

# Mauritania

*Women, Business and the Law 2022* (WBL2022) presents an index covering 190 economies and structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across 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 (Nouakchott). Different rules may apply in other jurisdictions so local legislation should be reviewed. Based on this approach, **Mauritania scores 48.1 out of 100**. The overall score for Mauritania is lower than the regional average observed across Sub-Saharan Africa (71.5). Within the Sub-Saharan Africa region, the maximum score observed is 89.4 (Mauritius).

## Mauritania - Scores for Women, Business and the Law 2022



### Relative Strengths

When it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, and laws affecting the size of a woman's pension, Mauritania gets a perfect score.

### Areas for Improvement

However, when it comes to 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 starting and running a business, and gender differences in property and inheritance, Mauritania could consider reforms to improve legal equality for women.

For example, one of the lowest scores for Mauritania is on the indicator measuring constraints related to marriage (the WBL2022 Marriage indicator). To improve on the Marriage indicator, Mauritania may wish to consider no longer requiring a married woman to obey her husband, allowing women to be head of household in the same way as men, enacting legislation protecting women from domestic violence, allowing women to obtain a divorce in the same way as a man, and giving women the same rights to remarry as men.

### Recent Reforms

No reforms were observed during the past year (October 2nd, 2020 – October 1st, 2021).



Further data details for Mauritania are available at:  
<https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/data/exploreconomies/mauritania/2022>



	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
Mobility	Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman travel outside her home in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman apply for a passport in the same way as a man?	Yes	Passport application procedures
	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	Loi Portant Code du Statut Personnel, Art. 57
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	Yes	Code du Travail, Art. 395
	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?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman work in a job deemed dangerous in the same way as a man?	No	Code du Travail, Art. 247
	Can a woman work in an industrial job in the same way as a man?	No	Code du Travail, Arts. 166 et 247
Marriage	Is there no legal provision that requires a married woman to obey her husband?	No	Loi Portant Code du Statut Personnel, Art. 150
	Can a woman be head of household in the same way as a man?	No	Loi Portant Code du Statut Personnel, Art. 56
	Is there legislation specifically addressing domestic violence?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	No	Loi Portant Code du Statut Personnel, Arts. 83 et 102-110
Parenthood	Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	No	Loi Portant Code du Statut Personnel, Arts. 112 et 113
	Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	Yes	Code du Travail, Arts. 39 et 41
	Does the government pay 100% of maternity leave benefits?	Yes	Loi No. 67-39 de 3 Février 1967 Instituant un Regime de Sécurité Sociale, Art. 22
	Is paid leave available to fathers?	Yes	Convention Collective du Travail, Art. 56
	Is there paid parental leave?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Entrepreneurship	Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	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	Loi Portant Code du Statut Personnel, Art. 162
	Can a woman register a business in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Assets	Can a woman open a bank account in the same way as man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Do men and women have equal ownership rights to immovable property?	No	Loi Portant Code du Statut Personnel, Art. 58
	Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets from their parents?	No	Loi Portant Code du Statut Personnel, Arts. 254, 262-264 et 268
	Do female and male surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	No	Loi Portant Code du Statut Personnel, Arts. 254-256
	Does the law grant spouses equal administrative authority over assets during marriage?	No	Loi Portant Code du Statut Personnel, Art. 58
Pension	Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	No	Loi Portant Code du Statut Personnel, Art. 58
	Is the age at which men and women can retire with full pension benefits the same?	Yes	Women: Loi No. 2021-007 du 22 février 2021 modifiant certaines dispositions de la loi No. 67-039 instituant un régime de sécurité sociale, Art. 1. Men: Loi No. 2021-007 du 22 février 2021 modifiant certaines dispositions de la loi No. 67-039 instituant un régime de sécurité sociale, Art. 1
	Is the age at which men and women can retire with partial pension benefits the same?	Yes	Women: No applicable provisions could be located. Men: No applicable provisions could be located
	Is the mandatory retirement age for men and women the same?	Yes	Women: Code du Travail, Art. 51; Loi No. 2021-007 du 22 février 2021 modifiant certaines dispositions de la loi No. 67-039 instituant un régime de sécurité sociale, Art. 1. Men: Code du Travail, Art. 51; Loi No. 2021-007 du 22 février 2021 modifiant certaines dispositions de la loi No. 67-039 instituant un régime de sécurité sociale, Art. 1
	Are periods of absence due to childcare accounted for in pension benefits?	Yes	Loi N 67 – 39 Du 3 Février 1967 Instituant Un Régime de Sécurité Sociale, Art. 59