

ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN 2021

The APEC Women and the Economy Dashboard measures areas that affect women’s economic opportunities. The latest installment shows progress, however, weak and contrasting policies as well as sociocultural gender biases remain.

SNAPSHOTS: MIXED RESULTS & CONTRASTING POLICIES

CAPITAL AND ASSETS

The majority of APEC economies continue to uphold women’s rights to property and inheritance



Women and men are enjoying equal rights

To own property

To inherit property

This may provide empowering income security that could impact socio-economic conditions well into the future.

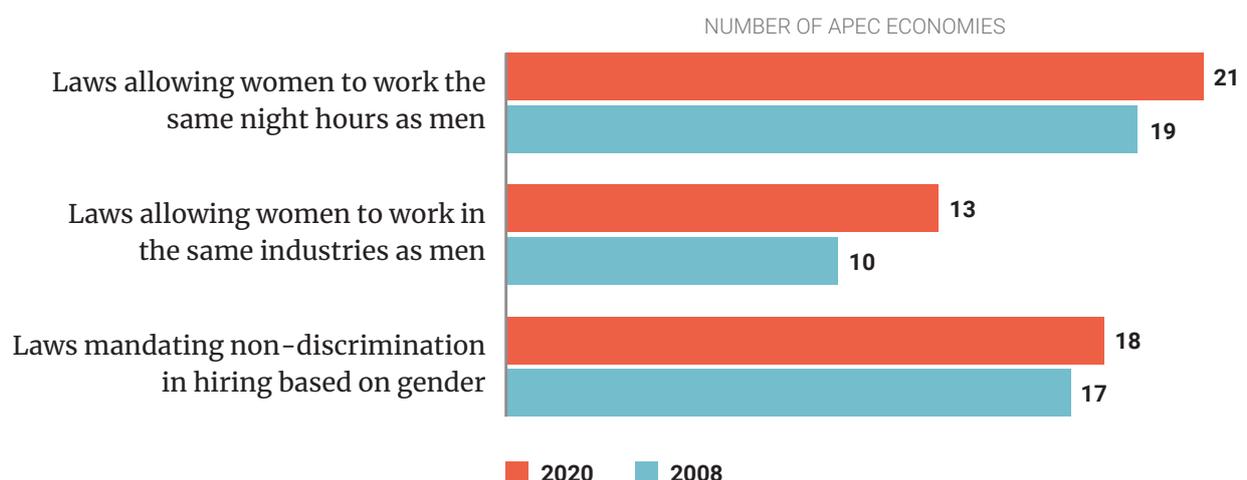


Access to credit is constrained by creditors’ discrimination based on gender and marital status.

The number of APEC economies with laws prohibiting such discrimination has remained persistently low.

JOBS

Women’s access to labor has improved in 2020



Women's unemployment rate has decreased together with vulnerable employment



Those under vulnerable employment are less likely to have formal work arrangements, and are therefore more likely to lack decent working conditions, adequate social security and “voice” through effective representation by trade unions and similar organizations. (Source: ILO)



Few economies allow women to work in the same industries as men.



No laws ensuring equal pay for women and men doing work of equal value in more than half of APEC economies.

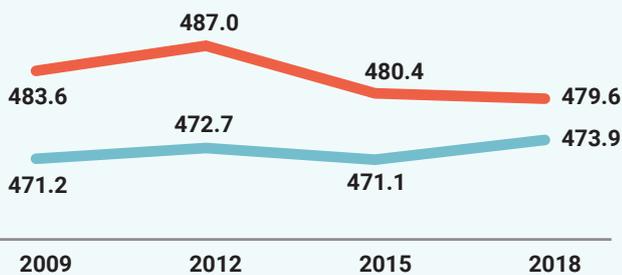
SKILLS



Girls have improved academic performance

Girls are at par with boys in math and better at reading.

PISA results, female (mean performance)



— Mathematics Performance
— Reading Performance

Source: OECD-Programme for International Student Assessment

PISA ratios



— Ratio of boys' scores to girls' scores in math
— Ratio of boys' scores to girls' scores in reading

Source: OECD-Programme for International Student Assessment

HEALTH



Maternal mortality declined

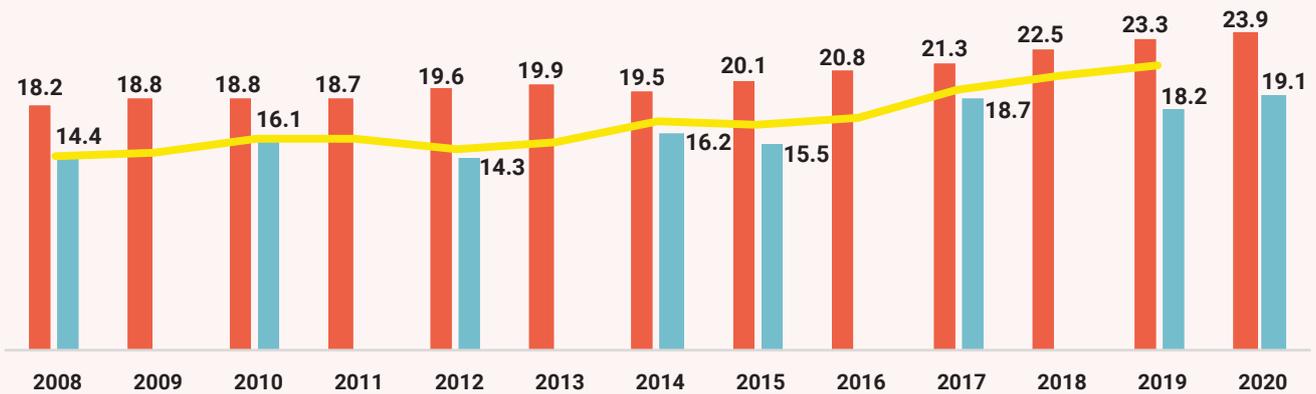
| | 2008 | 2017 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Maternal deaths per 100,000 live births | 70 | 47 |

► The prevalence of anemia among women of reproductive age reverted to 17.5% in 2019, the same as in 2008.

LEADERSHIP

Women lack representation in public leadership roles

Women's political empowerment



- Proportion of seats held by women in parliaments (%)
- Women in ministerial positions (%)
- How close women are to parity with men at the highest levels of political decision-making

Sources: Inter-Parliamentary Union: Women in Politics for women in parliaments and ministerial positions; and the World Economic Forum—Global Gender Gap Report for the gender parity at the highest levels of political decision-making

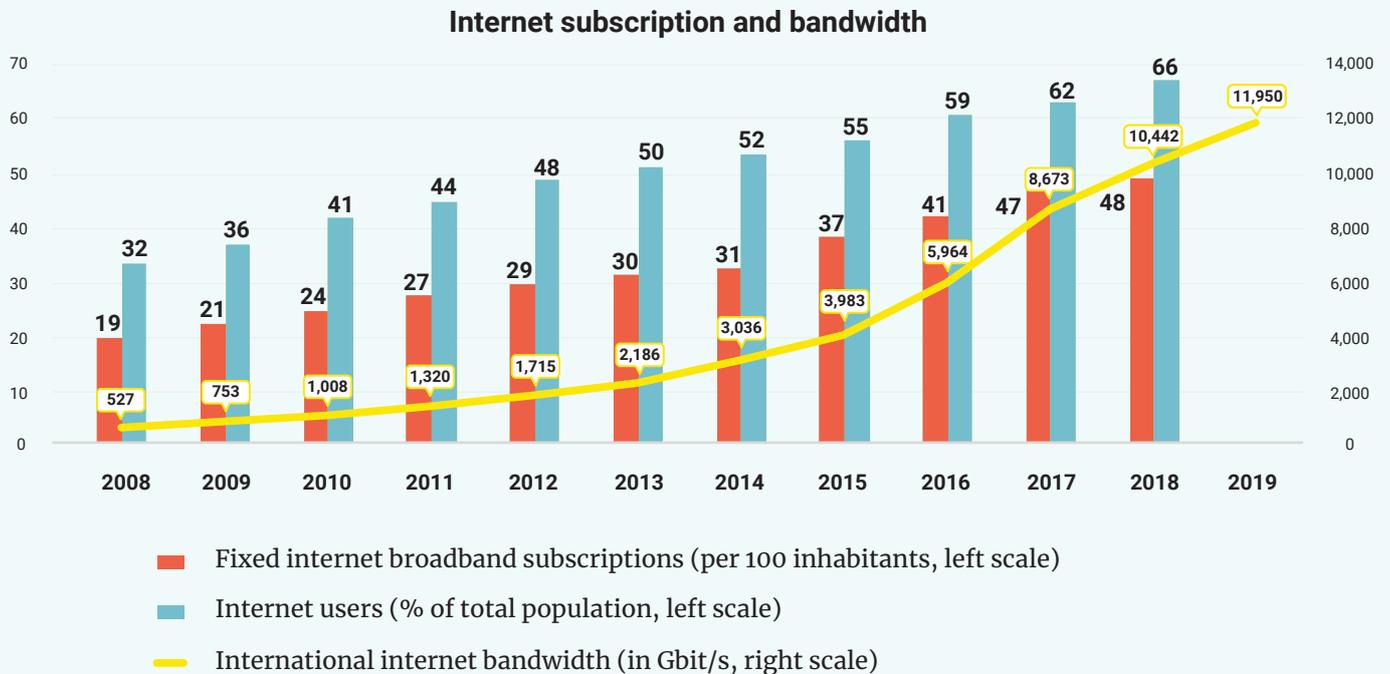


Women's economic empowerment needs to be supported by political empowerment to ensure gender equality in policy decisions affecting access to economic opportunities and social programs.

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Fixed internet broadband subscriptions in APEC have steadily climbed

With more internet users, we can assume more women have online access; however, sex-disaggregated data remain unavailable for most APEC economies.



Source: International Telecommunication Union

- ▶ Women are estimated to be underrepresented in the field of research and development (R&D). However, data are incomplete and intermittent so there is no accurate picture.
- ▶ The little relevant data show that women make up more than 50% of science, technology, engineering & mathematics (STEM) graduates in only one APEC economy.

WANTED: MORE DATA



On women in private-sector leadership positions



On use of online transactions by men and women



On women who work in STEM

Being equipped with STEM-related skills has become more urgent amid the COVID-19 pandemic that necessitates quicker and wider adoption of digital technologies to conduct daily activities.

COVID-19



The ongoing pandemic has exacerbated gender inequalities with repercussions expected to reverberate into the medium to long term if policy responses are late and inadequate.



Travel & tourism, food & beverage and retail, hit hardest by social distancing policies, employ women.



Telecommuting and online learning mean that women face increasing challenges in balancing employment with unpaid care work.



Rising cases of domestic violence due to lockdown conditions.

THE ROLE OF POLICYMAKERS



Enforce measures that advance women's empowerment



Integrate gender equality in all levels of education



Conduct information campaigns to change mindsets and counter gender stereotyping