Central Administration of Statistics

UNITED NATIONS
10TH GLOBAL FORUM
ON GENDER STATISTICS
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TBILISI, GEORGIA

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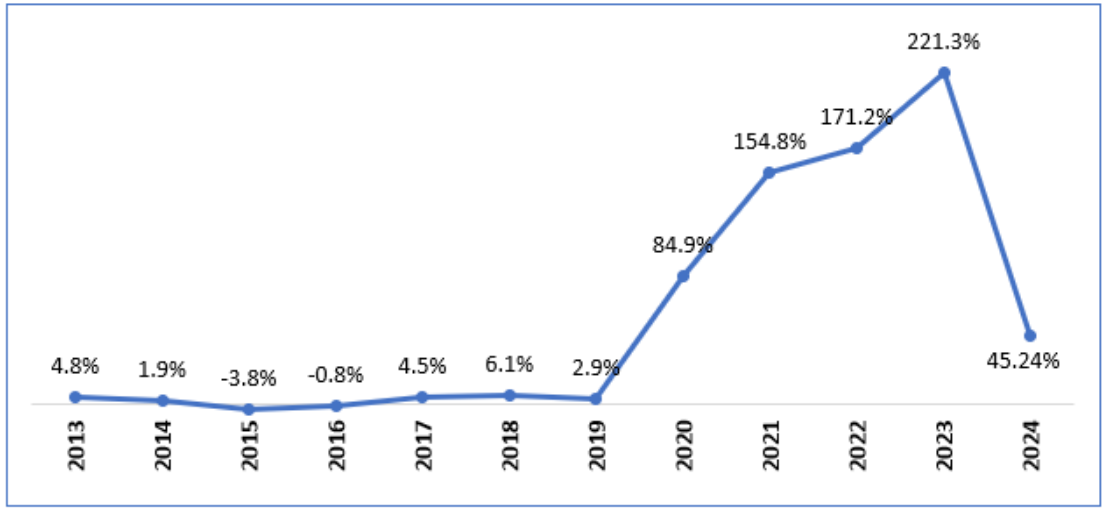
WOMEN ON THE EDGE:

NAVIGATING LEBANON'S TRIPLE CRISIS AND LABOR MARKET BURDENS

MAJOR EVENTS:
1-ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS

A severe financial and Economic collapse has escalated, where the Lebanese Pounds lost Over 90% of its value, triggering hyperinflation and eroding purchasing power, leading to the collapse of all public services.

Annual inflation rate 2013-2024 **معدل التضخم السنوي بين عامي 2013-2024**

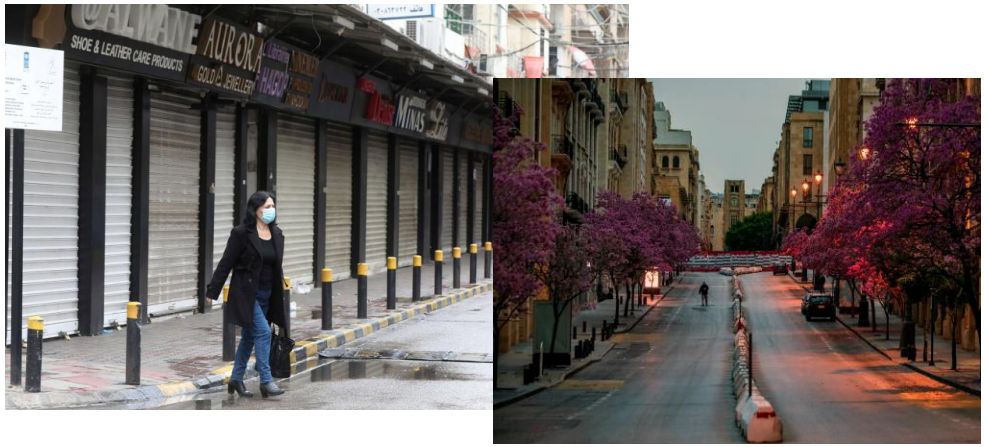


Central Administration of Statistics-Lebanon **إدارة الإحصاء المركزي- لبنان**

BEIRUT PORT BLAST & COVID-19

2- on 4 August 2020, the explosion of **Port of Beirut** caused hundreds of deaths, thousands injuries and billions of dollars-worth of damage and destruction of property, adding to the woes of an already devasted economy.

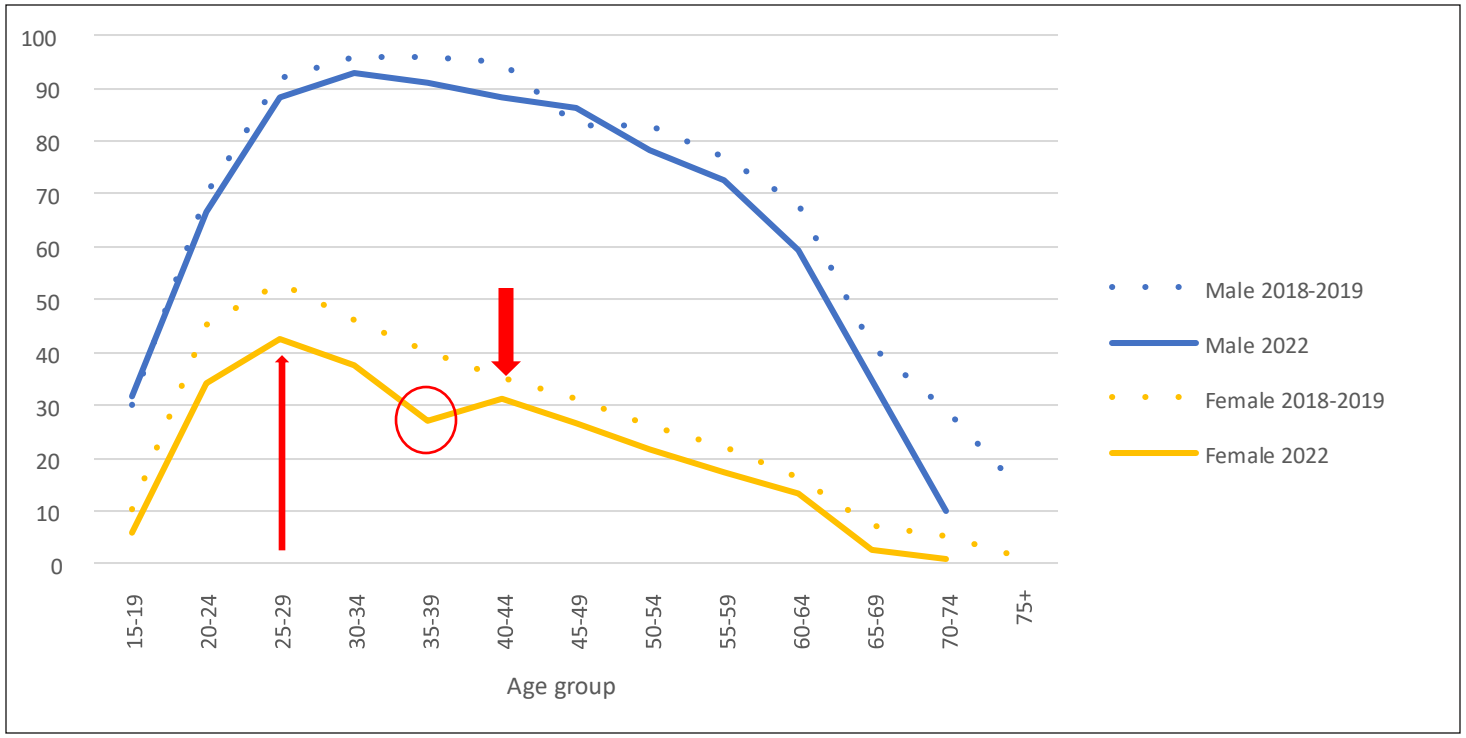
3- The COVID-19 pandemic, Total Lockdown: The declaration and implementation of comprehensive lockdown measures following the outbreak of COVID-19 in mid-March 2020 had significant impacts on the education, labor, and healthcare systems.



1-Decline of Women Participation in the Labor Force

Low baseline participation: Prior to the crisis, women in Lebanon already had a notably low labor force participation rate, the economic crisis aggravated women participation in the labor force which declined from 29.3% in 2018-19 to 22.2% in 2022.

Labor force participation rate by sex and age group, LFHLCS 2018-2019 and LFS 2022 (%)

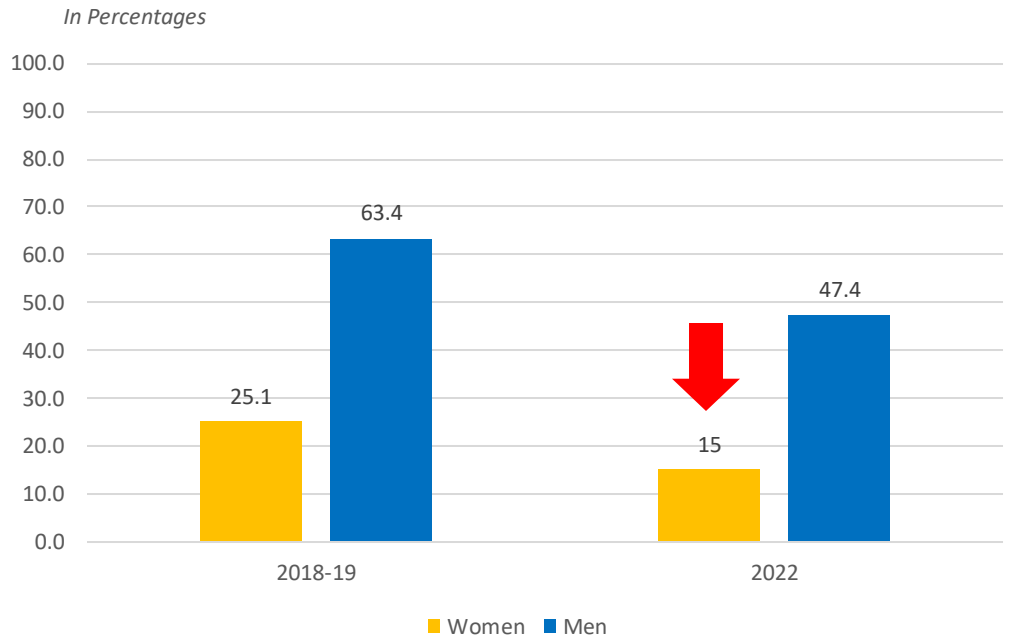


In the case of female labor force participation, the peak did not shift over the period, remaining at the age group 25-29 years old. But a dip can be noticed in the 2022 curve, which was not present in the earlier curve for 2018-2019. It suggests an accentuated retreat of women aged 35-39 years old from the labor market at the birth of a child, and a return to the labor market at 40-44 years of age, although at a lower rate, when the child has reached adolescence.

2-Decline of Women Employment to population ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, often used as an indicator of the performance of the national economy in providing employment to its population.

Employment to population ratio by sex, LFHLCS 2018-2019 and LFS 2022 (%)

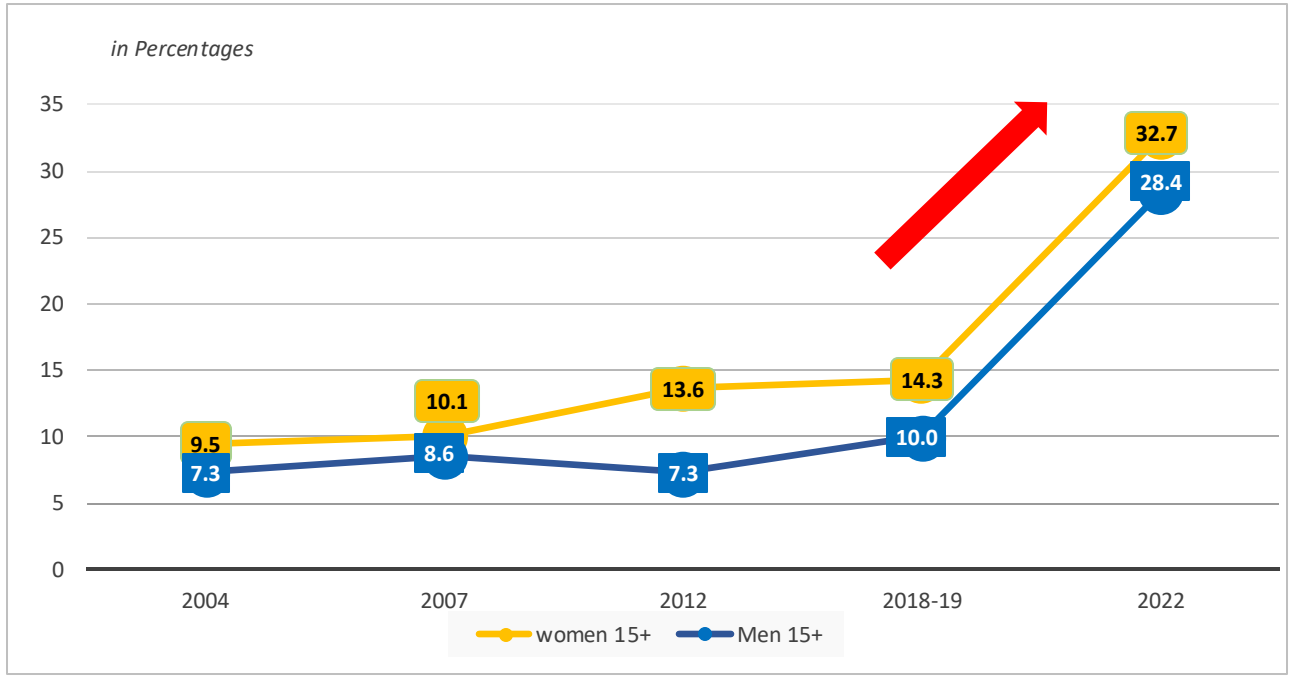


Decline in the employment-to-population ratio, it declined from (25.1 per cent in 2022 to 15.0 per cent in 2022 for female).

The ratio was higher for males (47.4. per cent) than for females (15 per cent).

3.1-GROWING OF LABOR UNDERUTILIZATION OF WOMEN -UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment rate by sex for age 15+, 2004 to 2018-19 & 2022

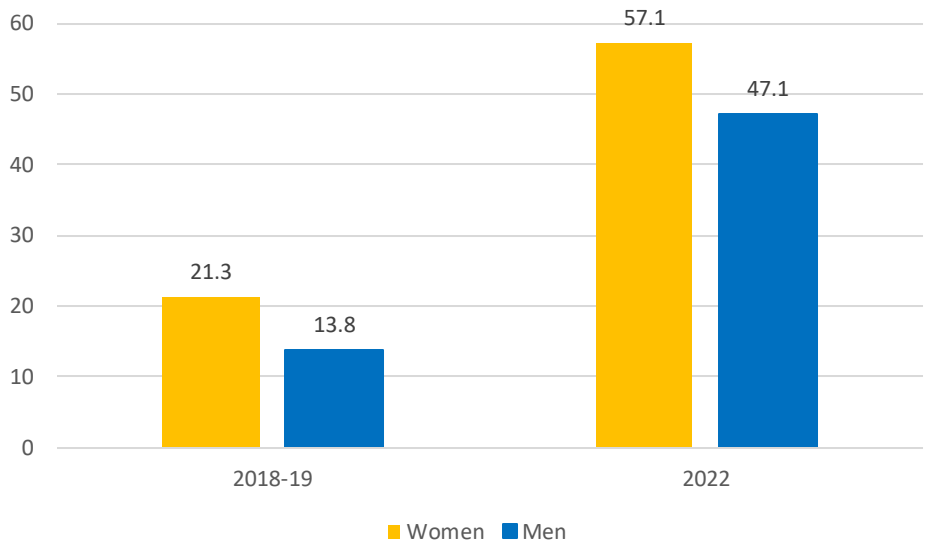


The Female unemployment rate increased from 14.3% in 2018 to 32.7% in 2022, which was somewhat higher than the male rate (28.4 per cent).

The unemployment rate is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the labour force, for the age group 15 years and above. **SDG 8.5.2**

3.2 GROWING OF LABOR UNDERUTILIZATION OF WOMEN – AGGREGATE MEASURE LU4

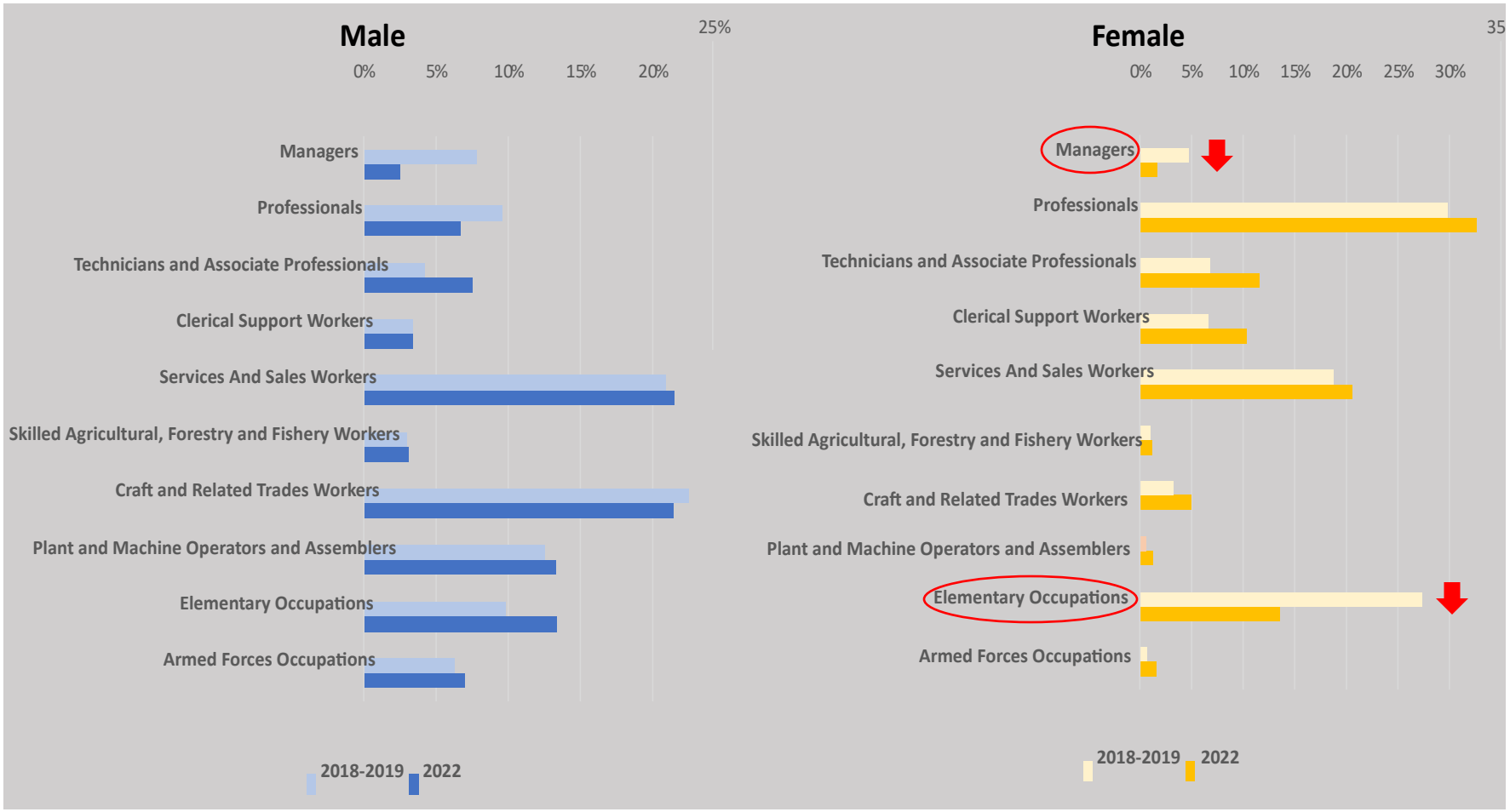
Aggregate measure of labor underutilization, 2018-19 and 2022 by Sex



The aggregate measure of labor underutilization for women rose sharply from 21.3% in 2018 to 57.1% in 2022. This indicates a substantial increase in the share of women who are either unemployed, underemployed, or marginally attached to the labor force, reflecting deepening gendered vulnerabilities and significant barriers to female labor market participation.

4-CHANGE IN OCCUPATION STRUCTURE – ESCALATING UNPAID WORK

Employment by sex and occupation at main job, LFHLCS 2018-2019 and LFS 2022 (%)



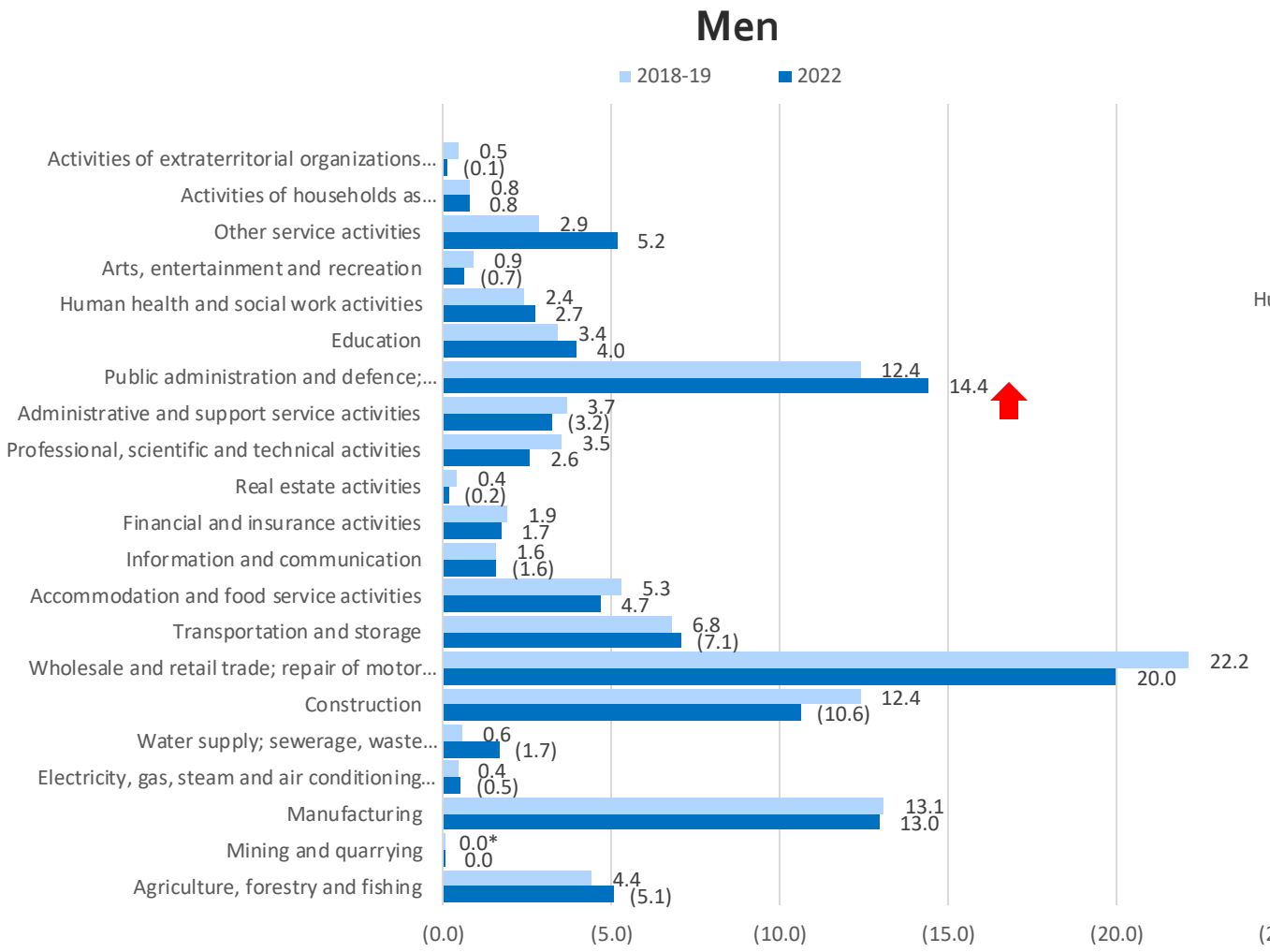
The largest shift was in elementary occupations, dropping from 27.4% in 2018–19 to 13.6% in 2022. In contrast, women's share rose in all other categories except managers, where it fell from 4.8% to 1.7%

With economic collapse and retreat of paid domestic work, women absorbed much more unpaid care. This was compounded by traditionally minimal public support, reduced further by the crisis.

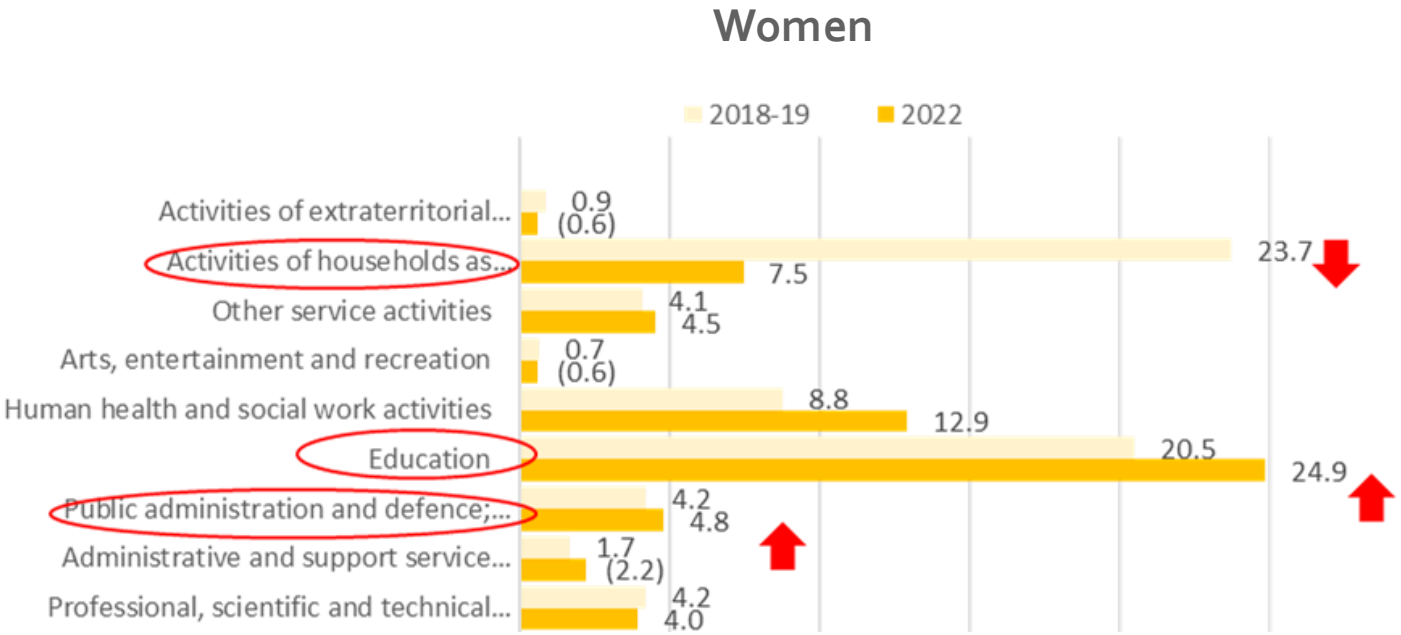
This suggests that between 2018–19 and 2022, households relied less on domestic workers, possibly due to significant out-migration.

5-CHANGE IN BRANCHES OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Employment by branch of economic activity at main job, LFHLCS 2018-2019 and LFS 2022 (%)



CHANGE IN BRANCHES OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES



Women are more likely to be employed in Economic activities sectors vulnerable to economic shocks. Like Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods-and services-producing activities of households for own use (declined from 23.7% to 7.5%).

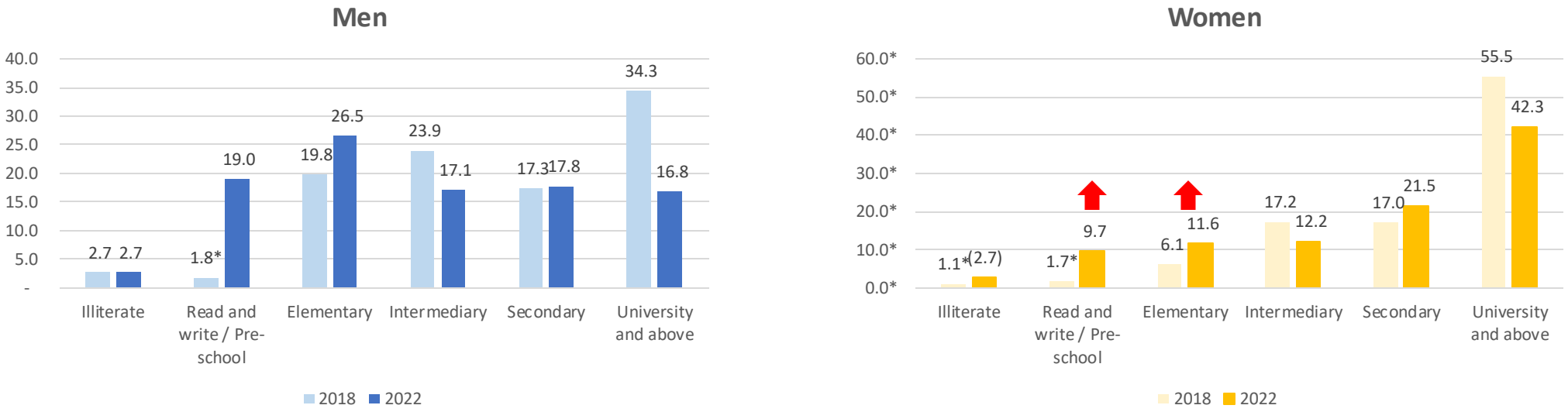
Whereas men Tend to be employed in more resilient sectors. The rate remained the same in this category.

Employment in public administration, defense, and education rose from 4.2% in 2018–19 to 4.8% in 2022, reflecting a relative increase rather than absolute growth—likely due to lower dismissal rates compared to other sectors.

The education sector also saw women's share rise from 20.5% in 2018 to 24.9% in 2022.

6-WOMEN WITH LOWER COMPLETED EDUCATIONAL LEVEL BEAR A DISPROPORTIONATELY SEVERE IMPACT FROM ECONOMIC CRISES

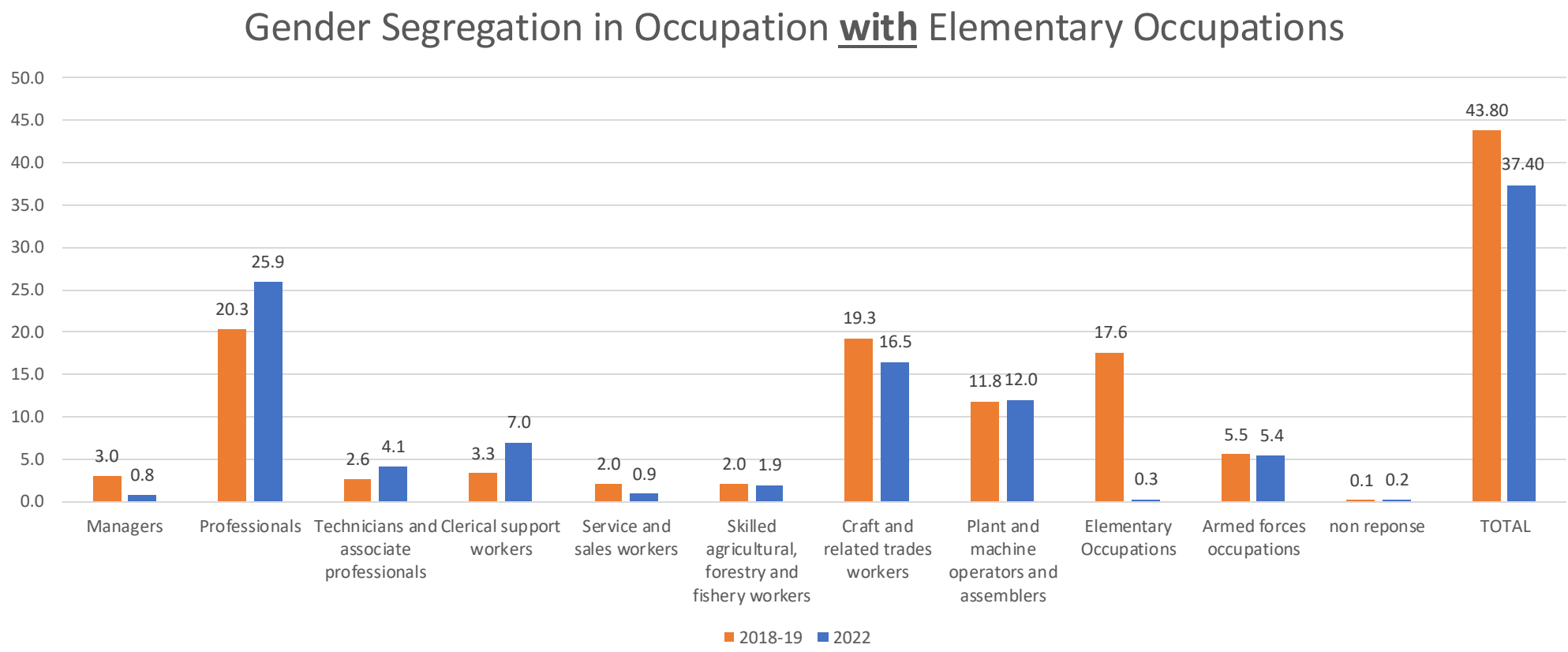
Percentage distribution of unemployed (aged 15 years and above) according to completed educational level and sex, Lebanon2018-19 and 2022



Here the unemployment rate for the completed education level "read and write/preschool" for women increased from 1.7% in 2018 to 9.7%, and for the Elementary school, increased from 6.1% to 11.6%.

The decline in employment among individuals with lower education levels indicates a structural shift toward a more educated labor force, rather than a causal reduction in unemployment among the highly educated.

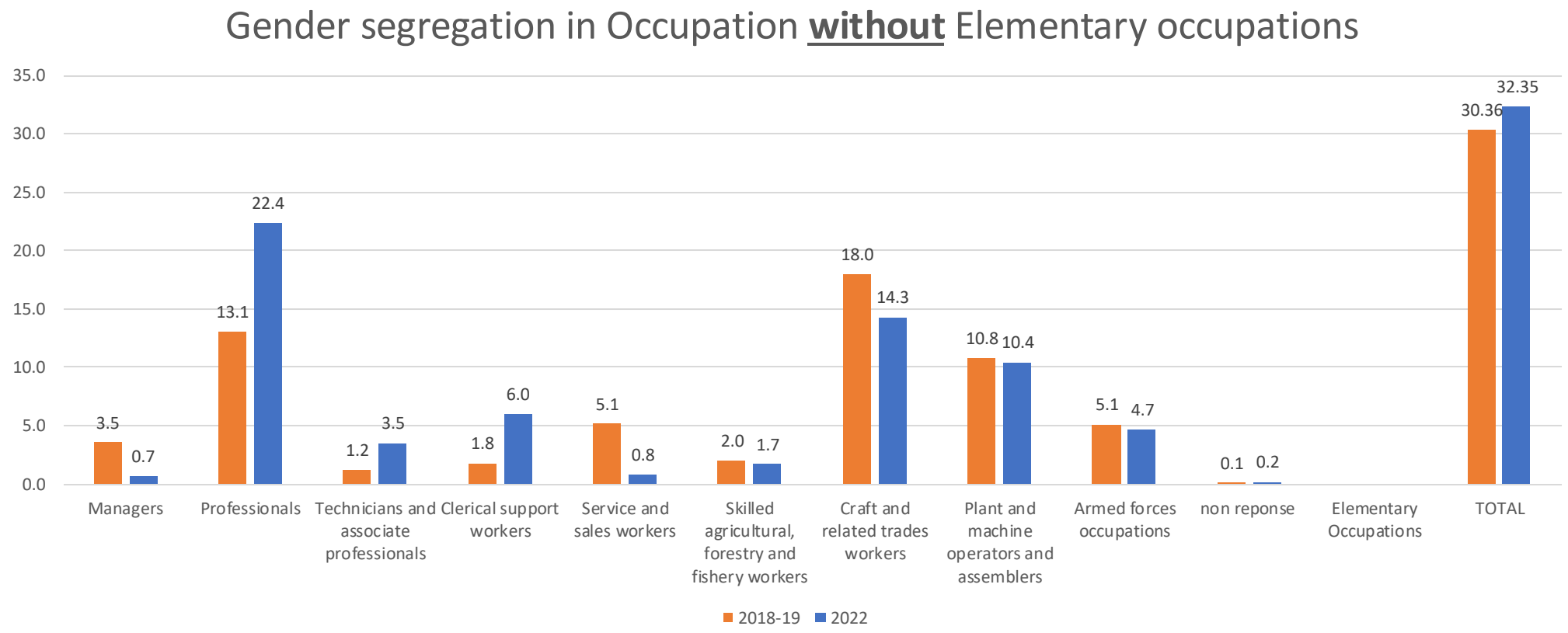
7-Decreasing in Gender segregation in occupation, but not



This rate in the occupational structure has decreased from 43.8 in 2022 to 37.4%.

This decrease indicates an improvement in the distribution of men and women in the labor market, and a trend toward reducing occupational segregation between the both sex, which reflects progress in achieving gender equality in professional fields during that period.

7- Change of Gender segregation in occupation after further analysis

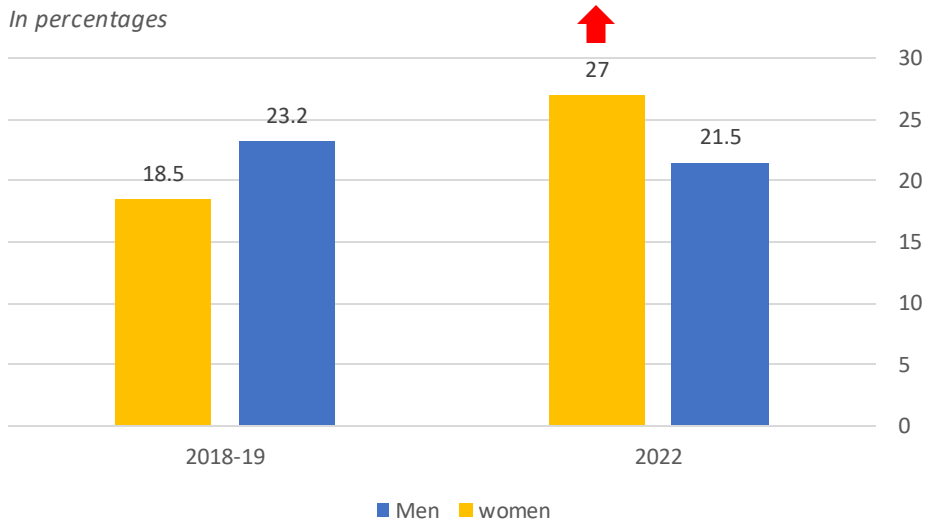


Elementary Occupations for Women has declined from 27.4% in 2018-19 to 13.6% in 2022.

When gender segregation in occupation is calculated excluding elementary occupations, the results indicate a slight increase, suggesting that elementary occupations play a role in reducing overall gender segregation in occupation that seen in the previous chart.

8-LOW PAY RATE

Employees with low pay rate in total employment by sex, LFHLCS 2018-2019 and LFS 2022 (%)

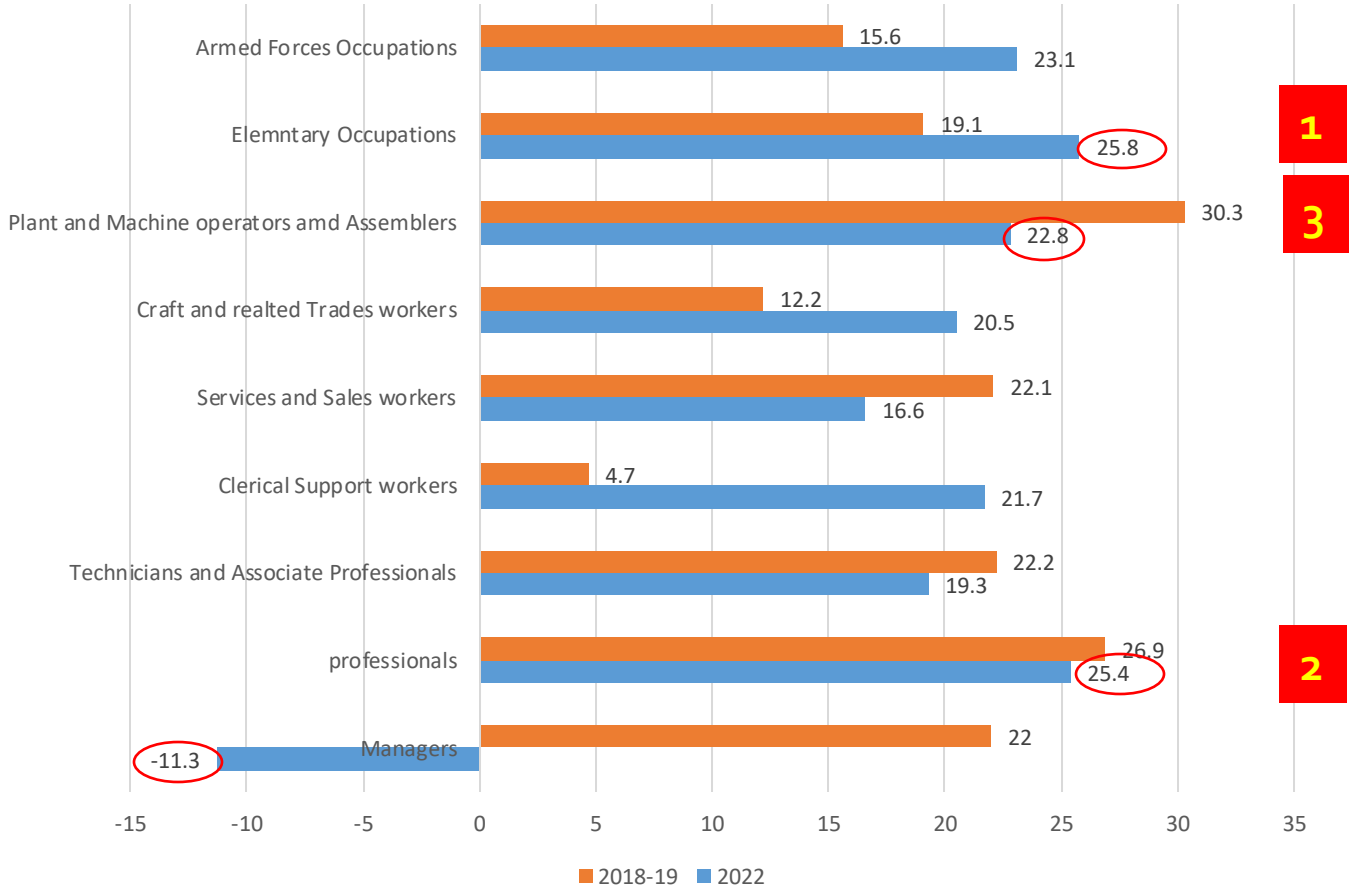


The findings show that the percentage of employees with low pay rate has increased among female employees, the proportion has increased significantly more than the average, from 18.5 per cent in 2018-2019 to 27.0 per cent in 2022.

"Employees with low pay rate" is one of the ILO decent work indicators. It is defined as the percentage of employees whose hourly earnings at all jobs equal less than two thirds of the median hourly earnings of all employees. ILO *Decent Work Indicators Guidelines for Producers and Users of Statistical and Legal Framework Indicators*, ILO Manual, Second Version, December 2013, pp. 76-78.

9-Gender wage Gap

Gender Pay gap of Lebanese employees at main job by Occupation, LFHLCS 2018-19 and LFS 2022 SDG 8.5.1



Source: CAS, LFHLCS 2018-19 and LFS 2022.

In 2022, the largest gender pay gap was in elementary occupations, where men earned 25.8% more than women, followed by professionals at 25.4%. By contrast, in 2018–2019 the widest gap was among plant and machine operators 30.3%, followed by professionals 26.9%.

contrary to the 2022 data the gender pay gap was positive among "Managers", that is, male Lebanese employees tended to earn, on average, more than female Lebanese employees in managerial positions in 2018-19.

The negative value (-11.3%), is attributable to the fact that some managers were earning in USD, while others were earning in LBP.

CONCLUSION

In light of the profound socio-economic challenges that Lebanon has continued to face since 2019, further analysis is essential—not only to quantify and better understand the true impact of the economic crisis on the most vulnerable women, particularly unskilled workers who have been disproportionately affected, but also to inform the design and implementation of effective, evidence-based policies and response strategies.

Such measures are crucial both to enhance women's participation in the labor market and to ensure adequate protection for this group.

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Thank you for your Attention

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