

BRAZIL COUNTRY GENDER SCORECARD

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Poverty & Equity

The Regional Gender Coordination and the LAC Gender Innovation Lab (both in LAC Poverty and Equity) prepared this scorecard. For more information, please contact Eliana Rubiano-Matulevich (erubiano@worldbank.org) and Diana Galeano (dgaleano@worldbank.org).

BRAZIL



- **The country has made major progress in gender equality since the beginning of the century. The government has taken concrete steps to enact policies that address gender inequality, adopting a strong legal framework on gender-based violence, fostering the reduction of gaps in education, and improvements in maternal health.**
- **In terms of endowments, several indicators show a positive outlook for women.** Net secondary enrollment rates among women (83.2%) are higher than among men (80.3%) and at par with rates observed among upper-middle income economies. More than a third of the graduates in STEM programs are women (36.6%). In terms of health outcomes, 99.1% of births were attended by skilled staff in 2017. Maternal mortality has been on decline since the beginning of the century, and in 2017 the estimated mortality ratio was at 60 deaths per 100,000 live births, significantly lower than the ratio in LAC (74), though still lagging when compared to the ratio observed in upper-middle income economies (41).
- **An enduring feature of gender inequality in Brazil is the labor market.** Men have traditionally had a higher labor force participation (on average 20 percentage points (pp) in recent years), higher employment rates (about 20 pp) and lower unemployment rates (about 5 pp) than women. These differences have been accompanied by occupational segregation, with women still concentrated in sectors and occupations in more traditionally “female roles”. In 2019, 14% of women in the workforce were domestic workers and another 9% were social workers in the health sector. Working women, despite being more educated –on average– than working men, get lower salaries once other characteristics are taken into consideration. A study found that in 2016, there was an unexplained 22% difference between women’s salaries and those of men – i.e., a difference that could not be related to observable characteristics such as education, experience, or sector of employment.
- **The situation worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic.** Labor force participation rates of both women and men dropped between the first and second quarter of 2020 and have been recovering since then but remain below pre-pandemic levels. Moreover, while female labor force participation increased by merely 1.1 percentage points between the second and fourth quarter of 2020, male labor force participation increased by 2.5 percentage points over the same period. Women have seen a greater rise in unemployment, as men were able to get jobs at a faster pace when labor market conditions improved.
- **The slower recovery in labor market attachment can be partly explained by the increased burden of housework among women.** By November 2020, one in ten working-age women were inactive because they were taking care of relatives or had to attend to household chores. This proportion is 25 times higher than among men.
- **Indicators related to agency are still a concern in Brazil.** In 2019, the adolescent fertility rate was 56.7 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19, basically twice the average rate among upper- middle income economies (29.5). Meanwhile, women’s representation in the policy arena is very low. Only 14.6% of parliamentarians are women, much less than the 26.5% observed in economies with the same level of development.

Country Performance¹



Human Endowments	COUNTRY BASELINE	YEAR	PERFORMANCE	YEAR	LAC	YEAR	UMC	YEAR
School enrollment, secondary, female (% net)	n.a.	n.a.	83.2 ●	2017	79.1	2018	83.9	2018
School enrollment, secondary, male (% net)	n.a.	n.a.	80.3 ●	2017	76.0	2018	80.7	2018
Lower secondary completion rate, female (% of relevant age group)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	82.0	2019	88.2	2019
Lower secondary completion rate, male (% of relevant age group)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	77.3	2019	86.2	2019
School enrollment, tertiary, female (% gross)	20.1	2001	n.a.	n.a.	59.7	2019	58.2	2019
School enrollment, tertiary, male (% gross)	16.1	2001	n.a.	n.a.	45.9	2019	48.6	2019
Female share of graduates from STEM programmes (%)	37.9	2001	36.6	2017	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, females (% of female youth population) ²	27.8	2001	28.4	2019	27.4	2019	n.a.	n.a.
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, males (% of male youth population)	11.4	2001	18.8	2019	14.6	2019	n.a.	n.a.
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled est. per 100,000 births)	69.0	2000	60.0 ●	2017	74.0	2017	41.0	2017
Births attended by skilled health staff (% of total)	98.6	2000	99.1 ●	2017	93.8	2018	98.4	2018
Prevalence of HIV, female (% ages 15-24)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Prevalence of HIV, male (% ages 15-24)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Contraceptive prevalence, any methods (% of women ages 15-49)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	78.7	2017
Economic Opportunity	COUNTRY BASELINE	YEAR	PERFORMANCE	YEAR	LAC	YEAR	UMC	YEAR
Labor force participation, female (% of female population 15+) ◇	50.2	2000	55.1 ●	2019	52.5	2019	56.0	2019
Labor force participation, male (% of male population 15+) ◇	78.6	2000	74.3 ●	2019	76.7	2019	74.8	2019
Account at a financial institution, female (% age 15+)	n.a.	n.a.	67.5 ●	2017	52.0	2017	69.3	2017
Account at a financial institution, male (% age 15+)	n.a.	n.a.	72.8 ●	2017	58.6	2017	77.0	2017
Vulnerable employment, female (% of female employment) ◇	30.9	2000	24.1 ●	2019	33.8	2019	38.1	2019
Vulnerable employment, male (% of male employment) ◇	33.7	2000	31.5 ●	2019	33.4	2019	35.6	2019
Voice and Agency	COUNTRY BASELINE	YEAR	PERFORMANCE	YEAR	LAC	YEAR	UMC	YEAR
Women who were first married by age 18 (% of women ages 20-24)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women, ages 15-19)	82.2	2000	56.7 ●	2019	61.2	2019	29.5	2019
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	5.7	2000	14.6 ●	2020	32.8	2020	26.5	2020
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	20.1	2020	19.1	2020
Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (% of women 15-49)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Sources: World Bank World Development Indicators, World Bank Gender Statistics, and World Health Organization. Country Baseline provides a reference point for the indicator. Circa 2000

LAC = Includes the 42 countries (all income levels) in Latin America and the Caribbean, as classified by The World Bank Group

UMC = In FY21, upper-middle-income countries are those with a GNI per capita between \$4,046 and \$12,535 (calculated using the World Bank Atlas method)

◇ Modeled ILO estimate

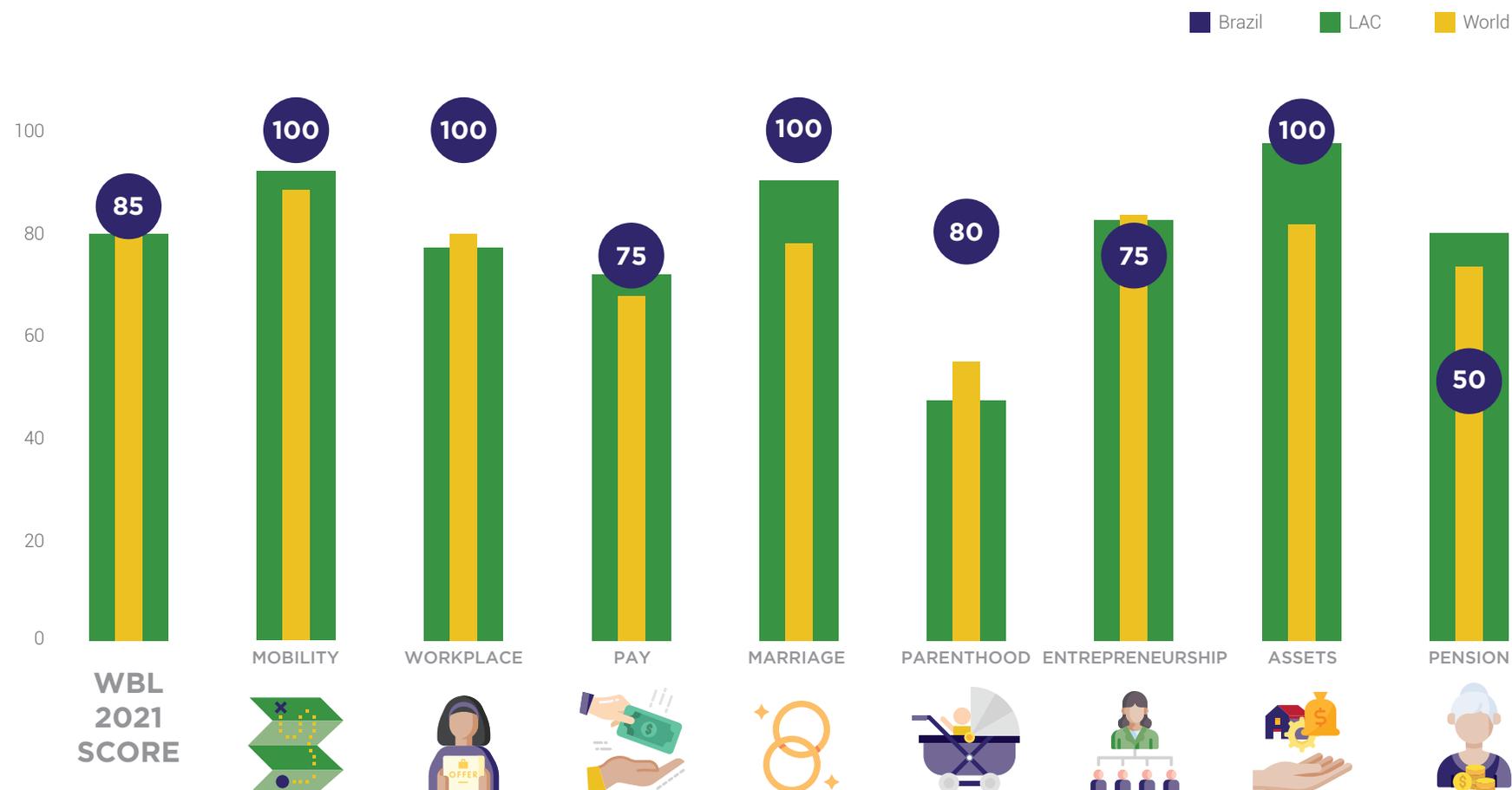
1. The scorecard shows the latest country data available and comparisons of country performance with the LAC region and the country's income-level group in the same or similar year. The country performance is scored relative to the comparison groups using a Traffic Light System: **green ●** if the country performs better than the two comparison groups (LAC and the similar-income group); **yellow ●** if the country performs better than one comparison group; **red ●** if both comparison groups perform better than the country. N/A means lack of data. No color indicates that comparisons cannot be made. This scorecard features available sex-disaggregated data (men/women).

2. Share of youth not in education, employment or training (NEET) is the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment, or training to the population of the corresponding age group: youth (ages 15 to 24); persons ages 15 to 29; or both age groups. When data are available for more than two age groups in a given year, one value for persons ages 15 to 29 is taken, considering that not all people complete their education by the age of 24. World Development Indicators.

Gender Equality in the Law

The Women Business and the Law index³ score presents the share of good laws in the economy and it is structured around a woman's working life

Brazil - Latin America & Caribbean - World Comparison (2021)



3. Thirty-five data points are scored across eight indicators composed of four or five binary questions, with each indicator representing a different phase of a woman's life. Indicator-level scores are obtained by calculating the unweighted average of responses to the questions within that indicator and scaling the result to 100. Overall scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score, meaning that the country gives women and men equal legal rights in the measured areas. Source: [WBL 2021](#).

Gender Equality in the Law

In total, 35 questions are scored across the eight indicators. Overall scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score.

Topic	Question	Answer	Indicator Score
MOBILITY 	Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	Yes	100
	Can a woman travel outside her home in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman apply for a passport in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman travel outside the country in the same way as a man?	Yes	
WORKPLACE 	Can a woman get a job in the same way as a man?	Yes	100
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	Yes	
	Is there legislation on sexual harassment in employment?	Yes	
	Are there criminal penalties or civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment?	Yes	
PAY 	Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	No	75
	Can a woman work at night in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman work in a job deemed dangerous in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman work in an industrial job in the same way as a man?	Yes	
MARRIAGE 	Is there no legal provision that requires a married woman to obey her husband?	Yes	100
	Can a woman be head of household in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Is there legislation specifically addressing domestic violence?	Yes	
	Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	Yes	
PARENTHOOD 	Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	Yes	80
	Does the government pay 100% of maternity leave benefits?	Yes	
	Is paid leave available to fathers?	Yes	
	Is there paid parental leave?	No	
	Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	Yes	
ENTREPRENEURSHIP 	Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender?	No	75
	Can a woman sign a contract in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman register a business in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman open a bank account in the same way as a man?	Yes	
ASSETS 	Do men and women have equal ownership rights to immovable property?	Yes	100
	Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets from their parents?	Yes	
	Do female and male surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	
	Does the law grant spouses equal administrative authority over assets during marriage?	Yes	
	Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	Yes	
PENSION 	Is the age at which men and women can retire with full pension benefits the same?	No	50
	Is the age at which men and women can retire with partial pension benefits the same?	Yes	
	Is the mandatory retirement age for men and women the same?	No	
	Are periods of absence due to childcare accounted for in pension benefits?	Yes	
WBL 2021 Index Score			85

Click on the links below for more information



Interventions to close Gender Gaps

Human endowments

- [Facilitating school-to-work transition](#)
- [Attracting more women into STEM fields](#)
- [Reducing boys' school dropout and helping boys at risk](#)

Economic opportunity

- [Expanding access to affordable and quality care](#)
- [Improving women's access to quality employment](#)
- [Improving the performance of women-owned firms](#)
- [Increasing women's ownership and control of productive assets](#)

Voice and agency

- [Preventing and addressing violence against women and girls](#)
- [Reducing teen pregnancy](#)

Project-Level Indicators to monitor progress in narrowing Gender Gaps

- [Illustrative progress indicators aligned with the LCR Gender Action Plan \(RGAP\) priority areas](#)

Useful resources

Legislative and regulatory framework

- [Brazil 2-page snapshot of laws and regulations affecting women's economic opportunities \(2021\)](#)

Gender strategic framework

- [Brazil Country Partnership Framework FY18-23](#)
- [Gender Assessment - A Snapshot of Gender in Brazil Today: Institutions, Outcomes, and a Closer Look at Racial and Geographic Differences \(2016\)](#)

Country-specific data and analysis

- ["Fear is What Weighs Most..." Experiences of Women in Situations of Violence in Accessing Support Services in Brazil \(2020\)](#)
- ["If it's already tough, imagine for me...": A Qualitative Perspective on Youth Out of School and Out of Work in Brazil \(2018\)](#)
- [Brazil Country Profile – Gender Equality Observatory, ECLAC](#)
- [Brazil Fact Sheet – UN WOMEN](#)

Evidence on what works to close gender gaps

- [LAC Gender Innovation Lab](#)
- [Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality](#)
- [IDB's Gender and Diversity Knowledge Initiative - GDLab](#)

IN ACTION: Integrating Gender into Project Design

Improving Mobility and Urban Inclusion in the Amazonas Corridor in Belo Horizonte ([P169134](#))

Objective: To (i) improve the quality of service and access to opportunities for public transport users in the area of influence of the Amazonas Express and (ii) improve the urban living conditions of the poor in selected precarious settlements.



GAPS

- Lack of access and safe transport reduces women's access to economic opportunities by 16.5%.
- Only 31% of job opportunities are accessible within 60 minutes of public transport travel time.

ACTIONS

- Revise response protocol for sexual harassment (SH); train bus operators on appropriate response to SH.
- Update transport plan to account for gender differences in mobility patterns and barriers for labor inclusion.

INDICATORS

- Beneficiaries satisfied with the quality of public transport service (Sex and income disaggregated).
- Accessibility to job opportunities within 60 minutes for women in relation to men's.
- Reduction in total time spent by women in their daily commute (minutes).