

Netherlands

WBL 2.0 legal frameworks score	WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks score	WBL 2.0 expert opinions score
90.0	60.8	79.4

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 Netherlands, data refer to the legal frameworks, supportive frameworks, and expert opinions that are applicable to the main business city (Amsterdam). The scores for Netherlands 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	50.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	75.0	75.0	100.0	100.0
Supportive frameworks score	0.0	66.7	100.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	75.0	33.3	33.3	50.0
Expert opinions score	50.0	100.0	81.3	56.3	100.0	100.0	75.0	81.3	100.0	50.0

In summary, the **WBL 2.0 legal frameworks score** for Netherlands (90.0 out of 100.0) is higher than the global average (64.2) and higher than the High income: OECD regional average (84.9). 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 women's property and inheritance and laws affecting the size of a woman's pension, Netherlands obtains a perfect score (100.0 out of 100.0). As an example, one of the lowest scores for Netherlands is on the indicator measuring laws affecting women's safety. To improve on the Safety indicator, Netherlands may wish to consider putting in place legislation on domestic violence and introducing legislation on femicide.

The **WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks score** for Netherlands (60.8 out of 100.0) is higher than the global average (39.5) and lower than the High income: OECD regional average (68.1). When it comes to supportive frameworks affecting women's decisions to work, supportive frameworks related to marriage and supportive frameworks affecting women's work after having children, Netherlands obtains a perfect score (100.0 out of 100.0). As an example, one of the lowest scores for

Netherlands is on the indicator measuring supportive frameworks affecting women's safety. To improve on the Safety indicator, Netherlands may wish to consider developing comprehensive mechanisms to address violence against women, putting in place special procedures for cases of sexual harassment, designating a government entity responsible for the monitoring and implementation of national services, plans and programmes addressing violence against women, providing an annual budgetary allocation towards violence against women risk mitigation and prevention and response programs.

The **WBL 2.0 expert opinions score** for Netherlands (79.4 out of 100.0) is higher than the global average (65.7) and lower than the High income: OECD regional average (82.9). When it comes to expert opinions on freedom of movement, expert opinions on marriage, expert opinions on women's work after having children and expert opinions on women's property and inheritance, Netherlands obtains a perfect score (100.0 out of 100.0). As an example, one of the lowest scores for Netherlands is on the indicator measuring expert opinions on women's safety.

WBL 2.0 legal frameworks data

QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
Safety		
Does the law address child marriage?	Yes	Civil Code, Arts. 1:31, 1:50, 1:53(1) and 1:74; Criminal Code, Art. 379(2)
Does the law address sexual harassment?	Yes	Working Conditions Act 1998, Arts. 1(3)(e), 2(b), 3(2), 32 and 33; Civil Code, Book 7, Art. 7:646
Does the law address domestic violence?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
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	Civil Code, Book 1, Arts. 10-15
Can a woman travel internationally in the same way as a man?	Yes	Passport Act, Art. 3
Can a woman travel outside her home in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Do a woman and a man have equal rights to confer citizenship on their spouses and their children?	Yes	Law on Dutch Citizenship, Arts. 3 and 6(1)(g)
Workplace		
Can a woman get a job in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Does the law explicitly prohibit discrimination in recruitment based on marital status, parental status, and age?	Yes	Equal Treatment Act, Arts. 1 and 5; Equal Treatment in Employment (Age Discrimination) Act, Arts. 1 and 3
Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	Yes	Equal Treatment Act, Arts. 1 and 5
Does the law allow employees to request flexible work?	Yes	Flexible Working Act 2022, Arts. 2 and 3
Pay		
Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	Yes	Equal Treatment Act, Art. 7; Dutch Civil Code, Art. 7:646
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	Civil Code, Book 1, Art. 81
Can a woman be "head of household" or "head of family" in the same way as a man?	Yes	Civil Code, Book 1, Art. 1
Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	Yes	Civil Code, Book 1, Arts. 150, 151 and 154
Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	Yes	Civil Code, Book 1, Art. 48
Parenthood		

Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	Yes	Work and Care Act, Arts. 3:1; Paid Parental Leave Act, Art. 6:3; Decree of 26 April 2022 amending the Paid Parental Leave Act, Art. 2
Are leave benefits for mothers paid solely by the government?	Yes	Work and Care Act, Arts. 3:11-3:12
Is paid leave available to fathers?	Yes	Work and Care Act, Arts. 4:2, 4:2a and 4:2b; Paid Parental Leave Act, Art. 6.3; Decree of 26 April 2022 amending the Paid Parental Leave Act, Art. 2
Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	Yes	Dutch Civil Code, Art. 7:670 Para.2
Childcare		
Does the law establish the provision of center-based childcare services?	Yes	Official Website of the Dutch Government; Childcare Act, Art. 1
Does the law establish any form of support for families for childcare services?	Yes	Act on Childcare and Quality Standards for Playgroups (2010), Art. 1 and Ch. 1, Subsec. 2; Official Website of the Dutch Government
Does the law establish any form of support for nonstate childcare providers?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law establish quality standards for the provision of center-based childcare services?	Yes	Childcare Quality Decree, Arts. 6-7 and Annex 1; Collective Labour Agreement for Childcare; Childcare Act, Arts. 1.54 and 1.62(2); Policy Rule for Childcare Supervisor's Procedures, Art. 4a
Entrepreneurship		
Can a woman undertake entrepreneurial activities in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender?	Yes	General Equal Treatment Act, Art. 7
Does the law prescribe a gender quota for corporate boards?	Yes	Civil Code, Book 2, Arts. 142b and 166
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	Civil Code, Book 1, Arts. 90, 94 and 97, Book 3, Art. 3.3, and Book 7, Arts. 7.281 and 7.311-7.326
Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	Civil Code, Book 4, Arts. 10, 11 and 13
Do male and female surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	Civil Code, Book 4, Arts. 10, 11 and 13
Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	Yes	Civil Code, Book 1, Art. 94
Pension		
Are the ages at which a woman and a man can retire with full pension benefits the same?	Yes	General Old Age Law, Arts. 7 and 7a(1)
Are the ages at which a woman and a man can retire with partial pension benefits the same?	Yes	General Old Age Law, Arts. 9, 13, 7.1 and 7a(1)
Is the mandatory retirement age for a woman and a man the same?	Yes	Dutch Civil Code, Art. 669(4)
Are periods of absence due to childcare accounted for in pension benefits?	Yes	General Old Age Law of 31 May 1956

WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks data

QUESTION	ANSWER	SOURCE
Safety		
Has the government developed comprehensive mechanisms to address violence against women?	No	Insufficient evidence located
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?	No	Insufficient evidence located

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 form
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	Netherlands Institute for Human Rights
Has the government published guidelines on nondiscrimination based on gender in recruitment?	Yes	National Government of the Netherlands: Government information for entrepreneurs
Has the government published guidelines on flexible work arrangements?	Yes	National Government of the Netherlands: Working from home: your employees' rights
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	Central Bureau of Statistics of Netherlands: Data on employed labour force and economic activity
Marriage		
Is there a fast-track process or procedure for family law disputes?	Yes	Fast track procedures in district courts
Are there specialized family courts?	Yes	Family chambers in district courts
Is legal aid available for family law disputes?	Yes	Legal Aid Board
Parenthood		
Is it possible to apply for maternity benefits through a single government application process?	Yes	Work and Care Act, Art. 3:11
Are incentives in place to encourage fathers to take paternity leave on the birth of a child?	Yes	Work and Care Act, Arts. 4:2, 4:2a and 4:2b
Have sex-disaggregated data on unpaid care work been published?	Yes	Central Bureau of Statistics: Emancipation Monitor 2022
Childcare		
Is there a publicly available registry or database of childcare providers?	Yes	Official Website of the Dutch Government; Childcare Act, Art. 1.47
Is there a clearly outlined application procedure to request financial support from the government for childcare services by parents?	Yes	Official Website of the Dutch Government
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?	Yes	Official Website of the National Childcare Quality Monitor; Official Website of the Dutch Government
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?	Yes	Netherlands Enterprise Agency; Entrepreneurship Action Plan; Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce
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	Civil Code, Book 3, Arts. 3.7, 2.16 and 3.17
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?

No

Insufficient evidence located

Pension

Are incentives in place to increase women's retirement benefits?

No

Insufficient evidence located

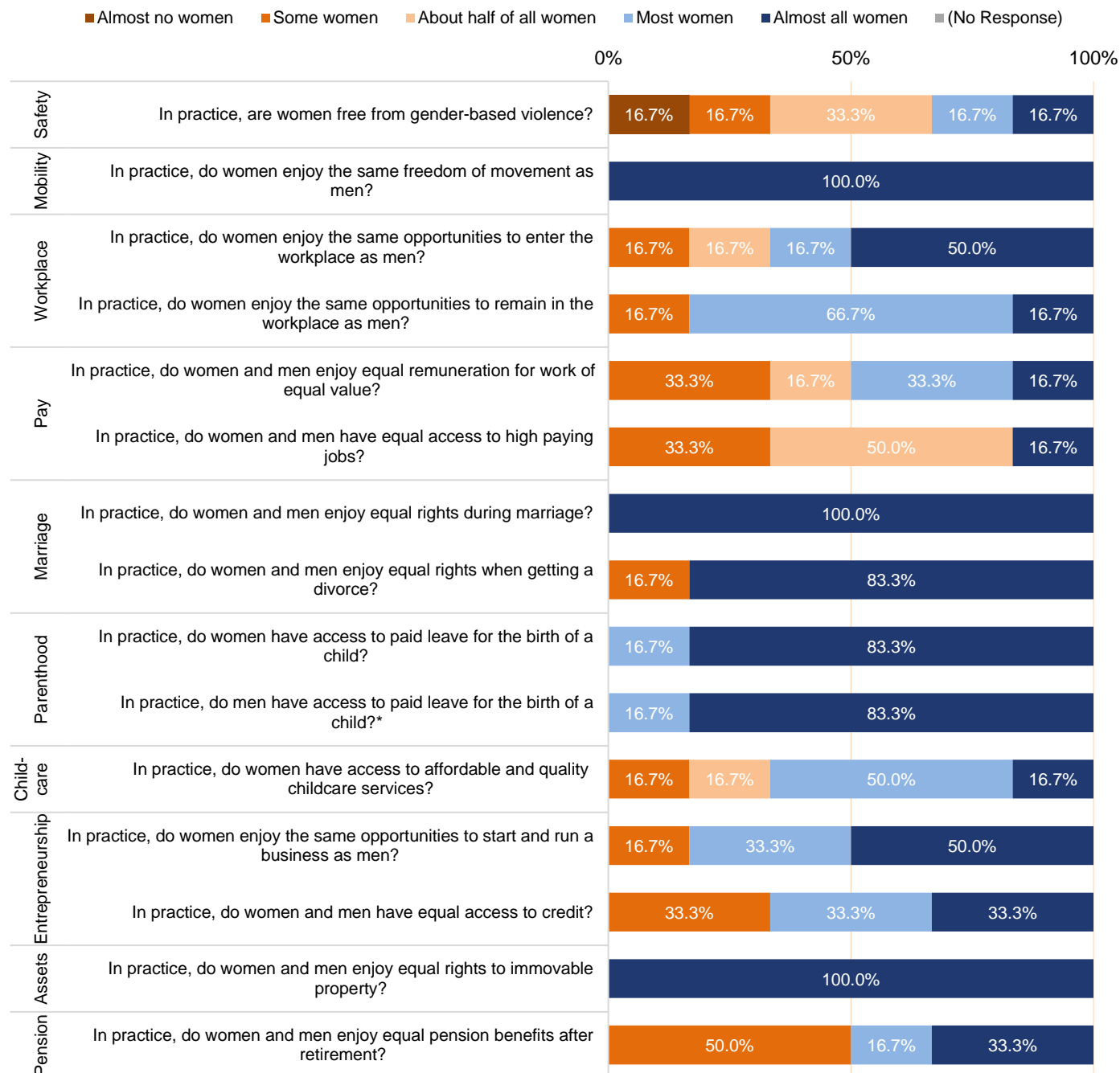
Is a procedure in place for pension beneficiaries to challenge the decisions of the competent authority regarding their benefits?

Yes

Sociale Verzekeringsbank (SVB - Social Insurance Bank) website;
Nationale Ombudsman Website



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.