126 women die per 100,000 live births due to pregnancy-related causes in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic

The maternal mortality ratio in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic has improved from 579 in 2000 to 126 in 2020. Maternal mortality in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic is higher than its regional average. Maternal mortality ratio is the number of women who die from pregnancy-related causes while pregnant or within 42 days of pregnancy termination per 100,000 live births.

75 of every 1,000 girls ages 15-19 gave birth in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic in 2020

In the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the rate of adolescent fertility has decreased since 2010. The rate in 2020 was higher than the average rate in its income group.


60.9% of girls and 61.7% of boys complete lower secondary school in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic as of 2021.

The female rate in the Lao People's Democratic Republic is lower than both East Asia & Pacific and the lower-middle income group. Lower secondary education completion rate measures how many children have completed the last grade of lower secondary education regardless of age completed.

Lower secondary completion rate, by sex (% of relevant age group)

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Adult literacy in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic is lower among women than among men (2021)

The adult female literacy rate in the Lao People's Democratic Republic is lower than in East Asia & Pacific. Adult literacy rate is the percentage of people ages 15 and above who can both read and write with understanding a short simple statement about their everyday life.

Adult literacy rate, by sex (% of people ages 15 and above)

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In the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the labor force participation rate among females is 55.4% and among males is 62.2% for 2022.

The labor force participation rate is the proportion of the population ages 15 and older that is economically active. Since 1990, female labor force participation has decreased. Compared with labor force participation in the lower-middle income group, the gap between men and women is lower in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Labor force participation rate, by sex (% of population ages 15+) (modeled ILO estimate)

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Vulnerable employment for females has improved in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic since 1991.

Workers in vulnerable employment are the least likely to have formal work arrangements, social protection, and safety nets to guard against economic shocks; thus they are more likely to fall into poverty. Vulnerable employment among women is 83.8% and among men is 71.4% in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic for 2021. The rate of vulnerable employment is higher for men and women in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic compared to the average rate in East Asia & Pacific.

In the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, women spend 1.4 times as much time on unpaid domestic and care work than men.

The data, expressed as a proportion of time in a day, measure the average time an individual spends on household provision of services for own consumption. In 2017, women in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic spent 13.6% of their day and men spent 10.1% of their day on unpaid work. Data compiled from the most recent data point between 2010 and 2019.

In 2021, vulnerable employment among women is 83.8% and among men is 71.4% in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

The rate of vulnerable employment is higher for men and women in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic compared to the average rate in East Asia & Pacific.

More men than women owned a business in 2018.

The share of female business owners for the Lao People’s Democratic Republic falls in the third quintile of all countries for which there are data. Share of business is calculated as the proportion of female or male newly registered limited liability company owners out of the total number of newly registered limited liability company owners in the economy in the calendar year. Data compiled from the most recent data point between 2016 and 2018.
In 2017, 31.9% of women and 26.1% of men in the Lao People's Democratic Republic had an account. The female rate in the Lao People's Democratic Republic is lower than both East Asia & Pacific and the lower-middle income group. Account ownership denotes the percentage of respondents who report having an account (by themselves or together with someone else) at a bank or another type of financial institution or report personally using a mobile money service in the past 12 months.

Source: Demirguc-Kunt et al., 2018, Global Financial Inclusion Database, World Bank.

Data is not available for the Lao People's Democratic Republic for House ownership status, by sex (% of population age 15-49)

Source: Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)

In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the share of women who have experienced intimate partner violence is less than the world average, 27%

Intimate partner violence is by far the most prevalent form of violence against women globally and is defined as the percentage of ever-married women (ages 15-49) who have ever experienced physical or sexual violence committed by their husband or partner, whereas those who have ever experienced any form of sexual violence is the percentage of women (ages 15-49) who ever experienced sexual violence irrespective of marital status and perpetrator.

Percentage of women ages 15-49 who have ever experienced:

Intimate partner violence 19%

Source: Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) Statcompiler (https://www.statcompiler.com)
22% of seats in national parliament were held by women in 2022 in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Women in parliaments are the percentage of parliamentary seats in a single or lower chamber held by women. The proportion of seats held by women in the Lao People's Democratic Republic has decreased since 2010. The current rate is similar to the average rate in lower-middle income countries.

Seats held by women in national parliaments, female (%)

Women represented 23.4% of those employed in senior and middle management in 2017.

The female share of employment in senior and middle management for the Lao People's Democratic Republic falls in the second quintile of all countries for which there are data. Data compiled from the most recent data point available between 2010 and 2022.

Employment in senior and middle management, female (%)

In 2021 women and men used a mobile phone or the internet to pay bills at approximately the same rate.

The female rate in the Lao People's Democratic Republic is lower than East Asia & Pacific but nearly the same as the lower-middle income group. Internet usage denotes the percentage of respondents who report using a mobile phone or the internet to pay bills in the past 12 months.

Used a mobile phone or the internet to pay bills in the past year, by sex (% age 15+)

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) (www.ipu.org). For the year of 1998, the data is as of August 10, 1998.

Source: Global Findex database

Data retrieved from World Bank Gender Data Portal
https://genderdata.worldbank.org/countries/lao-pdr/