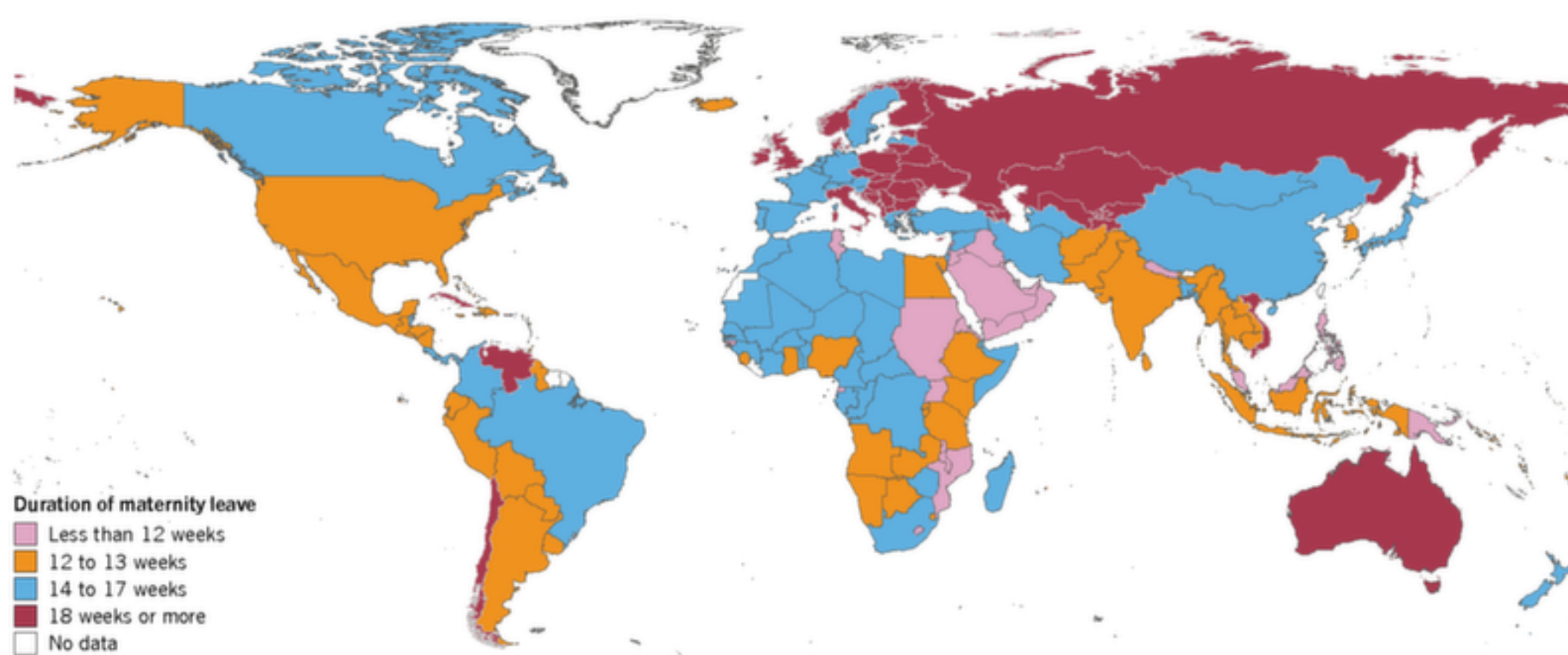


Map 2.1 Statutory duration of maternity leave, 2013 (185 countries and territories)

Source: ILO Working Conditions Laws Database – Maternity Protection. Available at: <http://www.ilo.org/travdatabase> [25 Mar. 2014].

duration of statutory maternity leave in 185 countries and territories). In Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the Developed Economies, nearly all countries meet or exceed this standard (100 and 95 per cent, respectively). Among the Eastern European and Central Asian countries, 89 per cent meet the 18-week standard in Recommendation No. 191, as do 50 per cent of Developed Economies.³ The highest average statutory duration of maternity leave is to be found in these regions, at almost 27 weeks in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and 21 weeks in the Developed Economies.

Among the 52 African countries analysed, almost half (48 per cent) provide at least 14 weeks of leave, and 35 per cent provide 12 to 13 weeks. Around one in five of the African countries (17 per cent) provides less than 12 weeks of leave. Tunisia, with its leave period of 30 days, provides the shortest leave period among the African countries covered in this report. At the other end of the distribution, South Africa provides four months of maternity leave. The regional duration of maternity leave is the second shortest after the Middle East, at 12.5 weeks.

Of the 12 Middle Eastern countries studied, only Syria, with 17 weeks of leave, meets the 14-week minimum established by Convention No. 183. The remaining 11 Middle Eastern countries studied (92 per cent) provide fewer than 12 weeks of leave, with the lowest regional average of 9.2 weeks.

Among the 34 Latin American and Caribbean countries and territories covered in this report, eight countries (Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Panama and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) provide at least 14 weeks of leave, with three countries, Chile, Cuba and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela going beyond Convention No. 183 and providing at least 18 weeks of leave as prescribed by Recommendation No. 191. A total of 74 per cent of countries in this region provide 12–13 weeks of maternity leave, while in only one territory (Puerto Rico, USA) the duration is eight weeks. On average, the regional duration of maternity leave is just below the standard of Convention No. 183 (13.4 weeks).

In the Asia region, about one-quarter of the 26 countries and territories meet the standard set out in Convention No. 183, with the average duration standing at 12.7 weeks. Five countries provide at least 14 weeks of leave (Viet Nam six months, Mongolia 120 days of leave, Bangladesh 16 weeks, Singapore 16 weeks and China 14 weeks), 15 provide 12–13 weeks of leave and six countries (Brunei Darussalam, Hong Kong (China), Malaysia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines) provide fewer than 12 weeks.