



Leveraging digital technologies to bridge gender gap

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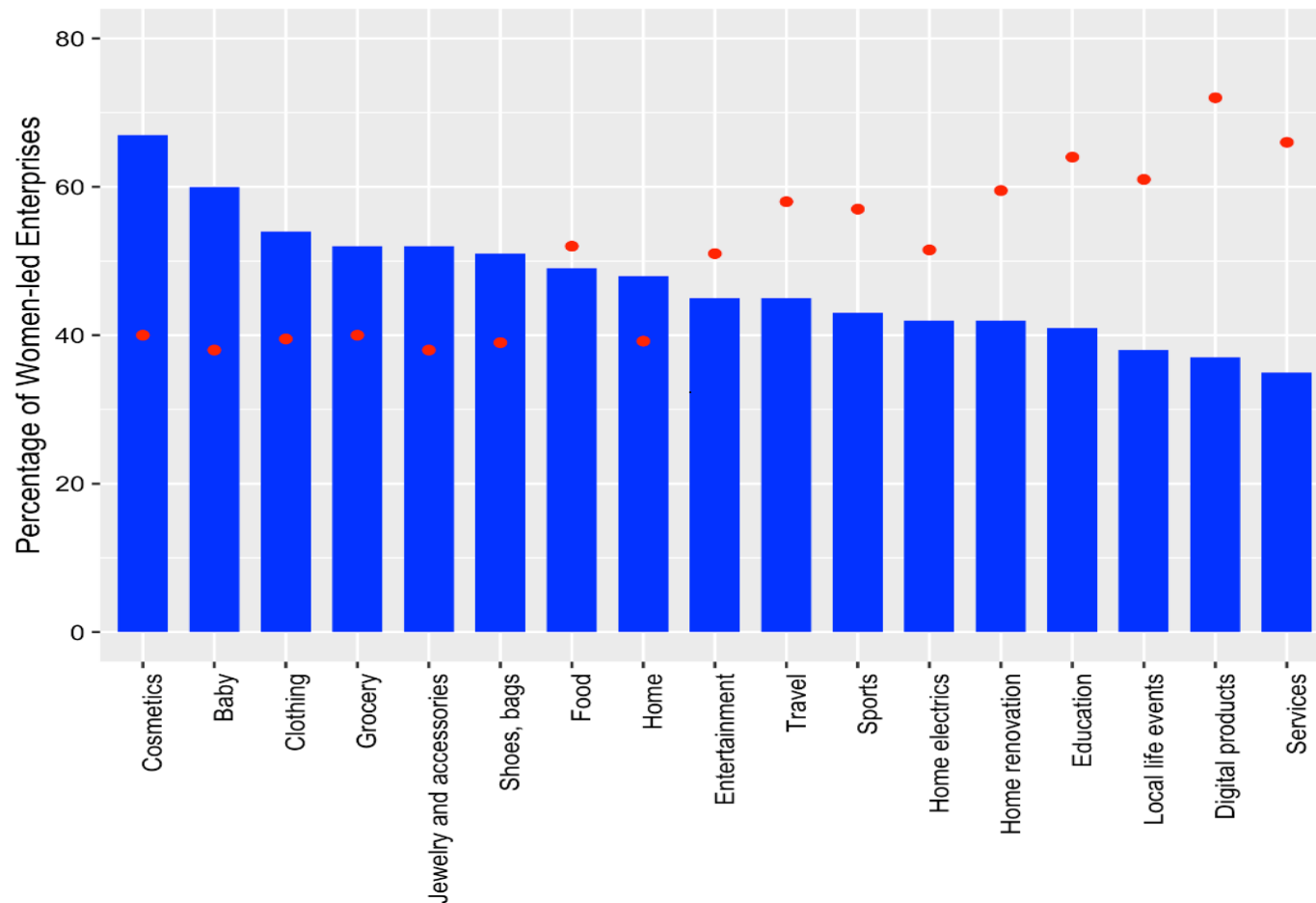
Take-home messages

- Digital technologies empower women by
 - creating new trade opportunities
 - enhancing access to finance and information
 - removing trade barriers for women
 - increasing demand for female-specific skills
- Policies to address gender gaps are essential

Women business owners are more present online

Traditional Offline Business	Online Platforms
Women-owned formal SMEs make up one-third of global total; 18.6% of SMEs has a female top manager	Etsy: 86% of sellers in the United States are women Alibaba: 51% of active sellers are women
25% employed outside of agriculture are women	Airbnb: 55% of host are women Upwork: 44% of freelancers are women
70% of women-owned SMEs in developing countries lack finance	Kickstarter: 35% of project leaders and 44% of investors are online

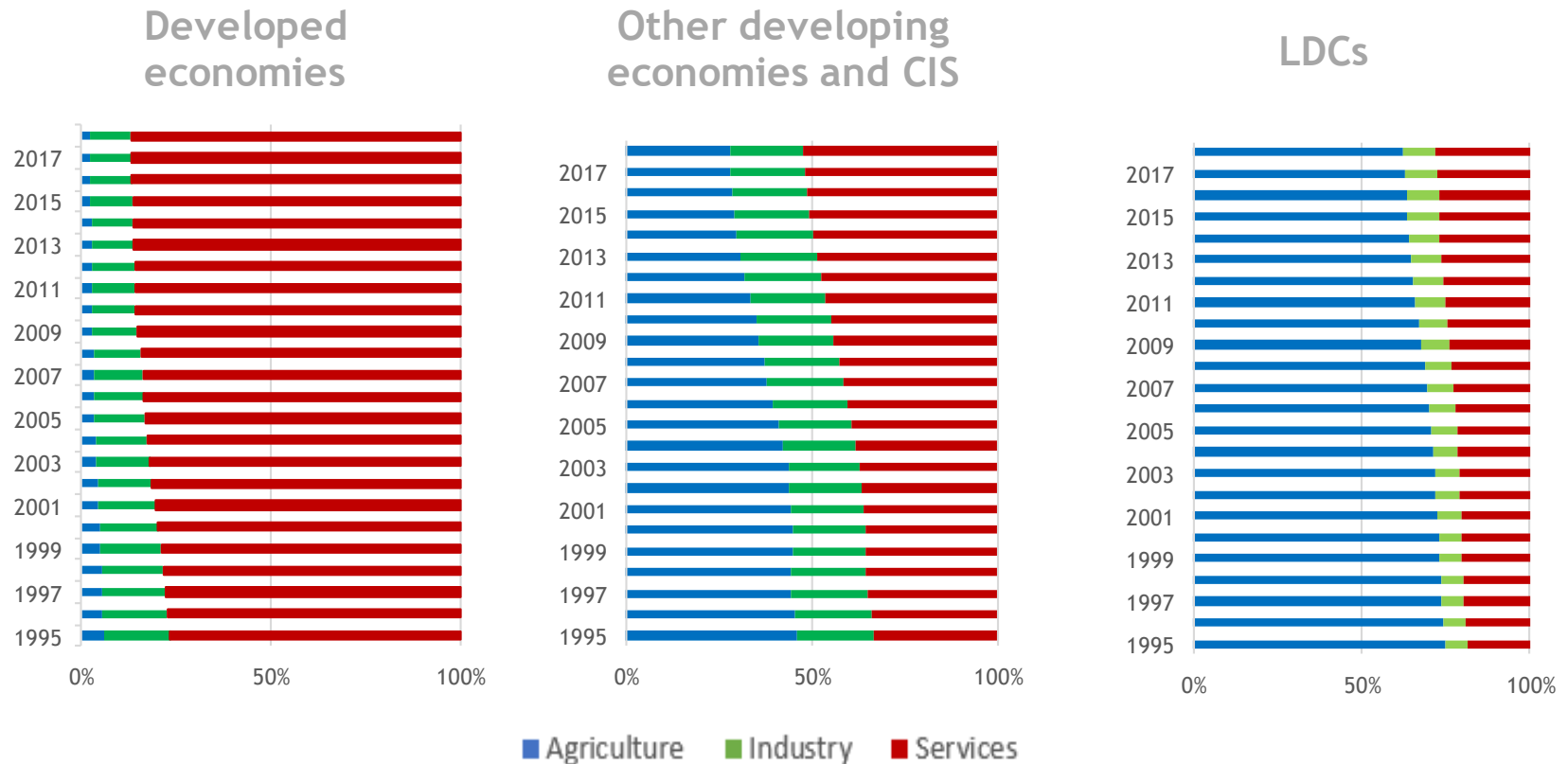
More women sellers online, but less revenue



Source: Alibaba Group (2015)

Digital technologies unlock potential in services trade

Female employment by sector and group of economies



Source: World Trade Report (2019) based on ILO data

... and allow better use of skills

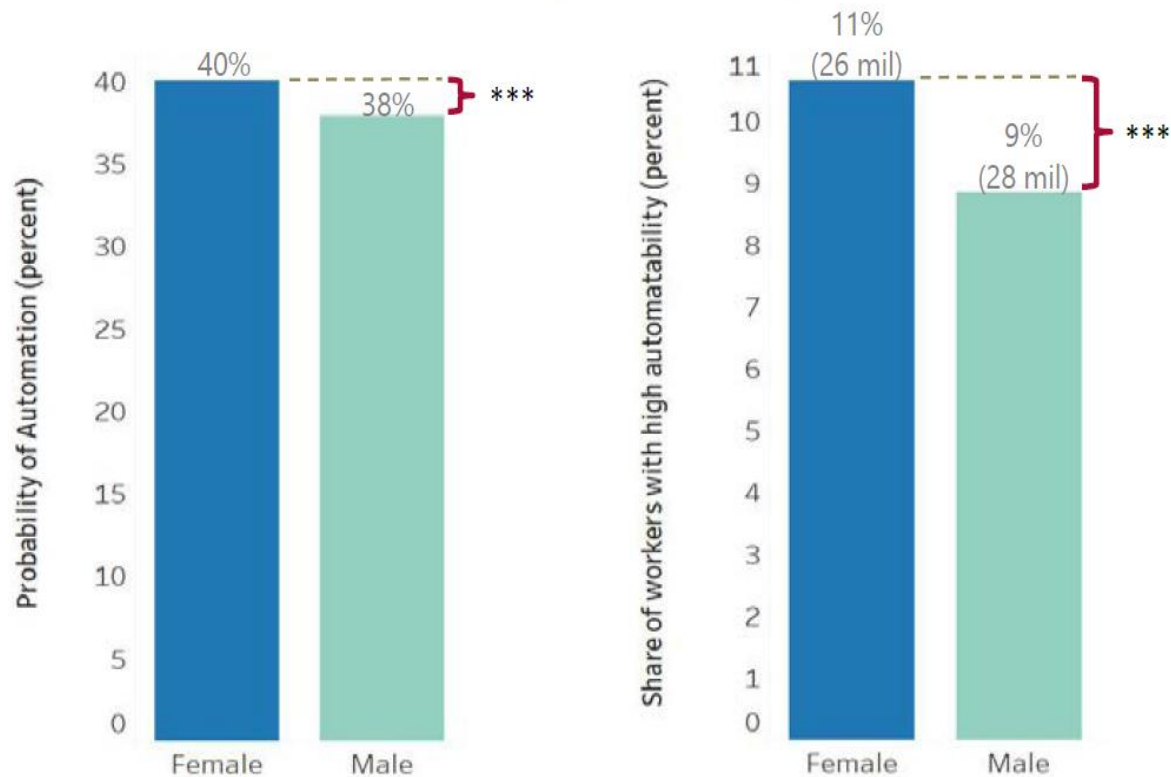
Change in Demand for Social Skills and Occupational Wage Ranking



Source: Cortes et al. (2018)

... but the picture is not all rosy

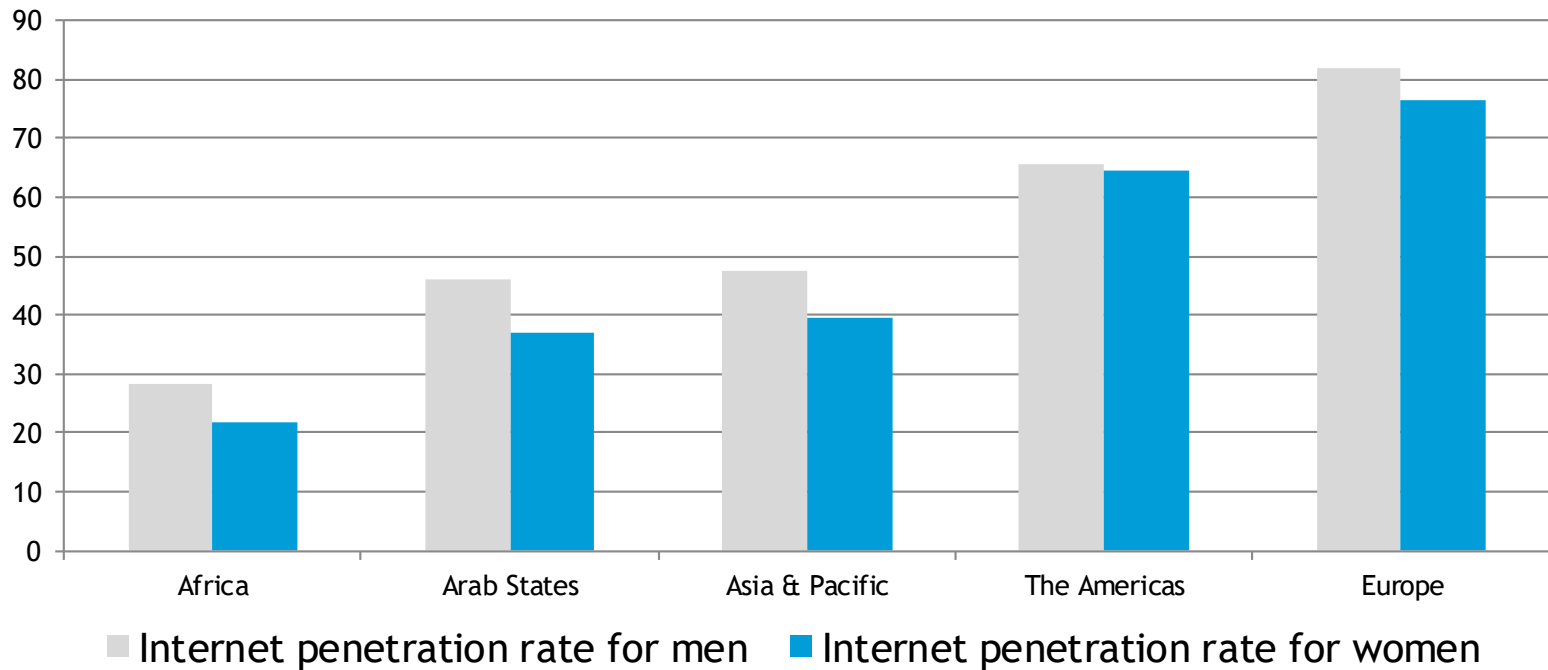
Gender gap in probability of automation



Sources: Frey and Osborne (2017); PIAAC survey; and IMF staff estimates.

Digital gender gap persists...

Gender divide in Internet access



Source: ITU (2016)

Thank you!

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