



Palau 2013/2014 HIES Gender profile



Executive Summary



34%

of Palauan households have a female household head



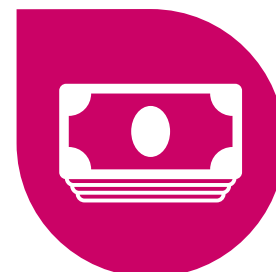
18%

is the average regular cash pay gap for Palauan women in professional jobs compared with men



56%

of internet users are female



41%

of Palauan women are engaged in paid employment

Notes: Regular cash pay is cash pay before overtime, bonuses, commissions, housing and other allowances (electricity, telephone, transport etc) are included.

Introduction

This factsheet provides a summary of information about gender from the 2013/2014 Palau Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES). This profile looks at the participation of girls and boys, women and men across a range of activities; the contribution of women and men to household (HH) income (and therefore livelihoods); an analysis of differences and gaps in incomes and expenditures of HHs headed by women and men, as well as HH amenities and access to communications.

Gender is fundamental to the social and cultural fabric of Palau, a matrilineal society. At the HH level gender roles are important because of the different productive and reproductive work done by women and men. The government of Palau views gender equality as a vital aspect to inclusive social and economic development in Palau. Palau has committed to promote gender equality through national, regional, and international conventions and instruments, which include Palau's Constitution, the Revised Pacific Platform for Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality, the 2012 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Millennium Development Goals and the ensuing Sustainable Development Goals, and the Beijing Platform for Action.

What are the main activities of Palauan women and men?

Women and men do both paid (productive) work and unpaid (reproductive) work, and the HIES collects information on both

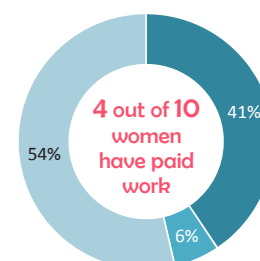
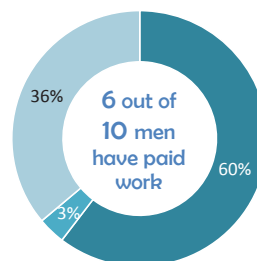
these; as well as the main activity of people not working and whether these people were looking for work. The HIES collects information about secondary activities too, so we can find out more about the multiple work burdens of women and men. In the HIES people aged 15 years and over provided information about their two main activities.

Just over half of adult Palauan women are outside the labor force...

... and just over one-in-every-three adult Palauan men are outside the labor force.

Chart 1: Main and secondary activity, percentage of each sex, Palauan citizens aged 15 years and over, HIES 2014.

■ Paid work ■ Unpaid work ■ Outside the labor force



Main activity for 4,980 men and 5,220 women aged 15 years and over who are citizens of Palau.

A large proportion of both women and men work for pay in Palau, with women more likely to be 'outside the labour force' than men because of the higher proportion of women retired and studying; along with those doing 'home duties' or 'stay home Moms'. Overall, employers and the self-employed make up a small proportion of those in paid work, but these entrepreneurs are four times as likely to be men than women.



The unemployment rate is very low: only 2% of Palauan's aged 15 years and over who are currently outside the labor force are looking for work, and only 1% are actively looking for work.

Almost all women in paid work working as employees for wages/salary...

... and over half of men are in paid work for wages/salary.

Table 1: Type of work and activities of those outside the labour force, percentage of each sex, Palauan citizens aged 15 years and over, HIES 2014.

Main activity	Men	Women	Total
Paid work	60%	41%	50%
Employer	2%	0%	1%
Employee, working for wages/salary	56%	39%	47%
Producing goods or services for sale, running a business (self-employed)	2%	1%	2%
Unpaid work	4%	6%	5%
Producing goods for own and/or family consumption (self-employed)	2%	1%	1%
Unpaid family worker (family business/plantation)	0%	0%	0%
Unpaid family worker, help with basic HH work	1%	4%	3%
Volunteer work (community, church, etc)	1%	1%	1%
Outside the labour force	36%	54%	45%
Full-time student	12%	14%	13%
Part-time student	0%	0%	0%
Home duties	6%	14%	10%
Retired/too old	11%	17%	14%
None – did not pursue any activity (no work)	5%	6%	6%
Person living with a disability	1%	2%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Labor market analysts often assess the potential for people to move from unpaid work or from outside the labor force into paid work. Highest educational qualification is commonly used as a way to measure this potential. Looking at the group of people who are in unpaid work (all forms), doing home duties,



Credit: SPC

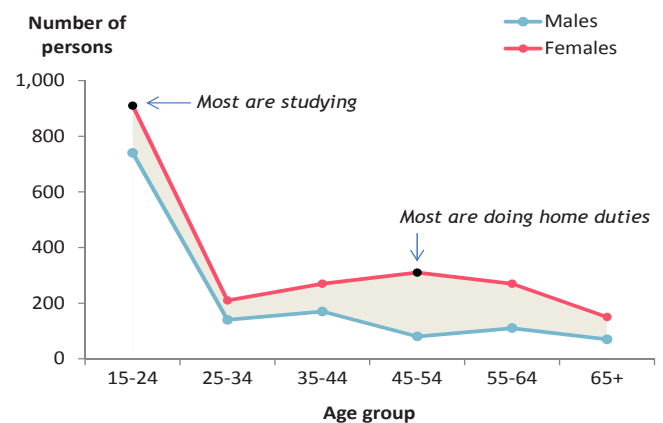
not doing anything and students as people who potentially could work for pay or profit, almost half or 48% are aged 15–24 years, and almost all of these young people are studying full- or part-time. These students, about 1,500 in number, will presumably want to be economically active in the short term as they complete their education and make the transition to work. There are slightly more females than males in this potential work force, most of whom are doing home duties and unpaid HH work like looking after children and other dependent HH members, housework etc.

Just over half of the women living alone are working for pay or profit.

Almost half of women living with their spouse and children are working for pay or profit.

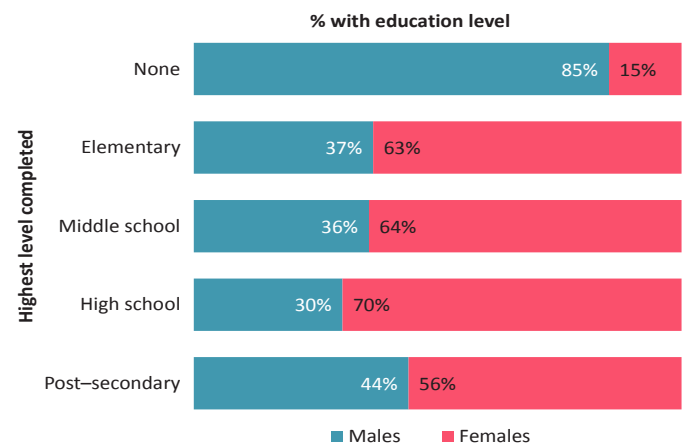
Chart 2: Sector of the economy (industry) of Palauan men and women working for wages and salaries aged 15 years and over.

Potential labor force (unpaid work, home duties, no activity and students)



Age group and sex for 1,310 men and 2,120 women aged 15 years and over who could potentially work for pay or profit.

Highest education level for the potential labor force aged 15-54 years



Sex and highest qualification for 490 men and 910 women aged 15-54 years in the potential labor force.

Almost all – 92% – of the women who could potentially work for pay or profit are well educated, having attained either secondary and post-secondary level education. The proportion of the

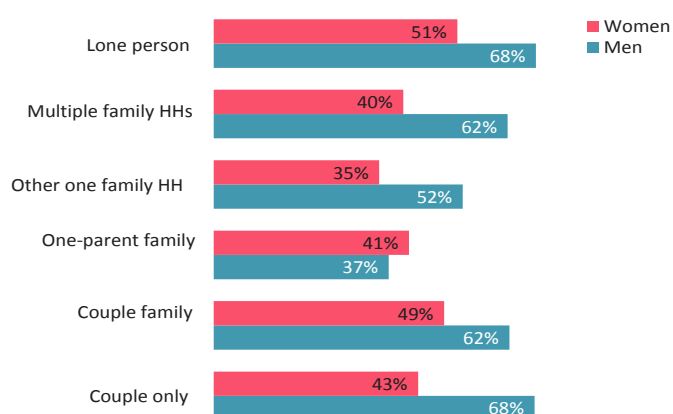
potential labor force with limited or no education is small, and most of these are people living with a disability or a long-term health condition. More research is needed to determine the most effective means of creating an environment conducive to the potential labor force working for pay or profit, such as alternative and affordable care arrangements, 'return to work' training for those who have worked before, small business enterprise training, and job specific training for sectors like tourism and retail trade.

Overall, 41% of Palauan women of working age (15–64 years) work for pay or profit compared with 60% of working age Palauan men. But what are the implications for family life for women and men working for pay? Just over half of all adult women and men live in one family HHs with a Palauan HH head; with women slightly more likely to live in multiple family HHs than men: 39% of adult men live in multiple family HHs compared with 44% of women. The family type information shows that just over three-quarters (77%) of HHs with one parent are headed by a Palauan woman, and a high proportion of these – 41% – work for pay or profit. The family type information shows that just over two-thirds or 68% of the Palauan men living by themselves – so called 'lone person' HHs – are employed; compared with just over half of the Palauan women 'lone person' HHs (51%).

Just over half of the women living alone are working for pay or profit.

Almost half of women living with their spouse and children are working for pay or profit.

Chart 3: Type of family living arrangements in HHs with Palauan citizen as head and women and men working for pay or profit, percentage of each sex aged 15–64 years, HIES 2014.



There are differences in both the occupations (or jobs) and the industry (or sector of the economy) where women and men work. Women and men make different job choices, or are 'pushed' into certain jobs, for a number of reasons including the amount and type of education that workers have completed; the types of jobs that have expanded or declined; personal preferences; societal attitudes about gender roles, which can affect both the kind of work that men and women choose and how family responsibilities enter into work decisions; and, in some cases, discrimination.

There are also differences in incomes between women and men in the same broad occupation groups. There are a number of reasons for these income differences, including variations in hours worked, length of employment and annual increments, the different kinds of jobs grouped under one occupation, pay scales in the government and private sector, bonus and commission earnings; and various allowances for housing, utilities, food and so on. The HIES does not collect information on the actual hourly wage received so it is not possible to derive the gender wage gap, but it is possible to derive a gross, or estimate, measure based on gross annual wage and salary income for different occupation groups and industries for women and men.

Palauan people working in professional occupations are most likely to be women, who comprise 66% of professional occupations which include health and education related occupations: teachers, nurses and business administrators. There are more women than men working as professionals in accounting or bookkeeping jobs, indicating that the number of these jobs is increasing and this is an occupation that women seem to have a preference for. For every ten Palauan clerical support workers, seven will be women. On the other hand, women comprise three-out-of-every-ten managers.

One-in-four Palauan women working for wages and salaries are professionals.

Almost one in three Palauan women working for wages and salaries do clerical work.

Chart 4: Occupations of Palauan men and women, percentage of each sex aged 15 years and over, HIES 2014.

Occupation	Percentage working for wages and salaries	
	Men	Women
Managers	9%	6%
Professionals	9%	25%
Technicians and associate professionals	21%	12%
Clerical support workers	10%	30%
Service and sales workers	22%	20%
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2%	1%
Craft and related trades workers	11%	1%
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	5%	1%
Elementary occupations	12%	4%
Total	100%	100%

While most professional occupations are held by women, their average annual total wage and salary income is 18% less than men working in professional jobs. This is because within the professional group women are more likely to be in lower paid jobs like teaching and nursing than men who are more likely to be engineers, architects, and lawyers. Women working in clerical support occupations have higher paid 'secretarial' type jobs than men who tend to have lower paid clerical jobs working in stock control and transport.

Women earn less than men in all occupation groups except clerical support workers and technicians and associate professionals.

Overall the average total income of men is slightly higher than that of women.

Chart 5: Average annual total wages and salaries of Palauan men and women, occupation group of each sex aged 15 years and over, HIES 2014, (in USD).

Average total wages and salaries		Men	Women	Gap
Managers	22,230		20,240	9%
Professionals	18,850		15,550	18%
Technicians and associate professionals	13,970		14,690	-5%
Clerical support workers	9,680		11,790	-22%
Service and sales workers	10,170		8,300	18%
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	9,140		5,840	36%
Craft and related trades workers	12,400		12,330	1%
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,810		6,310	28%
Elementary occupations	7,700		7,550	2%
Total	12,600		12,530	1%

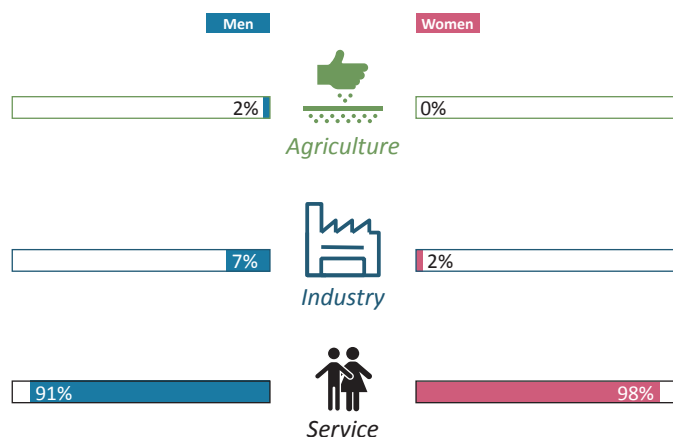
Almost all Palauan women working for wages and salaries work in the services sector of the economy, and within that most women work in public administration (government), followed by education and health. Government also employs the most Palauan men, followed by wholesale and retail trade and then accommodation and food service activities. Less than 1% of women work for wages and salaries in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector so it is not possible to derive an average income estimate for that sector.

Almost all women working for wages and salaries work in the services sector.

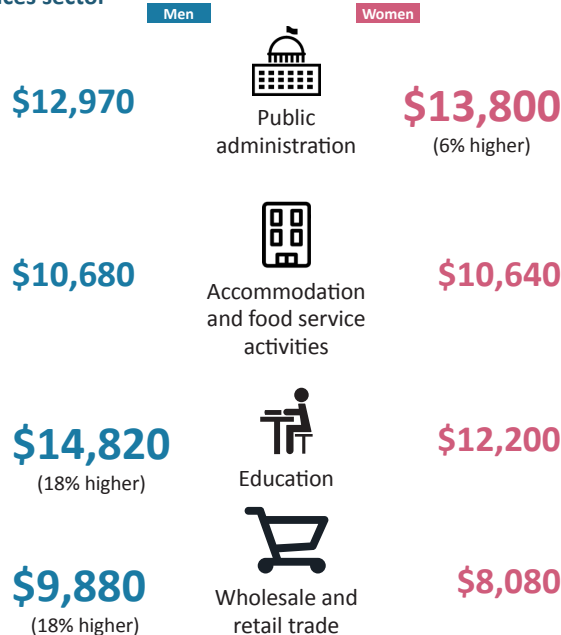
Women working in wholesale and retail trade and public administration have slightly higher annual average wage and salary income than men.

Chart 6: Sector of the economy (industry) of Palauan men and women working for wages and salaries aged 15 years and over, HIES 2014.

Wage and salary workers, sector of employment and sex



Services sector



Industry of employer for 4,780 men and 3,320 women aged 15 years and over working for wages and salaries.

In terms of the annual average wage and salary income for the service sectors where the most women and men work, the gender differences show that on average women earn slightly more than men a year in public administration and earn about the same in accommodation and food service activities. However the 29% of Palauan men working for wages and salaries in the education sector earn, on average, 18% more than the 71% of women working in education a year; with the same 18% gap in the health sector for the 68% of women and 32% of men working in the sector.

HH income

Introduction to the units used in the income and expenditure analysis

Wage and salary information are collected at the individual level, so we can do a gender analysis using this data; but all other sources of income are collected at the HH level so we don't know who in the HH was the main beneficiary or recipient. That's why we have to use the higher level sex of the householder as the unit of analysis, which is not ideal because we don't know who in the HH generated the income. The HIES data used to analyse gender differences, and similarities, in HH income uses the sex of the householder, or head of the HH. The HIES definition of the head of the HH is the person who makes the major decisions for the HH, and this person has to be 15 years and over. A HH is composed of all the people occupying a housing unit and prepare and share their food together. A HH may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements.

This analysis of income takes into account the number of people living in HHs by using per capita income. HHs with more people living in them can have overall higher income, but when this is calculated on a 'per person' basis the income might not be that high. This 'per person' analysis is taken one step further by using the concept of 'adult equivalents' to take into account the generally lower expenditure for children than adults, and to some extent the economies of scale in large, extended family HHs. Adult equivalents can be derived using a wide range of methods, and in the Pacific region the most commonly used method is to allocate a value of 1 adult equivalent for every person aged 15 years and over in the HH and 0.5 for every person aged 14 years and younger.

Quartiles are used to make it easier to analyse per capita (equivalised) HH income in terms of the distribution from lowest to highest. This means that the per capita (equivalised) HH income distribution is divided into four classes or groups with

each one containing 25% of the HHs from the lowest incomes in the first quartile to the highest incomes in the fourth quartile.

Overall women are the heads of 34% or just over one-in-three HHs with a Palauan citizen as HH head, with a slightly higher proportion in rural areas than urban ones. Palauan HHs headed by women are slightly larger than those headed by men. The gap in average monthly HH income between Palauan male and female headed HHs is greatest in rural areas, where 30% of Palauan HHs are headed by women. The average monthly per capita income (equivalised) for Palauan HHs headed by males is USD 800 compared to that of USD 660 in HHs headed by women, resulting in an 'income gap' of 18%. HHs headed by Palauan women have consistently lower incomes than those headed by Palauan men across all units of analysis, with the exception of one-parent HHs where 41% of these Palauan women work for pay or profit (see Chart 3 for more details on pay or profit income and family composition).

Almost two-thirds (63%) of female headed HHs are Palauan Citizens...

... and one-in-three of Palauan female headed HHs are women living alone in 'lone person' HHs. (Table 2)

Table 2: Summary of HHs, HH income and citizenship and sex of the HH head, HIES 2014.

Unit of analysis	Citizenship and sex of HH head					
	Palau			Other		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number of HHs	2,410	1,220	3,640	1,570	720	2,300
Rural	610	260	870	100	20	120
Urban	1,800	960	2,770	1,470	700	2,180
Average HH size	3.9	4.0	3.9	1.5	1.4	1.5
Rural	3.5	3.6	3.5	1.9	1.6	1.9
Urban	4.0	4.1	4.0	1.5	1.4	1.5
Average monthly per capita income	\$700	\$580	\$660	\$740	\$590	\$700
Rural	\$530	\$400	\$490	\$810	\$500	\$750
Urban	\$750	\$620	\$710	\$740	\$590	\$690
Average monthly per capita income (equivalised)	\$800	\$660	\$750	\$790	\$610	\$730
Rural	\$600	\$450	\$560	\$910	\$500	\$830
Urban	\$860	\$710	\$810	\$780	\$620	\$730
Family type and average monthly per capita income (equivalised)	\$800	\$660	\$750	\$790	\$610	\$730
Lone person	\$1,090	\$1,210	\$1,140	\$940	\$740	\$890
One family HH	\$810	\$690	\$790	\$860	\$510	\$820
Multiple family HHs	\$740	\$620	\$670	\$370	\$500	\$450
Group quarters HHs	\$1,220	\$650	\$950	\$660	\$640	\$650

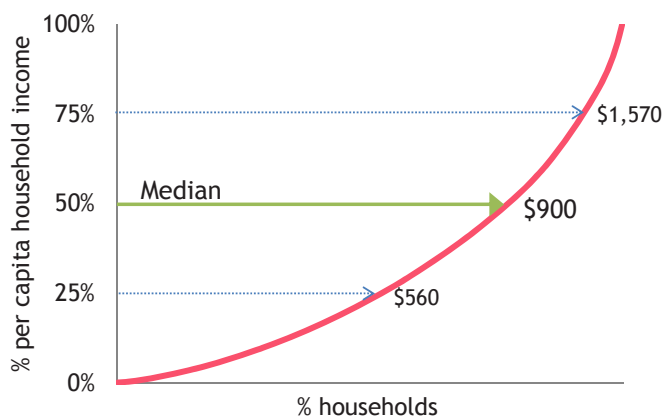
When per capita monthly HH income is equivalised and the distribution divided into four groups from the lowest incomes (below 25% of HHs) to the highest incomes (above 75% of HHs), the per capita HH income for male headed HHs is higher than female headed HHs. One-quarter (25%) of female headed HHs

have per capita monthly income below USD 560 compared with USD 650 a month for male headed HHs, a gap of 14%. One-quarter (25%) of female headed HHs have per capita monthly income above USD 1,570 compared with USD 1,910 for male headed HHs, a gap of 18%.

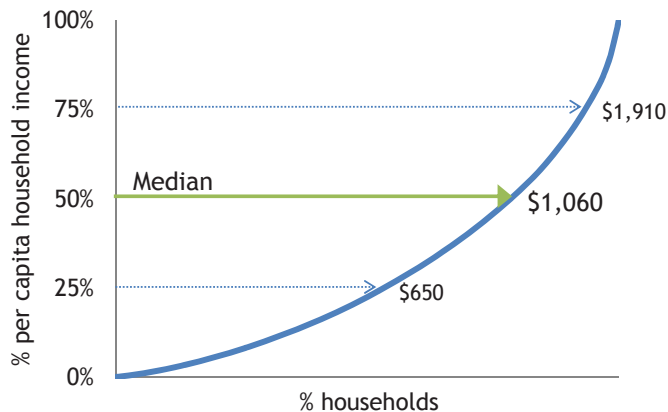
The gap between the median male and female headed HH income per capita is 15%.
Half of female headed HHs have income below USD 900 per month per person in the HH.

Chart 7: Per capita monthly HH income (equivalised) distribution for Palauan HHs, % of HHs, sex of the HH head, HIES 2014.

Female householders



Male householders



Male and female headed HHs receive income from different sources, with male headed HHs having the highest average monthly income from business activities whereas female headed HHs rely more on wage and salary income. Business activities include retail trade in stores, self-employment in vocational trades (mechanic, electrician etc), restaurants and car rental firms. Income from capital includes income received from home rental or lease, interest and dividend income. Transfer income is social security benefits, pensions, grants and scholarships and child support. Casual receipts include income from the sale of assets and inheritance as well as gifts of cash.

On average, female headed HHs have slightly higher monthly income from capital, at USD 290, than male headed HHs (USD 240) and three times the income from casual receipts, although casual receipt income does not make up a large proportion of HH

income. Casual receipt income is important in terms of Palauan custom and tradition, with the giving of cash for funerals, birthdays, house warmings, baby showers, other traditional functions and so on determined along matrilineal lines, with women responsible for both collecting and disbursing money for such important events. It is interesting to compare these casual cash transfer payments between HHs from both the income side and the expenditure side: see charts 10 and 12 and the discussion about expenditure.

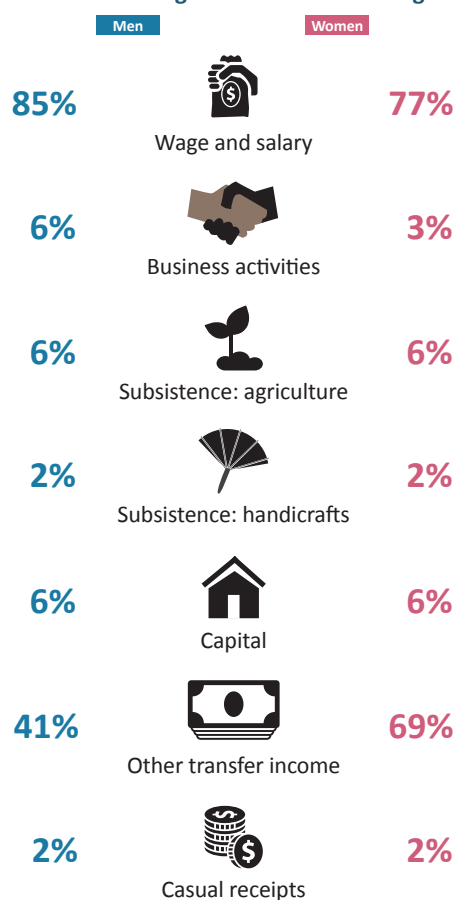
Female headed have higher average HH income than male headed Palauan HHs in handicrafts, income from capital, cash remittances (in-country) and casual receipts.

The largest gap in average incomes is in causal receipts – cash donations for custom and ceremonies – received by female headed HHs. (Chart 8)

Chart 8: Average per capita monthly HH income (equivalised) for Palauan HHs, sex of the HH head and income category, HIES 2014.

Income Category	Male householder	Female householder
Wage and salary	\$530	\$430
Income from business activities	\$980	\$130
Subsistence: Agriculture	\$70	\$50
Subsistence: Fishing	\$60	\$30
Subsistence: Livestock	\$20	\$20
Subsistence: Handicraft	\$30	\$60
Home production	\$20	\$20
Income from capital	\$240	\$290
Imputed rent	\$60	\$60
Cash remittances (in-country)	\$40	\$40
Cash remittances(overseas)	\$70	\$50
Other transfer income	\$330	\$250
Casual receipts	\$30	\$90
In-kind gifts (bought goods)	\$30	\$20
In-kind gifts (home produced)	\$20	\$10

Proportion of HHs receiving selected income categories



Overall more female headed HHs have income from 'other transfers' (social security, pensions and grants): seven out of ten HHs; but the average received by these HHs is lower than HHs headed by males. This is an important source of income for HHs headed by women. The same proportion of male- and

female-headed HHs receive income from casual receipts; but in keeping with Palauan custom the average income is higher for female 'matriarchs' than male headed HHs. In Palau a small proportion of HHs earn income from the sale of surplus subsistence production from agriculture and handicrafts. Only a small proportion of HHs – 6% – have income from the sale of subsistence agricultural products; but there is a USD 20 difference in average HH per capita income, (a gap of 29%) between male- and female-headed HHs.

HH expenditure

The HIES data used to analyse gender differences, and similarities, in HH expenditure, or spending, uses the sex of the householder, or head of the HH. Like income, expenditure information is collected at the HH level, so we don't know who in the HH made the payment and which member did the actual spending. This is why the higher level of the sex of the Householder is used as the unit of analysis.

The HIES collects a wide range of HH expenditure including monthly bill payments for utilities; education; health; land and housing; motor vehicles; travel; loan repayments and clothing. For frequent types of expenditure, or spending which would be hard to estimate monthly, HHs complete a two week daily expenditure diary. This diary is the main source of data on food expenditure, which includes 'home consumption' of food such as root crops or fish grown, caught or harvested and consumed by the HH.

Palauan HHs headed by men have slightly higher expenditure than those headed by women...

... with the exception of Palauan women living on their own. (Table 3)

Table 3: Summary HH expenditure and citizenship and sex of the HH head, HIES 2014.

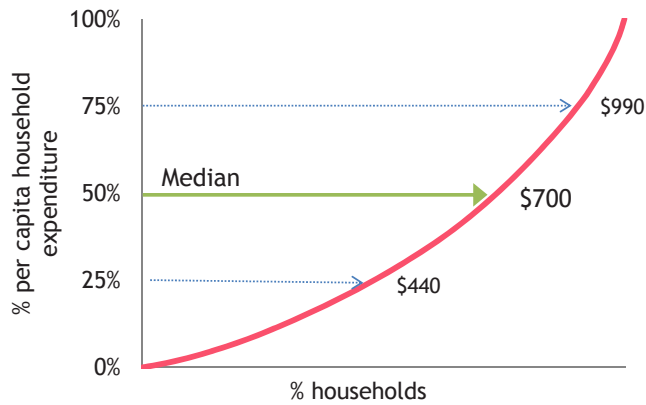
Unit of analysis	Citizenship and sex of HH head					
	Palau			Other		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Average monthly per capita expenditure	\$480	\$410	\$460	\$490	\$430	\$470
Rural	\$420	\$320	\$390	\$470	\$320	\$450
Urban	\$500	\$430	\$480	\$490	\$430	\$480
Average monthly per capita expenditure (equivalised)	\$550	\$460	\$520	\$520	\$450	\$500
Rural	\$490	\$360	\$450	\$530	\$320	\$490
Urban	\$570	\$490	\$540	\$520	\$450	\$500
Family type and average monthly per capita expenditure (equivalised)						
Lone person	\$870	\$1,050	\$940	\$700	\$550	\$670
One family HH	\$590	\$490	\$570	\$490	\$420	\$480
Multiple family HHs	\$440	\$430	\$430	\$330	\$320	\$330
Group quarters HHs	\$1,000	\$300	\$670	\$470	\$470	\$470

The gap between median male and female headed HH expenditure per capita is 6%.

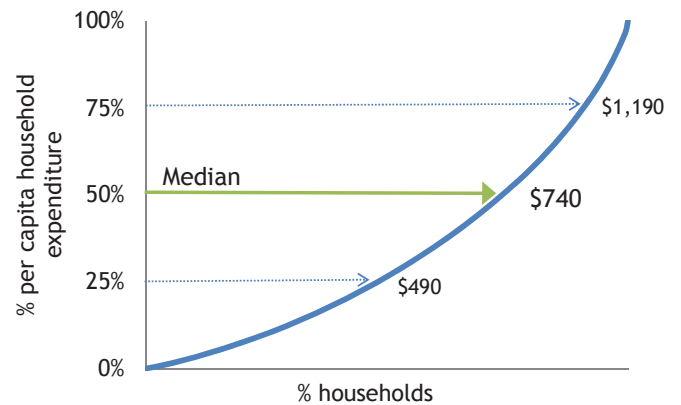
Half of female headed HHs have expenditure below USD 700 per month per person in the HH.

Chart 9: Per capita monthly HH expenditure (equivalised) distribution for Palauan HHs, % of HHs, sex of the HH head, HIES 2014.

Female householders



Male householders



When per capita monthly HH expenditure is equivalised and the distribution divided into four groups from the lowest expenditure (below 25% of HHs) to the highest expenditure (above 75% of HHs), the per capita HH expenditure for male headed HHs is higher than female headed HHs. One-quarter (25%) of female headed HHs have per capita monthly expenditure below USD 440 compared with USD 490 a month for male headed HHs, a gap of 10%. One-quarter (25%) of female headed HHs have per capita monthly expenditure above USD 990, a gap of 17% compared with USD 1,190 for male headed HHs.

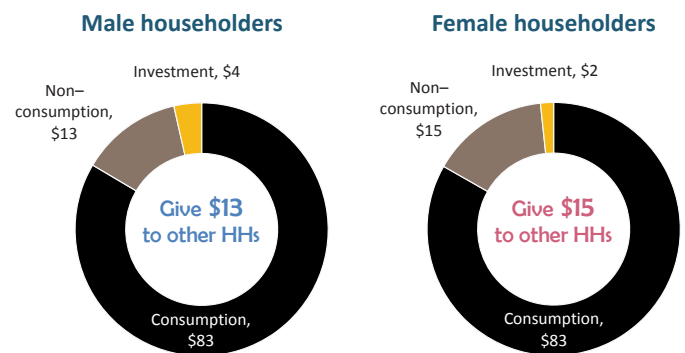
At the aggregate level expenditure is analysed in terms of whether it is for consumption, non-consumption or investment. On average, for every USD 100 spent USD 83 is spent on consumption expenditure: food, housing, transport, education, communication, betel nut etc in all Palauan HHs. Palauan HHs headed by women spend USD 2 more a month than men on non-consumption expenditure: gifts of goods or cash given to other HHs, organisations and charities. Palauan male HH heads spend USD 2 more than female heads on investments in house construction, business equipment (boats and outboard engines) and mortgages.

Female HH heads on average spend slightly less a month than male HH heads on consumption expenditure, spend the same on non-consumption expenditure and invest about half the amount as male heads do. HHs headed by Palauan women spend the same as their male counterparts on gifts of goods or cash given to other HHs, organisations and charities; but this represents a higher proportion of their overall average HH expenditure, which is 16% lower than male headed HHs.

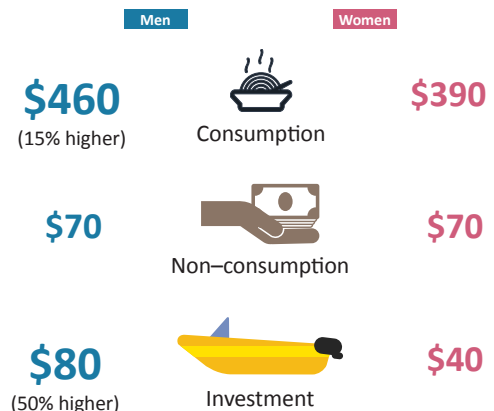
On average female HH heads spend more than male HH heads each month on transfers to other HHs (per capita).

Male headed HHs on average spend more on investment. (Chart 10)

Chart 10: Average per capita monthly HH expenditure (equivalised) for Palauan HHs, expenditure category and sex of the HH head, HIES 2014.



Average monthly per capita expenditure



Consumption expenditure is analysed in terms of the goods and services purchased and consumed on a per capita, equivalised basis. HHs headed by a Palauan male spend more on the consumption of food, health, transport, recreation and culture and miscellaneous goods and services compared to HHs headed by Palauan women and this is why the overall average

consumption expenditure is 18% higher for Palauan male headed HHs. All Palauan HHs pay a per capita average of USD 110 per month on housing and utilities, and this is the largest average expenditure category for female headed HHs.

Average per capita consumption expenditure between Palauan female and male headed HHs is similar for 'basic needs' goods and services

Differences are apparent in areas with more discretionary expenditure such as food, transport, recreation and health.

Chart 11: Average per capita monthly HH expenditure (equivalised) for Palauan HHs, consumption expenditure category and sex of the HH head, HIES 2014.

Consumption expenditure category	Male householder	Female householder
1. Food and non-alcoholic beverages	\$110	\$90
2. Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics	\$30	\$30
3. Clothing and footwear	\$20	\$20
4. Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	\$110	\$110
5. Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance	\$20	\$20
6. Health	\$20	\$10
7. Transport	\$80	\$50
8. Communication	\$20	\$20
9. Recreation and culture	\$20	\$10
10. Education	\$30	\$30
11. Restaurants and hotels	\$20	\$20
12. Miscellaneous goods and services	\$40	\$30

Non-consumption expenditure in Palau is mostly gifts of cash or goods to other HHs, the church and associations. On average every month Palauan HHs give, and receive, approximately USD 900,000 in non-consumption expenditure: almost all – 85% – of this expenditure is for traditional ceremonies. This is significant for all Palauan HHs no matter the sex of the householder, as all adults will be contributing cash towards, and possibly making decisions about, the amount of these cash donations.

Both on an average HH and per capita (equivalised) basis, Palauan HHs with a male HH head give 50% more cash donations to other HHs than female headed HHs. At the HH average level, Palauan women HH heads give more for ceremonies and donations to the church than Palauan male HH heads, but there is no difference at the per capita (equivalised) level.

Average HH non-consumption expenditure is mostly for ceremonies (funerals, baby showers and weddings)

Palauan HH's give – and receive – about USD 900,000 a month.

Chart 12: Average monthly HH expenditure for Palauan HHs, non-consumption expenditure category and sex of the HH head, HIES 2014.

Non-consumption expenditure category	Male householder	Female householder
Ceremonies	\$210	\$220
Cash donations to households	\$60	\$30
Cash donations to church	\$20	\$30
Taxes and fines	\$0	\$10
Cash donations to associations	\$20	\$10
Other charity	\$0	\$20

HH amenities, access to communications

Over 90% of all Palauan HHs live in a 'one family house' with a small proportion (5%) living in apartment buildings in urban areas. Almost 10% of Palauan HHs (8%) rent for their home, paying an average of USD 210 per month (this is only what the HH pays and excludes contributions from employers or others). It is not possible to analyse the rent according to the sex of the HH head because of the small number of Palauan female HH heads paying rent.

In general the standard of housing is good in Palau and most HHs have access to utilities, with the exception of water because about one-quarter of urban houses buy drinking water. HHs without access to safe sanitation have 39% lower average annual expenditure than those who do have access, suggesting that they are poorer than other HHs. HHs where members have a chronic health problem have higher expenditure than those with no health problems, and possibly some of this higher expenditure will be related spending for the health problems.

Almost all Palauan HHs have access to utilities.

HHs headed by a Palauan male are more likely not to have anyone living there with chronic health problems.

Table 4: Summary HH characteristics, citizenship and sex of the HH head, average per capita HH annual expenditure, HIES 2014.

Unit of analysis	Sex of HH head and region				Annual average per capita
	Urban		Rural		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Safe drinking water					
Access	77%	74%	97%	98%	\$20,920
No access	23%	26%	3%	2%	\$23,860
Safe sanitation					
Access	96%	97%	84%	78%	\$22,080
No access	4%	3%	16%	22%	\$13,430
Operational telephone land line in house					
Access	84%	87%	90%	86%	\$22,910
No access	16%	13%	10%	14%	\$12,590
More than two people per room					
No	92%	95%	97%	99%	\$20,950
Yes	8%	5%	3%	1%	\$29,570
Clean cooking fuel					
Access	97%	97%	90%	83%	\$21,850
No access	3%	3%	10%	17%	\$21,480
Members with chronic health problems					
None	46%	39%	68%	64%	\$18,410
One	36%	40%	22%	27%	\$22,510
More than one	18%	21%	10%	9%	\$28,360

The same proportion of Palauan females and males aged 10 years and over own or use a cell phone or other mobile device: 60%. Overall about one-in-three Palauans aged over 10 years use the internet (36%), and about six-in-every-ten internet users are females (56%). There are slight differences between males and females and where they use the internet, with women being slightly more likely to access the internet at their place of work rather than in the home, with many accessing the internet both at work and at home. Average monthly expenditure for cell phones and internet (prepaid or plans) is USD 20 for both male and female headed HHs.

Females make up just over half of internet users.

Six-out-of-ten Palauans use or own a cell phone or other mobile device.

Chart 13: Use of internet and cell phones, ownership of cell phones and sex, aged 10 years and over, HIES 2014.

Internet and cell phone use during the last month	Males	Females
Used the internet	44%	56%
Used a cell phone or other mobile device	49%	51%
Owns a cell phone or other mobile device	49%	51%

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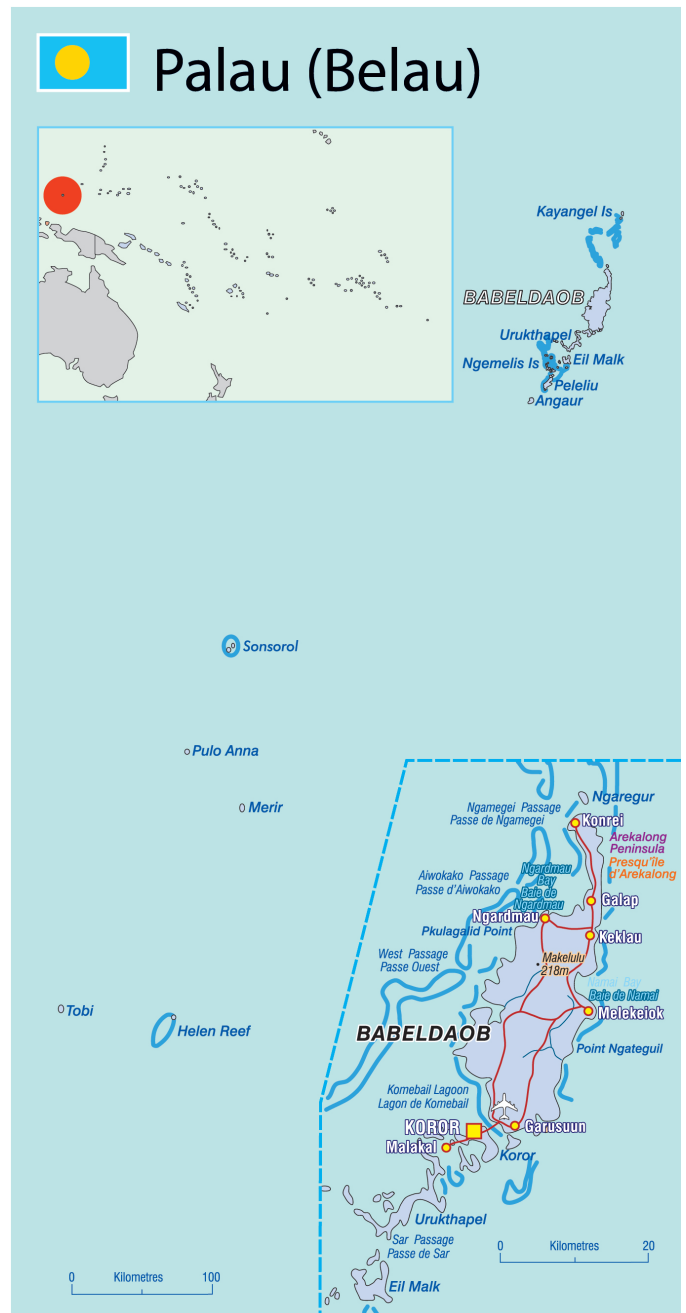
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