

Key results

The employment rate falls with age in all OECD countries. For individuals of age 55 to 59 the average employment rate across all OECD countries was equal to 67% in 2014 against 44% for the 60-64 age group and 20% for the 65-69s. In 14 OECD countries the employment rates were above the OECD average for all age groups, by contrast it was below average for all age groups in 13 OECD countries. Employment rates of people aged 55-64 have improved over the past decade in most OECD countries, from 48% in 2004 to 56% in 2014.

There are large cross-country variations in the employment rates of people aged 55 to 69 in the OECD. In 2014, Iceland displayed the highest rates at 86% for the 55-59s and at above 82% for individuals aged between 60 and 64. Employment rates of individuals aged 65-69 were just above 53%. By contrast the lowest employment rates were found in Slovenia, Greece and Turkey where employment rates for people aged 55-59 were at the most 50%. In Denmark, Finland and Germany the employment rates are well above the OECD average (67%) for individuals aged 55-59 at around 75-80%. However they fall quickly with age and are below the OECD average for individuals aged between 65 and 69. In France the employment rates are close to the OECD average for the 55-59s, but they fall steeply and are well below the average for the over 60s. In contrast, the employment rates in Mexico are below the OECD average for the 55-59s but above average in the age-groups 60-64 and 65-69.

In a large number of European OECD countries the employment rates are below the OECD average for all age groups considered: Austria, Belgium, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Spain are among these.

Employment rates of people aged between 55 and 64 have improved in most OECD countries over the last decade. On average, they have increased by 8 percentage points passing from 48% in 2004 to 56% in 2014. The greatest increase has occurred in Germany from a relatively low level of 42% in 2004 to 66% in 2014. Mainly as a result of the economic crisis, in Greece and Portugal the employment rates of the 55-64s have declined and in 2014 they were lower than in 2004.

Definition and measurement

Employment – Persons in civilian employment include all those people employed above a specified age who during a specified brief period, either one week or one day, were in the following categories: i) paid employment; ii) employers and self-employed; and iii) unpaid family workers; unpaid family workers at work should be considered as being self-employed irrespective of the number of hours worked during the reference period. For operational purposes, the notion of some work may be interpreted as work for at least one hour. Total employment is defined as the sum of civilian employment and members of the armed forces.

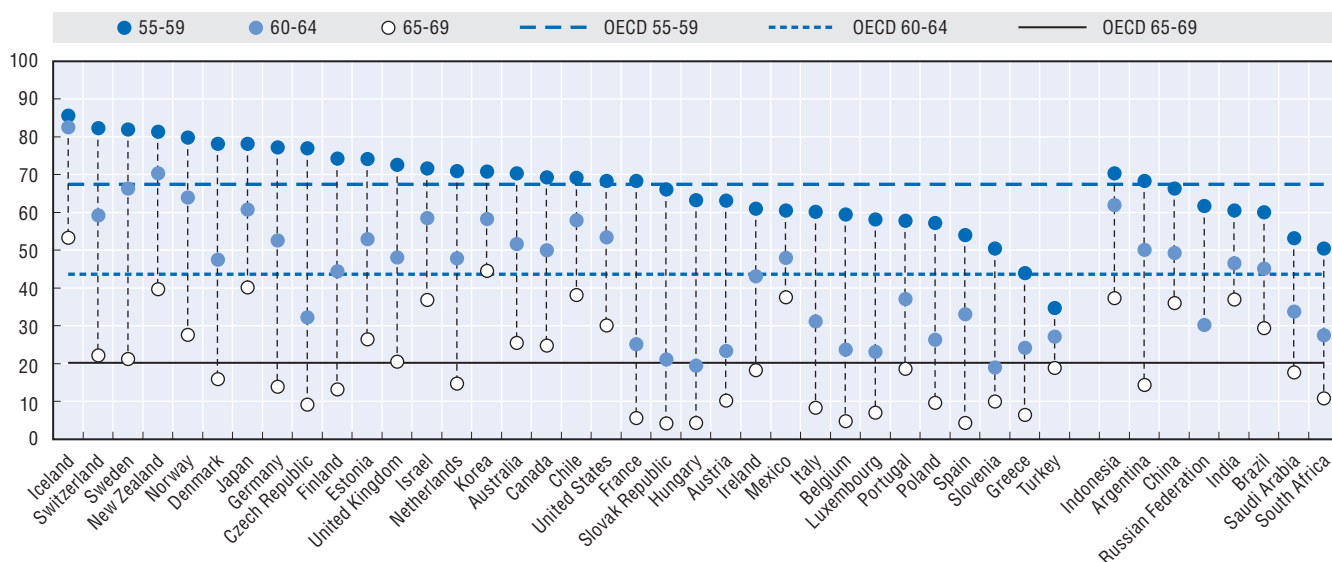
Further reading

OECD Reviews on Ageing and Employment Policies: Working Better with Age, reports on Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and Switzerland, www.oecd.org/els/employment/olderworkers.


OECD (2015), *OECD Employment Outlook 2015*, OECD Publishing, Paris http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/empl_outlook-2015-en.

Sonnet, A., H. Olsen and T. Manfredi (2014), "Towards More Inclusive Ageing and Employment Policies: The Lessons from France, The Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland", *De Economist*, Vol. 162, December.

7.6. Employment rates of workers aged 55 to 59, 60 to 64 and 65 to 69 in 2014

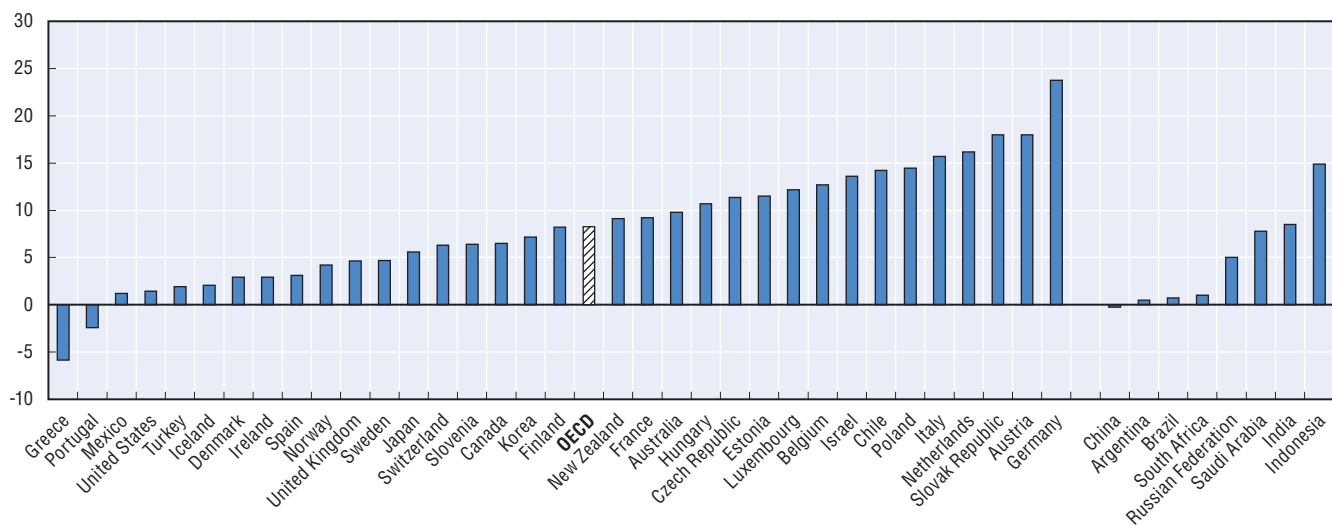


Source: OECD (2015), OECD Employment Outlook 2015.


StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933300791>

7.7. Changes in employment rate of older workers 2004 to 2014

Percentage points difference in employment rates of older workers aged 55-64, 2004-14



Source: OECD (2015), OECD Employment Outlook 2015.

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933300800>



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