Vulnerable employment is termed as the sum of the employment status groups of own account workers and contributing family workers. Vulnerable workers are less likely to have formal work arrangements, and are therefore more likely to lack decent working conditions, adequate social security and cannot express themselves through effective representation by trade unions and similar organizations.

Vulnerable employment is often characterized by inadequate earnings, low productivity and difficult conditions of work that undermine workers' fundamental rights. As economies slow, job losses and vulnerable employment increase.

Sustainable Development Goal 8.8 puts emphasis on protecting labour rights and promoting safe and secure working environments of all workers.

The vulnerable employment rate in OIC countries decreased by 7.6 percentage-point from 58.5% in 2000 to 50.9% in 2017. The decrease recorded by OIC countries was greater than that of the World (7.2 percentage-point decrease) and Developed countries group (1.8 percentage-point decrease) but less than that of Non-OIC Developing countries group (9.7 percentage-point decrease) over 17 years.

While the vulnerable employment rates of 52 OIC countries recorded a decrease, those of 5 OIC countries recorded an increase between 2000 and 2017.

The notable top OIC member countries with the largest vulnerable employment rate decreases over 10 percentage-points between 2000 and 2017 were Maldives, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Uganda, Tunisia, and Turkmenistan.

8 OIC countries; namely, Jordan, Oman, Brunei, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, UAE and Qatar had vulnerable employment rates which were below the average of Developed countries group (9.7%) in 2017.

Despite the decreases in vulnerable employment rates, 23 OIC countries still had more than 50% vulnerable employment rate in 2017 and 19 OIC countries had vulnerable employment rates between 25% and 50% in 2017.

Note: The values in the parentheses next to country names in the chart indicate the vulnerable employment rate in 2017.

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 01/02/2019 from World Bank World Development Indicators Database. Please visit OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database (http://bit.ly/2F7W8cv) for other labour and social protection category indicators.