

# Workers in Informal Employment in Türkiye: A Statistical Profile, 2019-2023<sup>1</sup>

by Gayatri Koolwal and Joann Vanek



Street vendors in Istanbul.  
Photo credit: Margarida Teixeira

## Key Points

- Between 2019 and 2020, the number of persons employed in Türkiye fell by 640,000 for women and 500,000 for men – but between 2021 and 2023 increased by 2.5 million workers nationally, mainly among formal workers (72 to 75 per cent of total employment).
- In 2023, agriculture was the dominant industry sector for workers in informal employment in urban areas and nationally, comprising about 40 per cent. In Istanbul, the largest share was in non-trade services.
- This brief focuses on four worker groups – domestic workers, home-based workers, market traders, and street vendors. The majority of home-based workers, market traders and street vendors, as well as women domestic workers, were informal.
- Between 2019 and 2023, women's employment in the four groups together increased from 8 to 11 per cent of total employment, but remained at around 3 per cent for men. Over the period, the major change in the worker groups was the shift in the industry of women home-based workers from textile manufacturing to professional and related services.
- The majority of men across all worker groups and geographic areas, as well as women in domestic work and home-based work, had a workweek of 40 or more hours. The shares of men and women working more than 40 hours a week increased for all worker groups since 2020.

<sup>1</sup> The data for this brief are based on the 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 Labour Force Surveys, conducted by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT).

**Table 1. Total employment by sex in Istanbul, urban Türkiye and nationally: numbers and year-on-year changes (millions)**

	2019			2020			2021			2022			2023		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
Istanbul	1.80	3.93	5.73	1.71	3.65	5.36	1.90	3.89	5.78	2.08	4.14	6.21	2.22	4.25	6.47
Urban areas	7.53	15.57	23.09	7.00	15.09	22.09	7.44	16.07	23.51	8.19	16.87	25.05	8.57	17.30	25.87
Türkiye (all)	9.04	18.68	27.73	8.40	18.15	26.55	8.90	19.27	28.17	9.73	20.14	29.88	10.13	20.59	30.72
	Absolute change (2019-2020)				Absolute change (2020-2021)				Absolute change (2021-2022)				Absolute change (2022-2023)		
	Women	Men	Total		Women	Men	Total		Women	Men	Total		Women	Men	Total
Istanbul	-0.08	-0.29	-0.37		0.18	0.24	0.42		0.18	0.25	0.43		0.14	0.12	0.26
Urban areas	-0.53	-0.48	-1.00		0.45	0.97	1.42		0.74	0.80	1.54		0.38	0.43	0.81
Türkiye (all)	-0.64	-0.53	-1.17		0.50	1.12	1.62		0.84	0.87	1.71		0.40	0.44	0.84

**Notes:** In Türkiye, the working age population is 15-64. The base on which the percentages of employment by sex are calculated is the number of working-age women or men in each geographic area, respectively. For total, the base is the total number of working-age persons in each area.

## Employment in Türkiye

**Between 2019 and 2020, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, employment in Türkiye declined by 640,000 for women and 500,000 for men. Employment then increased in 2021 and by 2023 was 30.7 million nationally – an increase of 2.5 million workers.**

Based on data from annual Labour Force Surveys, total employment increased between 2019 and 2023 from 27.7 million to 30.7 million nationally, and from 23 million to 25.9 million in urban Türkiye (**table 1**). Throughout this period, the number of women employed nationally was around half that of men: in 2019, 9 million compared to 18.7 million, and in 2023, 10 million compared to 20.6 million.

COVID-19 struck Türkiye in March 2020. With the subsequent restrictions imposed, employment dropped between 2019 and 2020 by 1.2 million nationally, largely in urban areas (a decline of 1 million). In April 2021, the Government put in place its first national lockdown. Nonetheless, employment increased in 2021 to 28.2 million nationally and to 23.5 million in urban areas. Between 2020 and 2021, women's employment increased by around 500,000 jobs, compared to a decline of around 640,000 jobs between 2019 and 2020. For men, employment between 2020 and 2021 increased by 1.1 million jobs, surpassing the 2019 levels. Between 2021 and 2022, women's employment increased nationally by 84,000 and men's by 87,000, and between 2022 and 2023 by 40,000 for women and 44,000 for men.

In 2020, the shares of employment among working-age women and men fell from 33 and 71 per cent to 31 and 66 per cent, respectively, but increased

thereafter (**table 2**). Throughout the period, the shares of working-age men employed were twice that of women. In 2019, 34 per cent of working-age women across the three geographic areas and 69-71 per cent of working-age men were employed; by 2023, the shares increased to 36-39 per cent of women, and 72 to 74 per cent of men. Employment rates tended to be higher in Istanbul for both men and women. Unemployment rates declined over the period, from 7 per cent of women and 10 per cent of men nationally in 2019, to 5 and 6 per cent, respectively, in 2023.

**Table 2. Employment and unemployment rates (%) by sex in Istanbul, urban Türkiye and nationally**

	Women		Men		Total	
	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR
<b>2019</b>						
Istanbul	33.8	8.0	71.4	10.7	53.0	9.4
Urban	33.6	6.8	69.2	9.9	53.0	8.4
Türkiye	33.5	6.6	68.8	9.8	51.2	8.2
<b>2020</b>						
Istanbul	31.6	6.4	66.9	10.7	49.3	8.6
Urban	30.9	5.7	66.1	9.5	49.3	7.6
Türkiye	30.8	5.4	65.9	9.4	48.4	7.4
<b>2021</b>						
Istanbul	34.2	6.1	69.7	8.4	52.0	7.2
Urban	32.5	5.8	69.3	8.3	52.0	7.1
Türkiye	32.2	5.7	69.0	8.3	50.7	7.0
<b>2022</b>						
Istanbul	36.9	5.5	72.8	6.5	55.0	6.0
Urban	35.1	5.6	71.6	7.0	55.0	6.3
Türkiye	34.7	5.5	71.2	7.0	53.0	6.3
<b>2023</b>						
Istanbul	39.1	5.3	74.2	5.7	56.7	5.5
Urban	36.3	5.4	72.5	6.0	56.7	5.7
Türkiye	35.8	5.4	72.0	6.0	54.0	5.7

**Table 3. Formal and informal employment in Istanbul, urban Türkiye and nationally by sex: numbers (millions) and share of total employment (per cent)**

	Formal employment						Informal employment					
	Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>2019</b>												
Istanbul	1.41	(78.4)	3.08	(78.4)	4.49	(78.4)	0.39	(21.6)	0.85	(21.6)	1.24	(21.6)
Urban areas	4.76	(63.3)	11.27	(72.4)	16.03	(69.4)	2.76	(36.7)	4.30	(27.6)	7.06	(30.6)
Türkiye (all)	5.38	(59.5)	13.24	(70.9)	18.62	(67.2)	3.67	(40.5)	5.44	(29.1)	9.11	(32.8)
<b>2020</b>												
Istanbul	1.43	(83.1)	2.97	(81.5)	4.40	(82.0)	0.29	(16.9)	0.68	(18.5)	0.97	(18.0)
Urban areas	4.76	(68.1)	11.39	(75.5)	16.15	(73.1)	2.23	(31.9)	3.70	(24.5)	5.94	(26.9)
Türkiye (all)	5.38	(64.1)	13.41	(73.9)	18.79	(70.8)	3.02	(35.9)	4.74	(26.1)	7.76	(29.2)
<b>2021</b>												
Istanbul	1.63	(86.2)	3.35	(86.2)	4.99	(86.2)	0.26	(13.8)	0.53	(13.8)	0.80	(13.8)
Urban areas	5.13	(68.9)	12.44	(77.4)	17.57	(74.7)	2.31	(31.1)	3.62	(22.6)	5.94	(25.3)
Türkiye (all)	5.76	(64.7)	14.56	(75.6)	20.32	(72.1)	3.14	(35.3)	4.71	(24.4)	7.85	(27.9)
<b>2022</b>												
Istanbul	1.76	(84.7)	3.59	(86.9)	5.35	(86.1)	0.32	(15.3)	0.54	(13.1)	0.86	(13.9)
Urban areas	5.69	(69.5)	13.38	(79.3)	19.07	(76.1)	2.50	(30.5)	3.48	(20.7)	5.98	(23.9)
Türkiye (all)	6.38	(65.5)	15.65	(77.7)	22.03	(73.7)	3.36	(34.5)	4.49	(22.3)	7.85	(26.3)
<b>2023</b>												
Istanbul	1.86	(83.9)	3.66	(85.9)	5.52	(85.3)	0.36	(16.1)	0.60	(14.1)	0.95	(14.7)
Urban areas	6.10	(71.2)	13.76	(79.5)	19.85	(76.8)	2.47	(28.8)	3.54	(20.5)	6.01	(23.2)
Türkiye (all)	6.83	(67.4)	16.06	(78.0)	22.89	(74.5)	3.30	(32.6)	4.53	(22.0)	7.83	(25.5)

**Notes:** The criteria for determining Informal employment was whether the worker was registered in the social security system. Contributing family workers are also included in informal employment.

## Informal employment

**Between 2019 and 2023, formal employment increased from 67 to 75 per cent of employment nationally and from 78 to 85 per cent of employment in Istanbul. With the onset of COVID-19, informal employment dropped significantly while there was little change in the numbers in formal employment.**

The majority of employment in Türkiye was formal. In 2019, the share of employment that was formal was 67 per cent nationally, 69 per cent in urban areas and 78 per cent in Istanbul. By 2023, these shares had increased to 75 per cent nationally, 77 per cent in urban areas and 85 per cent in Istanbul (**table 3**). A higher share of women's employment, compared to men's employment, was informal nationally and in urban areas. In 2019, 41 per cent of employed women were informal nationally, compared to 29 per cent of men; these shares were 37 and 28 per cent, respectively, in urban areas. By 2023, these

shares narrowed with a drop in the share of informal employment for women and men, to 33 and 22 per cent respectively nationally, and 29 and 21 per cent in urban areas. However, in Istanbul, there was little difference in the rates of women and men who were employed informally: in 2019, 22 per cent of employment for both women and men was informal, and by 2023 these shares were 16 per cent for women and 14 per cent for men.

The pandemic had a greater impact on informal than on formal employment and a greater impact in Istanbul than in urban areas or nationally (**table 4**).<sup>2</sup> Between 2019 and 2020, informal employment fell in Istanbul by 22 per cent, while formal employment fell by only 2 per cent. Similarly, in urban areas and nationally, informal employment fell 15 and 16 per cent, respectively, but formal employment fell less than 1 per cent. Further, between 2019 and 2020, the decrease in informal employment represented a larger relative change for women than men (an

<sup>2</sup> Employed individuals are classified as informal if they are not registered in the national social security system for their work. All contributing family workers are included in informal employment. For a discussion of the effects of the pandemic on vulnerable forms of employment, see Aldan, A., Çıraklı, M. E. and Torun, H. (2021). "Covid-19 and the Turkish labor market: Heterogeneous effects across demographic groups." *Central Bank Review* 21(4): 155-163.



**Table 4. Change in formal and informal employment by sex in Istanbul, urban Türkiye and nationally: absolute numbers (thousands) and relative change (%) in total**

Change between	Women		Men		Total	
	Absolute change (000s)	%	Absolute change (000s)	%	Absolute change (000s)	%
<b>2019-20</b>						
<b>Istanbul</b>	<b>-81.4</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-285.3</b>	<b>-7.3</b>	<b>-366.6</b>	<b>-6.4</b>
Formal employment	17.3	1.2	-109.7	-3.6	-92.4	-2.1
Informal employment	-98.7	-25.4	-175.6	-20.6	-274.3	-22.1
<b>Urban</b>	<b>-529.3</b>	<b>-7.0</b>	<b>-475.6</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>-1005.0</b>	<b>-4.4</b>
Formal employment	1.3	0.0	119.2	1.1	120.5	0.8
Informal employment	-530.6	-19.2	-594.8	-13.8	-1125.4	-15.9
<b>Türkiye (all)</b>	<b>-640.9</b>	<b>-7.1</b>	<b>-533.6</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-1174.5</b>	<b>-4.2</b>
Formal employment	6.9	0.1	166.5	1.3	173.4	0.9
Informal employment	-647.8	-17.7	-700.1	-12.9	-1347.9	-14.8
<b>2020-21</b>						
<b>Istanbul</b>	<b>182.8</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>239.5</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>422.3</b>	<b>7.9</b>
Formal employment	209.6	14.7	380.2	12.8	589.8	13.4
Informal employment	-26.8	-9.3	-140.7	-20.8	-167.5	-17.4
<b>Urban</b>	<b>448.1</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>974.4</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>1422.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>
Formal employment	366.6	7.7	1053.9	9.3	1420.6	8.8
Informal employment	81.5	3.6	-79.6	-2.1	1.9	0.0
<b>Türkiye (all)</b>	<b>497.1</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>1124.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>1621.7</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Formal employment	376.0	7.0	1154.8	8.6	1530.8	8.1
Informal employment	121.1	4.0	-30.2	-0.6	90.9	1.2
<b>2021-22</b>						
<b>Istanbul</b>	<b>181.3</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>248.2</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>429.5</b>	<b>7.4</b>
Formal employment	125.1	7.7	240.3	7.2	365.4	7.3
Informal employment	56.2	21.4	7.8	1.5	64.1	8.0
<b>Urban</b>	<b>741.9</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>802.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>1543.9</b>	<b>6.6</b>
Formal employment	557.2	10.9	942.1	7.6	1499.3	8.5
Informal employment	184.7	8.0	-140.1	-3.9	44.6	0.8
<b>Türkiye (all)</b>	<b>835.1</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>870.0</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>1705.1</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Formal employment	616.4	10.7	1089.4	7.5	1705.8	8.4
Informal employment	218.8	7.0	-219.5	-4.7	-0.7	0.0
<b>2022-23</b>						
<b>Istanbul</b>	<b>142.9</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>117.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>260.8</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Formal employment	104.8	6.0	63.0	1.8	167.8	3.1
Informal employment	38.1	12.0	54.9	10.1	93.1	10.8
<b>Urban</b>	<b>382.4</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>428.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>811.0</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Formal employment	411.2	7.2	371.4	2.8	782.6	4.1
Informal employment	-28.7	-1.2	57.1	1.6	28.4	0.5
<b>Türkiye (all)</b>	<b>399.0</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>444.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>843.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Formal employment	457.6	7.2	402.2	2.6	859.9	3.9
Informal employment	-58.7	-1.7	41.9	0.9	-16.8	-0.2

18 per cent decrease nationally, compared to 13 per cent for men, and in Istanbul 25 per cent for women and 21 per cent for men). By contrast, there was little change in formal employment. Between 2020 and 2021, informal employment continued to drop in Istanbul (by 9 per cent for women and 21 per cent for men) while formal employment grew in all geographic areas, especially in Istanbul where it increased by 15 per cent for women and 13 per cent for men.

## Industry Sectors of Informal Employment

**Nationally and in urban areas, workers in informal jobs were mainly concentrated in agriculture, with the second largest share in services. In Istanbul, the largest shares were in non-trade-related services, followed by trade.**

Throughout the period, agriculture continued to be the dominant industry sector for workers in informal employment in urban areas (37 per cent in 2023) and nationally (about 44 per cent) (**table 5**). By contrast, in 2023 in Istanbul, services other than trade were the largest industry sector (59 per cent of women and 39 per cent of men, compared to 32 and 35 per cent of women and 24 and 27 per cent of men, nationally and in urban areas). A larger share of informal jobs in Istanbul was also in trade, around 13 per cent of women and 25 per cent of men in 2023.

The shares of informal workers across the industry sectors remained relatively stable between 2019 and 2023. There was a small increase in the share of informal workers in agriculture nationally and in urban areas between 2019-2021, after which it fell back to 2019 levels. In Istanbul, there was a small increase in the share of workers in informal employment in services other than trade, from 43 per cent in 2019 to 46 per cent in 2023.

The share of women in agriculture nationally fell from 56 to 52 per cent between 2019-2023, while the share in non-trade-related services increased from 26 to 32 per cent. For men in informal employment over the period nationally, there were minor increases in agriculture and construction/mining and slight drops in trade, services and textile manufacturing.

**Table 5. Informal employment by sex and industry in Istanbul, urban Türkiye and nationally: numbers and per cent of total informal employment**

	Agriculture, forestry, fishing		Textile manufacturing		Other manufacturing		Construction and mining		Trade		Other services		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
<b>Istanbul</b>													
<b>2019</b>	<b>46,077</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>237,780</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>109,571</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>100,876</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>213,034</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>532,002</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>1,239,339</b>
Women	18,767	4.8	96,936	25.0	21,026	5.4	1,880	0.5	45,818	11.8	203,652	52.5	388,079
Men	27,310	3.2	140,844	16.5	88,545	10.4	98,996	11.6	167,216	19.6	328,350	38.6	851,260
<b>2021</b>	<b>15,744</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>149,435</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>67,836</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>68,834</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>163,595</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>332,099</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>797,543</b>
Women	5,152	2.0	61,628	23.5	18,664	7.1	591	0.2	34,562	13.2	141,966	54.1	262,563
Men	10,592	2.0	87,807	16.4	49,172	9.2	68,243	12.8	129,033	24.1	190,133	35.5	534,980
<b>2023</b>	<b>18,770</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>155,272</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>65,528</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>75,233</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>196,892</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>442,992</b>	<b>46.4</b>	<b>954,686</b>
Women	8,387	2.3	69,950	19.6	18,986	5.3	1,309	0.4	47,299	13.3	211,000	59.1	356,930
Men	10,383	1.7	85,322	14.3	46,542	7.8	73,924	12.4	149,593	25.0	231,992	38.8	597,756
<b>Urban areas</b>													
<b>2019</b>	<b>2,688,311</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>459,563</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>404,679</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>468,157</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>992,772</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>2,049,500</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>7,062,982</b>
Women	1,370,958	49.6	228,896	8.3	78,871	2.9	7,072	0.3	258,225	9.3	819,600	29.7	2,763,622
Men	1,317,353	30.6	230,667	5.4	325,808	7.6	461,085	10.7	734,547	17.1	1,229,900	28.6	4,299,360
<b>2021</b>	<b>2,475,010</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>333,209</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>310,454</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>467,342</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>811,945</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>1,541,456</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>5,939,416</b>
Women	1,194,138	51.6	190,521	8.2	71,877	3.1	8,284	0.4	190,502	8.2	659,110	28.5	2,314,432
Men	1,280,872	35.3	142,688	3.9	238,577	6.6	459,058	12.7	621,443	17.1	882,346	24.3	3,624,984
<b>2023</b>	<b>2,250,052</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>345,871</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>321,667</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>455,474</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>824,876</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>1,814,454</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>6,012,392</b>
Women	1,102,869	44.6	196,064	7.9	83,111	3.4	4,905	0.2	209,107	8.5	874,339	35.4	2,470,394
Men	1,147,183	32.4	149,807	4.2	238,556	6.7	450,569	12.7	615,769	17.4	940,115	26.5	3,541,998
<b>National</b>													
<b>2019</b>	<b>3,967,041</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>504,293</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>465,139</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>581,668</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>1,189,868</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>2,398,824</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>9,106,835</b>
Women	2,035,249	55.5	262,796	7.2	91,866	2.5	7,512	0.2	299,809	8.2	969,510	26.4	3,666,743
Men	1,931,792	35.5	241,497	4.4	373,273	6.9	574,156	10.6	890,059	16.4	1,429,314	26.3	5,440,092
<b>2021</b>	<b>3,753,558</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>363,894</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>361,649</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>570,251</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>968,559</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>1,831,923</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>7,849,833</b>
Women	1,821,872	58.0	215,652	6.9	81,164	2.6	9,021	0.3	223,770	7.1	788,551	25.1	3,140,030
Men	1,931,686	41.0	148,242	3.1	280,485	6.0	561,230	11.9	744,789	15.8	1,043,372	22.2	4,709,803
<b>2023</b>	<b>3,426,488</b>	<b>43.7</b>	<b>377,131</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>374,289</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>561,671</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>959,133</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>2,133,598</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>7,832,311</b>
Women	1,702,185	51.6	221,408	6.7	92,885	2.8	6,141	0.2	237,393	7.2	1,040,111	31.5	3,300,123
Men	1,724,303	38.0	155,723	3.4	281,404	6.2	555,530	12.3	721,740	15.9	1,093,487	24.1	4,532,188

## Worker Groups

**Between 2019 and 2023, employment in the four groups together – domestic workers, home-based workers, market traders, and street vendors – increased by around 435,000 and from 5 to 6 per cent of total employment nationally. The share of women's employment increased from around 8 to 11 per cent while men's share remained at around 3 per cent.**

This brief focuses on four worker groups: domestic workers, home-based workers, market traders, and street vendors (**box 1**). Together, the four groups in 2023 accounted for 1.3 million workers nationally – 1.1 million in urban areas, and 282,000 in Istanbul (**table 6**). In each of the three geographic areas, the groups accounted for around 6 per cent of total employment. Between 2019 and 2023, the number of workers across these groups increased by nearly 435,000 nationally, and from 5 to 6 per cent of total employment. The increase stemmed largely from an increase of around 417,000 home-based workers, mainly among women (358,000 workers), as well as an increase of 60,000 women domestic workers nationally. The number of men home-based workers more than doubled during the period from 40,500 to about 100,000 workers nationally – a much smaller increase than for women. The share of men's total employment in home-based work remained less than 1 per cent, compared to 5.7 per cent nationally for women in 2023.

In 2023, there were around 321,000 women in domestic work and 586,000 in home-based work nationally, far more than the numbers for men (16,000 men in domestic work, and 99,700 in home-based work). In contrast, there were many more men than women in market trade (about 111,000 nationally, compared to 24,000 women) and in street vending (149,000 men, compared to 28,700 women). For both men and women, market trade and street vending were predominantly concentrated in non-food and non-beverage industries. In Istanbul, the share of

employed women across these worker groups in 2019 was higher than in other geographic areas – 11 per cent, compared to 8 per cent nationally and 9 per cent in urban areas, while that of men ranged from 3 to 4 per cent across the geographic areas. By 2023, women's share of total employment in these worker groups increased in urban areas and nationally to the same level as Istanbul (11 per cent), while men's share remained at 3 to 4 per cent.

Between 2019 and 2020, the onset of COVID-19 led to a reduction of around 100,000 workers nationally in three of the worker groups – domestic work, market trade and street vending, with the biggest declines in women's domestic work (by about 67,000 women and 7,000 men). Employment in market trade and street vending also decreased (in market trade by around 11,000 women and 18,000 men, and in street vending by around 9,000 women and 12,000 men). By contrast, the number of home-based workers increased by around 12,000 for women and 3,000 for men between 2019 and 2020 nationally. In 2021 and 2022, the numbers of men and women in street vending and market trade increased slightly nationally, but by 2023 fell back to a little below 2019 levels.

In Istanbul, employment in these groups dropped by around 53,700 workers between 2019 and 2020. Among women, domestic work and home-based work had the greatest job losses (declining by 27,000 and 12,000, respectively) while among men the greatest job losses were in home-based work and market trade (declining by 5,200 and 5,900, respectively). Between 2020 and 2023, employment in these groups increased by about 93,000 for women (31,000 in domestic work and 62,000 in home-based work); for men, domestic work fell again by 5,800 but home-based work increased by 14,000. Market trade and street vending declined just after the onset of the pandemic, especially among men. Between 2020 and 2023, the number of women in market trade and street vending in Istanbul increased by 1,600 and 1,800, respectively; for men these numbers were 6,400 and 2,300.

### Box 1. Identification of worker groups

The question on place of work is a key variable in identifying groups of workers that are a focus of WIEGO. In the Türkiye LFS, two place of work questions were asked of all employed persons:

P1. What is the type of your workplace? 1 = Field, garden; 2 = Fixed workplace (Factory, office, shop, etc.); 3 = Open market place; 4 = Mobile or irregular workplace; and 5 = At home (His/Her home or other's home).

P2. Are you performing all or a portion of your business at your home? 1 = Usually; 2 = Sometimes; 3 = Never.

The categories in these questions present problems in identifying the specific groups of workers of focus in this brief, resulting in less precise estimates of the worker group. The issues are discussed below.

<b>Domestic workers:</b>	<p>Persons who for pay or profit work in the homes of others to provide services mainly for consumption. They are identified by industry code 97 (activities of households as employers of domestic staff). However, since this category in Türkiye's classification applies only to employees*, additional steps were taken to identify workers who may be employed through service agencies as well as workers who provide broadly defined domestic services such as gardening and care work. We capture these groups through own-account workers in industry code 81 (building-related services) who work in category 3 of the place of work question P2, among those reporting category 5 of P1; and individuals in occupation code 53 (personnel providing personal care services) in category 3 of the place of work question P2, among those reporting category 5 of P1. These components are constructed to be mutually exclusive.</p> <p>Personal care services increased greatly for women in Türkiye after 2021, due in part to the impact of COVID-19 on domestic and care work, but also (as indicated by the Turkish Statistical Institute, TURKSTAT) to improved data collection in this category over the last few years.</p>
<b>Home-based workers:</b>	<p>Employed persons who produce goods or provide services from in or around their own homes, including a structure attached to their home. Using just P1 was difficult, as the relevant response category for "home" combined one's own home with those of others. As a result, a second place of work question in the survey that asked all employed persons whether they performed all or a portion of their business at home (usually, sometimes, or never) was also used, in that those reporting that they "usually" worked in their home were considered to be home-based workers. In sum, those reporting P1 = 5, are identified as home-based workers through P2 = 1.</p>
<b>Market traders:</b>	<p>Employed persons who sell goods or offer services in public markets or built spaces. This group is identified through category 3 of the place of work question P1—an open market place. These workers were then classified by industry code 56 (food and beverage service activities); (b) 45 (wholesale and retail trade); or (c) other service activities. However, because the category reflects only open markets and not built spaces, the resulting numbers are likely an underestimate.</p>
<b>Street vendors:</b>	<p>Employed persons who sell products or offer services in public spaces such as streets, alleys or parks. This group was identified through category 4 of the place of work question P1 (sell goods or provide services in a mobile or irregular workplace), and additional respondents through occupation code 95 (those who work in sales and service in the streets), ensuring that there was no double counting of workers. As with market traders, workers so identified were then classified by industry code 56 (food and beverage service activities); (b) 45 (wholesale and retail trade); or (c) other service activities.</p>
<b>Waste pickers:</b>	<p>Waste pickers are not included in this statistical brief. This group, identified as those with place of work category 4 under P1, and either occupation code 96 (scavengers, waste collectors and other unskilled workers) or industry code 38 (waste collection, reclamation and disposal activities; recovery of substances), yielded only 737 workers. The number is likely to be an underestimate of the numbers of waste pickers in the country, and will not provide reliable estimates of waste pickers in the population, their demographic characteristics and working arrangements. A standard household survey is generally not a good source of data for these workers given the seasonal and part-time characteristics of their work and, often, their living arrangements.</p>

\* Caro L. P. 2022. "On Domestic Workers in Türkiye: Population Estimates and Working Conditions." ILO Türkiye Office. Istanbul, Türkiye: ILO.

Table 6. Groups of workers by sex in İstanbul, urban Türkiye and nationally: numbers (thousands) and per cent of total employment in parentheses

	2019						2020						2021						2022						2023					
	Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Istanbul	137.8	(10.5)	84.6	(3.7)	222.4	(5.9)	99.1	(8.2)	69.6	(3.4)	168.7	(5)	129.3	(8.9)	66.6	(3.1)	195.9	(5)	175.0	(10.7)	72.3	(3.3)	247.3	(5.8)	195.1	(11)	86.6	(4)	281.7	(6.4)
(a) Domestic workers	80.0	(7.2)	8.4	(0.5)	88.4	(2.6)	53.5	(5.4)	9.1	(0.5)	62.7	(2.1)	57.7	(5)	5.8	(0.5)	63.5	(2)	88.2	(6.5)	4.2	(0.5)	92.4	(2.5)	84.0	(5.8)	3.3	(0.6)	87.4	(2.4)
(b) Home-based workers	50.6	(2.8)	19.5	(0.5)	70.1	(1.2)	38.6	(2.2)	14.3	(0.4)	52.8	(1)	65.7	(3.4)	15.3	(0.5)	81.0	(1.4)	78.2	(3.5)	19.7	(0.5)	97.9	(1.5)	100.8	(4.4)	28.4	(0.8)	129.1	(2)
(c) Market traders	2.4	(0.1)	23.4	(0.6)	25.9	(0.5)	2.6	(0.2)	17.5	(0.5)	20.2	(0.4)	1.5	(0.1)	20.8	(0.5)	22.4	(0.4)	3.4	(0.2)	25.8	(0.6)	29.2	(0.5)	4.2	(0.2)	23.9	(0.6)	28.1	(0.4)
Food and beverage	0.0	(0)	0.0	(0)	0.0	(0)	0.0	(0)	0.0	(0)	0.0	(0)	0.0	(0)	0.0	(0)	0.0	(0)	0.0	(0)	0.0	(0)	0.0	(0)	0.0	(0)	0.0	(0)	0.0	(0)
Other goods	2.4	(0.1)	23.4	(0.6)	25.9	(0.5)	2.6	(0.2)	17.5	(0.5)	20.2	(0.4)	1.5	(0.1)	20.8	(0.5)	22.4	(0.4)	3.4	(0.2)	25.8	(0.6)	29.2	(0.5)	4.2	(0.2)	23.9	(0.6)	28.1	(0.4)
(d) Street vendors	4.7	(0.4)	33.2	(2.1)	37.9	(1.6)	4.3	(0.4)	28.7	(2)	33.0	(1.5)	4.3	(0.4)	24.7	(1.6)	29.1	(1.2)	5.1	(0.5)	22.6	(1.6)	27.7	(1.3)	6.1	(0.6)	31.0	(2.1)	37.1	(1.6)
Food and beverage	0.0	(0)	4.8	(0.1)	4.8	(0.1)	0.3	(0)	2.2	(0.1)	2.5	(0)	0.4	(0)	1.4	(0)	1.8	(0)	0.0	(0)	2.4	(0.1)	2.4	(0)	0.3	(0)	6.3	(0.1)	6.6	(0.1)
Other goods	4.7	(0.4)	28.3	(2)	33.1	(1.5)	4.0	(0.4)	26.4	(1.9)	30.5	(1.5)	3.9	(0.4)	23.3	(1.5)	27.2	(1.2)	5.1	(0.5)	20.1	(1.6)	25.3	(1.2)	5.8	(0.5)	24.7	(1.9)	30.5	(1.5)
Urban areas	484.2	(8.7)	309.2	(3.5)	793.4	(5.2)	407.5	(7.8)	290.0	(3.4)	697.5	(4.8)	613.0	(9.9)	324.0	(3.5)	937.0	(5.5)	783.7	(11.3)	327.9	(3.6)	1,111.6	(6.1)	805.9	(11.2)	334.5	(3.5)	1,140.4	(6)
(a) Domestic workers	236.8	(5.3)	13.5	(0.4)	250.3	(2)	175.0	(4.3)	12.7	(0.4)	187.7	(1.7)	209.2	(4.3)	12.5	(0.4)	221.7	(1.6)	349.0	(6)	17.8	(0.4)	366.7	(2.2)	273.5	(4.8)	13.6	(0.4)	287.1	(1.9)
(b) Home-based workers	195.0	(2.5)	38.3	(0.3)	233.3	(1)	198.5	(2.7)	40.1	(0.3)	238.6	(1.1)	367.3	(4.9)	54.3	(0.4)	421.5	(1.8)	389.6	(4.5)	65.6	(0.4)	455.2	(1.8)	485.6	(5.6)	88.8	(0.6)	574.4	(2.2)
(c) Market traders	23.6	(0.3)	109.9	(0.7)	133.6	(0.6)	14.0	(0.2)	94.8	(0.6)	108.8	(0.5)	15.2	(0.2)	110.4	(0.7)	125.6	(0.5)	19.9	(0.2)	112.9	(0.7)	132.8	(0.5)	20.7	(0.2)	97.9	(0.6)	118.7	(0.5)
Food and beverage	0.5	(0)	1.6	(0)	2.1	(0)	0.0	(0)	0.3	(0)	0.3	(0)	0.1	(0)	0.9	(0)	1.0	(0)	0.3	(0)	0.5	(0)	0.8	(0)	0.6	(0)	0.5	(0)	1.1	(0)
Other goods	23.2	(0.3)	108.3	(0.7)	131.5	(0.6)	14.0	(0.2)	94.5	(0.6)	108.5	(0.5)	15.1	(0.2)	109.4	(0.7)	124.6	(0.5)	19.6	(0.2)	112.4	(0.7)	132.0	(0.5)	20.1	(0.2)	97.5	(0.6)	117.6	(0.5)
(d) Street vendors	28.7	(0.6)	147.5	(2.1)	176.2	(1.6)	20.1	(0.5)	142.4	(2.1)	162.5	(1.6)	21.3	(0.5)	146.8	(2.1)	168.1	(1.6)	25.3	(0.5)	131.6	(2.1)	156.9	(1.6)	26.1	(0.5)	134.2	(1.9)	160.3	(1.5)
Food and beverage	2.0	(0)	19.2	(0.1)	21.2	(0.1)	2.0	(0)	14.3	(0.1)	16.3	(0.1)	1.9	(0)	7.8	(0.1)	9.7	(0.1)	2.5	(0)	14.6	(0.1)	17.1	(0.1)	2.4	(0)	23.6	(0.1)	25.9	(0.1)
Other goods	26.7	(0.5)	128.2	(2)	154.9	(1.5)	18.1	(0.4)	128.2	(2)	146.2	(1.5)	19.4	(0.5)	139.0	(2)	158.4	(1.5)	22.7	(0.5)	117.0	(2)	139.8	(1.5)	23.7	(0.5)	110.6	(1.8)	134.3	(1.4)
National	546.1	(8.4)	351.9	(3.3)	898.0	(5)	470.9	(7.5)	324.3	(3.2)	795.1	(4.6)	728.3	(9.8)	367.1	(3.3)	1,095.4	(5.4)	930.4	(11.2)	373.8	(3.4)	1,304.2	(5.9)	958.9	(11.2)	374.9	(3.3)	1,333.8	(5.9)
(a) Domestic workers	259.3	(5.1)	13.8	(0.4)	273.1	(2)	192.8	(4.2)	13.1	(0.4)	205.9	(1.6)	244.7	(4.2)	13.5	(0.4)	258.2	(1.6)	416.0	(5.9)	21.6	(0.4)	437.6	(2.2)	320.6	(4.8)	15.6	(0.4)	336.3	(1.8)
(b) Home-based workers	228.2	(2.4)	40.5	(0.2)	268.7	(0.9)	240.0	(2.8)	43.3	(0.3)	283.3	(1)	442.9	(5)	61.3	(0.3)	504.1	(1.8)	464.6	(4.6)	72.8	(0.4)	537.4	(1.7)	586.1	(5.7)	99.7	(0.5)	685.8	(2.2)
(c) Market traders	26.9	(0.3)	127.0	(0.7)	153.9	(0.6)	15.5	(0.2)	109.1	(0.6)	124.6	(0.5)	17.5	(0.2)	126.4	(0.7)	143.9	(0.5)	21.3	(0.2)	128.2	(0.6)	149.5	(0.5)	23.5	(0.2)	110.8	(0.5)	134.3	(0.4)
Food and beverage	0.5	(0)	1.6	(0)	2.1	(0)	0.0	(0)	0.3	(0)	0.3	(0)	0.1	(0)	0.9	(0)	1.0	(0)	0.3	(0)	0.7	(0)	1.0	(0)	0.6	(0)	0.5	(0)	1.1	(0)
Other goods	26.4	(0.3)	125.4	(0.7)	151.8	(0.5)	15.5	(0.2)	108.8	(0.6)	124.3	(0.5)	17.5	(0.2)	125.4	(0.7)	142.9	(0.5)	21.0	(0.2)	127.5	(0.6)	148.5	(0.5)	22.9	(0.2)	110.4	(0.5)	133.3	(0.4)
(d) Street vendors	31.7	(0.5)	170.6	(2)	202.3	(1.5)	22.6	(0.4)	158.8	(2)	181.4	(1.5)	23.2	(0.5)	166.0	(2)	189.2	(1.5)	28.5	(0.5)	151.2	(2)	179.7	(1.5)	28.7	(0.5)	148.7	(1.8)	177.4	(1.4)
Food and beverage	2.3	(0)	21.4	(0.1)	23.7	(0.1)	2.1	(0)	15.9	(0.1)	18.0	(0.1)	1.9	(0)	8.8	(0.1)	10.7	(0)	2.5	(0)	14.9	(0.1)	17.5	(0.1)	2.5	(0)	24.6	(0.1)	27.1	(0.1)
Other goods	29.4	(0.5)	149.2	(1.9)	178.6	(1.4)	20.5	(0.4)	142.9	(1.9)	163.3	(1.4)	21.4	(0.4)	157.1	(1.9)	178.5	(1.5)	26.0	(0.4)	136.3	(1.9)	162.2	(1.4)	26.2	(0.4)	124.1	(1.7)	150.3	(1.3)



## Industry of Home-Based Workers

**Between 2019 and 2023, the share of home-based workers in professional, scientific and technical occupations, including in the sub-category “social services without accommodation”, increased substantially and the share in manufacturing declined.**

In 2019, the largest share of home-based work for women was in textile manufacturing: 51 per cent nationally, 50 per cent in urban areas and 45 per cent in Istanbul (**table 7a**). By contrast, for men the largest share of home-based work was in professional, scientific and trade activities: 62 per cent nationally and in urban areas, and 64 per cent in Istanbul. Between 2019 and 2023, the industry composition of home-based work changed dramatically, especially

for women. By 2023, textile manufacturing dropped to 17 per cent of home-based employment for women nationally and in urban areas, and 21 per cent in Istanbul. The majority of home-based women workers were employed in professional, scientific and technical activities: 67 per cent nationally, 65 per cent in urban areas and 53 per cent in Istanbul. The share of professional, scientific and technical employment also grew for men in home-based work. Although the increase was less than for women, men's share in this sector remained higher: 75 per cent nationally, 74 per cent in urban areas and 66 per cent in Istanbul.

The manufacture of food and other products fell during this period nationally for both women and men, from around 12 and 9 per cent, respectively, in 2019 to 4 and 1 per cent in 2023. In Istanbul, the shares of home-based workers engaged in food and

**Table 7a. Industry of home-based workers by sex in Istanbul, urban Türkiye and nationally: per cent distribution, 2019-2023 (one-digit ISIC codes)**

	2019			2020			2021			2022			2023		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
<b>Istanbul</b>															
Manufacture of textiles	44.5	4.6	33.4	42.4	2.8	31.7	18.2	0.0	14.8	19.4	0.0	15.5	20.8	0.0	16.2
Manufacture of food and other products	15.6	1.7	11.7	15.4	2.1	11.8	10.2	0.0	8.3	5.3	0.0	4.2	6.8	1.5	5.6
Professional, scientific and technical occs.	25.7	64.4	36.5	25.0	73.0	38.0	47.1	60.2	49.6	53.0	61.6	54.7	53.1	65.6	55.9
Wholesale and retail trade	6.9	22.0	11.1	7.4	19.6	10.7	16.7	32.9	19.7	11.5	36.4	16.5	10.8	29.3	14.8
Other	7.3	7.4	7.3	9.7	2.6	7.8	7.8	6.9	7.6	10.8	2.1	9.0	8.5	3.6	7.4
<b>Urban Türkiye</b>															
Manufacture of textiles	49.8	5.2	42.5	52.3	5.9	44.5	25.0	2.4	22.1	19.9	1.6	17.3	17.4	1.1	14.9
Manufacture of food and other products	12.4	9.9	12.0	11.1	6.2	10.3	5.5	3.2	5.2	4.7	3.1	4.4	4.4	0.7	3.8
Professional, scientific and technical occs.	15.3	62.4	23.0	12.7	62.0	21.0	55.6	67.8	57.2	58.9	68.7	60.3	65.4	74.2	66.7
Wholesale and retail trade	13.3	15.9	13.7	14.5	18.5	15.2	8.6	19.7	10.0	8.4	22.5	10.4	6.2	21.2	8.5
Other	9.2	6.5	8.8	9.4	7.4	9.1	5.4	6.8	5.5	8.2	4.2	7.6	6.6	2.8	6.0
<b>Türkiye nationally</b>															
Manufacture of textiles	50.9	4.9	43.9	53.1	5.4	45.8	23.9	2.2	21.2	19.3	1.4	16.9	16.6	1.0	14.3
Manufacture of food and other products	12.1	9.4	11.7	10.5	6.8	9.9	4.9	3.5	4.7	4.3	2.9	4.1	4.0	0.7	3.5
Professional, scientific and technical occs.	14.7	62.4	21.9	12.6	61.4	20.0	58.1	68.3	59.4	61.0	70.2	62.3	67.4	75.2	68.5
Wholesale and retail trade	12.8	17.0	13.5	14.3	18.3	14.9	8.0	19.7	9.4	7.8	21.0	9.6	5.5	20.4	7.6
Other	9.5	6.3	9.0	9.5	8.0	9.3	5.1	6.3	5.2	7.6	4.5	7.2	6.5	2.7	6.0

**Table 7b. Home-based workers by sub-categories of the industry category “professional, scientific and technical” by sex, nationally: per cent distribution, 2019 and 2023, two-digit ISIC codes**

	2019			2023		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
<b>National</b>						
Social services provided without accommodation	49.2	2.2	29.0	87.8	34.4	79.3
Education	10.5	3.3	7.4	2.6	8.3	3.5
Human health services	3.8	1.2	2.6	1.4	3.0	1.7
Other professional activities*	36.5	93.3	61.0	8.2	54.3	15.5

\* “Other professional activities” includes a mix of service-related professional activities, including computer programming, legal and accounting services, entertainment, and human health services.

other product manufacturing also fell but remained slightly higher than in the other geographic regions, at 7 per cent for women and 2 per cent for men in 2023.

After 2020, large shifts also occurred in wholesale and retail trade, although in different directions for women and men nationally and in urban areas. The share of women fell from 13 per cent in the two geographic areas in 2019 to 6 per cent in 2023. The share of men in this industry, on the other hand, increased from 17 per cent nationally and 16 per cent in urban areas in 2019, to around 20 per cent in 2023. However, in Istanbul, the share of women and men home-based workers

in wholesale and retail trade increased between 2020 and 2022, then fell back in 2023, but were at a higher level (9 per cent for women and 4 per cent for men) than in 2019.

The large growth in the professional, scientific and technical category reflects a shift in the distribution of shares across the wide range of activities in the category (**table 7b**). In 2019, 49 per cent of women in this category nationally were in “social services without accommodation”; by 2023, the share increased to 88 per cent. The share also increased for men, from 2 to 34 per cent nationally.

**Table 8. Groups of workers by whether informally employed, by sex, in Istanbul, urban Türkiye and nationally: per cent 2019-2023**

	2019			2020			2021			2022			2023		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
<b>Istanbul</b>															
Domestic workers	69.3	27.7	63.5	69.1	26.7	61.9	52.7	21.2	47.1	64.3	23.9	59.0	60.3	18.2	53.8
Home-based workers	94.6	65.9	86.2	90.7	66.0	83.5	86.1	57.7	79.9	84.3	48.3	76.0	84.5	77.9	82.9
Market traders	100.0	60.8	64.4	100.0	63.2	68.0	57.6	63.7	63.3	66.2	51.4	53.1	93.4	48.8	55.5
Street vendors	89.3	83.2	83.7	85.3	73.6	74.6	83.2	71.4	72.7	79.3	67.2	69.0	76.3	71.0	71.6
<b>Urban Türkiye</b>															
Domestic workers	69.0	23.9	62.6	66.0	19.4	58.2	64.3	23.1	57.9	71.1	30.2	66.0	63.8	23.2	57.5
Home-based workers	95.3	68.2	90.3	93.9	68.5	89.2	94.1	72.2	91.1	92.6	63.8	88.1	91.5	66.6	87.3
Market traders	91.0	68.8	72.8	85.3	63.9	66.7	86.1	64.1	66.8	80.3	57.9	61.2	86.2	60.2	64.7
Street vendors	84.0	82.9	83.0	77.0	79.8	79.6	75.0	78.1	77.8	73.7	78.6	78.1	73.6	76.8	76.5
<b>Türkiye nationally</b>															
Domestic workers	69.9	22.3	62.9	66.9	17.8	58.2	65.7	22.1	58.7	72.5	30.1	67.1	65.0	22.7	58.6
Home-based workers	95.5	67.8	90.9	94.4	68.9	90.1	95.0	73.9	92.2	93.4	66.1	89.5	92.5	68.2	88.7
Market traders	91.5	69.2	73.1	85.9	65.2	67.8	88.0	64.7	67.6	81.7	58.6	61.9	87.4	60.9	65.5
Street vendors	84.0	83.0	83.1	77.7	80.4	80.1	74.8	78.9	78.5	72.9	78.8	78.2	71.6	77.3	76.6

## Informality of Groups of Workers

Nationally, the majority of home-based workers, market traders and street vendors, as well as women domestic workers, were in informal employment in 2023 – with the highest share of informality (93 per cent) among women home-based workers.

In 2023, informality among the worker groups ranged from 59 per cent (domestic workers) to 89 per cent (home-based workers) (**table 8**). In general, apart from street vending, women were much more likely than men to be in informal employment. In 2023, in urban areas and nationally, 92 per cent of women home-based workers and 86-87 per cent of market traders were informal; for men, these shares were 66-68 per cent and 61 per cent, respectively. The largest gender gaps across the geographic areas were in domestic work, for example, 65 per cent of women in informal domestic work nationally, compared to 23 per cent of men. Across the worker groups, rates of informality tended to be higher among women in 2019 compared to 2023, as well as among certain groups of men (market traders and street vendors). Further, across the worker groups the rates of informal employment generally decreased over the period for women and men in all three geographic areas, with the exception of men in home-based work in Istanbul – an increase from 66 to 78 per cent.

## Status in Employment

The employee status accounted for the largest share of men and women domestic workers, and women home-based workers, while own-account work tended to be higher among market traders and street vendors. Generally, there were higher shares of own-account work in Istanbul for each of the worker groups than in urban Türkiye and nationally.

Traditionally, domestic workers were classified as employees, hired directly by a household. In all three geographic areas, most – if not all – men in domestic work were employees (**table 9**). However, among women, although a majority were employees, a substantial share were classified as own-account workers with no employees (36 per cent nationally, 38 per cent in urban areas and 43 per cent in Istanbul). These workers were likely to have been hired indirectly, by or through service providers including agencies and platforms, and may be more accurately classified as dependent contractors had this new status category been implemented in the survey.

Within home-based work, the predominant status for women was employee (70 per cent nationally, 68 per cent in urban areas and 52 per cent in Istanbul). Almost all others were classified as own-account workers. However, for men, the predominant status was own-account worker (55 per cent nationally, 58 per cent in urban areas and 80 per cent in Istanbul). Again, some of these workers may more accurately be classified as dependent contractors.

**Table 9. Groups of workers by sex and status in employment in Istanbul, urban Türkiye and nationally: per cent distribution, 2023**

	Women				Men				Total			
	Employee	Employer	Own-account	CFW	Employee	Employer	Own-account	CFW	Employee	Employer	Own-account	CFW
<b>Istanbul</b>												
Domestic workers	57.0	0.0	43.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	58.7	0.0	41.3	0.0
Home-based workers	51.6	1.1	46.6	0.7	19.3	0.0	79.5	1.2	44.5	0.8	53.8	0.8
Market traders	0.0	0.0	60.7	39.3	43.5	0.0	56.5	0.0	37.0	0.0	57.1	5.9
Street vendors	14.0	0.0	70.6	15.4	10.3	0.0	89.7	0.0	10.9	0.0	86.6	2.5
<b>Urban Türkiye</b>												
Domestic workers	62.0	0.0	37.9	0.1	83.8	0.0	16.2	0.0	63.1	0.0	36.9	0.1
Home-based workers	68.0	0.4	31.1	0.5	38.7	2.7	58.1	0.5	63.4	0.8	35.3	0.5
Market traders	8.4	0.0	44.2	47.4	33.0	2.0	57.5	7.5	28.7	1.7	55.2	14.5
Street vendors	27.1	0.4	43.7	28.8	17.2	0.4	76.0	6.4	18.8	0.4	70.8	10.0
<b>Türkiye nationally</b>												
Domestic workers	64.4	0.0	35.6	0.1	85.9	0.0	14.1	0.0	65.4	0.0	34.6	0.1
Home-based workers	70.1	0.4	29.1	0.4	41.7	2.5	55.3	0.4	66.0	0.7	32.9	0.4
Market traders	7.4	0.0	43.2	49.4	31.7	2.2	57.7	8.5	27.4	1.8	55.1	15.6
Street vendors	29.2	0.4	42.7	27.8	18.1	0.4	75.4	6.1	19.9	0.4	70.1	9.6

In market trade, the majority of men in all three geographic areas (56 to 57 per cent) and women in Istanbul (61 per cent) were own-account workers. For women, nationally and in urban areas, around 44 per cent were own-account workers and a larger share were contributing family workers: 49 per cent nationally and 47 per cent in urban Türkiye. In Istanbul, 39 per cent of women in market trade were contributing family workers. Women classified as contributing family workers may be involved in decision-making for the family business, and in the new International Classification for Status in Employment-18 (ICSE-18) would more accurately be classified as an own-account worker or employer. The employee status accounted for 32 per cent of men in market trade nationally, 33 per cent in urban Türkiye and 44 per cent in Istanbul. No women market traders are employees in Istanbul and only 708 in urban areas and nationally.

Within street vending, most men were own-account workers (75 per cent nationally, 76 per cent in urban areas and 90 per cent in Istanbul) as well as women in Istanbul (71 per cent). Nationally, 43 per cent of women street vendors were own-account workers and 44 per cent in urban Türkiye. The shares of women street vendors who were employees and contributing family workers were similar: nationally (29 and 28 per cent, respectively), in urban Türkiye (27 and 29 per cent) and in Istanbul (14 and 15 per cent). Among men street vendors, 11 to 18 per cent were employees across the geographic areas, 6 per cent are contributing family workers nationally and

in urban Türkiye. No men street vendors worked as contributing family workers in Istanbul.

In general, for women and men home-based workers and street vendors, own-account work also tended to be higher in urban areas and Istanbul. The share of home-based workers who were own-account, for example, increased from 33 per cent nationally to 54 per cent, from 29 to 47 per cent for women and 55 to 80 per cent for men.

## Hours of work

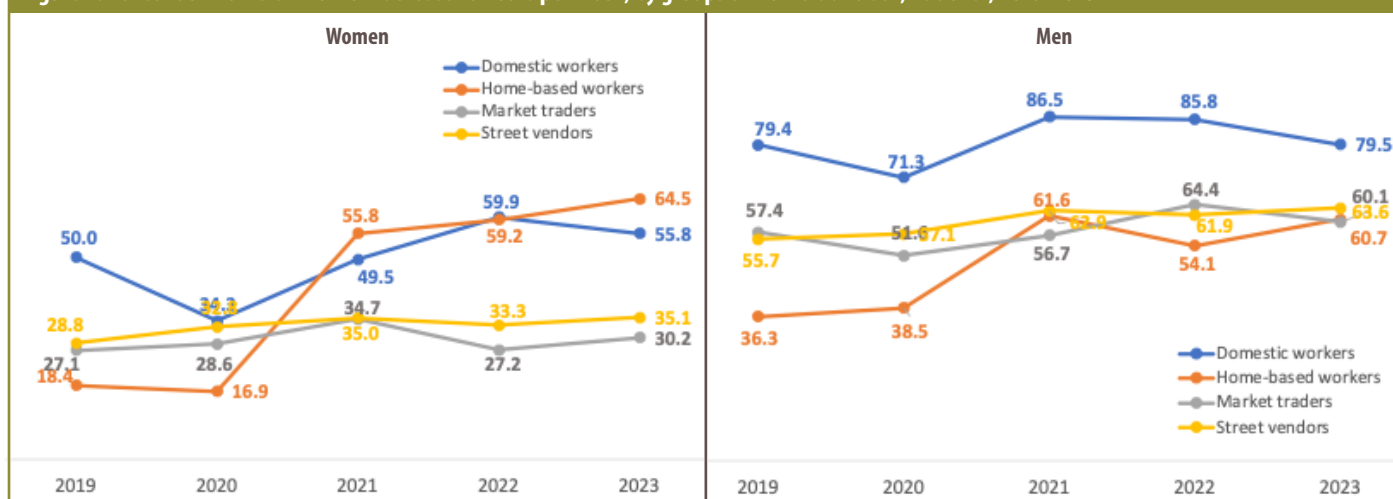
**The majority of men across all worker groups and geographic areas, as well as women in domestic work and home-based work, had a workweek of 40 or more hours. The shares of men and women working more than 40 hours per week increased for all worker groups since 2020.**

The majority of women domestic workers (53 to 56 per cent across the geographic areas) and home-based workers (64 per cent nationally and in urban areas, and 53 per cent in Istanbul) worked 40 hours or more per week (**table 10**). Further, about half of women home-based workers nationally engaged in a 48+ hour workweek. Nationally, among men in home-based work, market trade and street vending, over 60 per cent worked at least 40 hours per week, and more than a third worked longer than 48 hours per week. In domestic work, about 80 per cent of men in urban areas and nationally worked more than 40 hours a week, as well as all men domestic workers in Istanbul.

**Table 10. Groups of workers by sex and weekly hours worked in Istanbul, urban Türkiye and nationally: per cent distribution, 2023**

	Women					Men				
	<15 hrs	15-34 hrs	35-39 hrs	40-48 hrs	>48 hrs	<15 hrs	15-34 hrs	35-39 hrs	40-48 hrs	>48 hrs
<b>Istanbul</b>										
Domestic workers	15.1	28.5	2.9	31.4	22.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	56.1	43.9
Home-based workers	16.4	24.4	5.8	12.0	41.4	16.3	32.9	4.2	14.5	32.1
Market traders	28.9	33.7	0.0	37.4	0.0	4.7	23.7	1.8	19.8	49.9
Street vendors	21.2	40.0	7.0	12.7	19.1	7.0	29.9	2.4	22.6	38.0
<b>Urban Türkiye</b>										
Domestic workers	15.8	27.2	3.9	25.1	28.0	3.5	16.1	1.6	38.5	40.4
Home-based workers	13.1	17.5	5.7	14.0	49.6	12.4	22.0	6.0	23.7	35.9
Market traders	30.4	32.3	7.9	16.7	12.7	5.4	27.8	6.6	22.4	37.8
Street vendors	21.8	36.7	5.2	14.8	21.5	8.8	23.9	4.2	26.0	37.1
<b>Türkiye nationally</b>										
Domestic workers	14.6	25.3	4.3	25.3	30.5	3.1	14.7	2.7	37.3	42.1
Home-based workers	12.0	16.8	6.7	13.8	50.7	11.4	21.1	6.8	23.5	37.3
Market traders	27.0	34.5	8.3	17.6	12.6	6.0	27.3	6.5	22.0	38.1
Street vendors	22.3	37.5	5.2	14.5	20.7	8.7	23.6	4.2	26.6	37.0



**Figure 1. Per cent of workers who work at least 40 hours per week, by groups of workers and sex, national, 2019-2023**

Women in domestic work, market trade and street vending were more likely to work part-time than men. Nationally and in urban areas, about a third of men in market trade and street vending worked fewer than 35 hours per week, compared to about 60 per cent of women. Among women, 22 per cent of street vendors and 27 per cent of market traders worked fewer than 15 hours per week.

Between 2019 and 2023, the share of men and women working at least 40-hour weeks increased across all worker groups (**figure 1**). The largest changes occurred for home-based workers (among women, from 18 per cent in 2019 to about 65 per cent in 2023, and among men, from 37 to 61 per cent over the period). Much of the increase was due to the change in the composition of home-based workers towards professional, scientific and technical activities (discussed earlier in **tables 7a-7b**). However, even within this industry, additional tabulations showed the workweek increased since 2020. The share working more than 40 hours increased from 49 to 84 per cent among women in professional, scientific and technical occupations, for example, and from 23 to 65 per cent among men. Within textile manufacturing – a more important home-based activity for women than for men – the share of women in 40+ hour workweeks was much smaller than for professional and scientific occupations in 2023, and also did not increase as much over time (from 9 to 11 per cent). For wholesale and retail trade, the share of women working at least 40 hours per week remained around 8 per cent in 2019 and 2023, but increased for men from 33 to 42 per cent.

Among other worker groups, the share of domestic workers in 40+ hour workweeks fell between 2019 and 2020 (from 50 to 34 per cent for women, and 79

to 71 per cent for men), but then rose steadily (to 56 per cent of women and close to 80 per cent of men by 2023). For street vendors, the share working more than 40 hours a week increased by around 7 percentage points for women, and 8 percentage points for men – and for market traders, by about 3 percentage points for men and women.

## Earnings

**Average monthly earnings for employees tended to be the highest, among women, for domestic workers and, among men, for home-based workers.**

The Labour Force Survey collected data on average monthly earnings for employees only, specifically for

**Table 11. Average monthly earnings (Turkish Lira) for groups of workers, by sex: Istanbul, urban Türkiye and nationally, 2023**

	2023		
	Women	Men	Total
<b>Istanbul</b>			
Domestic workers	8,339.5	10,073.5	8,455.5
Home-based workers	4,979.4	6,435.9	5,122.5
Market traders	*	9,494.9	9,494.9
Street vendors	2,749.7	9,252.2	7,369.2
<b>Urban Türkiye</b>			
Domestic workers	6,408.5	7,461.3	6,476.9
Home-based workers	5,139.5	11,588.3	5,741.2
Market traders	3,297.3	8,255.0	8,019.3
Street vendors	5,584.3	8,355.4	7,633.8
<b>Türkiye nationally</b>			
Domestic workers	6,096.3	7,076.9	6,158.0
Home-based workers	5,067.4	10,469.8	5,558.1
Market traders	3,297.3	8,106.0	7,895.2
Street vendors	5,514.0	8,167.7	7,484.7

\* Earnings were only reported for employees, excluding women market traders since they were either own-account or CFW in 2023.

**Table 12. Groups of workers by sex and highest educational attainment in Istanbul, urban Türkiye and nationally: per cent distribution, 2023\***

	Women				Men			
	None	Primary	Secondary	Post-secondary	None	Primary	Secondary	Post-secondary
<b>Istanbul</b>								
Domestic workers	8.4	43.3	39.4	8.9	0.0	27.9	36.2	35.8
Home-based workers	15.5	24.4	35.9	24.3	0.0	11.5	48.9	39.6
Market traders	16.4	26.0	30.7	26.9	3.2	40.5	51.6	4.8
Street vendors	9.7	21.9	68.4	0.0	9.0	34.6	42.6	13.8
<b>Urban Türkiye</b>								
Domestic workers	15.0	46.8	33.2	5.0	3.8	47.8	36.9	11.5
Home-based workers	24.5	32.7	28.9	13.9	3.6	16.0	35.4	44.9
Market traders	9.2	54.2	27.5	9.1	5.6	38.3	48.8	7.3
Street vendors	10.9	33.4	42.3	13.5	8.6	41.3	44.2	5.9
<b>Türkiye nationally</b>								
Domestic workers	17.2	46.3	32.0	4.6	5.0	49.9	35.2	10.0
Home-based workers	25.6	33.9	28.0	12.5	3.9	18.5	34.3	43.3
Market traders	8.4	53.4	28.8	9.4	5.4	37.7	50.2	6.7
Street vendors	10.4	31.6	45.6	12.4	8.2	41.9	43.9	6.0

\* The educational attainment categories are completion of primary, at least some secondary, and at least some post-secondary.

paid, salaried and casual employees. Average monthly earnings were lower for women than for men in each of the worker groups and in all geographic areas (**table 11**). Nationally, average monthly earnings for women were lowest among market traders (about 3,300 TL) and highest among domestic workers (about 6,000 TL). For men, average monthly earnings were similar for market traders and street vendors (about 8,100 TL), highest for home-based workers (about 10,500 TL) and about 7,000 TL for domestic workers. Nationally and in urban areas, gender gaps in average monthly earnings were highest among home-based employees (about double) and market traders (2.5 times greater for men). In Istanbul, the earnings of men in street vending were three times the earnings of women. The earnings of women in domestic work in Istanbul were higher than for men and women in the other geographic areas but less than the earnings of men domestic workers in Istanbul.

## Educational attainment

**Education levels of these workers varied widely for women and men across the worker groups and geographic areas.**

Men in domestic work and home-based work had higher levels of education than women, both nationally and in Istanbul where levels of education were higher for both women and men (**table 12**).

The shares of workers with at least some secondary or higher level of education among domestic workers were 45 per cent for men and 38 per cent for women nationally, and 72 per cent of men and 48 per cent of women in Istanbul. Among home-based workers, the shares were 78 per cent for men and 41 per cent for women nationally and 88 per cent for men and 60 per cent for women in Istanbul. However, among market traders and street vendors the pattern was mixed. Nationally, 57 per cent of men and 38 per cent of women market traders had higher levels of education, while in Istanbul the pattern was slightly reversed with 56 per cent of men and 58 per cent of women. Among street vendors in both areas, women had higher levels of education than men: 58 per cent of women compared to 50 per cent of men nationally and 68 per cent of women compared to 56 per cent of men in Istanbul.

Women were more likely to have no schooling, with greater gender gaps among domestic workers nationally (17 per cent of women compared to 5 per cent of men) and home-based workers (26 per cent of women, compared to 4 per cent of men). Nationally, large shares of women had no education or primary education in domestic work (64 per cent), home-based work (60 per cent), and market trade (62 per cent). Among men nationally, the shares were substantially lower, especially in home-based work (22 per cent).



Yıldız Seven (left) and Tülay Korkutan of the Imece Domestic Workers Union discuss the benefits of belonging with domestic workers who have stopped by their table in Istanbul. Photo credit: Serpil Kemalbay

## Age

**A larger share of men across the worker groups were in the youngest (15-24) age group, while a greater share of women were in the oldest (55-64) age group, particularly among market traders.**

Nationally, about 56 to 69 per cent of women and 44 to 57 per cent of men across worker groups were between 35 and 44 years of age (**table 13**). A larger share of men, compared to women, were younger (34

and below), with the greatest differences in the 15-24 age group. For example, about 4 per cent of women home-based workers were aged 15-24, compared to 13 per cent of men in this category. The oldest age category (55-64) accounted for 33 per cent of women market traders compared to 17 per cent of men. This gap widened somewhat in urban areas (34 per cent for women and 16 per cent for men) and in Istanbul (42 and 13 per cent).

**Table 13. Groups of workers by sex and age in Istanbul, urban Türkiye and nationally: per cent distribution, 2023**

	Women				Men			
	15-24	25-34	35-54	55-64	15-24	25-34	35-54	55-64
<b>Istanbul</b>								
Domestic workers	1.4	9.3	73.2	16.1	0.0	25.8	74.2	0.0
Home-based workers	2.4	29.2	55.2	13.3	14.9	28.9	46.7	9.5
Market traders	0.0	0.0	57.6	42.4	24.6	19.4	43.0	13.0
Street vendors	0.0	0.0	69.5	30.5	10.4	14.2	50.1	25.3
<b>Urban Türkiye</b>								
Domestic workers	1.9	11.1	69.7	17.2	11.2	11.0	60.3	17.5
Home-based workers	3.5	23.9	54.6	18.0	14.1	29.3	42.9	13.7
Market traders	0.6	8.1	57.1	34.2	18.0	17.2	49.1	15.7
Street vendors	8.4	10.1	63.5	18.0	15.6	15.9	48.8	19.7
<b>Türkiye nationally</b>								
Domestic workers	2.1	11.8	69.2	17.0	9.7	11.5	57.2	21.5
Home-based workers	3.7	22.8	55.6	18.0	13.1	29.0	43.9	14.0
Market traders	1.9	8.4	56.3	33.4	17.8	17.6	47.3	17.3
Street vendors	8.1	13.6	61.7	16.6	15.7	15.8	49.5	19.0



### Authors

Gayatri Koolwal is a member of the WIEGO Statistics Programme Team and an international consultant in economic development.

Joann Vanek is Senior Advisor of the WIEGO Statistics Programme.

### Acknowledgement

We are grateful to Yosun Kati of TURKSTAT for her guidance on the data and the analysis, and to Luis Pinedo Caro and Simel Esim of the ILO for information on domestic workers and home-based workers.

### About WIEGO

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) is a global network focused on empowering the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy to secure their livelihoods. We believe all workers should have equal economic opportunities, rights, protection and voice. WIEGO promotes change by improving statistics and expanding knowledge on the informal economy, building networks and capacity among informal worker organizations and, jointly with the networks and organizations, influencing local, national and international policies. Visit [www.wiego.org](http://www.wiego.org)

See [www.wiego.org/wiego-publication-series](http://www.wiego.org/wiego-publication-series).

### Statistical Briefs

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.