

# NICARAGUA GENDER LANDSCAPE

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

Click the links 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			LAC	LMC	World
<b>HUMAN ENDOWMENTS</b>										
Learning-Adjusted Years of School	Female	NA	NA	---	6.96	2020		NA	NA	NA
	Male	NA	NA	---	6.54	2020		NA	NA	NA
Lower secondary completion rate (% of relevant age group)	Female	73.1	2010	---	NA	NA		82.3	76.9	77.3
	Male	60.1	2010	---	NA	NA		77.6	74.3	76.7
Female share of graduates from STEM programmes, tertiary (%)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)		2.60	2010	↘	2.35	2020		1.99	2.67	2.39
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)		97.3	2010	↘	79.9	2020		60.3	41.4	41.0
Unmet need for contraception (% of married women ages 15-49)		10.7	2007	↘	5.80	2012		NA	14.6	NA
Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women)		70.8	2001	---	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births)		112	2010	↘	98.0	2017		74.0	253	211
Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%)	Female	14.0	2010	→	13.4	2019		12.7	19.1	14.8
	Male	17.2	2010	→	17.7	2019		17.1	25.3	21.7
<b>ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY</b>										
Labor force participation rate (% age 15+, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	44.5	2010	→	46.8	2021		48.5	33.6	46.3
	Male	84.2	2010	→	81.3	2021		72.5	72.0	71.7
Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	49.8	2010	→	51.6	2019		63.5	33.5	54.6
	Male	52.0	2010	↗	60.8	2019		61.2	38.0	53.0
Female share of employment in senior and middle management (%)		28.4	2001	↗	53.7	2014		NA	NA	NA
Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	7.04	2010	↗	8.23	2019		7.08	41.9	25.3
	Male	42.9	2010	→	44.7	2019		18.0	36.0	27.6
Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)	Female	35.6	2005	↗	40.1	2014		29.5	40.4	NA
	Male	10.2	2005	↘	8.49	2014		18.3	14.5	NA
Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (% of 24 hour day)	Female	NA	NA	---	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA
	Male	NA	NA	---	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA
Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)		60.9	2010	↘	54.3	2020		49.1	55.9	54.6
Financial institution account (% age 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	22.2	2017		NA	51.7	63.7
	Male	NA	NA	---	35.2	2017		NA	60.6	70.6
Borrowed to start, operate, or expand a farm or business (% age 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	11.6	2017		NA	6.81	5.26
	Male	NA	NA	---	7.25	2017		NA	9.00	7.57
Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms)		61.9	2010	↘	35.8	2016		49.9	33.9	33.1
<b>VOICE AND AGENCY</b>										
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)		32.3	2010	↘	27.0	2016		20.1	20.0	17.8
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)		20.7	2010	↗	50.5	2021		34.4	21.5	26.1
Women who were first married by age 18 (% of women ages 20-24)		40.6	2007	↘	35.2	2012		NA	NA	NA
Proportion of women in ministerial level positions (%)		38.5	2010	↗	58.8	2020		27.9	16.7	22.0
Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (% of ever-partnered women ages 15-49)		NA	NA	---	7.50	2012		NA	NA	NA

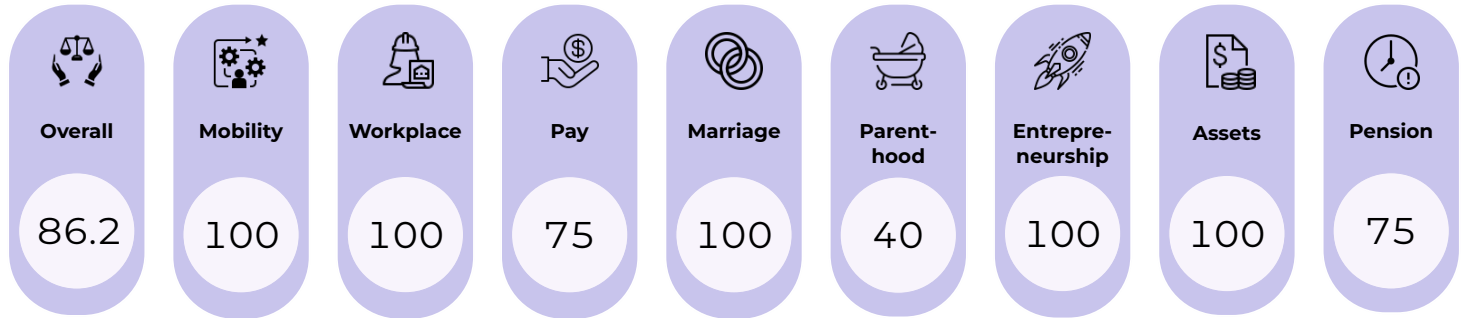
Note:

Data retrieved from [World Bank Gender Data Portal](#). The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region includes 42 countries (all income levels), as classified by The World Bank Group. Nicaragua is a Lower middle income (LMC) country, which includes 55 countries with a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita from \$1,046 to \$4,095 (calculated using the World Bank Atlas method). Data definitions can be found on the [Gender Data Portal](#). Country Baseline provides a reference value between 1990 and 2010. Latest Value shows the latest available comparison from 2011 onwards. Baseline comparisons are represented by an arrow icon that points to increases or decreases greater than 10 percent relative to the base year. Comparison to the regional average shows how Nicaragua performs relative to its peers in the region, income group, and the world. Darker and lighter shades represent values 10 percent or below or above its peers in the region, respectively.



## Women, Business and the Law in Nicaragua

**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. **Nicaragua scores 86.2 out of 100**, while the regional average across Latin America and Caribbean is 80.4.

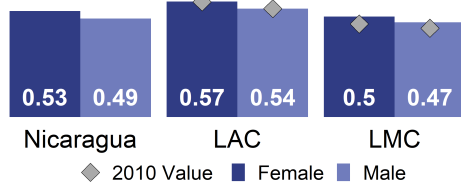


## A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Nicaragua

Despite some progress, gender gaps persist, gender-based violence and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls remain sticky, 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.

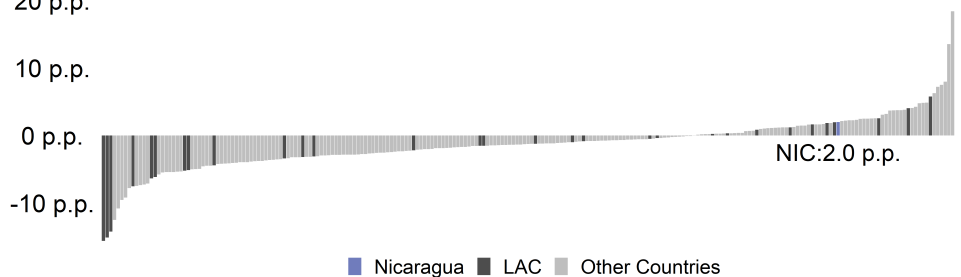
### Human Capital Index Score (0-1)

Baseline compared to 2020



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

Ages 15+



### Unpacking the Numbers in Nicaragua

#### 53 percent

A girl born today will be 53 percent as productive as if she enjoyed full education, health, and employment (2020)

#### 1 in 3

35.2 percent of women ages 20 to 24 were first married by age 18 (2012)

#### 7.5 percent

7.5 percent of women were subjected to physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months (2012)

#### 1 times

Men hold 1 times as many seats in the national parliament as women (2021)

#### 2.3 times

A man is 2.3 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 page shares the latest statistics and research to improve understanding and inform policy choices.
- **IFC Work in Gender:** This page provides an overview of the work by IFC to promote gender equality in its global partnerships.
- **LAC Gender Innovation Lab:** This page features policy research by the GILs, identifies priority gender gaps and tests innovative solutions in the LAC region.

