



A home-based woman potter.
Photo by Marty Chen



Home-Based Workers in Bangladesh A Statistical Profile

Gayatri Koolwal and Joann Vanek

There are several million home-based workers in Bangladesh, who represent 5 per cent of non-agricultural employment and 12 per cent of agricultural employment.

In Bangladesh, there were about 3.2 million non-agricultural and 7.4 million agricultural home-based workers, according to the 2016/17 Labour Force Survey. This represents, respectively, about 5.2 and 12.1 per cent of

the employed population aged 15 and older (**table 1**). Non-agricultural home-based work increased by about 1.7 million workers from 2009, when roughly 1.4 million non-agricultural workers were home-based.

Notably, this increase was driven by women. Within non-agricultural home-based work, the number of women increased from about half a million workers in 2009/10 to 1.7 million in 2013/14, and to about 2.1 million in 2016/17.

Table 1: Home-based workers: numbers and per cent (in parentheses) of total, agriculture and non-agricultural employment by sex, 2009/10 -2016/17

Year	Total			Non-agricultural			Agricultural		
	All	Women	Men	All	Women	Men	All	Women	Men
2009/10	1,613,483 (3.0)	687,266 (4.2)	926,462 (2.5)	1,419,988 (2.6)	555,839 (3.4)	864,476 (2.3)	193,495 (0.4)	131,427 (0.8)	61,986 (0.2)
2013/14	5,042,371 (10.4)	2,551,758 (18.0)	2,490,664 (7.2)	4,166,958 (8.6)	1,725,410 (12.2)	2,439,694 (7.1)	875,413 (1.8)	826,348 (5.8)	50,969 (0.1)
2016/17	10,559,528 (17.3)	8,678,472 (46.1)	1,905,756 (4.5)	3,173,189 (5.2)	2,056,048 (10.9)	1,120,556 (2.7)	7,386,339* (12.1)	6,622,424 (35.2)	785,200 (1.9)

* For women in particular, there may be a misclassification issue with over-reporting of home-based work in agriculture in 2016 – as reflected in the disproportionately large increase between the 2013/14 and 2016/17 rounds, while separate estimates show that the share of women employed in agriculture overall did not increase as much (12 to 19 per cent over the period).

About this Brief

This brief is an update of *Home-based Workers in Bangladesh: Statistics and Trends*, published in 2014.¹ Home-based work is employment that takes place in one's own home or in a structure or on the grounds attached to one's home. The 2014 brief was based on the 2004/05 and 2009/10 Bangladesh Labour Force Surveys. This brief presents data from the 2009/10, 2013/14 and 2016/17 surveys,² and differs from the earlier brief in several important ways:

- First, in the earlier brief, the 2009/10 estimates of home-based workers included some workers – mostly men – who reported their employment status in agriculture (a status category in the Bangladesh Labour Force Survey), although their industry code was not in agriculture but rather in manufacturing or services. The analysis in this brief uses a more conservative approach for 2009/10 by including as non-agricultural home-based workers only those whose industry code matches their reported status in employment. In the 2013 and 2016 survey data, there was almost no discrepancy across responses on the status and industry codes.
- Second, agricultural home-based workers are now included in the basic tabulations. Between 2013/14 and 2016/17, there was a large spike in the number of women in home-based agriculture, which involved agricultural activities at home that were not related to crop farming (mainly livestock). It was not possible to determine if the increase reflects actual change or was the result of misclassification that incorrectly included work on farms within home-based work. The 2016/17 numbers of agricultural home-based workers are much larger than the numbers of non-agricultural home-based workers and are out of proportion to the patterns in the earlier data. For these reasons, the numbers of home-based workers in agricultural and non-agricultural activities are reported separately in the basic tabulations, and the more detailed analyses are based only on non-agricultural home-based workers.
- A third difference is in the classification of contributing family workers. In the earlier brief, contributing family workers were classified as self-employed but in the new classification they are dependent workers. This follows the new standard set by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians in the International Classification of Status in Employment-18 (ICSE-18).

¹ An earlier version of this brief, *Home-based Workers in Bangladesh: Statistics and Trends* was prepared by Simeen Mahmud and published as WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 12, available at <https://www.wiego.org/sites/default/files/migrated/publications/files/Mahmud-HBW-Bangladesh-WIEGO-SB12.pdf>. It is also available on the HomeNet South Asia website: <https://www.hnsa.org.in/sites/default/files/Statistical%20Brief-%20Bangladesh.pdf>.

² The data presented are from the Bangladesh National Institute of Statistics Labour Force Surveys from 2009/10, 2013/14, and 2016/17. The data are weighted by population-adjusted multipliers and are for the population aged 15 and older.



Home-based embroiderers.
Photo courtesy of HNSA

In 2009, there were about one and a half times as many men in non-agricultural home-based work as women. However, unlike the steady upward trend for women, the number of men in non-agricultural home-based work, while rising in 2013, fell to about 1.1 million, or less than half the number of women doing this work, in 2016.

In agriculture, the number of women reporting home-based work also rose, from about 194,000 in 2009 to 875,000 in 2013 and more than 7 million in 2016, although this very large increase may reflect some amount of

Table 2: Home-based workers by agricultural/non-agricultural, urban/rural and sex, 2009/10–2016/17: Per cent

Year	All Home-based workers		Agricultural Home-based workers		Non-agricultural Home-based workers	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
2009/10						
Rural	78.2	74.4	95.8	68.4	74.0	74.9
Urban	21.8	25.6	4.2	31.6	26.0	25.1
2013/14						
Rural	75.6	61.2	88.7	74.6	69.3	60.9
Urban	24.4	38.8	11.3	25.4	30.7	39.1
2016/17						
Rural	84.6	78.7	91.5	89.6	62.6	71.1
Urban	15.4	21.3	8.5	10.4	37.4	28.9

misreporting (see About this Brief). The number of men in agricultural home-based work also rose steadily – though to a much smaller extent than among women – from about 62,000 in 2009 to 785,000 in 2016. For both women and men, nearly all of this work was reported to be in raising livestock.

Home-based work represents a greater share of employment for women than for men. Non-agricultural home-based work was about 3 per cent of women's total employment in 2009 and increased to about 11 per cent by 2016. Agricultural home-based work represented more than a third of total employment for women in 2016. By contrast, in 2016, non-agricultural and agricultural home-based work were only 2.7 and 1.9 per cent, respectively, of total employment for men.

The overwhelming majority of home-based workers in both agricultural and non-agricultural work have been in rural areas (**table 2**). In 2009, about 78 per cent of women home-based workers and 74 per cent of men were in rural areas; by 2016, the rural share had risen to 85 and 79 per cent, respectively. Within the non-agricultural sector, the share of women home-based workers in rural areas declined from 74 to 63 per cent between 2009-2016, and for men from 75 to 71 per cent.

Box 1: Identifying Home-based Workers: Definition and Exclusions

Home-based work is employment that takes place in one's own home or in a structure or grounds attached to one's home.

Home-based work includes a wide range of activities, from professional occupations in the service sector to manufacturing to agricultural work that takes place near the home. Farming and kitchen gardening are not included as agricultural home-based work. Agricultural home-based work in Bangladesh consists mainly of raising livestock and, to a lesser degree, activities that support crop production.

In the 2016/17 survey, a large number of women, particularly in urban areas, reported "domestic work" as their employment status while also reporting home as their place of work. However, home-based work does not include domestic work, whether performed for one's own household or for pay in the household of another. Further analysis of the occupational codes of women who responded that home was their place of work, but domestic work was their employment status, showed that almost all were working as domestic workers in others' homes, thus they were excluded from the analysis.

Box 2: Identifying Independent and Dependent Home-Based Workers

Home-based workers may be either independent or dependent workers. Independent home-based workers are employers or self-employed with no employees, referred to as own account workers.¹ Dependent workers include employees, contributing family workers and sub-contracted piece-rate workers.

Sub-contracted piece-rate workers have contractual arrangements of a commercial nature to provide goods or services for another economic unit, are not employees of that economic unit but are dependent on that unit for the organization and execution of that work and for access to the market.² They are also referred to as homeworkers. The labour force surveys used for this brief did not capture the information needed to identify homeworkers/sub-contracted workers. Sub-contracted piece-rate workers are usually misclassified as independent home-based workers. This contributes to the large share of non-agricultural home-based workers classified as independent.

¹ Contributing family workers were classified as self-employment under the previous International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93). However, under ICSE-93, contributing family work is considered a dependent work arrangement and these workers are therefore considered as dependent in this analysis.

² International Labour Office (ILO) 2018. "Resolution concerning statistics on work relationships." 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), Geneva.

Independent and Dependent Home-Based Workers

In 2016/17, independent home-based workers represent a larger share of non-agricultural home-based workers (59 per cent) than dependent home-based workers (41 per cent) and the shares for women and for men are similar (**table 3**). The number of women reporting independent home-based work was 1.19 million – or 58 per cent of women in non-agricultural home-based work. For men, the number of independent workers was about 677,000, or 60 per cent of men in non-agricultural home-based work.

Among non-agriculture home-based workers, the majority of women and men are own account workers: 58 per cent and 57 per cent, respectively (**table 4**). The proportion is higher for those working in rural areas (61 per cent for women and for men) than urban areas (52 per cent for women, and 48 per cent for men). Over one third of urban home-based workers are employees (34 per cent among women and 38 per cent among men) in contrast to only around 13 per cent for both men and women in rural areas. In rural areas, larger shares of



A home-based embroiderer.
Photo by Marty Chen

home-based workers are day labourers and contributing family workers than in urban areas. Among women in rural areas, 13 per cent of home-based workers are contributing family workers and 9 per cent are day labourers; among men in rural areas, 17 per cent are day labourers and only 5 per cent are contributing family workers.

Table 3: Non-agricultural home-based workers by dependency and sex, 2016/17: Numbers and per cent share in parentheses*

2016/17	Total	Women	Men
Independent	1,870,027 (58.9)	1,194,825 (58.1)	677,092 (60.4)
Dependent	1,303,163 (41.1)	861,223 (41.9)	443,464 (39.6)

* Per cent refers to the share (percentage) of independent and dependent home-based workers within each of the categories: total, women and men.

Table 4: Home-based workers (non-agricultural) by status in employment, sex and urban/rural areas, 2016/17: Numbers and per cent distribution

	Number	Per cent distribution	Urban areas	Rural areas
Women	2,056,048			
Independent	1,194,825	58.1	52.6	61.4
Employer	6,216	0.3	0.4	0.2
Own account	1,188,609	57.8	52.2	61.2
Dependent	861,223	41.9	47.4	38.6
Contributing family worker	218,365	10.6	5.9	13.4
Employee	430,657	20.9	34.4	12.9
Day labourer	157,486	7.7	5.2	9.1
Other*	54,715	2.7	1.9	3.1
Men	1,120,556			
Independent	677,092	60.4	51.7	64.0
Employer	39,137	3.5	3.8	3.4
Own Account	637,954	56.9	47.9	60.6
Dependent	443,464	39.6	48.3	36.0
Contributing family worker	48,408	4.3	2.9	4.9
Employee	231,939	20.7	38.1	13.6
Day labourer	153,618	13.7	6.5	16.6
Other*	9,498	0.8	0.8	0.9

* The “Other” category includes apprentices and dependent workers paid through an “oral agreement”; mostly they are involved in textile manufacturing.

Box 3: Defining the Categories of the International Classification of Status in Employment

Employers own the economic unit in which they work and control its activities on their own or in partnership with others (including temporarily but excluding their partners and family helpers) – and in this capacity, employ one or more persons to work as an employee on a regular basis.

Own account workers are owner-operators without employees who operate an enterprise for profit alone or with one or more partners or contributing family workers; they do not employ any person to work in the enterprise on a regular basis as an employee.

Contributing family workers assist a family member or household member in a market-oriented enterprise that is operated by the family or household member or assist in a job in which the assisted family or household member is employed. Contributing family workers do not receive regular payments, such as a wage or salary, in return for the work performed, and they do not make the most important decisions affecting the enterprise or have responsibility for it.

Employees work for pay and do not hold controlling ownership of the economic unit in which they are employed. They are remunerated in cash or in kind in return for time worked or, in some cases, for each task or piece of work done or for services provided.

Day labourers are workers who are hired each day, as distinguished from employees who are hired for a longer period of time.

Branch of Economic Activity/Industry

In urban areas, both women and men home-based workers are overwhelmingly concentrated in the service sector. In rural areas, the share of home-based workers is more evenly distributed across manufacturing and services.

In urban areas, 68 per cent of women and 75 of men in home-based work are in the service sector (**table 5**). In rural areas, the share of home-based workers is more evenly distributed across manufacturing and services, with a greater share of rural men and women in manufacturing – 54 per cent of women and 57 per cent of men, compared to 46 and 43 per cent of rural men and women in services, respectively.

Within the *manufacturing* sector, textile and garment manufacturing is the predominant activity for women, accounting for about 21 per cent of home-based work in urban areas and 35 per cent in rural areas. Among men, the comparable figures are 6 per cent in urban and 19 per cent in rural areas. Manufacturing of construction materials, machinery and technology accounts for around 5 per cent of home-based work for urban and rural women and 7 and 9 per cent for urban and rural men, respectively. Construction itself comprises 6 per cent of men's employment in urban areas and 11 per cent in rural areas, but less than 2

Table 5: Percentage distribution of home-based work (non-agricultural) by industry sector, urban/rural and sex, 2016/17

	Women		Men	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Manufacturing				
Number	252,545	685,833	83,135	452,154
Per cent share of home-based work	32.3	53.8	25.3	57.0
Textiles and apparel*	21.1	35.1	6.4	19.0
Production of construction materials, machinery, technology	5.3	4.3	6.9	9.3
Bamboo and cane products	3.5	10.0	2.2	11.8
Food products	1.2	2.6	1.9	4.2
Jewelry	0.5	0.2	1.4	1.3
Construction/infrastructure	0.3	1.6	6.1	11.1
Other	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.2
Services				
Number	528,500	589,169	244,817	340,449
Per cent share of home-based work	67.7	46.2	75.6	42.7
Tailoring services*	20.7	23.9	4.4	2.2
Work in household enterprises	23.0	9.1	10.6	2.1
Educational services	16.6	7.8	25.2	12.5
Retail (mostly food related)	4.9	3.4	13.0	12.7
Professional activities	1.3	0.9	14.2	6.7
Wholesale	0.4	0.1	2.3	3.5
Transport	0.1	0.2	3.1	2.0
Other	0.6	0.6	1.9	1.3
Total number of non-agricultural home-based workers	781,045	1,275,002	327,952	792,603

* In the 2016/17 Labour Force Survey, many respondents, particularly women, reported home-based work in tailoring and sewing within services rather than manufacturing. A closer look at the description of activities revealed much of this work was stitching and producing clothes at home, as opposed to operating a tailor shop. In this table, individuals in these activities were therefore re-classified as working in textile and garment manufacturing rather than services.



A home-based bead worker.
Photo courtesy of HNSA

per cent of women's employment. In rural areas, the manufacture of bamboo and cane products comprises 10 per cent of home-based work for women and 12 per cent for men, but only 4 per cent for women and 2 per cent for men who are home-based workers in urban areas.

Within *services*, most women home-based workers are concentrated in tailoring, particularly in rural areas, where tailoring comprises 24 per cent of employment in comparison to about 21 per cent in urban areas. For men, educational services is more dominant, accounting for 25 per cent of men's home-based work in urban areas and 13 per cent in rural areas. Educational work comprises 16 per

cent and 8 per cent of women's employment in urban and rural areas, respectively. Work in household enterprises by family members is another important service activity, especially for women, comprising 21 per cent of urban women's home-based employment, and 9 per cent of rural women's. This work spans a range of different support activities (including tasks related to food processing, as well as other home-based support work), depending on the enterprise. By contrast for men it comprises 11 per cent and 2 per cent in urban and rural areas respectively. Among men, professional activities represent around 14 and 7 per cent, respectively, of rural and urban employment in services, while only around 1 per cent per cent of women report this.

Hours of Work

Women home-based workers in Bangladesh have a very long work week. In addition to the time spent in domestic and family care responsibilities, they work an average of 40 hours or more a week in market-oriented home-based work.

The statistics in this section represent only one part of the workweek, the time spent in market-oriented work. Especially for women, another important component of the total time spent in work is the non-market activities performed to maintain the household and family. Thus it is striking that women home-based workers

in addition to their domestic responsibilities work an average of 40 hours or more a week in market-oriented home-based work (**table 6**). The longer workweeks for women are particularly pronounced among those in urban areas who are dependent home-based workers (45 hours on average, compared to 42 hours for urban men who are dependent). In rural areas, women dependent home-based workers work an average of 40 hours a week and men an average of 44 hours per week. Among independent home-based workers, men in rural areas work an average of 49 hours and 51 hours in urban areas, compared to about 39 hours per week for urban and rural women.

Overall, women home-based workers tend to have higher average weekly hours if they are urban and dependent home-based workers. Further, among women working independently, those in manufacturing average six hours more a week than home-based workers in services. However among urban women dependent workers, the pattern is reversed as those in services work three hours more a week; in rural areas there is no difference between the two sectors in weekly hours. By contrast among men, independent home-based workers have higher average weekly hours than dependent in both rural and urban areas. Similar to the pattern for women, men in manufacturing have a longer workweek than men in services – from 7 to 12 hours longer.

The number of hours worked among women home-based workers shows less dispersed

Table 6: Percentage distribution of weekly hours and average hours of work of home-based workers (non-agricultural) by dependency, sex, urban-rural and industry sector, 2016/17

	Independent home-based workers					Dependent home-based workers				
	Weekly hours: share of respondents				Average hours/week	Weekly hours: share of respondents				Average hours/week
	<35	35-40	41-55	56+		<35	35-40	41-55	56+	
Women										
Urban										
All	31.3	21.7	40.4	6.6	39.6	17.3	16.8	48.1	17.8	45.4
Manufacturing	25.7	20.6	47.3	6.5	41.4	22.6	11.0	54.6	11.8	43.1
Services	36.1	22.6	34.6	6.7	38.1	16.1	18.2	46.6	19.2	45.9
Rural										
All	31.9	19.0	43.9	5.2	39.3	27.8	16.6	47.3	8.3	40.3
Manufacturing	26.8	14.4	52.7	6.1	41.1	30.7	10.0	50.2	9.1	40.5
Services	38.1	24.9	32.8	4.2	37.0	23.9	24.1	44.8	7.3	40.2
Men										
Urban										
All	17.7	8.1	38.9	35.3	48.8	37.2	8.6	25.2	29.0	42.2
Manufacturing	9.3	4.5	39.9	46.3	53.0	17.2	7.7	42.6	32.5	48.2
Services	22.3	10.1	38.4	29.2	46.5	41.2	8.8	21.7	28.3	41.1
Rural										
All	16.3	9.3	30.9	43.5	51.6	28.3	9.9	36.4	25.5	43.5
Manufacturing	9.6	7.4	28.5	54.5	56.5	13.4	10.0	44.6	32.1	48.6
Services	25.6	12.0	33.5	28.8	44.9	48.4	9.8	25.1	16.7	36.7

patterns across age groups, dependency and residence than that among men (**figure 1**). First, the hours for women vary within a smaller range from around 35 to 45 hours a week. Among men the workweek ranges more broadly from less than 30 to 55 hours a week. Second, among women there is a small dip in

hours for home-based workers around age 20 for both dependent and independent home-based workers in urban areas. Average hours then rise for independent home-based workers in urban areas and for dependent workers in both rural and urban areas, but begin to decrease again around age 40. The exception

is independent workers in rural areas who maintain high average hours of work past age 60, although not as high as urban dependent workers who throughout the age groups have the longest workweeks.

Figure 1: Average hours worked in the last week among home-based workers (non-agricultural) by age, dependency, urban/rural and sex, 2016/17



Among men dependent workers in both rural and urban areas, there is a large dip in hours around age 20. The average workweek increases until age 60 for urban dependent home-based workers and age 40 for rural dependent home-based workers. For men independent workers in both urban and rural areas, the average workweek is highest around the early 40s, but begins to drop in their late 40s.

Earnings

The average monthly earnings of women are substantially lower than those of men, and unlike men's earnings, only minimally higher for women in urban areas in contrast to rural areas.

Table 7: Frequency of payment and reported earnings among non-agricultural dependent home-based workers, urban/rural and sex, 2016/17

	(A) Frequency of payment: per cent					(B) Per cent receiving in-kind along with cash earnings*	(C) Average monthly earnings: cash and in-kind sources (Taka)*, **
	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Others	Missing		
Rural							
Women	8.6	13.5	38.7	5.0	34.1	6.0	10,089.9
Men	34.9	10.8	40.5	1.3	12.5	6.0	12,157.8
Total	18.3	12.5	39.4	3.7	26.2	6.0	10,990.2
Urban							
Women	4.3	6.7	73.8	3.1	12.2	8.2	10,454.0
Men	11.6	3.0	78.8	1.2	5.4	4.0	14,498.1
Total	6.5	5.6	75.3	2.5	10.1	6.9	11,736.5

* Among those reporting in (A).

**The exchange rate is approximately 84 Taka to 1 USD.

It is difficult for the independent self-employed to estimate their earnings, so it is not surprising that only a small share (5 per cent) of independent workers but almost all dependent home-based workers responded to the 2016/17 Labour Force Survey questions on earnings.

About three-quarters of urban dependent home-based workers are paid on a monthly basis, as are about 40 per cent of rural dependent workers (**table 7**). Sizeable shares are also paid on a weekly or, in the case of rural men, on a daily basis. There is a substantial difference in reported monthly income between women and men dependent workers; average earnings



A home-based garment worker.
Photo courtesy of HNSA

for urban and rural women are a little over 10,000 Taka, compared to about 14,500 Taka for urban men and 12,000 Taka for rural men. While monthly earnings reflect hours of work, it is noteworthy that as table 6 showed, there is not a substantial difference in the workweek of women and men.

Education

Among non-agricultural home-based workers, around two-thirds of women and men in rural areas and 57 per cent of women in urban areas have only a primary level of education or less.

About two-thirds of non-agricultural home-based workers in rural areas, both women and men, have only primary level education or below (**table 8**). Urban home-based workers, especially men, have somewhat better education, but many have only primary or less education (57 per cent of women and 44 per cent of men).

Independent home-based workers generally have higher levels of education than dependent home-based workers, among both women and men. For example, among women, larger shares of independent women home-based workers have achieved secondary level education (44 per cent in urban areas and 38 per cent in rural areas) in comparison to 32 and 25 per cent of women who are dependent home-based workers. Similarly, among men independent home-based workers, 43 per cent in urban and 50 per cent in rural areas have completed secondary level education, in comparison to 28 per cent of men dependent home-based workers in urban areas and 37 per cent in rural areas. However, dependent men home-based workers in urban areas have the largest share (13 per cent) of tertiary education.

Table 8: Home-based worker (non-agricultural) by highest educational attainment urban/rural and sex, 2016/17: Per cent distribution

	Below Primary	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Urban women				
All	35.3	22.0	38.4	4.3
Independent	24.1	28.6	44.2	3.2
Dependent	47.7	14.8	32.0	5.5
Rural women				
All	39.3	27.1	32.2	1.4
Independent	33.0	28.7	37.6	0.7
Dependent	49.3	24.5	23.7	2.4
Urban men				
All	24.4	19.7	46.3	9.6
Independent	28.4	22.2	43.4	6.0
Dependent	20.0	17.1	49.5	13.4
Rural men				
All	39.7	25.5	31.3	3.5
Independent	45.2	24.1	27.9	2.9
Dependent	30.1	28.1	37.3	4.5

Age and Marital Status

The majority of women home-based workers (non-agricultural) are between ages 25 to 54 and are married.

The majority of women home-based workers (non-agricultural) are in the peak employment ages of 25 to 54 and are married (**table 9**): 59 per cent in urban areas and 67 per cent in rural areas. A higher proportion of women home based workers in urban areas compared to those in rural areas are young and single (14 per cent in comparison to 8 per cent).

Among men home-based workers, the per cent married is similar to that for women: 72 and 75 per cent for men in urban and rural areas, respectively, in comparison to 71 per cent for urban women and 78 per cent for rural women. However, the age pattern for men in home-based work is different than for women at older ages. A larger share of men than women are 55 years of age or older: 23 and 21 per cent for urban and rural men, respectively, but 5 and 8 per cent for urban and rural women. In addition, around 18 per cent of men home-based workers are single and young (ages 15-24).

	Age				All
	15-24	25-34	35-54	55+	
Urban women					
Single	14.0	1.6	0.2	-	15.8
Married	9.5	30.6	27.9	2.1	70.1
Divorced/separated	0.2	1.7	7.7	2.7	12.4
Widowed	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.1	1.7
All	24.0	34.4	36.6	5.0	100.0
Rural women					
Single	8.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	8.8
Married	11.6	32.1	30.5	3.4	77.6
Divorced/separated	0.2	1.3	6.2	4.0	11.8
Widowed	0.6	0.7	0.6	-	1.9
All	20.6	34.4	37.6	7.5	100.0
Urban men					
Single	17.6	7.7	0.8	0.2	26.4
Married	2.1	13.3	33.8	22.3	71.5
Divorced/separated	-	0.1	1.1	0.7	2.0
Widowed	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.2
All	19.7	21.2	35.9	23.2	100.0
Rural men					
Single	18.0	4.6	0.2	0.1	22.9
Married	2.8	16.7	35.7	20.1	75.2
Divorced/separated	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.9	1.6
Widowed	0.1	0.2	-	-	0.2
All	21.0	21.7	36.3	21.0	100.0

* Shares across cells, within each sex and urban/rural group, add to 100.

This brief was prepared at the request of and in collaboration with **HomeNet South Asia** ([HNSA](#)). HNSA is South Asia's network for home-based workers in the region.

Authors

Gayatri Koolwal is a Statistics Officer for WIEGO, and an international consultant in economic development.

Joann Vanek is WIEGO's Senior Advisor in Statistics.

Statistical Briefs

WIEGO Statistical Briefs are part of the WIEGO Publication Series. They 1) provide statistics on the informal economy and categories of informal workers in accessible formats at the regional, country and city levels; or 2) describe the methods for the collection, tabulation and/or analysis of statistics.

See www.wiego.org/wiego-publication-series.



About WIEGO

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) is a global network focused on empowering the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy to secure their livelihoods. We believe all workers should have equal economic opportunities, rights, protection and voice. WIEGO promotes change by improving statistics and expanding knowledge on the informal economy, building networks and capacity among informal worker organizations and, jointly with the networks and organizations, influencing local, national and international policies.

Visit www.wiego.org

