

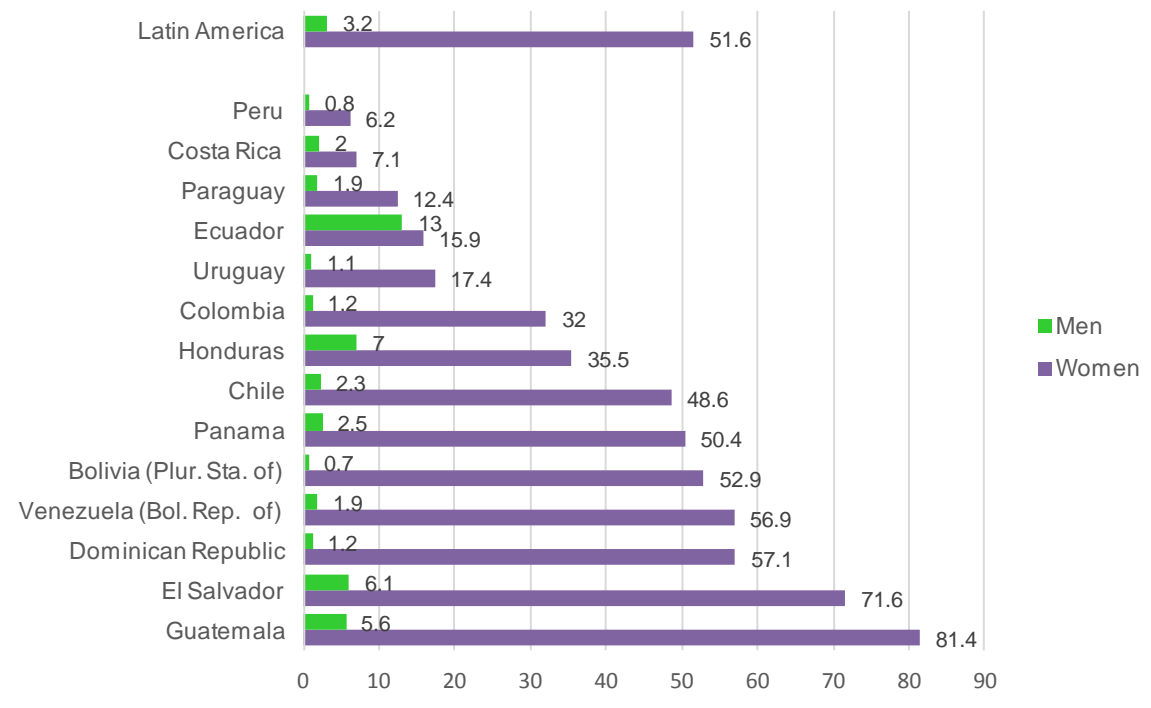


Time-use measurement and women’s contribution to the economy

Traditional economic models that are centered on the market hide an important part of productive and reproductive processes that take place inside households. Over recent years, unpaid work and its measurement have become a key concern in different regional and international agreements. The resolution of the Nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians expands the concept of work to *any activity performed by persons of any sex and age to produce goods or to provide services for use by others or for own use*, recognizing in this way the production of goods and services inside households.

One way in which gender inequalities inside households are manifested is in the unequal distribution of unpaid work. The lack of quality public services and almost nonexistent participation of men in these tasks means that domestic unpaid work and care activities are almost exclusively done by women. This sexual division of labour constitutes a significant obstacle to the incorporation of women in the labour market under equal conditions in quality employment.

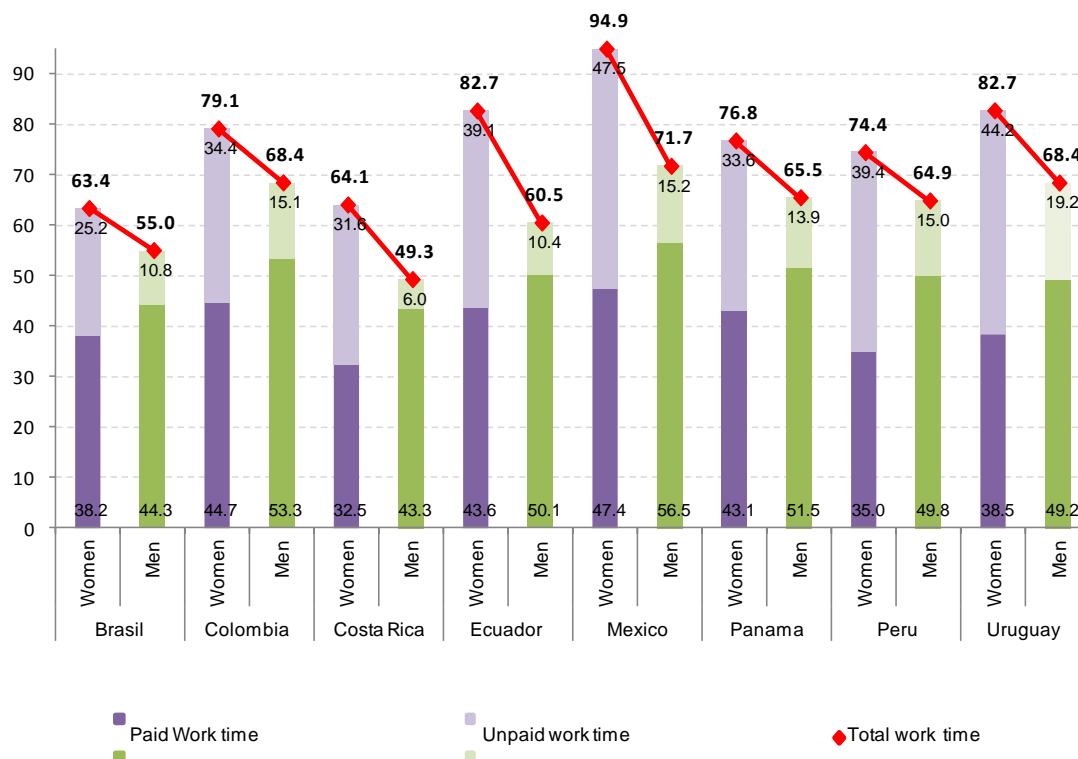
Latin America (14 countries): Population who reported being out of the labour force because of domestic and care work, by sex, around 2010
(Percentages)



Source: United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of special tabulations of household surveys of the respective countries.

Many countries in the region have undertaken time-use surveys and have made notable efforts to install satellite accounts of unpaid work in the public agenda. This has provided greater visibility to women's contribution to the economy.

Latin America (8 countries): Total work time, paid and unpaid, population 15 years and over, by sex, around 2010
(Weekly hours)



Source: ECLAC Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of special tabulations of surveys from the respective countries.

In all the countries there is a clear trend for women to have a higher workload. Women are overrepresented in unpaid work, while the opposite is true when it comes to paid work. Total work, taken as the sum of time dedicated to unpaid work and time dedicated to paid work, is higher for women than for men in all the countries where this information is available.

The burden of unpaid work has a negative impact on women's participation in decision-making, limiting their occupational options and possibilities to advance a career. As a result women's income is reduced as are their possibilities to access social protection.

Challenges:

- Mechanisms and policies for co-responsibility in care tasks are required in order to reduce the burden of unpaid work on women and permit them to fully exercise their economic autonomy.
- In order to develop such policies it is necessary to continue and strengthen the collection of data to estimate women's work and their contribution to the economy. Time-use surveys and satellite accounts of unpaid work are key tools in this regard.

