



Gender Equality Observatory

for Latin America and the Caribbean

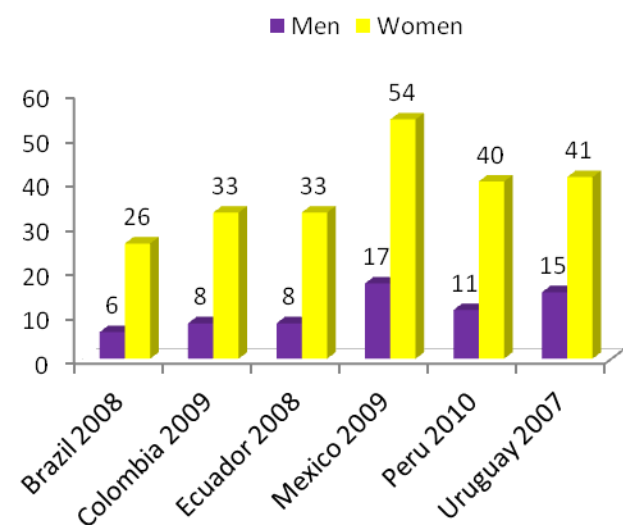


Men work fewer hours than women

- Unpaid work (household chores and family care) is essential to the well-functioning of the social and economic system.
- Women devote more hours of their time to unpaid work and lack their own income in a higher proportion than men.
- It is necessary to develop public policies that free up women's time in order to strengthen their economic empowerment and contribute to economic development and poverty reduction.

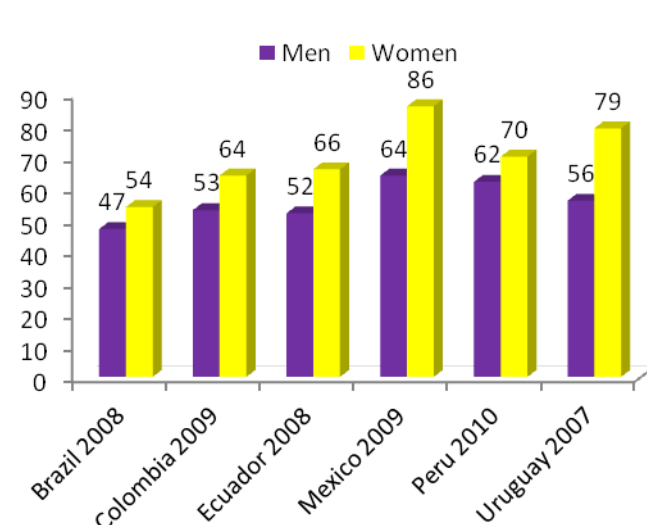
Most of women's work is unpaid

Total work time, average hours per week, disaggregated by sex among people aged 15 and above



Women work more than men

Time spent on total work (paid and unpaid) average of hours per week, disaggregated by sex, among people aged 15 and above



If unpaid work by Mexican women was accounted for, the country's GDP would increase by 23%

Source: System of National Accounts from Mexico, Satellite Account of unpaid work in households in Mexico 2003-2009, www.inegi.org.mx



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Why measure unpaid work?

- Measuring unpaid work makes visible its inequitable distribution between men and women. This is key to explaining why women are not able to participate in the labour market and access economic resources under the same conditions as men.
- The precarious participation of women in the labour market affects countries' productivity, and constitutes an inefficient use of the labour force, thus delaying economic growth.
- Freeing women's time facilitates their access to economic resources, by allowing them to participate in paid work and in development of productive entrepreneurship. When women generate resources, they improve their living conditions and contribute to overcoming household poverty.
- A more equitable distribution of work, both paid and unpaid, is an essential pillar in building more egalitarian societies.

How to identify and value unpaid work:

- Produce information on unpaid work and developing relevant indicators.
- Developing policies for the redistribution of labour and family responsibilities that address the needs of different types of households, for instance, extending parental leave and public care services.
- Generating conditions for the expansion of decent work for women and men.

Public care policies and shared responsibilities benefit companies, families and the society as a whole. The fiscal cost of public care policies is lower than the economic resources they generate.

Methodological note: Time use surveys carried out to date are not comparable in their design, collection and processing of data, however, indicators calculated from a plan of common tabulation, show a high coincidence in the behavior pattern of women and men faced with specific situations.