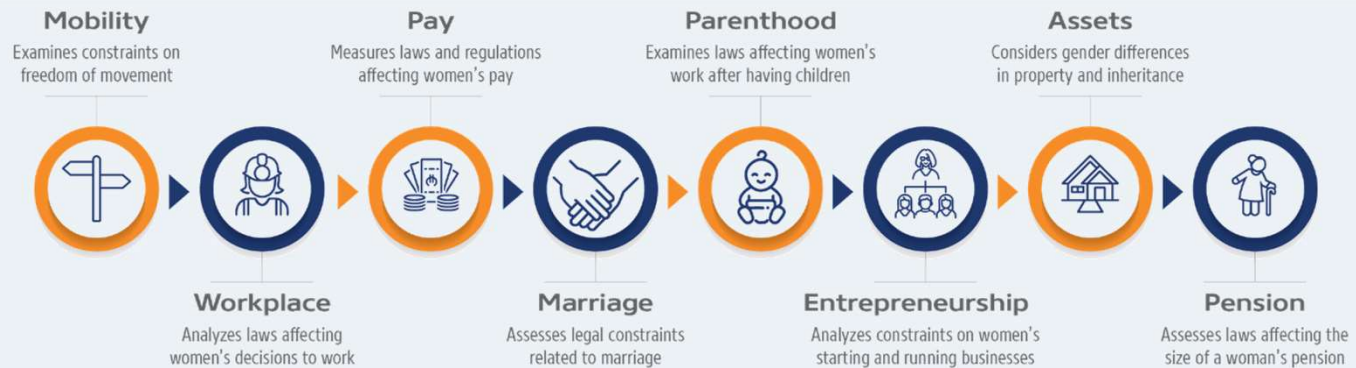




WOMEN, BUSINESS AND THE LAW 2020

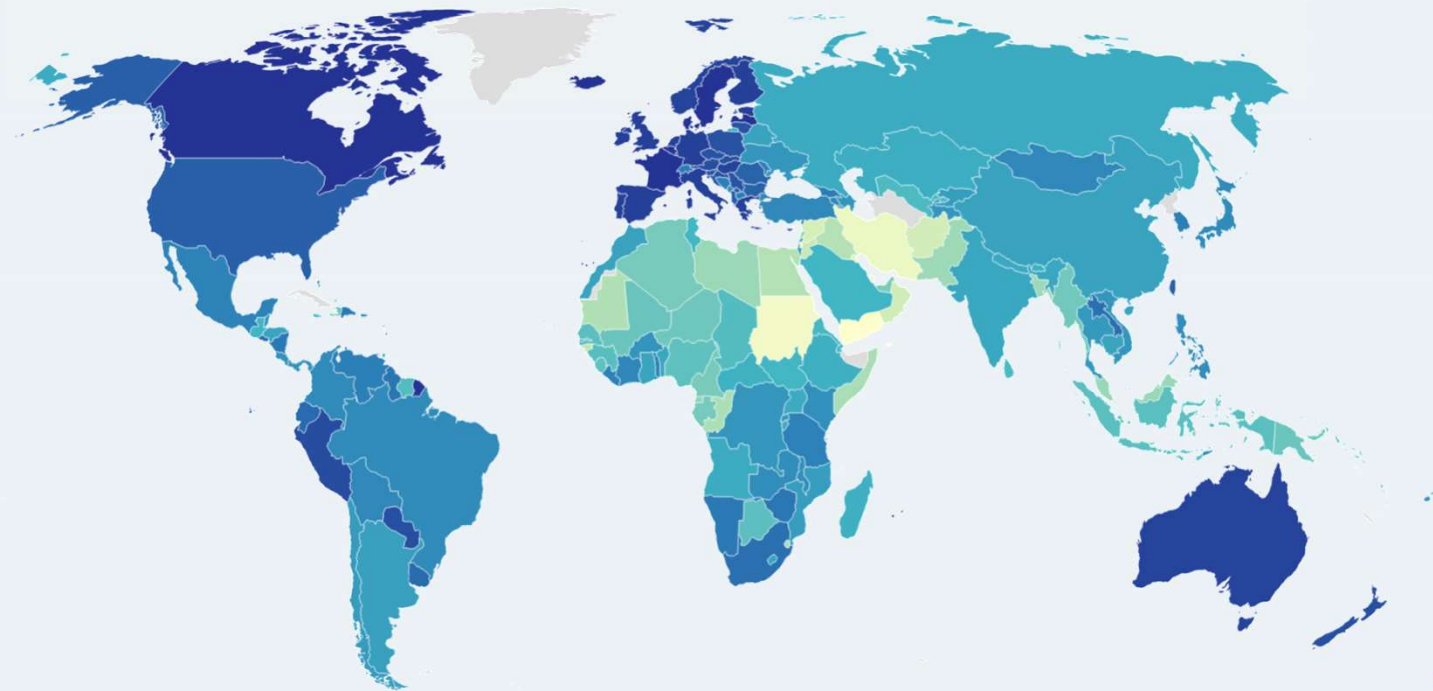
LAWS AFFECT WOMEN THROUGHOUT THEIR WORKING LIVES

Women navigate discriminatory laws and regulations at every point in their careers, limiting their equality of opportunity.



WOMEN HAVE JUST THREE FOURTHS THE RIGHTS OF MEN

The global average *Women, Business and the Law* index score is 75.2.

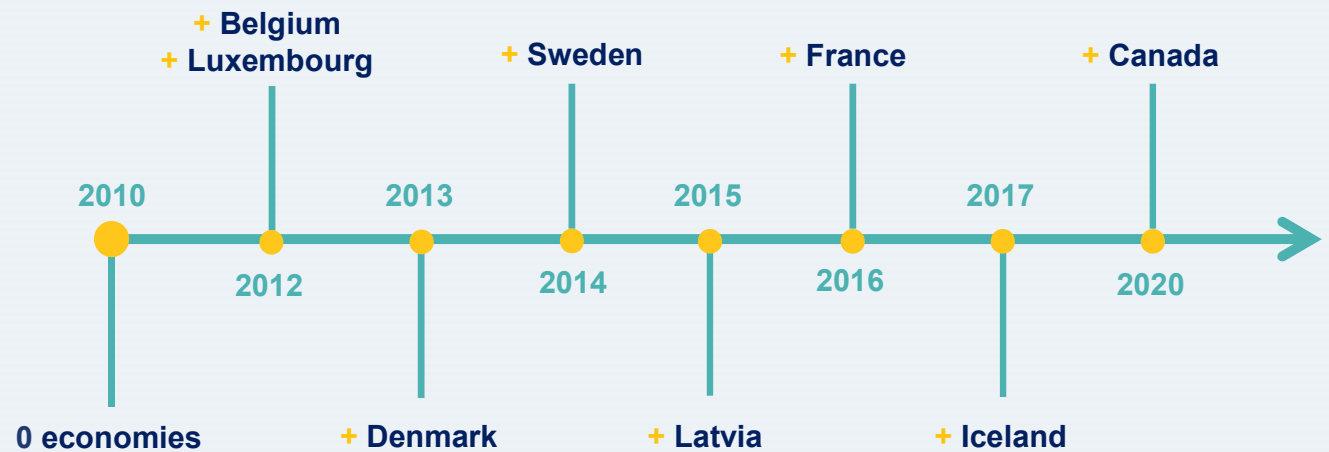


Women, Business and the Law 2020 Index



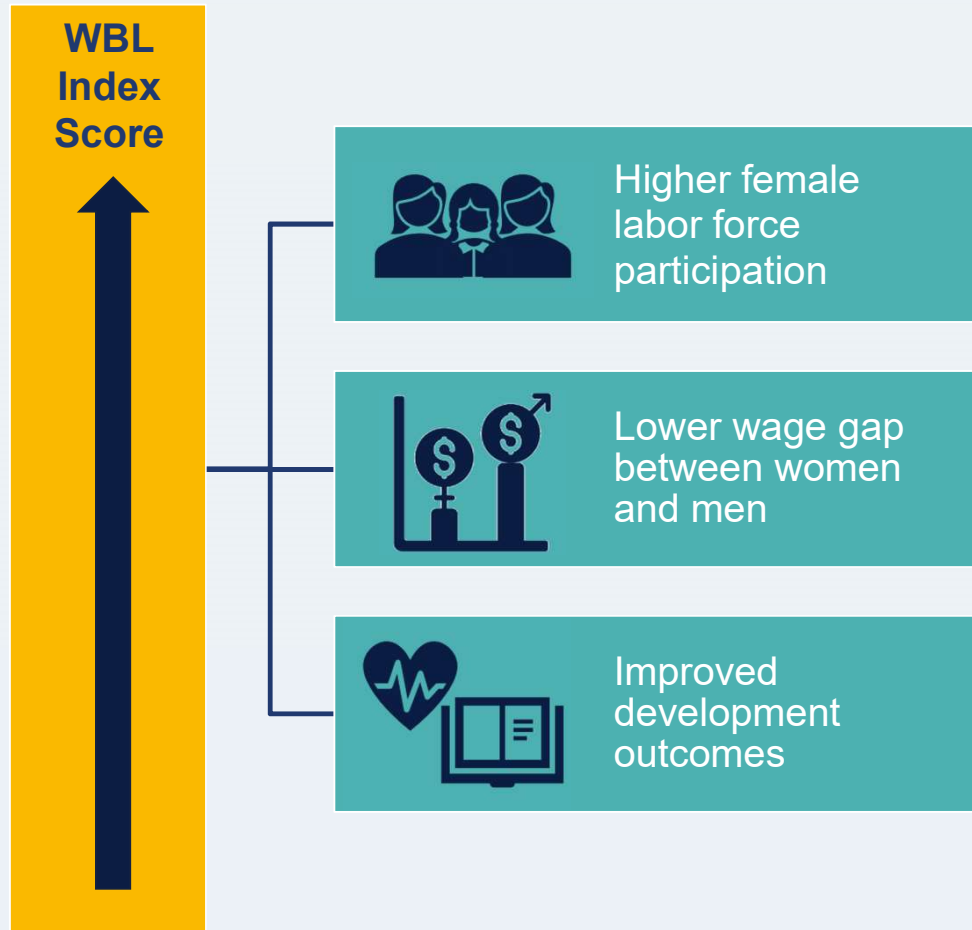
ONLY EIGHT ECONOMIES RECEIVE A SCORE OF 100

A decade ago, none of these economies received the top score.



HIGHER SCORES MEAN BETTER OUTCOMES FOR WOMEN

Better performance is associated with more women in the labor force and with higher income and improved development outcomes.



MORE THAN 20% OF ECONOMIES REFORMED TOWARD EQUALITY

Three economies implemented changes that reduced equality.



ECONOMIES IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST ARE TOP IMPROVERS

Saudi Arabia made the biggest improvement in the index since 2017.

	Saudi Arabia	+ 38.8
	United Arab Emirates	+ 29.4
	Nepal	+ 18.1
	South Sudan	+ 18.1
	São Tomé and Príncipe	+ 11.9
	Bahrain	+ 8.8
	Congo, Dem. Rep.	+ 8.8
	Djibouti	+ 8.8
	Jordan	+ 8.8
	Tunisia	+ 8.8

ECONOMIES ARE REFORMING IN THE AREAS THAT NEED IT MOST

The most popular areas of reform are Parenthood and Pay.



PARENTHOOD

16 economies introduced reforms in the last two years, including mandating maternity, paternity, or parental leave.

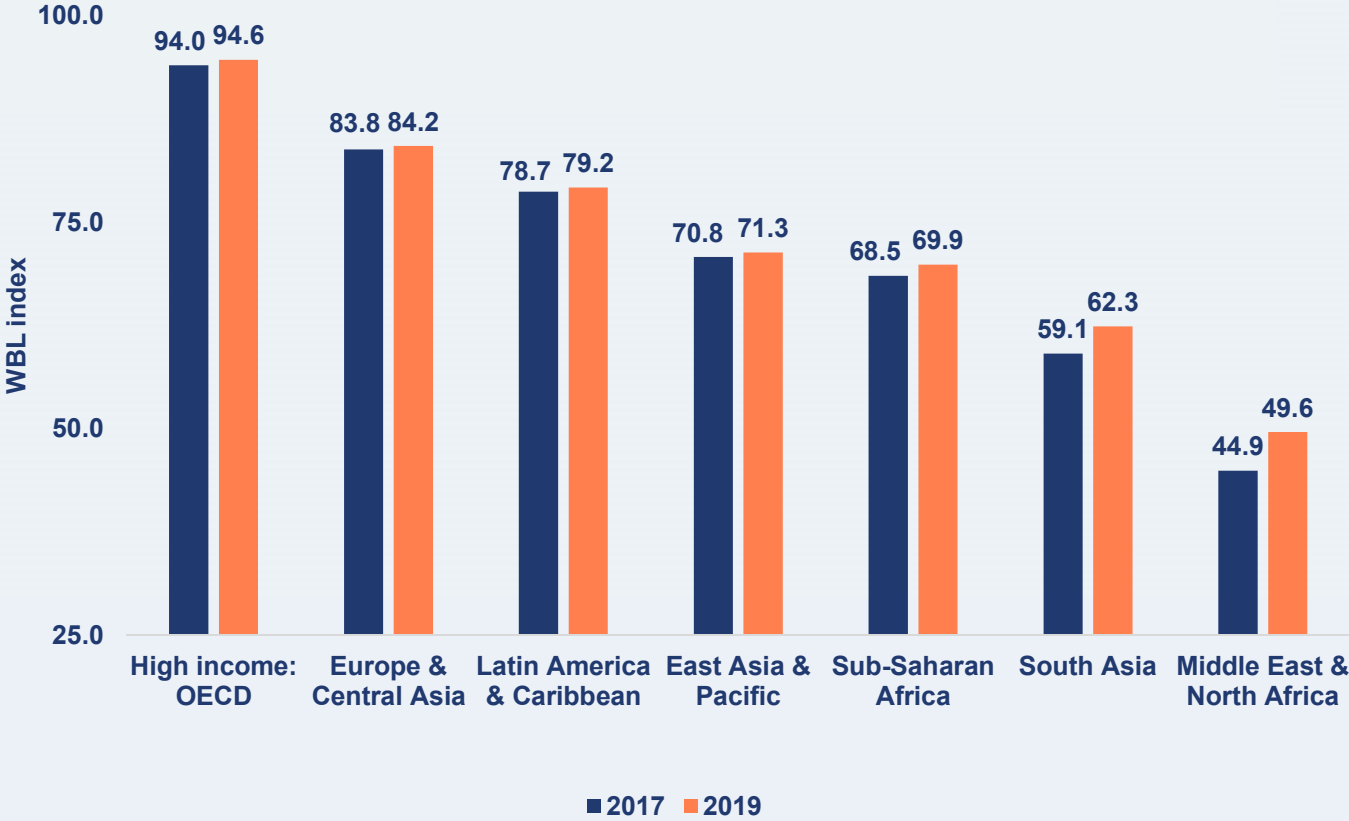


PAY

12 economies removed restrictions on the jobs that women can work, or introduced equal remuneration for work of equal value.

EVERY REGION MADE PROGRESS TOWARD EQUALITY

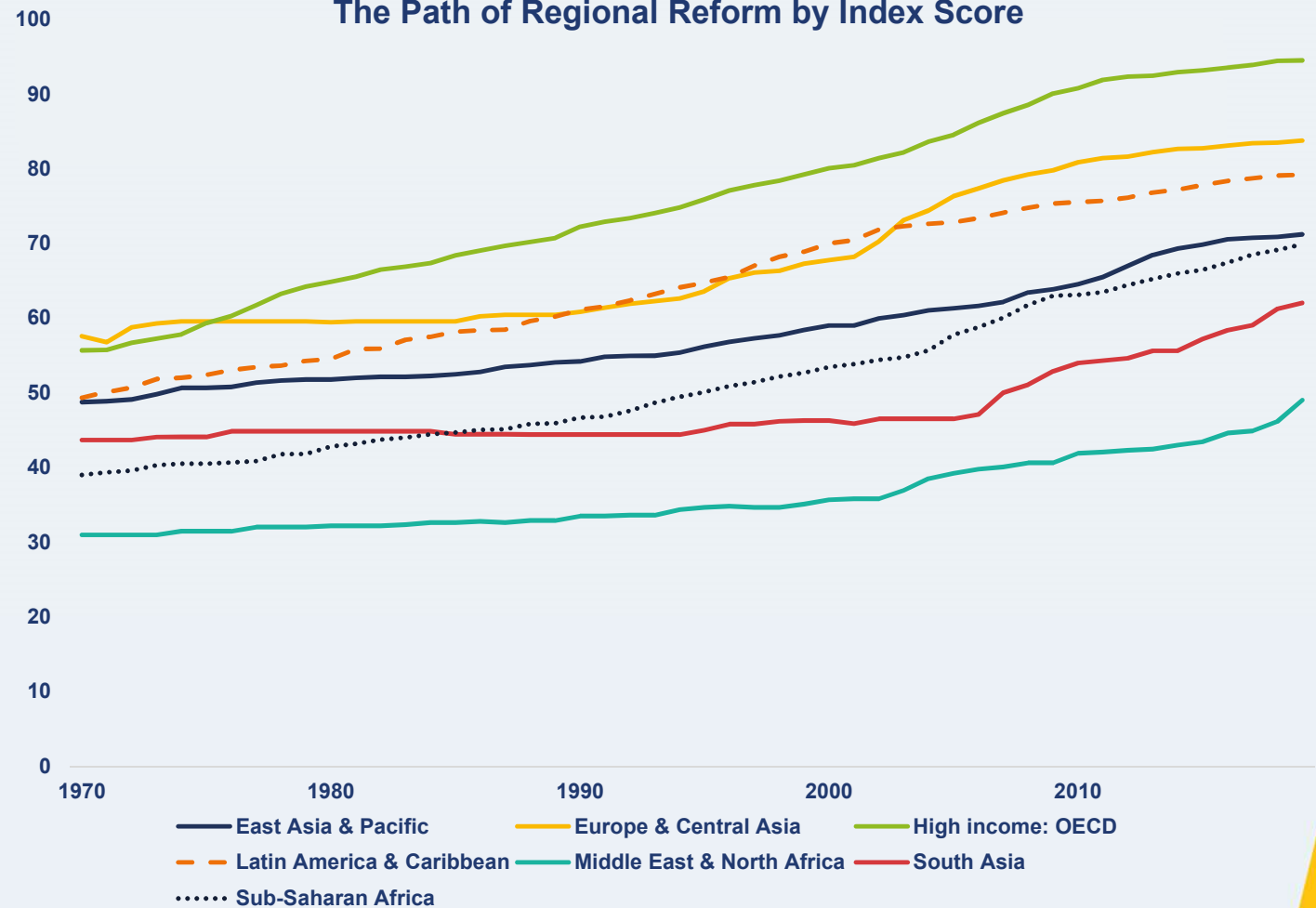
The lowest-scoring regions saw the most improvement over the last two years.



50 YEARS OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Every economy measured has made at least one regulatory change each year since 1970, for a total of 1,517 reforms over 50 years.

The Path of Regional Reform by Index Score



LEARN MORE

Read the study and download the data set at wbl.worldbank.org.



Women, Business and the Law

Indicator Data

Select an Indicator

Economy Data

Select an Economy

Women, Business and the Law (WBL) measures gender inequality in the law. The dataset identifies barriers to women's economic participation and encourages the reform of discriminatory laws. [Read more](#)

Home

Reports

Methodology

Resources

Local Experts

About Us

Reforms



Women, Business and the Law 2020

Women, Business and the Law 2020 analyzes laws and regulations affecting women's economic inclusion in 190 economies. While celebrating the progress made, the data and analysis emphasize the work still to be done to ensure economic empowerment for all.

[Read the Study](#) | [Get the data](#) | [Learn more](#)