



| A home-based seamstress in Chile. Photo: L. Morillo



# Informal Workers in Chile: A Statistical Profile

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## Summary

In Chile, considered a developed country, informal employment is 27 per cent of total employment. This brief focuses on six groups of informal workers who comprised almost 2 million workers, or 21 per cent of Chile's total employment, in 2019. Then the COVID-19 crisis brought great changes to employment in Chile.

Total employment declined in Chile nationally by over 1 million workers between 2019 and 2020 and informal employment declined by over 400,000 workers; however, the six

groups covered in this brief together grew in numbers and, in 2020, comprised 28 per cent of employment. With the pandemic, many workers in education, finance, real estate and other services began to work in the home. The addition of these new workers decreased informality among home-based workers, from 56 to 34 per cent. Changes occurred in the other groups as well, so that in the six groups combined, informality decreased from 65 per cent in 2019 to 50 per cent in 2020. Similar changes took place in Metropolitan Santiago and in urban Chile.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The data in this brief are based on the fourth quarter of the 2017, 2019 and 2020 Encuesta Nacional de Empleo (ENE), a quarterly survey of the National Institute of Statistics (INE). 2017 was selected as the base year since changes to improve the measurement of informal work were implemented in September 2017. The geographic areas examined are: **Metropolitan Santiago**, which includes the Santiago Metropolitan Region administrative division with its six provinces: Santiago, Chacabuco, Cordillera, Maipo, Melipilla and Talagante, comprising cities within these provinces and some rural areas; **urban Chile**, which includes urban localities with more than 40,000 inhabitants; and **Chile national**. The data refer to the population ages 15 and over.

**Table 1. Employment by sex in Metropolitan Santiago, urban Chile and Chile national, 2017, 2019 and 2020: Numbers and share of women and men**

Numbers and per cent (in parentheses)	2017			2019			2020			Change in numbers 2019 - 2020		
	Women		Men	Women		Men	Women		Men	Women	Men	Total
<b>Metropolitan Santiago</b>	1,683,085 (44.1)	2,130,585 (55.9)	3,813,670	1,722,999 (43.4)	2,246,081 (56.6)	3,969,080	1,513,072 (41.8)	2,106,949 (58.2)	3,620,022	-209,927	-139,132	-349,058
<b>Urban Chile</b>	2,808,247 (44.1)	3,557,086 (55.9)	6,365,333	2,915,076 (43.8)	3,741,022 (56.2)	6,656,099	2,761,587 (41.9)	3,835,168 (58.1)	6,596,755	-153,489	94,146	-59,344
<b>Chile</b>	3,710,843 (42.3)	5,057,824 (57.7)	8,768,667	3,852,866 (42.4)	5,234,266 (57.6)	9,087,132	3,252,472 (40.5)	4,773,744 (59.5)	8,026,217	-600,394	-460,522	-1,060,915

Total employment increased between 2017 and 2019 in all geographic areas of Chile: in Metropolitan Santiago from 3.8 to 4 million, in urban Chile from 6.4 to 6.7 million, and nationally from 8.8 to 9.1 million workers (**table 1**). Women's share of employment in Metropolitan Santiago and urban Chile was 44 per cent, while nationally it was 42 per cent; men comprised 56 per cent of employment in Metropolitan Santiago and urban Chile; and 58 per cent nationally. In 2019, women's share in Metropolitan Santiago decreased slightly to 43 per cent and men's rose to 57 per cent; however, there was no change in urban Chile or at the national level.

The COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions and recession had a significant impact on the labor market of Chile: over 1 million work positions were lost between 2019 and 2020. In the fourth quarter of 2019, 15.5 million Chileans were of working age, 15 and older: of these 9.1 million were employed and 690,000 were unemployed. A year later (in the last quarter of 2020), as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, total employment decreased to 8 million and the number of unemployed people searching for a job went up to 920,000. The gross labour force participation — the percentage of persons aged 15 and above who

are employed or unemployed — decreased from 63 per cent to 57 per cent.

### **Women suffered greater losses of employment than men during COVID-19.**

Women suffered greater losses in employment than men during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Women's employment decreased by 600,000 at the national level while men's employment decreased by 460,000. In Metropolitan Santiago, women's employment decreased by 210,000 and men's by 139,000. Moreover, in urban Chile, while women's

**Table 2. Employment and unemployment rates in Metropolitan Santiago, urban Chile and Chile national by sex, 2017, 2019 and 2020 (per cent)**

Employment rate (ER) and Unemployment rate (UR)	2017						2019						2020						Absolute Change 2019 - 2020					
	Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total	
	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR
<b>Metropolitan Santiago</b>	53.7	6.4	71.4	6.3	62.3	6.3	52.0	8.2	70.6	7.0	61.1	7.5	44.6	11.8	64.6	11.2	54.4	11.4	-7.4	3.6	-6.0	4.2	-6.7	3.9
<b>Urban Chile</b>	50.9	6.8	69.1	6.7	59.7	6.8	50.2	8.0	68.8	7.1	59.2	7.5	41.9	11.3	61.9	10.6	51.6	10.9	-8.4	3.3	-6.9	3.5	-7.6	3.4
<b>Chile</b>	48.9	7.0	69.7	6.2	59.0	6.5	48.6	7.7	68.9	6.6	58.6	7.1	40.3	10.9	61.7	9.8	50.8	10.3	-8.3	3.2	-7.2	3.3	-7.8	3.2

employment decreased by 153,000, men's increased by 94,000.

Another indicator of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment is the sharp decline in the rates of employment from 2019 to 2020 in all geographic areas (**table 2**). Women's employment dropped around 7 per cent from 52 per cent to 45 per cent in Metropolitan Santiago between 2019 and 2020; men's dropped less but a still significant 6 per cent from 71 per cent to 65 per cent. Women's employment declined around 8 per cent from around 50 per cent to 42 per cent in urban Chile and from 49 per cent to 40 per cent in Chile national; men's employment declined around 7 per cent in these two geographic areas: from 69 per cent to 62 per cent in urban Chile and in Chile nationally. There was also an increase in unemployment. In 2019, unemployment was around 8 per cent for women in all geographic areas; it was slightly less for men. By 2020, unemployment had increased to around 11 per cent for both women and men.

### Informal employment in Chile across the geographic areas is around 27 per cent in 2019 and 2020. The per cent of women's and men's employment that is informal in 2020 was also around 27 per cent.

In 2017, informal employment was 26 per cent of total employment in Metropolitan Santiago and in urban Chile, and 29 per cent nationally (**table 3**). Between 2017 and 2019, there was little change in the share of informal employment in total employment in all regions. By 2020, the percentage of informal employment was slightly lower in all three geographic regions, with a drop of a little more than a percentage point nationally. In numbers of workers, informal employment increased in all geographic areas between 2017 and 2019 and then decreased by around 400,000 workers in 2020.

The percentage of women's employment that is informal is generally higher than men's. In Metropolitan Santiago and in urban Chile in 2017, 29 per cent of women's employment and 24 per cent of men's was informal; and in

### Identifying Informal Employment

In Chile, and other countries, the criteria for identifying informal wage employment are based on the employment status of the respondent. **Employees** who do not have social protection or benefits – such as contribution to pensions and medical insurance or entitlement to paid sick leave or annual leave by their employer – are informally employed. The **self-employed** – employers and own-account operators – are considered informal when the economic units they work in are not registered in the national tax system and are not quasi-corporations because they do not have an accounting system that separates business expenses, home expenses and personal expenses. All **contributing family workers** are considered informal employees.

**Table 3. Informal employment in Metropolitan Santiago, urban Chile and Chile national by sex, 2017, 2019 and 2020: Numbers and share of total employment**

Numbers and share (in parentheses)	2017			2019			2020		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
<b>Metropolitan Santiago</b>	491,382 (29.2)	503,173 (23.6)	994,555 (26.1)	471,878 (27.4)	574,958 (25.6)	1,046,835 (26.4)	389,846 (25.8)	542,293 (25.7)	932,139 (25.7)
<b>Urban Chile</b>	825,823 (29.4)	849,177 (23.9)	1,675,000 (26.3)	815,162 (28.0)	926,680 (24.8)	1,741,841 (26.2)	733,449 (26.6)	952,478 (24.8)	1,685,927 (25.6)
<b>Chile</b>	1,152,649 (31.1)	1,376,882 (27.2)	2,529,531 (28.8)	1,147,214 (29.8)	1,437,338 (27.5)	2,584,552 (28.4)	882,159 (27.1)	1,283,150 (26.9)	2,165,309 (27.0)

Chile national, 31 per cent of women's and 27 per cent of men's employment was informal. Between 2017 and 2020, and in all geographic areas, the percentage of women's employment that was informal decreased. The decrease was most pronounced in Chile national, where it fell from 31 per cent to 27 per cent of women's employment. By contrast for men, the percentage of informal employment generally increased, for example in Metropolitan Santiago from 24 per cent in 2017 to 26 per cent in 2019. As a result, for 2020, the percentages of employment that were informal were similar for women and men in Metropolitan Santiago and in Chile nationally: 26 and 27 per cent, respectively. Only in urban Chile was there a difference – although small – in the percentage of informal employment, with 27 per cent for women and 25 per cent for men.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected both formal and informal employment in Chile, with a somewhat greater effect on informal employment (**table 4**). In Chile nationally between the fourth quarter of 2019 and 2020, the decline in employment was around 1.06 million with a loss of 640,000 in formal employment and 420,000 in informal employment. In terms of the percentage change from the earlier level of employment (relative change),<sup>2</sup> the decline was 16 per cent in informal employment and 10 per cent in formal employment. Again the decline in informal employment was greater

**Table 4. Absolute and relative changes in employment in Metropolitan Santiago, urban Chile, rural and small urban areas, and Chile national, by sex, in 2019 and 2020**

Years 2019 and 2020	Women		Men		Total	
	Absolute change	Relative change	Absolute change	Relative change	Absolute change	Relative change
<b>Metropolitan Santiago</b>	-209,927	-12.2	-139,132	-6.2	-349,058	-8.8
Formal	-127,895	-10.2	-106,467	-6.4	-234,362	-8.0
Informal	-82,031	-17.4	-32,665	-5.7	-114,696	-11.0
<b>Urban Chile<sup>a</sup></b>	-153,490	-5.3	94,146	2.5	-59,344	-0.9
Formal	-71,777	-3.4	68,348	2.4	-3,429	-0.1
Informal	-81,713	-10.0	25,798	2.8	-55,915	-3.2
<b>Rural<sup>b</sup> and small urban areas</b>	-446,904	-47.7	-554,668	-37.1	-1,001,572	-41.2
Formal	-263,562	-43.5	-374,682	-38.1	-638,243	-40.2
Informal	-183,343	-55.2	-179,986	-35.2	-363,328	-43.1
<b>Chile</b>	-600,394	-15.6	-460,522	-8.8	-1,060,916	-11.7
Formal	-335,339	-12.4	-306,334	-8.1	-641,673	-9.9
Informal	-265,055	-23.1	-154,188	-10.7	-419,243	-16.2

<sup>a</sup> Urban Chile includes cities or large urban centers with 40,000 or more inhabitants.

<sup>b</sup> Rural and small urban areas includes areas with less than 40,000 inhabitants.

for women than for men; in Chile nationally, the relative change (decline) was 23 per cent for women in comparison to 11 per cent for men between 2019 and 2020.

**Table 4** adds another geographic area: rural areas and small urban areas of less than 40,000 inhabitants. This area reflects the most striking impact of COVID-19 on employment with a drop of 1 million in employment, or 41 per

cent, between 2019 and 2020. In Metropolitan Santiago, the effect was less but still important, with a loss of 349,000 employed or 9 per cent. In urban Chile, the loss was less significant with a drop in employment of 60,000, or 1 per cent.

The impact of the COVID-19 crisis was greater on informal employment than on formal employment in all geographic areas: in rural and small urban areas, a 43 per cent drop in informal

<sup>2</sup> The absolute change refers to the difference in numbers of employed between 2019 and 2020. The relative change refers to the change in the number as a per cent of the number from the earlier period, as shown in the formula:  $Relative\ change = \frac{Value\ of\ indicator\ in\ period\ 2 - Value\ of\ indicator\ in\ period\ 1}{Value\ of\ indicator\ in\ period\ 1} \times 100\%$



| A domestic worker in Chile. Photo courtesy of IDWF.

employment in contrast to a 40 per cent drop in formal employment. In Metropolitan Santiago, an 11 per cent drop in informal employment in comparison to 8 per cent in formal employment; and in urban Chile, a drop of 3 per cent in informal employment in comparison to less than 1 per cent in formal employment.

In all geographic areas, the relative change in women's employment between 2019 and 2020 was greater than in men's: in rural and small urban areas, 48 per cent in comparison to 37 per cent; in Chile national, 16 per cent in comparison to 9 per cent; in Metropolitan Santiago, 12 per cent in comparison to 6 per cent; and in urban Chile, 5 per cent in comparison to 2 per cent.

Further, in all four geographic areas, the impact of COVID-19 was generally greater on informal than on formal employment for women compared to men. In rural and small urban areas, there was a 55 per cent decline in women's informal employment, compared to a 44 per cent decline in women's formal employment. In comparison, there was a 35 per cent decline in men's informal employment, and a 38 per cent drop in men's formal employment. In Metropolitan Santiago, the decline in women's informal employment was 17 per cent compared to 10 per cent in women's formal employment; among men, there was a 6 per cent decline in both informal employment and formal employment.

## Groups of Informal Workers

**In 2019 the six groups of workers together comprise 21 per cent of Chile's employment; in 2020 they had grown to 27 per cent of employment.**

This brief focuses on six groups of workers who are essential workers in the economy of Chile: domestic workers, home-based workers, street vendors, market traders, informal construction workers and informal transport workers.

The six groups of workers together comprise a major component of employment in Chile: in 2019, 1.9 million workers or 21 per cent of total employment nationally, 1.4 million or 21 per cent of employment in urban Chile, and

859,000 or 22 per cent in Metropolitan Santiago (**table 5**). In 2020, across all three geographic areas, these groups grew both in numbers and in their share of Chile's employment. Nationally and in urban Chile, they came to comprise 28 per cent of employment, or 2.2 million workers nationally and 1.9 in urban Chile. In Metropolitan Santiago, they comprised nearly one third of employment (31 per cent) and 1.1 million workers.

There are almost the same number of women and men workers in these six groups across the three geographic areas in both 2019 and 2020; for example nationally, 931,000 women and 936,000 men worked in these groups in 2019. However, the six groups represent a more important source of employment for

### Defining the six groups of workers

**Domestic workers** provide services in the homes of others. **Home-based workers** produce goods or provide services from in or around their own homes, including a structure attached to their home. **Street vendors** sell products or offer services in public spaces, such as streets, alleys, avenues, park, markets. Occasionally, street vendors offer simple services, for example car washing, shoes shining, or repair of bikes and motorcycles. **Market traders** sell goods and offer services in public markets or built spaces. **Informal construction workers** and **informal transport workers** are workers in these occupational groups who work informally.

**Table 5. Categories of workers by sex in Metropolitan Santiago, urban Chile and Chile national, 2019 and 2020: Numbers, coefficient of variation and per cent of total employment**

Metropolitan Santiago	2019			2020		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
Domestic workers	144,241 (8.4)	2,922 b (0.1)	147,162 (3.7)	103,220 (6.8)	2,005 b (0.1)	105,226 (2.9)
Home-based workers	149,836 (8.7)	91,407 (4.1)	241,243 (6.1)	384,798 (25.4)	293,161 (13.9)	677,959 (18.7)
Market traders	40,622 a (2.4)	64,902 a (2.9)	105,524 (2.7)	20,959 a (1.4)	25,150 a (1.2)	46,109 a (1.3)
Trade in goods and vehicles repair	27,544 a (1.6)	56,605 a (2.5)	84,149 a (2.1)	13,069 b (0.9)	17,858 a (0.8)	30,927 a (0.9)
Food, beverages and other services	13,078 a (0.8)	8,297 b (0.4)	21,375 a (0.5)	7,889 b (0.5)	7,292 b (0.3)	15,182 b (0.4)
Street vendors	81,808 (4.7)	91,627 (4.1)	173,435 (4.4)	60,598 (4.0)	72,558 (3.4)	133,156 (3.7)
Trade in goods and vehicles repair	71,463 (4.1)	67,677 (3.0)	139,140 (3.5)	56,142 (3.7)	51,503 a (2.4)	107,646 (3.0)
Food, beverages and other services	10,345 b (0.6)	23,950 a (1.1)	34,295 a (0.9)	4,456 b (0.3)	21,055 b (1.0)	25,511 a (0.7)
Informal construction workers*	5,301 b (0.3)	98,389 (4.4)	103,690 (2.6)	3,509 b (0.2)	103,077 (4.9)	106,585 (2.9)
Informal transportation workers*	9,288 a (0.5)	78,558 a (3.5)	87,846 a (2.2)	1,171 b (0.1)	59,732 (2.8)	60,903 (1.7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>431,096 (25.0)</b>	<b>427,805 (19.0)</b>	<b>858,901 (21.6)</b>	<b>574,255 (38.0)</b>	<b>555,683 (26.4)</b>	<b>1,129,939 (31.2)</b>

Urban Chile	2019			2020		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
Domestic workers	222,265 (7.6)	3,394 b (0.1)	225,659 (3.4)	160,176 (5.8)	1,463 b (0.0)	161,639 (2.5)
Home-based workers	247,434 (8.5)	152,955 (4.1)	400,389 (6.0)	644,349 (23.3)	434,331 (11.3)	1,078,680 (16.4)
Market traders	76,048 (2.6)	110,432 (3.0)	186,480 (2.8)	53,071 (1.9)	66,029 (1.7)	119,099 (1.8)
Trade in goods and vehicles repair	48,159 (1.7)	91,353 (2.4)	139,512 (2.1)	35,164 (1.3)	47,217 (1.2)	82,381 (1.2)
Food, beverages and other services	27,889 a (1.0)	19,079 a (0.5)	46,968 (0.7)	17,907 a (0.6)	18,812 a (0.5)	36,719 a (0.6)
Street vendors	124,474 (4.3)	133,965 (3.6)	258,438 (3.9)	93,493 (3.4)	113,508 (3.0)	207,001 (3.1)
Trade in goods and vehicles repair	102,688 (3.5)	93,112 (2.5)	195,800 (2.9)	83,431 (3.0)	79,777 (2.1)	163,208 (2.5)
Food, beverages and other services	21,786 a (0.7)	40,853 a (1.1)	62,638 (0.9)	10,062 a (0.4)	33,731 a (0.9)	43,793 a (0.7)
Informal construction workers*	9,818 a (0.3)	173,866 (4.6)	183,683 (2.8)	5,073 b (0.2)	199,378 (5.2)	204,451 (3.1)
Informal transportation workers*	16,030 a (0.5)	133,822 (3.6)	149,852 (2.3)	3,776 a (0.1)	99,105 (2.6)	102,881 (1.6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>696,068 (23.9)</b>	<b>708,433 (18.9)</b>	<b>1,404,501 (21.1)</b>	<b>959,938 (34.8)</b>	<b>913,814 (23.8)</b>	<b>1,873,752 (28.4)</b>
<b>Chile</b>						
Domestic workers	303,338 (7.9)	7,600 a (0.1)	310,938 (3.4)	190,495 (5.9)	4,419 a (0.1)	194,914 (2.4)
Home-based workers	339,255 (8.8)	203,426 (3.9)	542,680 (6.0)	729,729 (22.4)	485,596 (10.2)	1,215,325 (15.1)
Market traders	108,565 (2.8)	134,622 (2.6)	243,187 (2.7)	65,353 (2.0)	80,396 (1.7)	145,749 (1.8)
Trade in goods and vehicles repair	68,341 (1.8)	110,469 (2.1)	178,810 (2.0)	43,144 (1.3)	58,165 (1.2)	101,309 (1.3)
Food, beverages and other services	40,224 (1.0)	24,153 a (0.5)	64,377 (0.7)	22,209 a (0.7)	22,231 a (0.5)	44,440 a (0.6)
Street vendors	149,244 (3.9)	161,917 (3.1)	311,160 (3.4)	107,672 (3.3)	129,323 (2.7)	236,995 (3.0)
Trade in goods and vehicles repair	121,392 (3.2)	113,396 (2.2)	234,789 (2.6)	92,995 (2.9)	90,871 (1.9)	183,866 (2.3)
Food, beverages and other services	27,852 (0.7)	48,520 a (0.9)	76,372 (0.8)	14,677 a (0.5)	38,452 a (0.8)	53,129 (0.7)
Informal construction workers*	10,792 a (0.3)	260,983 (5.0)	271,775 (3.0)	6,417 a (0.2)	258,135 (5.4)	264,551 (3.3)
Informal transportation workers*	20,242 a (0.5)	167,816 (3.2)	188,058 (2.1)	5,212 a (0.2)	114,461 (2.4)	119,674 (1.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>931,435 (24.2)</b>	<b>936,363 (17.9)</b>	<b>1,867,798 (20.6)</b>	<b>1,104,877 (34.0)</b>	<b>1,072,331 (22.5)</b>	<b>2,177,209 (27.1)</b>

Note: "a" refers to estimates (numbers) with a coefficient of variation between 15 and 30 and therefore of low reliability; "b" refers to estimates with a coefficient of variation greater than 30 per cent and therefore unreliable.

\*For construction and transport, which are large sectors with both formal and informal workers and no specific categories to identify workers that are likely to be informal, the data include only informal workers. For the other four groups, which are largely informal, the data include both formal and informal workers.

women than men: in 2019, 24 per cent of women's employment and 18 per cent of men's nationally; 24 per cent for women and 19 per cent for men in urban Chile; and 25 per cent for women and 19 per cent for men in Metropolitan Santiago. In 2020, the share of these worker groups in total employment increased for men and even more so for women. Together these groups came to represent a little over one third of women's employment.

Further, there are significant and consistent differences between women and men in the specific types of employment for both years. A large percentage of women are domestic workers and home-based workers, while a larger percentage of men are in informal construction and transport. However, the percentage of women and men in market trade and street vending was fairly similar.

In 2019, of these groups, home-based work was the main source of employment for women at around 9 per cent in the three geographical areas. For men, home-based work and street vending were the more important sources of employment at around 4 per cent each. The pandemic led to a significant increase in home-based work. In 2020, home-based work became the main source of employment for men, accounting, for example in Metropolitan Santiago, for 14 per cent, while its importance increased for women to 25 per cent of women's employment.

Domestic work at around 8 per cent of women's employment in 2019 and 7 per cent in 2020, was a close second among these groups in importance for women. However, for men domestic work continued to account for less than 1 per cent of employment across the three geographical areas.

Market trade represented around 3 per cent of employment for both women and men in the three geographic areas 2019. The percentage of women in street vending was slightly higher than for men: just over 4 per cent for women and just under 4 per cent for men. Among market traders and street vendors, both women and men are mainly engaged in trade in goods and the repair of motor vehicles rather than in food, beverage, and other services. The percentage of employment in the two groups dropped as a result of COVID.

Around 4 to 5 per cent of men are engaged in informal construction and another 3 to 4 per cent in informal transport. Informal construction increased slightly between 2019 and 2020 for men in Metropolitan Santiago and urban Chile. Relatively few women are engaged in these two groups in the three geographical areas.

## Home-based Workers by Industry

### The number of home-based workers more than doubled between 2019 and 2020.

Unlike other groups of workers, home-based workers – those who declare own home or area adjacent to or near own home as their place of work – are found in several major industry sectors of the economy (**table 6**). In 2019, over 30 per cent of women home-based workers were in trade, followed closely by manufacturing (25 per cent of women home-based workers in Santiago, 27 per cent in urban Chile, and 30 per cent in Chile national). Finance, health and real estate – grouped as “other services” – was another important sector for women home-based workers. Among men home-based workers, manufacturing and trade were the most important sectors, with around 30 per cent in manufacturing in the three geographic areas, and around one-quarter in home-based work were in trade.

The dramatic increase in home-based work between 2019 and 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions is striking. The number of home-based workers more than doubled in each of the geographic areas: for example, from 542,680 to 1,215,325 in Chile nationally. Moreover, the numbers of home-based workers increased in each industry category and in each geographic region among both women and men. The greatest increases occurred in education. For example, the



Table 6. Industry of home-based workers in Metropolitan Santiago, urban Chile and Chile national by sex, 2019 and 2020 (numbers and per cent distribution)

Numbers, per cents, year and geographical area	Women							Men						
	Total	Manufacturing	Trade	Professional & technical services	Repair services <sup>a</sup>	Other services <sup>b</sup>	Education	Total	Manufacturing	Trade	Professional & technical services	Repair services <sup>a</sup>	Other services <sup>b</sup>	Education
<b>Numbers</b>														
<b>Year 2019</b>														
Metropolitan Santiago	149,836	37,724	47,093	13,273	18,454	31,016	2,276	91,407	27,003	20,563	17,468	17,092	9,210	70
Urban Chile	247,434	66,890	85,090	18,173	33,402	40,005	3,874	152,955	42,895	36,753	25,553	31,486	15,257	1,011
Chile	339,255	101,341	120,324	20,137	46,286	47,134	4,033	203,426	59,912	50,567	28,244	45,875	17,817	1,011
<b>Year 2020</b>														
Metropolitan Santiago	384,798	50,925	79,448	38,466	35,167	81,784	99,009	293,161	32,775	54,161	50,407	20,917	84,502	50,399
Urban Chile	644,349	95,650	143,429	46,827	57,371	102,284	198,788	434,331	55,779	76,796	69,015	34,806	107,831	90,104
Chile	729,729	114,287	169,000	50,425	61,607	107,706	226,703	485,596	64,542	90,272	72,291	45,569	109,928	102,994
<b>Per cent</b>														
<b>Year 2019</b>														
Metropolitan Santiago	100.0	25.2	31.4	8.9	12.3	20.7	1.5	100.0	29.5	22.5	19.1	18.7	10.1	0.1
Urban Chile	100.0	27.0	34.4	7.3	13.5	16.2	1.6	100.0	28.0	24.0	16.7	20.6	10.0	0.7
Chile	100.0	29.9	35.5	5.9	13.6	13.9	1.2	100.0	29.5	24.9	13.9	22.6	8.8	0.5
<b>Year 2020</b>														
Metropolitan Santiago	100.0	13.2	20.6	10.0	9.1	21.3	25.7	100.0	11.2	18.5	17.2	7.1	28.8	17.2
Urban Chile	100.0	14.8	22.3	7.3	8.9	15.9	30.9	100.0	12.8	17.7	15.9	8.0	24.8	20.7
Chile	100.0	15.7	23.2	6.9	8.4	14.8	31.1	100.0	13.3	18.6	14.9	9.4	22.6	21.2

<sup>a</sup> Electronic equipment and household goods and vehicles repair

<sup>b</sup> Financial, information, real estate, health and other services

number of home-based workers in education in Metropolitan Santiago increased from 2,276 in 2019 to 99,000 in 2020 among women and from 70 to 50,399 among men. A similar enormous increase occurred in the other two geographic areas. There was also massive growth in the number of men in financial, information, real estate and health services, from 17,817 to 109,928 nationally, and a similar increase in the other geographic areas. The numbers of women in the category of other services also more than doubled in Metropolitan Santiago, urban Chile and in Chile nationally. Across all geographic areas, there were also large increases in the numbers of women and men home-based workers in professional and technical services.

The growth in numbers shifted the distribution across industries. Education became the predominant industry for women home-base workers: in all three areas, it was less than 2 per cent in 2019 but grew in 2020 to 26 per cent in Santiago and 31 per cent in urban Chile and Chile nationally. Among women home-based workers, there was a sharp decline in trade: from 31 to 21 per cent in Santiago and an even greater drop in urban Chile from 34 to 22 per cent and in Chile nationally from 36 to 22 per cent. A similar decline occurred for women in manufacturing.

Among men home-based workers, the major change was a decline in manufacturing from around 30 per cent of all men home-based workers in 2019 to 11 per cent in Santiago and 13 per cent in urban Chile and Chile nationally.

The proportion in other services increased greatly from around 10 per cent of men home-based workers in 2019 to around 23–29 per cent in 2020. Education increased from less than 1 per cent in 2019 to 17 per cent in Metropolitan Santiago and to 21 per cent in the other two geographic areas.

## Informal Employment

**In the groups taken together, men are more likely than women to be informally employed. Between 2019 and 2020, informality decreased in these groups for both women and men. The low rates of informality among domestic workers are striking and are likely to reflect the 2014 labour law that regulates the work of private house workers.**

In each of the three geographic areas, the six groups of workers taken together have much higher rates of informality than the rates for total employment: in 2019, a little over 60 per cent in the six groups compared to between 26 to 28 per cent of total employment (**tables 7 and 3**). Between 2019 and 2020, informality decreased sharply in the six groups to between 46 and 50 per cent across the three areas. As shown in table 6, the work of many in education, finance and other services was transferred from office to home during the pandemic. This new group of home-based workers contributed to the decrease in informality. Among home-based

workers, informality declined from 53 per cent to 30 per cent in Metropolitan Santiago, from 54 to 33 per cent in urban Chile, and from 56 to 35 per cent in Chile nationally. Between the two dates, informality among domestic workers, street vendors and transport workers also declined in the three geographic areas, while the direction of change for the other groups was not consistent across the areas.

In these worker groups, men are more likely than women to be informally employed. In 2019, a little over two-thirds of men in these groups were informally employed in each of the geographic areas in comparison to a little over half of women. Between 2019 and 2020, informality decreased substantially for both women and men. In Santiago, for example, informal employment among these groups dropped to 53 per cent for men and 39 per cent for women.

Street vendors represent the group that has by far the highest percentage of informality for both women and men and in all three geographic regions. Among women, at least 89 per cent of street vendors were informal in 2019, while among men the percentage varied between 71 to 78 in the geographical areas. Informality dropped among street vendors by several percentage points between 2019 and 2020. Home-based workers also had high rates of informality in 2019, more so for women than for men. In all three geographic regions, around 63 per cent of women in home-based work were informal in 2019. By contrast, the

**Table 7. Groups of workers by whether informally employed and by sex in Metropolitan Santiago, urban Chile and Chile national, 2019 and 2020 (per cent)**

	2019			2020		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
<b>Metropolitan Santiago</b>						
<b>Total group of workers</b>	<b>55.1</b>	<b>67.3</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>45.8</b>
Domestic workers	28.8	20.2 b	28.6	27.7	0.0 b	27.1
Home-based workers	64.3	35.4	53.4	33.4	25.6	30.0
Market traders	22.3 b	9.8 b	14.6 a	20.9 b	21.5 b	21.2 a
Street vendors	93.0	78.2	85.2	91.6	72.2	81.0
Informal construction workers*	15.4 b	29.0	27.8	18.5 b	36.2	35.1
Informal transportation workers*	31.9 a	45.5	43.6	7.2 b	37.7	34.9
<b>Urban Chile</b>						
<b>Total group of workers</b>	<b>57.2</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>62.7</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>48.7</b>
Domestic workers	40.7	46.4 b	40.7	38.4	13.4 b	38.1
Home-based workers	62.0	40.7	53.9	37.0	27.4	33.1
Market traders	21.2 a	11.9 a	15.7	22.9 a	20.7 a	21.7
Street vendors	90.3	73.3	81.5	87.6	68.4	77.1
Informal construction workers*	17.6 a	31.4	30.1	14.1 a	39.3	37.7
Informal transportation workers*	32.4 a	45.8	43.9	12.7 a	37.0	34.6
<b>Chile</b>						
<b>Total group of workers</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>42.6</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>50.4</b>
Domestic workers	47.9	46.9 a	47.9	41.4	19.8 b	40.9
Home-based workers	63.2	44.1	56.1	37.4	30.1	34.5
Market traders	23.2	14.5 a	18.4	22.5 a	23.1 a	22.8
Street vendors	88.8	71.3	79.7	86.5	68.2	76.5
Informal construction workers*	17.3 a	36.0	34.5	15.4 a	42.0	40.4
Informal transportation workers*	31.9	43.9	42.2	14.5 a	36.6	34.3

Note: “a” refers to estimates (per cent) with a coefficient of variation between 15 and 30 and therefore of low reliability; “b” refers to estimates with a coefficient of variation greater than 30 per cent and therefore unreliable.

\* Unlike in other tables, the total employed in the construction and transportation sectors was used to calculate the percentages represented in the subsets of informal workers.

informality of men in home-based work was considerably less: 35 per cent in Metropolitan Santiago, 41 per cent in urban Chile, and 44 per cent in Chile nationally.

The relatively low rates of informality among domestic workers in Metropolitan Santiago are striking and are likely to reflect the 2014 labour law that regulates the work of private house workers:<sup>3</sup> only 29 per cent of women and 20 per cent of men domestic workers in Metropolitan Santiago are informal. The percentage of informally employed domestic workers was higher in urban Chile and even higher in Chile nationally. This may result from the more effective implementation of the new law in Santiago and higher awareness of the law. However between 2019 and 2020, informality in domestic work appears to have decreased in urban Chile and Chile nationally.

Very few women are in informal construction (see table 4). Among those who were only 15 to 17 per cent were informal across the regions in 2019. By contrast, the percentage informal among men is nearly double that of women,

<sup>3</sup> The 2014 Chile Labor Law 20.786 addresses the employment conditions of private house workers. It specifies that domestic workers must be covered by a contractual relation between the domestic worker and the home that is hiring her/him. The contract specifies the conditions related to work hours, salary, schedule, working days and holidays. The employer must register the contract, personally or online, with the national Labour Authority. Working hours per week are limited to a maximum of 45 hours and overtime to 15 hours a week.



A home-based artisan in Chile. Photo: L. Morillo

from 29 to 36 per cent. Informal employment is also higher among men in transport than among women, although the gap is not as large. Around 45 per cent of men in transport were informal in comparison to around 32 per cent of women. Between 2019 and 2020, the per cent of men in informal construction increased; in informal transport, however, the percentage decreased from around 46 per cent to 38 per cent. Among women, the percentage in informal construction and informal transport decreased in urban Chile and Chile nationally, while in Metropolitan Santiago informal construction increased slightly and informal transport decreased significantly from 32 to 7 per cent.

### Status in Employment

**All three geographic areas report an unusually high percentage of employers. This is especially true of market traders, with 30 per cent of women and an even higher percentage of men reporting that they are employers.**

All domestic workers in the three geographic areas are employees (**table 8**). Employee is also the employment status for around one half or more of the women in informal construction and

in informal transport: in Metropolitan Santiago, 58 per cent of women in construction and 52 per cent in transport; in urban Chile, 58 per cent in construction and 49 per cent in transport, and in Chile nationally, 56 per cent and 51 per cent (table 8). Many fewer men are employees in informal construction and informal transport in the three areas: in Metropolitan Santiago, 41 per cent in construction and 15 per cent in transport; in urban Chile, 38 per cent and 25 per cent; and in Chile nationally, 37 per cent and 28 per cent respectively.

Self-employment with no employees, referred to as own account work, is the predominant status for women and men in home-based work.<sup>4</sup> Slightly more than 85 per cent of women in home-based work in the three locations are own account self-employed. Among men, 62 per cent in Metropolitan Santiago, 89 per cent in urban Chile and 73 per cent in Chile nationally are own account self-employed. Own account work also predominated among street vendors, comprising around 80 per cent of women street vendors in all three geographic areas, 72 per cent of men street vendors in Metropolitan Santiago, and 66 per cent of men street vendors in urban Chile and Chile nationally.

<sup>4</sup> Many home-based workers are likely to be misclassified as own account self-employed since the data were collected using the categories of the International Classification of Status in Employment-08 which did not provide a category for working under arrangements that were both dependent and independent. This problem presented strong grounds for adopting the International Classification of Status in Employment 2018 (ICSE-18) with the category dependent contractor.

Table 8. Groups of workers by status in employment and sex in Metropolitan Santiago, urban Chile and Chile national by sex, 2019 (per cent distribution)

	Women				Men				Total			
	Employer	Own account	Contributing family worker	Employees	Employer	Own account	Contributing family worker	Employees	Employer	Own account	Contributing family worker	Employees
<b>Metropolitan Santiago</b>												
Domestic workers	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Home-based workers	5.7	86.7	2.8	4.7	20.1	61.6	2.7	15.6	11.2	77.2	2.8	8.8
Market traders	36.4	52.6	1.1	9.9	55.3	38.6	1.3	4.8	48.0	44.0	1.2	6.8
Street vendors	3.6	81.7	2.4	12.3	8.3	71.8	2.9	17.0	6.1	76.5	2.6	14.8
Informal construction workers	0.0	42.0	0.0	58.0	3.2	56.1	0.0	40.7	3.0	55.4	0.0	41.6
Informal transportation workers	0.0	46.3	1.3	52.4	4.6	80.3	0.0	15.1	4.1	76.7	0.1	19.0
<b>Urban Chile</b>												
Domestic workers	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Home-based workers	7.2	85.7	3.2	3.8	15.5	69.1	3.3	12.1	10.4	79.3	3.3	7.0
Market traders	33.9	53.8	4.8	7.4	51.4	42.1	2.6	3.9	44.3	46.9	3.5	5.3
Street vendors	3.3	80.2	3.2	13.2	6.7	66.2	2.3	24.8	5.1	73.0	2.7	19.2
Informal construction workers	13.9	27.1	1.2	57.8	4.0	58.2	0.2	37.6	4.6	56.5	0.3	38.7
Informal transportation workers	1.0	46.2	3.7	49.1	3.7	71.6	0.2	24.5	3.4	68.9	0.6	27.1
<b>Chile</b>												
Domestic workers	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Home-based workers	6.4	87.0	3.3	3.4	13.7	72.6	3.5	10.2	9.1	81.6	3.4	5.9
Market traders	31.3	56.5	5.2	7.0	47.6	45.3	3.5	3.6	40.3	50.3	4.3	5.1
Street vendors	2.9	79.4	3.6	14.1	6.8	65.7	2.4	25.1	4.9	72.3	3.0	19.8
Informal construction workers	13.4	28.0	2.2	56.4	4.2	58.7	0.1	37.0	4.6	57.5	0.2	37.8
Informal transportation workers	1.2	41.9	6.4	50.5	3.1	68.9	0.2	27.8	2.9	66.0	0.8	30.2

Generally, employers comprise a small percentage of employment, with women having a smaller percentage than men. In Chile, women are less likely than men to be employers in all but informal construction. In urban Chile and Chile national, around 13 per cent of women are employers but only 4 per cent of men are employers. The high percentage of employers among market traders is unusual. In all three geographic areas, 36 per cent of women in market trade are employers and an even higher percentage of men: 55 per cent in Santiago, 51 per cent in urban Chile, and 48 per cent in Chile nationally.

As in other countries with a relatively high income level, few workers in Chile are contributing family workers. In Santiago, 2–3 per cent of women and men in home-based work and in street vending are contributing family workers. In urban Chile, around 3 per cent of women in home-based work, street vending and informal transport and 5 per cent in market trade are contributing family workers, as are 3 per cent of men in home-based work, street vending and market trade. In Chile national, a slightly higher percentage of women than of men are contributing family workers: among women, 3 per cent in home-based work, 4 per cent in street vending, 5 per cent in market trade and 6 per cent in informal construction; among men, around 4 per cent in home-based work and market trade and 2 per cent in street vending.

## Education

### The predominant education level for workers in most of the groups is completion of secondary level of education.

Very few workers in these groups have no education (**table 9**). The exception is a small percentage of street vendors in all regions (3 per cent for women and 2 per cent for men). The predominant education level for women in most of the groups is completion of secondary level education. Around half of the women in domestic work, home-based work, market trade and street vending have completed secondary school, while among men at least half or more in market trade, street vending, informal construction and informal transportation have a secondary education.

Domestic workers are relatively less well-educated than most other groups as a high percentage have only primary education. A higher percentage of men domestic workers than women have only primary education in all three regions. In Metropolitan Santiago, the

difference is especially large with 51 per cent of men domestic workers and 31 per cent of women having only primary education. A large proportion of street vendors have only a primary education: from 29 to 33 per cent of women and 26 to 30 per cent of men in all regions.

A large share of women with tertiary levels of education are in home-based work in all regions (30 to 36 per cent) and in market trade (35 to 46 per cent), but the shares of men with tertiary education is higher in home-based work (44 to 59 per cent) and in market trade (38 to 43 per cent). The high share of women with tertiary education in informal construction (40 to 48 per cent) and in informal transport (38 to 60 per cent) is striking. By contrast, only 13 to 15 per cent of men in informal construction and 26 to 33 per cent in informal transport have tertiary level education.

Table 9. Groups of workers by highest level of education and sex in Metropolitan Santiago, urban Chile and Chile national by sex, 2019 (per cent)

	Women				Men				Total			
	None	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	None	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	None	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
<b>Metropolitan Santiago</b>												
Domestic workers	0.8	30.6	52.9	8.2	0.0	50.9	32.7	16.4	0.7	31.0	52.5	8.4
Home-based workers	0.4	15.3	48.3	36.0	0.0	10.9	30.6	58.5	0.3	13.6	41.6	44.5
Market traders	0.0	3.9	50.5	45.6	0.0	6.1	50.9	43.0	0.0	5.3	50.8	44.0
Street vendors	2.7	28.8	55.9	12.3	1.6	25.8	51.5	18.2	2.1	27.2	53.6	15.4
Informal construction workers	0.0	38.5	13.3	48.1	1.3	31.9	53.0	13.6	1.3	32.2	50.9	15.3
Informal transportation workers	0.0	10.1	30.0	59.9	0.0	9.2	57.8	32.6	0.0	9.3	54.8	35.5
<b>Urban Chile</b>												
Domestic workers	0.8	30.8	53.9	9.3	6.4	35.8	43.7	14.1	0.9	30.9	53.8	9.4
Home-based workers	0.3	14.5	50.6	34.6	0.2	10.4	38.9	50.5	0.2	12.9	46.1	40.7
Market traders	0.2	9.5	49.0	41.4	0.3	8.5	51.5	39.7	0.2	8.9	50.5	40.4
Street vendors	2.7	32.6	51.4	13.0	1.2	29.0	49.9	18.0	1.9	30.8	50.6	15.5
Informal construction workers	0.0	19.3	37.2	43.5	1.3	27.7	55.3	15.5	1.2	27.3	54.4	17.0
Informal transportation workers	0.0	8.3	44.1	47.6	0.2	10.2	59.9	29.5	0.2	10.0	58.2	31.4
<b>Chile</b>												
Domestic workers	0.6	36.0	50.8	8.7	7.0	47.3	37.9	7.8	0.8	36.3	50.4	8.7
Home-based workers	0.6	19.0	50.3	30.1	0.2	17.1	38.6	44.0	0.4	18.3	45.9	35.3
Market traders	0.1	13.4	51.9	34.5	0.2	10.2	51.9	37.7	0.2	11.6	51.9	36.3
Street vendors	2.8	33.1	52.2	11.6	1.4	29.9	50.0	17.0	2.1	31.5	51.1	14.4
Informal construction workers	0.0	21.6	38.9	39.5	1.3	33.4	52.7	12.5	1.3	32.9	52.2	13.5
Informal transportation workers	0.0	7.6	54.7	37.7	0.2	14.7	59.1	25.8	0.2	13.9	58.6	27.1

Note: The levels of education in Chile within each of the table categories are: **None** – less than completed primary; **Primary** – completion of 6th grade; **Secondary** – completion of an additional 4 years; **Tertiary** – some years of post secondary or college (University and non-university technician) and higher.

## Hours of Work

Women and men in home-based work and street vending tend to work fewer hours than those in other groups. This is more the case for women than for men.

Almost half of the workers in these six groups work 40 hours or more a week in Chile nationally (**table 10**). From 38 to 39 per cent of women and 51 to 55 per cent of men in the three geographic areas work 40 or more hours a week. Among women in market trade, 51 per cent in Metropolitan Santiago work 40 or more hours each week, while the share is higher at 58 per cent in urban Chile and 61 per cent in Chile nationally. Among men in market trade, 53 per cent in Metropolitan Santiago, 63 per cent in urban Chile and 65 per cent in Chile nationally work 40 or more hours a week.

A large share of women in domestic work also work 40 or more hours a week: 51 per cent in Metropolitan Chile, 48 per cent in urban Chile, and 46 per cent in Chile nationally. The share of men in domestic work with a long work week is much lower in all but Chile nationally: 19 per cent in Metropolitan Santiago, 27 per cent in urban Chile and 44 per cent in Chile nationally.

By contrast, women and men in home-based work and street vending tend to work fewer hours than in other groups and more so for women than for men. Among home-based workers, 65 to 68 per cent of women



Street vendors in Santiago, Chile. Photo credit R.Lesneiwski.



Table 10. Groups of workers by hours worked last week and sex in Metropolitan Santiago, urban Chile and Chile national by sex, 2019 (per cent)

Hours worked	Women				Men				Total			
	Less than 15 hrs	15 to 39 hrs	40 to 48 hrs	More than 48 hrs	Less than 15 hrs	15 to 39 hrs	40 to 48 hrs	More than 48 hrs	Less than 15 hrs	15 to 39 hrs	40 to 48 hrs	More than 48 hrs
<b>Metropolitan Santiago</b>	23.7	38.2	24.5	13.6	16.3	32.6	29.7	21.4	20.0	35.4	27.1	17.5
Domestic workers	12.9	36.4	46.3	4.3	13.6	67.2	19.2	0.0	12.9	37.0	45.8	4.2
Home-based workers	34.1	33.9	9.4	22.5	14.6	28.5	31.3	25.6	26.7	31.9	17.7	23.7
Market traders	5.8	43.6	26.2	24.4	18.6	28.0	19.9	33.6	13.7	34.0	22.3	30.1
Street vendors	32.4	45.9	13.1	8.7	16.3	47.2	23.8	12.7	23.9	46.6	18.7	10.8
Informal construction workers	34.5	47.1	18.5	0.0	16.7	23.7	53.4	6.2	17.6	24.9	51.6	5.8
Informal transportation workers	17.8	39.9	26.0	16.3	15.9	33.8	13.7	36.7	16.1	34.4	15.0	34.5
<b>Urban Chile</b>	25.2	35.7	24.1	15.0	15.6	30.1	29.9	24.5	20.3	32.8	27.1	19.8
Domestic workers	16.4	36.1	42.3	5.2	4.5	68.4	27.1	0.0	16.2	36.6	42.1	5.1
Home-based workers	34.2	31.3	11.6	22.8	18.6	28.5	26.4	26.4	28.3	30.2	17.3	24.2
Market traders	6.4	36.0	28.4	29.2	12.1	25.1	24.1	38.7	9.8	29.6	25.8	34.8
Street vendors	35.6	43.6	11.8	9.0	16.2	39.2	28.5	16.1	25.6	41.3	20.5	12.7
Informal construction workers	20.6	34.8	44.6	0.0	15.5	27.3	48.4	8.7	15.8	27.7	48.2	8.2
Informal transportation workers	19.3	35.6	27.0	18.1	14.6	29.3	16.2	39.9	15.1	30.0	17.4	37.6
<b>Chile</b>	25.5	35.2	23.5	15.8	15.2	29.5	31.7	23.6	20.4	32.4	27.6	19.7
Domestic workers	18.0	36.4	40.5	5.0	21.9	34.9	39.6	3.6	18.1	36.4	40.5	5.0
Home-based workers	33.4	32.0	10.9	23.7	18.2	30.7	24.4	26.7	27.7	31.5	16.0	24.8
Market traders	6.3	32.3	29.2	32.1	10.5	24.8	25.6	39.1	8.7	28.1	27.2	36.0
Street vendors	37.8	42.2	11.5	8.4	17.4	37.1	28.7	16.9	27.2	39.6	20.4	12.8
Informal construction workers	21.2	36.4	41.3	1.1	13.7	26.8	49.7	9.8	14.0	27.1	49.4	9.5
Informal transportation workers	20.3	36.4	25.1	18.3	15.3	28.5	19.9	36.4	15.8	29.3	20.4	34.4

work less than 40 hours a week in the three geographic areas and among men 43 per cent in Metropolitan Santiago, 47 per cent in urban Chile and 49 per cent in Chile nationally. Among street vendors around 80 per cent of women work less than 40 hours a week but a much lower share of men: 64 per cent in Metropolitan Santiago, around 55 per cent in urban Chile and Chile nationally.

A relatively small number of women work in informal construction and informal transportation. Of those who do, a significant share (around 43 per cent) work 40 hours or longer a week. The exception is women in informal construction in Metropolitan Santiago, where only 19 per cent reported a 40 hour or more work week. Among men in informal construction, a work week of 40 hours or longer was reported by 60 per cent in Metropolitan Santiago, 57 per cent in urban Chile and 59 per cent in Chile nationally. Among men in informal transportation, the long work week was reported by 50 per cent in Metropolitan Santiago and 56 per cent in urban Chile and Chile nationally.

## Age

### **A large percentage of workers in these groups continue to work at age 55 and older, especially men.**

Perhaps most striking in the age distribution is the high percentages of those who work at age 55 and above in several groups, especially among men (**table 11**). Among men in domestic work, 60 per cent in Metropolitan Santiago are ages 55 and above, and in the other two geographic areas around 55 per cent are 55 and above. Among women, the share is lower but still significant as it ranges from 33 to 36 per cent. Moreover, among men in urban Chile and in Chile nationally in each of the groups of workers, 30 per cent or more are in ages 55 and above. In Metropolitan Santiago, high shares of men working at ages 55 and older are in market trade (43 per cent), street vending (32 per

cent), and informal construction (30 per cent), while lower but still significant shares of men are in home-based work (25 per cent) and in informal transportation (23 per cent). Although the percentages of women working in these groups at ages 55 and older are lower than of men, the shares are generally above 25 per cent in each of the groups. The exception is informal construction in urban Chile (17 per cent) and in Chile nationally (16 per cent). However, in Metropolitan Santiago, 39 per cent of women in informal transportation are age 55 or older.

Only a small percentage of workers from each of the six groups are in the youngest group, age 15 to 24. The rate is slightly higher for women than for men. But in all geographic areas and in each group, 10 per cent or less of both women and men are between 15-24 years of age.

Table 11. Groups of workers by age and sex in Metropolitan Santiago, urban Chile and Chile national by sex, 2019 (per cent distribution)

Age	Women					Men					Total				
	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55+ years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55+ years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55+ years
<b>Metropolitan Santiago</b>															
Domestic workers	0.0	21.2	15.5	28.6	34.7	2.8	0.0	37.7	0.0	59.5	0.1	20.8	15.9	28.0	35.2
Home-based workers	6.8	23.1	22.2	18.0	30.0	4.1	28.4	25.5	16.9	25.2	5.8	25.1	23.4	17.6	28.2
Market traders	3.9	26.0	20.9	29.3	19.9	2.8	6.3	28.1	19.4	43.4	3.2	13.9	25.3	23.2	34.4
Street vendors	7.5	22.2	28.4	13.6	28.4	5.4	22.0	16.3	23.8	32.5	6.4	22.1	22.0	19.0	30.6
Informal construction workers	10.3	36.7	8.4	15.2	29.4	8.1	22.6	18.0	21.1	30.2	8.2	23.3	17.5	20.8	30.1
Informal transportation workers	9.3	16.3	14.8	21.0	38.6	5.4	34.1	16.2	21.2	23.1	5.8	32.2	16.0	21.2	24.7
<b>Urban Chile</b>															
Domestic workers	1.5	16.1	15.3	31.2	36.0	2.4	4.5	37.1	0.8	55.1	1.5	15.9	15.6	30.7	36.2
Home-based workers	5.7	20.1	21.3	20.8	32.1	3.6	21.9	24.3	20.0	30.1	4.9	20.8	22.5	20.5	31.3
Market traders	3.7	22.4	22.8	26.7	24.4	3.5	8.1	27.7	22.7	38.1	3.6	13.9	25.7	24.3	32.5
Street vendors	7.7	20.7	25.8	16.3	29.5	6.0	18.5	18.1	25.3	32.2	6.8	19.6	21.8	21.0	30.9
Informal construction workers	5.4	31.4	30.0	16.3	17.0	8.3	19.8	19.6	20.7	31.5	8.2	20.5	20.2	20.5	30.7
Informal transportation workers	5.6	13.7	19.2	24.9	36.5	4.6	24.6	17.7	22.8	30.3	4.7	23.5	17.8	23.0	31.0
<b>Chile</b>															
Domestic workers	1.8	15.6	18.4	31.4	32.9	1.1	2.0	34.2	9.0	53.7	1.7	15.3	18.7	30.8	33.4
Home-based workers	5.4	18.7	21.8	21.0	33.2	4.0	21.6	23.2	18.4	32.8	4.9	19.8	22.3	20.0	33.0
Market traders	5.6	18.3	22.4	25.5	28.2	3.0	9.7	25.9	22.5	38.8	4.2	13.6	24.4	23.8	34.1
Street vendors	9.1	18.4	26.3	16.2	30.0	6.8	17.4	17.0	23.3	35.4	7.9	17.9	21.5	19.9	32.9
Informal construction workers	7.5	28.5	29.6	18.4	16.0	7.8	19.1	20.6	23.4	29.1	7.8	19.5	21.0	23.2	28.6
Informal transportation workers	8.2	13.3	21.4	20.8	36.5	4.7	24.3	18.7	22.2	30.1	5.1	23.1	19.0	22.1	30.8



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## 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](http://www.wiego.org)

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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; and/or 2) describe and assess the methods for the collection, tabulation and/or analysis of statistics on informal workers.