



Tailor and seamstress Linda Berko runs a stand in Kwame Nkrumah Circle Market. Photo Credit: Jonathan Torgovnik/Getty Images Reportage



## Informal Workers in Ghana: A Statistical Snapshot

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Women outnumber men in the labour force of Ghana (**table 1**).<sup>1</sup> In Greater Accra and nationally, women represent 54 per cent of all workers and men 46 per cent. In urban Ghana, women represent 55 per cent of all workers and men 45 per cent.

**Table 1: Employment in Greater Accra, urban Ghana and Ghana nationally, by sex: Numbers and per cent of total employment**

Numbers and per cent (in parentheses)	Total employment Women	Total employment Men	Total employment
<b>Greater Accra</b>	846,784 (53.7)	731,432 (46.3)	1,578,216
<b>Urban Ghana</b>	2,534,876 (55.3)	2,045,941 (44.7)	4,580,817
<b>Ghana National</b>	4,702,739 (53.5)	4,081,655 (46.5)	8,784,394

Informal employment is employment that is not covered, or is insufficiently covered, by formal arrangements through work – such as contributions to pensions and medical insurance or entitlement to paid sick leave or annual leave.

<sup>1</sup> The data presented are from the 2015 Ghana Labour Force Survey. The Greater Accra region rather than the city of Accra is used in this brief, since the sample for the survey was based on the region.

Employment in Ghana is overwhelming informal (**table 2**).<sup>2</sup> Informal employment represents 89 per cent of employment nationally and 83 per cent in urban areas.

Women outnumber men in informal employment throughout Ghana. Further, informal employment comprises a larger share of women's employment than men's employment. Nationally, 92 per cent of employed women are in informal employment, compared to 86 per cent of men. In Greater Accra, 87 per cent of women's employment is informal, while 79 per cent of men's employment is informal.

## Occupations

This fact sheet focuses on the five occupational groups WIEGO works with: *domestic workers*, *home-based workers*, *market traders*, *street vendors* and *waste pickers*.<sup>3</sup> Together, these occupations – which are predominantly informal – comprise a significant proportion of employment in Ghana. They represent

**Table 2: Informal employment by sex in Greater Accra, urban Ghana and Ghana nationally: numbers and per cent of total employment**

Numbers and per cent (in parentheses)	Total employment Women	Total employment Men	Total employment
<b>Greater Accra</b>	733,915 (86.6)	578,463 (79.1)	1,312,378 (83.2)
<b>Urban Ghana</b>	2,230,612 (88.0)	1,596,246 (78.0)	3,826,858 (83.5)
<b>Ghana National</b>	4,317,937 (91.8)	3,521,453 (86.4)	7,839,390 (89.2)

56 per cent of total employment in Greater Accra, 49 per cent in urban Ghana and 37 per cent nationally (**table 3**). These occupations, combined, account for a significantly high percentage of women's employment: 80 per cent in Greater Accra, 70 per cent in urban Ghana and 55 per cent nationally. However, these occupations are far less significant for men throughout Ghana, comprising 29 per cent of men's employment in Greater Accra, 22 per cent in urban Ghana and 16 per cent nationally.



Makola Market vendor Victoria Odonkor sits at her vegetable stand. "I've been here for more than 25 years," she said, selling local vegetables such as avocado and kontomire leaves. Photo Credit: Jonathan Torgovnik/Getty Images Reportage

- The criteria for identifying informal employment in this analysis follow the recommendations of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians, as closely as possible given the survey's questionnaire. Those with no benefits from social security, paid annual leave and paid sick leave are considered informal. The survey asked only one question related to the enterprise in which the respondent was employed: its size. Thus, employers in enterprises of fewer than 10 employees are classified as informal, as are all own account and contributing family workers.
- The occupations include both non-agricultural and agricultural employment. Occupational codes were used to identify the specific occupations: *domestic workers* include domestic housekeepers, home-based personal care workers, domestic cleaners and helpers; *market traders* include all traders in designated markets; *street vendors* include street food sales, door to door sales, street and related service workers, street vendors excluding food; *waste pickers* include garbage and recycling collectors, refuse sorters. *Home-based workers* were identified by the place of work question, specifically the category "home".

**Table 3: Occupations of workers by sex in Greater Accra, urban Ghana, and Ghana nationally: Numbers and per cent of total employment**

	Numbers and per cent (in parentheses)		
	Women	Men	Total
<b>Greater Accra</b>			
<i>Domestic workers</i>	11,237 (1.3)	7,790 (1.1)	19,027 (1.2)
<i>Home-based workers</i>	301,096 (35.6)	120,539 (16.5)	421,635 (26.7)
<i>Market traders</i>	332,852 (39.3)	72,296 (9.9)	405,148 (25.7)
<i>Street vendors</i>	31,606 (3.7)	3,895 (0.5)	35,501 (2.3)
- <i>Goods &amp; Services, excluding food</i>	6,706 (0.8)	0	6,706 (0.4)
- <i>Street food sales</i>	24,900 (2.9)	3,895 (0.5)	28,795 (1.8)
<i>Waste pickers</i>	1,946 (0.2)	5,842 (0.8)	7,788 (0.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>678,737 (80.2)</b>	<b>210,362 (28.8)</b>	<b>889,099 (56.3)</b>
<b>Urban Ghana</b>			
<i>Domestic workers</i>	23,885 (0.9)	14,973 (0.7)	38,858 (0.9)
<i>Home-based workers</i>	653,842 (25.8)	217,676 (10.6)	871,518 (19.0)
<i>Market traders</i>	977,179 (38.6)	198,060 (9.7)	1,175,239 (25.7)
<i>Street vendors</i>	117,940 (4.7)	22,255 (1.1)	140,195 (3.0)
- <i>Goods &amp; Services, excluding food</i>	25,392 (1.0)	18,360 (0.9)	43,752 (1.0)
- <i>Street food sales</i>	92,548 (3.7)	3,895 (0.2)	96,443 (2.1)
<i>Waste pickers</i>	1,946 (0.1)	7,494 (0.4)	9,440 (0.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,774,792 (70.0)</b>	<b>460,458 (22.5)</b>	<b>2,235,250 (48.8)</b>
<b>Ghana National</b>			
<i>Domestic workers</i>	35,356 (0.8)	23,063 (0.6)	58,419 (0.7)
<i>Home-based workers</i>	1,064,833 (22.6)	334,730 (8.2)	1,399,563 (15.9)
<i>Market traders</i>	1,366,125 (29.1)	275,425 (6.8)	1,641,550 (18.7)
<i>Street vendors</i>	142,308 (3.0)	30,233 (0.7)	172,541 (2.0)
- <i>Goods &amp; Services, excluding food</i>	26,250 (0.6)	23,156 (0.6)	49,406 (0.6)
- <i>Street food sales</i>	116,058 (2.5)	7,077 (0.2)	123,135 (1.4)
<i>Waste pickers</i>	1,946 (0.0)	7,494 (0.2)	9,440 (0.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,610,568 (55.5)</b>	<b>670,944 (16.4)</b>	<b>3,281,512 (37.4)</b>

*Market trade* is the largest of the five occupations for women. It represents nearly 40 per cent of women's employment in Greater Accra and urban Ghana and nearly 30 per cent nationally. *Home-based work* is nearly as important for women, comprising 36 per cent of their employment in Greater Accra, 26 per cent in urban Ghana and 23 per cent in Ghana nationally. Together the two occupations comprise three-quarters of women's employment in Greater Accra and around two thirds in urban Ghana. Since employment in agriculture is an important source of employment outside urban areas, the two occupations comprise a less but still significant component – about one half – of women's employment nationally.

Among men, the importance of these occupations is reversed. *Home-based work* is the more important, accounting for 17 per cent of men's employment in Greater Accra, 11 per cent in urban Ghana and 8 per cent nationally. *Market trade* is 10 per cent of men's work in both Greater Accra and urban Ghana and 7 per cent nationally.

*Street vending* represents about 3 to 4 per cent of women's employment throughout Ghana, mainly in street food sales. Among men, *street vending* represents 1 per cent or less of employment. *Domestic work* and *waste picking* account for around 1 per cent or less of employment for women and men throughout Ghana.

## Informal Employment

Employment in the five occupations is overwhelmingly informal (**table 4**). Over 95 per cent of workers in these occupations are informal, with the exception of domestic work. While *domestic work* is not a major source of employment for either women or men, over 20 per cent of men working in this occupation in urban areas and 17 per cent nationally are employed under formal arrangements.



For more than five years now, women's clothing vendor Georgina Opere has been vending at Madina Market in Accra. Before coming to Madina, she sold bread in another part of town known as Adenta. Photo: Jonathan Torgovnik/Getty Images Reportage

**Table 4. Occupations of workers by informal employment and sex in Greater Accra, urban Ghana and Ghana nationally: per cent of total employment**

<b>Greater Accra</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Domestic workers</i>	100.0	75.0	89.8
<i>Home-based workers</i>	100.0	98.4	99.5
<i>Market traders</i>	97.7	94.6	97.1
<i>Street vendors</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Waste pickers</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Urban Ghana</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Domestic workers</i>	99.0	78.5	91.1
<i>Home-based workers</i>	100.0	96.5	99.1
<i>Market traders</i>	98.8	97.7	98.6
<i>Street vendors</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Waste pickers</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Ghana National</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Domestic workers</i>	99.3	82.7	92.7
<i>Home-based workers</i>	99.9	97.1	99.2
<i>Market traders</i>	99.2	98.3	99.0
<i>Street vendors</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Waste pickers</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0

## Status in Employment

The predominant status category for workers in the three largest occupations is self-employment with no employees, referred to as own account employment (**table 5**). In Greater Accra, 75 per cent of women and 66 per cent of men *home-based workers* are own account; 85 per cent of women and 66 per cent of men *market traders* are own account; and 64 per cent of women and 50 per cent of men *street vendors* are own account. In urban Ghana and Ghana nationally, own account workers comprise an even higher proportion of women in *home-based work* (around 80 per cent), *market trade* (around 87 per cent), and *street vending* (around 73 per cent). However, among men in these occupations, the percentages are roughly the same or lower as in Greater Accra.

Although the overall number of *street vendors* is small, a large percentage in Greater Accra are employees: 29 per cent of women and 50 per cent of men are in this category, while in urban Ghana and Ghana national, the percentages are around 15 per cent for women and around 40 per cent for men.

Among the relatively few women and men who are *domestic workers* and *waste pickers*, the majority are classified as employees. All women and men employed in *domestic work* in Greater Accra are employees, as are around 60 per cent of both women and men in urban Ghana and Ghana nationally. Women work as *waste pickers* only in Greater Accra and all are employees. In Greater Accra, men who work as *waste pickers*

are classified as either employees (33 per cent) or own account workers (67 per cent). In urban Ghana and Ghana nationally, men *waste pickers* primarily worked in own account arrangements.

While the status categories of contributing family worker and employer account for a relatively small percentage of workers, there are striking patterns. Among women, contributing family workers range from 4 to 7 per cent of employment in each of the three major occupations across the three geographic categories. However, among men, the percentages are higher, ranging from 4.5 per cent to 14 per cent. While the absolute numbers of contributing family workers in each occupation and in each area are lower for men than for women, their share of the occupation is generally higher for men (with one exception: *home-based workers* in Greater Accra). In Greater Accra, 14 per cent of men in *market trade* are contributing family workers, 11 per cent of men in urban Ghana and 10 per cent nationally.

The absolute numbers, while not in the table, show that women employers significantly outnumber men employers in *home-based work* and *market trade* in each of the three geographic areas. For example, in Greater Accra, around 34,000 women *home-based workers* were employers, in contrast to 12,000 men; 20,000 women *market traders* were employers in contrast to 15,000 men. Employers comprise 11 per cent of women *home-based workers* and 10 per cent of men *home-based workers* in Greater Accra. However, among *market traders*,



Informal worker Martha Kotey sells fabrics at Makola market. For more than 17 years now, Martha has been trading in fabrics, first in brightly colored printed clothes, and now in school uniform fabrics.

Photo: Jonathan Torgovnik/Getty Images Reportage

around 6 per cent of women are employers in Greater Accra and around 3 per cent in the other two areas. Among men who are *market traders*, 14 per cent in Greater Accra and around 12 per cent in the other two areas are employers.

The category “other” mainly includes casual workers and a few other workers who responded “other.” Few occupations have workers in this category and among those that do, they are generally no more than 2 per cent of the total for each occupation. However, among *domestic workers*, more than 3 per cent of men and 5 per cent of women are in casual arrangements in Ghana nationally, as are 8 per cent of women in urban Ghana. This may indicate that employment is through an agency or informal broker.

Table 5: Composition of groups of workers by status in employment and by sex in Greater Accra, urban Ghana and Ghana nationally (per cent)

	Women					Men					Total				
	Employer	Own account worker	Contr. family worker	Employee	Other	Employer	Own account worker	Contr. family worker	Employee	Other	Employer	Own account worker	Contr. family worker	Employee	Other
<b>Greater Accra</b>															
<i>Domestic workers</i>	0	0	0	100.0	0	0	0	0	100.0	0	0	0	0	100.0	0
<i>Home-based workers</i>	11.4	75.2	5.2	8.2	0	9.7	66.4	4.5	17.8	1.6	10.9	72.7	5.0	10.9	0.5
<i>Market traders</i>	6.1	84.7	4.0	5.2	0	14.0	66.5	14.1	2.7	2.7	7.5	81.4	5.8	4.8	0.5
<i>Street vendors</i>	6.2	64.4	0	29.4	0	0	50.0	0	50.0	0	5.5	62.8	0	31.7	0
<i>Waste pickers</i>	0	0	0	100.0	0	0	66.7	0	33.3	0	0	50.0	0	50.0	0
<b>Urban Ghana</b>															
<i>Domestic workers</i>	0	30.9	0	61.4	7.7	0	39.5	0	60.5	0	0	34.2	0	61.1	4.7
<i>Home-based workers</i>	7.2	80.0	6.4	5.3	1.1	7.0	65.4	7.5	18.4	1.7	7.2	76.3	6.7	8.5	1.3
<i>Market traders</i>	3.6	87.7	4.0	3.7	1.0	12.1	67.2	11.0	7.8	1.9	5.0	84.2	5.2	4.5	1.1
<i>Street vendors</i>	4.7	73.2	6.3	14.2	1.6	0	48.2	8.2	43.6	0	4.0	69.3	6.6	18.8	1.3
<i>Waste pickers</i>	0	0	0	100.0	0	0	74.0	0	26.0	0	0	58.8	0	41.2	0
<b>Ghana National</b>															
<i>Domestic workers</i>	0	39.5	0	55.3	5.2	0	37.1	0	59.5	3.4	0	38.5	0	57.0	4.5
<i>Home-based workers</i>	5.5	81.2	7.1	4.4	1.8	7.1	66.3	8.1	16.8	1.7	5.9	77.6	7.4	7.3	1.8
<i>Market traders</i>	3.2	86.2	5.2	4.1	1.3	11.4	68.1	10.3	8.1	2.1	4.6	83.2	6.1	4.7	1.4
<i>Street vendors</i>	3.9	72.4	6.1	14.9	2.7	0	49.7	9.9	40.4	0	3.2	68.4	6.7	19.4	2.3
<i>Waste pickers</i>	0	0	0	100.0	0	0	74.0	0	26.0	0	0	58.8	0	41.2	0

## Education

Many women and men in these occupations have little or no education, especially among *domestic workers* and *waste pickers* (table 6). However, the majority of workers in each occupation – with the exception of waste pickers – completed secondary education. In every occupation and geographic areas, men were better educated than women with the exception of men *street vendors* nationally.

Among *waste pickers*, all women and at least half of men did not have a primary level of education. Further, a substantial number of women *domestic workers*, especially those in Greater Accra, did not complete primary school: 50 per cent in Greater Accra and around 30 per cent in urban Ghana and nationally. Men *domestic workers* in Greater Accra had higher education levels than women, as 25 per cent had completed primary level and 75 per cent secondary level. However, men working as *domestic workers* in the other geographic regions had less education than men in Greater Accra: 60 per cent in urban Ghana and 46 per cent nationally had completed secondary level.

Among workers in the two occupations with the largest number of workers – *home-based work* and *market trade* – the majority of women (from 51 to 63 per cent across the geographic regions) and a higher proportion of men (from 59 to 73 per cent) completed secondary level schooling. However a significant proportion of

women in *home-based work* and *market trade* did not complete primary school: around 15 per cent of women in both occupations *home-based workers* and *market traders* in Greater Accra and around 19 per cent in urban Ghana; nationally, 27 per cent of women *home-based workers* and 23 per cent of *market traders*. Among men in Greater Accra only 4 per cent of *home-based workers* and 9 per cent of *market traders* did not complete primary school. Nationally, the rates are somewhat higher: 13 per cent of men in *home-based work* and 14 per cent in *market trade* did not complete primary school.

Among *street vendors* in Greater Accra, 24 per cent of women but no men, had *not* completed primary school and 63 per cent of women had completed secondary school in comparison to *all* men. However nationally, a larger proportion of men *street vendors* (40 per cent) had not completed primary school in comparison to 17 per cent of women *street vendors*.

At the opposite end of the education spectrum, some workers in these occupations have completed tertiary education (college, university or trade school). The proportion of these occupational groups with tertiary education is higher among men than among women and highest in Greater Accra where 24 per cent of men in *home-based work* and 21 per cent in *market trade* completed college. The comparable statistics for women are 14 per cent in *home-based work* and 8 per cent in *market trade*.



In addition to operating a roadside restaurant where she prepares local foods, Sandra Ocran is the financial secretary for the Initiative Development Ghana, a local NGO partnering with the Ga East Trade Union to provide microloans to GETU members. Over the past five years, Betty has been involved in supporting 40 members to access microloans to build their businesses. Photo: Jonathan Torgovnik/Getty Images Reportage

**Table 6: Occupations of workers by highest level of education completed and by sex in Greater Accra, urban Ghana and Ghana nationally (per cent)**

	Women				Men				Total			
<b>Greater Accra</b>	None	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	None	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	None	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
<i>Domestic workers</i>	50.0	0	50.0	0	0	25.0	75.0	0	25.0	12.5	62.5	0
<i>Home-based workers</i>	14.8	9.6	61.7	13.9	3.9	7.9	63.9	24.3	11.7	9.1	62.3	16.9
<i>Market traders</i>	13.8	14.7	63.3	8.2	9.3	2.7	66.8	21.2	13.0	12.5	64.0	10.5
<i>Street vendors</i>	24.6	6.2	63.0	6.2	0	0	100.0	0	21.9	5.5	67.1	5.5
<i>Waste pickers</i>	100.0	0	0	0	0	66.7	33.3	0	25.0	50.0	25.0	0
	Women				Men				Total			
<b>Urban Ghana</b>	None	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	None	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	None	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
<i>Domestic workers</i>	30.8	1.5	62.4	5.3	8.5	32.2	59.3	0	22.2	13.3	61.2	3.3
<i>Home-based workers</i>	21.0	14.2	56.0	8.8	6.1	6.8	66.0	21.1	17.3	12.3	58.5	11.9
<i>Market traders</i>	19.1	17.6	58.6	4.7	10.2	3.2	72.8	13.8	17.6	15.2	61.0	6.2
<i>Street vendors</i>	17.5	17.3	60.6	4.6	34.0	1.5	64.5	0	20.2	14.8	61.2	3.8
<i>Waste pickers</i>	100.0	0	0	0	0	50.0	50.0	0	20.0	40.0	40.0	0
	Women				Men				Total			
<b>Ghana National</b>	None	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	None	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	None	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
<i>Domestic workers</i>	30.4	4.3	61.7	3.6	23.4	31.1	45.5	0	27.6	14.9	55.3	2.2
<i>Home-based workers</i>	27.0	15.6	50.7	6.7	12.9	10.4	59.2	17.5	23.6	14.3	52.8	9.3
<i>Market traders</i>	23.3	17.1	55.6	4.0	13.8	5.6	69.4	11.2	21.7	15.2	57.9	5.2
<i>Street vendors</i>	16.7	18.8	60.7	3.8	40.6	8.1	51.3	0	20.9	17.0	59.0	3.1
<i>Waste pickers</i>	100.0	0	0	0	0	50.0	50.0	0	20.0	40.0	40.0	0



## Hours of Work

Men work more hours each week in these occupations than women, (**table 7**). Generally, workers in Greater Accra work longer hours than in other cities and nationally. Among *domestic workers* the majority of women (65 per cent) and men (75 per cent) in Greater Accra work more than 40 hours a week. Outside of Greater Accra around 30 per cent of women and 40 per cent of men work more than 40 hours a week in *domestic work*.

Nearly 50 per cent of women and men *home-based workers* work more than 40 hours a week in Accra. In the other two geographic areas, around 42 per cent of women and 45 of men work about more than 40 hours. Among *market traders*, men work more hours than women. In Greater Accra 64 per cent of men work more than 40 hours a week compared to 46 per cent of women; in urban Ghana and nationally around 58 per cent of men compared to 34 per cent of women.

*Home-based workers* and *market traders* work more hours than *street vendors*. In Greater Accra all men *street vendors* work less than 20 hours a week, in urban Ghana 61 per cent and nationally 53 per cent. Among women *street vendors* across the three areas, around 26 per cent work fewer than 20 hours a week. However, around 20 per cent of women *street vendors* in all areas work more than 40 hours a week, as do nearly 30 per cent of men *street vendors* in urban Ghana and nationally.



For 15 years now, Veronica Boakye has been trading at Kwame Nkrumah Circle Market. She trades in cosmetics, hair, and skin products from her market stall in the pedestrian market of Kwame Nkrumah Circle. She followed in the footsteps of her mother, who traded in similar products. Photo: Jonathan Torgovnik/Getty Images Reportage

Table 7: Hours worked per week by occupations and sex in Greater Accra, Urban Ghana and Ghana (per cent)

	Women				Men			
	<20 hrs.	20 – 34 hrs.	35 – 40 hrs.	> 40 hrs	<20 hrs.	20–34 hrs.	35–40 hrs.	> 40 hrs
<b>Greater Accra</b>								
<i>Domestic workers</i>	34.7	0	0	65.3	0	25.0	0	75.0
<i>Home-based workers</i>	16.1	22.7	12.9	48.3	24.6	20.7	5.5	49.2
<i>Market traders</i>	16.5	23.5	14.3	45.7	15.5	17.5	2.9	64.1
<i>Street vendors</i>	26.0	30.8	24.7	18.5	100.0	0	0	0
<i>Waste pickers</i>	0	0	0	100.0	33.3	0	0	66.7
	Women				Men			
	<20 hrs.	20 – 34 hrs.	35 – 40 hrs.	> 40 hrs	<20 hrs.	20–34 hrs.	35–40 hrs.	> 40 hrs
<b>Urban Ghana</b>								
<i>Domestic workers</i>	44.8	14.5	12.7	28.0	0	43.3	8.5	48.2
<i>Home-based workers</i>	19.4	24.0	14.3	42.3	26.1	20.6	7.7	45.6
<i>Market traders</i>	18.2	32.7	15.4	33.7	11.6	20.7	9.0	58.7
<i>Street vendors</i>	27.7	31.4	20.5	20.4	61.0	1.5	8.3	29.2
<i>Waste pickers</i>	0	0	0	100.0	48.0	0	0	52.0
	Women				Men			
	<20 hrs.	20 – 34 hrs.	35 – 40 hrs.	> 40 hrs	<20 hrs.	20–34 hrs.	35–40 hrs.	> 40 hrs
<b>Ghana National</b>								
<i>Domestic workers</i>	34.9	25.0	8.6	31.5	5.1	46.3	5.5	43.1
<i>Home-based workers</i>	20.7	23.7	14.8	40.8	25.3	19.5	10.7	44.5
<i>Market traders</i>	19.7	31.2	15.3	33.8	14.5	19.4	9.9	56.2
<i>Street vendors</i>	28.3	34.4	18.7	18.6	53.2	14.2	6.1	26.5
<i>Waste pickers</i>	0	0	0	100.0	48.0	0	0	52.0

## Age

The majority of workers in each of the two largest of these occupations – *home-based work* and *market trade* – are in the peak employment ages: 25 to 54 (**table 8**). Among women in all geographic areas, around three quarters are in this age range, as are three quarters of men in Greater Accra and two thirds of men in the other areas. Among *street vendors*, around two thirds of women and half of men in Greater Accra are in this age group, while around 70 per cent of both women and men in urban Ghana are in this age group.

The occupations with the youngest workers (ages 15-24) among both women and men are *domestic work* and *street vending* and, among men, *waste picking*. Around 35 per cent of women *domestic workers* in the three geographic regions are in this age group; among men in *domestic work*, 50 per cent in Greater Accra and around 37 per cent in urban Ghana and nationally are in the youngest group. Among *street vendors*, 30 per cent of women and 50 per cent of men are ages 15-24 in Greater Accra. In urban Ghana and nationally, 22 to 24 per cent of women and men in *domestic work* are ages 15-24. A large proportion of men *waste pickers* are also in this age group: 33 per cent in Greater Accra and 26 per cent in urban Ghana and nationally.

Only a small proportion of workers are in the oldest category, age 65 and older, with the exception of the few women *waste pickers*. No more than 6 per cent of women and 9 per cent of men, working as *home-based workers*, *market traders* or *street vendors*, are age 65 and older.

**Table 8: Age groups by occupation and sex in Greater Accra, urban Ghana and Ghana nationally (per cent)**

	Women					Men				
	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-54 years.	55-64 years	65+ years
<b>Greater Accra</b>										
<i>Domestic workers</i>	34.5	0	17.4	48.1	0	50.0	25.0	25.0	0	0
<i>Home-based workers</i>	9.1	20.3	53.1	12.0	5.5	10.4	14.2	58.5	8.1	8.8
<i>Market traders</i>	5.8	32.6	44.1	11.6	5.9	12.8	40.1	35.1	6.6	5.4
<i>Street vendors</i>	29.4	37.0	27.4	0	6.2	50.0	50.0	0	0	0
<i>Waste pickers</i>	0	0	0	0	100.0	33.3	33.3	33.3	0	0
<b>Urban Ghana</b>										
<i>Domestic workers</i>	32.9	9.1	35.3	22.7	0	37.1	30.7	32.2	0	0
<i>Home-based workers</i>	10.6	23.6	48.0	11.9	5.9	12.9	20.4	43.9	14.7	8.1
<i>Market traders</i>	7.7	29.2	47.4	10.0	5.7	16.7	34.4	29.2	14.3	5.4
<i>Street vendors</i>	23.9	31.5	39.6	1.1	3.9	28.1	41.0	22.7	8.3	0
<i>Waste pickers</i>	0	0	0	0	100.0	26.0	26.0	48.0	0	0
<b>Ghana National</b>										
<i>Domestic workers</i>	35.3	11.4	36.6	16.7	0	35.6	19.9	29.3	11.8	3.4
<i>Home-based workers</i>	10.1	26.8	46.3	10.5	6.3	13.0	22.2	44.6	11.7	8.5
<i>Market traders</i>	8.7	28.7	46.9	9.6	6.1	15.4	32.3	34.3	11.9	6.1
<i>Street vendors</i>	21.5	36.0	36.8	1.8	3.9	24.5	30.2	28.2	10.5	6.6
<i>Waste pickers</i>	0	0	0	0	100.0	26.0	26.0	48.0	0	0

## Work-Related Injuries

Few workers in the five occupations responded that they had suffered work-related injuries (**table 9**). Among *domestic workers*, 17 per cent of women but no men in Greater Accra had work related injuries; 8 per cent of women and men in urban Ghana, and 5 per cent of women and 11 per cent of men nationally. Among *street vendors*, 15 per cent of women but no men in Greater Accra reported work-related injuries; the incidence of work related injuries was about 7 per cent for women and men in urban Ghana, and 6 per cent for women and 9 per cent for men nationally. *Waste picking* is perhaps the most dangerous of these occupations, but no work-related injuries were reported by *waste pickers*. This may reflect the small number of *waste pickers* identified in the survey.



Faustina Kai Torgbe is a well-established vendor in Accra's East Legon neighbourhood.  
Photo: Jonathan Torgovnik/Getty Images Reportage

**Table 9: Groups of workers suffering work-related injuries by sex and total in Greater Accra, urban Ghana and Ghana nationally (per cent)**

	Greater Accra			Urban			Ghana		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
<i>Domestic workers</i>	17.3	0	10.2	8.1	8.5	8.3	5.5	10.6	7.5
<i>Home-based workers</i>	4.8	3.8	4.5	2.9	1.8	2.6	3.0	3.1	3.0
<i>Market traders</i>	1.8	5.4	2.4	1.6	4.0	2.0	1.2	3.7	1.7
<i>Street vendors</i>	15.1	0	13.4	6.8	6.5	6.8	6.3	8.7	6.7
<i>Waste pickers</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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