..	..	3	11
Bolivia	50.2	63	68	79	16	..	12.6	34.8	9	17
Bosnia and Herzegovina	51.4	72	77	99	..	35	3.0	11.0	..	12
Botswana	50.3	50	51	..	..	42	2.2	2.2	5	11
Brazil	50.7	69	76	97	..	..	4.6 ^b	8.1 ^b	5	9
Bulgaria	51.6	69	76	..	..	53	0.7	1.6	21	22
Burkina Faso	50.0	51	54	85	23	..	..	..	..	15
Burundi	51.1	48	51	92	..	..	..	..	..	31
Cambodia	51.2	57	62	69	8	52	..	..	..	16
Cameroon	50.0	50	51	82	28	..	..	..	14	14
Canada	50.5	78	83	..	..	50	0.1	0.2	13	21
Central African Republic	51.2	43	46	69	..	..	..	..	4	11
Chad	50.3	49	52	39	37	..	..	..	..	5
Chile	50.5	75	82	..	..	39	0.9	2.8	..	15
China	48.4	71	75	90	..	..	..	..	21	21
Hong Kong, China	52.1	79	85	..	..	48	0.1 ^b	1.1 ^b	..	..
Colombia	50.8	69	77	94	21	49	3.2	6.1	5	8
Congo, Dem. Rep.	50.5	45	48	85	24	..	..	..	5	8
Congo, Rep.	50.4	54	57	86	27	..	..	..	14	7
Costa Rica	49.2	76	81	92	..	41	1.3	2.8	11	37
Côte d'Ivoire	49.3	48	49	85	..	..	..	..	6	9
Croatia	51.9	72	79	100	4	44 ^c	1.1	3.7	..	22
Cuba	50.0	76	80	100	..	43	..	..	34	43
Czech Republic	51.2	74	80	..	..	46	0.2	1.1	..	16
Denmark	50.5	76	81	..	..	49	0.3	1.0	31	38
Dominican Republic	49.9	69	75	99	21	39	2.8	4.9	8	20
Ecuador	49.9	72	78	84	..	42	4.4	11.1	5	25
Egypt, Arab Rep.	49.9	69	74	70	9	21	8.6 ^b	32.6 ^b	4	2
El Salvador	50.9	69	75	86	..	49	8.8	9.9	12	17
Eritrea	50.9	56	60	70	14	..	..	..	..	22
Estonia	53.9	67	79	..	..	53	0.0 ^d	0.0 ^d	..	21
Ethiopia	50.3	52	54	28	17	47	7.8	12.7	..	22
Finland	51.0	76	83	..	..	51	0.6	0.4	32	42
France	51.3	78	85	..	..	48	0.3	1.0	7	18
Gabon	50.0	56	57	..	..	..	..	..	13	17
Gambia, The	49.9	59	60	98	..	..	..	..	8	9
Georgia	52.8	67	75	94	..	49	19.0	39.0	..	6
Germany	51.1	77	82	..	..	47	0.4	1.8	..	32
Ghana	49.3	60	60	92	14	..	..	..	..	11
Greece	50.5	77	82	..	..	42	3.7	10.7	7	15
Guatemala	51.2	67	74	84	..	38	21.3	24.5	7	12
Guinea	49.5	54	58	82	32	19
Guinea-Bissau	50.6	45	48	78	20	14
Haiti	50.5	59	63	85	14	4

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		Male 2007	Female 2007				Male % of male employment 2002-07 ^a	Female % of female employment 2002-07 ^a	1990	2008
		Honduras	50.3				67	74	92	22	45	12.1	8.3	10	23
Hungary	52.4	69	77	..	..	48	0.3	0.7	21	11
India	48.2	63	66	74	16	18	..	..	5	9
Indonesia	50.1	69	73	93	10	29	7.8	33.6	12	12
Iran, Islamic Rep.	49.3	69	73	..	..	..	5.4	32.7	2	3
Iraq	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	26
Ireland	50.1	77	82	..	..	48	0.4	0.9	8	13
Israel	50.5	79	83	..	..	49	0.1	0.4	7	14
Italy	51.4	79	84	..	..	43	1.3	2.6	13	21
Jamaica	50.7	70	75	91	..	48	0.5	2.2	5	13
Japan	51.2	79	86	..	..	42	1.1	7.3	1	9
Jordan	48.6	71	74	99	4	26	..	..	0	6
Kazakhstan	52.2	61	72	100	7	49	1.0	1.3	..	16
Kenya	50.2	53	55	88	23	..	..	..	1	9
Korea, Dem. Rep.	50.7	65	69	..	..	..	..	..	21	20
Korea, Rep.	50.0	76	82	..	..	42	1.2	12.7	2	14
Kuwait	40.1	76	80	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Kyrgyz Republic	50.7	64	72	97	..	52	8.8	19.3	..	26
Lao PDR	50.2	63	66	..	..	50	..	..	6	25
Latvia	53.9	66	77	..	..	53	1.5	1.6	..	20
Lebanon	51.0	70	74	96	..	..	..	..	0	5
Lesotho	52.9	43	42	90	20	..	..	..	..	25
Liberia	50.0	45	47	..	32	..	..	..	..	13
Libya	48.2	72	77	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Lithuania	53.4	65	77	..	..	54	1.1	2.4	..	23
Macedonia, FYR	50.1	72	77	98	..	40	7.0	14.9	..	32
Madagascar	50.3	58	61	80	34	38	32.1	73.0	7	8
Malawi	50.3	48	48	92	34	..	..	..	10	13
Malaysia	49.2	72	77	79	..	38	2.7	8.8	5	11
Mali	51.3	52	57	70	36	35	18.4	10.2	..	10
Mauritania	49.4	62	66	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Mauritius	50.4	69	76	..	..	38	0.9	4.7	7	17
Mexico	51.2	73	77	..	..	39	4.9	10.0	12	23
Moldova	52.1	65	72	98	6	54	1.3	3.4	..	22
Mongolia	50.1	64	70	99	..	53	18.4	31.7	25	4
Morocco	50.8	69	73	68	7	28	17.0	55.3	0	11
Mozambique	51.5	42	42	85	41	..	..	..	16	35
Myanmar	50.5	59	65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Namibia	50.7	52	53	95	..	47	3.2	5.8	7	27
Nepal	50.4	63	64	44	19	..	..	..	6	33
Netherlands	50.5	78	82	..	..	47	0.2	1.0	21	39
New Zealand	50.7	78	82	..	..	47	0.8	1.5	14	33
Nicaragua	50.2	70	76	90	..	..	12.2	9.1	15	19
Niger	49.3	58	56	46	39	..	..	..	5	12
Nigeria	50.0	46	47	58	25	21	..	..	..	7
Norway	50.3	78	83	..	..	49	0.2	0.3	36	36
Oman	44.1	74	77	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Pakistan	48.6	65	66	61	9	11	18.6	61.9	10	23
Panama	49.6	73	78	..	..	43	2.3	4.0	8	17
Papua New Guinea	49.3	55	60	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
Paraguay	49.5	70	74	94	..	..	10.8 ^b	8.9 ^b	6	13
Peru	49.9	69	74	91	26	36	4.7 ^b	9.9 ^b	6	29
Philippines	49.6	70	74	88	8	42	9.0	18.0	9	21
Poland	51.7	71	80	47	2.8	6.0	14	20
Portugal	51.6	75	82	47	0.7	1.5	8	28
Puerto Rico	52.1	74	83	41	0.0 ^d	0.0 ^d



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		Male 2007	Female 2007				Male % of male employment 2002-07 ^a	Female % of female employment 2002-07 ^a	1990	2008
Romania	51.3	69	76	94	..	47	6.5	19.9	34	9
Russian Federation	53.7	62	74	..	..	51	0.1	0.1	..	14
Rwanda	51.8	45	48	94	4	..	..	..	17	56
Saudi Arabia	45.0	71	75	..	..	13	..	..	..	0
Senegal	50.2	61	65	87	19	..	..	..	13	22
Serbia	50.5	71	76	98	..	42	3.1	11.9	..	22
Sierra Leone	50.7	41	44	81	..	23	14.8	21.6	..	13
Singapore	49.7	78	83	..	..	50	0.4	1.3	5	25
Slovak Republic	51.5	71	78	..	..	50	0.1 ^b	0.1 ^b	..	19
Slovenia	51.2	74	82	..	..	48	3.1	7.1	..	13
Somalia	50.4	47	49	26	..	..	..	..	4	8
South Africa	50.8	49	52	92	..	43	0.3	0.6	3	33
Spain	50.7	78	84	..	..	43	0.7	1.6	15	36
Sri Lanka	50.7	69	76	99	..	45	4.4 ^b	21.7 ^b	5	6
Sudan	49.6	57	60	70	..	..	..	..	..	18
Swaziland	51.6	40	39	85	23	..	..	..	4	11
Sweden	50.4	79	83	..	..	50	0.3	0.3	38	47
Switzerland	51.3	79	84	..	..	47	1.7	3.2	14	29
Syrian Arab Republic	49.5	72	76	84	..	..	..	..	9	12
Tajikistan	50.4	64	69	79	..	..	..	..	..	18
Tanzania	50.3	51	54	78	26	..	9.7	13.0	..	30
Thailand	51.3	66	75	98	..	47	14.0	29.9	3	12
Timor-Leste	49.2	60	62	61	..	..	..	..	..	29
Togo	50.5	57	60	84	..	..	..	..	5	11
Trinidad and Tobago	50.8	68	72	96	..	43	0.3	1.7	17	27
Tunisia	49.7	72	76	..	..	..	..	..	4	23
Turkey	49.6	69	74	81	..	21	5.6	38.2	1	9
Turkmenistan	50.8	59	68	99	..	..	..	..	26	16
Uganda	50.0	51	52	94	25	..	10.3 ^b	40.5 ^b	12	31
Ukraine	53.9	63	74	99	..	55	0.4	0.3	..	8
United Arab Emirates	32.4	77	81	..	..	..	..	..	0	23
United Kingdom	51.0	77	82	..	..	50	0.2	0.5	6	20
United States	50.8	75	81	..	..	47	0.1	0.1	7	17
Uruguay	51.7	72	80	..	..	45	0.9 ^b	3.0 ^b	6	12
Uzbekistan	50.3	64	70	99	..	..	..	..	..	18
Venezuela, RB	49.8	71	77	..	..	41	0.6	1.6	10	19
Vietnam	50.0	72	76	91	3	46	18.9	47.2	18	26
West Bank and Gaza	49.1	72	75	99	..	17	6.6	31.5	..	..
Yemen, Rep.	49.4	61	64	41	..	..	..	..	4	0 ^d
Zambia	50.2	42	42	93	32	..	..	..	7	15
Zimbabwe	50.3	44	43	94	21	..	10.4	13.6	11	15
World	49.6 w	67 w	71 w	81 w	..	.. w	.. w	.. w	13 w	18 w
Low income	49.8	56	59	67	..	..	..	..	..	18
Middle income	49.3	67	72	86	..	..	..	..	13	17
Lower middle income	48.9	67	71	84	..	..	..	..	13	15
Upper middle income	51.2	67	75	..	..	45	3.3	7.3	13	19
Low & middle income	49.4	65	69	81	..	..	..	..	13	17
East Asia & Pacific	48.9	70	74	90	..	..	..	..	17	18
Europe & Central Asia	52.1	65	74	..	..	48	2.4	6.3	..	15
Latin America & Carib.	50.6	70	76	95	..	..	4.0	7.5	12	22
Middle East & N. Africa	49.7	68	72	76	..	..	..	..	4	9
South Asia	48.4	63	66	69	..	18	..	..	6	20
Sub-Saharan Africa	50.2	50	52	72	..	..	..	..	..	18
High income	50.6	77	82	..	..	46	0.5	2.4	12	22
Euro area	51.1	77	83	..	..	45	0.8	2.1	12	25

a. Data are for the most recent year available. b. Limited coverage. c. Data are for 2007. d. Less than 0.5.

About the data

Despite much progress in recent decades, gender inequalities remain pervasive in many dimensions of life—worldwide. But while disparities exist throughout the world, they are most prevalent in developing countries. Gender inequalities in the allocation of such resources as education, health care, nutrition, and political voice matter because of the strong association with well-being, productivity, and economic growth. These patterns of inequality begin at an early age, with boys routinely receiving a larger share of education and health spending than do girls, for example.

Because of biological differences girls are expected to experience lower infant and child mortality rates and to have a longer life expectancy than boys. This biological advantage may be overshadowed, however, by gender inequalities in nutrition and medical interventions and by inadequate care during pregnancy and delivery, so that female rates of illness and death sometimes exceed male rates, particularly during early childhood and the reproductive years. In high-income countries women tend to outlive men by four to eight years on average, while in low-income countries the difference is narrower—about two to three years. The difference in child mortality rates (table 2.22) is another good indicator of female social disadvantage because nutrition and medical interventions are particularly important for the 1–4 age group. Female child mortality rates that are as high as or higher than male child mortality rates may indicate discrimination against girls.

Having a child during the teenage years limits girls' opportunities for better education, jobs, and income. Pregnancy is more likely to be unintended during the teenage years, and births are more likely to be premature and are associated with greater risks of complications during delivery and of death. In many countries maternal mortality (tables 1.3 and 2.18) is a leading cause of death among women of reproductive age. Most maternal deaths result from preventable causes—hemorrhage, infection, and complications from unsafe abortions. Prenatal care is essential for recognizing, diagnosing, and promptly treating complications that arise during pregnancy. In high-income countries most women have access to health care during pregnancy, but in developing countries an estimated 200 million women suffer pregnancy-related complications, and over half a million die every year (Glazier and others 2006). This is reflected in the differences in maternal mortality ratios between high- and low-income countries.

Women's wage work is important for economic growth and the well-being of families. But restricted access to education and vocational training, heavy workloads at home and in nonpaid domestic and market activities, and labor market discrimination often limit women's participation in paid economic activities, lower their productivity, and reduce their wages. When women are in salaried employment, they tend to be concentrated in the nonagricultural sector. However, in many developing countries women are a large part of agricultural employment, often as unpaid family workers. Among people who are unsalaried, women are more likely than men to be unpaid family workers, while men are more likely than women to be self-employed or employers. There are several reasons for this.

Few women have access to credit markets, capital, land, training, and education, which may be required to start a business. Cultural norms may prevent women from working on their own or from supervising other workers. Also, women may face time constraints due to their traditional family responsibilities. Because of biases and misclassification substantial numbers of employed women may be underestimated or reported as unpaid family workers even when they work in association or equally with their husbands in the family enterprise.

Women are vastly underrepresented in decision-making positions in government, although there is some evidence of recent improvement. Gender parity in parliamentary representation is still far from being realized. In 2008 women accounted for 18 percent of parliamentarians worldwide, compared with 9 percent in 1987. Without representation at this level, it is difficult for women to influence policy.

For information on other aspects of gender, see tables 1.2 (Millennium Development Goals: eradicating poverty and saving lives), 1.3 (Millennium Development Goals: protecting our common environment), 2.3 (Employment by economic activity), 2.4 (Decent work and productive employment), 2.5 (Unemployment), 2.6 (Children at work), 2.10 (Assessing vulnerability and security), 2.13 (Education efficiency), 2.14 (Education completion and outcomes), 2.15 (Education gaps by income and gender), 2.18 (Reproductive health), 2.20 (Health risk factors and future challenges), 2.21 (Health gaps by income and gender), and 2.22 (Mortality).

Definitions

- **Female population** is the percentage of the population that is female.
- **Life expectancy at birth** is the number of years a newborn infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same throughout its life.
- **Pregnant women receiving prenatal care** are the percentage of women attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel for reasons related to pregnancy.
- **Teenage mothers** are the percentage of women ages 15–19 who already have children or are currently pregnant.
- **Women in nonagricultural sector** are female wage employees in the nonagricultural sector as a percentage of total nonagricultural wage employment.
- **Unpaid family workers** are those who work without pay in a market-oriented establishment or activity operated by a related person living in the same household.
- **Women in parliaments** are the percentage of parliamentary seats in a single or lower chamber held by women.

Data sources

Data on female population and life expectancy are from the World Bank's population database. Data on pregnant women receiving prenatal care are from household surveys, including Demographic and Health Surveys by Macro International and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and UNICEF's *State of the World's Children 2009*. Data on teenage mothers are from Demographic and Health Surveys by Macro International. Data on labor force and employment are from the International Labour Organization's *Key Indicators of the Labour Market*, fifth edition. Data on women in parliaments are from the Inter-Parliamentary Union.