

Employment by enterprise size

Key facts

- There are significant variations across countries in the distribution of employment among enterprises of different sizes: in Portugal, Slovenia, Italy and Greece more than 45% of employment is in enterprises with less than ten persons, while in Russian Federation, United States and Switzerland the share is less than 20%.
- Micro-enterprises (less than 10 persons employed) in construction and services account on average for around 42 and 36% of total employment in their sectors correspondingly, while in manufacturing the contribution is only 15%.
- Employment in manufacturing is dominated by the largest firms (those with more than 250 employees): they employ around 40% of people working in the sector, despite accounting for less than 1% of all manufacturing firms.

Relevance

Although the share of employment in small enterprises is typically small, many studies show that they are important drivers of employment growth. Information on employment by enterprise size can be useful therefore in assessing the underlying potential that exists within an economy to generate employment growth.

Definitions

The *number of persons employed* includes all persons who worked 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.

Comparability

All countries present information using the enterprise as the statistical unit except Japan, Korea and Mexico, which use establishments. Data for all countries refer to the number of persons employed, with the exception of Mexico and the Russian Federation which use *number of employees* and therefore exclude the working-proprietors with no employees.

The size-class breakdown 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" refers to "1-10" for Mexico; "1-19" for Australia and Turkey; the size class "10-19" refers to "11-50" for Mexico; the size class "20-49" refers to "20-199" for Australia and "20-99" for the United States; the size class "50-249" refers to "50-299" for Japan, "51-250" for Mexico and "100-499" for the United States; finally, the size class "250+" refers to "200+" for Australia, "300+" for Japan, "251+" for Mexico and "500+" for the United States.

Australian data refer to the fiscal year (1st July-30th June).

Source/online database

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

For further reading

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

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

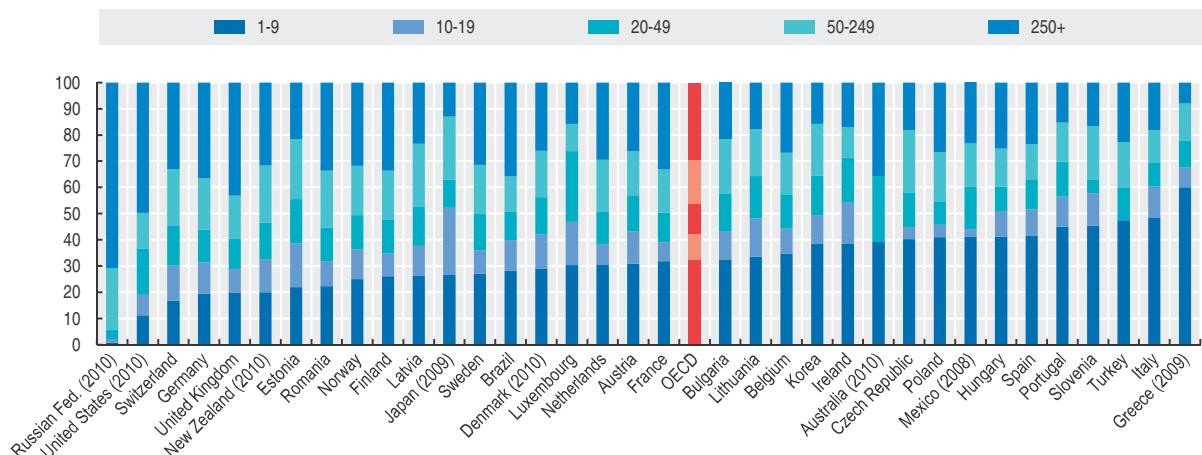
Information on data for Israel: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932315602>.

2. STRUCTURAL AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS ON ENTERPRISE POPULATION

Employment by enterprise size

Figure 2.7. Employment by enterprise size

Percentage, 2011 or latest available year



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Table 2.2. Number of persons employed by enterprise size

2011 or latest available year

	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-249	250+	Total
Australia (2010)	2 584 127	-	1 661 368	-	2 358 621	6 604 115
Austria	643 941	257 599	290 140	350 104	547 282	2 089 066
Belgium	732 271	199 509	268 151	339 978	562 459	2 102 368
Brazil	4 233 449	1 761 077	1 621 920	2 038 506	5 382 332	15 037 284
Bulgaria	490 239	165 306	214 824	319 912	324 825	1 515 106
Czech Republic	1 137 437	264 922	368 529	668 998	1 025 312	3 465 198
Denmark (2010)	316 698	144 144	156 065	195 111	284 998	1 097 016
Estonia	35 031	26 593	26 903	36 604	34 333	159 464
Finland	279 270	92 234	137 101	200 018	358 719	1 067 342
France	4 287 617	972 494	1 521 840	2 230 584	4 455 774	13 468 309
Germany	4 840 395	2 931 550	3 105 941	4 856 491	9 048 359	24 782 736
Greece (2009)	689 274	87 289	115 111	164 562	91 470	1 147 706
Hungary	870 368	207 936	196 633	307 116	531 119	2 113 172
Ireland	213 739	89 145	94 526	64 686	94 438	556 534
Israel (2009)	396 226	257 889	597 382	975 826	378 444	2 605 767
Italy	6 626 115	1 616 302	1 230 174	1 713 624	2 471 344	13 657 559
Japan (2009)	11 758 419	11 322 099	4 729 586	10 642 397	5 711 923	44 164 424
Korea	3 189 851	913 931	1 246 647	1 649 675	1 308 337	8 308 441
Latvia	139 721	61 547	79 464	128 607	124 388	533 727
Lithuania	175 290	75 849	84 929	94 056	92 723	522 847
Luxembourg	26 851	14 555	23 861	9 076	13 976	88 319
Mexico (2008)	10 847 170	738 328	4 360 272	4 315 095	6 859 924	27 120 789
Netherlands	1 432 169	353 807	583 733	930 338	1 378 924	4 678 971
New Zealand (2010)	209 670	132 790	145 240	229 265	332 850	2 557 282
Norway	369 418	167 562	194 104	276 726	469 812	1 477 622
Poland	3 021 420	350 055	644 878	1 400 412	1 958 847	7 375 612
Portugal	1 152 205	293 771	339 784	381 091	391 438	2 558 289
Romania	850 618	359 098	490 960	829 318	1 281 509	3 811 503
Russian Federation (2010)	157 088	234 944	644 452	4 234 316	12 717 755	17 988 555
Slovak Republic	465 668	95 370	99 857	181 046	225 042	1 066 983
Slovenia	151 468	40 950	16 965	68 598	55 239	333 220
Spain	4 176 781	1 017 672	1 158 114	1 350 446	2 357 515	10 060 528
Sweden	642 749	210 322	328 557	444 593	743 616	2 369 837
Switzerland	435 316	346 107	394 112	561 495	856 733	2 593 763
Turkey (2009)	2 580 470		663 310	1 316 874	2 069 109	6 629 763
United Kingdom	2 946 175	1 351 051	1 724 792	2 433 410	6 418 305	14 873 733
United States (2010)	8 491 267	5 965 694	13 339 600	10 325 133	37 779 367	75 901 061

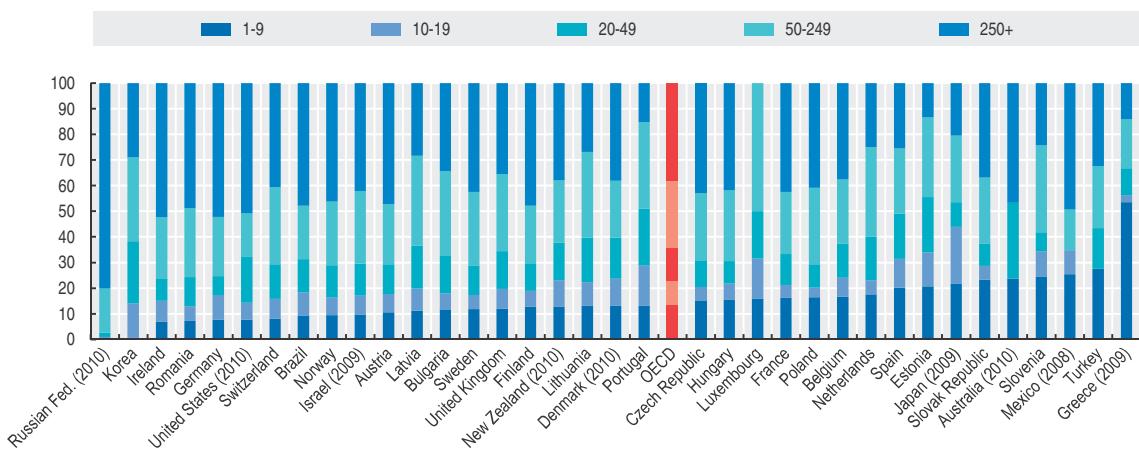
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2. STRUCTURAL AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS ON ENTERPRISE POPULATION

Employment by enterprise size

Figure 2.8. Employment by enterprise size, manufacturing

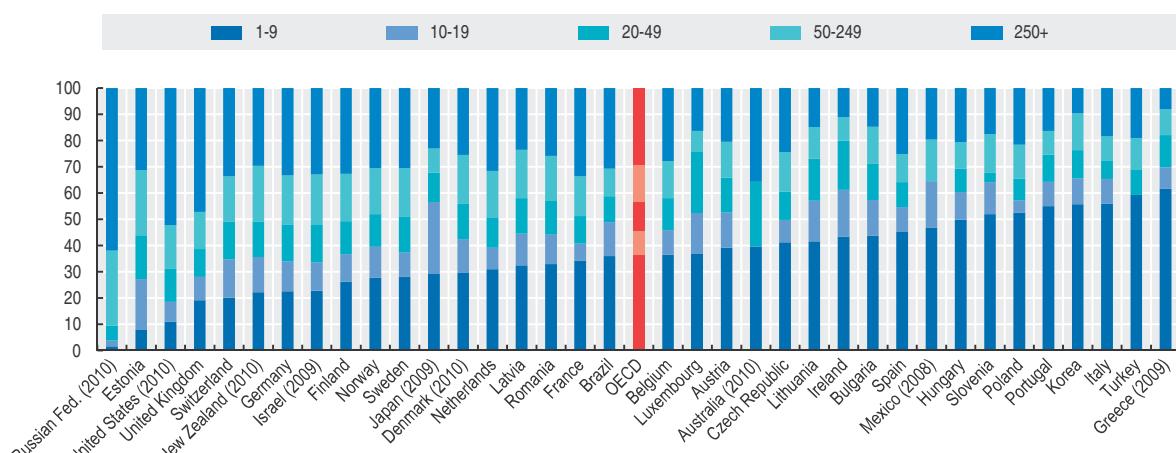
Percentage, 2011 or latest available year



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Figure 2.9. Employment by enterprise size, services

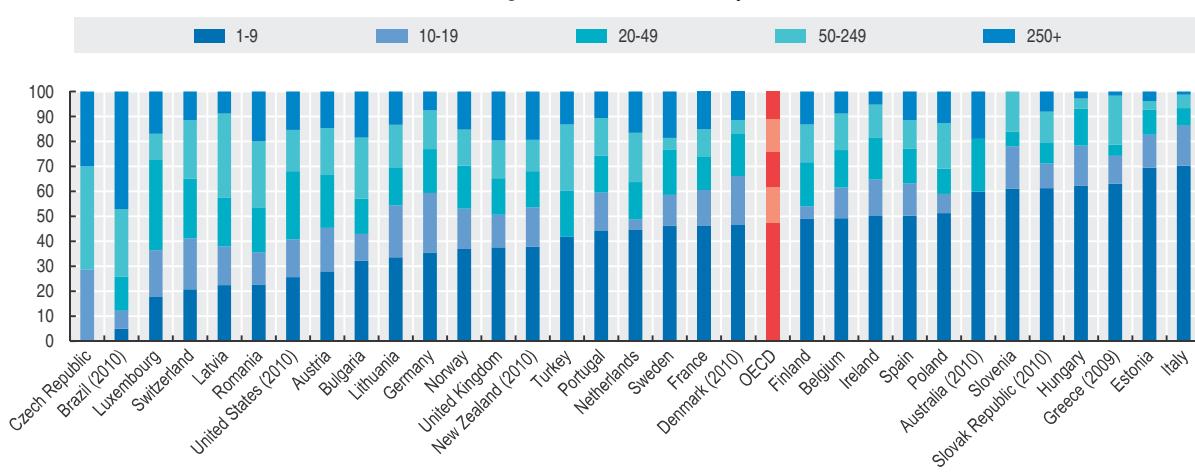
Percentage, 2011 or latest available year



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Figure 2.10. Employment by enterprise size, construction

Percentage, 2011 or latest available year



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2. STRUCTURAL AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS ON ENTERPRISE POPULATION

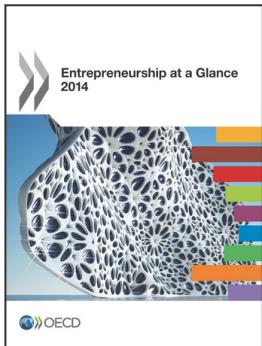
Employment by enterprise size

Table 2.3. Persons employed by enterprise size and sector

Percentage, 2011 or latest available year

Country	Manufacturing					Services					Construction				
	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-249	250+	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-249	250+	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-249	250+
Australia (2010)	23.7	-	29.6	-	46.7	39.6	-	24.7	-	35.7	59.8	-	21.2	-	19.0
Austria	10.6	7.1	11.6	23.5	47.2	39.1	13.3	13.3	13.8	20.5	27.9	17.5	21.2	18.8	14.6
Belgium	16.7	7.4	13.2	25.2	37.6	36.4	9.4	12.2	14.2	27.9	49.3	12.3	14.9	14.6	8.9
Brazil	9.4	9.0	13.0	20.8	47.9	36.0	12.9	9.9	10.5	30.8	-	-	-	-	-
Bulgaria	11.7	6.2	14.8	32.9	34.3	43.7	13.5	13.8	14.2	14.7	32.2	10.8	14.1	24.5	18.5
Czech Republic	14.9	5.4	9.8	25.9	44.0	61.5	-	16.0	22.5	-	51.5	10.2	12.7	14.8	10.8
Denmark (2010)	13.1	10.6	15.9	22.2	38.2	29.7	12.7	13.4	18.7	25.5	46.7	19.5	16.9	5.7	11.2
Estonia	20.6	13.3	21.5	31.1	13.4	7.7	19.4	16.7	24.9	31.2	69.5	13.3	9.9	3.5	3.8
Finland	12.7	6.2	10.6	22.7	47.8	26.2	10.4	12.6	18.0	32.7	49.0	5.0	17.7	15.1	13.2
France	16.2	5.0	12.2	24.2	42.4	34.1	6.6	10.6	15.1	33.7	46.4	14.0	13.4	11.3	14.8
Germany	7.7	9.7	7.4	23.0	52.3	22.5	11.4	14.1	18.7	33.4	35.5	23.9	17.5	15.5	7.6
Greece (2009)	53.6	2.7	10.5	19.1	14.2	61.5	8.2	12.3	9.9	8.1	63.1	11.1	4.5	19.7	1.6
Hungary	15.6	6.3	8.7	27.6	41.8	49.8	10.6	8.8	10.1	20.7	62.2	16.1	14.8	4.1	2.8
Ireland	7.0	8.1	8.8	23.8	52.3	43.4	17.8	18.7	8.9	11.2	50.1	14.6	16.7	13.3	5.3
Israel (2009)	9.8	7.3	12.5	28.3	42.1	22.8	10.7	14.3	19.2	33.0	-	-	-	-	-
Italy	24.9	15.2	13.8	22.2	24.0	55.9	9.4	7.0	9.2	18.4	70.3	16.0	7.1	5.3	1.4
Japan (2009)	21.8	22.2	9.6	26.0	20.5	29.1	27.4	11.3	9.2	23.0	-	-	-	-	-
Korea	0.6	13.5	24.2	32.7	29.0	55.7	9.8	10.8	14.0	9.7	-	-	-	-	-
Latvia	11.2	8.6	16.6	35.1	28.4	32.4	12.0	13.5	18.5	23.6	22.4	15.6	19.6	33.6	8.8
Lithuania	13.1	9.3	17.3	33.5	26.8	41.5	15.5	16.0	12.0	14.9	33.6	20.7	15.0	17.3	13.3
Luxembourg	16.0	15.5	18.5	50.0	-	36.9	15.6	23.4	7.7	16.4	17.7	18.7	36.4	10.3	16.9
Mexico (2008)	25.4	9.3	-	15.9	49.3	46.7	17.8	-	15.8	19.7	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	17.6	5.5	17.0	34.9	25.0	30.9	8.3	11.5	17.7	31.6	44.7	4.2	14.8	19.8	16.5
New Zealand (2010)	12.9	10.2	14.7	24.2	38.0	22.1	13.4	13.5	21.2	29.7	37.8	15.7	14.5	12.6	19.4
Norway	9.4	6.9	12.6	24.9	46.2	27.6	11.8	12.5	17.6	30.5	36.9	16.2	17.2	14.5	15.2
Poland	16.5	3.8	9.0	29.9	40.8	52.5	4.7	8.3	13.0	21.6	51.3	7.6	10.2	18.2	12.6
Portugal	13.2	15.6	22.2	33.7	15.3	54.9	9.4	10.3	9.1	16.4	44.3	15.2	14.7	15.2	10.6
Romania	7.2	5.8	11.3	26.8	48.9	32.9	11.2	12.9	17.2	25.8	22.7	13.0	17.9	26.4	20.0
Russian Federation (2010)	0.3	0.6	1.7	17.3	80.1	1.6	2.2	5.8	28.6	61.9	-	-	-	-	-
Slovak Republic	23.4	5.3	8.8	25.7	36.8	47.9	12.8	9.1	13.0	17.2	72.1	1.6	11.5	13.4	1.4
Slovenia	24.5	9.8	7.5	34.0	24.3	52.0	12.1	3.6	14.7	17.6	61.0	17.2	5.8	16.1	-
Spain	20.2	11.2	17.7	25.5	25.5	45.4	9.3	9.5	10.7	25.2	50.2	13.0	13.9	11.4	11.5
Sweden	11.9	5.5	11.3	28.9	42.5	28.0	9.2	13.8	18.4	30.5	46.3	12.3	18.3	4.6	18.6
Switzerland	8.0	7.8	13.6	30.0	40.6	20.1	14.6	14.2	17.4	33.7	20.7	20.3	24.0	23.4	11.5
United Kingdom	12.0	7.7	14.8	30.1	35.4	19.1	8.9	10.7	14.1	47.3	37.6	13.1	14.6	15.1	19.6
United States (2010)	7.7	6.6	17.9	16.9	50.9	10.9	7.6	12.6	16.7	52.2	25.6	15.2	27.3	16.4	15.5

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