

# Repository of information on time use in Latin America and the Caribbean

“Information systems: transforming data into information, information into knowledge and knowledge into political decisions”

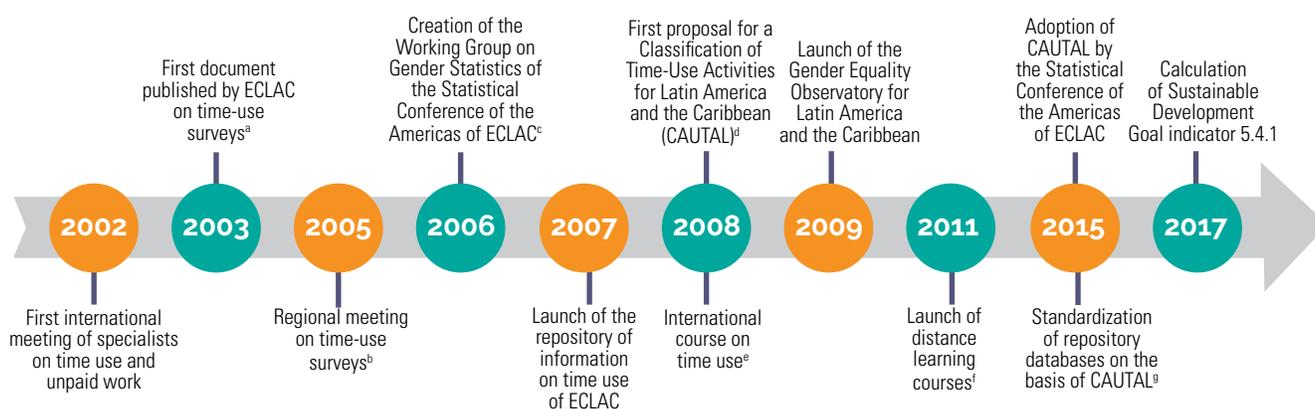
Pillar 9 of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030

October, 2019

The repository of information on time use in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) compiles data provided by the countries of the region and has the necessary metadata to analyse this information. For the purposes of comparability and the analysis and dissemination of information, data are harmonized to two digits on the basis of the Classification of Time-Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL).

Time-use surveys are a source of information for different research areas, including gender analysis; studies linking monetary poverty, income and the distribution and allocation of time; national, regional and international requirements for data on unpaid work and the calculation of total work time; as well as for the labour market's new statistical requirements. Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC has been involved in the conceptual and methodological reflection on the measurement of time use and the valuation of unpaid work in the household, highlighting the importance of analysing these issues from a gender perspective.

## Key milestones in the creation of the repository of information on time use in Latin America and the Caribbean



**Source:** Prepared by the authors.

<sup>a</sup> M. J. Araya, “Un acercamiento a las encuestas sobre el uso del tiempo con orientación de género”, *Mujer y Desarrollo series*, No. 50 (LC/L.2022-P), Santiago, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2003.

<sup>b</sup> Meeting of experts, “Las Encuestas del Uso del Tiempo: su Diseño y Aplicación”, Santiago, 21-23 November 2005.

<sup>c</sup> Mexico is the coordinating country, the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC acts as the technical secretariat and the National Women’s Institute of Mexico (INMUJERES) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) as advisory agencies.

<sup>d</sup> M.E. Gómez Luna, “Proyecto: Uso del Tiempo y Trabajo No Remunerado. Lineamientos para armonizar las encuestas de uso del tiempo”, paper presented at the sixth International Meeting of Experts on Time-use Surveys, Mexico City, 10-11 July 2008 [online] [http://cedoc.inmujeres.gob.mx/documentos\\_download/101024.pdf](http://cedoc.inmujeres.gob.mx/documentos_download/101024.pdf).

<sup>e</sup> Course, “Redistribución del Tiempo: un Indicador de Igualdad”, Santiago, May-June 2008.

<sup>f</sup> First online course on gender statistics and indicators and time-use surveys.

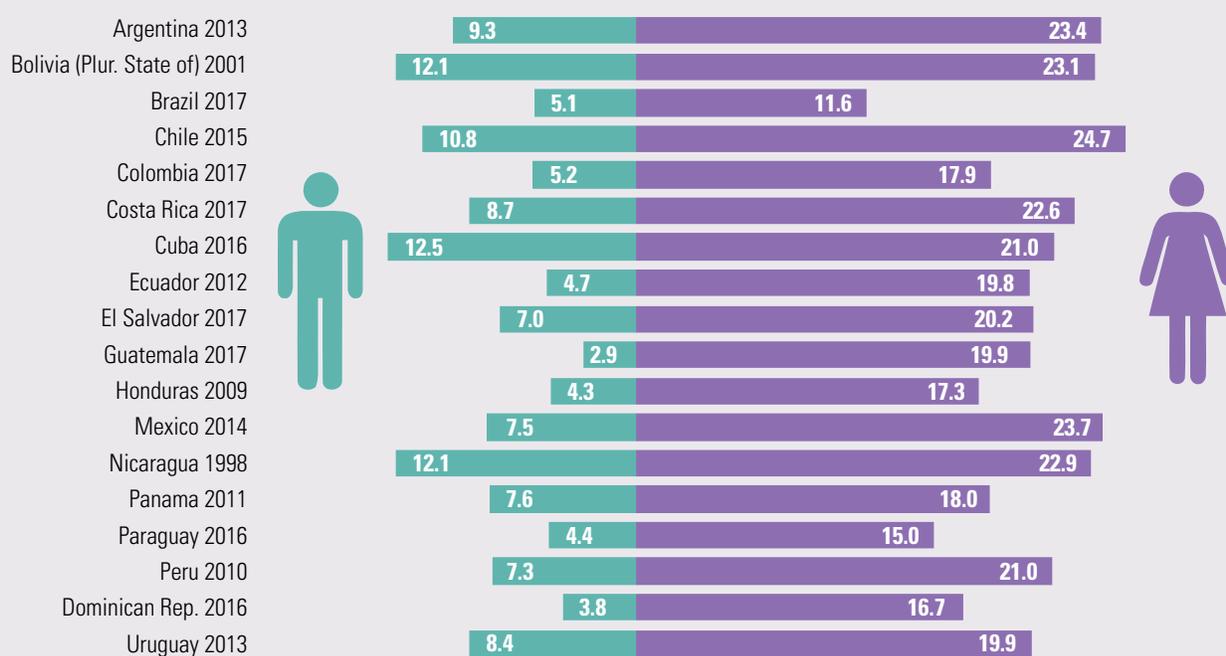
<sup>g</sup> Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/National Institute of Statistics and Geography/National Women’s Institute of Mexico/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (ECLAC/INEGI/INMUJERES/UN-Women), *Classification of Time-Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL)* (LC/W.679), Santiago, 2016 [online] [http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/40170/S1600307\\_en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/40170/S1600307_en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y).

## Time-use indicators in follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development outlines a transformative vision for economic, social and environmental development. It also recognizes the central role of gender equality and women's rights across all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 5, which seeks to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. The targets for that Goal include ending all forms of gender discrimination and recognizing and valuing unpaid care work.

### Latin America (18 countries): proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.4.1), by sex

(Percentages)



**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations of time-use surveys conducted in the respective countries. Information updated on 26 September 2019.

**Note:** Calculated on the basis of metadata published in United Nations Statistics Division [online] <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-05-04-01.pdf>, at 13 July 2018. Refers to unpaid domestic and care work carried out for own final use by household members, for other households or the community, and to volunteer work, except for Brazil, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Data correspond to national totals, except for Costa Rica (Greater Metropolitan Area) and Cuba (Old Havana), and refer to the population aged 15 years and over, except in Argentina (population aged 18 and over) and Nicaragua (population aged 6 and over).

Although Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.4.1 (proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location) is not among those regularly produced by countries, it can be calculated for Latin America. However, because the methodologies for measuring time-use in the region have been developed in accordance with the specific objectives of each country, the data are not comparable. Nevertheless, they do reveal trends with regard to the unequal division of time.

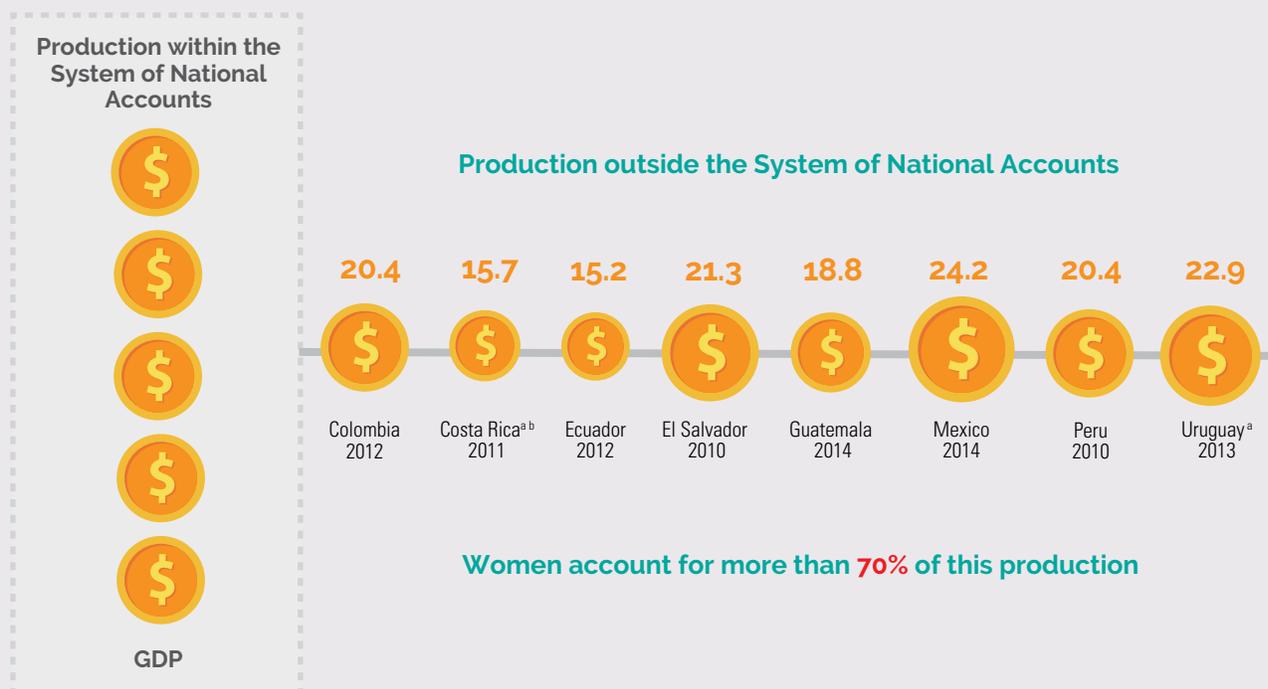
Information from time-use surveys shows that, in the region, women spend more time than men on unpaid domestic and care work. The excessive burden of unpaid work borne by women affects their economic autonomy by curtailing their participation in the labour market. Among other consequences, this reduces their capacity to generate their own income and restricts their access to social security, which is strongly linked to formal employment in the region.

## Economic valuation of unpaid household work

Time-use surveys are key inputs in the construction of satellite accounts for unpaid household work, as they shed light on the economic contributions made by households, especially by women, to the national economy.

### Latin America (8 countries): economic value of unpaid household work in relation to gross domestic product (GDP)

(Percentages of GDP)



**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official information from the respective countries regarding the value of unpaid work. Information updated on 26 August 2019.

<sup>a</sup> The respective governing body for national accounts did not contribute to this calculation.

<sup>b</sup> Greater Metropolitan Area.

The economic valuation of unpaid work in the framework of the System of National Accounts (SNA) provides a more accurate measure of society's output (by revealing the existence of a part of the economy that would otherwise remain invisible) and enables the inclusion of the contributions of this type of work in macroeconomic analyses and decision-making. Furthermore, it improves the understanding of the economic dynamics that occur within households, between households and between these and the rest of the economy, which is critical in order to incorporate the analysis of the care economy into how the functioning of the economic system is understood. This is crucial, as it makes women's contribution to the economy clear and enables a deeper discussion of the main topics that concern heterodox economics.

It is also vital insofar as it can allow policymaking to create the necessary conditions for men and women alike to share the responsibilities and benefits associated with unpaid work, and for State and community to share the responsibility of the well-being of all members of society.

## Latin America and the Caribbean: surveys, modules or questions for measuring time use, 1985–2018

Countries	Date	Type of survey
Argentina	2016	Time-use survey of the City of Buenos Aires
	2013	Module in the Annual Survey of Urban Households (EAHU)
	2005	Module in the Annual Survey of Urban Households (EAHU) of the City of Buenos Aires
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	2010–2011	Time-use survey
	2001	Module in the Continuous Survey of Households
Brazil	Since 2016	Module in the Continuous National Household Sample Survey (Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra de Domicílios Continua or PNAD-C)
	2009–2010	Pilot survey in five states
	1992–2015	Questions in the National Household Sample Survey (PNAD)
Chile	2015	National time-use survey
	2007–2008	Experimental survey on time use in Greater Santiago
Colombia	2012 and 2017	National time-use survey
	2007–2018	Questions in the Great Integrated Household Survey
Costa Rica	2017	National time-use survey
	2011	Time-use survey in the Greater Metropolitan Region
Cuba	2004	Module in the Multipurpose Household Survey
	2016	Section on time use and care in the National Survey on Gender Equality
	2001	Time-use survey administered in five provinces
Dominican Republic	1985, 1988 and 1997	National time-use survey
	2016	Module on time use in the National Multipurpose Household Survey
Ecuador	2006–2007	Question in the Demographic and Health Survey
	2012	Time-use survey (EUT)
	2005, 2007, 2010 and 2012	Module in the National Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment (ENEMDU)
El Salvador	2017	National time-use survey
	2010–2011	Module in the Multipurpose Household Survey (EHPM)
	2005	Questions in the Multipurpose Household Survey
Guatemala	2014 and 2017	Module in the National Survey of Employment and Income
	2000, 2006, 2011 and 2014	Module in the National Survey of Living Conditions (ENCOVI)
Honduras	2009 and 2011	Module in the Continuous Survey of Households
Mexico	2016	Questions in the National Survey on Household Income and Expenditure
	1998, 2002, 2009 and 2014	National Survey on Time Use (ENUT)
	2010	Module in the National Survey on Household Income and Expenditure
	1996	Module in the National Survey on Work, Contributions and Time Use (ENTAUT)
Nicaragua	1998	Module in the National Household Survey on Living Standards (ENHNMV)
Panama	2011	National time-use survey
	2006	Module in the Multipurpose Survey
Paraguay	2016	Time-use survey (EUT)
Peru	2010	National time-use survey
	2006	Questions included in the Continuous Household Survey
Uruguay	2007 and 2013	Module in the Continuous Household Survey
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2008 and 2011	Time-use survey

**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of information from time-use surveys conducted in the respective countries; R. Aguirre and F. Ferrari, “Las encuestas sobre uso del tiempo y trabajo no remunerado en América Latina y el Caribe: caminos recorridos y desafíos hacia el futuro”, *Asuntos de Género series*, No. 122 (LC/L.3678/Rev.1), Santiago, ECLAC, February 2014. Information updated on 26 August 2019.

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For further information on the work of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC on this and other issues, go to:  
[www.cepal.org/en/work-areas/gender-affairs](http://www.cepal.org/en/work-areas/gender-affairs) and <http://oig.cepal.org/en>.