



**Women in Informal Employment  
Globalizing and Organizing**

**THE FUTURE OF INFORMAL WORK,  
THE FUTURE OF STATISTICS ON INFORMAL WORK**

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# REMARKS

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- **Informal Work: Today –  
New Worldwide Data (ILO 2018)**
- **Informal Work: In the Future**
- **Statistics on Informal Work:  
Future Directions**

# INFORMAL WORK TODAY: SIGNIFICANCE

## % of Total, Rural & Urban Employment

### Globally & by Country Income Group & Geographic Region

Country Income Groups *	Total	Rural	Urban
World	61	80	44
Developing	90	90	79
Emerging	67	83	51
Developed	18	22	17

\*2018 World Bank classification based on country levels of gross income per capita

Geographic Regions (excluding developed countries)	Total
Sub-Saharan Africa (excluding Southern Africa)	92
Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole	89
South Asia	88
Southeast & East Asia (excluding China)	77
Middle East and North Africa	68
Latin America and the Caribbean	54
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	37

# INFORMAL WORK TODAY: COMPOSITION

## By Status in Employment & Branch of Industry

### Globally & Country Income Group (%)

<b>Country Income Groups</b>	<b>Wage Workers</b>	<b>Self- Employed</b>	<i>Employers</i>	<i>Own Account Workers</i>	<i>Contributing Family Workers</i>
World	36	64	3	45	16
Developing	21	79	2	54	22
Emerging	37	63	3	44	16
Developed	51	49	6	36	6

<b>Country Income Groups</b>	<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>Manufacturing</b>
World	38	44	18
Developing	69	21	10
Emerging	36	46	19
Developed	10	71	19

Source: ILO 2018

# THE FUTURE OF INFORMAL WORK

- **existing informal self-employment:** *likely to persist* – with some shifts across branches of industry, *unless significant increase in formal jobs*
- **existing informal wage employment:** *likely to persist* – with some shifts across branches of industry, *unless significant increase in formal jobs*
- **informalization of once-formal wage jobs:** *likely to continue* – in current climate of de-regulation & flexibilization of labour, *unless labour markets are regulated or re-regulated*
- **new forms of informal wage jobs and/or dependent contractors:** *likely to emerge & increase* – with growth of outsourcing, offshoring and digital platforms/gig economy, *unless regulation of new forms of work*
- **workers displaced by automation:** *likely to resort to self-employment in the informal economy* – in absence of unemployment insurance, employment guarantee schemes and safety nets, *unless they acquire skills for new technology jobs and occupations*

**In sum, the future of work is informal.**

# STATISTICS ON INFORMAL WORK: FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- **Frontiers of Statistics on Informal Work...**
  - **improved definition & international standards for measurement of informal employment** - being discussed at 2018 ICLS
  - **city-level data** – for an urbanized world
  - **data on specific groups of informal workers** – to inform policies – see WIEGO guide <http://www.wiego.org/publications/guide-obtaining-data-types-informal-workers-official-statistics>
  - **data on informal enterprises** (as share of all enterprises across different branches of industry + by size, ownership & place of work) – to inform enterprise development policies & schemes
  - **data on GDP contribution** of informal workers inside and outside informal enterprises - to convince policy makers that they contribute to economic growth
  - **more & better data on informal employment in developed countries:** using common framework for measuring informal employment in developed & developing countries

# WAY FORWARD

## □ **Future of Work**

- informal employment is, and is likely to remain, the norm
- informal workers should not be ignored or stigmatized - but recognized & supported
- appropriate policies & laws in support of informal workers should be developed

*The first step is good statistics on informal employment*

## □ **Future of Labour Statistics**

- *increased* data on informal work – more countries, including developed countries, measuring informal employment + making micro-data sets available to ILO and others
- *improved* data on informal work – more & better use of official international definitions and standards for measurement
- *expanded* data on informal work – city-level + specific groups of workers +informal enterprises

# THANK YOU!

On behalf of WIEGO and our Statistics Programme,  
*Joann Vanek & Francoise Carré*, I would like to thank...

**ICLS** – for recognizing informal employment as an important  
component of labour force statistics

**ILO Statistics** – for promoting improved statistics on  
informal employment

**Delhi Group** – for promoting improved statistics on  
informal employment

**National Statistical Offices** – for collecting statistics on  
informal employment

WIEGO has enjoyed working with all of you for over two  
decades and we look forward to continuing to work together!