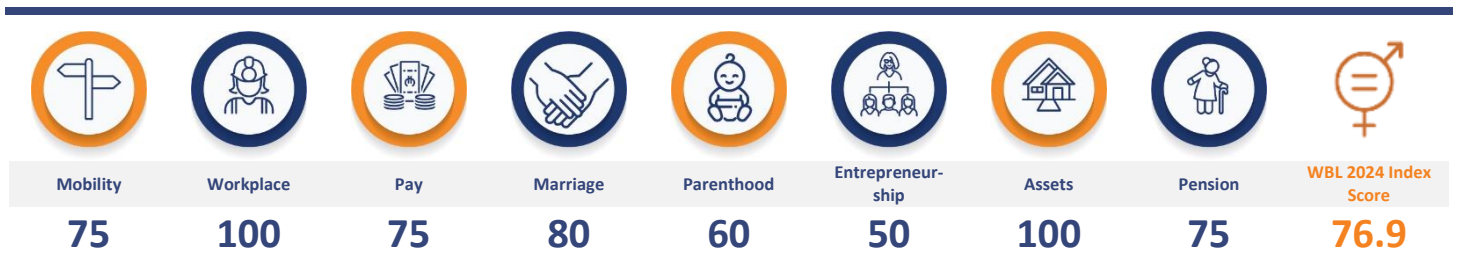


# Suriname

*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 (Paramaribo). Different rules may apply in other jurisdictions so local legislation should be reviewed. Based on this approach, **Suriname scores 76.9 out of 100.0**. The overall score for Suriname is lower than the regional average observed across Latin America and the Caribbean (81.2). Within the Latin America and the Caribbean region, the maximum score observed is 95 (Peru).

## Suriname - Scores for Women, Business and the Law 2024



## Relative Strengths

When it comes to laws affecting women's decisions to work, and gender differences in property and inheritance, Suriname gets a perfect score.

## Areas for Improvement

When it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, 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 laws affecting the size of a woman's pension, Suriname could consider reforms to improve legal equality for women.

For example, one of the lowest scores for Suriname is on the indicator measuring constraints on women starting and running a business (the WBL2024 Entrepreneurship indicator). To improve on the Entrepreneurship indicator, Suriname may wish to consider making access to credit easier for women by prohibiting gender-based discrimination in financial services, and allowing women to register a business in the same way as a men.

## Recent Reforms

During the past year (October 2nd, 2022 to October 1st, 2023), Suriname enacted legislation protecting a woman from sexual harassment in employment, including criminal penalties for such conduct.



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



	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
Mobility	Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	Yes	Civil Code, Art. 158
	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 Instruction Resolution No. 9726/04, Arts. 13 and 32; Passport application form
Workplace	Can a woman travel outside the country in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman get a job in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	Yes	Family Employment Protection Act (Maternity Protection Act), Art. 2
	Is there legislation on sexual harassment in employment?	Yes	Workplace Violence and Sexual Harassment Act, Arts. 1 (h) and 3
Pay	Are there criminal penalties or civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment?	Yes	<i>Criminal:</i> Workplace Violence and Sexual Harassment Act, Art. 13 <i>Civil:</i> No applicable provisions could be located
	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
Marriage	Can a woman work in an industrial job in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Is the law free of legal provisions that require a married woman to obey her husband?	Yes	Civil Code, Arts. 156-157
	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	Act Combating Domestic Violence
Parenthood	Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	Yes	Civil Code, Art. 260
	Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	No	Civil Code, Art. 87
	Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	Yes	Family Employment Protection Act (Maternity Protection Act), Art. 3
	Does the government pay 100% of maternity leave benefits?	No	Family Employment Protection Act (Maternity Protection Act), Arts. 9 and 12
	Is paid leave available to fathers?	Yes	Family Employment Protection Act (Maternity Protection Act), Art. 4
Entrepreneurship	Is there paid parental leave?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	Yes	Family Employment Protection Act (Maternity Protection Act), Art. 7
	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
Assets	Can a woman register a business in the same way as a man?	No	Business Registration Act, Art. 5
	Can a woman open a bank account in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Do men and women have equal ownership rights to immovable property?	Yes	Civil Code, Arts. 169 and 172
	Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets from their parents?	Yes	Civil Code, Arts. 861 and 880
	Do female and male surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	Civil Code, Arts. 861 and 880a
Pension	Does the law grant spouses equal administrative authority over assets during marriage?	Yes	Civil Code, Art. 172
	Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	Yes	Civil Code, Art. 176
	Is the age at which men and women can retire with full pension benefits the same?	Yes	General Pensions Act, Arts. 1 and 4
	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?	No	No applicable provisions could be located