

Namibia

Women, Business and the Law 2024 (WBL2024) 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 (Windhoek). Different rules may apply in other jurisdictions so local legislation should be reviewed. Based on this approach, **Namibia scores 80.0 out of 100.0**. The overall score for Namibia is higher than the regional average observed across Sub-Saharan Africa (74.0). Within the Sub-Saharan Africa region, the maximum score observed is 97.5 (Togo).

Namibia - Scores for Women, Business and the Law 2024

Mobility	Workplace	Pay	Marriage	Parenthood	Entrepreneurship	Assets	Pension	WBL 2024 Index Score
75	75	75	100	40	75	100	100	80

Relative Strengths

When it comes to constraints related to marriage, gender differences in property and inheritance, and laws affecting the size of a woman's pension, Namibia gets a perfect score.

Areas for Improvement

When it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, laws affecting women's decisions to work, laws affecting women's pay, laws affecting women's work after having children, and constraints on women starting and running a business, Namibia could consider reforms to improve legal equality for women.

For example, one of the lowest scores for Namibia is on the indicator measuring laws affecting women's work after having children (the WBL2024 Parenthood indicator). To improve on the Parenthood indicator, Namibia may wish to consider making paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers, making paid leave available to fathers, and making paid parental leave available.

Recent Reforms

No reforms were observed during the past year (October 2nd, 2022 – October 1st, 2023).



Further data details for Namibia are available at:
<https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/data/exploreconomies/namibia/2024>



	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
Mobility	Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	Yes	Married Persons Equality Act, Sec. 12
	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?	No	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?	Yes	Married Persons Equality Act, Secs. 2 and 7(5)
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	Yes	Labor Act, Secs. 5(1)(b) and 5(2)(b)
	Is there legislation on sexual harassment in employment?	Yes	Labour Act of 2007, Sec. 5(7)-(10)
	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?	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	No applicable provisions could be located
	Can a woman be head of household in the same way as a man?	Yes	Married Persons Equality Act, Secs. 2(b) and 3(b)
	Is there legislation specifically addressing domestic violence?	Yes	Combating of Domestic Violence Act of 2003
	Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	Yes	Constitution of Namibia, Art. 14(1); Divorce Laws Amendment Ordinance, Sec. 1
Parenthood	Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	Yes	Constitution of Namibia, Art. 14(1); Divorce Laws Amendment Ordinance, Sec. 3
	Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	No	Labor Act, Art. 26
	Does the government pay 100% of maternity leave benefits?	Yes	Labor Act, Art. 26(3)-(4); Social Security Act, Art. 29(1)
	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
Entrepreneurship	Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	Yes	Labor Act, Secs. 5(1)(b) and 5(2)(g)
	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	Married Persons Equality Act, Secs. 2(b) and 3(a)
	Can a woman register a business in the same way as a man?	Yes	Married Persons Equality Act, Secs. 2 and 3
Assets	Can a woman open a bank account in the same way as man?	Yes	Married Persons Equality Act, Secs. 2 and 3
	Do men and women have equal ownership rights to immovable property?	Yes	Married Persons Equality Act, Secs. 3 and 5
	Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets from their parents?	Yes	Intestate Succession Ordinance, Sec. 1
	Do female and male surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	Intestate Succession Ordinance, Sec. 1
	Does the law grant spouses equal administrative authority over assets during marriage?	Yes	Married Persons Equality Act, Secs. 2, 5 and 7
Pension	Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	Yes	Married Persons Equality Act, Sec. 2, 5 and 7
	Is the age at which men and women can retire with full pension benefits the same?	Yes	National Pensions Act, Secs. 1 and 2
	Is the age at which men and women can retire with partial pension benefits the same?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	Is the mandatory retirement age for men and women the same?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	Are periods of absence due to childcare accounted for in pension benefits?	Yes	National Pensions Act