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COVID-19, TECHNOLOGY, and POLARIZING JOBS

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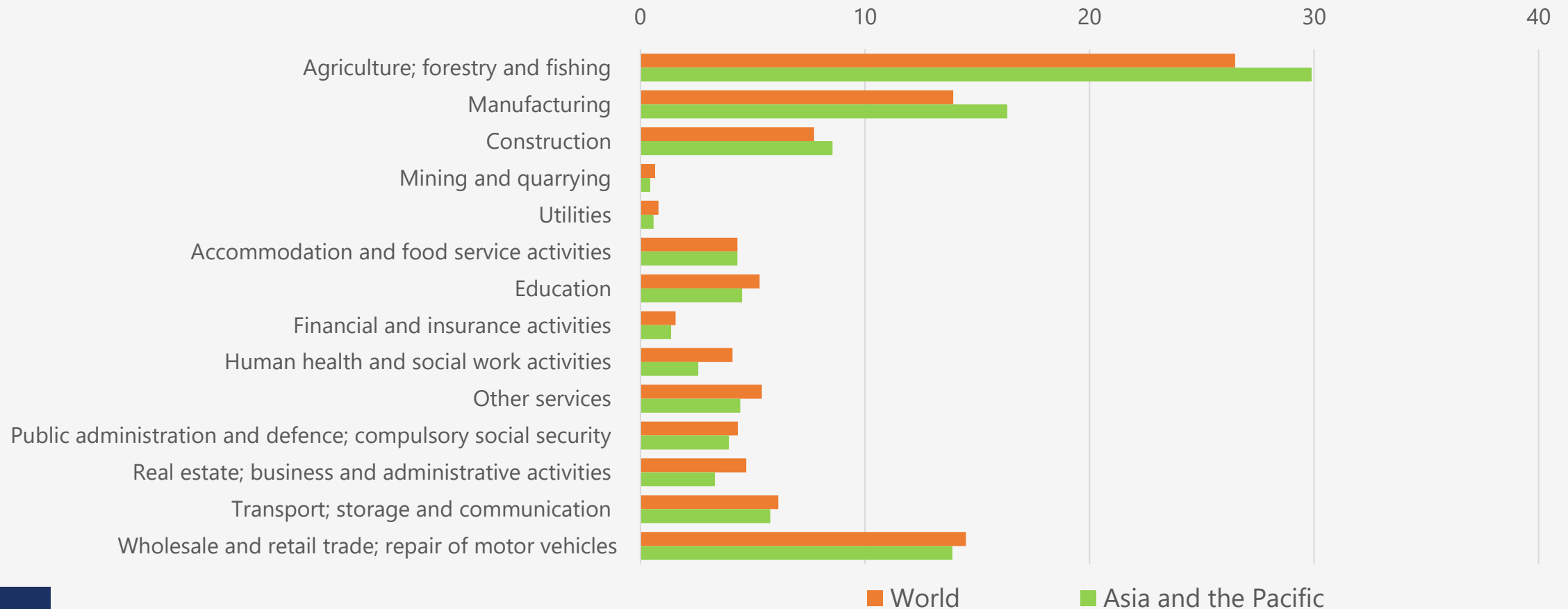


Key Messages

- COVID-19 effects are further exposing the trend of job polarization and widening wage inequality among employees.
- COVID-19 spurs digital transformation of work and the workplace; presenting enormous opportunities and challenges.
- Policy strategies and options needed to increase investment in digital readiness, develop skills for the digital economy, and strengthen social protection, could help mitigate the impact.

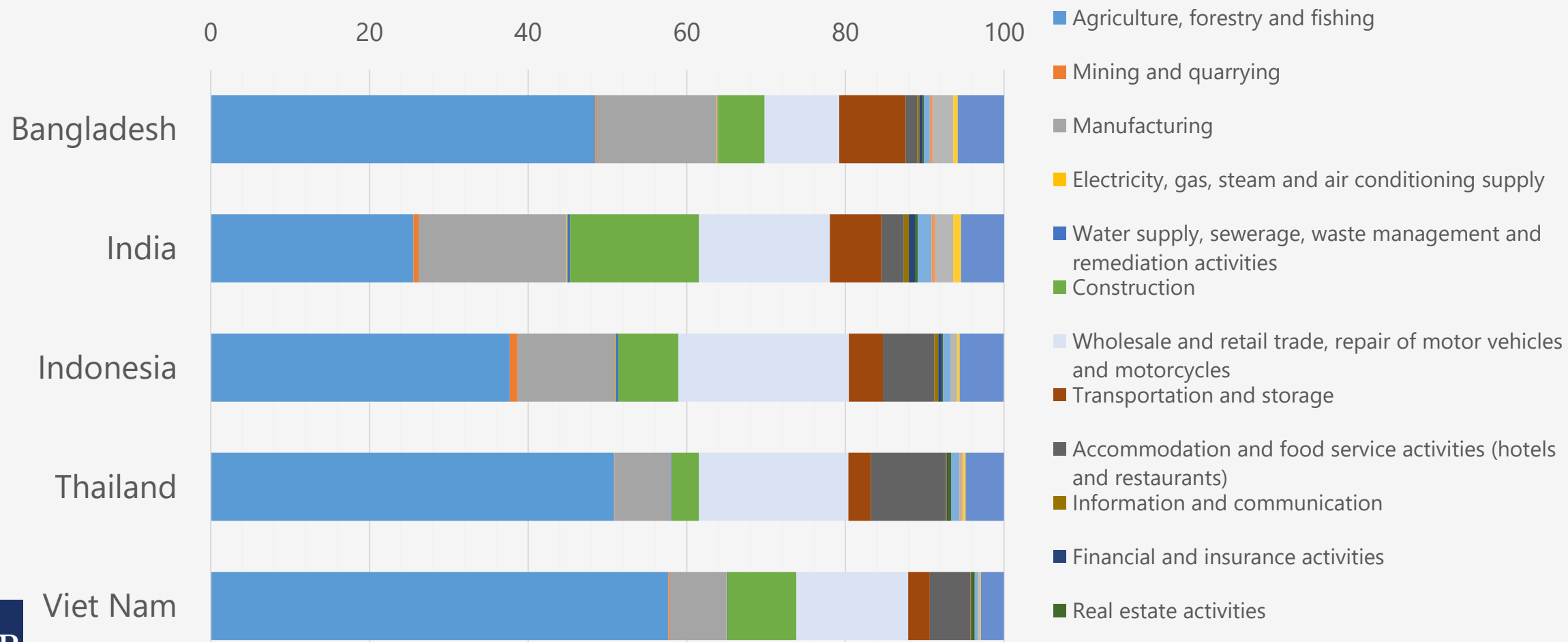
Some sectors are more affected than others— Where do Asian workers work?

Employment Sectoral Distribution by Subregion (% in total employment)



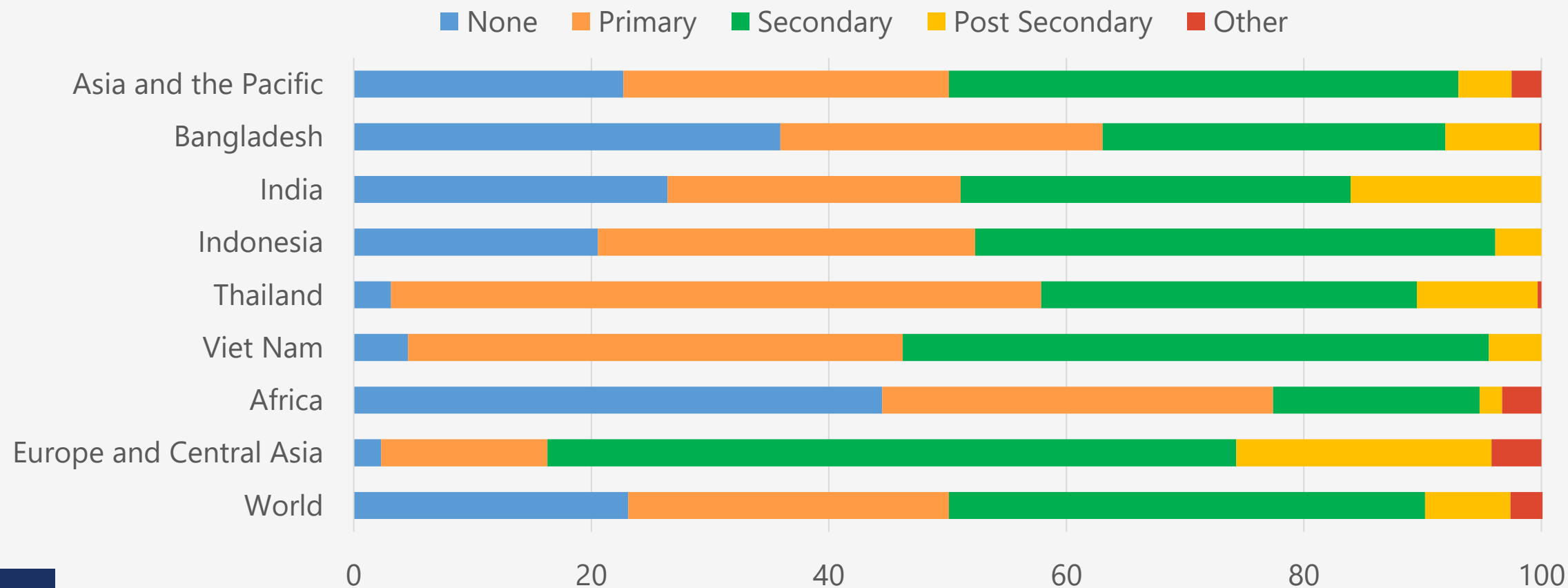
Informal employment is mostly in vulnerable sectors

Informal Employment by Sector in Select Asian Countries (%)



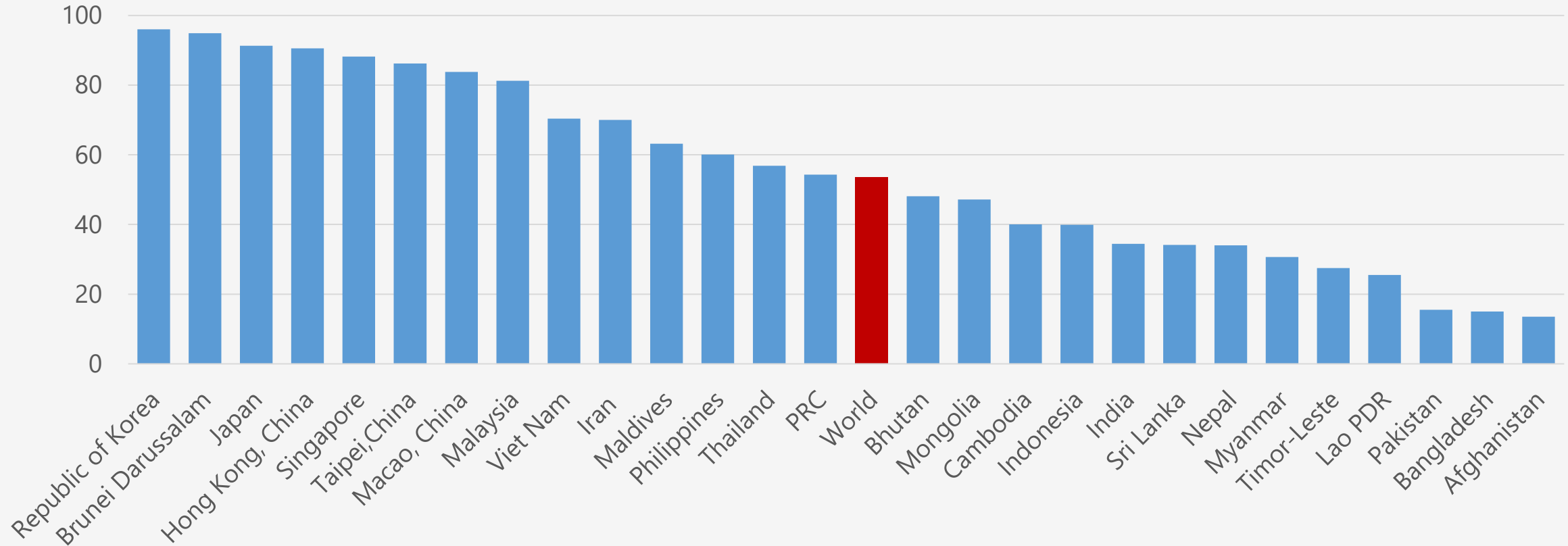
Close to a quarter of Asia's informal sector workers did not receive any education

Educational Attainment of the Informally Employed (%)



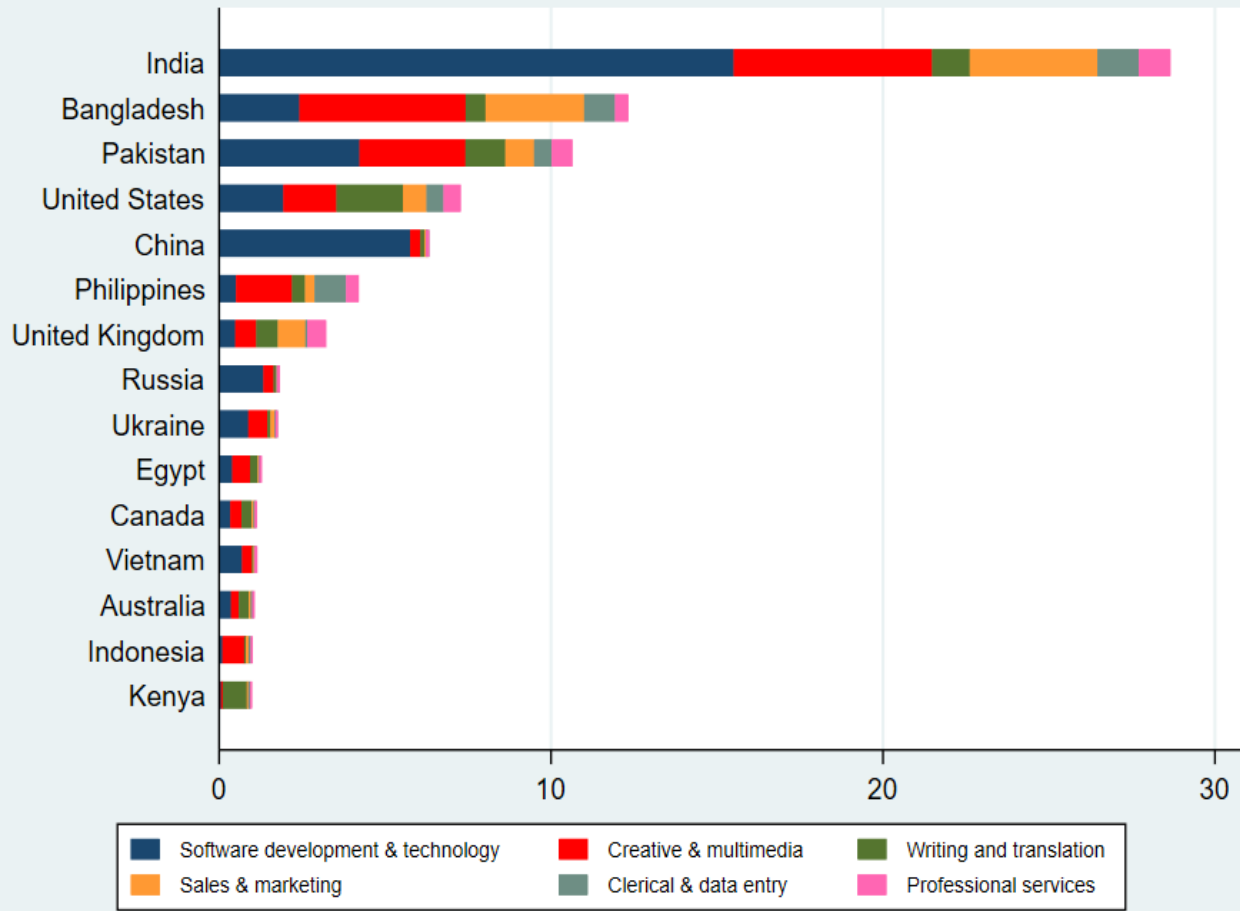
Significant gaps in digital readiness across Asia

Individuals Using the Internet in Asia (%)



Large Number of Online Workers in Asia— job offers emanate mainly from developed economies

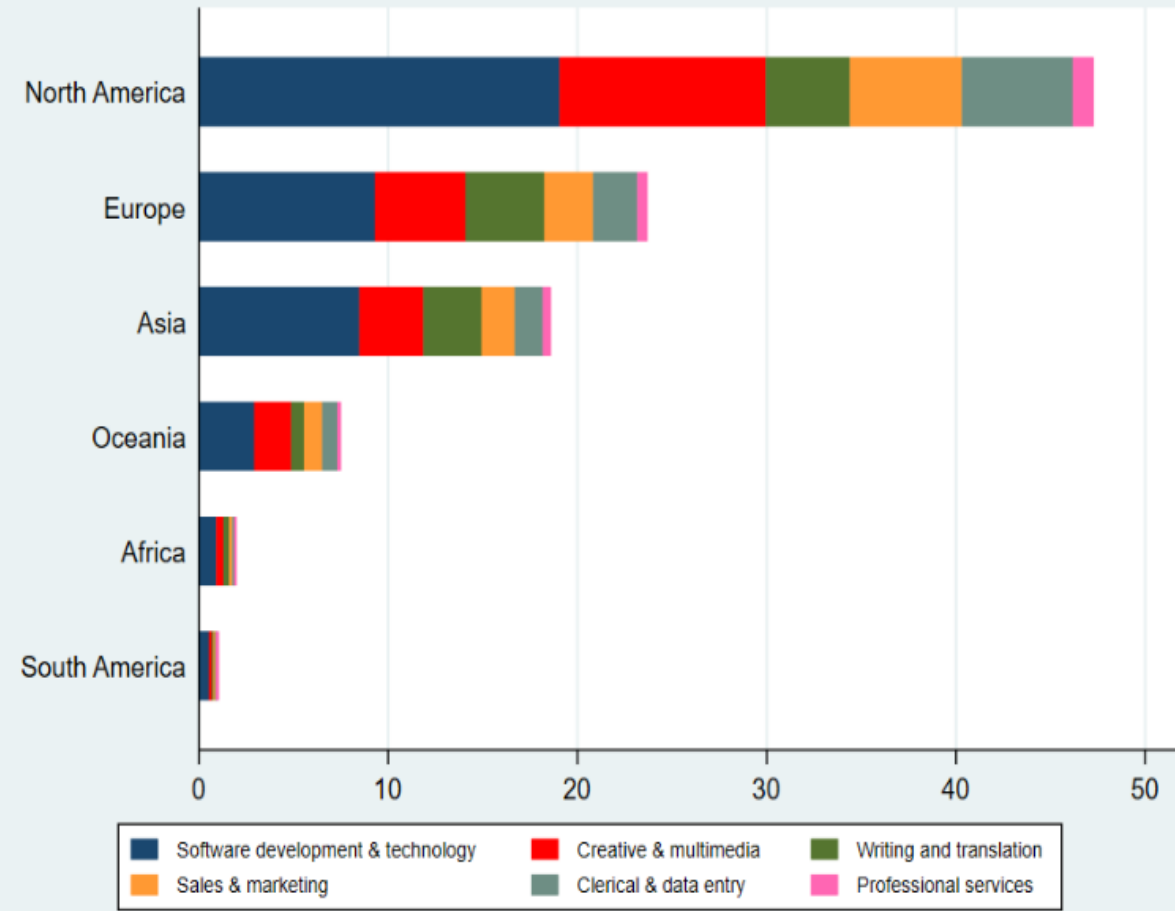
Online Workers by Economy and Occupation 2017–2020



Period: 2019

Source: Online Labor Index.

Online Work—by Region of Employer



Period: 2019

Source: Online Labor Index.

Policy Implications for Future Work and Workforce

- Invest in digital readiness.
 - Develop enabling infrastructure for affordable and available ICT access
 - Nurture cooperative ecosystems
- Develop skills for the digital economy.
 - Government subsidies or programs for upskilling
- Strengthen social protection for the unemployed and vulnerable

Thank you!

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