Emilia Rocío Bances García recuperates and sorts recyclable materials in Lima. Her organization is affiliated to the National Federation of Waste Pickers of Peru (Federación Nacional de Recicladores del Perú, FENAREP).
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WIEGO
Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing

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Informal Workers in Peru: A Statistical Profile, 2015–2021

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This brief examines data on employment in Peru from 2015, 2019, 2020 and 2021, and analyzes the changes in employment brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery. It also provides key data on five groups of workers that are mainly informal.

Summary

Informal employment predominates in Peru, accounting for three of every four employed persons in 2021. This brief focuses on five groups of workers who are mainly informal and together comprise 3.5 million employed persons or 20 per cent of total employment. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Peru's labour markets was very strong: 2.2 million people lost their work in 2020. Employment largely recovered in 2021. To some degree, agricultural activities cushioned the fall in employment in Peru and informal employment led the recovery. Nationally, informal employment increased by 1.9 million between 2020 and 2021, exceeding its pre-pandemic level. However, there was less recovery in Metropolitan Lima, where in 2021 there were around 16,000 fewer people working in informal employment than in 2019. The loss of employment in the five groups of workers between 2019 and 2020 was much greater for women than for men in each geographic area (1,053,000 women lost work compared to 372,000 men nationally). By 2021 there was a significant recovery in informal employment. Women's employment increased more than men's; however, the increases in women's employment in the groups did not compensate for their earlier losses. As a result, in 2021, women's employment in the five worker groups remained below the 2019 levels in each of the geographic areas.

Employment grew between 2015 and 2019 in all geographic areas of Peru, from 15.9 workers to 17.1 million nationwide, from 12 to 13.4 million in urban Peru[1] and from 5 to 5.4 million employed in Metropolitan Lima (**table 1**).[2] However, employment was greatly affected during 2020 by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Peru the total number of employed people decreased from 17.1 in 2019 to 14.9 million in 2020, in urban Peru from 13.4 to 11.2 million and in Metropolitan Lima from 5.4 to 4.2 million. The total loss of employment affected more than 2.2 million workers nationally, and a little less than 2.2 million in urban Peru and 1.2 million in Metropolitan Lima, while the number of non-agricultural workers decreased, respectively, by 2.9 million, 2.6 million and 1.2 million. However, there was a striking increase in the trend in agricultural employment. Except in Metropolitan Lima, agricultural employment grew throughout the whole period even between 2019 and 2020 and also 2020 to 2021. From 2019 to 2020, agricultural employment increased by 629,000 workers nationwide, 413,000 in urban Peru and 1,000 in Metropolitan Lima. This suggests that agricultural activities helped to cushion the fall in employment. Between 2020 and 2021, agricultural employment continued to grow by 105,000 workers in urban Peru and by 24,000 nationally.

Total employment recovered in 2021 by 2.2 million workers nationally and 2.1 million in urban Peru, just under the 2019 level. However, in Metropolitan Lima employment increased by 840,000 workers or about 322,000 less than the 2019 level.

Women lost more work than men due to the pandemic and recovered less.

Between 2019 and 2020, the number of employed women decreased by 1.3 million nationally while the number of employed men dropped by 936,000. In urban Peru the respective figures were 1.2 million and 943,000. Metropolitan Lima saw a less pronounced difference between women and men, with 607,000 women and 555,000 men losing work.[3] In 2021, women recovered 1.2 million jobs nationally, 1.1 million in urban Peru and 455,000 in Metropolitan Lima while men recovered 1 million, 983,000 and 385,000, respectively (**table 1**). Non-agricultural work in 2021 recovered 2.2 million jobs in the country as a whole, 2 million in urban Peru and 846,000 in Metropolitan Lima; however, the increases were not sufficient to compensate for the losses in 2020: 2.9 million nationwide, 2.6 million in urban areas, and 1.2 million in the country's capital.

Teodoro Agustín Ñaupari, a newspaper vendor—or canillita, as they are called locally—sells on the streets in Lima. Photo: Juan Arredondo/Getty Images Reportage

Employment and unemployment rates reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Peru's employment. Between 2019 and 2020,

[1] Urban Peru is comprised of localities with a population of 2,000 or more.

[2] The statistics in this brief are based on the annual results of the National Household Survey (ENAHO) for 2015, 2019, 2020 and 2021. ENAHO is a continuous survey carried out by the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI). The purpose of this survey is to monitor the living conditions in Peru. The data refer to working age persons (14 years and over).

[3] The higher losses among men in urban Peru than in Peru nationally were due to the growth of employment in agriculture, especially in rural areas. Some men who lost jobs took on work in agriculture.

Table 1. Total employment, agricultural and non-agricultural by sex in Metropolitan Lima, urban Peru and Peru nationally, 2015, 2019, 2020 and 2021: Numbers in thousands and change in numbers 2020-2019 and 2021-2020

Geographic area and class of workers	2015			2019			2020			2021			Change in numbers 2020-2019			Change in numbers 2021-2020		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
Metropolitan Lima																		
Total employment	2,223	2,740	4,963	2,430	2,962	5,393	1,823	2,408	4,231	2,278	2,793	5,071	-607	-555	-1,162	455	385	840
Agricultural workers	12	30	42	17	29	46	13	33	47	16	25	41	-4	5	1	3	-8	-5
Non-agricultural workers	2,211	2,710	4,921	2,413	2,934	5,347	1,810	2,374	4,184	2,262	2,768	5,030	-604	-559	-1,163	452	393	846
Urban Peru																		
Total employment	5,317	6,718	12,035	5,996	7,364	13,360	4,750	6,421	11,172	5,825	7,405	13,229	-1,245	-943	-2,189	1,074	983	2,058
Agricultural workers	391	772	1,162	478	840	1,318	610	1,122	1,731	700	1,136	1,837	132	281	413	91	15	105
Non-agricultural workers	4,926	5,947	10,873	5,518	6,524	12,042	4,141	5,299	9,440	5,124	6,268	11,393	-1,377	-1,225	-2,602	983	969	1,952
Peru nationally																		
Total employment	6,947	8,972	15,919	7,584	9,549	17,133	6,289	8,613	14,902	7,459	9,661	17,120	-1,295	-936	-2,231	1,170	1,048	2,218
Agricultural workers	1,557	2,513	4,070	1,608	2,541	4,149	1,828	2,950	4,778	1,920	2,882	4,802	220	410	629	92	-68	24
Non-agricultural workers	5,390	6,459	11,850	5,976	7,009	12,984	4,461	5,663	10,124	5,539	6,779	12,318	-1,515	-1,346	-2,861	1,078	1,116	2,195

there was a strong decrease in employment rates in all geographic areas of Peru (**table 2**). For women, the drop was from 56 per cent to 41 per cent in Metropolitan Lima, from 60 per cent to 46 per cent in urban Peru and from 62 per cent to 50 per cent nationwide. For men, the drop was from 74 per cent to 59 per cent in Metropolitan Lima, from 76 per cent to 65 per cent in urban Peru and from 78 per cent to 70 per cent nationally. The decrease in the percentage employed was less for men than for women but also significant. By 2021, employment rates recovered to some degree but did not return to the levels prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. For women, the recovery was less than for men.

Table 2. Employment and unemployment rates by sex in Metropolitan Lima, urban Peru and Peru nationally, 2015, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (percentage)

Geographic areas	2015						2019						2020						2021					
	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
Metropolitan Lima	55.4	5.6	74.1	4.7	64.4	5.1	56.1	7.5	74.3	5.4	64.8	6.4	41.3	13.5	59.3	12.1	50.0	12.7	50.6	11.5	67.5	8.4	58.7	9.8
Urban Peru	57.4	4.5	75.7	4.2	66.4	4.4	59.5	5.4	76.2	4.3	67.7	4.8	46.2	9.7	65.1	9.1	55.4	9.4	55.5	8.2	73.6	6.1	64.3	7.0
Peru nationally	60.1	3.6	78.2	3.4	69.1	3.5	61.6	4.5	78.3	3.5	69.9	3.9	50.3	7.7	69.6	7.2	59.9	7.4	58.8	6.7	76.9	4.9	67.8	5.7

ER: Employment rate is the percentage of the employed labour force in the population aged 14 and over.
UR: Unemployment rate is the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force.

Julio Quispe Alonso is an alterations store owner at the Mercado San José in Lima. He is a member of an association affiliated to the National Federation of Market Workers (Federación Nacional de Trabajadores de Mercado, FENATM). Photo: Juan Arredondo/Getty Images Reportage

Women's unemployment, in 2019, was close to 8 per cent in Metropolitan Lima and around 5 per cent in urban Peru and nationally; men's was 5 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively. In 2020, unemployment increased in all geographic areas: in Metropolitan Lima it almost doubled, both for women and men, while in urban Peru and nationally, the increases were smaller, but important. In 2021, unemployment decreased in all geographic areas and for both sexes; however, the unemployment rates of Metropolitan Lima are higher than those of the rest of the country and those of women are higher than those of men.

Informal employment accounted for more than three-quarters of employment in Peru nationally in 2020 and 2021 and represented a higher share of women's employment than of men's.

Informal employment is increasing in numbers and as a share of total employment in Peru. In 2015, informal employment represented 56 per cent of employment in Metropolitan Lima, 66 per cent in urban Peru and 73 per cent nationally (**table 3**). Between 2015 and 2019, it decreased slightly in Peru nationally but increased in urban Peru and more so in Metropolitan Lima, where it rose to 59 per cent of employment. By 2021, informal employment had increased in all geographic areas to 62 per cent of employment in Metropolitan Lima, 71 per cent in urban Peru and 77 per cent nationally.

In Peru, the percentage of women who are informally employed generally is higher than for men: in 2019, 62 per cent of employed women and 56 per cent of employed men in Metropolitan Lima, 70 per cent and 63 per cent respectively in urban Peru and 76 per cent and 70 per cent nationally. By 2020, the number of both women and men who were informally employed had decreased in all geographic areas of Peru. In 2021, the percentage of women who were informally employed continued to be higher than that of men: 63 per cent in comparison to 61 per cent in Metropolitan Lima, 74 per cent in comparison to 70 per cent in urban areas and 79 per cent in comparison to 75 per cent nationally.

The COVID-19 pandemic and recovery affected formal employment as well. The formal jobs recovered in 2021 represent 34 per cent of those lost in Metropolitan Lima in 2020 (160,000 against 465,000), 27 per cent in urban Peru (255,000 against 960,000), and 29 per cent nationally (290,000 against 997,000) (**table 4**). By contrast, there was a greater recovery

Box 1: Identifying Informal Employment

Informal employment, as identified by INEI, includes:

- **Employers** and **own account workers** who work in production units in the informal sector — that is production units that are not legally constituted (excluding quasi-corporations) and are not registered in the national tax system (SUNAT). All production units in the primary (household sector) are considered as in the informal sector.
- **Employees** without social security financed by their employer.
- **Contributing family workers**, regardless of the formal or informal nature of the production unit where they work.

Table 3. Informal employment as a share of total employment by sex in Metropolitan Lima, urban Peru and Peru nationally, 2015, 2019, 2020 and 2021: Numbers in thousands and per cent of total employment in parentheses

Geographic areas	2015						2019						2020						2021					
	Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total	
Metropolitan Lima	1,314	(59.1)	1,458	(53.2)	2,772	(55.9)	1,508	(62.1)	1,652	(55.8)	3,160	(58.6)	1,115	(61.2)	1,348	(56.0)	2,463	(58.2)	1,445	(63.4)	1,699	(60.8)	3,144	(62.0)
Urban Peru	3,687	(69.3)	4,239	(63.1)	7,926	(65.9)	4,212	(70.3)	4,659	(63.3)	8,872	(66.4)	3,362	(70.8)	4,280	(66.7)	7,642	(68.4)	4,295	(73.7)	5,151	(69.6)	9,446	(71.4)
Peru nationally	5,274	(75.9)	6,371	(71.0)	11,645	(73.2)	5,747	(75.8)	6,716	(70.3)	12,463	(72.7)	4,858	(77.3)	6,369	(73.9)	11,227	(75.3)	5,875	(78.8)	7,282	(75.4)	13,156	(76.8)

Table 4. Absolute (in thousands) and relative (per cent) changes in total, formal and informal employment by sex in Metropolitan Lima, urban Peru and Peru nationally: 2020-2019 and 2021-2020

Geographic area and class of employment	2020-2019 changes						2021-2020 changes					
	Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total	
	Absolute	Relative	Absolute	Relative	Absolute	Relative	Absolute	Relative	Absolute	Relative	Absolute	Relative
Metropolitan Lima	**-607**	**-(25.0)**	**-555**	**-(18.7)**	**-1,162**	**-(21.5)**	**455**	**(25.0)**	**385**	**(16.0)**	**840**	**(19.9)**
Formal employment	-214	-(23.2)	-250	-(19.1)	-465	-(20.8)	126	(17.7)	34	(3.2)	160	(9.0)
Informal employment	-393	-(26.1)	-304	-(18.4)	-697	-(22.1)	330	(29.6)	351	(26.1)	681	(27.6)
Urban Peru	**-1,245**	**-(20.8)**	**-943**	**-(12.8)**	**-2,189**	**-(16.4)**	**1,074**	**(22.6)**	**983**	**(15.3)**	**2,058**	**(18.4)**
Formal employment	-397	-(22.2)	-564	-(20.8)	-960	-(21.4)	143	(10.3)	112	(5.2)	255	(7.2)
Informal employment	-849	-(20.1)	-379	-(8.1)	-1,228	-(13.8)	931	(27.7)	871	(20.4)	1,803	(23.6)
Peru nationally	**-1,295**	**-(17.1)**	**-936**	**-(9.8)**	**-2,231**	**-(13.0)**	**1,170**	**(18.6)**	**1,048**	**(12.2)**	**2,218**	**(14.9)**
Formal employment	-407	-(22.2)	-590	-(20.8)	-997	-(21.3)	155	(10.8)	136	(6.0)	290	(7.9)
Informal employment	-888	-(15.4)	-347	-(5.2)	-1,235	-(9.9)	1,016	(20.9)	912	(14.3)	1,928	(17.2)

in informal employment. In Metropolitan Lima, the increase in workers between 2020 and 2021 represented 98 per cent of those who had lost work in 2020 (681,000 against 697,000). In the other two geographic areas, the increase in informal employment exceeded what had been lost: urban areas saw an increase of 147 per cent (1.8 million against 1.2 million) while nationally there was a 156 per cent increase (1.9 million against 1.2 million). In Metropolitan Lima a slightly greater proportion of formal employment was recovered than in the other geographic areas; however, informal employment led the employment recovery in all three areas.

The recovery of total employment is relatively higher among women than among men: 25 per cent against 16 per cent in Metropolitan Lima, 23 per cent against 15 per cent in urban areas and 19 per cent against 12 per cent on a national scale. However, because the losses of employment had been greater in 2020 among women, they remained at a greater deficit.

Industry sector

In 2021 agriculture and trade together comprised over one half of informal employment in Peru nationally and 42 per cent in urban Peru. Trade is around one quarter of informal employment in each area throughout the period.

Trade is the most important industry sector in Metropolitan Lima and urban Peru, accounting for around one quarter of informal employment in each area throughout the period (**table 5**). In Peru nationally, agriculture is the most important sector, accounting for 32 per cent of informal employment in 2019 and 2021 and 41 per cent in 2020 and reducing to 35 per cent in 2021. Trade is the second highest. Together agriculture and trade comprised 42 per cent of informal employment in urban Peru and 54 per cent of informal employment nationally in 2021. Transport is another key sector, comprising 15 per cent of informal employment in Metropolitan Lima, 12 per cent in urban Peru and 10 per cent nationally.

The changes in employment resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic are reflected in the percentage distribution and numbers employed across the industry sectors. Of all the industry sectors, the percentage distribution in agriculture showed the largest change: in Peru nationally an increase from 32 per cent of informal employment in 2019 to 41 per cent in 2020 and then a drop to 35 per cent in 2021. In urban Peru an increase from 13 per cent of informal employment in 2019 to 21 per cent in 2020 and a decrease to 18 per cent in 2021. The opposite pattern was reflected in four sectors: accommodation, information, domestic services and other services. Employment in each sector decreased in the three geographical areas between 2019 and 2020 and then recovered to

Table 5. Informal employment by sex and industry in Metropolitan Lima, urban Peru and Peru nationally, 2019, 2020 and 2021: Numbers in thousands and per cent distribution in parentheses

Geographic areas and sex	Agriculture, forestry and fishing		Manufacturing		Other industrial activities*		Trade		Transport, storage and related repair		Accomodation and food		Information, financial, etc.**		Domestic services		Other services***		Total
Metropolitan Lima																			
2019	**37**	**(1.2)**	**372**	**(11.8)**	**307**	**(9.7)**	**770**	**(24.4)**	**453**	**(14.3)**	**348**	**(11.0)**	**315**	**(10.0)**	**178**	**(5.6)**	**381**	**(12.1)**	**3,160**
Women	14	(0.9)	155	(10.2)	18	(1.2)	488	(32.4)	28	(1.9)	263	(17.4)	171	(11.3)	168	(11.1)	204	(13.5)	1,508
Men	23	(1.4)	217	(13.2)	289	(17.5)	282	(17.1)	425	(25.7)	85	(5.1)	144	(8.7)	10	(0.6)	178	(10.8)	1,652
2020	**42**	**(1.7)**	**307**	**(12.5)**	**288**	**(11.7)**	**658**	**(26.7)**	**392**	**(15.9)**	**226**	**(9.2)**	**176**	**(7.2)**	**98**	**(4.0)**	**276**	**(11.2)**	**2,463**
Women	11	(1.0)	137	(12.3)	20	(1.8)	413	(37.1)	26	(2.3)	173	(15.5)	95	(8.6)	94	(8.4)	146	(13.1)	1,115
Men	30	(2.3)	170	(12.6)	267	(19.8)	244	(18.1)	366	(27.2)	54	(4.0)	81	(6.0)	4	(0.3)	131	(9.7)	1,348
2021	**38**	**(1.2)**	**383**	**(12.2)**	**366**	**(11.6)**	**840**	**(26.7)**	**464**	**(14.8)**	**289**	**(9.2)**	**227**	**(7.2)**	**164**	**(5.2)**	**373**	**(11.9)**	**3,144**
Women	15	(1.1)	154	(10.6)	27	(1.9)	532	(36.8)	35	(2.4)	214	(14.8)	130	(9.0)	162	(11.2)	175	(12.1)	1,445
Men	23	(1.3)	230	(13.5)	339	(19.9)	309	(18.2)	429	(25.3)	74	(4.4)	97	(5.7)	2	(0.1)	197	(11.6)	1,699
Urban Peru																			
2019	**1,174**	**(13.2)**	**848**	**(9.6)**	**860**	**(9.7)**	**2,044**	**(23.0)**	**1,146**	**(12.9)**	**980**	**(11.0)**	**594**	**(6.7)**	**354**	**(4.0)**	**872**	**(9.8)**	**8,872**
Women	440	(10.4)	382	(9.1)	49	(1.2)	1,378	(32.7)	58	(1.4)	771	(18.3)	335	(8.0)	338	(8.0)	462	(11.0)	4,212
Men	734	(15.8)	466	(10.0)	811	(17.4)	666	(14.3)	1,087	(23.3)	209	(4.5)	259	(5.6)	16	(0.3)	410	(8.8)	4,659

Table 5 (cont.). Informal employment by sex and industry in Metropolitan Lima, urban Peru and Peru nationally, 2019, 2020 and 2021: Numbers in thousands and per cent distribution in parentheses

Geographic areas and sex	Agriculture, forestry and fishing		Manufacturing		Other industrial activities*		Trade		Transport, storage and related repair		Accomodation and food		Information, financial, etc.**		Domestic services		Other services***		Total
2020	**1,590**	**(20.8)**	**718**	**(9.4)**	**797**	**(10.4)**	**1,726**	**(22.6)**	**965**	**(12.6)**	**669**	**(8.8)**	**354**	**(4.6)**	**201**	**(2.6)**	**622**	**(8.1)**	**7,642**
Women	571	(17.0)	342	(10.2)	38	(1.1)	1,125	(33.5)	45	(1.3)	530	(15.8)	192	(5.7)	192	(5.7)	327	(9.7)	3,362
Men	1,018	(23.8)	376	(8.8)	759	(17.7)	600	(14.0)	920	(21.5)	140	(3.3)	163	(3.8)	9	(0.2)	295	(6.9)	4,280
2021	**1,689**	**(17.9)**	**887**	**(9.4)**	**1,060**	**(11.2)**	**2,261**	**(23.9)**	**1,166**	**(12.3)**	**846**	**(9.0)**	**438**	**(4.6)**	**303**	**(3.2)**	**797**	**(8.4)**	**9,446**
Women	652	(15.2)	406	(9.4)	55	(1.3)	1,520	(35.4)	58	(1.4)	658	(15.3)	246	(5.7)	293	(6.8)	406	(9.5)	4,295
Men	1,037	(20.1)	482	(9.3)	1,005	(19.5)	741	(14.4)	1,107	(21.5)	188	(3.7)	192	(3.7)	10	(0.2)	390	(7.6)	5,151
Peru nationally																			
2019	**3,974**	**(31.9)**	**975**	**(7.8)**	**1,003**	**(8.0)**	**2,253**	**(18.1)**	**1,233**	**(9.9)**	**1,073**	**(8.6)**	**619**	**(5.0)**	**377**	**(3.0)**	**956**	**(7.7)**	**12,463**
Women	1,564	(27.2)	466	(8.1)	54	(0.9)	1,539	(26.8)	61	(1.1)	852	(14.8)	351	(6.1)	360	(6.3)	499	(8.7)	5,747
Men	2,410	(35.9)	509	(7.6)	949	(14.1)	714	(10.6)	1,171	(17.4)	221	(3.3)	268	(4.0)	17	(0.3)	457	(6.8)	6,716
2020	**4,609**	**(41.1)**	**811**	**(7.2)**	**898**	**(8.0)**	**1,887**	**(16.8)**	**1,022**	**(9.1)**	**726**	**(6.5)**	**373**	**(3.3)**	**214**	**(1.9)**	**686**	**(6.1)**	**11,227**
Women	1,782	(36.7)	406	(8.4)	40	(0.8)	1,242	(25.6)	48	(1.0)	578	(11.9)	205	(4.2)	204	(4.2)	353	(7.3)	4,858
Men	2,827	(44.4)	405	(6.4)	858	(13.5)	646	(10.1)	974	(15.3)	148	(2.3)	168	(2.6)	10	(0.2)	333	(5.2)	6,369
2021	**4,616**	**(35.1)**	**991**	**(7.5)**	**1,251**	**(9.5)**	**2,465**	**(18.7)**	**1,246**	**(9.5)**	**929**	**(7.1)**	**461**	**(3.5)**	**317**	**(2.4)**	**881**	**(6.7)**	**13,156**
Women	1,861	(31.7)	475	(8.1)	62	(1.1)	1,678	(28.6)	61	(1.0)	728	(12.4)	260	(4.4)	306	(5.2)	444	(7.6)	5,875
Men	2,756	(37.8)	516	(7.1)	1,189	(16.3)	788	(10.8)	1,184	(16.3)	201	(2.8)	201	(2.8)	11	(0.1)	437	(6.0)	7,282

* Includes: construction, mining and quarrying; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities.
** Includes: information, financial, real state, professional services, education, health and social services.
*** Includes: administrative and support service activities; public administration and defence, compulsory social security; arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities; activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies.

some degree between 2020 and 2021. However, in each sector, the numbers of workers in 2021 did not reach the level of employment in 2019.

In four other key industry sectors — manufacturing, other industrial activities, trade and transport — changes in the percentage of informal employment in each sector over the period do not form a consistent pattern. However, there is a clear pattern in the numbers of workers. In each of the four sectors, the number employed fell between 2019 and 2020 and then recovered between 2020 and 2021 to levels higher than in 2019. The greatest change occurred in trade, which employed 2,253,000 workers in 2019. The number dropped to 1,887,000 in 2020 and then increased to 2,465,000 workers in 2021. In Metropolitan Lima and urban Peru, 37 and 35 per cent of women in informal employment worked in trade in 2021. In Peru nationally, the percentage at 29 per cent was lower, while the percentage in agriculture at 32 per cent was much higher than for women in urban areas. Thus, the majority of women (60 per cent) in informal employment nationally work in agriculture or in trade. Accommodation and food is another important

sector for women. Although the numbers of women employed in this sector have declined, it continued to represent around 15 per cent of women's informal employment in Metropolitan Lima and urban Peru and 12 per cent nationally in 2021. Throughout the period, among men informal workers, the industry category involving transport, storage and related repair represented the largest percentage in Metropolitan Lima and in urban Peru: around 25 per cent and 22 per cent respectively. Agriculture is also an important sector for men, accounting for 38 per cent of men's informal employment nationally and 20 per cent in urban Peru in 2021. A third key industrial sector for men, termed "other industrial activities", includes construction, mining, electrical, gas, sewerage, etc. It comprised 20 per cent of men's informal employment in Metropolitan Lima and urban Peru and 16 per cent nationally.

Groups of workers

Domestic workers, home-based workers, market traders and street vendors together comprised around 40 per cent of women's total employment in each of the geographic areas in 2019. For men, informal construction and informal transport were the main sources of employment, comprising around 20 per cent of men's total employment in each of the three geographic areas.

This brief focuses on five groups of workers: domestic workers, home-based workers, market traders, street vendors and waste pickers. Informal construction workers and informal transport workers are included only in **table 6** as WIEGO does not currently have a programme of work with these groups (but may in the future) (see **annex 1** for the methods used to identify each group). Together the seven groups account for a large proportion of employment in Peru, especially among women. In 2019, the seven groups represented 37 per cent of total employment and 41 per cent of women's employment in Metropolitan Lima, 38 per cent of total employment and 42 per cent of women's employment in urban areas and 32 per cent of total employment and 37 per cent of women's employment nationwide. In 2020, with the COVID-19 pandemic, employment declined by nearly 1.7 million workers nationwide.

While in numbers the total employment in the seven groups was only slightly higher for women than for men in 2019, the job losses between 2019 and 2020 were much greater for women than for men in each geographic area: nationwide almost 1.1 million women in comparison to 620,000 men; in urban Peru 928,000 women in comparison to 547,000 men; and in Metropolitan Lima 375,000 women in comparison to 229,000 men. By 2021, there was a significant recovery in total employment in these groups, but recovery did not reach the 2019 levels of employment in any of the three geographic areas. Between 2020 and 2021, the number of women workers increased by 892,000 while the number of men increased by 739,000 nationally; in urban Peru the increase in employment was 798,000 for women and 629,000 for men; in Metropolitan Lima, 273,000

Liz Chapilliquem Bances sorts materials in a street in the local municipality of Rímac. She started working as a waste picker when she was 7 years old. Photo: Juan Arredondo/Getty Images Reportage

Table 6. Groups of workers by sex in Metropolitan Lima, urban Peru and Peru nationally, 2019, 2020 and 2021: Numbers in thousands and per cent of total employment in parentheses

	2019						2020						2021					
	Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total	
Metropolitan Lima	**987**	**(40.6)**	**981**	**(33.1)**	**1,968**	**(36.5)**	**612**	**(33.6)**	**752**	**(31.2)**	**1,364**	**(32.2)**	**885**	**(38.8)**	**977**	**(35.0)**	**1,862**	**(36.7)**
Domestic workers	204	(8.4)	11	(0.4)	216	(4.0)	121	(6.6)	4	(0.2)	125	(2.9)	183	(8.0)	3	(0.1)	186	(3.7)
Home-based workers*	293	(12.0)	142	(4.8)	435	(8.1)	152	(8.4)	58	(2.4)	210	(5.0)	271	(11.9)	129	(4.6)	399	(7.9)
Market traders	107	(4.4)	67	(2.3)	174	(3.2)	97	(5.3)	55	(2.3)	152	(3.6)	108	(4.7)	63	(2.2)	170	(3.4)
Food and beverages	66	(2.7)	44	(1.5)	110	(2.0)	68	(3.7)	43	(1.8)	112	(2.6)	47	(2.1)	46	(1.6)	93	(1.8)
Goods other than food and beverages	28	(1.2)	19	(0.7)	48	(0.9)	24	(1.3)	11	(0.5)	35	(0.8)	50	(2.2)	13	(0.5)	63	(1.3)
Services	12	(0.5)	3	(0.1)	15	(0.3)	4	(0.2)	0	(0.0)	5	(0.1)	10	(0.4)	3	(0.1)	14	(0.3)
Street vendors	352	(14.5)	163	(5.5)	515	(9.5)	210	(11.5)	119	(4.9)	329	(7.8)	291	(12.8)	156	(5.6)	447	(8.8)
Food and beverages	14	(0.6)	3	(0.1)	17	(0.3)	1	(0.1)	0	(0.0)	1	(0.0)	7	(0.3)	5	(0.2)	12	(0.2)
Goods other than food and beverages	167	(6.9)	81	(2.8)	249	(4.6)	117	(6.4)	71	(2.9)	188	(4.4)	157	(6.9)	93	(3.3)	251	(4.9)
Services	171	(7.0)	78	(2.6)	249	(4.6)	91	(5.0)	48	(2.0)	139	(3.3)	127	(5.6)	57	(2.1)	185	(3.6)
Informal construction workers**	2	(0.1)	236	(8.0)	238	(4.4)	2	(0.1)	235	(9.7)	236	(5.6)	6	(0.3)	289	(10.4)	295	(5.8)
Informal transport workers **	19	(0.8)	338	(11.4)	356	(6.6)	19	(1.0)	269	(11.2)	288	(6.8)	11	(0.5)	316	(11.3)	327	(6.4)
Waste pickers ***	11	(0.5)	24	(0.8)	35	(0.6)	11	(0.6)	12	(0.5)	23	(0.6)	15	(0.7)	22	(0.8)	37	(0.7)
Urban Peru	**2,493**	**(41.6)**	**2,521**	**(34.2)**	**5,014**	**(37.5)**	**1,565**	**(32.9)**	**1,974**	**(30.7)**	**3,538**	**(31.7)**	**2,363**	**(40.6)**	**2,603**	**(35.2)**	**4,966**	**(37.5)**
Domestic workers	382	(6.4)	18	(0.2)	399	(3.0)	223	(4.7)	8	(0.1)	231	(2.1)	318	(5.5)	12	(0.2)	330	(2.5)
Home-based workers*	904	(15.1)	381	(5.2)	1,284	(9.6)	546	(11.5)	177	(2.8)	723	(6.5)	1,000	(17.2)	352	(4.8)	1,352	(10.2)
Market traders	259	(4.3)	133	(1.8)	392	(2.9)	207	(4.4)	109	(1.7)	317	(2.8)	229	(3.9)	113	(1.5)	343	(2.6)
Food and beverages	146	(2.4)	86	(1.2)	232	(1.7)	139	(2.9)	84	(1.3)	223	(2.0)	120	(2.1)	84	(1.1)	204	(1.5)
Goods other than food and beverages	77	(1.3)	40	(0.5)	117	(0.9)	53	(1.1)	24	(0.4)	77	(0.7)	86	(1.5)	25	(0.3)	111	(0.8)
Services	36	(0.6)	6	(0.1)	42	(0.3)	15	(0.3)	1	(0.0)	16	(0.1)	23	(0.4)	4	(0.1)	28	(0.2)
Street vendors	888	(14.8)	385	(5.2)	1,273	(9.5)	531	(11.2)	280	(4.4)	811	(7.3)	745	(12.8)	362	(4.9)	1,107	(8.4)
Food and beverages	73	(1.2)	14	(0.2)	88	(0.7)	28	(0.6)	7	(0.1)	34	(0.3)	62	(1.1)	16	(0.2)	78	(0.6)
Goods other than food and beverages	404	(6.7)	186	(2.5)	589	(4.4)	277	(5.8)	152	(2.4)	429	(3.8)	363	(6.2)	193	(2.6)	556	(4.2)
Services	411	(6.9)	185	(2.5)	596	(4.5)	227	(4.8)	121	(1.9)	348	(3.1)	320	(5.5)	153	(2.1)	473	(3.6)

Table 6 (cont.). Groups of workers by sex in Metropolitan Lima, urban Peru and Peru nationally, 2019, 2020 and 2021: Numbers in thousands and per cent of total employment in parentheses

	2019						2020						2021					
	Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total	
Informal construction workers**	11	(0.2)	689	(9.4)	700	(5.2)	12	(0.3)	668	(10.4)	681	(6.1)	27	(0.5)	884	(11.9)	911	(6.9)
Informal transport workers **	30	(0.5)	885	(12.0)	915	(6.8)	27	(0.6)	709	(11.0)	736	(6.6)	21	(0.4)	850	(11.5)	871	(6.6)
Waste pickers ***	19	(0.3)	31	(0.4)	50	(0.4)	18	(0.4)	21	(0.3)	39	(0.3)	21	(0.4)	30	(0.4)	52	(0.4)
Peru nationally	**2,779**	**(36.6)**	**2,754**	**(28.8)**	**5,533**	**(32.3)**	**1,725**	**(27.4)**	**2,134**	**(24.8)**	**3,859**	**(25.9)**	**2,617**	**(35.1)**	**2,873**	**(29.7)**	**5,490**	**(32.1)**
Domestic workers	404	(5.3)	19	(0.2)	423	(2.5)	235	(3.7)	10	(0.1)	245	(1.6)	331	(4.4)	13	(0.1)	344	(2.0)
Home-based workers*	1,081	(14.2)	408	(4.3)	1,488	(8.7)	640	(10.2)	193	(2.2)	832	(5.6)	1,163	(15.6)	380	(3.9)	1,543	(9.0)
Market traders	268	(3.5)	136	(1.4)	404	(2.4)	217	(3.5)	112	(1.3)	329	(2.2)	236	(3.2)	115	(1.2)	351	(2.1)
Food and beverages	152	(2.0)	88	(0.9)	240	(1.4)	146	(2.3)	86	(1.0)	232	(1.6)	125	(1.7)	86	(0.9)	211	(1.2)
Goods other than food and beverages	79	(1.0)	41	(0.4)	120	(0.7)	56	(0.9)	25	(0.3)	80	(0.5)	87	(1.2)	25	(0.3)	112	(0.7)
Services	37	(0.5)	6	(0.1)	44	(0.3)	16	(0.2)	1	(0.0)	17	(0.1)	24	(0.3)	4	(0.0)	28	(0.2)
Street vendors	960	(12.7)	405	(4.2)	1,365	(8.0)	569	(9.0)	291	(3.4)	860	(5.8)	804	(10.8)	380	(3.9)	1,184	(6.9)
Food and beverages	83	(1.1)	16	(0.2)	98	(0.6)	33	(0.5)	7	(0.1)	40	(0.3)	69	(0.9)	16	(0.2)	85	(0.5)
Goods other than food and beverages	427	(5.6)	194	(2.0)	621	(3.6)	290	(4.6)	158	(1.8)	448	(3.0)	386	(5.2)	200	(2.1)	586	(3.4)
Services	450	(5.9)	195	(2.0)	645	(3.8)	246	(3.9)	126	(1.5)	372	(2.5)	349	(4.7)	164	(1.7)	513	(3.0)
Informal construction workers**	16	(0.2)	800	(8.4)	816	(4.8)	17	(0.3)	756	(8.8)	773	(5.2)	39	(0.5)	1,045	(10.8)	1,085	(6.3)
Informal transport workers **	32	(0.4)	955	(10.0)	987	(5.8)	29	(0.5)	751	(8.7)	780	(5.2)	22	(0.3)	908	(9.4)	930	(5.4)
Waste pickers ***	19	(0.3)	32	(0.3)	51	(0.3)	18	(0.3)	22	(0.3)	40	(0.3)	22	(0.3)	31	(0.3)	53	(0.3)

* **Home-based workers** are likely to be underestimated because the "place of work" question was asked only to independent workers in unincorporated enterprises reporting income during the year. To a lesser extent and for the same reason, there is also underestimation in **Market traders** and **Street vendors**.
** 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.
*** Includes only informal workers.

for women and 225,000 for men. In numbers of workers, women's employment increased more than men's; however the increases did not compensate for women's losses in employment. As a result, in 2021 women's employment did not reach the levels of 2019 in any geographic areas, while men's employment exceeded the 2019 levels in urban areas and in the country as a whole.

Of the seven groups, domestic workers, home-based workers, market traders and street vendors were the main sources of employment for women in 2019, comprising around 40 per cent of women's total employment in each of the geographic areas. In Metropolitan Lima, street vendors represented 15 per cent of women's employment, followed by home-based workers (12 per cent), domestic workers (8 per cent), and market traders (4 per cent). In urban Peru and Peru nationally, home-based

work was the main source with 15 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively, followed by street vending (15 per cent and 13 per cent), domestic work (6 per cent and 5 per cent) and market trade (4 per cent and 4 per cent). Employment dropped in all four groups, but for market traders the drop was relatively small between 2019 and 2020. Market traders were allowed to open during the lockdown, although not all stalls were permitted to open; only those selling perishable items. With the recovery in 2021, women's employment in the four groups generally increased but did not reach the 2019 levels. The exception is home-based work, which in both nationally and in urban Peru provided employment for more women in 2021 than in 2019. The participation of women in the other three groups (informal construction and transport workers and waste pickers) does not reach 1 per cent of women's employment in any of the geographical areas.

For men, informal construction and informal transport were the main sources of employment, comprising around 20 per cent of men's total employment in each of the three geographic areas. In 2019, for Peru nationally, informal transport workers and informal construction workers comprised 10 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively, of men's total employment. In urban Peru, the respective shares were 12 per cent and 9 per cent, and in Metropolitan Lima, 11 per cent and 8 per cent. Employment losses in 2020 for men in these groups were minor. Moreover, the numbers of men employed in the two groups increased between 2020 and 2021; among informal construction workers, the numbers employed in each of the geographic areas surpassed those in 2019.

Few men are in domestic work and although the numbers of men in home-based work, market trade and street vending are lower than the numbers of women, the three groups together comprised around 12 per cent of men's employment in 2019. While the numbers of men in the three groups increased between 2020 and 2021, they did not recover to the 2019 levels and were lower than the numbers of women employed in the groups in each of the geographic areas. As a proportion of men's total employment, the three groups together remained about the same except in Peru nationally, where the proportion decreased from 11 per cent of total employment in 2019 to 9 per cent in 2021.

In 2019 the majority of market traders sold food and beverages: 110,000 in Metropolitan Lima, 232,000 in urban Peru and 240,000 nationally. Roughly half as many market traders sold goods other than food and beverages: 48,000 in Metropolitan Lima, 117,000 in urban Peru and 120,000 in Peru nationally. There was little change throughout the period in the number of market traders selling food and beverages in the three geographic areas. In Lima there was a small increase in the number of food and beverage sellers between 2020 and 2021 to 112,000, but it was followed by a decrease in 2021 to 93,000 workers. The loss of work was greater among those selling goods other than food and beverages, especially in urban Peru and Peru nationally. However, in Metropolitan Lima, a decrease in the number of these workers in 2020 was followed by an increase that brought the number to 63,000 in 2021. Relatively few market traders engaged in the provision of services in the three geographic areas.

In all three geographic areas in 2019, the number of street vendors who sold goods other than food and beverages was roughly similar to the number providing services. However, in 2020 the drop in the number of street vendors providing services was greater than that of the vendors selling goods other than food and beverages. Moreover, there was less recovery in the number providing services in 2021. In contrast to market traders, relatively few street vendors in the three geographic areas sold food and beverages. These vendors sharply declined from 2019 to 2020 and recovered in 2021, though not to previous levels.

Less than 1 per cent of total employment was in waste picking throughout the period and in all geographic areas. However, there was a small increase in the number of women waste pickers between 2020 and 2021.

Industry of home-based workers

Nearly half of women home-based workers were in trade in 2019 in the three geographic areas while men worked in a range of industry sectors: other services, manufacturing and trade.

Unlike the other groups, home-based workers — those who declare own home or area adjacent to own house as their place of work — are found in several major sectors of the economy (**table 7**). In 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, trade was the largest of the industry categories in the three geographical areas, comprising around 40 per cent of home-based workers in the three geographic areas. This was followed by other services (primarily accommodation and food, real estate, education and health) at around 30 per cent in each geographic area.

Manufacturing was next in importance with 21 per cent in Metropolitan Lima and urban Peru and 24 per cent nationally. Professional services comprised 9.1 per cent of home-based work in Metropolitan Lima, 6 per cent in urban Peru and 5 per cent nationally.

In 2019 women home-based workers were mainly in trade (46 per cent in the three geographic areas), while men worked in a range of industry categories: other services (around 31 per cent), manufacturing (around 29 per cent) and trade (27 per cent).

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of home-based workers decreased greatly in 2020, especially in Metropolitan Lima, where they fell by over half, from 435,000 to 210,000 workers. In urban Peru and Peru nationally, the decline was also steep: from 1,284,000 to 723,000 and from 1,488,000 to 832,000,

Table 7. Industry sectors of home-based workers by sex in Metropolitan Lima, urban Peru and Peru nationally, 2019, 2020 and 2021: Numbers in thousands and per cent distribution in parentheses

Geograhic areas and industry	2019						2020						2021					
	Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total	
Metropolitan Lima	**293**	**(100.0)**	**142**	**(100.0)**	**435**	**(100.0)**	**152**	**(100.0)**	**58**	**(100.0)**	**210**	**(100.0)**	**271**	**(100.0)**	**129**	**(100.0)**	**399**	**(100.0)**
Manufacturing	51	(17.4)	39	(27.5)	90	(20.7)	26	(17.0)	16	(27.8)	42	(20.0)	37	(13.8)	47	(36.6)	84	(21.1)
Trade	136	(46.5)	38	(26.5)	174	(40.0)	75	(49.3)	15	(25.4)	90	(42.7)	158	(58.2)	24	(18.7)	182	(45.5)
Professional services	15	(5.1)	25	(17.3)	40	(9.1)	6	(4.0)	12	(21.4)	19	(8.8)	11	(4.2)	20	(15.3)	31	(7.8)
Other services	91	(31.0)	41	(28.7)	131	(30.2)	45	(29.7)	15	(25.3)	60	(28.5)	65	(23.8)	38	(29.4)	102	(25.6)
Urban Peru	**904**	**(100.0)**	**381**	**(100.0)**	**1,284**	**(100.0)**	**546**	**(100.0)**	**177**	**(100.0)**	**723**	**(100.0)**	**1,000**	**(100.0)**	**352**	**(100.0)**	**1,352**	**(100.0)**
Manufacturing	168	(18.5)	107	(28.2)	275	(21.4)	103	(18.9)	49	(27.7)	152	(21.1)	176	(17.6)	116	(33.1)	292	(21.6)
Trade	419	(46.3)	101	(26.5)	519	(40.4)	261	(47.9)	59	(33.2)	320	(44.3)	526	(52.6)	79	(22.4)	605	(44.7)
Professional services	27	(3.0)	51	(13.4)	78	(6.1)	10	(1.8)	20	(11.5)	30	(4.2)	22	(2.2)	41	(11.8)	63	(4.7)
Other services	290	(32.1)	122	(31.9)	412	(32.1)	171	(31.4)	49	(27.6)	220	(30.4)	276	(27.6)	116	(32.8)	392	(29.0)
Peru nationally	**1,081**	**(100.0)**	**408**	**(100.0)**	**1,488**	**(100.0)**	**640**	**(100.0)**	**193**	**(100.0)**	**832**	**(100.0)**	**1,163**	**(100.0)**	**380**	**(100.0)**	**1,543**	**(100.0)**
Manufacturing	236	(21.8)	120	(29.4)	355	(23.9)	135	(21.1)	53	(27.4)	188	(22.6)	231	(19.9)	124	(32.7)	355	(23.0)
Trade	500	(46.3)	110	(27.1)	610	(41.0)	307	(48.1)	67	(34.6)	374	(44.9)	606	(52.1)	89	(23.4)	695	(45.1)
Professional services	27	(2.5)	52	(12.7)	79	(5.3)	10	(1.6)	21	(10.7)	31	(3.7)	22	(1.9)	42	(11.2)	65	(4.2)
Other services	318	(29.4)	126	(30.8)	444	(29.8)	187	(29.3)	52	(27.3)	240	(28.8)	303	(26.1)	124	(32.7)	427	(27.7)

respectively. By 2021, the numbers of home-based workers had recovered and surpassed their levels in 2019 in urban Peru and in Peru nationally, but in Lima the numbers were 36,000 short of the 2019 level.

In Lima, and nationally, the only industry sector with a larger number employed in 2021 than in 2019 was trade; in urban Peru, manufacturing also saw an increase in 2021 over 2019. There was an increase in the numbers of women home-based workers in trade in each of the three geographic areas but a decrease in the numbers of men. However, during the period, the number of men home-based workers in manufacturing increased in each of the geographic areas while the numbers of women decreased. The changes in the numbers employed in the sectors are reflected in a change in the distribution across the sectors for women and for men. Women's home-based employment shows a growing concentration in trade and a reduced concentration in other services. Men's distribution shows higher shares in manufacturing, especially in Metropolitan Lima.

A home-based worker in Lima, Peru shows off her weaving. Photo: S. Trevino

Informality of the groups of workers

Informality among these groups of workers was just over 80 per cent, a rate much higher than the per cent of informality in total employment. Throughout the period, the rates of informality were substantially higher for women than for men in the three geographic areas.

In 2019, over 80 per cent of employment in the five groups, taken together, was informal: 83 per cent in Metropolitan Lima, 85 per cent in urban Peru and 86 per cent nationally (**table 8**). Informal employment in these groups was much higher than the rate for total employment in the three areas: 59 per cent in Metropolitan Lima, 66 per cent in urban Peru and 72 per cent nationally (**table 3**). The COVID-19 pandemic slightly increased the levels of informality in the aggregate of the five groups of workers

Table 8. Groups of workers by whether informally employed by sex in Metropolitan Lima, urban Peru and Peru nationally, 2019, 2020 and 2021: Numbers in thousands and share in parentheses

Geograhic areas and groups of workers	2019						2020						2021					
	Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total	
Metropolitan Lima																		
Informal employment	**824**	**(85.3)**	**316**	**(77.5)**	**1,140**	**(83.0)**	**513**	**(86.7)**	**202**	**(81.0)**	**714**	**(85.0)**	**744**	**(85.7)**	**288**	**(77.5)**	**1,032**	**(83.2)**
Domestic workers	168	(82.1)	8	(70.2)	176	(81.5)	94	(78.0)	3	(82.4)	97	(78.1)	162	(88.6)	2	(47.9)	164	(87.8)
Home-based workers	217	(74.0)	81	(57.0)	298	(68.4)	121	(79.3)	30	(51.0)	150	(71.5)	199	(73.3)	74	(57.6)	273	(68.3)
Market traders	95	(89.1)	50	(75.3)	145	(83.8)	87	(89.8)	47	(86.2)	134	(88.5)	91	(84.3)	52	(83.8)	143	(84.1)
Street vendors	334	(94.9)	152	(93.6)	486	(94.5)	199	(94.9)	109	(91.9)	308	(93.8)	277	(95.1)	138	(89.0)	416	(93.0)
Waste pickers	11	(100.0)	24	(100.0)	35	(100.0)	11	(100.0)	12	(100.0)	23	(100.0)	15	(100.0)	22	(100.0)	37	(100.0)
Urban Peru																		
Informal employment	**2,166**	**(88.4)**	**731**	**(77.2)**	**2,897**	**(85.3)**	**1,377**	**(90.3)**	**491**	**(82.2)**	**1,869**	**(88.0)**	**2,078**	**(89.8)**	**692**	**(79.7)**	**2,770**	**(87.0)**
Domestic workers	338	(88.7)	14	(76.4)	352	(88.1)	192	(86.2)	7	(88.7)	200	(86.3)	293	(92.2)	9	(81.5)	303	(91.9)
Home-based workers	715	(79.2)	217	(57.0)	932	(72.6)	463	(84.8)	102	(57.5)	565	(78.1)	839	(83.8)	221	(62.8)	1,060	(78.4)
Market traders	237	(91.4)	106	(80.2)	343	(87.6)	191	(92.1)	96	(87.8)	287	(90.6)	202	(88.3)	98	(86.1)	300	(87.6)
Street vendors	857	(96.5)	363	(94.4)	1,220	(95.8)	513	(96.6)	265	(94.7)	778	(95.9)	722	(96.9)	334	(92.3)	1,056	(95.4)
Waste pickers	19	(100.0)	31	(100.0)	50	(100.0)	18	(100.0)	21	(100.0)	39	(100.0)	21	(100.0)	30	(100.0)	52	(100.0)
Peru nationally																		
Informal employment	**2,436**	**(89.2)**	**778**	**(77.8)**	**3,214**	**(86.1)**	**1,525**	**(90.8)**	**517**	**(82.2)**	**2,042**	**(88.5)**	**2,310**	**(90.4)**	**738**	**(80.2)**	**3,047**	**(87.7)**
Domestic workers	360	(89.2)	14	(77.6)	375	(88.7)	204	(86.8)	9	(90.1)	213	(86.9)	306	(92.5)	10	(82.9)	317	(92.2)
Home-based workers	883	(81.8)	240	(58.8)	1,123	(75.5)	552	(86.2)	113	(58.7)	665	(79.9)	993	(85.5)	246	(64.6)	1,239	(80.3)
Market traders	246	(91.7)	109	(80.5)	355	(87.9)	201	(92.4)	98	(87.9)	299	(90.9)	209	(88.6)	99	(86.2)	308	(87.8)
Street vendors	927	(96.6)	382	(94.4)	1,309	(95.9)	550	(96.7)	275	(94.6)	825	(96.0)	779	(96.9)	351	(92.5)	1,130	(95.5)
Waste pickers	19	(100.0)	32	(100.0)	51	(100.0)	18	(100.0)	22	(100.0)	40	(100.0)	22	(100.0)	31	(100.0)	53	(100.0)

in 2020. Although rates of informality in the five groups together decreased in 2021, they generally remained above the 2019 levels.

Informality was substantially higher for women than for men in the three geographic areas throughout the period. With the exception of waste pickers, who by definition are all informal, in the other four groups, women generally have higher rates of informal employment than men in all geographic areas and throughout the three years. In 2019 home-based workers had the lowest rates of informality and the greatest differences between women and men: 74 per cent for women and 57 per cent for men in Metropolitan Lima; 79 per cent and 57 per cent in urban areas; and 82 per cent and 59 per cent in Peru. In 2020, the informality rates of women home-based workers grew in the three geographic areas. By contrast, the rates of informality decreased for men in Metropolitan Lima between 2019 and 2020 as home-based workers who were informally employed were more likely to lose their work. The informality rates of men's home-based employment in urban areas and nationally stayed at around the 2019 rates. Between 2020 and 2021, the levels of informality fell for women in the three geographic areas as well as for men in Metropolitan Lima, but generally remained at or above the 2019 levels. However, among men home-based workers in all three geographic areas the rates of informality decreased slightly between 2019 and 2020, and then rose again in 2021 to a level higher than 2019. Other than waste pickers, street vendors have the highest informality rates: 95 per cent in Metropolitan Lima, 96 per cent in urban areas and nationally for 2019, with very little difference between the rates for women and men. The informality levels for street vendors did not change between 2019 and 2020 in urban Peru and nationally, but declined slightly in Metropolitan Lima. In all three geographic areas, the rates fell slightly in 2021 to levels lower than in 2019.

Among domestic workers, the informality levels of women in Peru nationally and urban areas were 89 per cent in 2019 and somewhat lower at 82 per cent in Metropolitan Lima. During 2020, these levels dropped slightly to 87 per cent nationwide, 86 per cent in urban areas and 78 per cent in Metropolitan Lima. However, in 2021 they increased markedly reaching 93 per cent, 92 per cent and 89 per cent, respectively.

Market traders also had high informality levels in 2019: 84 per cent in Metropolitan Lima and 88 per cent in urban areas and nationally. During 2020, levels increased to 89 per cent and 91 per cent, respectively, to return in 2021 to almost the same level as in 2019.

Status in employment

The majority of workers in the five groups taken together are own account workers — 65 to 70 per cent — while 5 per cent were employers across the geographic areas.

The majority of workers in the five groups taken together were own-account workers in 2019: 65 per cent in Metropolitan Lima, 69 per cent in urban areas and 70 per cent in Peru nationally (**table 9**). Employees followed with 24 per cent, 20 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively. Contributing family workers are 6 to 7 per cent and employers almost 5 per cent in the three geographic areas. Generally, women in these groups are less likely to be own-account workers than men: 62 per cent women in contrast to 73 per cent men in Metropolitan Lima, 67 per cent women and 72 per cent men in urban Peru and 69 per cent women and 72 per cent men nationwide. Women are more likely to be employees: in Lima, 29 per cent against 12 per cent for men; in urban Peru, 24 per cent against 11 per cent; and nationally, 23 per cent against 11 per cent. The proportion of employers and contributing family workers is lower for women than that for men in all geographic areas.

The data on status in employment reflect a problem in the survey questionnaire. A key identifying variable for some of the groups, place of work, was asked only of the independent employed, that is own-account workers or employers. With street vendors and market traders, the industry and occupational categories were used to identify these worker groups among dependent workers (employees and contributing family workers) (see **annex 1**). Nonetheless, market traders, street vendors and especially home-based workers will be underestimated and thus, the overall numbers and shares of these groups are underestimations.

Since dependent workers were not asked about their place of work, the vast majority of

Table 9. Groups of workers by sex and status in employment in Metropolitan Lima, urban Peru and Peru nationally, 2019: per cent distribution

Geograhic areas and groups of workers	Women				Men				Total			
	Employer	Own-account	Contributing family worker	Employees	Employer	Own-account	Contributing family worker	Employees	Employer	Own-account	Contributing family worker	Employees
Metropolitan Lima	**3.8**	**61.5**	**5.3**	**29.4**	**7.3**	**72.6**	**7.7**	**12.4**	**4.8**	**64.8**	**6.0**	**24.4**
Domestic workers	0.0	0.3	0.6	99.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.3	0.5	99.2
Home-based workers	5.7	94.3	0.0	0.0	12.3	87.7	0.0	0.0	7.9	92.1	0.0	0.0
Market traders	12.4	50.3	13.3	24.0	16.7	28.6	25.9	28.8	14.0	41.9	18.2	25.8
Street vendors	1.8	72.7	10.0	15.5	0.8	81.2	8.5	9.5	1.5	75.4	9.5	13.6
Waste pickers	0.0	79.9	7.2	12.9	0.0	81.9	0.0	18.1	0.0	81.2	2.3	16.5
Urban Peru	**3.5**	**67.3**	**5.7**	**23.5**	**8.3**	**71.8**	**9.4**	**10.5**	**4.8**	**68.6**	**6.7**	**19.9**
Domestic workers	0.0	0.1	0.3	99.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	99.6
Home-based workers	5.1	94.9	0.0	0.0	15.1	84.9	0.0	0.0	8.1	91.9	0.0	0.0
Market traders	9.4	50.7	16.3	23.6	12.8	33.5	27.0	26.8	10.6	44.8	19.9	24.7
Street vendors	1.7	72.7	10.8	14.9	1.2	74.5	13.6	10.7	1.5	73.2	11.6	13.6
Waste pickers	0.0	82.8	5.5	11.6	0.0	80.4	3.2	16.4	0.0	81.3	4.1	14.6
Peru nationally	**3.2**	**68.8**	**5.4**	**22.5**	**8.3**	**71.7**	**9.3**	**10.7**	**4.6**	**69.6**	**6.5**	**19.3**
Domestic workers	0.0	0.1	0.3	99.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	99.6
Home-based workers	4.5	95.5	0.0	0.0	14.9	85.1	0.0	0.0	7.4	92.6	0.0	0.0
Market traders	9.2	50.3	16.3	24.2	12.7	33.3	26.8	27.2	10.4	44.6	19.8	25.2
Street vendors	1.6	72.6	10.7	15.2	1.3	73.8	13.7	11.3	1.5	72.9	11.6	14.0
Waste pickers	0.0	82.4	5.5	12.1	0.0	80.3	3.1	16.6	0.0	81.1	4.0	14.9

women and men home-based workers are own account workers: 94 per cent and 88 per cent in Metropolitan Lima, 95 and 85 per cent in urban Peru and 96 and 85 per cent in Peru nationally. The remaining percentages are employers.

Own account is also the predominant status among market traders, with a higher share among women than men: 50 per cent against 29 per cent for men in Metropolitan Lima, 51 per cent against 34 per cent in urban Peru, and 50 per cent against 33 per cent in Peru nationally. Employees follow, with a lower proportion among women than men: 24 per cent against 29 per cent in Lima, 24 per cent against 27 per cent in urban areas and nationally. A larger share of men in market trade are employers (13 to 17 per cent across the geographic areas) than women (9 to 12 per cent) and a larger proportion of men are also contributing family workers (26 to 27 per cent across the geographic areas) than women (13 to 16 per cent).

Table 10. Groups of workers by sex and hours worked per week in Metropolitan Lima, urban Peru and Peru nationally, 2019*: Per cent distribution

Geograhic areas and groups of workers	Women					Men				
	Less than 15 hours	15 to 34 hours	35 to 39 hours	40 to 48 hours	More than 48 hours	Less than 15 hours	15 to 34 hours	35 to 39 hours	40 to 48 hours	More than 48 hours
Metropolitan Lima	**17.1**	**20.4**	**7.6**	**19.8**	**35.1**	**8.1**	**21.0**	**8.1**	**19.0**	**43.8**
Domestic workers	7.4	18.6	6.6	33.3	34.0	17.3	23.7	0.0	18.5	40.5
Home-based workers	21.3	19.4	6.4	13.4	39.5	12.7	23.3	10.8	18.1	35.1
Market traders	3.6	9.1	2.7	23.7	60.9	1.4	15.9	4.1	11.4	67.2
Street vendors	22.7	25.3	10.7	16.9	24.5	4.7	19.0	7.5	23.7	45.0
Waste pickers	32.8	36.0	2.2	0.0	29.1	17.8	34.4	11.0	13.5	23.3
Urban Peru	**19.0**	**24.3**	**7.1**	**16.1**	**33.5**	**10.3**	**23.8**	**8.3**	**16.6**	**41.0**
Domestic workers	11.1	20.3	7.0	29.8	31.8	25.4	15.4	1.5	15.8	41.9
Home-based workers	21.2	22.1	6.0	11.3	39.5	14.1	22.9	7.6	16.9	38.5
Market traders	4.7	18.3	6.2	19.0	51.8	2.7	19.9	5.5	11.0	60.9
Street vendors	23.9	29.9	8.7	14.5	23.1	7.7	25.5	10.2	18.7	37.9
Waste pickers	41.1	28.4	5.7	2.6	22.2	18.5	34.0	9.4	11.0	27.0
Peru nationally	**19.6**	**25.4**	**7.1**	**15.5**	**32.4**	**10.6**	**24.3**	**8.3**	**16.7**	**40.1**
Domestic workers	11.4	20.2	7.0	29.6	31.9	25.2	16.0	1.4	16.1	41.4
Home-based workers	21.5	24.3	6.2	10.8	37.1	13.9	23.5	7.7	17.1	37.8
Market traders	4.9	19.2	6.2	18.7	51.0	3.3	20.2	5.6	11.2	59.7
Street vendors	24.6	30.5	8.5	14.1	22.3	8.4	26.0	10.2	18.5	36.9
Waste pickers	41.4	28.0	5.6	3.2	21.8	18.1	34.7	9.2	11.5	26.5

* Employed persons who did not work in the survey's reference week are excluded.

Among street vendors, a large majority are also own-account workers: among women, 73 per cent of women in all three geographic areas; among men, 81 per cent in Metropolitan Lima and around 74 per cent in urban Peru and nationally. A larger share of women are employees than men: 15 per cent of women street vendors in all three geographic areas in comparison to 9 to 11 per cent of men. A larger share of men than women are contributing family workers in urban Peru and Peru nationally (14 per cent in comparison to 11 per cent) while in Metropolitan Lima the share among women and men is similar (10 per cent and 8.5 per cent). Few women or men street vendors are employers (around 1 per cent) in all geographical areas.

Waste pickers are primarily own-account workers at around 80 per cent for both women and men. Around 13 per cent of women waste pickers are employees in comparison to around 17 per cent of men. A somewhat larger share of women waste pickers work as contributing family workers: around 6 per cent for women in comparison to 2 per cent for men in Lima and 4 per cent in the other two geographic areas.

All domestic workers of both sexes are employees in the three geographical areas.

Hours of work

Of the five groups, in 2019, market traders had the highest proportion of women and of men who worked 40 or more hours a week, especially in Metropolitan Lima, where 85 per cent of women and 79 per cent of men worked a long week.

The majority of workers in these groups work 40 hours or more each week (**table 10**). Workers in Metropolitan Lima and, generally, men more than women have long working hours: in Metropolitan Lima, 55 per cent of women and 63 per cent of men worked 40 hours or more a week; in urban Peru 50 per cent of women and 58 per cent of men; and 48 per cent and 57 per cent respectively for Peru nationally. And a greater proportion of women than men have short working weeks (less than 15 hours): 17 to

María de los Ángeles Ochoa is a domestic worker. During the pandemic, her employer suspended her work, leaving her without income. She received support with food from her union and the International Domestic Workers' Federation - IDWF. Photo by Victor Mallqui

20 per cent women across the geographic areas in comparison to 8 to 11 per cent of men.

Waste pickers have the highest proportion of women with a short work week: 33 per cent women against 18 per cent of men in Metropolitan Lima; 41 per cent of women against 19 per cent of men in urban Peru; and 41 per cent of women against 18 per cent of men in Peru nationally. The proportions of women and men in waste picking with a work week longer than 40 hours is relatively low: 29 per cent of women and 37 per cent of men in Metropolitan Lima and 25 per cent of women and 38 per cent of men in urban areas and nationally.

Market traders had the highest proportion of women and men who worked 40 or more hours a week: 85 per cent for women and 79 per cent for men in Metropolitan Lima; 71 per cent for women and 72 per cent for men in urban Peru; and 70 per cent for women and 71 per cent for men nationally. The share of market traders, both women and men, with short work weeks is very low.

Street vendors work fewer hours than market traders. A smaller proportion of women street vendors work 40 or more hours a week: 41 per cent of women and 69 per cent men in Metropolitan Lima; 38 per cent and 57 per cent in urban Peru; and 36 per cent and 55 per cent nationally. A higher proportion of women than men work less than 15 hours a week: 23 to 25 per cent among women across the geographic areas in comparison to 5 to 8 per cent of men.

The majority of domestic workers work 40 or more hours a week, and women work more hours than men: 67 per cent for women in comparison to 59 per cent of men in Metropolitan Lima; 62 per cent of women in comparison to 58 per cent of men in urban Peru and in Peru nationally. A larger proportion of men than women work less than 15 hours a week: 17 to 25 per cent among men across the geographic areas in comparison to only 7 to 11 per cent of women.

Among home-based workers, 21 per cent of women in the three geographic areas work short working weeks in comparison to 14 per cent of men. However, a substantial share of home-based workers work 40 or more hours a week: 53 per cent of women and men in Metropolitan Lima; 51 per cent and 55 per cent in urban Peru; and 48 per cent and 55 per cent nationally.

Hourly earnings

In the five groups taken together in 2019, the average hourly earnings of women represented 81 per cent of men's earnings in Metropolitan Lima, 70 per cent in urban Peru, and 68 per cent in Peru nationally. The average hourly earnings of the five groups fell significantly in 2020 and then recovered to some degree by 2021 but did not reach pre-pandemic levels for women or for men.

In 2019 the average hourly earnings for these groups taken together indicate that women earn less than men in the three geographic areas, and that hourly earnings in Metropolitan Lima generally exceed those of the rest of the country. Women had an hourly income of 7.3 soles[4] compared to 9 soles for men in Metropolitan Lima; 6.2 soles for women and 8.8 soles for men in urban Peru; and 5.9 soles for women and 8.7 soles for men nationally (**table 11**). This means that the hourly earnings of women represented 81 per cent, 70 per cent and 68 per cent of that of men in the respective geographic areas. The earnings for women were highest among home-based workers. In Metropolitan Lima, home-based workers earned 8.8 soles per hour, followed by domestic workers (7.3 soles), market traders (7 soles), street vendors (6.1 soles) and waste pickers (2.8 soles). However, these earnings represented only 69 per cent of the earnings of men in home-based work, 89 per cent of the earnings of men in domestic work and market trade, 92 per cent in street vending and 68 per cent in waste picking. The largest difference in hourly earnings between women and men in Metropolitan Lima was among waste pickers while the smallest was among street vendors. In urban areas and in the country as a whole, hourly earnings are generally lower than those of Metropolitan Lima for both women and men and for the five groups of workers. In these geographic areas, street vendors had the highest earnings for women, followed by market traders, domestic workers, home-based workers and waste pickers. The smallest difference in hourly earnings between women

Table 11. Hourly earnings (soles) by groups of workers by sex in Metropolitan Lima, urban Peru and Peru nationally, 2019, 2020 and 2021

Geograhic areas and groups of workers	2019			2020			2021		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
Metropolitan Lima	**7.3**	**9.0**	**7.8**	**6.0**	**6.8**	**6.3**	**6.6**	**8.9**	**7.3**
Domestic workers	7.3	8.2	7.3	7.4	4.4	7.4	7.3	6.3	7.3
Home-based workers	8.8	12.8	10.1	6.1	9.7	7.1	6.9	14.3	9.3
Market traders	7.0	7.9	7.3	5.9	6.3	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.1
Street vendors	6.1	6.6	6.3	5.2	5.9	5.5	6.1	6.0	6.1
Waste pickers	2.8	4.1	3.7	5.7	3.3	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.4
Urban Peru	**6.2**	**8.8**	**6.9**	**5.5**	**7.2**	**6.0**	**5.7**	**8.2**	**6.4**
Domestic workers	6.1	6.7	6.1	6.1	4.3	6.0	6.3	5.7	6.3
Home-based workers	6.1	11.5	7.7	5.1	9.5	6.2	5.4	10.6	6.7
Market traders	6.2	7.6	6.6	5.3	6.1	5.6	5.6	7.1	6.1
Street vendors	6.5	6.8	6.5	5.7	6.4	6.0	5.9	6.3	6.1
Waste pickers	3.7	4.2	4.0	4.6	3.3	3.8	3.9	4.2	4.0
Peru nationally	**5.9**	**8.7**	**6.6**	**5.4**	**7.2**	**5.9**	**5.5**	**8.1**	**6.2**
Domestic workers	6.0	6.6	6.0	6.0	4.4	5.9	6.3	5.9	6.3
Home-based workers	5.5	11.0	7.0	4.9	9.3	5.9	5.0	10.3	6.3
Market traders	6.1	7.6	6.6	5.3	6.1	5.5	5.6	7.0	6.1
Street vendors	6.4	6.8	6.5	5.9	6.4	6.1	5.9	6.4	6.0
Waste pickers	3.7	4.1	4.0	4.6	3.2	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.0

[4] For most of 2019, 1 Peruvian sol was equivalent to USD 0.30.

and men in urban Peru and nationally was found in street vendors and the largest in home-based workers in all three geographic areas.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and employment in Peru, the average hourly earnings of the five groups fell significantly in 2020 compared to 2019: from 7.3 to 6 soles for women and from 9 to 6.8 soles for men in Metropolitan Lima; from 6.2 to 5.5 soles for women and from 8.8 to 7.2 for men in urban Peru; and from 5.9 to 5.4 for women and from 8.7 to 7.2 for men nationwide. The drop in hourly earnings was greater for men than for women in all three geographic areas. However, there was not a consistent decline across the groups. Among waste pickers for example, the hourly earnings of women in Metropolitan Lima increased from 2.8 soles in 2019 to 5.7 soles in 2020, although in urban areas and nationally, the increase was less (from 3.7 to 4.6 soles). Among men, the earnings per hour decreased, from 4.1 to 3.3 soles across the geographic areas. Among domestic workers, the hourly earnings of women in the three geographic areas maintained the level of 2019, although the earnings of men declined. Among home-based workers, market traders, and street vendors, hourly income decreased for both men and women. Among home-based workers, the loss was 2.7 soles for women and 3.1 for men in Metropolitan Lima, and somewhat less in urban Peru and Peru nationally. The loss of earnings for market traders in Lima was 1.1 soles for women and 1.6 soles for men, and around 0.9 soles for women and 1.5 soles for men in urban Peru and nationally. The decrease in earnings among street vendors was smaller for both women and men in the three geographic areas.

In 2021, the hourly earnings of the five groups of workers recovered, but did not reach the pre-pandemic levels for women or for men. Earnings levels remained higher in Metropolitan Lima than in the rest of the country. Women continued to earn less than men. In Metropolitan Lima, the hourly income of women in 2021 was 6.6 soles compared to 7.3 in 2019, while that of men was 8.9 and 9 soles. Similarly, in urban areas and in the country as a whole, the earnings of men recovered somewhat more than those of women. However, there are differences in the changes that occurred across the groups of workers and for women and men. Among waste pickers, the hourly income of women in 2021 exceeded that of 2019 in the three geographic areas, especially in Metropolitan Lima, where women earned 2.8 soles in 2019, 5.7 soles in 2020 and 4.2 soles in 2021. Among domestic workers, the hourly income of women in 2021 was slightly higher than in 2019 (6.3 soles compared to 6 soles) in urban areas and in national Peru, while remaining the same in Lima (7.3 soles). The earnings of street vendors in 2021 maintained the same value as in 2019 (6.1 soles) in Metropolitan Lima, but was lower in urban Peru (5.9 in comparison to 6.5 soles) and nationally (5.9 and 6.4 soles). Among home-based workers, the hourly earnings of women in 2021 were lower than in 2019: 6.9 soles in comparison to 8.8 soles in Lima, 5.4 soles and 6.1 soles in urban areas, and 5 soles and 5.5 soles nationally. Among market traders in the three geographical areas, the hourly income of women in 2021 remained below that of 2019.

Men generally had lower hourly earnings in 2021 than 2019 in the five groups of workers and in the three geographic areas. The exception was home-based workers in Metropolitan Lima, who had an hourly income of 14.3 soles in 2021 compared to 12.8 in 2019; however, in urban Peru and nationally men's earnings did not reach the values prior to the pandemic. Waste pickers maintained the same amount of hourly earnings, but domestic workers, market traders and street vendors failed to reach the hourly earnings levels in 2021 that they had in 2019.

Poverty status in households of the worker groups

Overall among the five groups, 12 to 15 per cent of the households of these workers were poor in 2019, with households in Metropolitan Lima having higher poverty levels than those in urban Peru or Peru nationally. The rates increased to 17 to 21 per cent of households in 2020 and did not decrease in 2021.

In 2019 poverty rates among households of the five groups taken together were slightly higher for men than women and for Metropolitan Lima than for urban Peru and Peru nationally. In Metropolitan Lima, 15 per cent of women and 16 per cent of men in these groups lived in poor households; in urban areas, the rates were 12 per cent of women and 13 per cent of men, and

nationally 13 per cent of women and 14 per cent of men (**table 12**). Waste pickers had the highest levels of poverty in the three geographic areas: 21 per cent of women and 23 per cent of men in Metropolitan Lima, 27 per cent and 24 per cent in urban Peru and 26 per cent and 24 per cent in Peru nationally. Among street vendors in Lima, 19 per cent of women and 22 per cent of men lived in poor households, 14 per cent and 19 per cent in urban areas and nationally. Among domestic workers 12 per cent of women and 22 per cent of men in Lima lived in poverty, 11 per cent of women and 14 per cent of men in urban Peru and 12 per cent of women and 14 per cent of men nationally. Among home-based workers, 12 per cent of women and men in Lima lived in poor households, 11 per cent of women and 9 per cent of men in urban areas, and 14 per cent of women and 10 per cent of men nationally. Market traders were the least likely to live in poor households, with 8 to 9 per cent of women and 6 to 8 per cent of men living in poor households across the geographic areas.

In 2020 the poverty levels of workers in these groups of workers rose significantly in all three geographic areas. The proportion of women living in poor households exceeded that of men. Moreover, the increase in the proportion of women living in poor households was greater than for men: in Metropolitan Lima, the increase was 6 percentage points for women and 3 for men; in urban Peru, 5 percentage points for women and 3 for men; and nationally, 4 percentage points for women and 2 for men.

Throughout the period waste pickers had the highest levels of poverty. The share of waste pickers living in poor households increased substantially in Metropolitan Lima from 21 per cent in 2019 to 30 per cent in 2020 among women and from 23 per cent to 51 per cent among men. In urban Peru and nationally women maintained the 2019 levels while the increase for men was less pronounced than in Lima. Market traders, the group with the lowest levels of household poverty, had the largest increase of all the groups in the share of poor

Table 12. Groups of workers by sex and household poverty status in Metropolitan Lima, urban Peru and Peru nationally, 2019, 2020 and 2021*: Per cent

Geograhic areas and groups of workers	2019			2020			2021		
	Poor households			Poor households			Poor households		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
Metropolitan Lima	**14.5**	**16.0**	**14.9**	**21.4**	**19.3**	**20.8**	**21.2**	**19.8**	**20.8**
Domestic workers	11.9	21.5	12.5	17.8	8.7	17.5	19.4	0.0	19.1
Home-based workers	12.3	12.1	12.2	12.6	7.9	11.3	18.6	13.6	17.0
Market traders	9.2	7.5	8.5	31.1	21.1	27.5	17.8	23.7	20.0
Street vendors	19.1	21.5	19.9	24.9	21.2	23.5	24.9	20.6	23.4
Waste pickers	20.5	22.6	22.0	29.8	50.5	40.4	40.0	43.3	42.0
Urban Peru	**11.8**	**13.1**	**12.2**	**16.6**	**15.5**	**16.3**	**17.3**	**16.5**	**17.1**
Domestic workers	11.4	14.3	11.6	16.0	6.2	15.7	15.8	11.3	15.7
Home-based workers	11.1	9.0	10.5	13.4	9.2	12.4	15.8	11.4	14.7
Market traders	7.5	6.0	7.0	21.0	16.3	19.4	15.4	19.4	16.7
Street vendors	13.6	18.6	15.2	18.2	18.1	18.2	19.9	18.9	19.6
Waste pickers	26.7	23.7	24.8	25.6	32.4	29.3	33.9	38.2	36.4
Peru nationally	**13.4**	**13.6**	**13.5**	**17.3**	**15.7**	**16.8**	**18.2**	**16.5**	**17.7**
Domestic workers	12.1	13.5	12.1	16.1	5.4	15.6	16.0	11.1	15.8
Home-based workers	14.3	10.1	13.1	15.3	9.9	14.0	18.0	11.6	16.4
Market traders	7.8	6.5	7.4	21.0	17.2	19.7	15.6	19.2	16.8
Street vendors	14.4	18.8	15.7	18.3	18.0	18.2	19.8	19.1	19.6
Waste pickers	26.3	23.7	24.7	25.4	32.7	29.4	33.1	36.9	35.3

* To determine the poverty status of households, the total annual expenditure of a household is divided by the amount of the total poverty line, established by the INEI. If household spending is less than or equal to the poverty line, it is considered a poor household; if, on the contrary, the expense is greater than the amount of the line, it is considered a non-poor household.

households between 2019 and 2020. In the three geographic areas and for both women and men, the levels nearly tripled. The share of women in poor households increased from 9 per cent to 31 per cent in 2020 in Metropolitan Lima and from 8 per cent to 21 per cent in urban Peru and nationally. Similarly, among men the share increased from 8 per cent to 21 per cent in Metropolitan Lima, from 6 per cent to 16 per cent in urban Peru and from 7 per cent to 17 per cent nationally. In 2020 one quarter of women street vendors in Metropolitan Lima and 18 per cent in urban Peru and nationwide lived in poor households, while men maintained roughly the same levels as in 2019: 21 per cent in Lima and around 18 per cent in urban Peru and nationally. The share of women domestic workers in poor households also grew between 2019 and 2020 (from 12 per cent to 18 per cent in Lima, from 11 per cent to 16 per cent in urban areas, and from 12 per cent to 16 per cent nationally). However, there was a decrease among men (from 22 per cent to 9 per cent, from 14 per cent to 6 per cent, and from 14 per cent to 5 per cent, respectively). The share of home-based workers in poor households changed the least of all the groups, increasing only slightly for women and maintaining roughly the 2019 levels among men.

The share of workers living in poor households in 2021 remained well above the levels of 2019. Further, the share of women living in poor households in 2021 remained higher than that of men. In the five groups taken together in 2021, 21 per cent of women lived in poor households compared to 15 per cent in 2019 in Metropolitan Lima, 17 per cent compared to 12 per cent in urban Peru, and 18 per cent compared to 13 per cent in Peru nationally. Among men, 20 per cent of these workers lived in poor households in 2021, up from 16 per cent in 2019 in Metropolitan Lima, 17 per cent up from 13 per cent in urban Peru, and 17 per cent up from 14 per cent nationally. In each worker group and in the three geographic areas, the share of women living in poor households was somewhat greater in 2021 than in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, the shares of men living in poor households did not decrease, with the exception of domestic workers and street vendors in Metropolitan Lima.

Education

Among the groups of workers, in 2019 home-based workers had the highest proportion with university and technical level education, with much higher levels for men than for women. Waste pickers had the lowest levels of education, with more than 65 per cent of women and around one-third of men having primary education or less.

About half of the workers in these groups had at least some secondary education (incomplete or complete secondary education): 53 per cent of women and 52 per cent of men in Metropolitan Lima, 49 per cent and 47 per cent in urban areas, and 47 per cent and 48 per cent nationally (**table 13**). The proportion with primary or no education was considerable and higher for women than for men: 22 per cent of women and 18 per cent of men in Metropolitan Lima, 28 per cent and 21 per cent in urban Peru, and 31 per cent and 22 per cent in Peru nationally. A much larger share of men had technical training or university level education: 30 or 31 per cent for men across the geographic areas in comparison to 22 to 24 per cent for women. In each group of workers and in the three geographical areas, women's level of education was lower than men's. Waste pickers had the lowest levels of education: 68 per cent of women and 30 per cent of men in Metropolitan Lima, 63 per cent of women and 35 per cent of men in urban Peru, and 65 per cent of women and 37 per cent of men nationally had primary school or less. Among waste pickers, 13 to 15 per cent of women (but no men) had no education.

A substantial share of women domestic workers had university or technical training: around 20 per cent in the three geographic areas in comparison to 6 per cent of men in Metropolitan Lima and 12 per cent in urban areas and nationally. However, a substantial proportion of women and men domestic workers had low levels of education (primary or less): 24 to 27 per cent among women in the three geographic regions in comparison to 24 per cent of men.

Home-based workers had the highest proportion with university and technical level education, and the proportion was much higher for men than for women: 32 per cent of women and 52 per cent of men in Metropolitan Lima, 26 per cent and 47 per cent in urban Peru, and 22 per cent and 45 per cent nationally. However,

Table 13. Groups of workers by sex and highest level of education in Metropolitan Lima, urban Peru and Peru nationally, 2019*: Per cent distribution

Geograhic areas and groups of workers	Women							Men						
	None	Incomplete primary	Complete primary	Incomplete secondary	Complete secondary	Technical training	University	None	Incomplete primary	Complete primary	Incomplete secondary	Complete secondary	Technical training	University
Metropolitan Lima	**2.6**	**9.7**	**10.0**	**15.1**	**38.2**	**16.4**	**8.0**	**1.4**	**7.0**	**9.3**	**13.6**	**38.3**	**12.7**	**17.6**
Domestic workers	1.0	8.9	13.9	13.8	41.1	16.7	4.7	0.0	0.0	23.8	32.0	38.4	5.8	0.0
Home-based workers	3.2	8.8	9.2	14.8	31.6	18.5	13.9	1.5	4.0	3.0	7.4	31.8	19.0	33.3
Market traders	2.2	10.0	9.9	10.7	44.4	16.8	6.0	0.6	8.4	11.5	10.1	49.8	7.2	12.4
Street vendors	2.9	10.4	7.8	17.3	41.0	14.8	5.8	2.0	7.8	12.7	18.8	38.5	11.4	8.9
Waste pickers	15.2	27.0	26.1	16.8	12.5	2.4	0.0	0.0	18.8	11.2	15.6	43.6	3.6	7.2
Urban Peru	**3.4**	**12.8**	**11.8**	**16.4**	**32.1**	**14.9**	**8.5**	**1.4**	**8.8**	**10.9**	**14.5**	**32.8**	**14.1**	**17.4**
Domestic workers	1.6	11.6	13.2	15.7	37.1	15.8	4.9	0.0	0.6	23.1	30.7	33.8	6.5	5.3
Home-based workers	3.8	13.3	12.9	16.0	28.2	14.9	10.9	1.2	6.4	6.7	9.8	29.0	19.4	27.5
Market traders	3.3	12.9	10.0	14.7	36.7	14.5	7.9	1.3	7.1	11.2	13.2	41.2	11.7	14.3
Street vendors	3.7	12.3	10.4	17.6	33.0	14.9	8.0	2.0	11.1	14.2	18.7	33.4	10.9	9.8
Waste pickers	13.4	28.3	23.6	18.2	15.2	1.4	0.0	0.0	23.1	12.2	15.2	36.7	4.7	8.2
Peru nationally	**4.1**	**14.1**	**12.9**	**16.5**	**30.6**	**13.9**	**7.8**	**1.5**	**9.2**	**11.3**	**14.8**	**32.7**	**13.7**	**16.8**
Domestic workers	1.8	11.5	13.7	16.5	36.4	15.4	4.7	0.0	0.6	22.7	32.4	32.6	6.7	5.0
Home-based workers	5.0	15.9	14.9	15.6	26.0	13.2	9.3	1.2	7.4	7.8	10.2	28.8	18.4	26.2
Market traders	3.4	12.9	10.2	15.1	36.3	14.2	7.9	1.3	7.1	11.1	13.8	41.2	11.6	14.0
Street vendors	4.1	13.2	10.7	18.0	32.1	14.2	7.6	2.0	10.9	14.2	19.0	33.4	10.8	9.6
Waste pickers	13.4	27.9	23.9	17.9	14.9	2.0	0.0	0.2	24.4	12.0	14.8	35.9	4.6	8.0

* Educational level categories are as follows: **None**: people with no education or who only attended initial education. **Incomplete primary**: people who did not complete six years of primary education or those who attended special basic education. **Complete primary**: completed all six years of primary education. **Incomplete secondary**: those who did not finish the five years of high school instruction. **Complete secondary**: completed the five years of high school instruction. **Technical training**: incomplete and complete techical professional education. **University**: incomplete and complete university education, incomplete and complete master's degrees and doctorates.

the proportion of home-based workers with low levels of education (none and primary) is considerable: 21 per cent of women and 9 per cent of men in Metropolitan Lima, 30 per cent and 14 per cent in urban Peru, and 36 per cent and 16 per cent nationally. Among home-based workers, 42 to 46 per cent of women across the geographic areas and 39 per cent of men had either attended or completed secondary education.

Among market traders and street vendors, the distribution of workers across the education levels is very similar, with only small differences between women and men. A little over 50 per cent of workers in both groups had either

attended or completed secondary education. In addition, a little over 20 per cent of workers in both groups had low or no education and a little more than 20 per cent had technical or university levels of education.

Age

In 2019, the majority of workers in the groups — with the exception of waste pickers — were in the peak employment ages of 30 to 59.

Across the geographic areas, there are several patterns in the distribution by age. The majority of workers in the groups — with the exception of waste pickers — were in the peak employment ages of 30 to 59 (**table 14**). This age group comprised 60 to 74 per cent of women across the groups and 51 to 56 per cent of men. Men had a larger share of employment than women in the youngest age group: 19 to 32 per cent for men in comparison to 12 to 26 per cent for women. Waste pickers did not fit this pattern and were the oldest group. Among waste pickers, about half of women and around 40 per cent of men across the geographic areas are 60 years of age or older. Waste pickers also had the lowest share of workers aged 14 to 29: 12 per cent of women and 4 per cent of men in the three geographic areas.

The other exception to the general pattern occurred with men in domestic work. A smaller share of these men were in the peak employment years: 38 to 41 per cent across the geographic areas.

Table 14. Groups of workers by sex and age in Metropolitan Lima, urban Peru and Peru nationally, 2019: Per cent distribution

Geograhic areas and groups of workers	Women					Men				
	14-29 years	30-44 years	45-59 years	60-64 years	65 + years	14-29 years	30-44 years	45-59 years	60-64 years	65 + years
Metropolitan Lima	**17.3**	**34.8**	**32.7**	**8.1**	**7.1**	**23.6**	**28.2**	**23.2**	**9.4**	**15.7**
Domestic workers	12.3	35.2	38.0	9.2	5.3	27.6	16.1	21.4	19.1	15.7
Home-based workers	12.8	38.0	33.5	6.7	8.9	20.6	27.1	25.2	9.3	17.7
Market traders	20.8	31.4	33.1	7.5	7.1	31.0	30.0	21.6	5.7	11.7
Street vendors	23.0	33.9	29.0	8.4	5.7	25.7	27.9	23.5	8.6	14.3
Waste pickers	11.9	8.8	26.1	16.5	36.7	4.2	37.7	14.0	20.7	23.4
Urban Peru	**19.5**	**35.0**	**30.7**	**7.4**	**7.4**	**23.9**	**28.6**	**24.8**	**8.7**	**14.1**
Domestic workers	19.4	36.9	31.7	7.3	4.7	31.0	16.6	24.2	16.5	11.7
Home-based workers	12.7	35.9	34.4	7.3	9.7	19.2	29.1	26.6	9.4	15.7
Market traders	24.0	30.5	29.5	7.3	8.7	30.2	27.8	23.5	7.1	11.4
Street vendors	25.3	35.1	26.8	7.3	5.4	27.6	28.0	24.1	7.5	12.9
Waste pickers	11.8	5.4	32.8	16.8	33.2	4.4	39.3	16.8	16.9	22.7
Peru nationally	**20.0**	**35.6**	**30.1**	**7.1**	**7.2**	**24.1**	**28.5**	**24.8**	**8.6**	**14.0**
Domestic workers	21.6	36.3	30.6	7.0	4.6	32.1	15.7	25.4	15.7	11.0
Home-based workers	13.3	37.3	33.2	7.0	9.1	18.7	29.2	26.9	9.2	15.9
Market traders	24.8	30.5	29.2	7.0	8.5	30.5	27.5	23.7	7.1	11.2
Street vendors	25.7	35.3	26.6	7.1	5.4	28.6	27.9	23.6	7.5	12.5
Waste pickers	12.2	6.0	32.3	16.5	32.9	4.3	39.5	16.4	17.0	22.8

Annex 1

The identification of groups of workers

The statistical information in this brief is based on the National Household Survey (ENAHO), conducted by the Peru National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI). The objective of ENAHO is broader than a standard labour force survey. The main purpose of ENHAO is the collection of data to monitor the living conditions of Peruvians. This broad objective brings advantages, such as the availability of data on the poverty condition of households. However, it limits the questions included on employment; for example, the place of work question is asked only to independent workers (employers and own-account workers) in unincorporated enterprises reporting income during the year. This presents a problem for the identification of groups of workers of interest to WIEGO. Without a question on place of work that is applied to all employed, market traders, street vendors and especially home-based workers are underestimated; a complex process is required to identify street vendors and market traders.

The variables used in the operational definition of each group of workers are indicated below:

- Domestic workers: "industry"
- Home-based workers: "status in employment", "place of work" and "industry"
- Market traders: "occupation", "status in employment", "place of work" and "industry"
- Street vendors: "occupation", "status in employment", "place of work" and "industry"
- Informal construction workers: "occupation"
- Informal transport workers: "occupation"
- Waste pickers: "occupation" and "industry".

The conceptual and operational definitions of groups of workers are presented below:

Domestic workers: provide services in the homes of others and are identified by means of code 9700 (activities of households as employers of domestic personnel) of the "industry" variable.

Home-based workers: produce goods or provide services from in or around their own homes including a structure attached to their home. **First step:** with the "status in employment" variable, independent workers are selected, codes 1 (employer) or 2 (own-account worker) and with the "place of work" variable indicate the codes: 9 (in a commercial establishment within the household or a room in the household dedicated exclusively to that purpose) or 10 (inside the rooms in the household). A number of home-based workers reported an activity such as mining that does not take place in the home. To exclude such workers a **second step** is required. Employed persons identified in step 1 are crossed with the "industry" variable to include the following: codes 10–33 (manufacturing), 45–47 (wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles), 55–56 (accommodation and food service activities), 58–63 (information and communications), 64–66 (financial and insurance activities), 68 (real estate activities), 69–75 (professional, scientific and technical activities), 77-82 (administrative and support service activities), 85 (education), 86 (human health services), 88 (social work activities without accommodation), 90 (creative, arts and entertainment activities), 92 (gambling and betting activities), 93 (sport activities and amusement and recreation activities) or 94-96 (other service activities).

To identify market traders and street vendors, several steps are also required. The first step selects all employed and then takes the occupational codes that directly specify employment as a market trader or as a street vendor. The second step focuses on only those independent workers who respond in the place of work question that they are street vendors or market traders and all occupation and industry codes are then applied to them. Steps are also taken to prevent double counting.

Petrona Flores sells poultry at the Mercado San José in Lima. She is a member of an association of stall owners that is affiliated to the National Federation of Market Workers (Federación Nacional de Trabajadores de Mercado, FENATM). Photo: Juan Arredondo/Getty Images Reportage

Market traders: sell goods and offer services in public markets or built spaces. They are identified in two stages. **First**, employed persons with code 5213 (stall and markets salespersons) in the "occupation" variable are crossed with the "industry" variables with codes: 45–47 (wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles) and 55–56 (accommodation and food service activities). Crossing with the relevant industry categories ensures that services provided in stalls, etc., are included. **Second**, independent workers who in the "status in employment" variable declare codes: 1 (employer) or 2 (own-account worker), that also in the "place of work" variable indicate the codes: 5 (improvised stalls at marketplace) or 7 (fixed premises in public markets (store, stand), and also in the "occupation" variable indicate codes: 3113 (electrical engineering technicians), 3114 (electronics engineering technicians), 3511 (information and communications technology operations technicians), 3512 (information and communications technology user support technicians), 3431 (photographers), 3521 (broadcasting and audiovisual technicians), 3314 (office supervisors), 2163 (product and garment designers), 2166 (graphic and multimedia designers), 3432 (interior designers and decorators), 4419 (clerical support workers not elsewhere classified), 3434 (chefs), 5120 (cooks), 5141 (hairdressers), 5142 (beauticians and related workers), 8152 (weaving and knitting machine operators), 8154 (bleaching, dyeing and fabric cleaning machine operators), 7511 (butchers, fishmongers and related food preparers), 7515 (food and beverage tasters and graders), 7513 (dairy products makers), 7519 (other food, beverages and tobacco preparers), 8160 (food and related products machine operators), 7352 (tailors, dressmakers, furriers and hatters), 7354 (sewing, embroidery and related workers), 8153 (sewing machine operators), 7362 (shoemakers and related workers), 8156 (shoemaking and related machine operators), 7431 (precision-instrument makers and repairers) or 7311 (jewel and precious metal workers). Then, these employed persons are crossed with the "industry" variable to include codes: 45–47 (wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles) and 55–56 (accommodation and food service activities).

Street vendors: sell products or offer services in public spaces such as streets, alleys, avenues or parks. They are identified in two stages. **First**, employed persons who in the "occupation" variable have the codes: 9411 (street fast food preparers), 9511 (street vendors of manufactured food products), 9512 (street vendors of beverages), 9521 (street vendors of fresh edible products), 9522 (street vendors of non-edible agricultural products), 9523 (street vendors of fishing and hunting products), 9524 (street vendors of live animals and dairy products), 9531 (street vendors of pharmaceutical products and curative plants), 9532 (street vendors of tobacco and related products), 9533 (street vendors of toiletries and hygienic home products), 9534 (street vendors of combustibles and lubricants), 9535 (street vendors of cloth fabric, textiles and dressmaking products of cloth fabric and leather), 9536 (street vendors of newspapers, journals, books and desk utensil), 9537 (street vendors of sporting articles and toys), 9541 (street vendors of home articles or devices), 9542 (street vendors of artistic articles) or 9549 (street vendors of another kind of

home articles or devices). Then, those are crossed with "industry" variable, codes: 45–47 (wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles), 55–56 (accommodation and food service activities), 58–63 (information and communications), 64–66 (financial and insurance activities), 68 (real estate activities), 69–75 (professional, scientific and technical activities), 77-82 (administrative and support service activities), 84 (public administration and defense; compulsory social security), 85 (education), 86–88 (human health and social work activities), 90-93 (arts, entertainment and recreation) or 94-96 (other service activities). **Second**, independent workers who in the "status in employment" variable declare codes: 1 (employer) or 2 (own-account worker), who also in the "place of work" variable" indicate codes: 1 (itinerant/peddler), 3 (within vehicles transporting people or merchandise), 4 (improvised stall at streets) or 6 (fixed post at street), and also in "occupation" variable indicate the codes: 2652 (musicians, singers and composers), 3434 (chefs), 3439 (other artistic and cultural associate professionals), 5120 (cooks), 5141 (hairdressers), 5142 (beauticians and related workers), 5213 (stall and market salespersons), 5311 (child care workers), 7352 (tailors, dressmakers, furriers and hatters), 7354 (sewing, embroidery and related workers), 7362 (shoemakers and related workers), 7511 (butchers, fishmongers and related food preparers), 7513 (dairy products makers), 7515 (food and beverage tasters and graders), 8153 (sewing, machine operators), 8156 (shoemaking and related machine operators), 9122 (vehicle cleaners), 9123 (window cleaners), 9124 (itinerant shoe cleaner), 9129 (other cleaning workers), 9331 (hand and pedal vehicle drivers), 9333 (loaders), 9412 (kitchen helpers) or 9629 (elementary workers not elsewhere classified). Then, these employed persons are crossed with the "industry" variable to include: codes: 45–47 (wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles), 4923 (freight transport by road), 5224 (cargo handling), 55–56 (accommodation and food service activities), 58–63 (information and communications), 64–66 (financial and insurance activities), 68 (real estate activities), 69–75 (professional, scientific and technical activities), 77-82 (administrative and support service activities), 84 (public administration and defense; compulsory social security), 85 (education), 86–88 (human health and social work activities), 90-93 (arts, entertainment and recreation) or 94-96 (other service activities).

Informal construction workers: employed in construction who meet the criteria for informal employment and are identified through "occupation" variable, codes: 3123 (construction supervisors), 7111 (bricklayers and housebuilders), 7112 (stonemasons, stonecutters, splitters and carvers), 7113 (carpenters and joiners), 7119 (building frame and related trades workers not elsewhere classified), 7121 (roofers), 7122 (plasterers, stucco and related workers), 7123 (floor layers and tile setters), 7124 (insulation workers), 7125 (air conditioning and refrigeration workers), 7216 (glaziers), 7127 (plumbers and pipe fitters), 7128 (house painter), 7129 (another painters except house painters), 9312 (civil engineering laborers) or 9313 (building construction laborers).

Informal transport workers: employed in transport who meet the criteria for informal employment and are identified through "occupation" variable, codes: 8321 (motorcycle drivers), 8322 (car, taxi and van drivers), 8331 (bus and tram drivers), 8332 (heavy truck and lorry drivers) or 9334 (bus conductors of the public transports).

Waste pickers: collect, sort and sell recyclable materials, such as paper, cardboard, glass, plastic and other reusable materials. They are identified in two stages. **First**, informal workers who in the "occupation" variable indicate code 9611 (garbage and recycling collectors) and in the "industry" variable declare code 3811 (collection of non-hazardous waste). Workers in public garbage collection services are excluded, as they are mostly formal workers. **Second**, informal workers who in "occupation" variable indicate code 9612 (refuse sorters).

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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.