

Trade and Gender Review of Latin America

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WTO Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender

Trade and Gender Review of Latin America



Estudio sobre comercio y género en América Latina



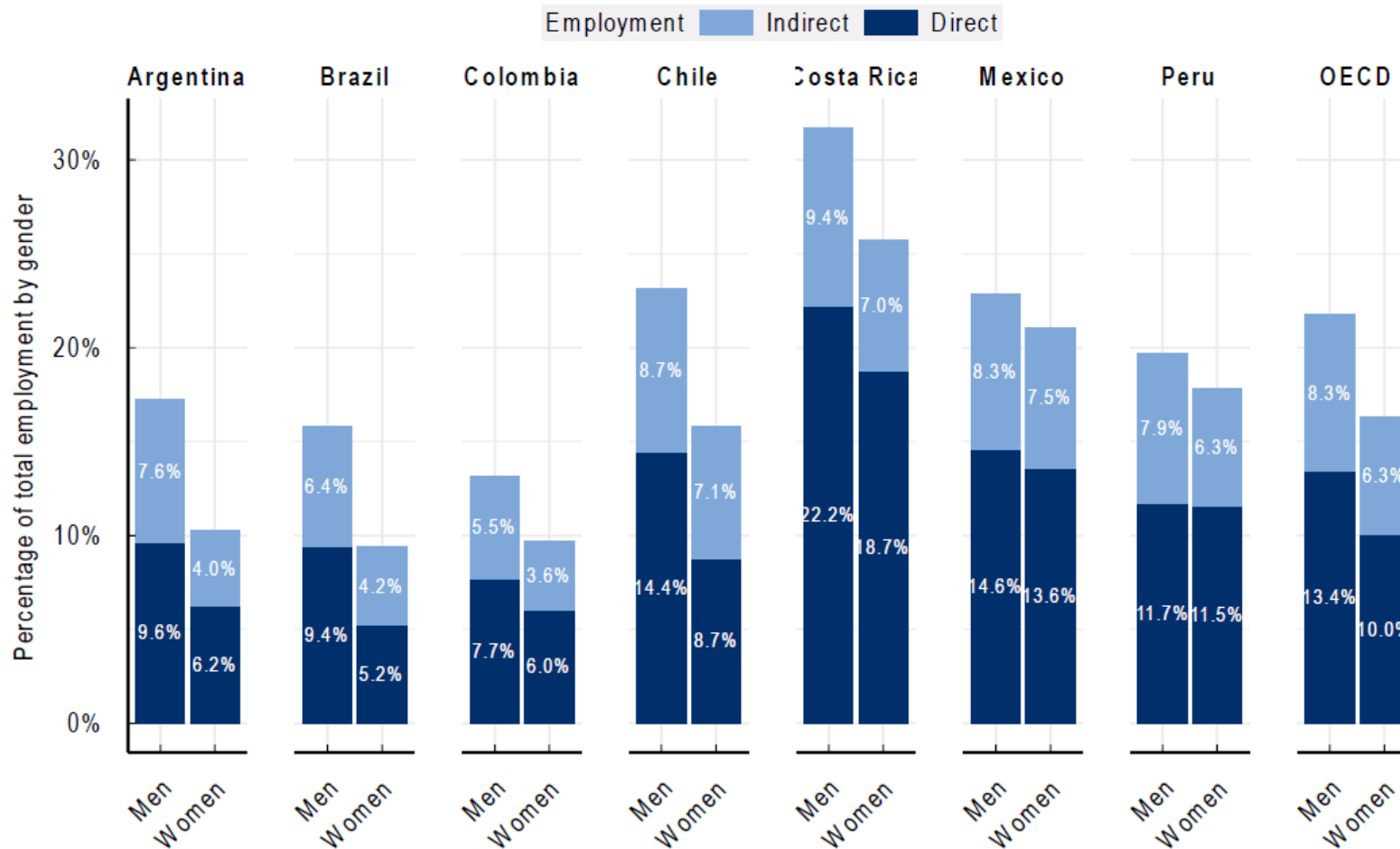


Launched at OECD Ministerial in June 2025





Women are less engaged in trade related jobs that pay better and are more likely to be formal

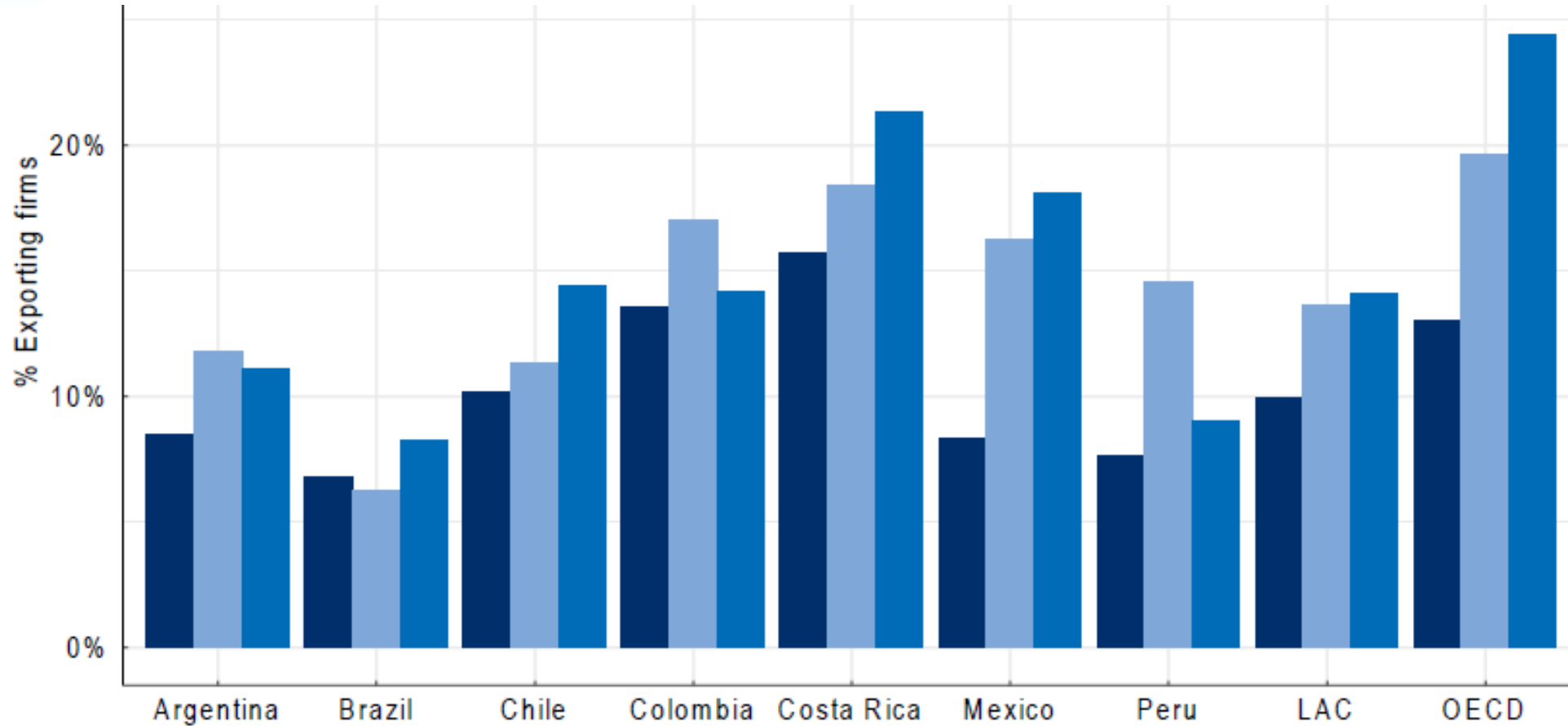


Note: Domestic employment embodied in gross exports (2019).

Source: OECD Trade in Employment (TiM) by characteristics.



Women led firms export less



Source: OECD-World Bank-Facebook survey.



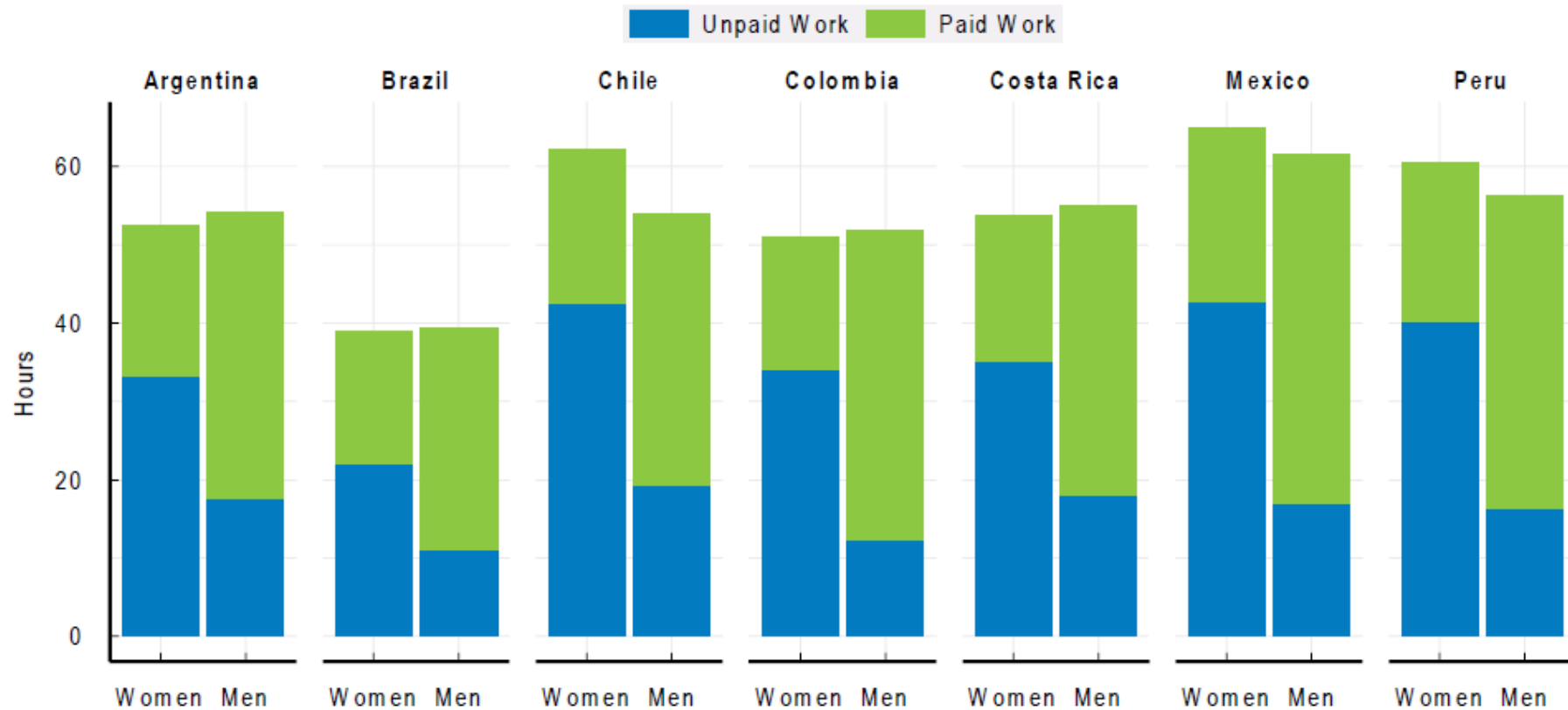
Export gender gaps

- ⇒ Only 10% of women-led firms sell their goods and services internationally compared with 14% of men-led firms.
- ⇒ Our research suggests that in Latin America:
 - ⇒ 40% of the gender export gap can be attributed to the smaller size of their businesses;
 - ⇒ just under 1/4 of the gap can be attributed to the less traded sectors where they lead businesses;
 - ⇒ about 1/3 of the gap cannot be explained by firm characteristics.



Women engage in much more unpaid work

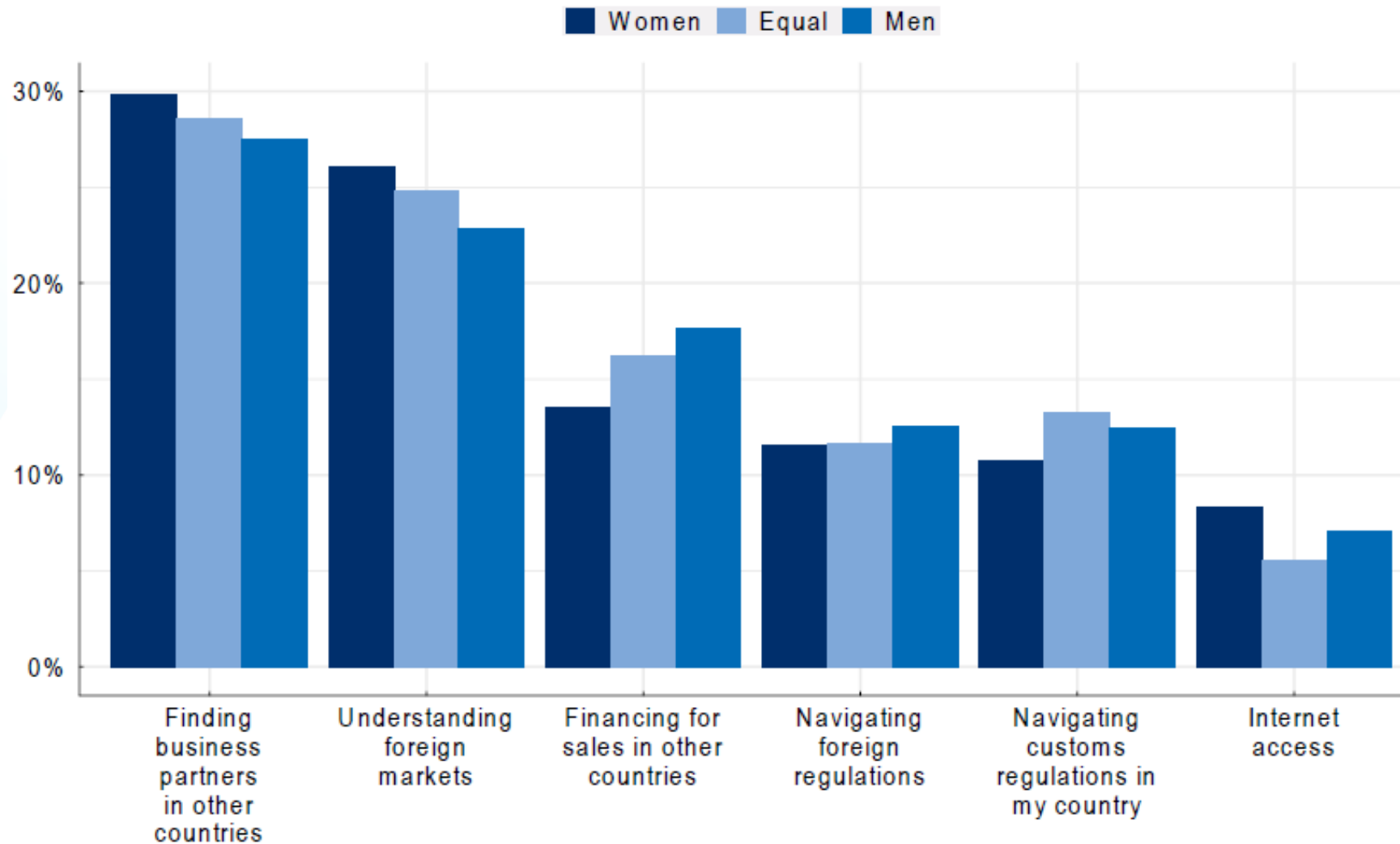
15 years and older, weekly hours



Source: ECLAC, Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean (<https://oig.cepal.org/es>).



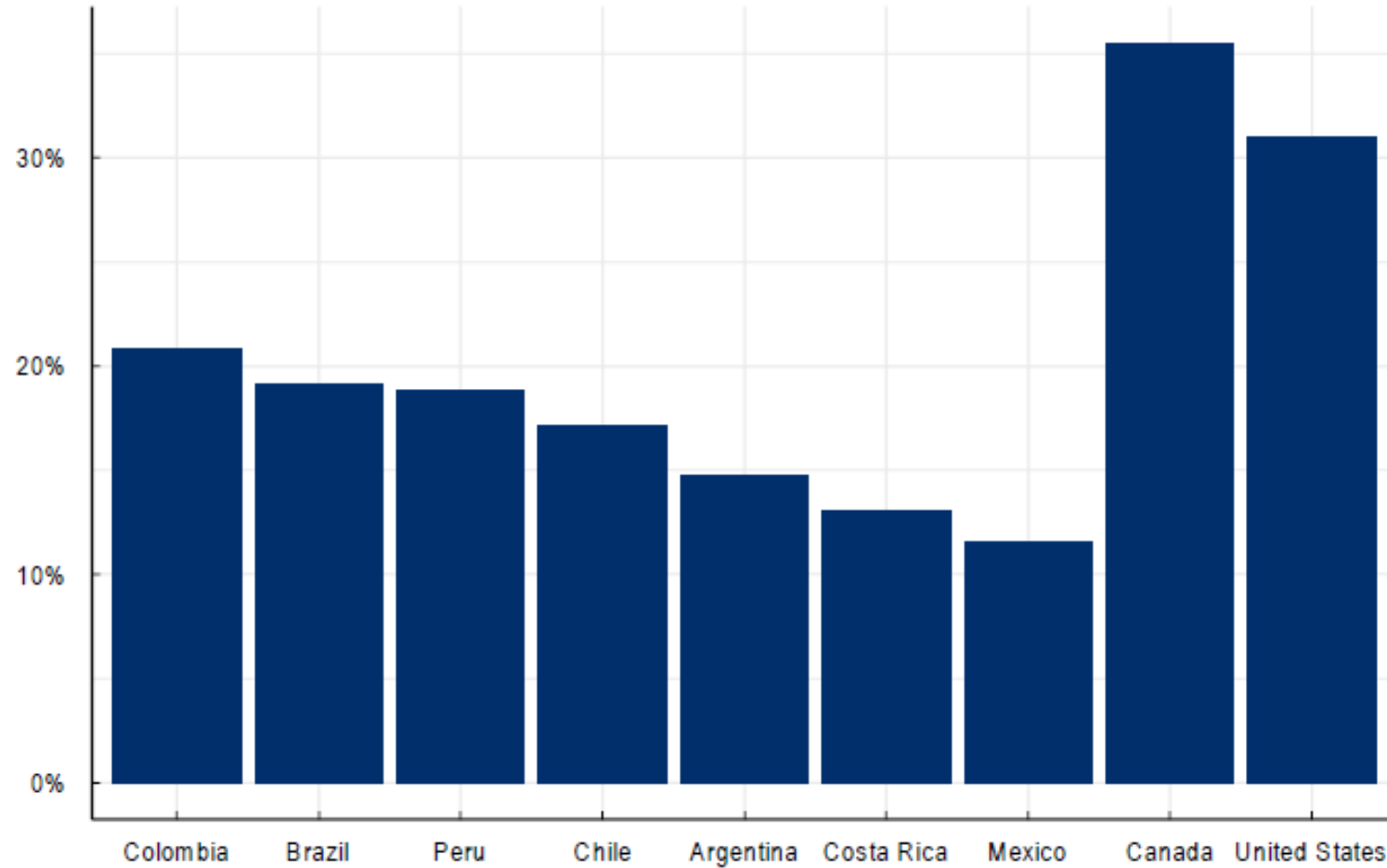
Challenges women business leaders face



Source: OECD-World Bank-Facebook survey



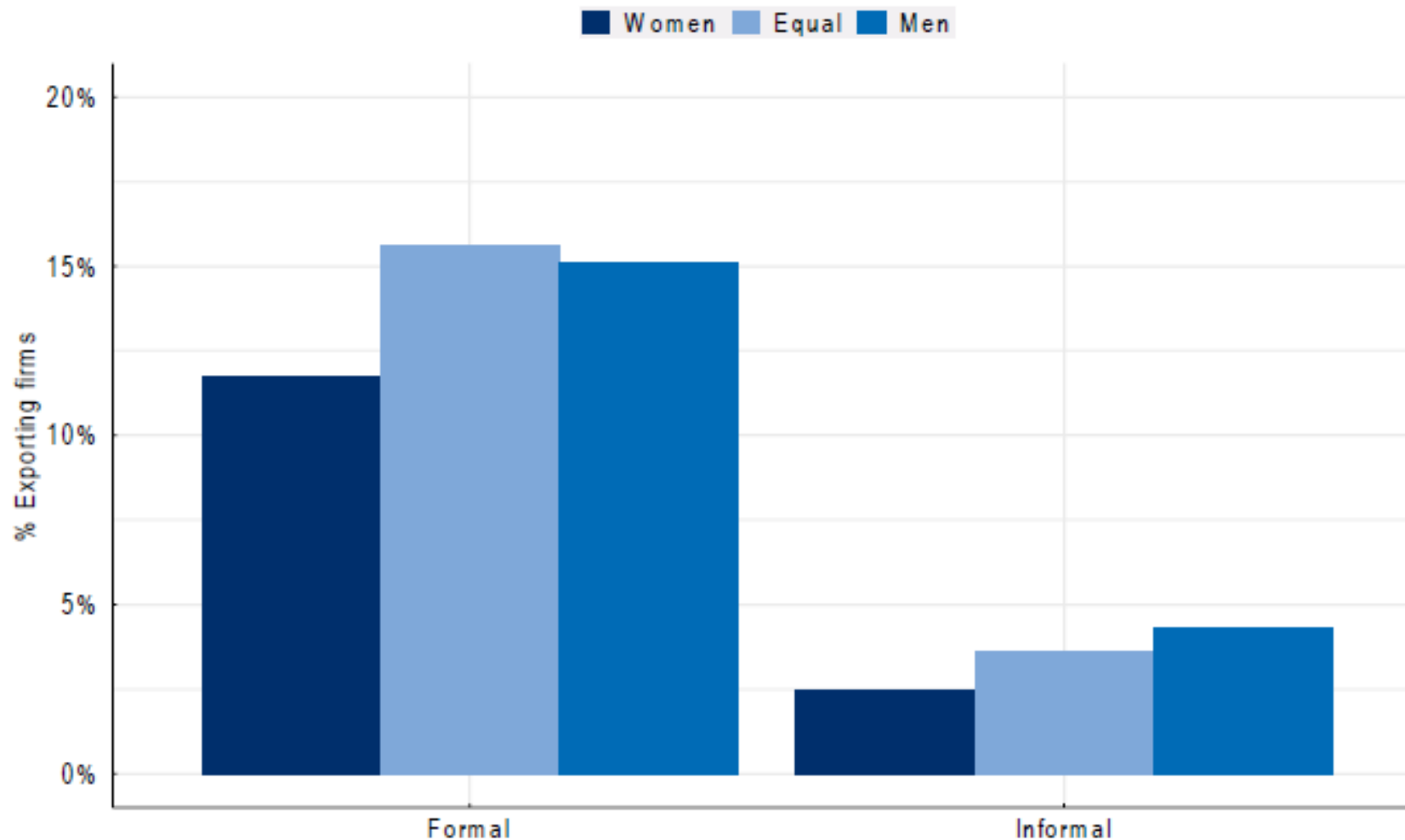
Women on boards



Source: OECD Corporate Governance Factbook (2023), <https://www.oecd.org/corporate/corporate-governance-factbook/>. Data is for 2022.



Informality stands in the way of trade, increasingly even indirect trade



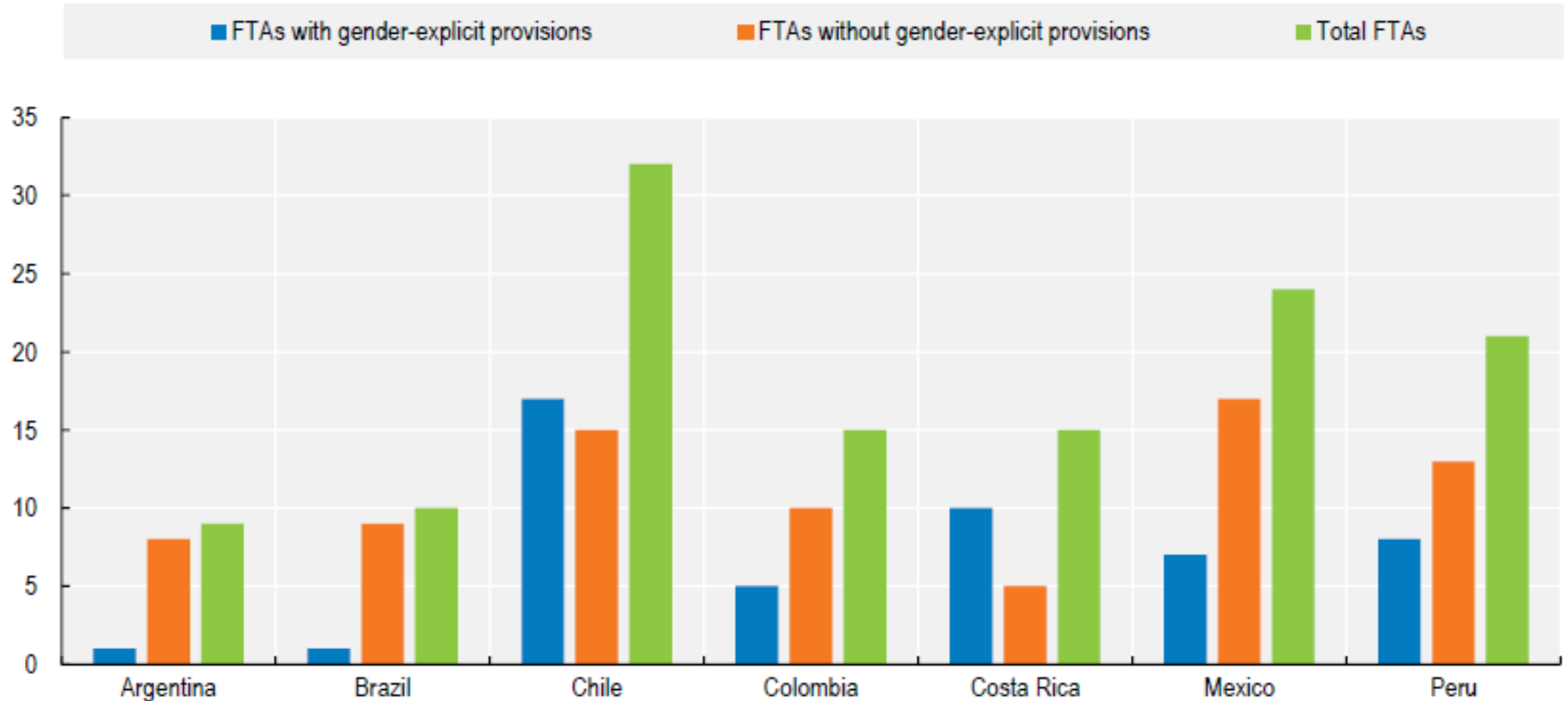


Policy recommendations to governments: main areas of focus

- *Making trade agreements more gender-sensitive*
- *Prioritising market access in goods and services produced by women*
- *Trade facilitation*
- *Trade promotion*
- *Professional and business networks*
- *Ensuring representation of women in policymaking*
- *Data gaps*
- *Domestic policies*



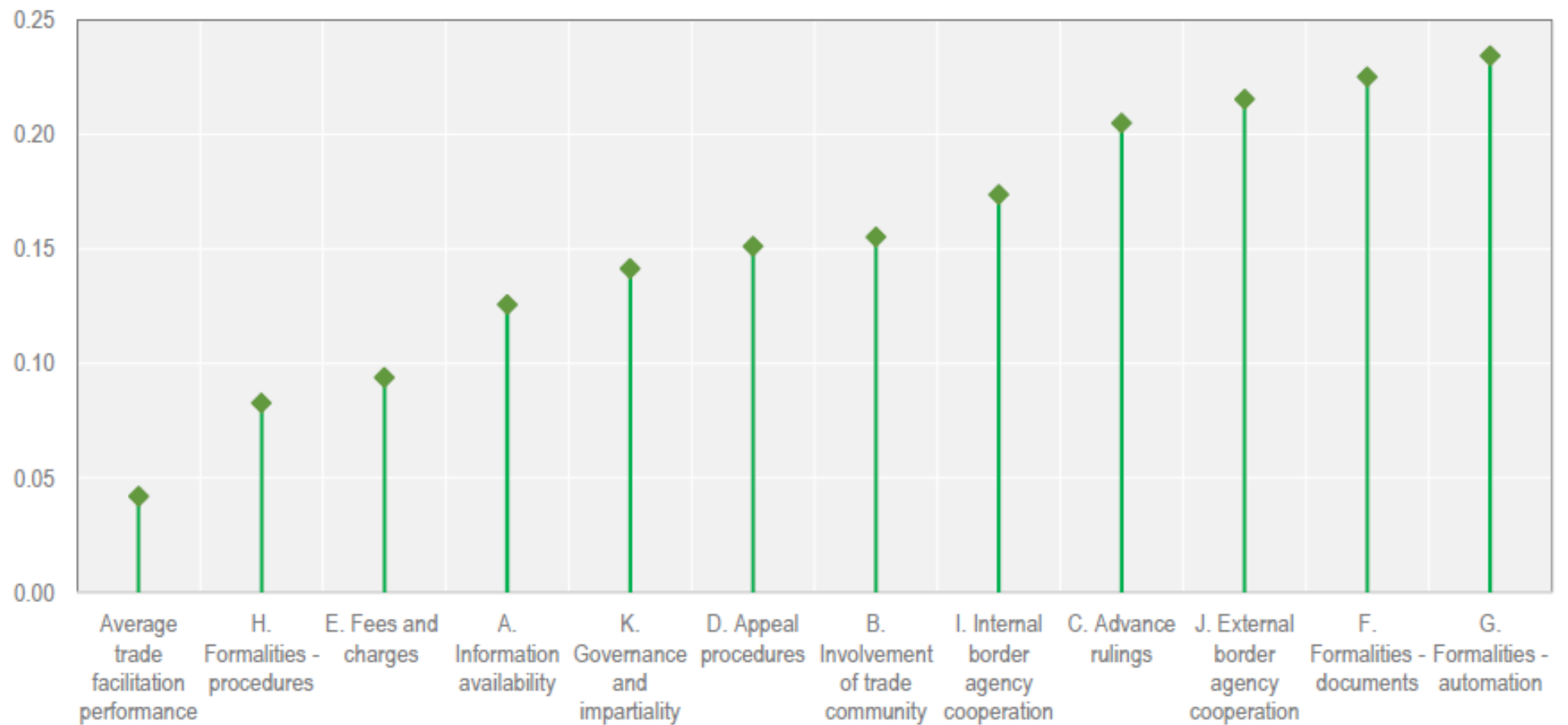
Gender explicit provisions in trade agreements





Trade facilitation performance heterogeneity

Standard deviation by TFI policy area



Source: OECD TFIs database (2023).



Next steps

- Continue conversations in international fora – knowledge-sharing + capacity building
- Examination of country specific data + more tailored policy recommendations for a subset of countries
- Expanded engagement with government officials and women business leaders to further refine understanding of challenges and explore solutions
- Starting with Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru



Contribution of this study to the work of the IWG

- Expands the evidence base of women's engagement in trade in 7 countries of Latin America
- Compiles and analyses gender-differentiated data on women in trade-related employment and women business leaders in export
- Analyses impacts of trade on consumption in different household types, e.g. single parents w/dependent children
- Analyses relevant trade policies and suggests changes to increase women's engagement in trade, e.g., gender-specific provisions in trade agreements

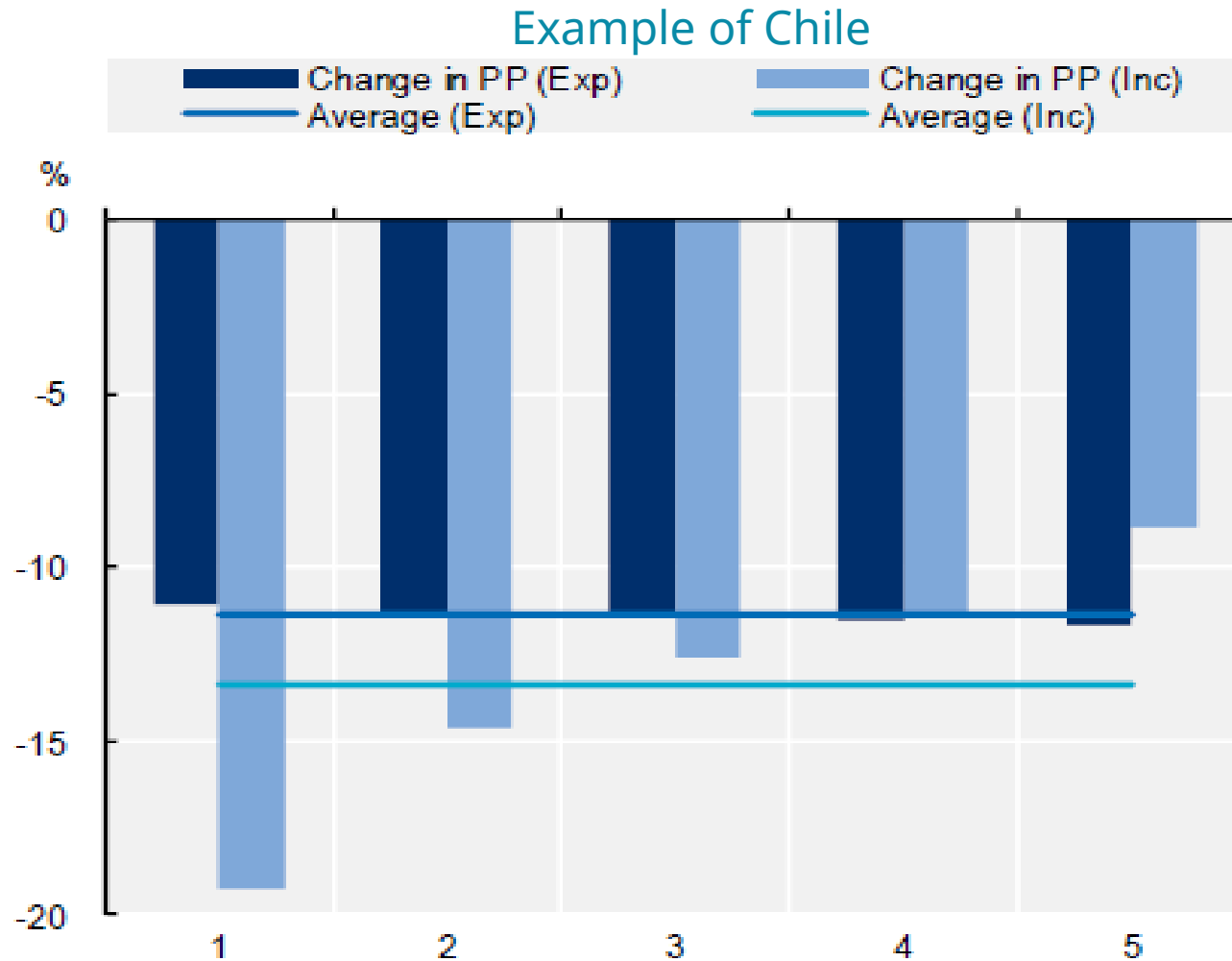


<https://oe.cd/TradeGenderLAC>





Lower income households are harder hit by higher prices associated with trade barriers



Source: METRO model and Household Surveys