



# Unemployment among women and their economic autonomy

According to ECLAC, economic autonomy is understood as women's capacity to generate income and personal financial resources through access to work that is paid under the same conditions as men, considering how much time is involved and their contribution to the economy. Employment data reveals some of Latin America's pending challenges in this area.

More than **100 million** women in the region are part of the workforce

Of those **22.8 million** joined the job market in the last 10 years.

This is one of the most important social and economic transformations in recent decades.



## ECLAC's recommendations

To guarantee women's access to and staying power in the job market, the following is needed:



Measurements and statistics that make known existing inequalities.



Policies to eliminate structural, institutional and cultural limitations that affect the female population.



More opportunities for women to get paid work.



Greater access to mechanisms of job protection, such as unemployment insurance, training and labor reinsertion.

Although Latin America's unemployment rate dropped by more than **3 percentage points** in the last decade, reaching **6.7%** in 2012, unemployment among women is **2 percentage points** higher than among men.



Even though this unemployment gap narrowed by nearly one percentage point between 2000 and 2012, five of every ten women are still outside the job market.

