

# Gender and Trade

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Some issues to consider

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# How may trade liberalization impact women differently than men?

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- Women as producers:
    - Dual role: productive and reproductive roles
    - Time allocation: market versus non-market activities
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# How may trade liberalization impact women differently than men?

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## □ As workers

- In terms of quality of employment
    - As compared to previously existing opportunities
    - Effect on the wage gap
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# How may trade liberalization impact women differently than men?

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## □ Women as consumers

- Trade liberalization may lower prices on important consumer goods -- so women may gain significantly from a reduction in the price of their basic bundle of goods and in increased access to medicine and basic health services – given their role as primary household managers.
  - Conversely, elimination of subsidies or price supports may raise the price of basics, making household management more costly.
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★ Tariff reduction on agricultural goods: an example from a country in the Americas

Tariff Line Level	Description	Value	Nature
702000	TOMATOES FRESH OR CHILLED	224	Ad Valorem
704901	CABBAGES	123	Ad Valorem
705110	LETTUCE	123	Ad Valorem
710100	POTATOES	30	Ad Valorem
40100	MILK and CREAM	159	Ad Valorem

On average, these tariffs increase the price by 125%

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## ★ The case of agricultural liberalization:

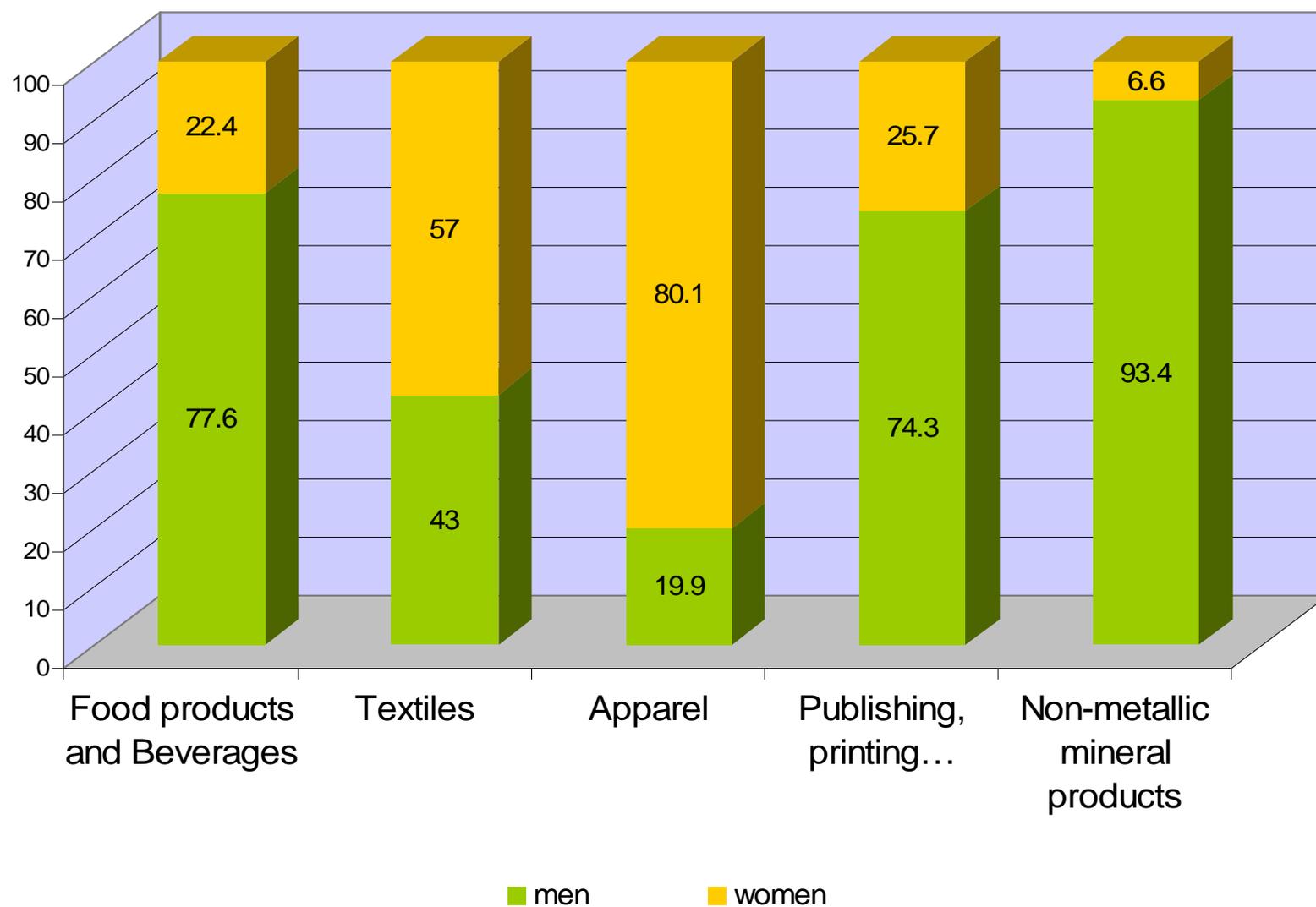
- ❑ Production Factors: Impact of trade liberalization on the agricultural sector:
    - Are women formal or informal workers?
    - Are women intensively employed more in large agricultural concerns or in smaller farms?
    - Are women employed more in traditional or nontraditional sectors? What are the trends?
  - ❑ Consumption factors: Can the loss of agricultural income be offset by other factors, such as cheaper imported foodstuff?
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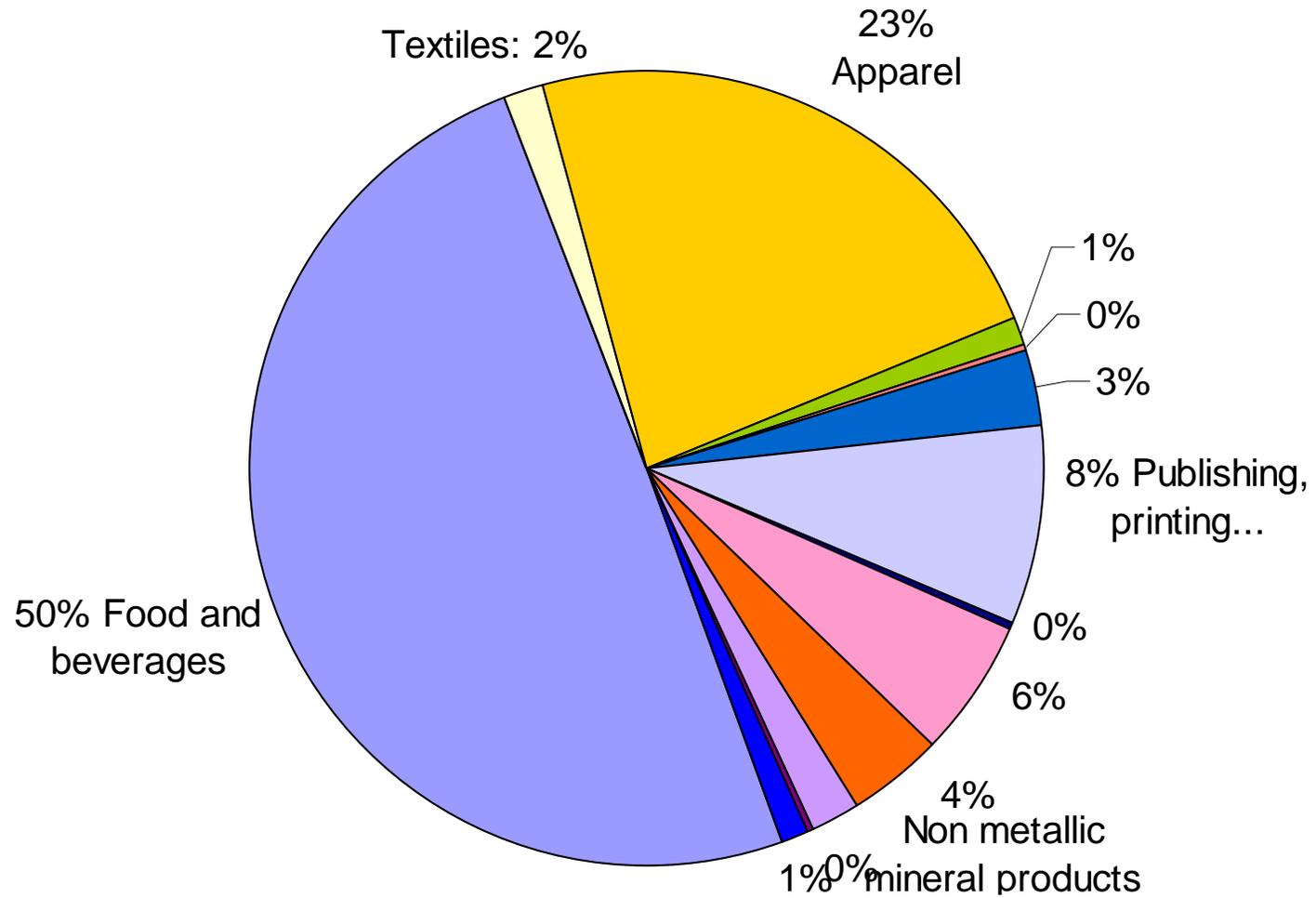
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- ★ The issue of sectorial concentration:
    - ❑ Are some sectors more affected by trade?
    - ❑ Are women concentrated in some of these sectors?
    - ❑ How do we look at the issue of sectorial concentration?
      - overall concentration, compared to men
      - in terms of the female labour force
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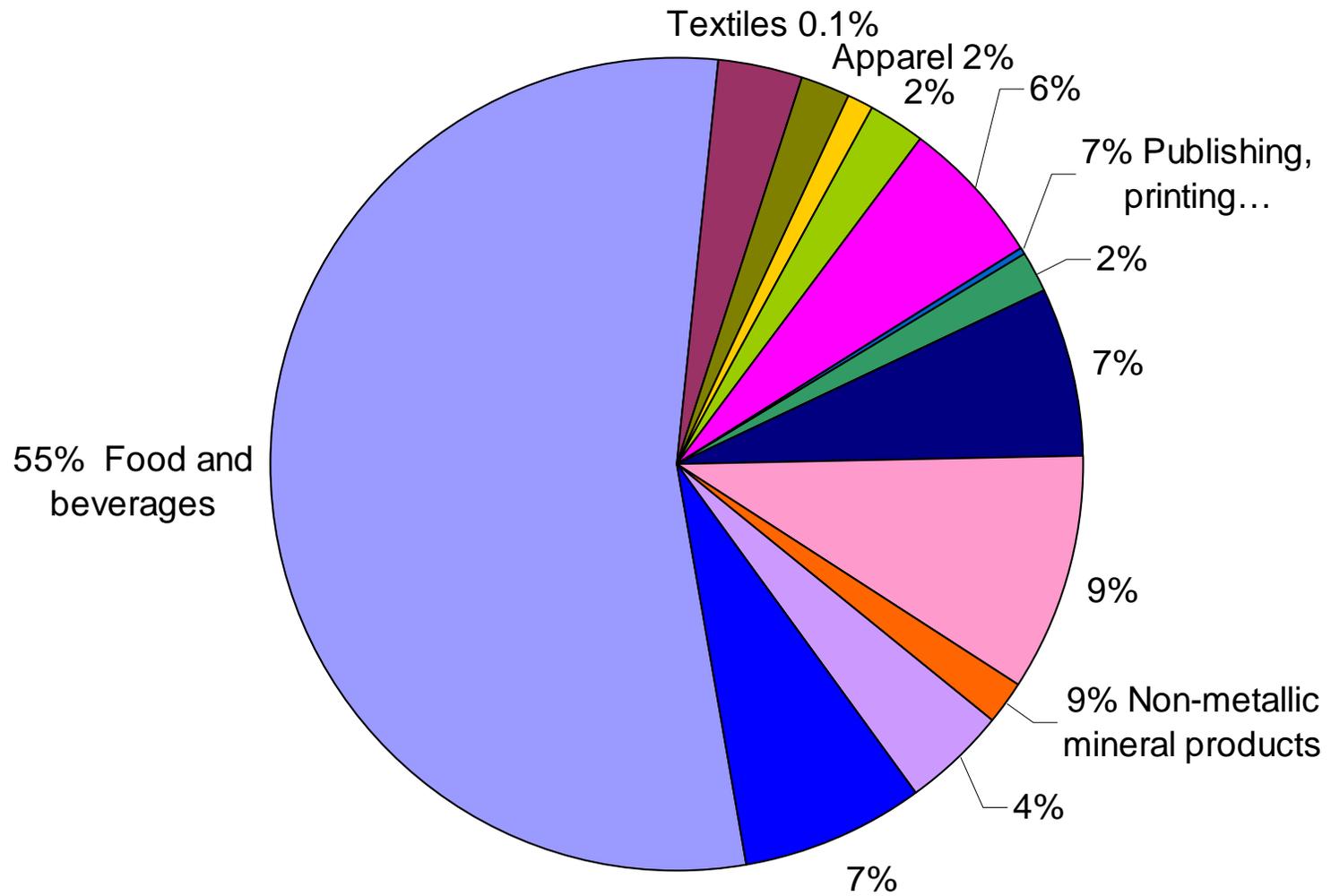
## PANAMA: Men and women's share of employment in manufacturing (%) 2000



## Distribution of women's employment in manufacturing



## Distribution of men's employment in manufacturing



## Gender and Trade: What are the options?

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- ❑ Incorporate language on gender into trade agreement provisions
  - ❑ Incorporate language on gender in side agreements
  - ❑ Incorporate gender consideration into trade-related projects
  - ❑ Incorporate gender consideration in domestic policy-formation
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## Gender and Trade: some suggestions

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- ❑ Coordination and collaboration among NGOs, national institutions and international organizations
  - ❑ Communication among trade people and gender people
  - ❑ Sharing of country experiences
  - ❑ Wider dissemination of information
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# Gender and Trade: some suggestions

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- ❑ Trade Unit -SICE/CIM collaboration:
  - Section on trade and gender on the SICE Website:



[www.sice.oas.org](http://www.sice.oas.org)

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# Trade & Gender on the SICE Website

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- The website will include:
    - Links to international organizations involved in the issue of gender and trade
    - Links to other sources of information, such as articles, bibliographies...
    - The presentations and papers done by the Trade Unit
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# Trade & Gender on the SICE Website

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- Best Practices submitted by OAS Member States
  - A list of trade & cooperation agreements and impact studies including vocabulary on gender equality, non-discrimination, and other relevant issues.
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