

2. Employment by 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 2.1.

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

Data cover the market economy, excluding financial intermediation; for Brazil, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg and the Slovak Republic 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 2007, with the exception of Australia and 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, Mexico and Portugal 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 Germany.

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.

For Ireland, only enterprises with three or more persons employed are covered, while the data for Japan and Korea do not include establishments with fewer than four and five persons employed respectively.

The size-class breakdown used, i.e. 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 slightly different conventions: the size class "20-49"

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>

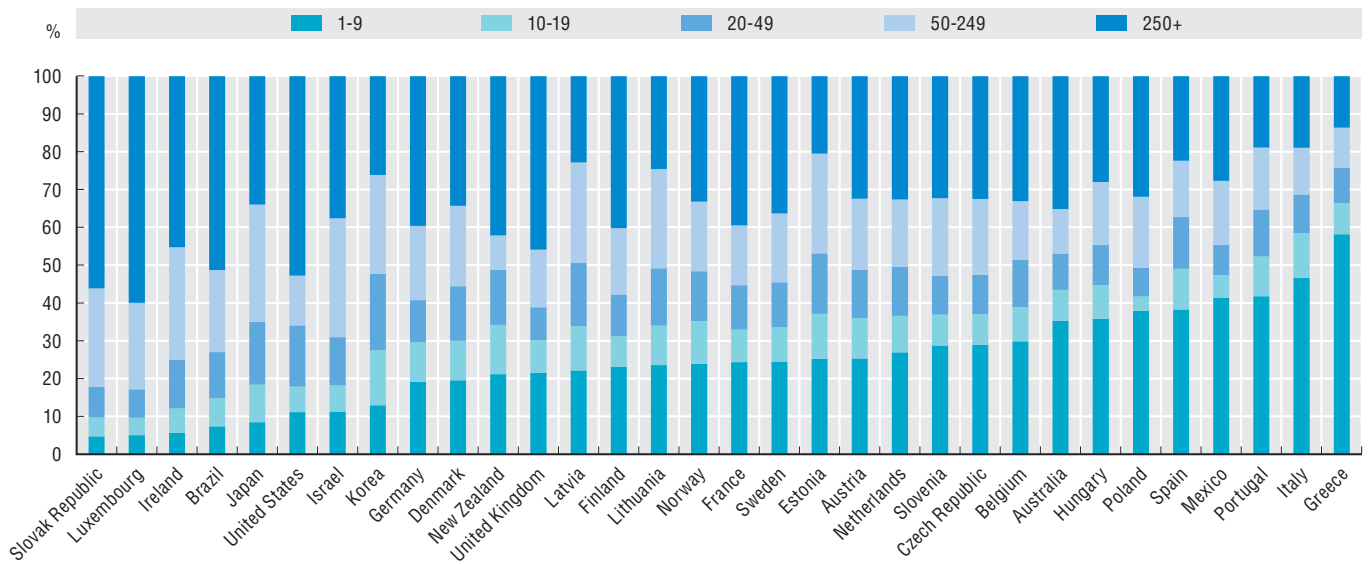
Ahmad N. (2007), *The OECD's Business Statistics Database and Publication*, Paper presented at the Structural Business Statistics Expert Meeting, Paris, 10-11 May 2007.

www.oecd.org/dataoecd/59/34/38516035.pdf

Information on data for Israel:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932315602>

Figure 2.1. Employment by size class in 2007

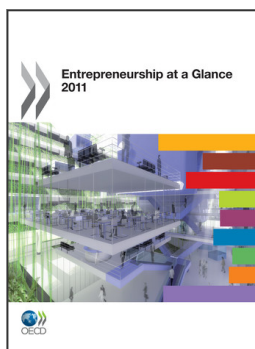


StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932384344>

Table 2.1. Number of persons employed in 2007

Country	Employment	Country	Employment	Country	Employment	Country	Employment
Slovak Republic (manufacturing)	424 295	Germany	22 199 161	France	15 104 252	Australia	6 401 000
Luxembourg (manufacturing)	37 254	Denmark	1 802 120	Sweden	2 873 836	Hungary	2 534 548
Ireland (manufacturing)	223 612	New Zealand (number of employees)	1 215 528	Estonia	430 345	Poland	8 248 415
Brazil (number of employees, manufacturing)	6 955 162	United Kingdom	18 136 892	Austria	2 452 145	Spain	14 260 730
Japan (manufacturing)	8 621 393	Latvia	668 605	Netherlands	5 034 991	Mexico	13 110 232
United States (number of employees)	71 505 608	Finland	1 292 748	Slovenia	608 448	Portugal	3 324 727
Israel (manufacturing)	360 744	Lithuania	983 249	Czech Republic	3 613 318	Italy	15 589 199
Korea (manufacturing)	2 910 935	Norway	1 042 387	Belgium	2 512 687	Greece	2 600 028

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932385313>



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