

Birth and death rates of women-owned enterprises

The birth rate of women-owned enterprises provides essential information about the dynamism of women's entrepreneurship. Statistics on births and deaths, together with information on related employment generation and destruction, can tell whether the economic weight of women entrepreneurs is converging to the one of men. They can also inform about the effects of economic downturns on the dynamics of women and men entrepreneurship.

Definition

The *employer birth rate of women (men)-owned sole-proprietor enterprises* corresponds to the number of births of women (men)-owned employer sole-proprietor enterprises as a percentage of the population of active sole-proprietorships with at least one employee.

The *employer death rate of women (men)-owned sole-proprietor enterprises* corresponds to the number of deaths of women (men)-owned employer sole-proprietor enterprises as a percentage of the population of active sole-proprietorships with at least one employee.

Sole-proprietor enterprises are unincorporated enterprises with one single owner – female or male – who is a person with unlimited responsibilities over losses and debts of the enterprise. Statistics refer to sole-proprietorships with at least one employee.

Comparability

Different legal definitions of sole-proprietor enterprises and different economic incentives for incorporation can limit comparability of the absolute number of sole-propri-

etor enterprises across countries. Data refer to 2009, with the exception of the death rate for Italy, the Netherlands, Slovak Republic and Sweden referring to 2008.

All countries present information using the enterprise as the statistical unit, with the exception of Korea which uses establishments.

Highlights

Births and deaths are lower in absolute numbers for women than for men-owned enterprises. However, the birth rate of women-owned enterprises is higher than that of men-owned ones, indicating an acceleration in the creation of new enterprises by women. The death rates of women-owned enterprises have been lower in some countries (Italy, New Zealand, Spain and Sweden), but higher in others (Austria, Finland and Slovak Republic).

Source/online databases

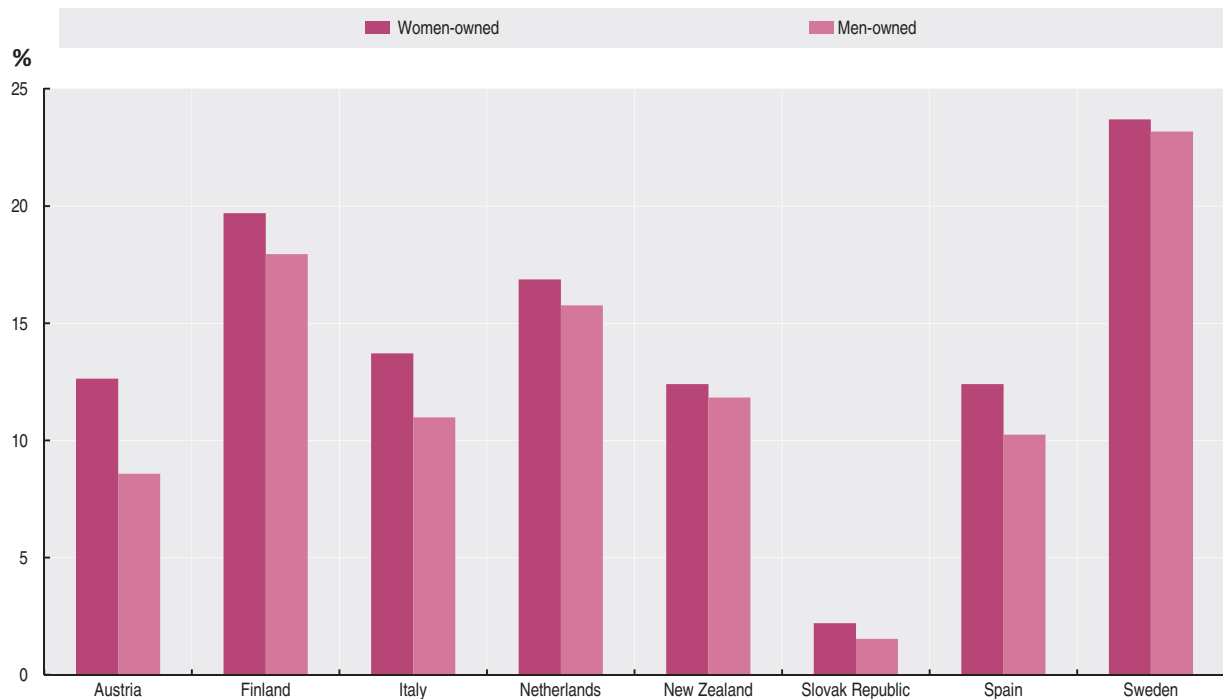
Statistics produced for the OECD by national statistical offices.

For further reading

Boegh Nielsen, P., (2001), "Statistics on Start-ups and Survival of Women Entrepreneurs: the Danish Experience" in *Women Entrepreneurs in SMEs, Realising the Benefits of Globalisation and the Knowledge-based Economy*, OECD Publishing.

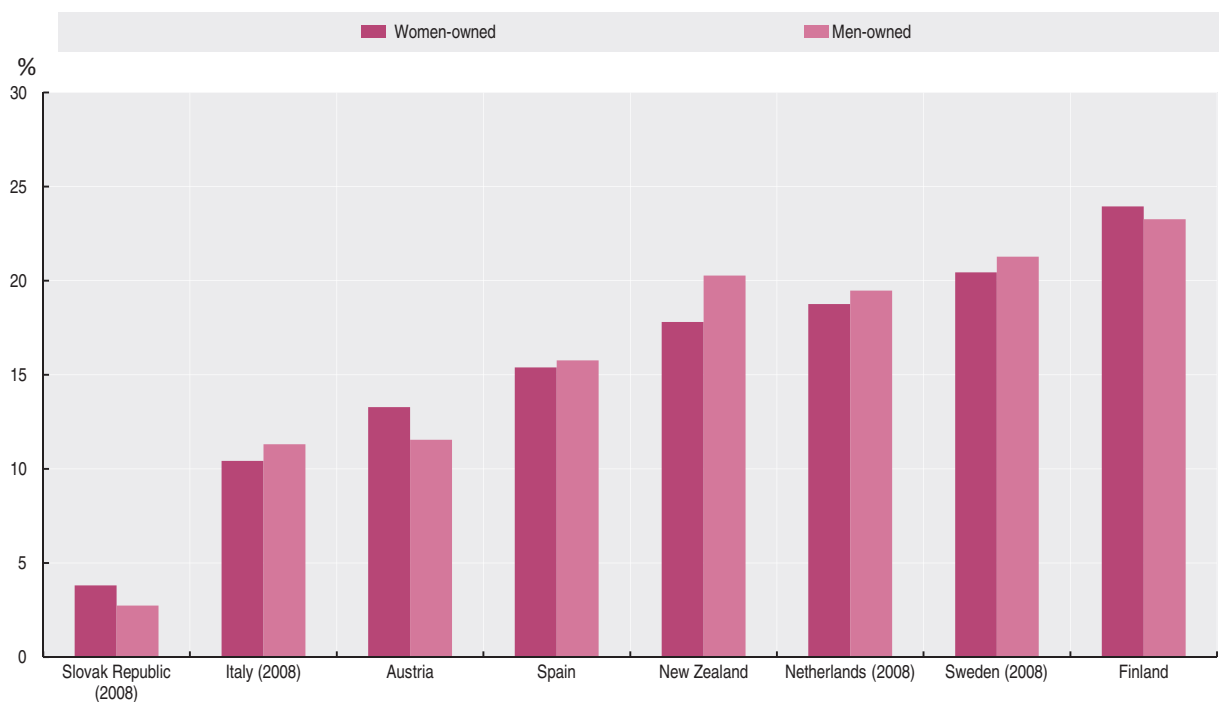
Ahmad N. and A. Hoffman, (2008), "A Framework for Addressing and Measuring Entrepreneurship," OECD Statistics Working Papers 2008/2, OECD Publishing.

Figure 7.8 **Employer birth rate of women and men-owned sole-proprietor enterprises, 2009 or latest available year**
Percentage



StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932597809>

Figure 7.9 **Employer death rate of women and men-owned sole-proprietor enterprises, 2009 or latest available year**
Percentage



StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932597828>



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