

Women, Business and the Law

OECD high-income economies tend to have the highest average score across most *Women, Business and the Law* indicators. However, few reforms were carried out in the past two years in the 32 economies in this grouping. Night work restrictions exist in every region except in OECD high-income economies.

Over the past two years, the following reforms have occurred:

Hungary eliminated small claims courts and procedures, increasing legal formalities for claims of a smaller value.

Iceland enhanced access to credit information by starting to report data from utility companies. Iceland also prohibited discrimination based on gender when accessing goods and services including financial services.

Ireland introduced 10 days of paid paternity leave.

Israel increased the length of paid maternity leave from 98 to 105 days and now allows the mother to transfer one week of maternity leave to the father.

Italy increased paid paternity leave from 1 to 2 days.

New Zealand replaced maternity leave with parental leave and increased it from 112 to 126 days.

Poland replaced 42 days of paid maternity leave with paid parental leave. Poland also eliminated all restrictions on women's employment. However, the economy reversed a 2012 law that was gradually increasing and equalizing the retirement ages for men and women. The retirement age is set to be lowered back to 60 years for women and 65 for men.

The Slovak Republic increased the percentage of wages received during maternity leave from 65% to 75%.

Slovenia prohibited sexual harassment in education.

Spain increased the length of paid paternity leave from 15 to 30 days.

Sweden increased the allocation of parental leave for mothers and fathers from 60 to 90 days.

Women, Business and the Law measures how laws, regulations and institutions differentiate between women and men in ways that may affect women's incentives or capacity to work or to

set up and operate a business. It analyzes legal differences on the basis of gender in 189 economies, covering seven areas: accessing institutions, using property, getting a job, providing incentives to work, building credit, going to court and protecting women from violence. The report is published every two years.

The full report and accompanying datasets are available at wbi.worldbank.org.

Media Contact:

Indira Chand +1 (202) 458-0434, +1 (703) 376-7491, ichand@worldbank.org.