

### 3. STRUCTURAL INDICATORS ON THE ENTERPRISE POPULATION

#### Employment by enterprise size class

The breakdown of employment by size class describes how total employment is distributed among enterprises of different sizes. It provides important information on the ability of firms of various sizes to foster employment.

##### Definition

The total number of persons employed is defined as the total number of persons who worked in or for the concerned unit during the reference year.

Total employment excludes directors of incorporated enterprises and members of shareholders' committees who are paid solely for their attendance at meetings, labour force made available to the concerned unit by other units and charged for, persons carrying out repair and maintenance work in the unit on the behalf of other units, and home workers. It also excludes persons on indefinite leave, military leave or those whose only remuneration from the enterprise is by way of a pension.

Unless otherwise stated, data are expressed as a percentage of the total number of persons employed in market industry. Total employment by country is shown in Table 3.1.

##### Comparability

Data for all countries refer to the number of persons employed, with the exception of Brazil, New Zealand and the United States for which it refers to the number of employees.

All countries present information using the enterprise as the statistical unit except Japan, Korea and Mexico, which use establishments.

Data for Japan and Korea do not include establishments with fewer than four and five persons employed respectively.

The size-class breakdown used (1-9, 10-19, 20-49, 50-249, 250+) provides for the best comparability given the varying data collection practices across countries. Some countries use different conventions: the size class "1-9" actually

refers to "1-19" for Australia; the size class "20-49" refers to "20-99" for the United States; the size class "50-249" refers to "20-199" for Australia, and "100-499" for the United States; and the size class "250+" refers to "200+" for Australia, and "500+" for the United States.

Data cover the market economy, excluding financial intermediation; for Israel, Japan and Korea, they cover manufacturing sectors only. This may result in a lower proportion of employment in micro-enterprises for these countries, since the average size of enterprises is typically lower in the services sector.

The reference year of the data is 2008, with the exception of Greece, Israel and Japan (2007), Korea (2006) and Mexico (2003).

##### Highlights

There are significant variations across countries concerning the distribution of employment among enterprises of different sizes. In Greece, Italy, and Mexico more than 40% of employment is in enterprises with less than ten persons employed, while the same category of firms accounts for less than 20% of total employment in Denmark, Germany, Israel, the Slovak Republic and the United Kingdom.

##### Source/online database

OECD Structural and Demographic Business Statistics (SDBS) Database, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/sdbs-data-en>.

##### For further reading

Ahmad N. (2007), The OECD's Business Statistics Database and Publication, Paper presented at the Structural Business Statistics Expert Meeting, Paris, 10-11 May 2007, [www.oecd.org/dataoecd/59/34/38516035.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/59/34/38516035.pdf).

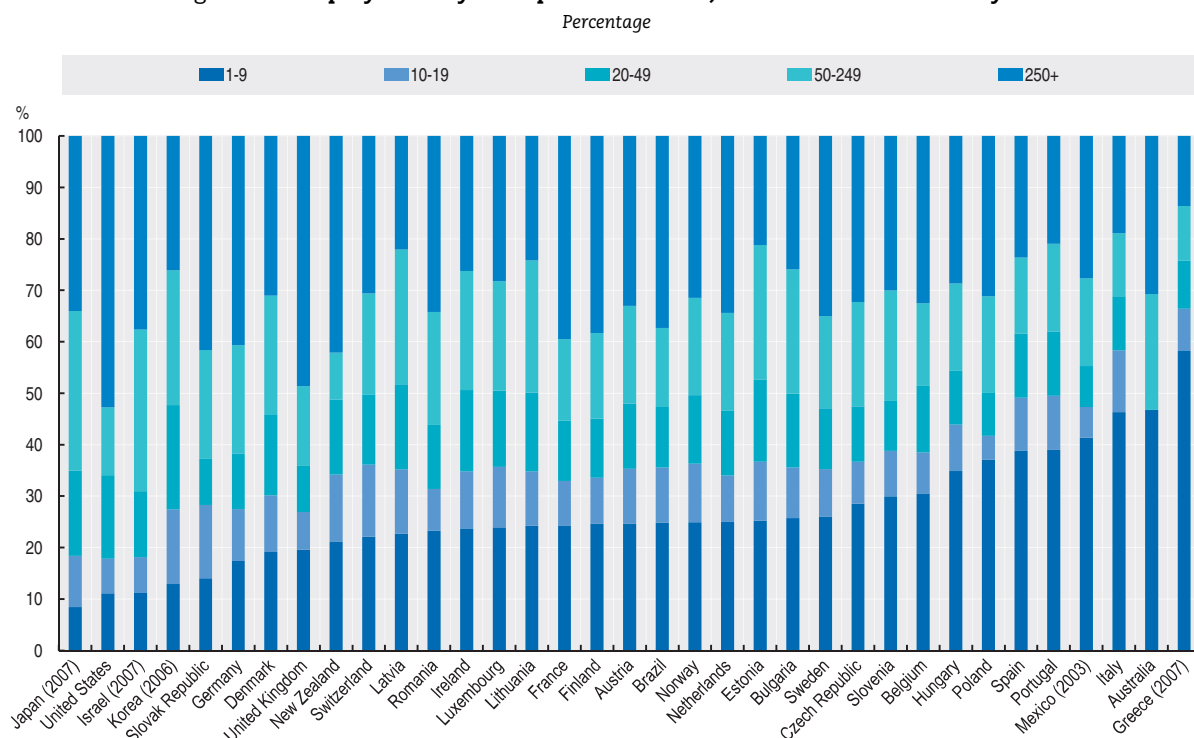
OECD (2010), Structural and Demographic Business Statistics, OECD Publishing, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264072886-en>.

Information on data for Israel: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932315602>.

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#### Employment by enterprise size class

Figure 3.3 **Employment by enterprise size class, 2008 or latest available year**



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932597030>

Table 3.1 **Number of persons employed, 2008 or latest available year**

Country	Employment	Country	Employment	Country	Employment	Country	Employment
Japan (manufacturing, 2007)	8 621 393	Switzerland	985 243	Brazil (number of employees)	24 337 688	Hungary	2 635 679
United States (number of employees)	71 505 608	Latvia	677 819	Norway	1 482 961	Poland	8 667 915
Israel (manufacturing, 2007)	360 744	Romania	4 413 763	Netherlands	5 554 122	Spain	13 460 293
Korea (manufacturing, 2006)	2 910 935	Ireland	1 207 850	Estonia	432 927	Portugal	3 297 018
Slovak Republic	1 088 125	Luxembourg	171 942	Bulgaria	2 055 506	Mexico (2003)	13 110 232
Germany	18 252 505	Lithuania	989 202	Sweden	2 960 552	Italy	15 814 676
Denmark	1 642 273	France	15 104 252	Czech Republic	3 653 435	Australia	7 603 693
United Kingdom	18 426 683	Finland	1 443 436	Slovenia	618 563	Greece (2007)	2 600 028
New Zealand (number of employees)	1 215 528	Austria	2 588 941	Belgium	2 493 628		

Note: The reference year of the data is 2008, with the exception of Greece, Israel and Japan (2007), Korea (2006) and Mexico (2003).

Data cover the market economy, excluding financial intermediation; for Israel, Japan and Korea, they cover manufacturing sectors only.

The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932598075>



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