

Informal Employment Facts and Figures

- An estimated 244 million people in ASEAN are in informal employment. This represents as much as 78.6 per cent of the region's workforce aged 15 and older.
- Informal employment in ASEAN is higher than the world average of 50.8 percent (excluding agriculture).
- Most informal workers are:
 - *Male*: The percentage of male informal workers range from 50.5 per cent in Cambodia to 61.5 per cent in Malaysia.
 - *Own-account workers and contributing family workers*: An estimated 81.8 per cent of all own-account workers and 100 per cent of all contributing family workers are informally employed.
 - *Least likely to have reached tertiary education*: Data from five ASEAN countries show that their informal workers have completed, at most, secondary education, equivalent to International Standard Classification of Education or ISCED levels 2 and 3.
 - *Earning less than formal workers*: Data from six countries show that the average earnings of informal workers (excluding agriculture) are less than that of the formal workers. In Cambodia and Laos PDR, however, informal workers in urban areas earn more than those in formal employment, regardless of location.
- The risks and vulnerabilities of informal workers include:
 - Lack of access to social insurance, including healthcare; maternity benefits; assistance in cases of unemployment, work-related injury, disability, or sickness; and old age and survivors' pensions
 - Limited labour rights and absence of labour protection, such as decent work hours; minimum wage; protection against nonpayment of wages, retrenchment without cause, discrimination, and substandard or unsafe work environment
 - Irregular and lower earnings

Sources: *Regional Study on Informal Employment Statistics to Support Decent Work Promotion in ASEAN, 2019*; *Extension of Social Security to Workers in Informal Employment in the ASEAN Region, 2019*