

## When societies get to equal, economies become more resilient.

Reforming discriminatory laws can facilitate women's employment and entrepreneurship, helping countries to grow sustainably, govern effectively, and reduce poverty.



## Higher scores are associated with better outcomes for women.

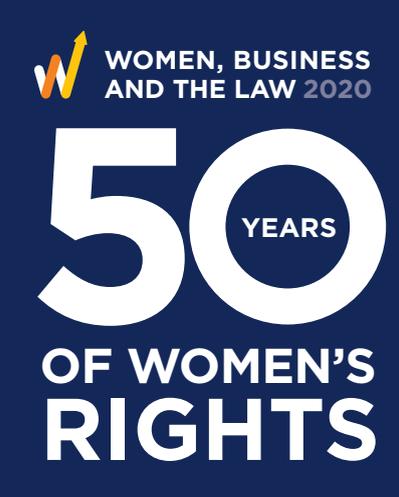
Better performance in the *Women, Business and the Law* index is associated with more women in the labor force, a smaller wage gap between men and women, and greater investments in health and education.

## About *Women, Business and the Law*

The World Bank Group's *Women, Business and the Law* examines laws and regulations affecting women's prospects as entrepreneurs and employees across 190 economies. The project's goal is to inform policy discussions on removing discriminatory laws and promote research on enhancing women's economic inclusion.



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Today, women have three-quarters of the legal rights of men.

How have laws evolved over the last 50 years toward greater gender equality?

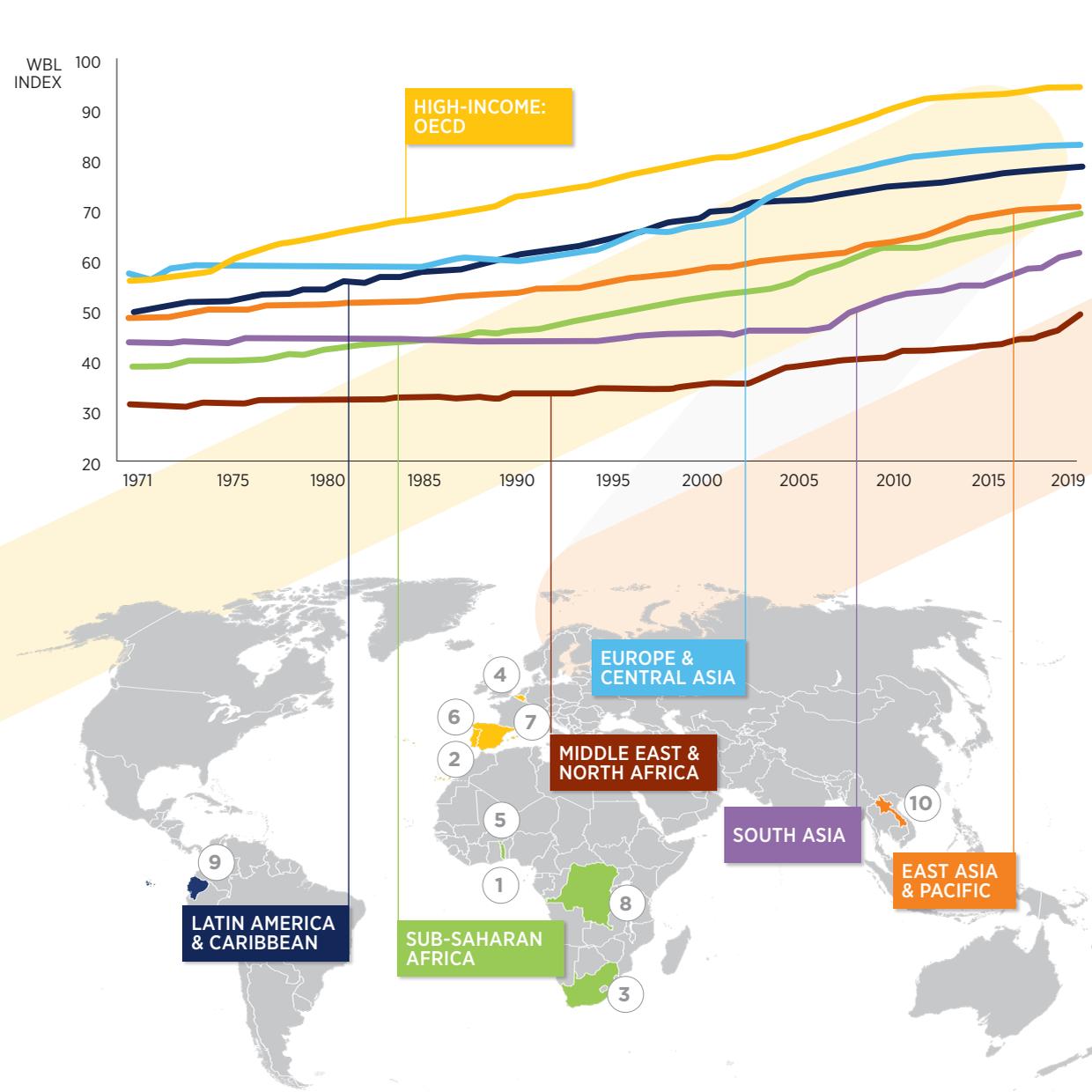
**Women, Business and the Law** measures progress toward legal gender equality over time through an index structured around the life cycle of a working woman. How have women's legal rights evolved over the last 50 years?

**Today, women have just three-quarters of the legal rights of men.**

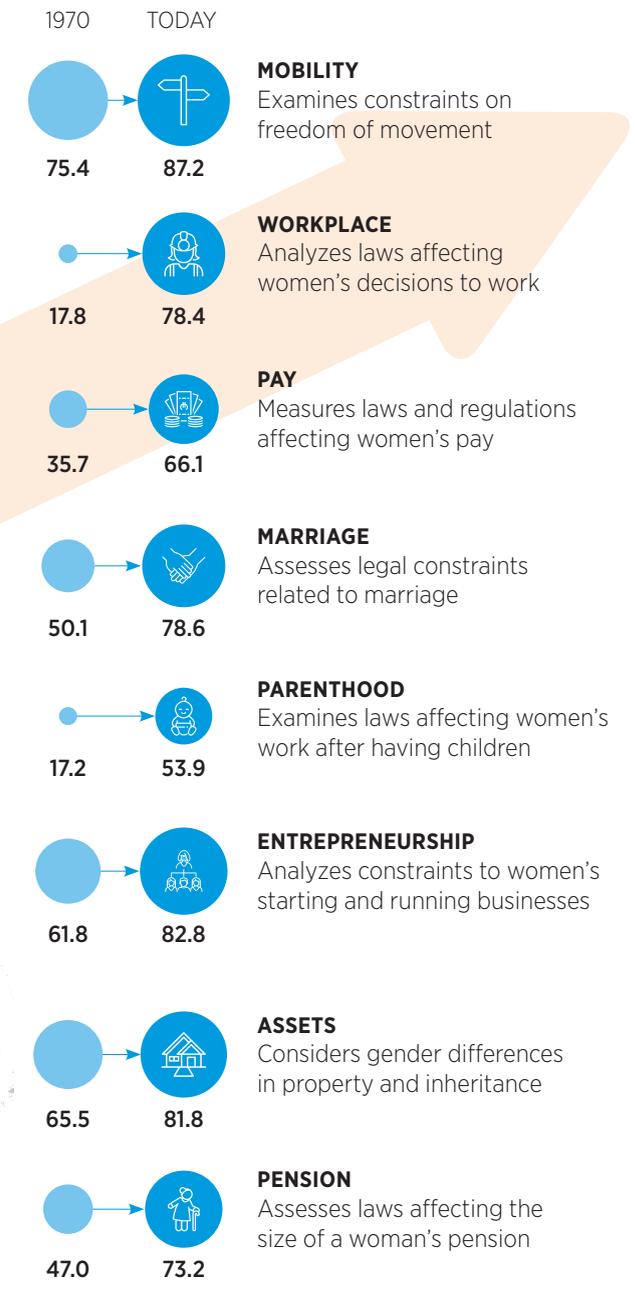
In 1970, it was less than half. Over the last 50 years, more than 1,500 reforms enhancing women's economic empowerment were passed in every country. Many more are still needed to reach legal gender equality at the global level.



**The Path of Regional Reform by Women, Business and the Law Index Score**  
Although the pace of reform has differed significantly, there has been substantial improvement in all regions during the five decades covered by the data. Sub-Saharan Africa saw the greatest improvement, with an 81.1 percent change in average score between 1970 and today.



**Eight Indicators Measure Legal Differences Between Men And Women**  
The indicators are constructed around women's interactions with the law as they begin, progress through, and end their careers. While there were significant gains in all areas, gaps remain, especially in the areas of Pay and Parenthood.



**TOP 10 MOST IMPROVED ECONOMIES**

Countries of all income groups from the East Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, OECD high income, and Sub-Saharan Africa regions saw the greatest increase in score over the last 50 years. Two of them have achieved gender equality in all of the areas measured. Today, only eight economies around the world receive a score of 100: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Latvia, Luxembourg, and Sweden.

