The APEC Women and the Economy Dashboard 2019: A snapshot of women’s economic participation and social inclusion

A summary of the report by the APEC Policy Support Unit
The APEC Women and the Economy Dashboard measures progress and identifies challenges in women’s economic empowerment in the APEC region over the last 10 years based on the following indicators:

- Access to capital and assets
- Access to markets
- Skills, capacity-building, and health
- Leadership, voice, and agency
- Innovation and technology

The dashboard shows general improvements, both significant and incremental. However, policy gaps and structural barriers remain.

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Access to Capital and Assets

Women’s property and inheritance rights remain high...

- **IN ALL 21 APEC ECONOMIES**
  - unmarried women and men have equal rights to property

- **IN 19 APEC ECONOMIES**
  - married women and men have equal rights to property

- **IN 18 APEC ECONOMIES**
  - sons and daughters have equal rights to inheritance

- **IN 18 APEC ECONOMIES**
  - surviving male and female spouses have equal rights to inheritance

...but it is harder for women to access credit in comparison to men, especially for those who are married

- **ONLY 9 APEC ECONOMIES**
  - have laws against discrimination by creditors based on gender

- **ONLY 7 APEC ECONOMIES**
  - have laws against discrimination by creditors based on marital status
Women’s access to labor markets has improved in the APEC region...

**IN 21 APEC ECONOMIES**
- Women can **work the same night hours** as men.

**18 ECONOMIES** have put in place laws ensuring non-discrimination in hiring based on gender.

...however, regulatory and legal barriers still hinder women’s entry to the labor market.

**ONLY 12 APEC ECONOMIES** legally allow women to **do the same jobs** as men.

**A NUMBER OF APEC ECONOMIES** allow women to **work in non-traditional sectors**

- **13** economies allow women to work in mining.
- **16** economies allow women to work in construction.
- **16** economies allow women to work in jobs requiring lifting weights above a threshold.

Dashboard
Women maintain parity with men in literacy and school enrollment in all levels...

...but the prevalence of anemia among women of reproductive age has worsened

Most APEC economies protect women against domestic violence and sexual harassment

- **20 APEC ECONOMIES** have legislation against domestic violence
- **18 APEC ECONOMIES** have specialized court or procedure for cases of domestic violence
- **16 APEC ECONOMIES** have laws against sexual harassment in employment
Laws penalize the dismissal of pregnant women and grant maternity leave in most APEC economies...

18 APEC ECONOMIES mandate paid or unpaid maternity leave

...but laws that impact positively on women’s career advancement remain insufficient in the APEC region

ONLY 2 APEC ECONOMIES consider family status an illegal job interview question

ONLY 10 APEC ECONOMIES mandate paid and unpaid parental leave

ONLY 8 APEC ECONOMIES have laws mandating equal remuneration for men and women doing work of equal value

ONLY 11 APEC ECONOMIES guarantee employees equivalent position upon return from maternity leave

In terms of political participation, there is a continued dearth of women in leadership roles

PROPORTION OF SEATS HELD BY WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT (%)
Innovation and Technology

More women are participating in today’s technological transformation

**USED THE INTERNET TO PAY BILLS OR BUY SOMETHING ONLINE IN THE PAST YEAR (% AGE 15+)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>45.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO HIGHER ONLINE PARTICIPATION:**

- Percentage of population who are internet users doubled from **32.3% to 60.1%**
  BETWEEN 2008 AND 2017

- Quality of governments’ delivery of online services improved by **21.6%**
  BETWEEN 2008 AND 2018

- Average per minute cost of mobile phone subscriptions declined from **$0.46 to $0.22**
  IN 2008 IN 2017
Recommendations

Increase cross-fora collaboration between the APEC Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy and other sub-fora to develop initiatives that could assist in addressing policy and program gaps.

Conduct capacity building targeting statistical and women-related institutions to improve collection and production of sex-disaggregated data.

Pursue effective change to improve women’s access to economic opportunities. For APEC, this means not just enacting new regulations, but also enforcing them properly.

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