

# THE INFORMAL ECONOMY: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



# THE INFORMAL WORKFORCE

Around the world, the informal workforce includes those who work:



## **On Streets or In Open Spaces:**

- street vendors
- push-cart vendors
- waste pickers
- barbers
- construction workers
- jitney drivers



## **In Fields, Pastures, Forests; On Waterways:**

- small farmers
- agricultural labourers
- shepherds
- forest gatherers
- fisherfolk



## **In Small Workshops/Factories:**

- scrap metal recyclers
- shoe makers
- weavers
- garment makers
- paper-bag makers
- mechanics



## **At Home:**

- garment makers
- embroiderers
- shoemakers
- artisans or craft producers
- assemblers of electronic parts



# DEFINITION OF INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT

- **Self-Employment in Informal Enterprises:** self-employed in small unregistered or unincorporated enterprises, including:
  - *employers*
  - *own account operators*
  - *unpaid family workers*
- **Wage Employment in Informal Jobs:** wage workers without legal or social protection who work for formal or informal firms, for households. or for no fixed employer, including:
  - *employees of informal enterprises*
  - informal wage workers such as:
    - casual or day labourers
    - contract workers
    - domestic workers
  - industrial outworkers (also called homeworkers)

Note: The international definition of the “informal sector” that was adopted by the 1993 International Conference of Labour Statisticians included only those who work in informal enterprises (shown in *italics* above). The newly expanded definition of “informal employment” has been endorsed by the 2002 International Labour Conference and the 2003 International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

# **SIZE OF THE INFORMAL ECONOMY: SHARE OF NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

<b>North Africa</b>	<b>48%</b>
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<b>Latin America</b>	<b>51%</b>
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<b>Asia</b>	<b>65%</b>
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<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	<b>72%</b>
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# **CONTRIBUTION OF “INFORMAL SECTOR” TO GDP: SHARE OF NON-AGRICULTURAL GDP**

<b>North Africa</b>	<b>27 %</b>
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<b>Latin America</b>	<b>29 %</b>
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<b>Asia</b>	<b>31 %</b>
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<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	<b>41 %</b>
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# SEGMENTATION OF THE INFORMAL ECONOMY: BY SEX, AVERAGE EARNINGS, AND POVERTY RISK

