

IWD FROM AN ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE.

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Introduction

Our Gender Observatory contributes to the public debate by involving a gender-based perspective into our economic analysis. It is also our purpose to build data that reflects how economic inequality affects women and gender diversities in relation to men. Moreover, this data is publicly available on our website www.centrocepa.com.ar/genero so that everyone can use it in public debate.

It is our firm conviction that public policies must be designed paying special attention to structural gender inequalities. Our aim is to provide specific information about the gender gap in employment, income, wealth and care work. Bringing these inequalities to the spotlight by data production is a necessary condition to create a more just and equal society.

To achieve this, the first part of this report seeks to revise key information about work and income and about their other side: structural inequalities in care responsibilities. Firstly, we analyze gender and activity, unemployment, youth unemployment, informality rates, among others. Regarding income, we measure general gaps but also those between formal and informal female and male workers. Overall, we provide data that contribute to explain the feminization of poverty. Last statistics available are of the third trimester of 2023. Therefore, they reflect the starting point for the new administration that began last December 10th.

Secondly, we explore an unseen dimension of the feminization of poverty: the underrepresentation of women on wealth taxes. By doing this, we approach the data that accounts for estate gap and the masculinization of wealth: Income Tax Declarations and Personal Assets Tax Declarations.

In the third part of the report, we examine the economic policies of the new government through budget execution. We systematized budget programs that - until last year- were tagged as 'Gender Responsive' (PPG in Spanish) and we compared their execution in this new political stage.

Lastly, and although the president denies the mere existence of gender inequalities, we aim to prove that the executed policies have a differential negative impact between men and women. This is why we center on the new government's economic plan, emphasizing its negative consequences on women and gender diversities and on the gender gap.

Conclusions

In the context of March 8th, this report aimed to show Milei's government starting point in the matter of gender gaps. Given that the president denies the mere existence of gender inequalities, we consider it necessary to provide specific data to the debate. 'If women would earn less than men, companies would be filled with female employees' (Milei, October 1st 2023).

At the same time, we made a review of the new administration's economic measures and of their differential impact regarding gender. Therefore, to discuss policies promoted by Milei from a feminist point of view is not only to discuss institutional delaying, but also to question the economic model itself. A model that has deep effects on disadvantaged sectors in which women and gender diversities are underrepresented.

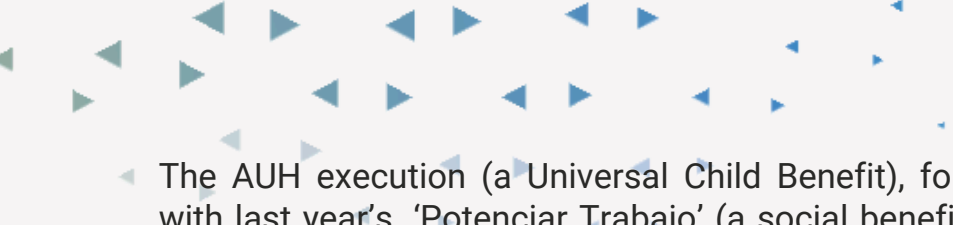
Gender gaps in 2023

There are 6 main gaps -overlooked and denied by the National Executive Power- that summarize the initial situation of the new government.

- Women's activity rate is 18.4 percentage points under that of men's.
- Unemployment rate on men is 1 point below than on women.
- Labor informality is 2.9 pp higher on women than on men.
- Men's incomes are between 22.6 and 26.4% higher than women's. This gap is reduced to 15.7% in formal labor market. This produces an overrepresentation of women in poverty: they represent 63% of people with lower incomes.
- The root of inequalities in the labor market is found at home: women account for 3 more hours a day than men on unpaid domestic and care work.
- The other side of poverty feminization is the masculinization of wealth: men represent 63% of the sector with higher incomes. Therefore, women are underrepresented in progressive tax payment: they are only a 34.4% of the affected by personal assets taxes and a 30.1% of those who pay income tax. This implies a huge wealth gap.

These inequalities are extremely likely to deepen with Javier Milei's new policies.

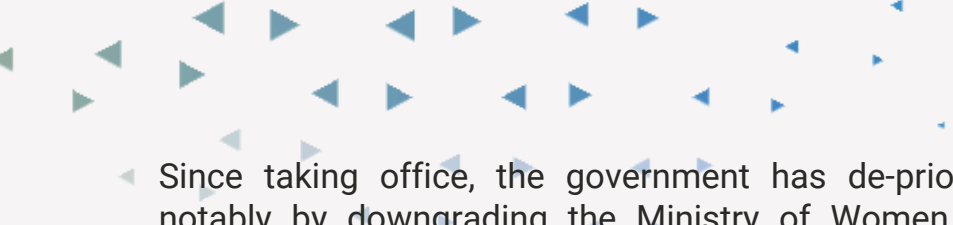
In budgetary terms, the new government extended the 2023 Budget in a context of an abysmal inflation, constituting a dilution of Government Spending. Every policy once tagged as 'Gender Responsive' (PPG in Spanish), meaning policies that contribute to reduce gender inequalities, are showing substantial reductions in real terms.



◀ The AUH execution (a Universal Child Benefit), for example, fell 53% compared with last year's. 'Potenciar Trabajo' (a social benefit for entrepreneurs from lower and middle-income sectors) was reduced 70% and food policies fell 50%.

Since December 10th, the economic model is centered on a dilution of incomes and savings, a stop of the economic activity and a deregulation of the economy. This scheme affects substantially women and gender diversities.

- Many goods and services the prices of which have risen over general inflation are directly related to women's consumption: food, health and transportation. Thus, both the food basket and the total basket—which determine the indigence and poverty lines, respectively—also increased above the general price level, affecting the incomes of women, who, as noted, are overrepresented in poverty. While general cumulative inflation was 70%, the basic total basket rose 73% and the food basket, 78%.
- Employment in private households has significantly decreased in recent months, and the outlooks are expected to get worse, as families tend to spend less on this area during times of crisis. Household employment is extremely feminized: 96.7% of workers are women and their incomes have lost 30 pp of their purchasing power in the last three months (hourly cost vs inflation).
- Teaching is another feminized sector: 77% of teachers of initial, primary and secondary education are women. Their salaries have been reduced due to the elimination of FONID (acronym in Spanish for National Teacher Incentive Fund) which represented an average of 12% of the remuneration.
- Minimum pensions, which are mainly received by women—78% of whom accessed them through moratoriums and thus receive the minimum pension—have suffered a 20-point loss in purchasing power the last 3 months.
- 63% of the beneficiaries of the 'Potenciar Trabajo' program are women. The purchasing power of this program has almost halved by March of this year.
- The 'Acompañar' program, which is received by women and individuals from marginalized communities facing gender-based violence, has lost 30% of its purchasing power since Javier Milei took office, and new enrollments have been halted, putting the program at risk of disappearing.



Since taking office, the government has de-prioritized gender policies (most notably by downgrading the Ministry of Women, Genders, and Diversity to a Subsecretariat), banned inclusive language, proposed closing the INADI, and has launched a systematic attack on the feminist movement. They are seeking to roll back abortion rights while simultaneously undermining incomes and quality of life through an economic plan aimed at a brutal transfer of income from lower-income sectors, where women are overrepresented, to more concentrated sectors, which are predominantly male.

This document provides a translation of the principal findings from our report. For a comprehensive review, the full report in Spanish language is available at the following [link](https://centrocepa.com.ar/informes/475-8-de-marzo-en-perspectiva-economica):

<https://centrocepa.com.ar/informes/475-8-de-marzo-en-perspectiva-economica>

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