



MALAYSIA GENDER LANDSCAPE

This briefing showcases the gender landscape in Malaysia on key indicators helpful for monitoring gender equality and designing effective policy interventions. Gender equality fosters productivity gains, minimizes losses in wealth, reduces poverty, boosts shared prosperity, and supports green, resilient, and inclusive development.

Click the measures below to explore the [World Bank Gender Data Portal](#).

Compared to:	Base Year	Region
>10% Higher Value	↗	
Equal/No Change	→	
>10% Lower Value	↘	
No Data	---	

		Country Performance				Peer Comparison		
		Baseline		Latest		Latest		
		Value	Year	Value	Year	EAP	UMC	World
HUMAN ENDOWMENTS								
Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling	Female	8.59	2010	→	9.18	2020	NA	NA
	Male	7.99	2010	→	8.61	2020	NA	NA
Lower secondary completion rate (% of relevant group)	Female	86.9	2010	→	87.6	2019	93.1	77.3
	Male	82.6	2010	→	82.4	2019	90.3	76.7
Female share of graduates from STEM programs, tertiary (%)		42.3	2010	↘	34.2	2018	NA	NA
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)		2.15	2010	→	1.96	2020	1.81	2.39
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19)		13.0	2010	→	13.6	2020	20.6	41.0
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births)		30.0	2010	→	29.0	2017	69.0	211
Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women)		NA	NA	---	97.4	2016	NA	NA
Contraceptive prevalence, any modern method (% of married women 15-49)		32.3	2004	→	34.3	2014	69.9	53.6
Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%)	Female	15.3	2010	→	14.9	2019	12.5	14.8
	Male	22.2	2010	→	21.8	2019	21.2	21.7
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY								
Labor force participation rate (% 15+, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	43.5	2010	↗	51.2	2021	59.0	46.3
	Male	76.2	2010	→	77.6	2021	74.8	71.7
Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	78.6	2010	↘	71.2	2019	54.8	54.6
	Male	72.8	2010	→	73.4	2019	57.8	53.0
Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	8.43	2010	↘	5.89	2019	22.1	25.3
	Male	15.9	2010	↘	13.0	2019	26.9	27.6
Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)	Female	NA	NA	---	14.8	2020	NA	NA
	Male	NA	NA	---	12.6	2020	NA	NA
Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (% of 24 hour day)	Female	19.1	2003	---	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Male	5.97	2003	---	NA	NA	NA	NA
Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)		49.0	2010	↘	44.2	2020	45.4	54.6
Financial institution account (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	82.1	2017	NA	69.0
	Male	NA	NA	---	87.9	2017	NA	76.6
Borrowed to start, operate, or expand a farm or business (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	4.39	2017	NA	4.29
	Male	NA	NA	---	5.69	2017	NA	6.78
Female share of employment in senior and middle management (%)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA
Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms)		13.1	2007	↗	25.4	2015	47.4	33.1
VOICE AND AGENCY								
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)		8.70	2007	↗	26.3	2015	32.8	17.8
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)		9.91	2010	↗	14.9	2021	21.4	26.1
Women who were first married by 18 (% of women 20-24)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA
Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (% of ever-partnered women 15-49)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA
Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife (any of five reasons, %)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA

Note: The East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region includes 38 countries (all income levels), as classified by The World Bank Group. Malaysia is an upper middle income (UMC) country, which includes 55 countries with a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita from \$4,096 to \$12,695 (calculated using the World Bank Atlas method). Data and definitions can be found on the [Gender Data Portal](#).

Country Baseline provides a reference from 1990 to 2010. Latest Value shows the latest available comparison from 2011 onwards. The arrow icon represents country increases or decreases over 10 percent relative to the base year. Peer comparisons show how Malaysia performs relative to the region, income group, and the world. Lighter and darker shades represent values 10 percent above and below regional peer values, respectively.

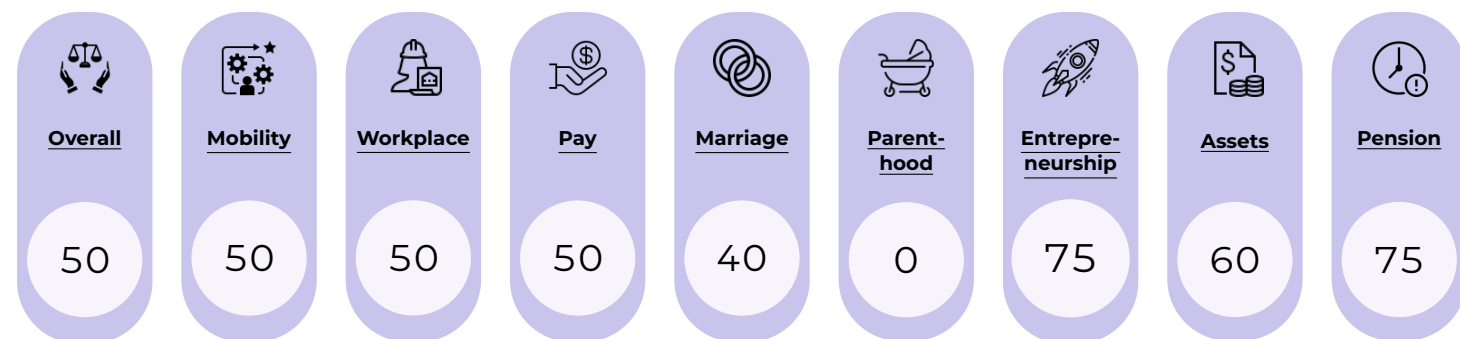




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Women, Business and the Law in Malaysia

Women, Business and the Law (WBL) 2022 presents an index covering 190 economies, structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across eight indicators. **Malaysia scores 50 out of 100**, while the regional average across East Asia and Pacific is 80.

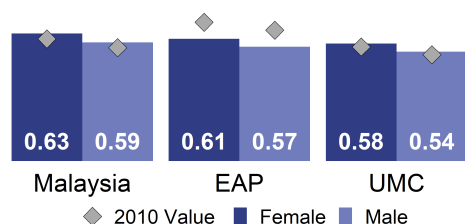


A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Malaysia

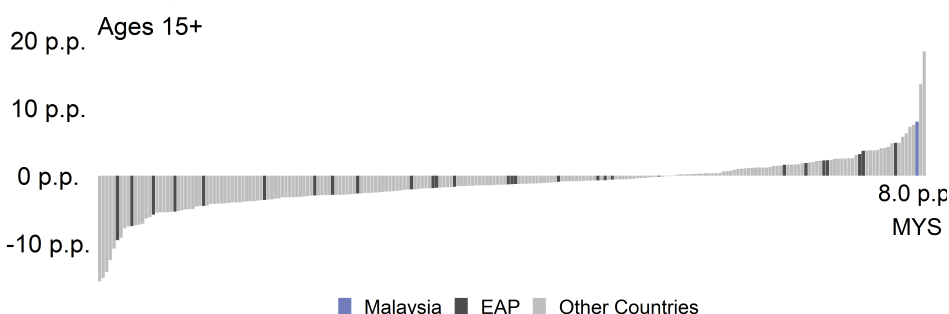
Despite some progress, gender gaps, gender-based violence, and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls persist, and gains in human capital of women and girls remain untapped. Turning human capital investments into economic gains means addressing multiple barriers to women's economic empowerment, including improving their voice and agency.

Human Capital Index Score (0-1)

Baseline compared to 2020



Change in Female Labor Force Participation 2010-2020 (p.p.)



Unpacking the Numbers in Malaysia

63 percent

A girl born today will be 63 percent as productive as if she enjoyed full education, health, and employment (2020)

26 points

Men and women have a 26 percentage point gap in labor force participation (2021)

5.7 times

Men hold 5.7 times as many seats in the national parliament as women (2021)

0.98 times

A man is 0.98 times as likely to have used the internet to pay bills or to buy something online in the past year (2017)

LEARN MORE

The World Bank in Gender: This portal features the latest research, news, and events around gender equality in international development.

Women, Business and the Law: This portal includes reports, data, and news on the laws and regulations that affect women's economic opportunity.

World Bank Group Gender Strategy (FY16-FY23): This 2015 report outlines the World Bank Group's strategy to promote gender equality.

World Bank Gender Data Portal: This open data tool shares the latest statistics and research to improve understanding and inform policy choices.

EAP Gender Innovation Lab: This page features policy research by the GIL, evaluating innovative solutions to close priority gender gaps in the region.



WORLD BANK GROUP



Accelerate Equality
Gender Equality and Development