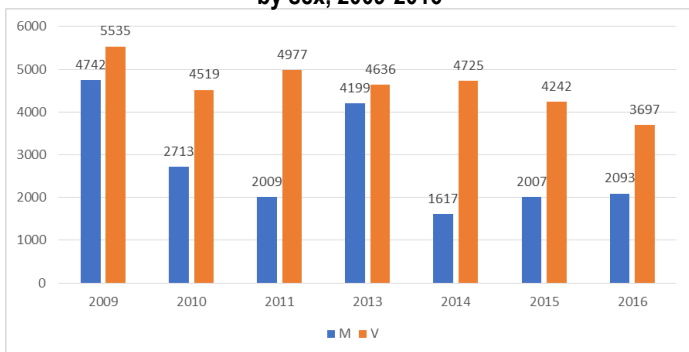


# Situation Analysis of Women and Men in Suriname: Economy

## KEY GEI ECONOMIC MESSAGES

- Labour force data show that men are more represented on the labour market. The majority of jobseekers are women. The industrial sector shows more men than women active, while in the service sector, women are the main workers. Recent sex-disaggregated data in the agriculture sector do not exist, since these are not collected.
- There are no recent data on informal employment. The most recent data produced by the General Bureau of Statistics (GBS) are from 2006, when the informal sector was estimated to be 18.5% of the gross domestic national product. A field research conducted in the same year showed that in the coastal area about 51 percent of employment in non-agricultural sectors could be called 'informal'. In 2013, the Suriname Business Association estimated that 20% of the economic sector is informal.
- The census data of 2004 and 2012 showed no data by sex on the proportion of population with access to credit by sex, and the gender gap in wages. It is not clear whether the data on the proportion of people owning land are collected by sex and size of land parcel. In Suriname, land and parcel are often placed under the name of an organization with a board. It is difficult to determine whether the owner is a male or female, since the organization owns the land. The same thing more or less applies to the number of female firm owners. Often the company is registered as a limited liability company or has another management structure, which makes it difficult to figure out who the actual owner is.
- Fundamentally, women and men have equal rights regarding land ownership. Although customary law also guarantees men and women equal rights to land, in practice it is a challenge for tribal groups to actually claim land ownership. Their communal land rights are not yet legally recognized by the state, thus making them vulnerable to economic activities carried out in their living areas by outsiders who have acquired a legal mandate (logging and goldmining concessions).
- Data on persons who own a mobile phone is only available for the districts of Paramaribo en Wanica and is not available by sex.

Figure 1: Overview part-time workers in Paramaribo and Wanica by sex, 2009-2016

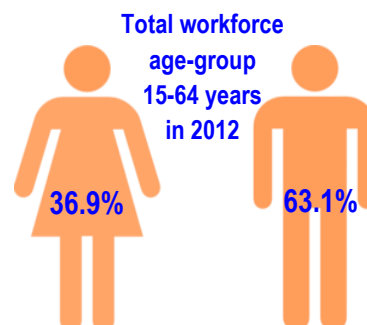


Source: Labour Statistics Department of the Ministry of Labour

More women than men work part-time, based on 20 hours a week. These data are only available for the districts of Paramaribo and Wanica.

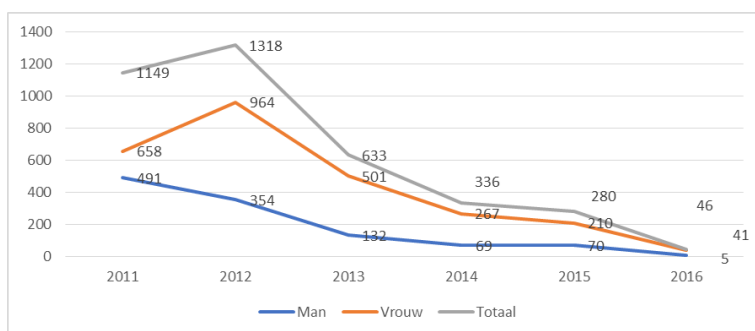
Overall, the data on part-time workers from 2009 -2016 shows that mostly women hold a part-time job.

Data from the 2012 census imply that the total workforce in the age-group 15-64 years, is 188,229. Of this total, 63.1% are men and 36.9% women.



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**Figure 2: Jobseekers in Paramaribo by sex**

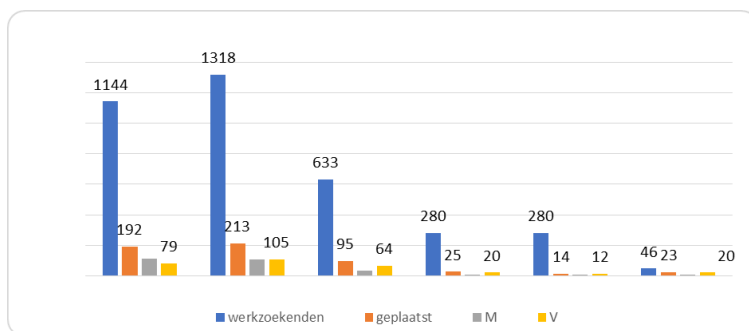


Source: Labour Statistics Department, Ministry of Labour

Data from the Labour Statistics department show that there is a declining trend in the number of jobseekers. However, the figures presented here are based on the number of registered jobseekers, and are not representative for the total Surinamese population, since the data are collected only in two districts, Paramaribo, the capital and Nickerie. Moreover, not all jobseekers are registered. Paramaribo's Labour Office also registered jobseekers from other districts.

It is noteworthy that more women than men are placed. The reason for this is that many of the vacancies are related to household jobs (maids and/or nannies), which specify women or for which jobs women are usually interested. Further, more than 70% of the jobseekers have a low level of education, usually lower than junior secondary school.

**Figure 3: Overview of placed jobseekers by sex in Paramaribo 2011-2016**



Source: Labour Statistics Department, Ministry of Labour

## GENDER DATA AND THE ECONOMY

With regard to access to credit, both men and women can take out a loan if they meet the conditions (e.g. hold a permanent job and / or collateral). This does not apply to residents of the interior. Access to loans for these residents is therefore limited. However, there are (banking) institutions such as Godo Bank and the Women in Business Group, which provide microcredits to these persons.

Of the total number of 140,367 households in Paramaribo and Wanica, the heads of 125,594 own a mobile phone, while 11,124 do not have a mobile phone. 67.6% of these owners are men and 32.4% are women. (ABS, Census 8 - *Huishoudens, Woonverblijven en Gezinnen, Milieu, Criminaliteit*).

In 2014 the proportion of employed persons who are own account workers was 8% for men and 2.7% for women. In 2015 this number slightly declined for men to 7.7% and slightly increased for women to 3%. In 2016 the opposite occurred, when the proportion for men was 8.2% and for women 2.5%.

Of the total working population in 2014, 0.4% men were unpaid family workers in comparison with 0.7% women. In 2015, 0.7% were men and 0.9% women; in 2016 this percentage declined for men to 0.4% and increased for women to 1.1%.