

Overview of the informal economy in the World

Persons and jobs/ work activities (15+)

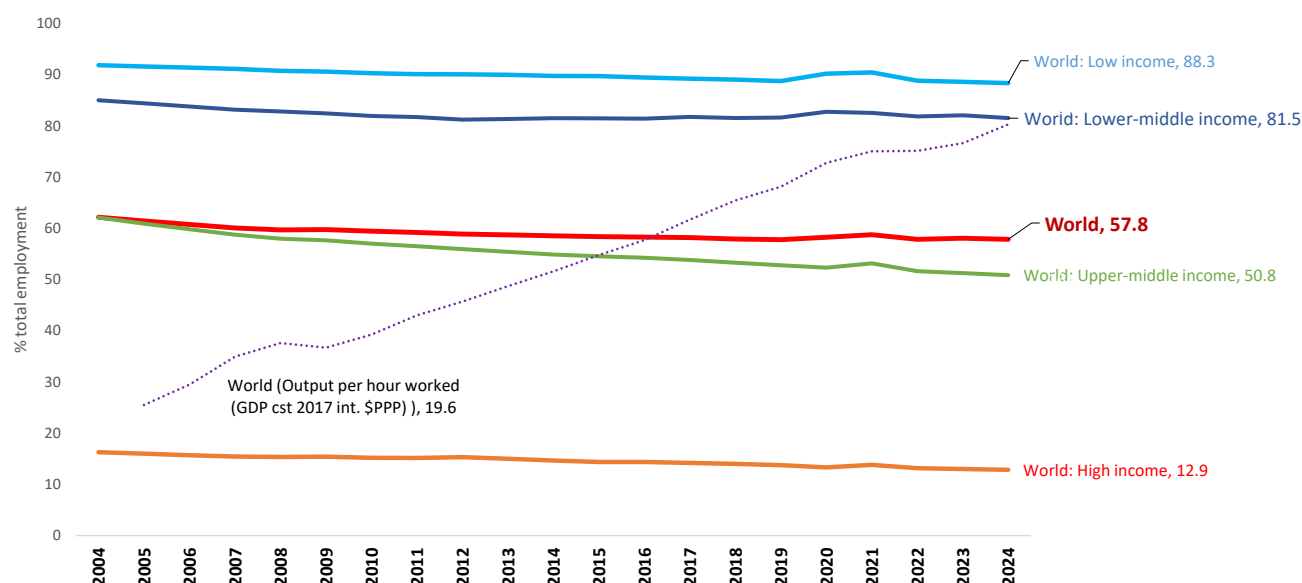
Jobs: Informal employment (13e ICLS)

Trends 2004-2024

Source: ILO modelled estimates

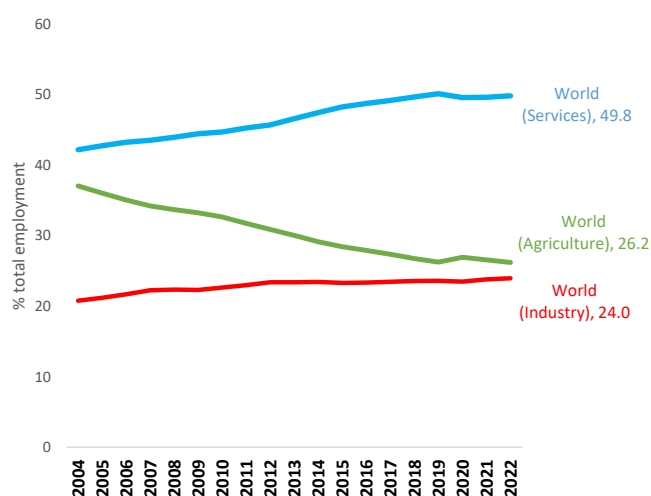
I. Extent of informality

1 Percentage of informal employment in relation to total employment, by sex (%) | Global and income groups

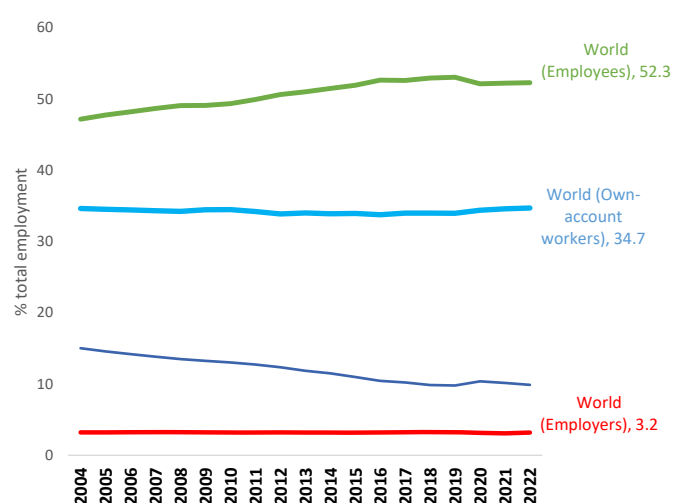


Source: ILO Modelled Estimates: SDG 8.3.1, employment by status in employment, employment by economic activity.

2 Distribution of total employment by economic sector | Global



3 Composition of total employment by employment status | Global



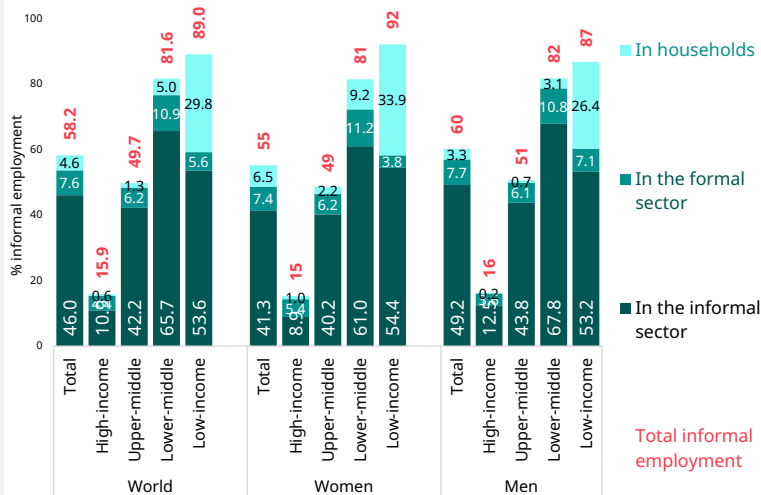
Note: All estimates of informal employment follow the ILO harmonized definition and ILO estimates may differ from national estimates. For more details, see: Women and men in the informal economy: A statistical picture (Third edition). The terms 'informal (or formal) employment' refer to person's informal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

Global overview (2019)

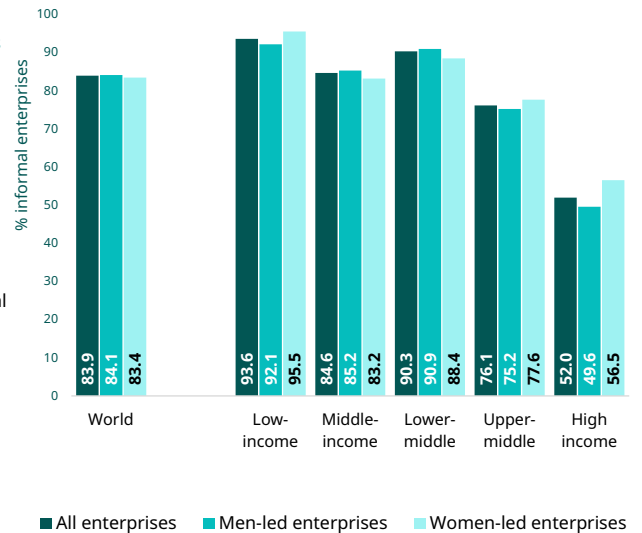
Source: ILO 2023. Women and men in the informal economy: A statistical update (and associated database)

I. Extent of informality

4 Percentage of informal employment in relation to total employment, by sex (%) | Global and income groups

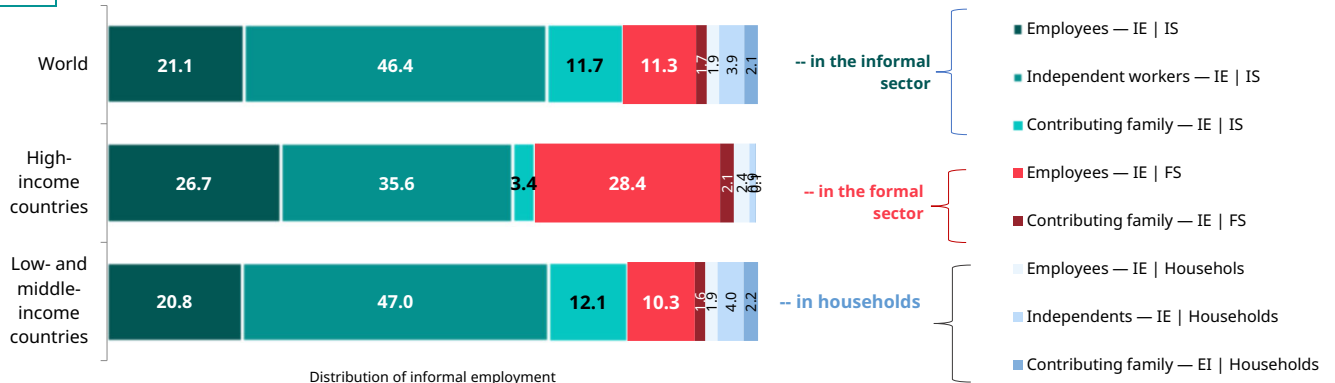


5 Percentage of informal enterprises in relation to total enterprises, by sex of the owner (%) | Global and income groups



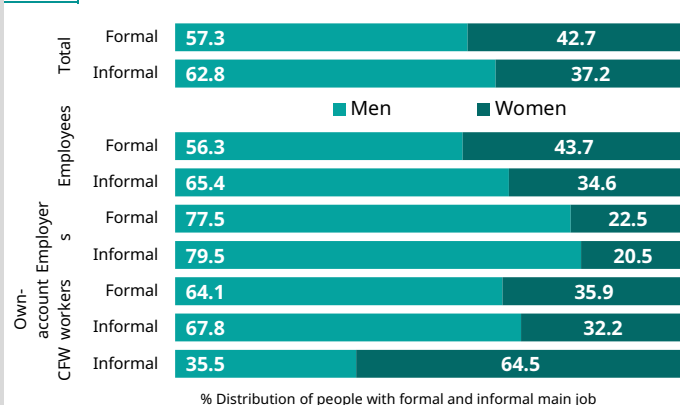
II. Composition of informality

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

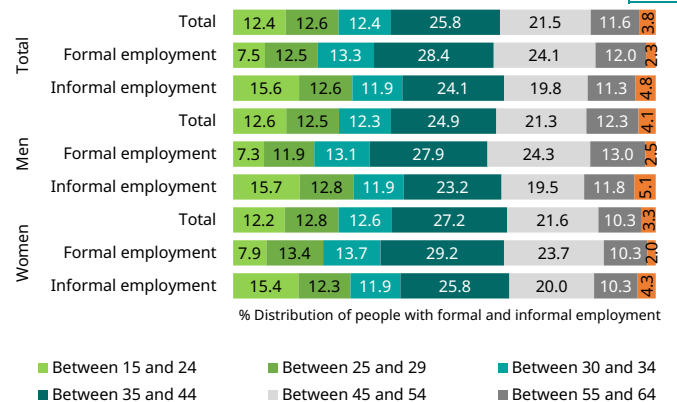


Note: IE= Informal Employment; IS = Informal Sector; EI = formal Employment; FS = Formal Sector

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



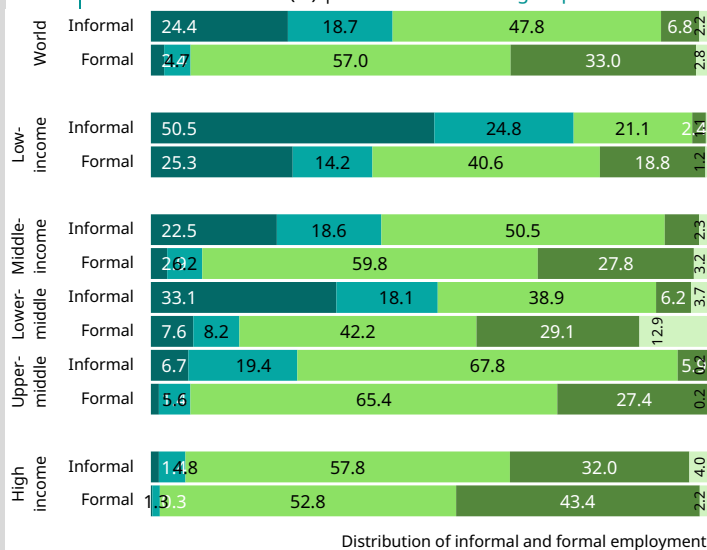
8 Distribution of persons in informal and formal employment by age group and sex (%) | Global



% Distribution of people with formal and informal employment

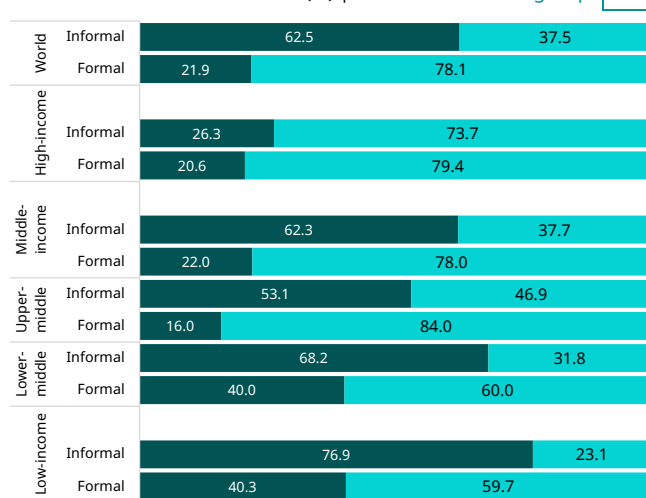
Between 15 and 24 Between 25 and 29 Between 30 and 34 Between 35 and 44 Between 45 and 54 Between 55 and 64

II. Composition of informality

9 Distribution of informal and formal employment by **highest level of education** and sex (%) | Global and income groups

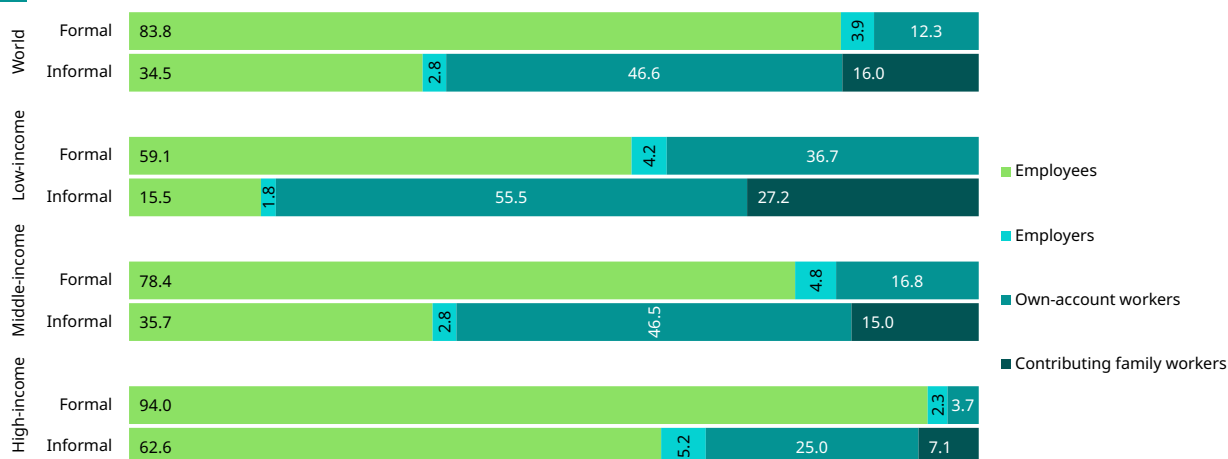
Distribution of informal and formal employment

■ No education ■ Primary ■ Secondary ■ Tertiary ■ Other

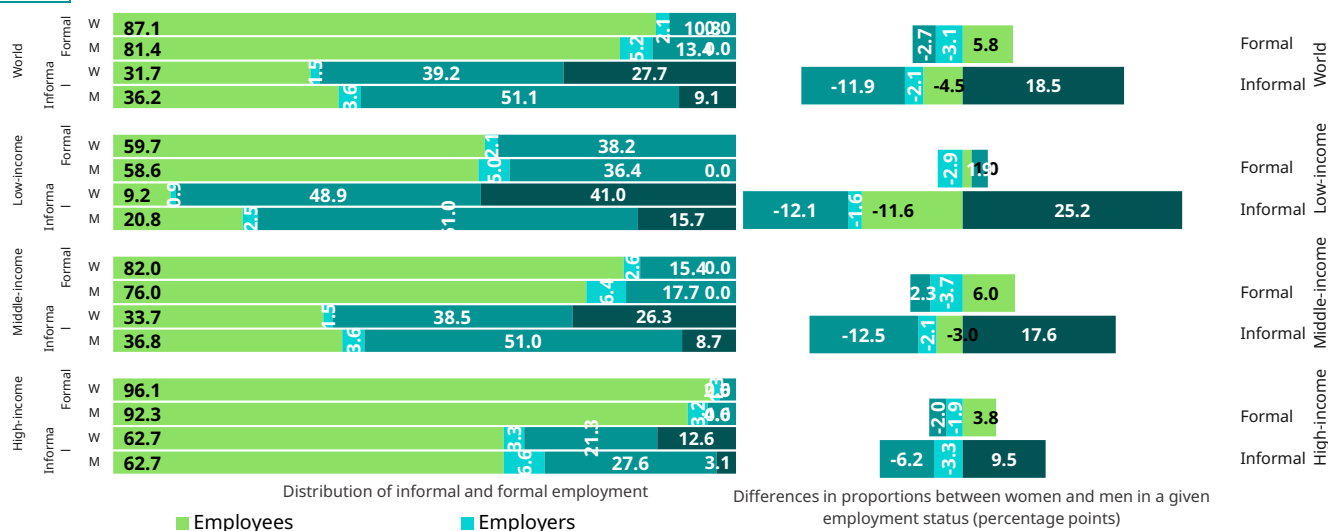
10 Distribution of informal and formal employment by **area of residence** and sex (%) | Global and income groups

Distribution of informal and formal employment

■ Rural ■ Urban

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

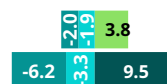
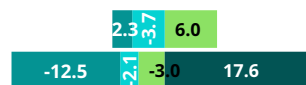
Distribution of informal and formal employment

12 Distribution of persons in informal or formal employment by **status in employment and sex** (%) | World and income groups

Distribution of informal and formal employment

■ Employees ■ Employers

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



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II. Composition of informality

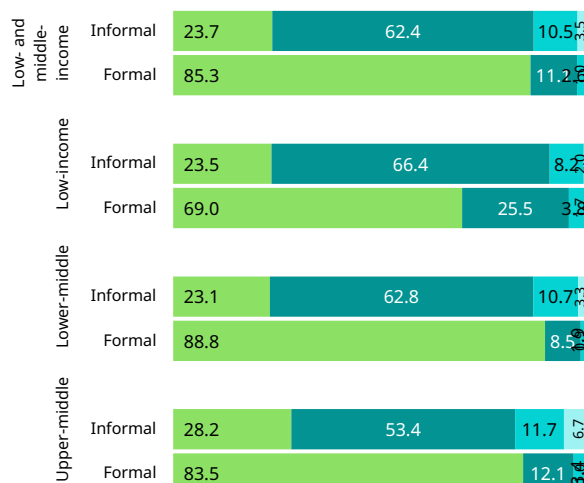
13 Distribution of persons in informal and formal employment by size of economic units | Global and income groups



Distribution of informal and formal employment

Own-account workers
5-9 persons
10-49 persons
50+ persons
2-4 persons
No answer

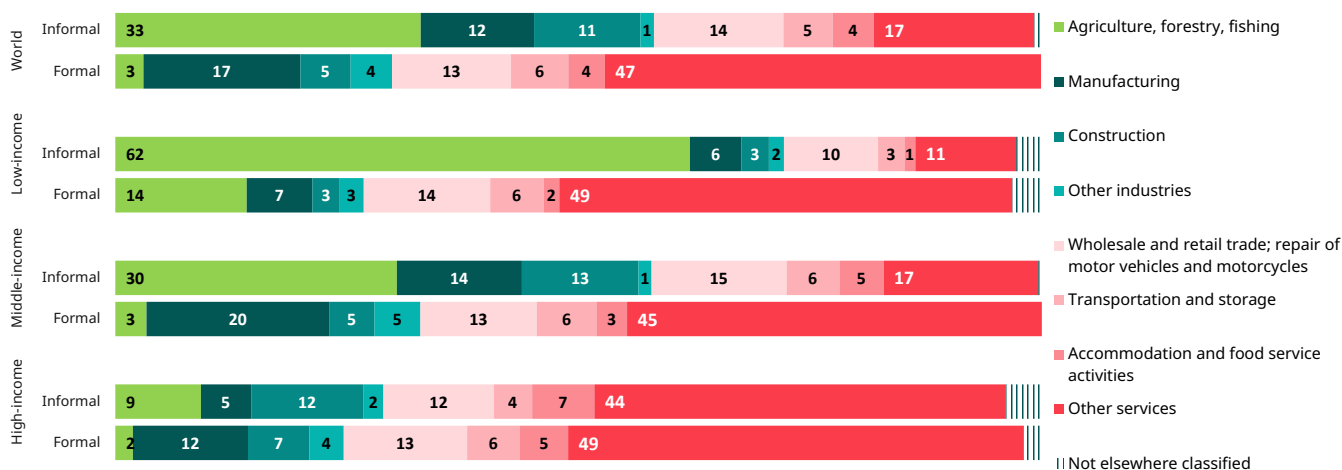
14 Distribution of persons in informal and formal employment by place of work, (%) | Global and income groups



Distribution of informal and formal employment

Fixed visible premises
Non-fixed other than home
Own home
Others' home

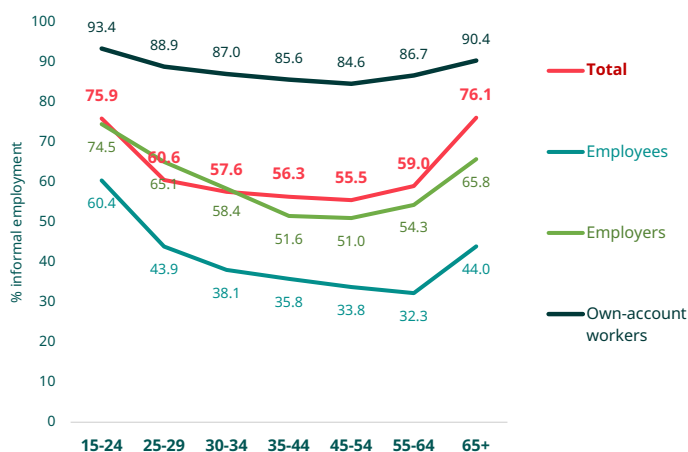
15 Distribution of persons in informal or formal employment by economic activity and sex (%) | Global and income groups



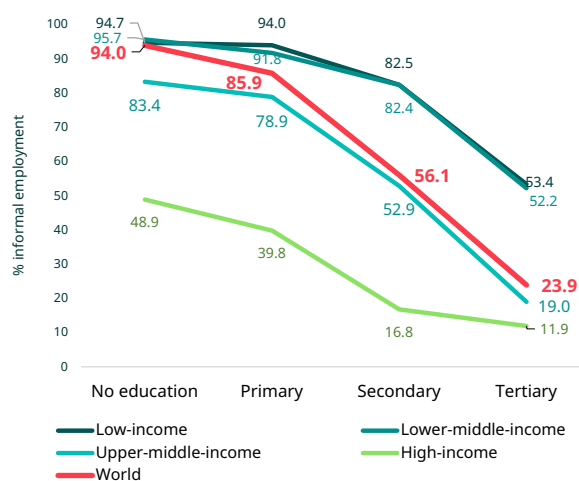
Distribution of informal and formal employment

III. Exposure to informality

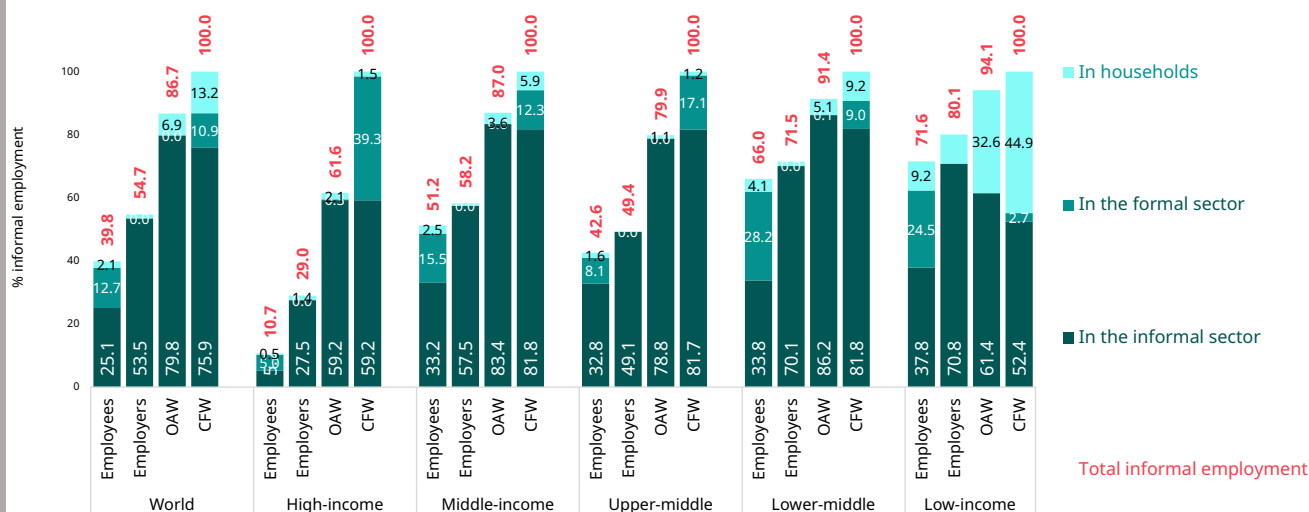
16 Percentage of persons in informal employment by age group | Global and income groups



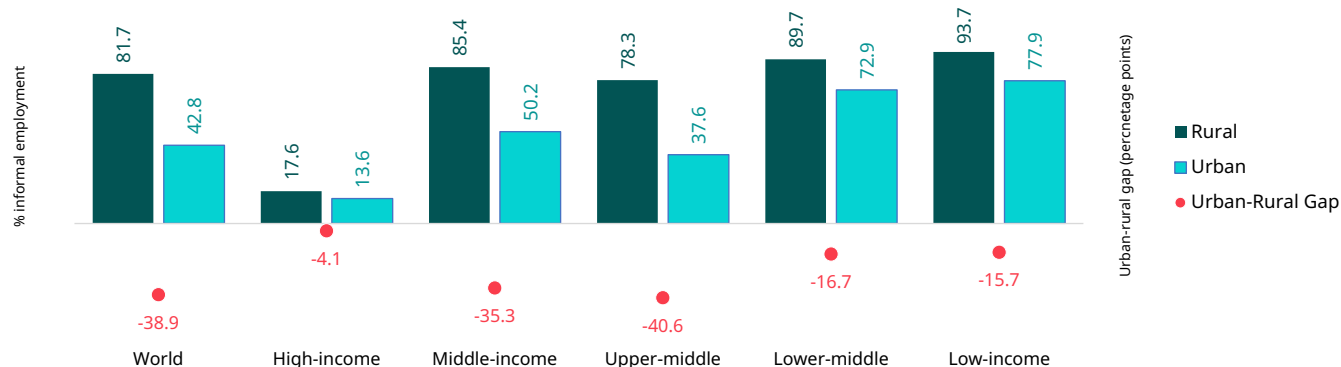
17 Percentage of persons in informal employment by level of education | Global and income groups



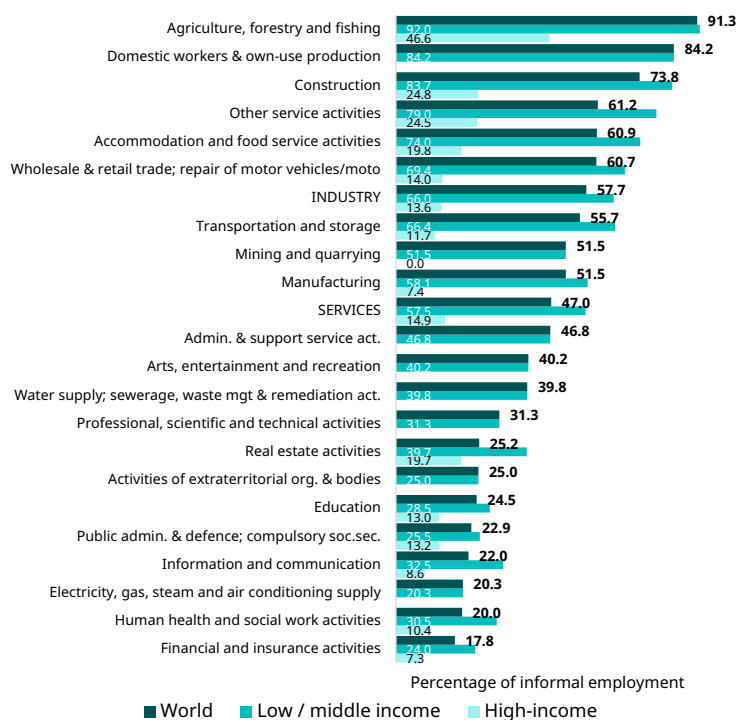
18 Percentage of persons in informal employment by **status in employment** and **type of production unit** | Global and income groups



19 Percentage of persons in informal employment by **area of residence** | Global and income groups

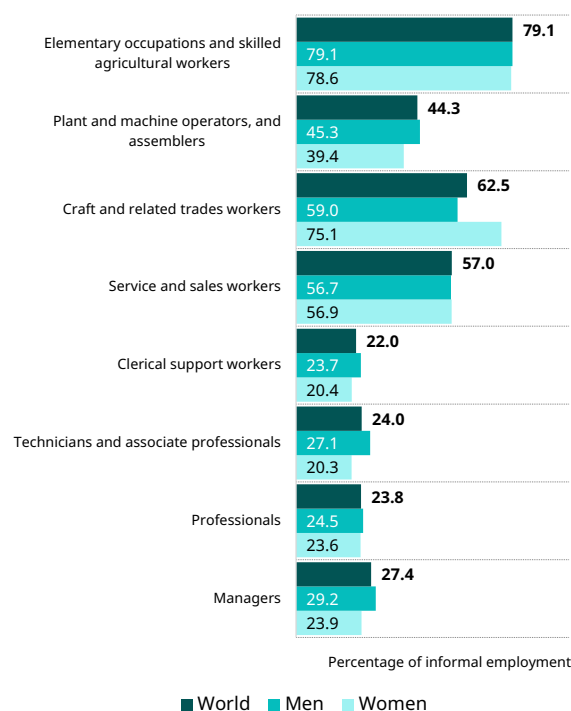


20 Percentage of persons in informal employment by **economic activity** and **sex** | Global and income groups



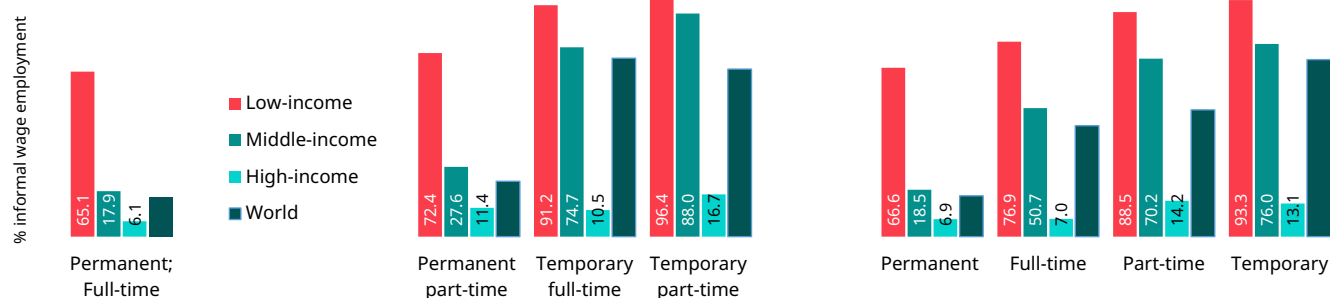
Percentage of persons in informal employment by **occupation** and **sex** | Global and income groups

21



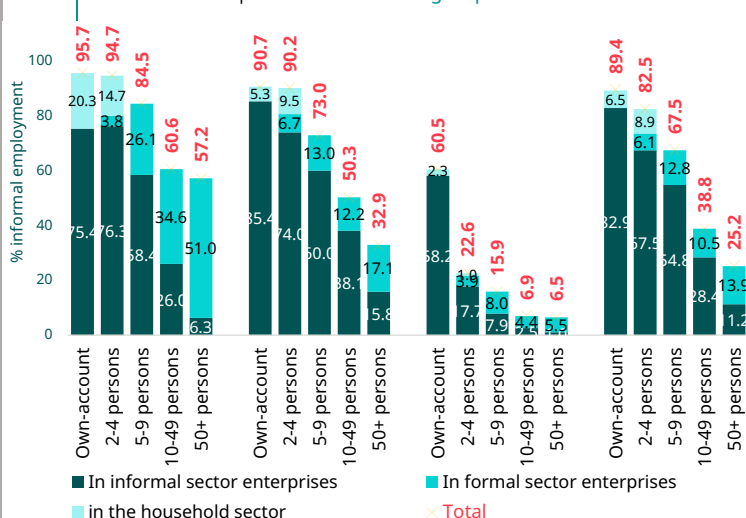
22

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



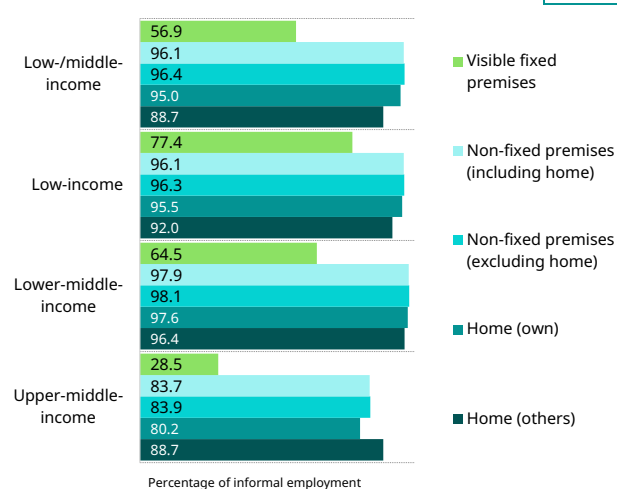
23

Percentage of persons in informal employment by **size of economic units** | *Global and income groups*



Percentage of persons in informal employment by **area of residence and sex** | *Global and income groups (low- and middle-income)*

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IV. Working conditions

25

Ratio of monthly average labour earnings and of weekly hours between employees in informal and in formal employment by sex | *Global and income groups* [focus on employees]

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

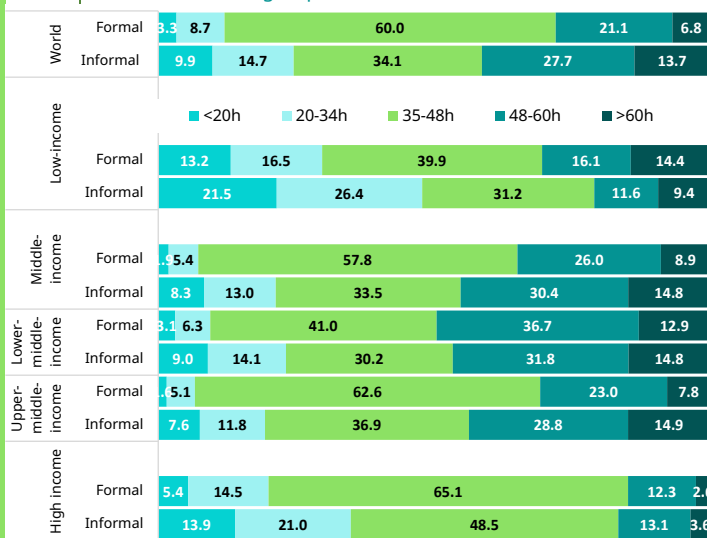


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IV. Working conditions

26

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



Distribution of formal and informal employment (%)

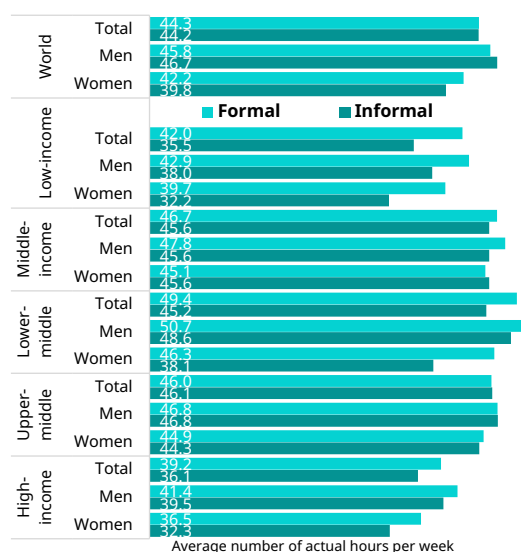
28

Percentage of persons in informal employment by **actual weekly hours bands** | Global and income groups



Average number of **actual hours** of work per week, by persons with informal and formal employment, by sex | Global and income groups

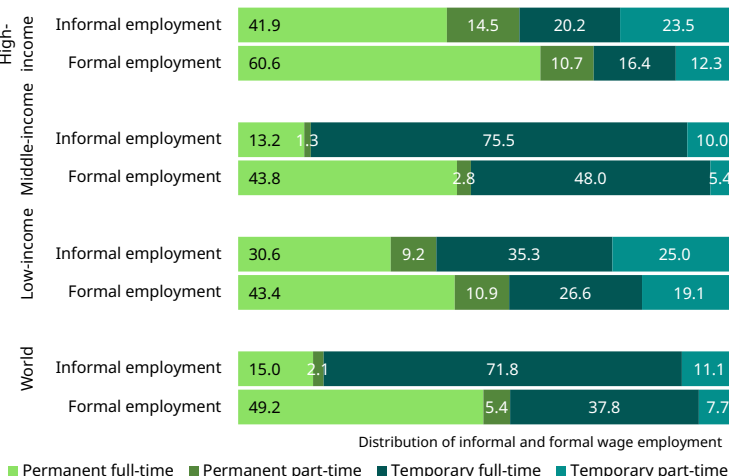
27



Average number of actual hours per week

Distribution of persons in formal and informal employment by **type of employment agreement** and sex (%) | World and income groups (employees)

29



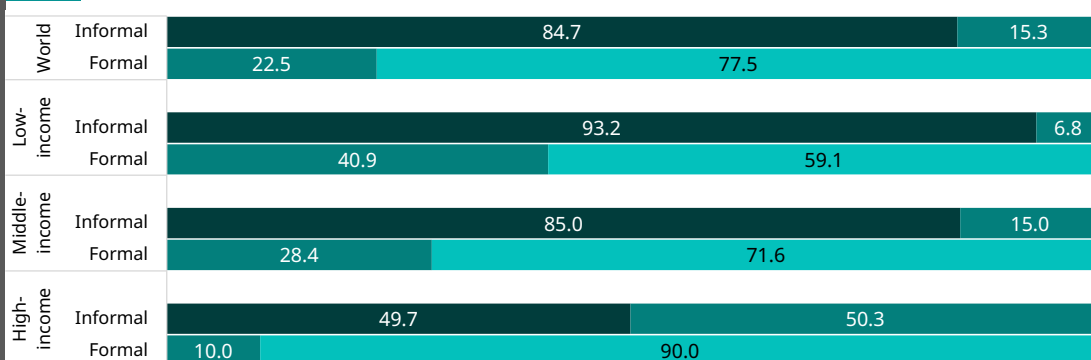
Distribution of informal and formal wage employment

Permanent full-time Permanent part-time Temporary full-time Temporary part-time

V. Contextual vulnerabilities

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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 | Global and income groups



Distribution of informal and formal employment

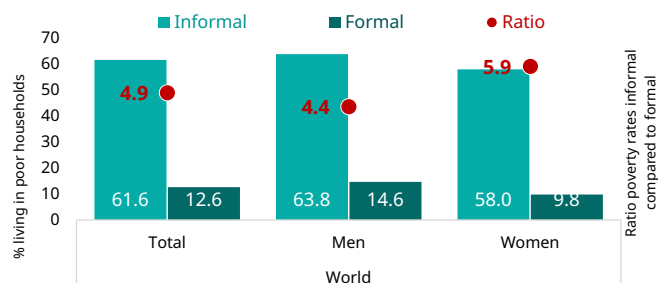
Fully informal households
Mixed households
Fully formal households

Poverty

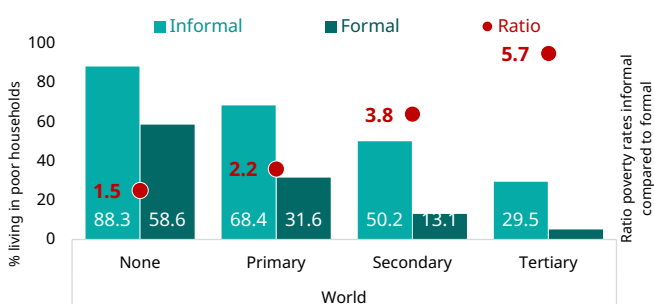
Source: National datasets, 2019

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

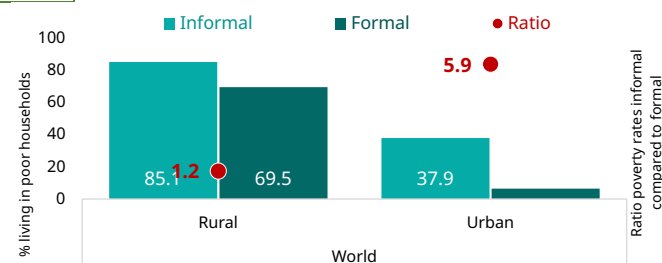
31 Percentage of persons in formal and informal employment living in poor households by sex, % | Global



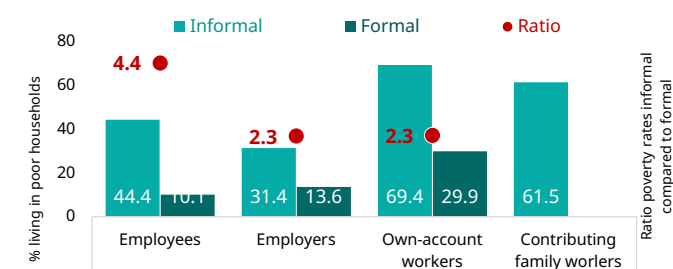
33 ... by level of education | Global



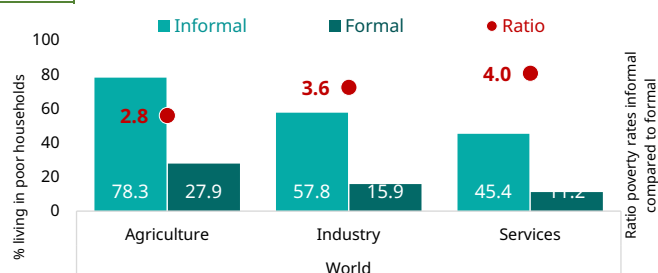
35 ... by area of residence | Global



37 ... by status in employment | Africa

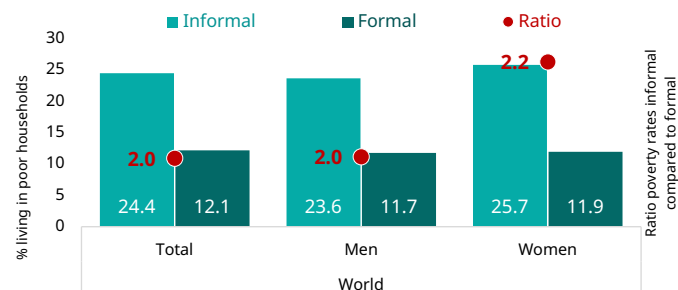


39 ... by sector | Global

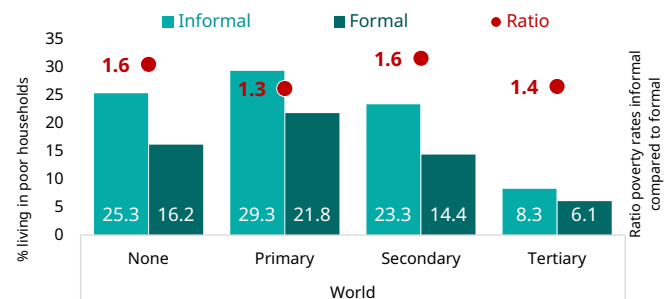


Relative Poverty line at 60% household income

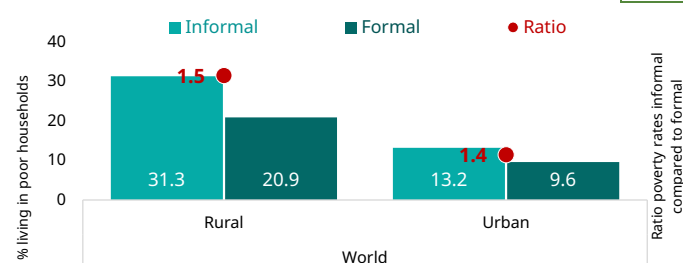
32 Percentage of persons in formal and informal employment living in poor households by sex, % | Global



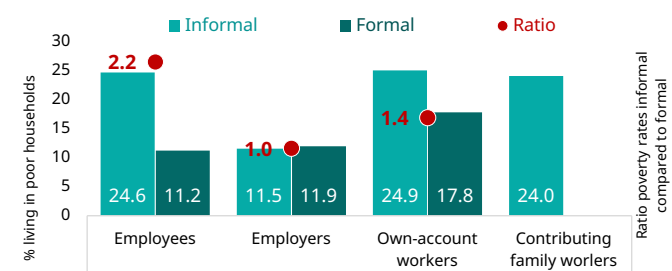
34 ... by level of education | Global



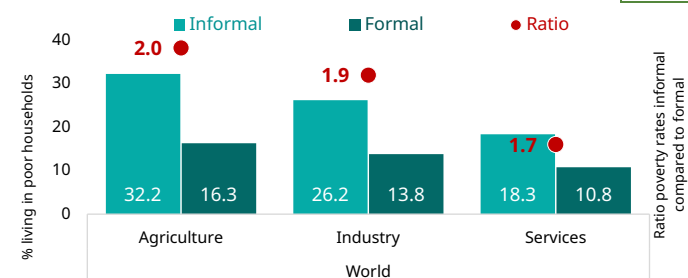
36 ... by area of residence | Global



38 ... by status in employment | Africa



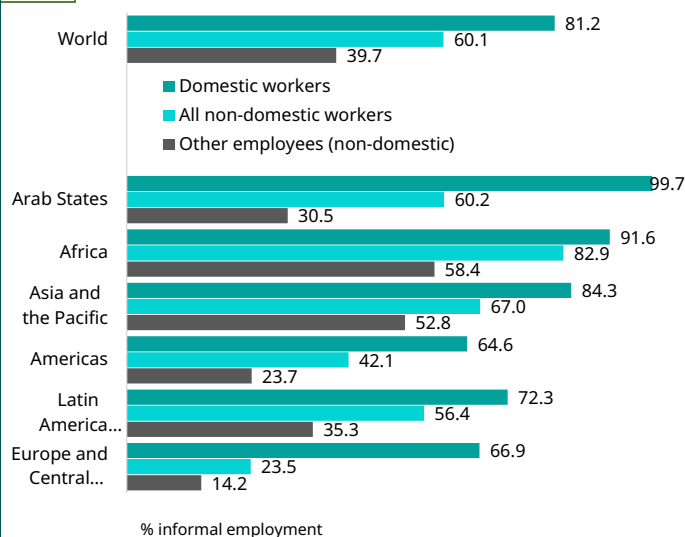
40 ... by sector | Global



VI. Focus on specific groups

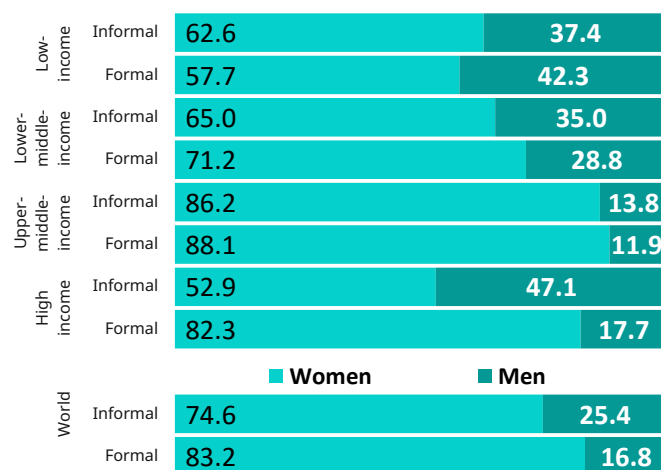
41

Extent of informal employment among **domestic workers** compared to other employees by sex | [Global and regions](#)



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

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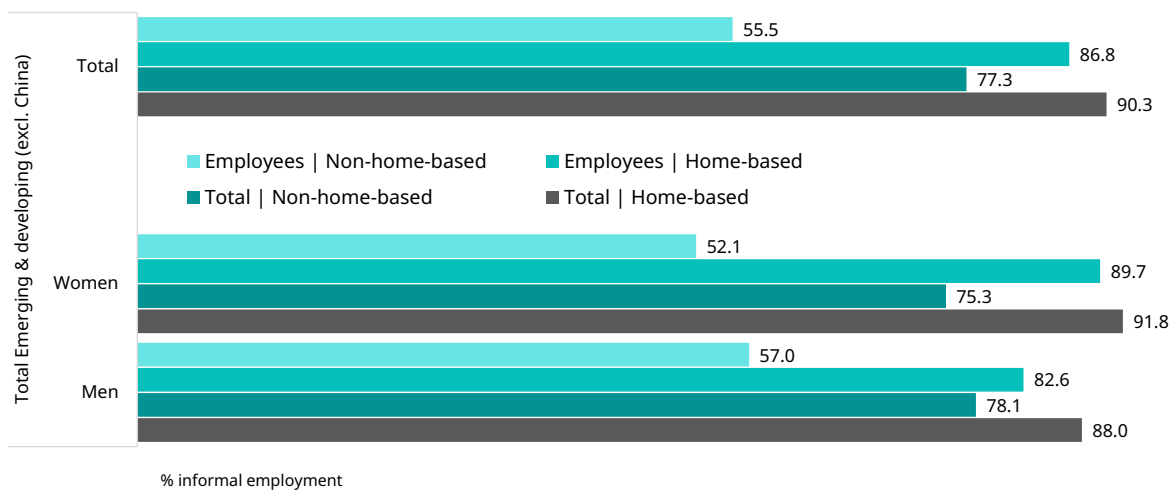


Distribution of informal and formal employment

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 | [Africa](#)



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