

### Employment in women-owned enterprises

The contribution of women-owned enterprises to employment creation is still poorly documented. Comparable data on employment in women and men-owned enterprises provide indications about the relative contribution of enterprises held by women to job creation. The breakdown by size classes compares the capacities of differently sized women-owned enterprises to generate employment.

#### Definition

*The share of persons employed in sole-proprietor enterprises by gender of the owner indicates the proportion of persons employed working in women (men) sole-proprietorships. The distribution of employment by gender of the owner and size shows how employment is distributed across women and men-owned enterprises with 1-4, 5-9, and 10 or more persons employed.*

Sole-proprietor enterprises are unincorporated enterprises with one single owner – female or male – who is a natural person with unlimited responsibilities over losses and debts of the enterprise. A woman (man)-owned sole-proprietorship is an enterprise whose sole proprietor is a woman (man). 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-proprietor enterprises across countries. The size distribution of sole-proprietor enterprises might be affected by country regulation. In New Zealand, if a business reaches a reasonable size, financial advisers recommend setting up a limited liability company to continue the business.

For the Netherlands, data are not available for NACE letters P, Q, R, S. Data for Mexico refer to 2008.

For Japan, employment figures refer to the number of person employed by men and women sole-proprietors, and not by women and men sole-proprietor enterprises. Japanese figures are thus not fully comparable to other countries, given that one single sole-proprietor can own more than one enterprise.

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

#### Highlights

A significant share of the persons working for sole-proprietor enterprise are employed by women. More than 50% of the employment is in the lowest size class (1 to 4 persons employed) of women-owned enterprises.

#### Source/online databases

Statistics produced for the OECD by national statistical offices.

#### For further reading

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

OECD (2001), "Issues related to Statistics on Women's Entrepreneurship", Paper presented at the Workshop on Firm-level Statistics, 26-27 November 2001.

Figure 7.6 Share of persons employed in sole-proprietor enterprises by gender of the owner, 2009 or latest available year

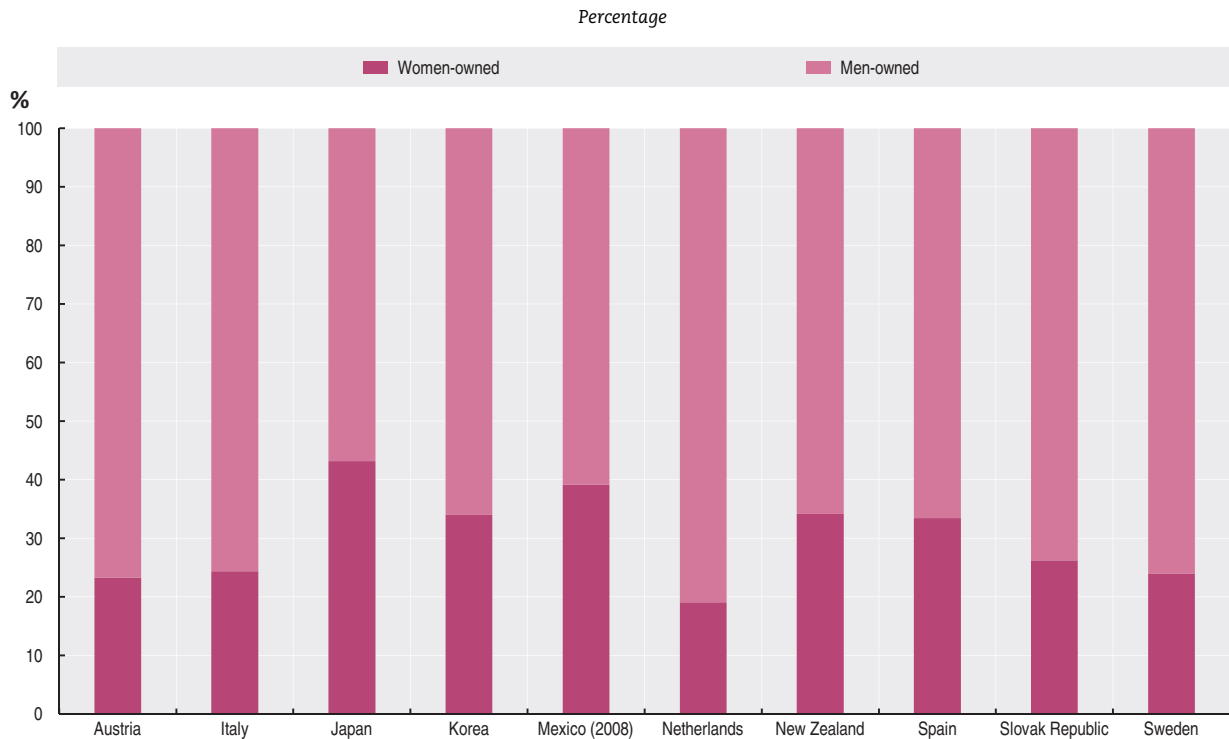
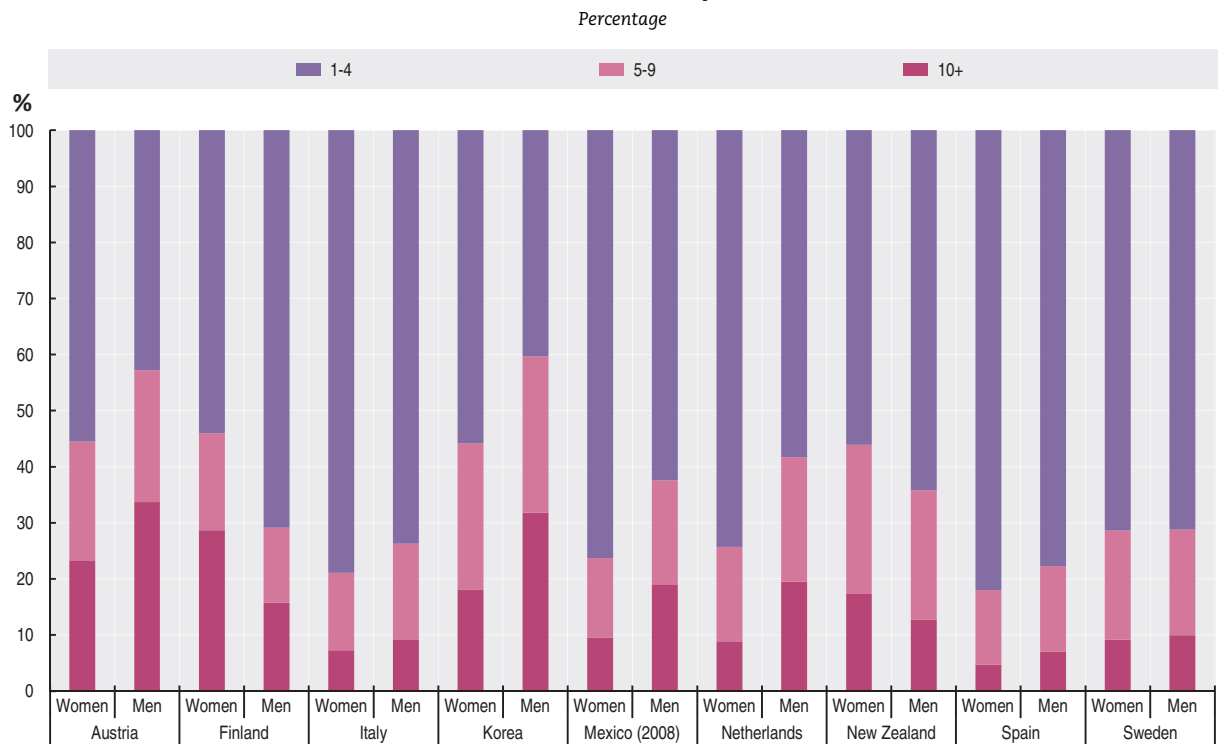


Figure 7.7 Distribution of employment in sole-proprietor enterprises by gender of the owner and size, 2009 or latest available year





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