

Serbia

WBL 2.0 legal frameworks score	WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks score	WBL 2.0 expert opinions score
82.5	56.7	73.8

Women, Business and the Law 2024 (WBL 2024) identifies barriers for women's economic empowerment in three areas: women's legal rights, policy instruments designed to support the implementation of these rights, and how these rights are realized in practice. For that purpose, three new *Women, Business and the Law 2.0* indexes are presented for ten indicators: (1) legal frameworks, (2) supportive frameworks, and (3) expert opinions. For the WBL 2.0 legal frameworks index, 40 questions are scored across the ten indicators for 190 economies. For the WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks index, 30 questions are scored across the ten indicators for 190 economies. Overall economy level legal and supportive frameworks scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score. The WBL 2.0 expert opinions index is created for a total of 164 economies. Expert opinion scores are not available for 26 economies due to an insufficient number of responses received from those economies during data collection. Individual responses at the economy level for 15 expert opinions questions across the ten indicators are scored by taking the median value of all responses per question. The economy level expert opinions index is equal to the simple unweighted average of the ten indicator scores.

For Serbia, data refer to the legal frameworks, supportive frameworks, and expert opinions that are applicable to the main business city (Belgrade). The scores for Serbia are shown in the table below.

Women, Business and the Law 2024 2.0 indicator scores

										
WBL 2.0	Safety	Mobility	Workplace	Pay	Marriage	Parenthood	Childcare	Entrepreneurship	Assets	Pension
Legal frameworks score	25.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	50.0
Supportive frameworks score	50.0	66.7	66.7	50.0	100.0	66.7	50.0	0.0	66.7	50.0
Expert opinions score	50.0	100.0	75.0	37.5	75.0	87.5	50.0	87.5	75.0	100.0

In summary, the **WBL 2.0 legal frameworks score** for Serbia (82.5 out of 100.0) is higher than the global average (64.2) and higher than the Europe & Central Asia regional average (77.0). When it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, laws affecting women's decisions to work, laws affecting women's pay, constraints related to marriage, laws affecting women's work after having children, laws affecting childcare and laws affecting women's property and inheritance, Serbia obtains a perfect score (100.0 out of 100.0). As an example, one of the lowest scores for Serbia is on the indicator measuring laws affecting women's safety. To improve on the Safety indicator, Serbia may wish to consider introducing legislation on femicide, adopting comprehensive legislation on sexual harassment and introducing legislation on child marriage.

The **WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks score** for Serbia (56.7 out of 100.0) is higher than the global average (39.5) and higher than the Europe & Central Asia regional average (51.3). When it comes to supportive frameworks related to marriage, Serbia obtains a perfect score (100.0 out of 100.0). As an example, one of the lowest scores for Serbia is on the indicator measuring supportive frameworks related to women starting and running a business. To improve on the Entrepreneurship

indicator, Serbia may wish to consider publishing sex-disaggregated data on business activities, entrepreneurship, or women-owned businesses on a regular basis, establishing government-led programs that provide support to female entrepreneurs such as access to finance or regarding agency and empowerment and putting in place a national government plan or strategy with a focus on women's access to financial services.

The **WBL 2.0 expert opinions score** for Serbia (73.8 out of 100.0) is higher than the global average (65.7) and lower than the Europe & Central Asia regional average (75.2). When it comes to expert opinions on freedom of movement and expert opinions on women's pensions, Serbia obtains a perfect score (100.0 out of 100.0). As an example, one of the lowest scores for Serbia is on the indicator measuring expert opinions on women's pay.

WBL 2.0 legal frameworks data

QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
Safety		
Does the law address child marriage?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law address sexual harassment?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law address domestic violence?	Yes	Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Arts. 3, 4(2) and 17; Criminal Code, Arts. 89a and 194
Does the law address femicide?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Mobility		
Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	Yes	Family Law, Arts. 25 and 27
Can a woman travel internationally in the same way as a man?	Yes	Law on Travel Documents, Art. 24; Family Law, Arts. 25 and 27
Can a woman travel outside her home in the same way as a man?	Yes	Family Law, Arts. 25 and 27
Do a woman and a man have equal rights to confer citizenship on their spouses and their children?	Yes	Law on Citizenship, Art. 7, 9 and 17
Workplace		
Can a woman get a job in the same way as a man?	Yes	Family Law, Arts. 25 and 26
Does the law explicitly prohibit discrimination in recruitment based on marital status, parental status, and age?	Yes	Labor Code of March 15, 2005, Art. 18
Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	Yes	Labor Code of March 15, 2005, Arts. 18-20
Does the law allow employees to request flexible work?	Yes	Labor Code of March 15, 2005, Arts. 42 and 55
Pay		
Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	Yes	Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination, Art. 16
Can a woman work at night in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Can a woman work in a job deemed dangerous in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Can a woman work in an industrial job in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Marriage		
Is the law free of legal provisions that require a married woman to obey her husband?	Yes	Family Law, Arts. 3 and 25
Can a woman be "head of household" or "head of family" in the same way as a man?	Yes	Family Law, Arts. 3, 25 and 27
Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	Yes	Family Law, Arts. 40 and 41
Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	Yes	Family Law, Arts. 40 and 41
Parenthood		
Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	Yes	Labor Code of March 15, 2005, Art. 94; Law on Financial Support to Families with Children, Art. 13
Are leave benefits for mothers paid solely by the government?	Yes	Law on Financial Support to Families with Children, Art. 14

Is paid leave available to fathers?	Yes	Labor Code of March 15, 2005, Art. 77
Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	Yes	Labor Code of March 15, 2005, Art. 187
Childcare		
Does the law establish the provision of center-based childcare services?	Yes	Law on Preschool Education, Arts. 8-10 and 30; Law on Basic System of Education, Arts. 90-91
Does the law establish any form of support for families for childcare services?	Yes	Decision of the City Council of Belgrade No. 89/2020, Arts. 1-3 and 6; Decision of the Mayor of Belgrade No. 6-9755/22 of 20 December 2022; Decision of the City Council of Belgrade 85/18, Arts. 1-2 and 10-11; Law on Preschool Education, Art. 50; Law on Financial Support to Families with Children, Arts. 11(8), 34 and 37
Does the law establish any form of support for nonstate childcare providers?	Yes	Corporate Tax Law, Art. 15(1); Law on Social Protection, Art. 7
Does the law establish quality standards for the provision of center-based childcare services?	Yes	Law on Preschool Education, Arts. 30, 31 and 39(1); Law on Basic System of Education, Arts. 126(17), 140, 141, 144 and 178
Entrepreneurship		
Can a woman undertake entrepreneurial activities in the same way as a man?	Yes	Family Law, Arts. 3 and 25; Law on Companies, Arts. 93-95; Law on the Registration Procedure at the Agency for Business Registers, Art. 5a
Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender?	Yes	Law on Gender Equality, Arts. 1 and 50; Law on Prohibition of Discrimination, Art. 17
Does the law prescribe a gender quota for corporate boards?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law include gender-sensitive procurement provisions for public procurement processes?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Assets		
Do a woman and a man have equal administrative power and ownership rights to immovable property, including land?	Yes	Family Law, Arts. 169 and 174
Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	Inheritance Law, Arts. 8-9
Do male and female surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	Inheritance Law, Arts. 8-9
Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	Yes	Family Law, Art. 180
Pension		
Are the ages at which a woman and a man can retire with full pension benefits the same?	No	Law on Pension and Disability Insurance of 2 April 2003, Arts. 19 and 19a
Are the ages at which a woman and a man can retire with partial pension benefits the same?	No	Law on Pension and Disability Insurance of 2 April 2003, Arts. 19b, 19c, 70a and 70b
Is the mandatory retirement age for a woman and a man the same?	Yes	Labor Code of March 15, 2005, Art. 175(2)
Are periods of absence due to childcare accounted for in pension benefits?	Yes	Law on Pension and Disability Insurance of 2 April 2003, Art. 60

WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks data

QUESTION	ANSWER	SOURCE
Safety		
Has the government developed comprehensive mechanisms to address violence against women?	Yes	National Coalition to End Child Marriages; Rulebook on the Rules of Conduct of Employers and Employees Concerning Prevention and Protection from Harassment at the Workplace; Psychological Help at the City Center for Social Work in Belgrade; Training of Judges
Are special procedures in place for cases of sexual harassment?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Is a government entity responsible for monitoring and implementing national services, plans and programs addressing violence against women?	Yes	Council for Suppression of Domestic Violence
Is an annual budgetary allocation devoted to violence against women risk mitigation, prevention, and response programs?	No	Insufficient evidence located



Mobility

Are passport application processes the same for a woman and a man?	Yes	Passport application procedures
Are the application processes for official identity documents the same for a woman and a man?	Yes	ID application procedures
Does a current policy or plan explicitly consider the specific mobility needs of women in public transportation?	No	Insufficient evidence located

Workplace

Does a specialized body receive complaints about gender discrimination in employment?	Yes	Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination, Art. 33
Has the government published guidelines on nondiscrimination based on gender in recruitment?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Has the government published guidelines on flexible work arrangements?	Yes	Ministry of Manpower: Guidelines on Occupational Health and Safety in the Event of Remote Work

Pay

Are pay transparency measures or enforcement mechanisms in place to address the pay gap?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Have sex-disaggregated data on employment in different industries or sectors been published?	Yes	Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia: Labour Force Survey in the Republic of Serbia, 2022

Marriage

Is there a fast-track process or procedure for family law disputes?	Yes	Family Law, Art. 204
Are there specialized family courts?	Yes	Second Basic Court of Belgrade
Is legal aid available for family law disputes?	Yes	Ministry of Justice Legal Aid Procedures

Parenthood

Is it possible to apply for maternity benefits through a single government application process?	Yes	Law on Financial Support for Families with Children, Arts. 12 and 16
Are incentives in place to encourage fathers to take paternity leave on the birth of a child?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Have sex-disaggregated data on unpaid care work been published?	Yes	Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia: Time Use in the Republic of Serbia, 2021

Childcare

Is there a publicly available registry or database of childcare providers?	Yes	Official Website of the Ministry of Education; Official Website of the City Council of Belgrade
Is there a clearly outlined application procedure to request financial support from the government for childcare services by parents?	Yes	Decision of the City Council of Belgrade No. 89/2020, Arts. 1, 2 and 4; Decision of the City Council of Belgrade 85/18, Arts. 1, 2 and 16
Is there a clearly outlined application procedure to request financial support from the government for childcare services by nonstate childcare providers?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Has the government published any reports on the quality of childcare services?	No	Insufficient evidence located

Entrepreneurship

Have sex-disaggregated data on business activities, entrepreneurship, or women-owned businesses been published?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Are government-led programs supporting female entrepreneurs providing access to finance and training, coaching, or business development?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Does a current national government plan or strategy focus on women's access to financial services?	No	Insufficient evidence located

Assets

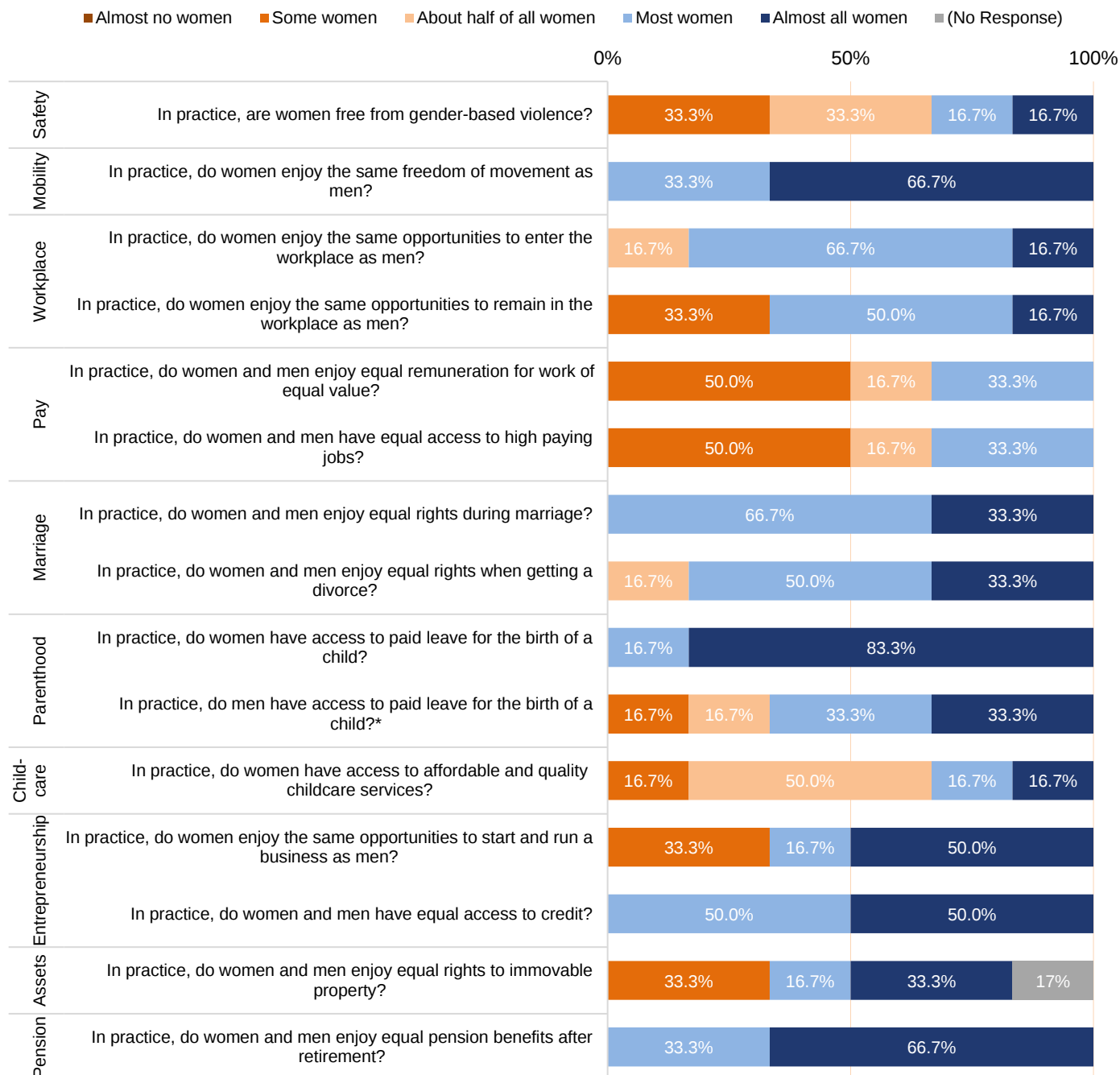
Are mechanisms or incentives in place to encourage women to register immovable property (including joint titling)?	Yes	Law on the Procedure for Enrollment in the Cadastre of Real Estate and Utilities, Art. 7
Are awareness measures in place to improve women's access to information about marital and inheritance rights?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Have anonymized sex-disaggregated data on property ownership been published?	Yes	Republic Geodetic Institute



Pension

Are incentives in place to increase women's retirement benefits?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Is a procedure in place for pension beneficiaries to challenge the decisions of the competent authority regarding their benefits?	Yes	Law on Pension and Disability Insurance, Arts. 98-99

WBL 2.0 distribution of expert opinion responses



*Note: The response options for the second Parenthood question above are formatted as almost no men, some men, about half of all men, most men, almost all men.