Gender Series Volume IV: Economic Empowerment, 2001–2017

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

Provides analysis relating to gender disparities in economic empowerment

Analysis in economic empowerment over the past 16-17 years to ascertain progress made towards gender equality


ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Both women and men

The power to make and act on economic decisions

Considered one of the most powerful tools that can be used to reduce poverty, achieve and advance the rights of women

Representation in decision-making positions is key for inclusive planning
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Details gender disparities in market participation

Focus on representation in decision-making positions

Source: World Bank
Economic Contribution
MALES AND FEMALES PARTICIPATED AT LOWER RATES IN 2017 THAN IN 2001. The gap between male and female participation rates was slightly lower in 2017 (12.1 percentage points).

Labour force participation rate by sex (2001 and 2017)

Source: LFS March 2001 and QLFS Q1: 2017
NOTICEABLE DECREASES IN PARTICIPATION RATES OF MALES AND FEMALES RESIDING IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS BETWEEN 2001 AND 2017. The biggest decrease was observed amongst males (5.6 percentage points) and females living in rural areas (4.8 percentage points).

Geographical breakdown of labour force participation

Source: LFS March 2001 and QLFS Q1: 2017
HIGHER LEVELS OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT LINKED TO HIGHER LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE PRESENCE OF MINOR CHILDREN.

Labour force participation rate by presence of minor children

Source: LFS March 2001 and QLFS Q1: 2017
THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN THE EMPLOYMENT RATE OF FEMALES IN GAUTENG AND THE WESTERN CAPE. National employment rates declined by 2,6 percentage points for males and 2,1 percentage points for females.

Source: LFS March 2001 and QLFS Q1: 2017
THE GENDER GAP NARROWED FROM 0.88 TO 0.92 AMONGST MALES AND FEMALE GRADUATES OVER THE 16-YEAR PERIOD.

Gender parity of employment rate by population group and educational attainment

Source: LFS March 2001 and QLFS Q1: 2017
IN 2001 AND 2017, MOST EMPLOYED GRADUATES WHO HAD QUALIFIED IN ARTS AND EDUCATION/HOSPITALITY, WERE FEMALE. Employed graduates who had qualified in the Physical/mathematical/engineering sciences were mostly male.

Source: LFS March 2001 and QLFS Q1: 2017
There was a 13.7 percentage point increase for women holding managerial positions. Working for households as domestic workers was more common among females than males.

Source: LFS March 2001 and QLFS Q1: 2017
THREE IN FOUR FEMALES OPERATED BUSINESSES IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR.

Employers and own-account workers by sector, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Informal</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: QLFS Q1: 2017
A HIGHER PROPORTION OF MALES WERE EMPLOYERS, WHILE FEMALES WERE MORE LIKELY TO BE OWN ACCOUNT WORKERS

Employers and own-account workers by number of employees

Female
- 76.9% No Employees
- 15.2% Between 1 and 4 Employees
- 6.9% Between 5 and 19 Employees
- 0.9% 20 and More Employees

Male
- 54.1% No Employees
- 28.0% Between 1 and 4 Employees
- 13.9% Between 5 and 19 Employees
- 4.1% 20 and More Employees

Source: LFS March 2001 and QLFS Q1: 2017
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES WERE HIGHER FOR FEMALES THAN MALES IN 2017

Provincial unemployment rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KZN</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WC</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LP</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: QLFS Q1: 2017
FEMALES WITH MINOR CHILDREN IN THEIR HOUSEHOLDS WERE MORE LIKELY TO BE UNEMPLOYED THAN MALES. Between 2001 and 2017, the gender parity ratio for unemployed males and females with or without minor children, remained virtually unchanged.

Unemployment by presence of minor children

Source: LFS March 2001 and QLFS Q1: 2017
FEMALES WERE MORE LIKELY TO BE IN LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT IN 2017 THAN THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS.

*Duration of unemployment by gender, 2017*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Long term</th>
<th>Short term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: QLFS Q1:2017*
BETWEEN 2001 AND 2017, OVER 90% OF UNEMPLOYED MALES AND FEMALES RELIED ON REMITTANCES FOR THEIR SURVIVAL. 5.9% of females relied on social grants as a means of survival.

Means of survival of unemployed persons, 2017

Source: QLFS Q1:2017
ALMOST A THIRD OF FEMALES RATED HOME MAKING AS REASONS FOR INACTIVITY. Discouragement was the second-most cited reason for inactivity amongst males.

Reasons for inactivity by sex, 2017

**Student**: 52.4% Male, 37.6% Female

**Homemaker**: 4.8% Male, 27.8% Female

**Health Reasons**: 15.1% Male, 9.4% Female

**Too old/young**: 9.4% Male, 9.9% Female

**Discouraged**: 18.3% Male, 15.3% Female

Source: QLFS Q1: 2017
Resource Equity
WESTERN CAPE FEMALE HOUSEHOLD HEADS EXPERIENCED BIGGEST CHANGES IN RECEIPT OF GOVERNMENT HOUSING SUBSIDIES BETWEEN 2002 AND 2017

Percentage point change of female households heads that benefited from government housing subsidy by province, 2002 and 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WC</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
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<td>NC</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
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<td>NW</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
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<td>FS</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KZN</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LP</td>
<td>-0.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: LFS March 2001 and QLFS Q1: 2017
THE SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS OF NEARLY A THIRD OF HOUSEHOLDS HEADED BY MALES RESIDING IN URBAN AREAS WAS CONSIDERED HIGH, COMPARED TO A FIFTH OF HOUSEHOLDS HEADED BY FEMALES.

Living standards measure by sex of household head and geo-type, 2017

Source: GHS, 2017
TWO THIRDS OF INVESTORS IN INFORMAL SAVINGS LIKE STOKVELS WERE FEMALE (67.6%) IN 2017

Exclusive/joint ownership of financial assets, 2017

- **Investment savings**
  - Female: 48.6%
  - Male: 51.4%

- **Informal savings**
  - Female: 67.6%
  - Male: 32.4%

- **Bank Account**
  - Female: 50.6%
  - Male: 49.4%

Source: QLFS Q1: 2017
Governance
GENDER PARITY HAS ALMOST BEEN ACHIEVED FOR MINISTERIAL POSITIONS.

Decision making positions in government, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Female ministers</th>
<th>Male ministers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48.5%</td>
<td>51.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Cabinet South Africa, GCIS, 2017
44.4% of premiers heading provinces in South Africa were female in 2018.

Composition of provincial legislatures, 2018

- **Premier**: 55.6% Male, 44.4% Female
- **MEC**: 54.9% Male, 45.1% Female
- **Deputy Speaker**: 11.1% Male, 88.9% Female
- **Chief/Deputy whip**: 41.3% Male, 58.7% Female
- **Other members of parliament**: 55.6% Male, 44.4% Female

Source: Provincial legislatures, 2018
FOUR IN EVERY TEN MAYORS ARE WOMEN. Appointments were equally distributed in Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape and North West, while wide gaps were observed in Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

**Percentage of municipal mayors who are female, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National</th>
<th>Provincial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

107 of 257 mayors

Source: Non-financial census of municipalities, 2017
THERE IS LOW REPRESENTATION OF FEMALES IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN JUSTICE SYSTEM. Less than a third (27.3%) of employed supreme court judges or advocates were female.

Source: Department of Justice, October 2017
LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Males participate at higher rates. Highest female participation rates found in:
- Lived in urban areas
- Highest between 35-44 years (80.2%)

UNEMPLOYMENT IN WOMEN

Unemployment generally increase poverty. Unemployment rate higher for women than for men.

GENDER PARITY IN DWELLING OWNERSHIP

Between 2002 and 2017, higher percentage of female headed households received government housing subsidies.

GOVERNANCE

Good gender equity progress on ministerial positions and provincial legislature. Equity at municipal level is still problematic.
THANK YOU