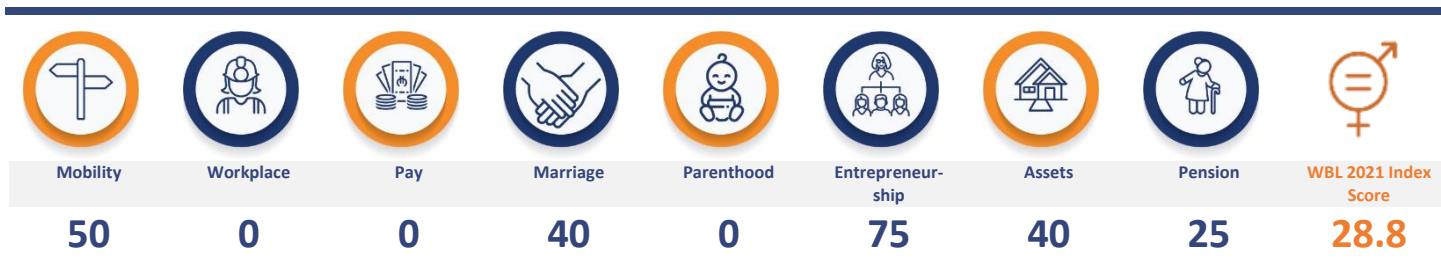


Kuwait

Women, Business and the Law 2021 presents an index covering 190 economies and structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across the eight indicators. Overall scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score. Data refer to the laws and regulations that are applicable to the main business city (Kuwait City). Different rules may apply in other jurisdictions so local legislation should be reviewed. Based on this approach, **Kuwait scores 28.8 out of 100**. The overall score for Kuwait is lower than the regional average observed across the Middle East & North Africa (51.5). Within the Middle East & North Africa region, the maximum score observed is 88.8 (Malta).

Kuwait - Scores for Women, Business and the Law 2021



Relative Strengths

Kuwait does not attain a perfect score on any of the WBL2021 indicators. There is room for improvement across all eight indicators.

Areas for Improvement

However, 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, constraints on women's starting and running a business, gender differences in property and inheritance, and laws affecting the size of a woman's pension, Kuwait could consider reforms to improve legal equality for women.

For example, one of the lowest scores for Kuwait is on the indicator related to laws affecting women's decisions to work (the WBL2021 Workplace Indicator). To improve on the Workplace Indicator, Kuwait may wish to consider allowing a woman to get a job without permission from her husband, prohibiting discrimination in employment based on gender, enacting legislation protecting women from sexual harassment in employment, and adopting criminal or civil penalties for sexual harassment in employment.

Recent Reforms

Kuwait enacted legislation protecting women from domestic violence.



Further data details for Kuwait are available at:
<https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/data/exploreconomies/kuwait/2021>



	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
Mobility	Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	No	Personal Status Law, Arts. 87 and 90
	Can a woman travel outside her home in the same way as a man?	No	Personal Status Law, Art. 89
	Can a woman apply for a passport in the same way as a man?	Yes	Passport Law, Art. 17
	Can a woman travel outside the country in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Workplace	Can a woman get a job in the same way as a man?	No	Personal Status Law, Art. 89
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Is there legislation on sexual harassment in employment?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Are there criminal penalties or civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment?	No	<i>Criminal:</i> No applicable provisions could be located <i>Civil:</i> No applicable provisions could be located
Pay	Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Can a woman work at night in the same way as a man?	No	Labor Law No. 6 of 2010, Art. 22
	Can a woman work in a job deemed dangerous in the same way as a man?	No	Labor Law No. 6 of 2010, Art. 23
	Can a woman work in an industrial job in the same way as a man?	No	Labor Law No. 6 of 2010, Art. 23; Ministerial Decision No. 552 of 2018, Art. 22
Marriage	Is there no legal provision that requires a married woman to obey her husband?	No	Personal Status Law, Art. 87
	Can a woman be head of household in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Is there legislation specifically addressing domestic violence?	Yes	Domestic Violence Law, Art. 1(2)
	Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	No	Personal Status Law, Arts. 97, 107, 111 and 130
	Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	No	Personal Status Law, Arts. 156 and 157
Parenthood	Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	No	Labor Law No. 6 of 2010, Art. 24
	Does the government pay 100% of maternity leave benefits?	No	Labor Law No. 6 of 21, Art. 24
	Is paid leave available to fathers?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Is there paid parental leave?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Entrepren.	Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Can a woman sign a contract in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman register a business in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman open a bank account in the same way as man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Assets	Do men and women have equal ownership rights to immovable property?	Yes	Civil Law, Arts. 96 and 810
	Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets from their parents?	No	Personal Status Law, Arts. 300 and 307
	Do female and male surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	No	Personal Status Law, Art. 299
	Does the law grant spouses equal administrative authority over assets during marriage?	Yes	Personal Status Law, Art. 343
	Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Pension	Is the age at which men and women can retire with full pension benefits the same?	No	Women: Social Insurance Law 1976, Art. 17(6); Law No. 10 of 2019 Men: Social Insurance Law 1976, Art. 17(6); Law No. 10 of 2019
	Is the age at which men and women can retire with partial pension benefits the same?	No	Women: Social Insurance Law 1976; Law No. 10 of 2019 Men: Social Insurance Law 1976; Law No. 10 of 2019
	Is the mandatory retirement age for men and women the same?	Yes	Women: No applicable provisions could be located Men: No applicable provisions could be located
	Are periods of absence due to child care accounted for in pension benefits?	No	No applicable provisions could be located