



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

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.

To download the full report, visit www.apec.org/publications



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





Access to Markets

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*





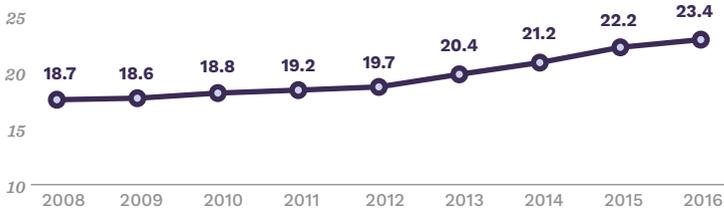
Skills, Capacity-building, and Health



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

PREVALENCE OF ANEMIA AMONG WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE (%)



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





Leadership, Voice, and Agency

Laws penalize the dismissal of pregnant women and grant maternity leave in most APEC economies...

18 APEC ECONOMIES

penalize or prevent dismissal of pregnant women



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



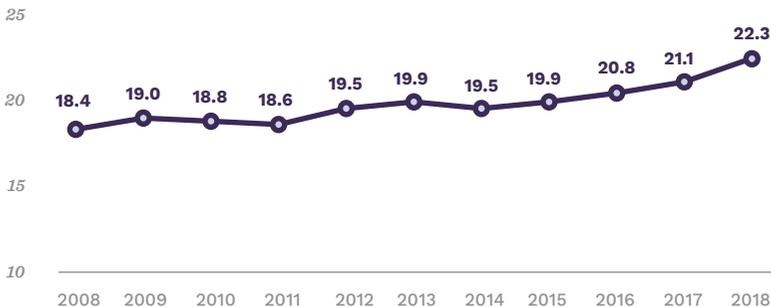
ONLY 11 APEC ECONOMIES

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 (%)

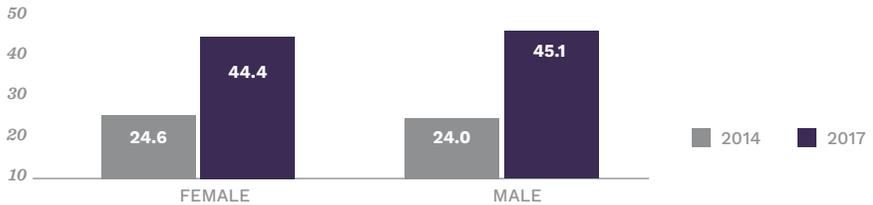




Innovation and Technology

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+)



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

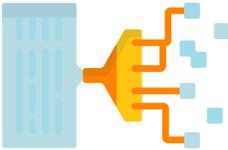
IN 2008

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