

This fact sheet presents the latest UIS S&T data available as of July 2011.

The gender gap in science

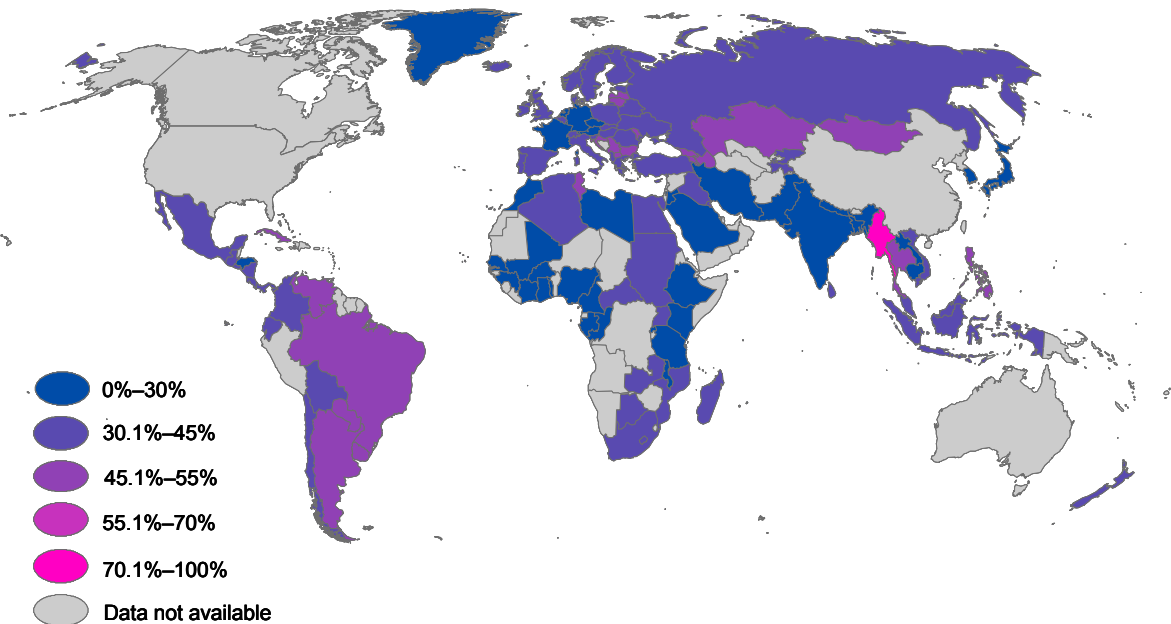
Women and men tend to take different career paths and the research field is no exception. Overall, women account for a minority of the world's researchers.

Despite the growing demand for cross nationally comparable statistics on women in science, national data and their use in policymaking often remain limited. This document presents global and regional profiles pinpointing where women thrive in this sector and where they are under-represented.

The global map (see **Figure 1**) depicts the number of female researchers as a share of the worldwide total. Researchers are defined as professionals engaged in the conception or creation of new knowledge, products, processes, methods and systems, as well as in the management of these projects (*Frascati Manual, 2002*).

Figure 1. The gender gap in science

Women as a share of total researchers, 2009 or latest available year



Note: Data in this map are based on HC, except for Congo and India (based on FTE).

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, July 2011.

The vast majority of data are presented in headcounts (HC), which are the total number of persons employed in R&D. This includes staff employed both full-time and part-time. The regional averages (based on available data only) for 2009 are:

- 45.2% for Latin America and the Caribbean;
- 34.0% for Europe;
- 34.5% for Africa;
- 18.9% for Asia;
- 39.2% for Oceania; and
- Unfortunately, there is no regional average available for North America due to a lack of data.

Figures 2, 3 and 4 illustrate women researchers as a percentage of the total number. Based on headcount data, these figures include part-time and full-time researchers.

Figure 2. A breakdown of female researchers in the Americas

Female researchers as a percentage of total researchers, 2009 or latest available year

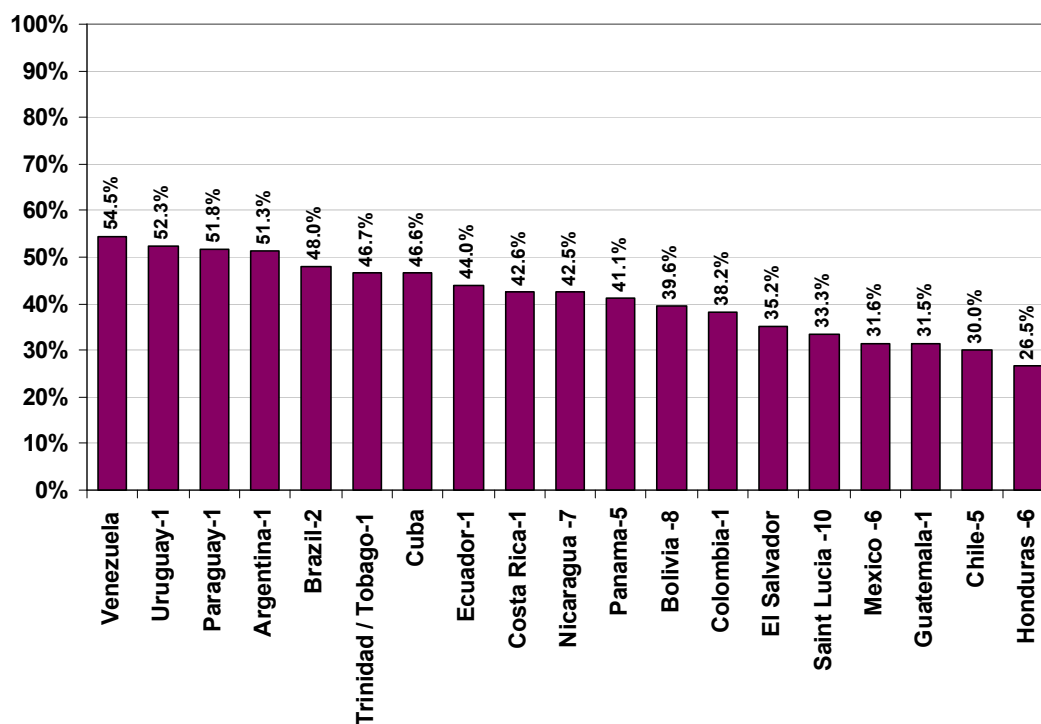


Figure 3. A breakdown of female researchers in Europe

Female researchers as a percentage of total researchers, 2009 or latest available year

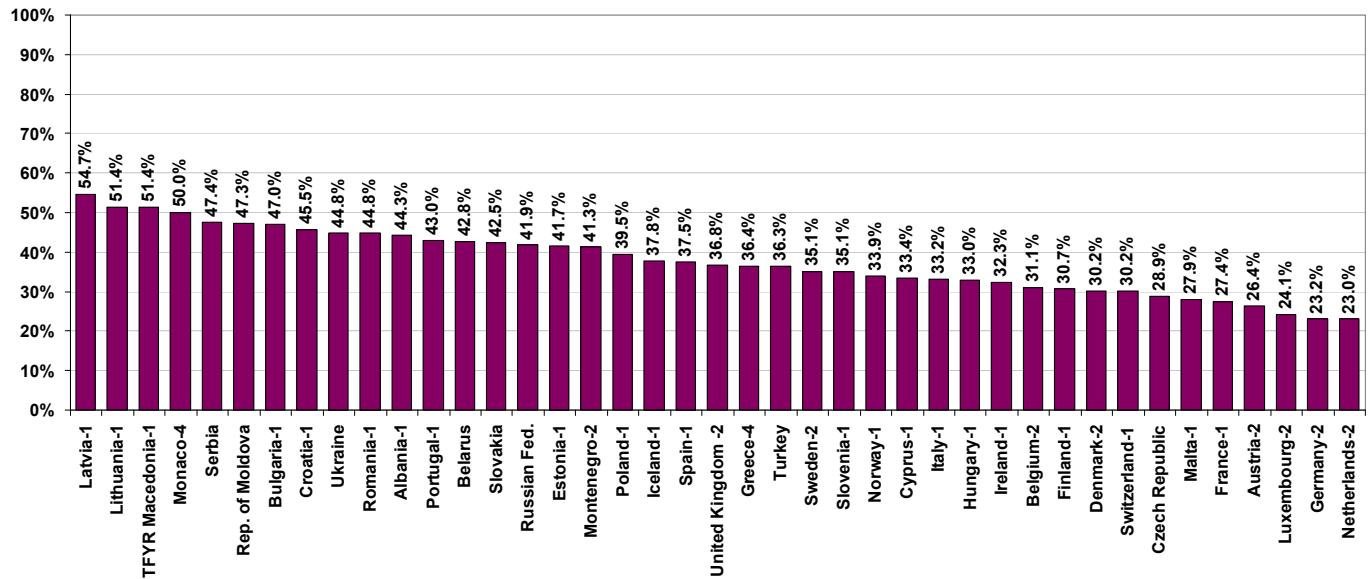
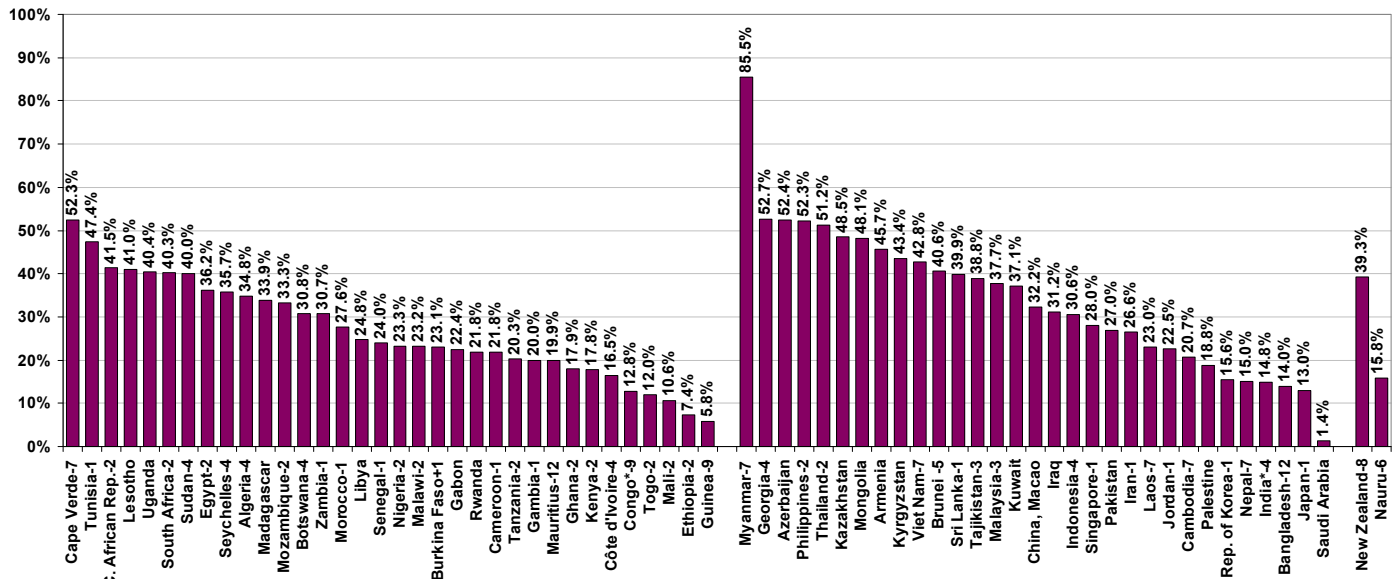


Figure 4. A breakdown of female researchers in Africa, Asia and the Pacific

Female researchers as a percentage of total researchers, 2009 or latest available year



Note: +1 = 2010, -1 = 2008, -2 = 2007, -3 = 2006, -4 = 2005, -5 = 2004, -6 = 2003, -7 = 2002, -8 = 2001, -9 = 2000, -10 = 1999, -12 = 1997.

* = Based on FTE data.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, July 2011.

Abbreviations:

FTE Full-time equivalents
 HC Headcounts

For more information, please consult the UIS website at www.uis.unesco.org to access the database and subscribe to an email alert service concerning the Institute's latest publications and data releases.