



► Women in the labour force

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The differences between the labour market characteristics of women and men can be understood by looking at their distribution by employment status. Women are clearly overrepresented among contributing family members, constituting 55 per cent of the workforce in that group. This shows that there are more women working in households than their share in the overall non-civil servant workforce. Women are underrepresented among employers (31 per cent), employees (41 per cent), and own-account workers (44 per cent).

Analysing distribution by economic sector, women are significantly overrepresented in particular sectors, especially education (72 per cent of education workers are women), domestic workers (64 per cent), accommodation and food (62 per cent), manufacturing (59 per cent), other services (59 per cent), wholesale and retail trade (58 per cent), services (55 per cent), and health (51 per cent). They are particularly underrepresented in transport (8 per cent), construction (8 per cent), other industry (16 per cent), industry (39 per cent), and public administration (41 per cent).

Thus, focused effort and tailored policies will be required to ensure gender equity in extension of social protection coverage and labour rights.



55 %

► Women workers are overrepresented among contributing family members (constituting 55 per cent of the workforce in that group) and underrepresented among employers (31 per cent), employees (41 per cent), and own-account workers (44 per cent)

This ILO Brief is part of a quantitative research of the labour force and enterprise landscape in Lao People's Democratic Republic to better understand the nature of informality and design tailored social security policies. The research received financial support from the ILO/Korea Partnership Programme and was conducted by Oxford Policy Management.

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