

Overview of the informal economy in the Arab States

Persons and jobs/ work activities (15+)

Jobs: Informal employment (13e ICLS)

Trends 2004-2024

Source: ILO modelled estimates

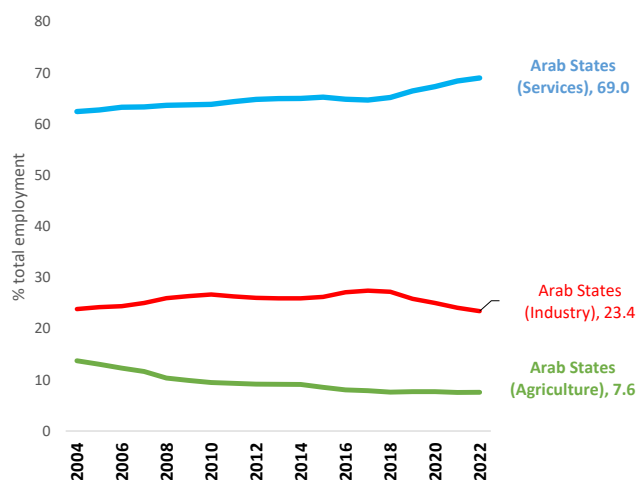
I. Extent of informality

1 Percentage of informal employment in relation to total employment, by sex (%) | Arab States

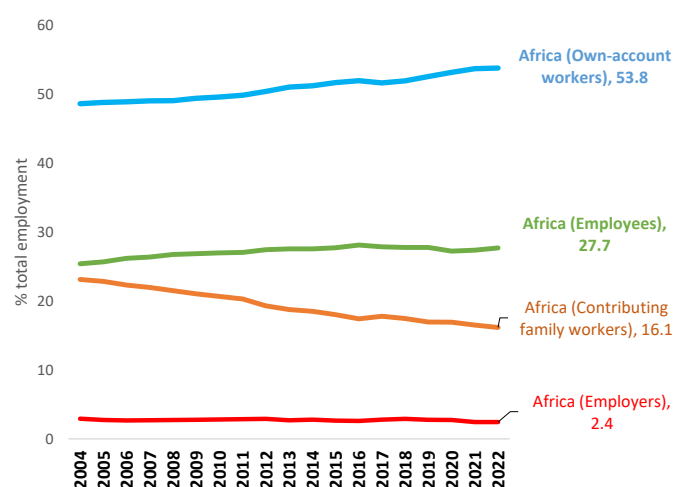


Source: ILO Modelled Estimates: SDG 8.3.1, employment by status in employment, employment by economic activity.

2 Distribution of total employment by economic sector | Arab States



3 Composition of total employment by employment status | Africa



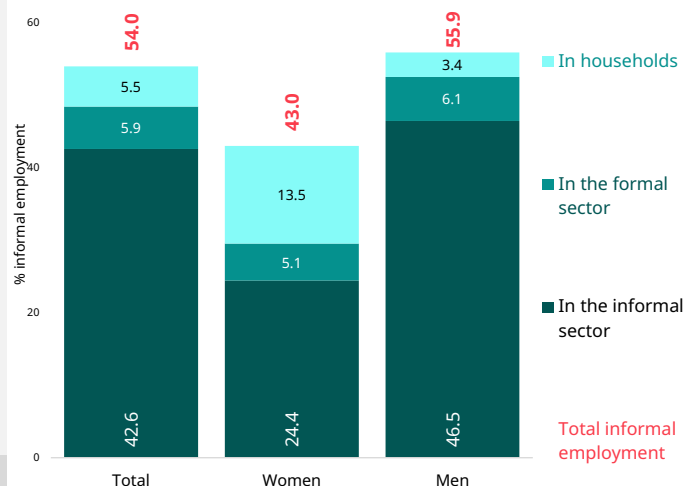
Note: All estimates of informal employment follow the ILO harmonized definition and ILO estimates may differ from national estimates. For more details, see: Women and men in the informal economy: A statistical picture (Third edition). The terms 'informal (or formal) employment' refer to person's informal (or formal) main job.

Regional overview (2019)

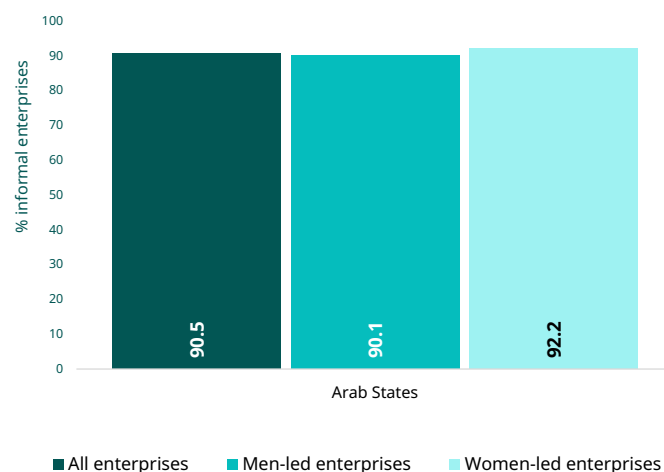
Source: ILO 2023. Women and men in the informal economy: A statistical update (and associated database)

I. Extent of informality

4 Percentage of informal employment in relation to total employment, by sex (%) | Arab States

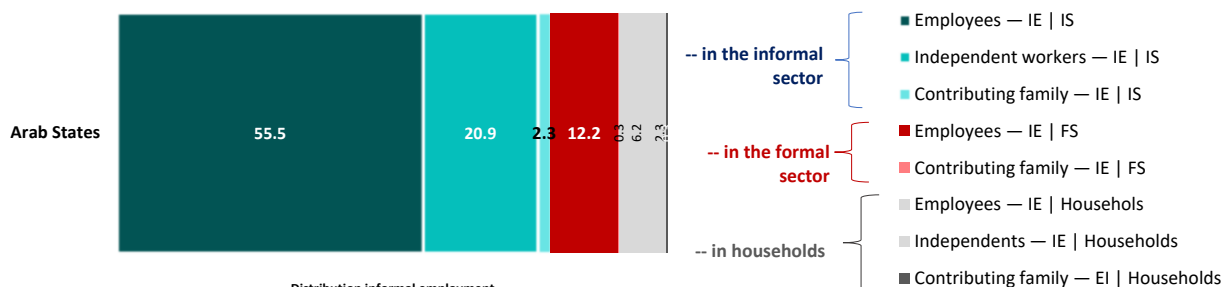


5 Percentage of informal enterprises in relation to total enterprises, by sex of the owner (%) | Arab States



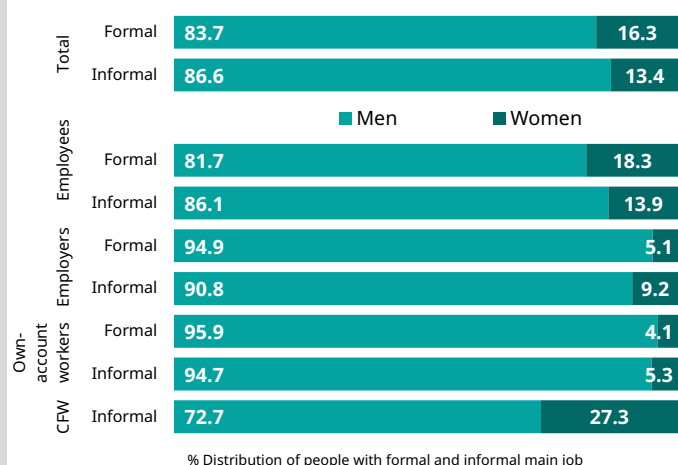
II. Composition of informality

6 Distribution of persons in informal employment by informal sector, formal sector, household own-use community sector and status in employment by sex (%) | Arab States

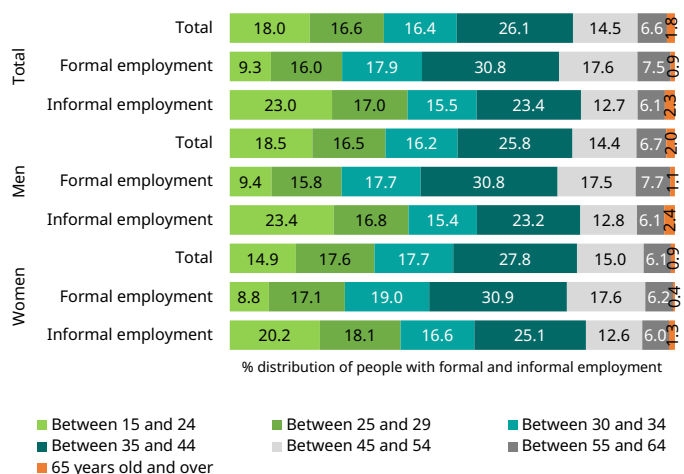


Note: IE = Informal Employment; IS = Informal Sector; EI = formal Employment; FS = Formal Sector

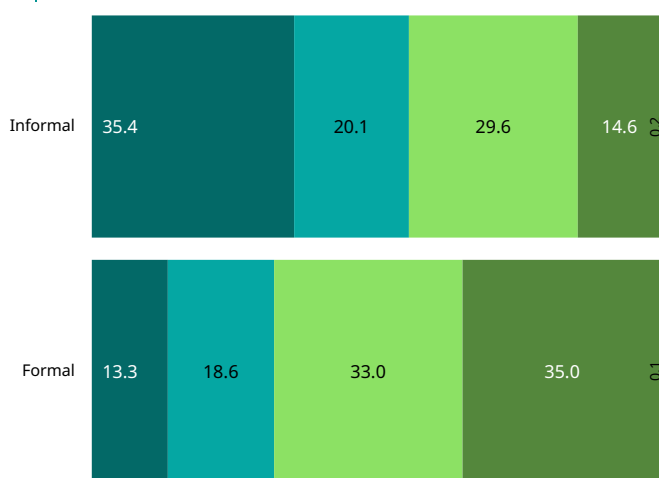
7 Distribution of persons in informal and formal employment by sex and status in employment (%) | Arab States



8 Distribution of persons in informal and formal employment by age group and sex (%) | Arab States



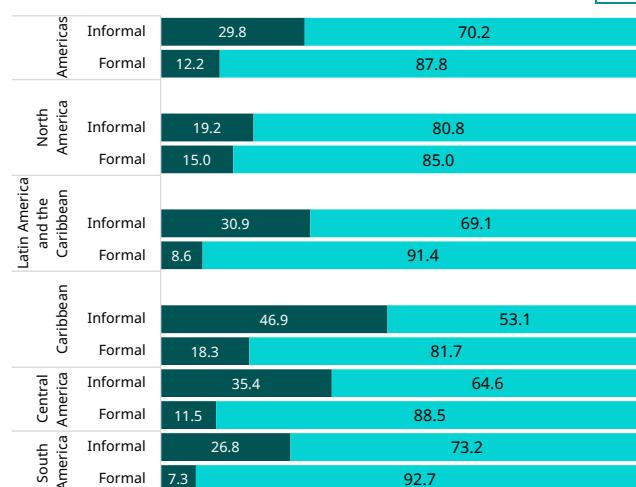
9 Distribution of informal and formal employment by **highest level of education** and sex (%) | Arab States



Distribution of informal and formal employment

■ No education ■ Primary ■ Secondary ■ Tertiary ■ Other

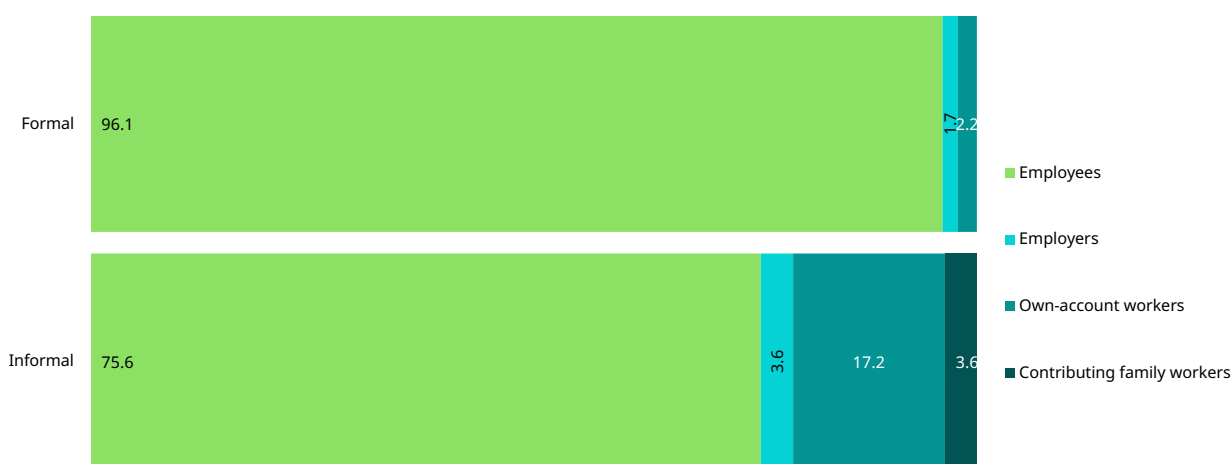
10 Distribution of informal and formal employment by **area of residence** and sex (%) | Americas and subregions



Distribution of informal and formal employment

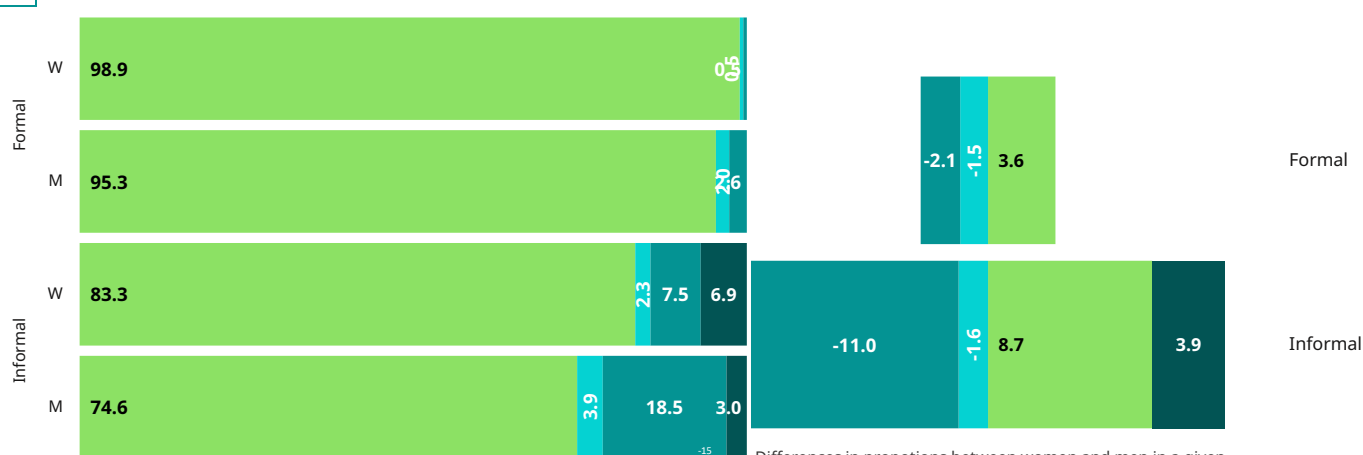
■ Rural ■ Urban

11 Distribution of persons with an informal or formal main job by **status in employment** (%) | Americas and subregions



Distribution of informal and formal employment

12 Distribution of persons in informal or formal employment by **status in employment and sex** (%) | Arab States



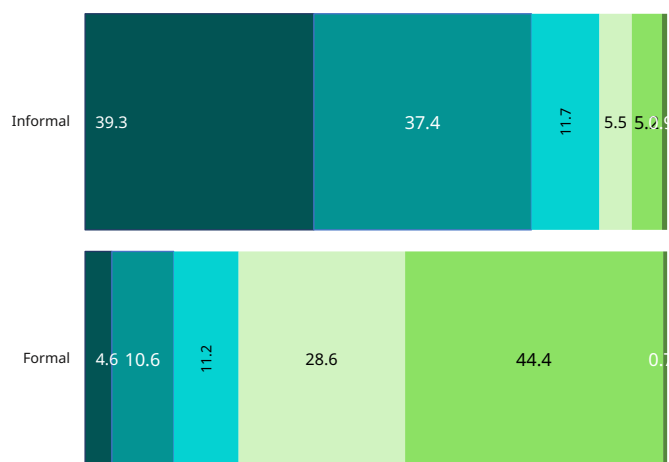
Distribution of informal and formal employment

■ Employees ■ Employers ■ Own-account workers ■ Contributing family workers

Differences in proportions between women and men in a given employment status (percentage points)

MEN OVER-REPRESENTED: Proportion of men in employment status X > Proportion of women in employment status X
WOMEN OVER-REPRESENTED: Proportion of women in employment status X > Proportion of men in employment status X

II. Composition of informality

13 Distribution of persons in informal and formal employment by **size of economic units** | Arab States

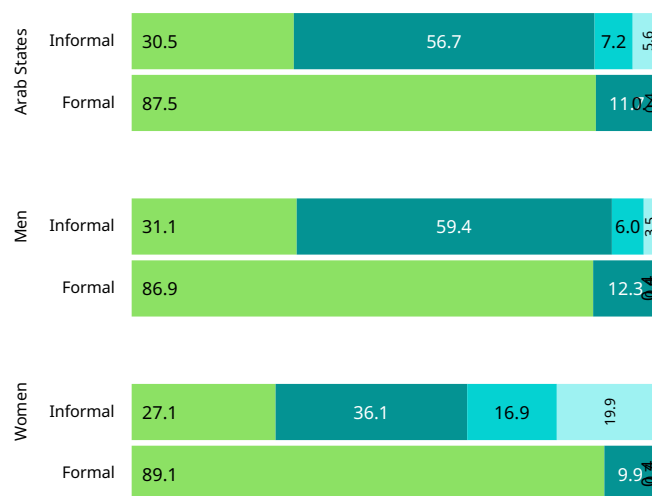
Distribution of informal and formal employment

Own-account workers

2-4 persons

5-9 persons

10-49 persons

14 Distribution of persons in informal and formal employment by **place of work, (%)** | Arab States (low- and middle income countries)

Distribution of informal and formal employment

Fixed visible premises

Non-fixed other than home

Own home

Others' home

15 Distribution of persons in informal or formal employment by **economic activity** and sex (%) | Americas and subregions

Distribution of informal and formal employment

Agriculture, forestry, fishing

Manufacturing

Construction

Other industries

Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles

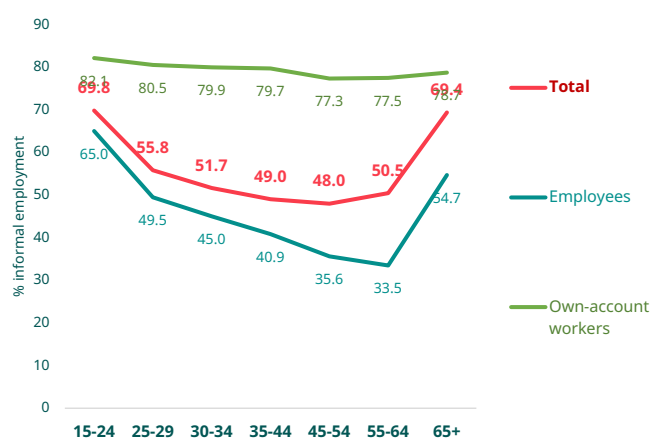
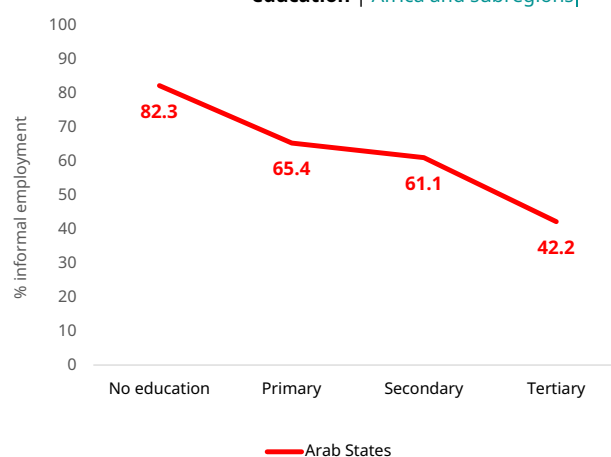
Transportation and storage

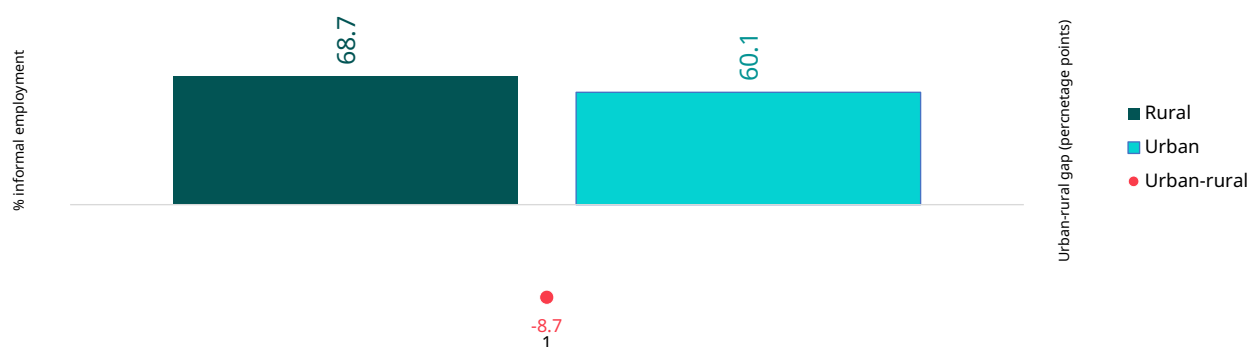
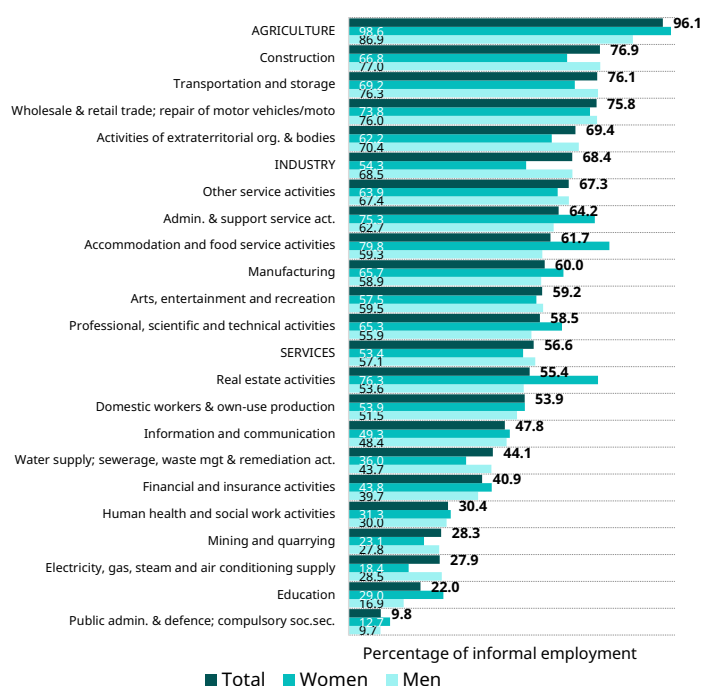
Accommodation and food service activities

Other services

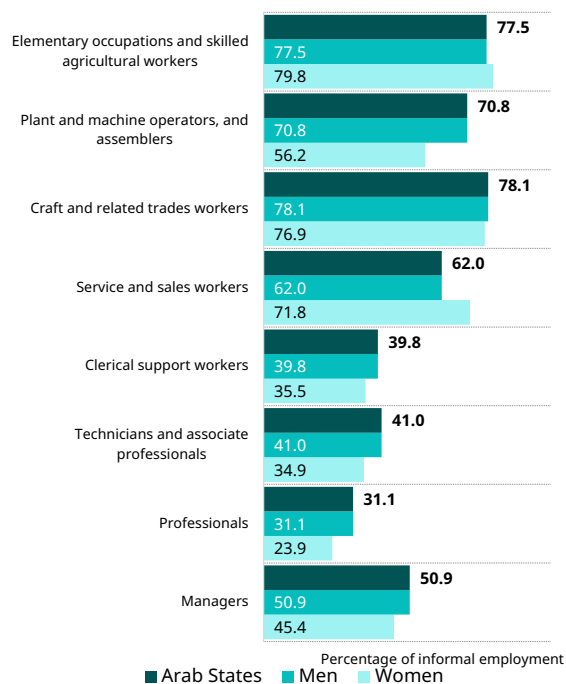
|| Not elsewhere classified

III. Exposure to informality

16 Percentage of persons in informal employment by **age group** | Arab States17 Percentage of persons in informal employment by **level of education** | Africa and subregions

18 Percentage of persons in informal employment by **status in employment** and **type of production unit** | Arab States19 Percentage of persons in informal employment by **area of residence** | Arab States20 Percentage of persons in informal employment by **economic activity** and **sex** | Arab StatesPercentage of persons in informal employment by **occupation** and **sex** | Arab States

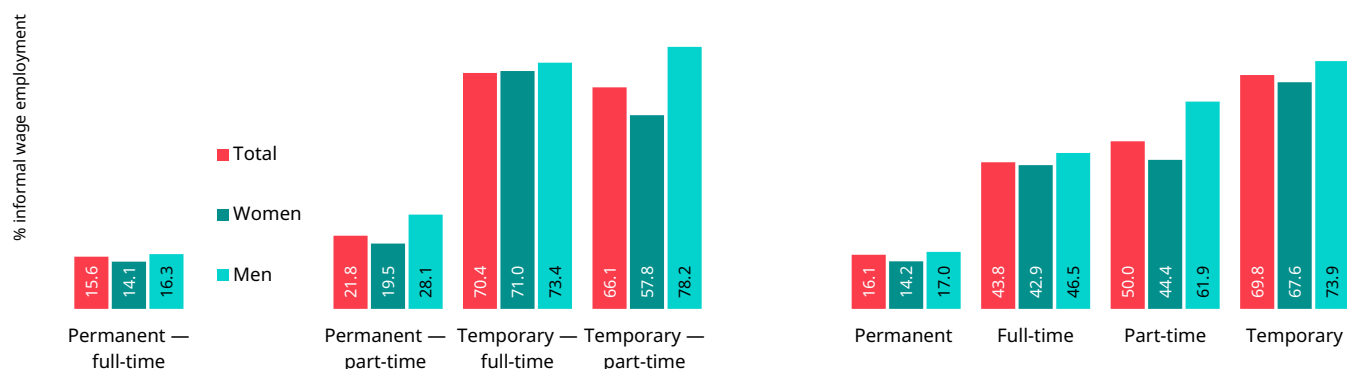
21



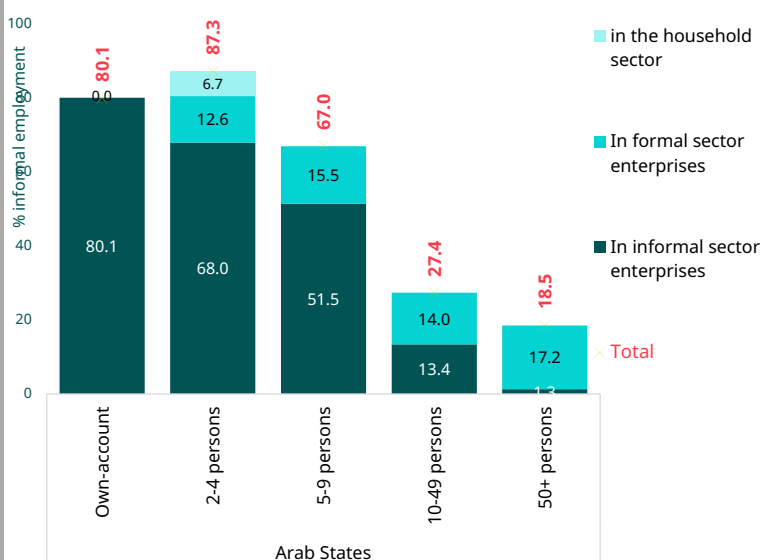
ARAB STATES

III. Exposure to informality

22 Percentage of employees in informal employment by **type of employment agreement** and **number of hours of work** (informality and non-permanent/full time employment) | Arab States [focus on employees]

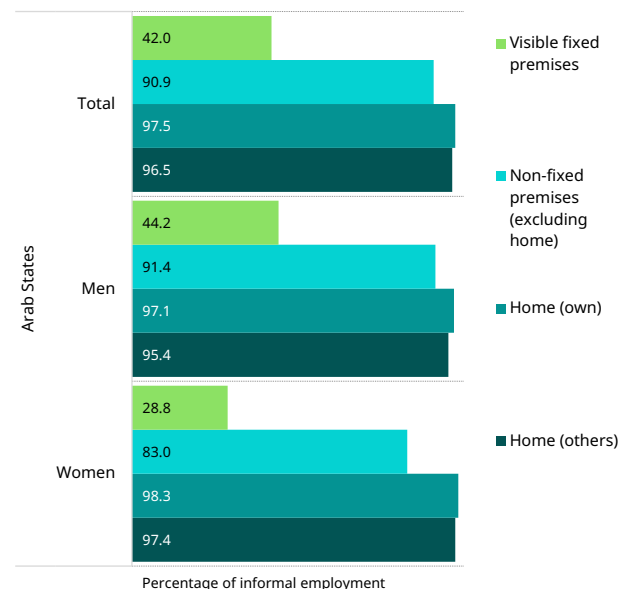


23 Percentage of persons in informal employment by **size of economic units** | Arab States



Percentage of persons in informal employment by **area of residence and sex** | Arab States

24



IV. Working conditions

25 **Ratio of monthly average labour earnings** and of weekly hours between employees in informal and in formal employment by sex | Arab States [focus on employees]

- Formal employee (reference = 100)
- Monthly wages: ratio informal compared to formal
- Nb of monthly hours: ratio informal compared to formal

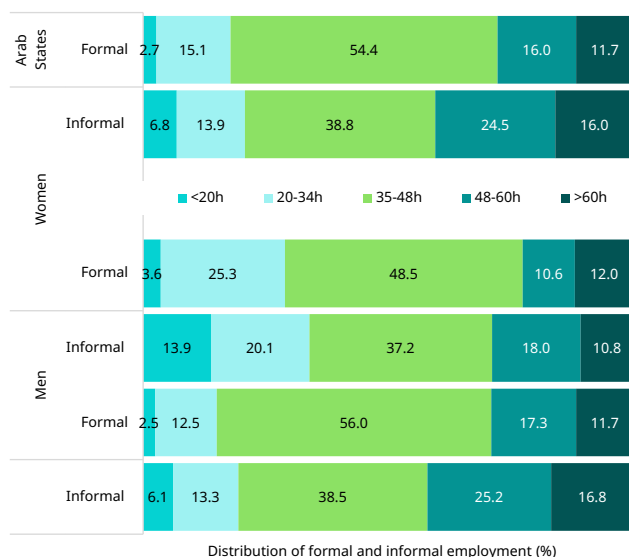


ARAB STATES

IV. Working conditions

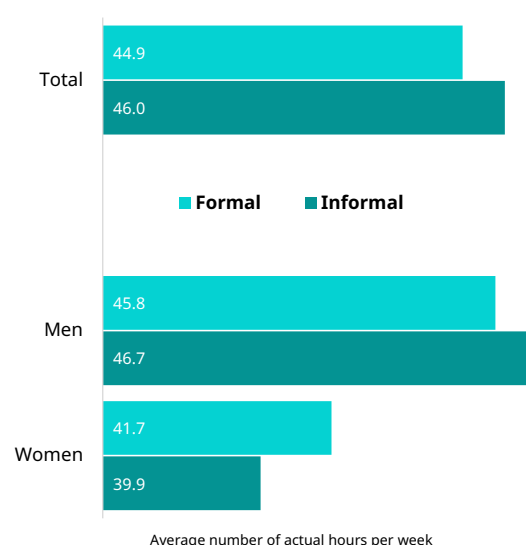
26

Distribution of persons with informal and formal main job by **actual weekly hours bands** by status in employment and sex | Arab States



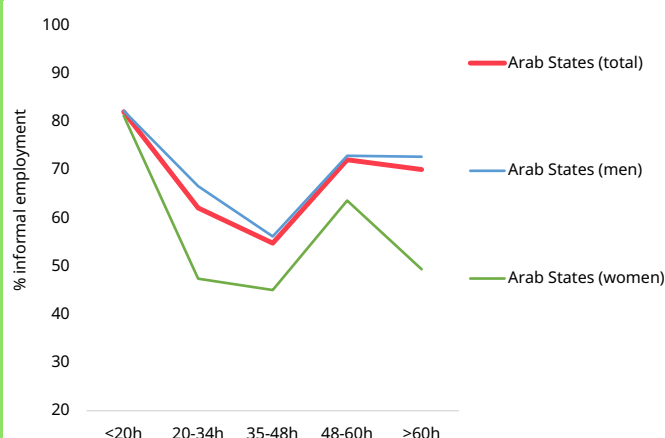
Average number of actual hours of work per week, by persons with informal and formal employment, by sex | Arab States

27



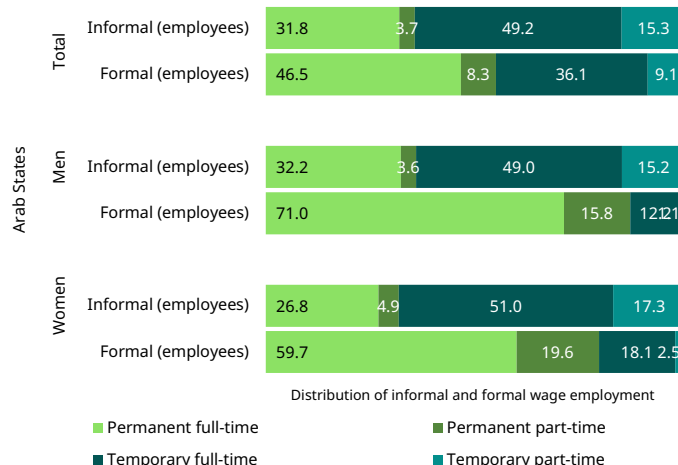
28

Percentage of persons in informal employment by **actual weekly hours bands** | Arab States



Distribution of persons in formal and informal employment by **type of employment agreement** and sex (%) | Arab States

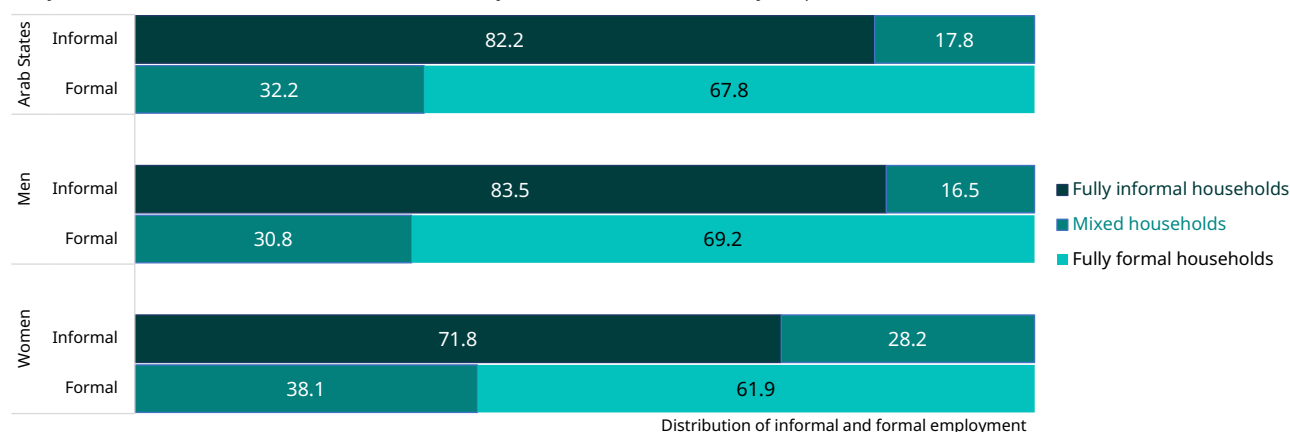
29



V. Contextual vulnerabilities

30

Distribution of persons in formal and informal employment living in households where employed members of the household (a) have formal main jobs; (b) have a mix of informal and formal main jobs; or (c) all have informal jobs | Arab States



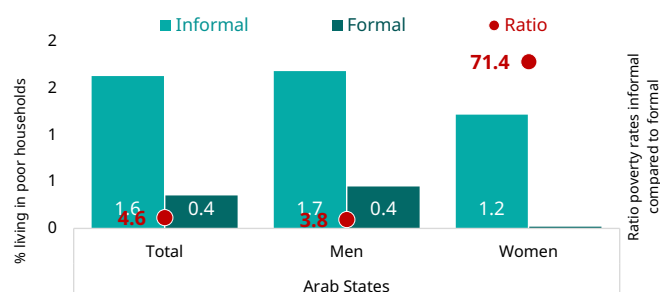
Poverty

Source: National datasets, 2019

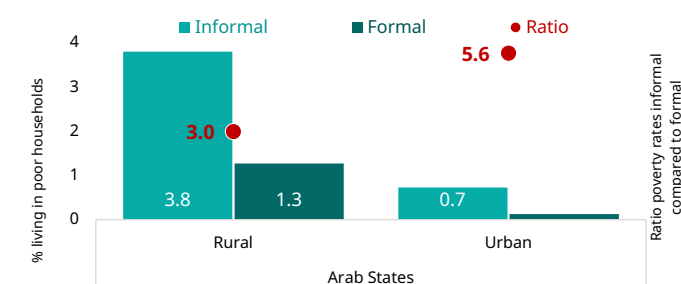
International Poverty line at 3.65\$PPP/person/day

International Poverty line at 6.85\$PPP/person/day

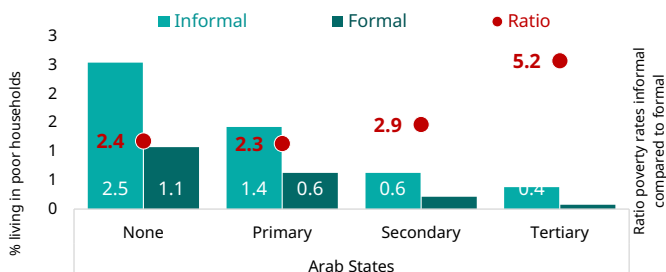
31 Percentage of persons in formal and informal employment living in poor households by sex, % | Arab States



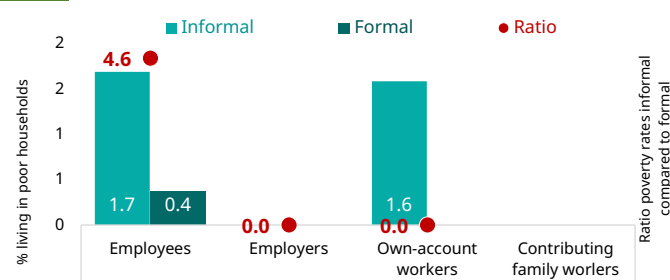
33 ... by level of education | Arab States



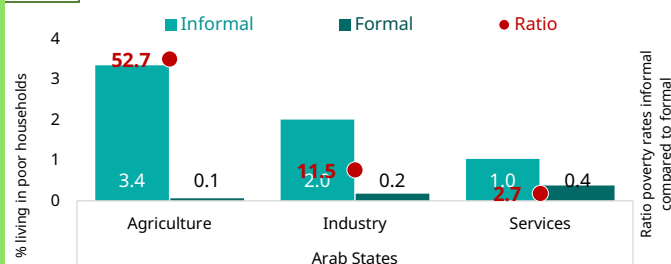
35 ... by area of residence | Arab States



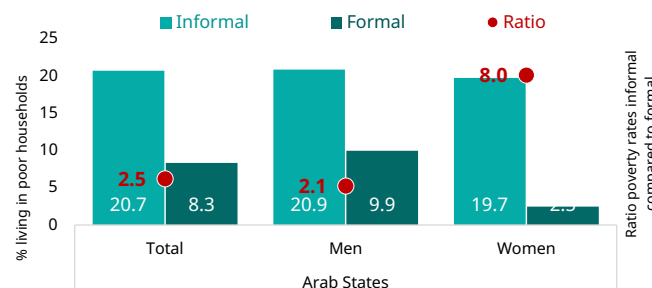
37 ... by status in employment | Arab States



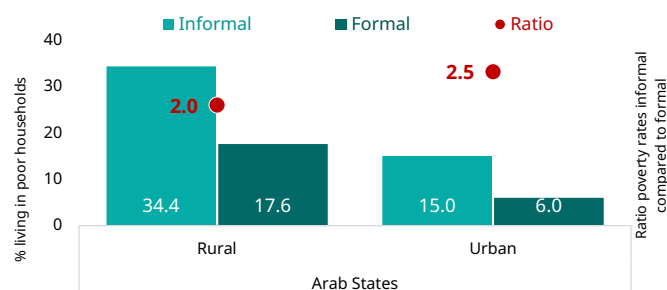
39 ... by sector | Arab States



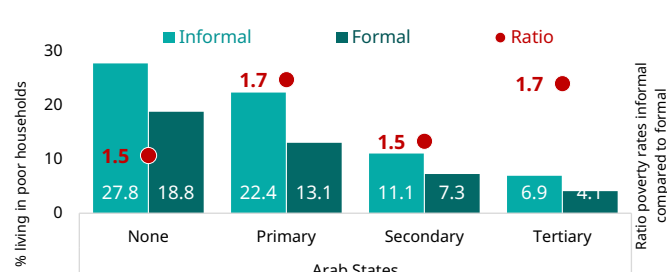
32 Percentage of persons in formal and informal employment living in poor households by sex, % | Arab States



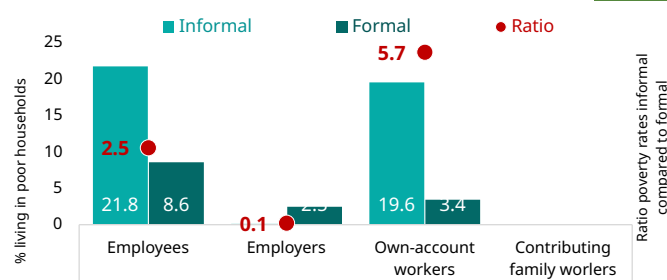
... by level of education | Arab States



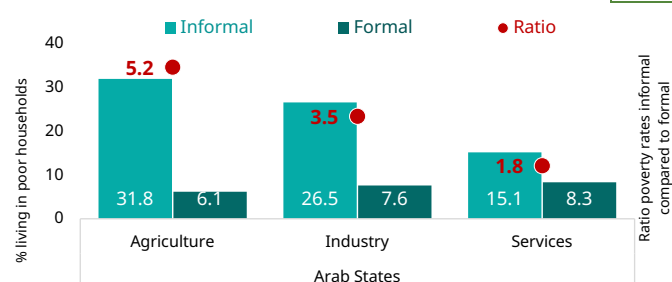
... by area of residence | Arab States



... by status in employment | Arab States



... by sector | Arab States



34

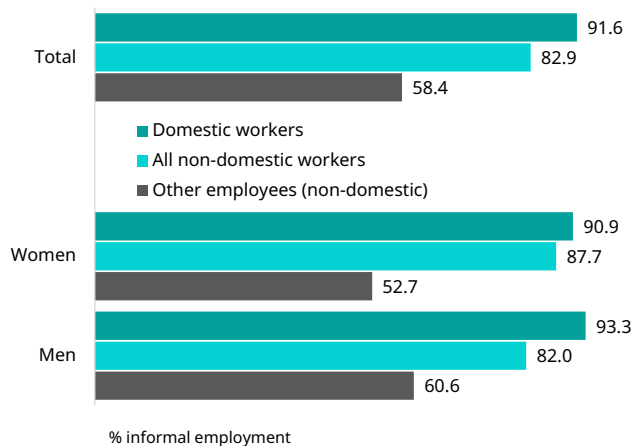
36

38

40

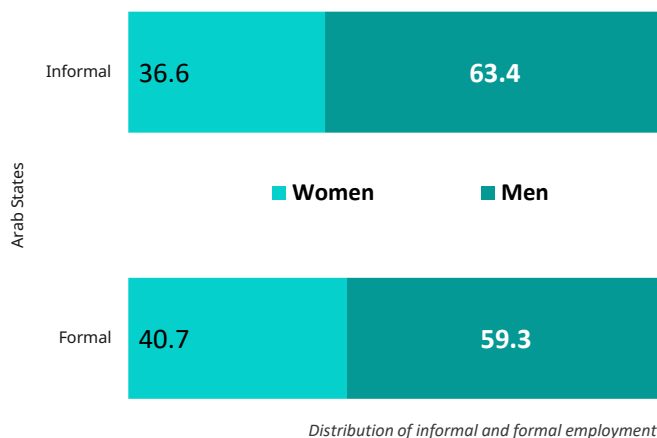
VI. Focus on specific groups

41 Extent of informal employment among **domestic workers** compared to other employees by sex | [Arab States](#)



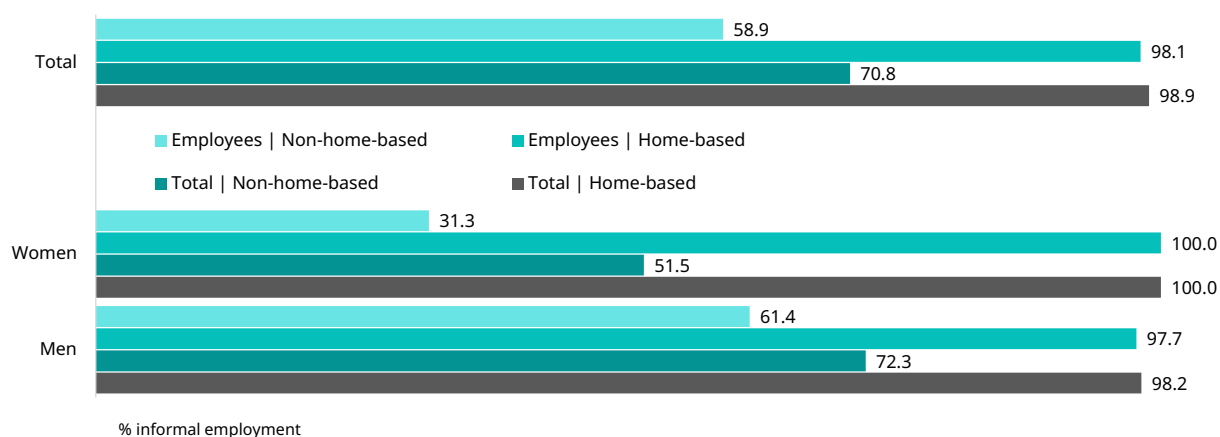
Domestic workers: composition of informal and formal employment by sex (%) | [Arab States](#)

42



Source: 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)

43 Extent of informal employment among **home-based workers** compared to other employees by sex | [Arab States](#)



Source: ILO 2021. Working from home: From invisibility to decent work