

Concepts and definitions

Employment comprises all persons of working age (15+) who did some work for pay or profit and for use by others during the reference period.

The **employment-to-population ratio**, or employment rate, expresses the number of persons employed as a percentage of the total working-age population (15+).

Global trends and patterns

In 2018, global employment reached 3.3 billion individuals while the employment-to-population ratio remained at 58 per cent. As the population grows so does the scale of the global economy, thus the number of people employed is expected to grow.

However, the employment rate is on a downward trend. While the working-age population has been growing continuously, the levels of employment creation are not enough to fully furnish potential workers with jobs. This decline of the employment rate is projected to continue in the near future.

Figure 1 | Global employment and working-age population in billions of people, 2000-2020

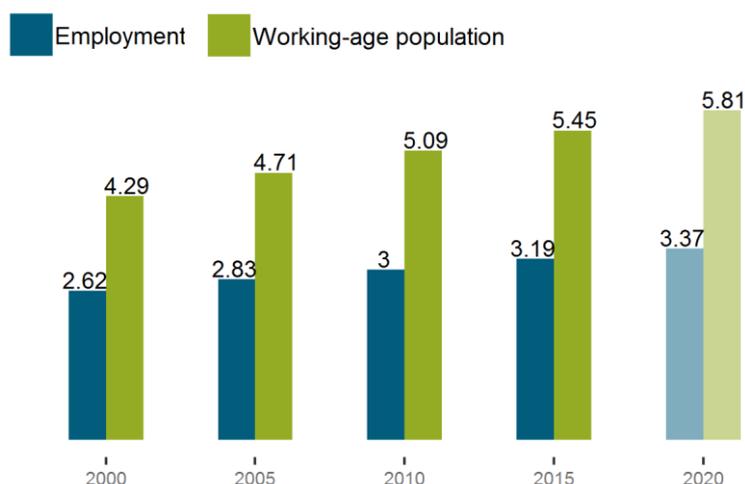


Figure 2 | Global employment-to-population ratio, 2000-2020

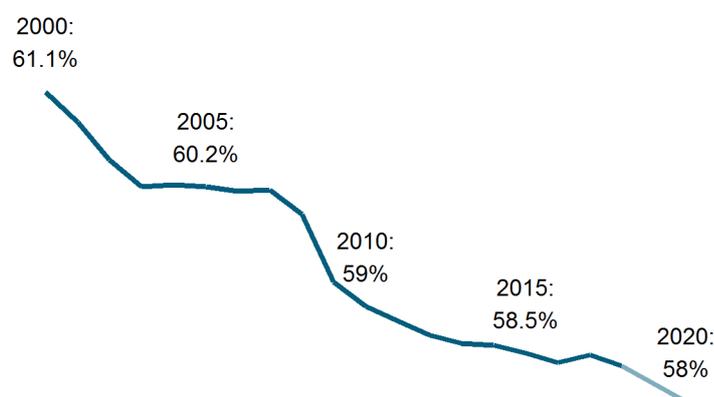
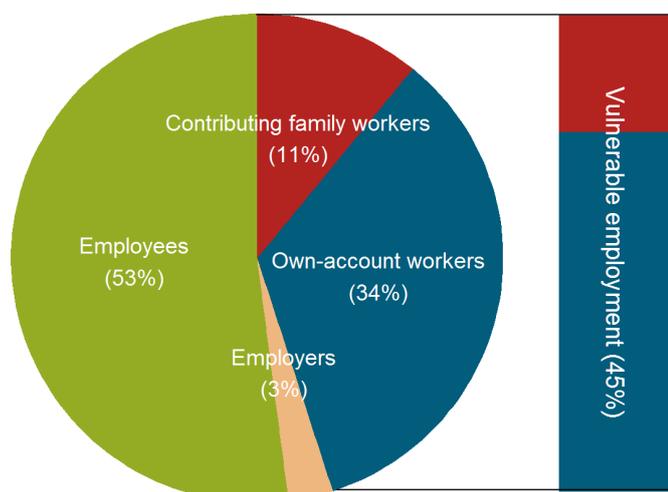


Figure 3 | Global employment by status in employment, 2018



Status in employment

The status in employment of workers determines to a great extent their working conditions, including their remuneration, job security, and access to social protection.

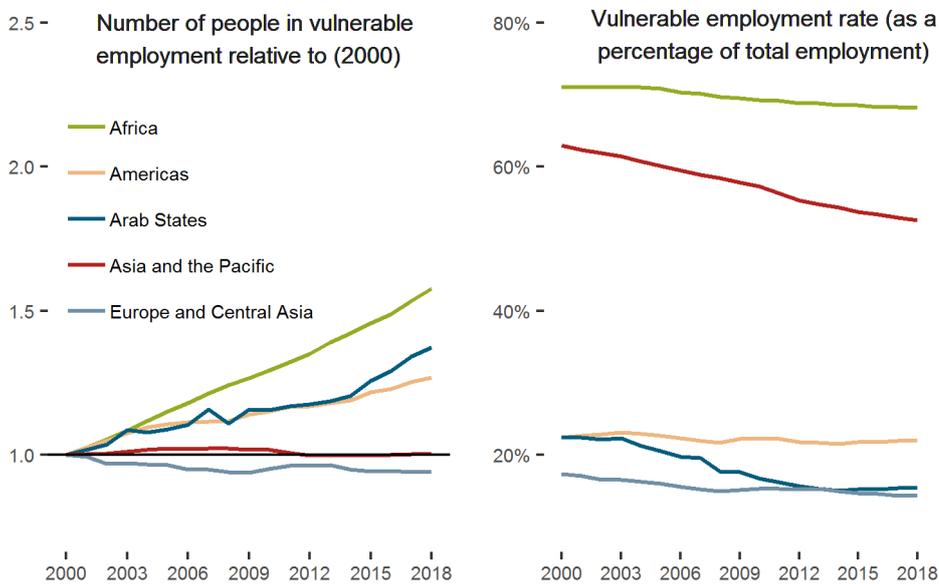
Little more than half of the world's employed were employees in 2018 (53 per cent), while own-account workers and contributing family workers accounted for 45 per cent of the world's employed population. These last two groups of workers are in "vulnerable employment", typically associated with high levels of precariousness.

Vulnerable employment

The levels of vulnerable employment vary from one region to the other. In 2018 in Europe and Central Asia, the Arab States and the Americas, own-account workers and contributing family workers represented less than a quarter of the regional workforce. Conversely, vulnerable employment is a cause for concern in Asia and the Pacific and Africa, where the share of workers in vulnerable employment was 49 and 66 per cent respectively in 2018.

Encouragingly, the share of workers in vulnerable employment has declined since 2000 in all regions, although the number of people in vulnerable employment has increased, pointing to the need for increased efforts to ensure decent working conditions for all.

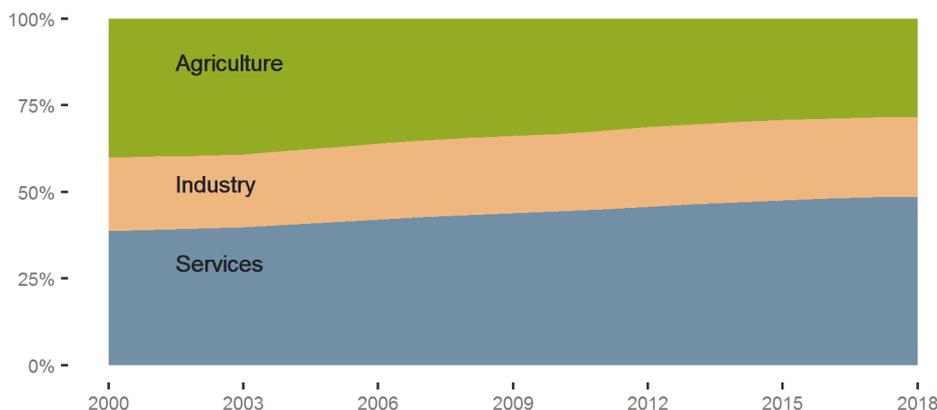
Figure 3 | Vulnerable employment, 2000-2018



Decreasing share of employment in agriculture

Since 2000, the share of employment in agriculture has declined, to account for 30 per cent of global employment in 2018, when the services sector represented almost half of global employment, and industry accounted for 20 per cent.

Figure 4 | Employment shares by broad sector, 2000-2018



Women represent **39%** of the **world's employment** although they account for **half** of the working-age population.



Africa is the region with the highest share of

vulnerable employment, at **66%**



Low income countries have the highest **agricultural sector** share, which accounts for **70%** of total employment



The region with the highest share of **highly skilled** workers is **Europe and Central Asia** with about **40%**

