

### Gender differences in self-employment rates

#### Key facts

- In OECD economies, one in ten employed women is self-employed, almost half the rate of self-employed men (18%). During the past ten years, however, the gap between male and female self-employment rates has closed in almost every country, and particularly so in Iceland and Turkey.
- Self-employed men are two and a half times more likely to employ others than self-employed women, and work on average eight hours per week more than self-employed women. Both self-employed men and women tend to work more than employees, especially those self-employed who are employers.
- In a majority of countries, 70% or more of self-employed women work in the services sector, while the share for men is around 50%.
- The share of employees who have a second job as self-employed is very low, but virtually always higher for men than for women.

#### Relevance

Entrepreneurship is an important source of employment creation and innovation. It is also a vehicle for addressing

inequalities, particularly across genders where significant differences remain, despite the scope that self-employment provides to manage work-home balances.

#### Comparability

The main comparability issue relates to the classification of “self-employed” owners of incorporated businesses. Some countries, notably Australia, Japan, New Zealand and Norway include only the self-employed owners of unincorporated businesses, following the 2008 SNA, which is likely to create a downward bias in the contribution of self-employed owners with employees in these countries. Figures 7.3 and 7.4 are based on Labour Force Surveys data; services include sectors 45-98 of ISIC Rev. 4.

Not all the self-employed are necessarily entrepreneurs in the purest sense, as defined in the OECD Entrepreneurship Indicators Programme. Self-employment statistics include, for example, craft-workers engaging in low level activity, often for leisure purposes. Care is thus needed in interpreting the data in analyses of entrepreneurship.

Women generally spend more time than men on unpaid care work; this needs to be taken into account when considering the average hours worked by self-employed.

#### Source

- Canada: Labour Force Survey, [www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/3701-eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/3701-eng.htm).
- Chile: Encuesta Nacional del Empleo, [www.ine.cl/boletines/detalle.php?id=2&lang=](http://www.ine.cl/boletines/detalle.php?id=2&lang=).
- Eurostat: Labour Force Surveys, <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/european-union-labour-force-survey>.
- Israel: Labour Force Survey, [www.cbs.gov.il/ts/databank/databank\\_main\\_func\\_e.html?i=21&ti=11&r=0&f=3&o=0](http://www.cbs.gov.il/ts/databank/databank_main_func_e.html?i=21&ti=11&r=0&f=3&o=0).
- Japan: Labour Force Survey, [www.e-stat.go.jp/SG1/estat/eStatTopPortalE.do](http://www.e-stat.go.jp/SG1/estat/eStatTopPortalE.do).
- Mexico: Encuesta Nacional de Empleo, [www.inegi.org.mx/est/contenidos/proyectos/encuestas/hogares/default.aspx](http://www.inegi.org.mx/est/contenidos/proyectos/encuestas/hogares/default.aspx).
- United States: Current Population Survey, [www.census.gov/cps/](http://www.census.gov/cps/).
- Brazil: National Household Sample Survey, [www.ibge.gov.br/english/estatistica/populacao/trabalhoerendimento/psnad2008/default.shtm#brasil](http://www.ibge.gov.br/english/estatistica/populacao/trabalhoerendimento/psnad2008/default.shtm#brasil).
- South Africa: Labour Force Survey, <http://interactive.statssa.gov.za:8282/webview/>.

#### Further reading

- OECD (2016), *OECD Report to G7 Leaders on Women and Entrepreneurship: A summary of recent data and policy developments in G7 countries*, [www.oecd.org/gender/OECD-Report%20to-G7-Leaders-on-Women-and-Entrepreneurship.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/gender/OECD-Report%20to-G7-Leaders-on-Women-and-Entrepreneurship.pdf).
- OECD (2014), *Enhancing Women’s Economic Empowerment through Entrepreneurship and Business Leadership in OECD Countries*, Background Report, [www.oecd.org/gender/Enhancing%20Women%20Economic%20Empowerment\\_Fin\\_1\\_Oct\\_2014.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/gender/Enhancing%20Women%20Economic%20Empowerment_Fin_1_Oct_2014.pdf).

#### Definitions

The *self-employed* are defined as those who own and work in their own business, including unincorporated businesses and own-account workers, and declare themselves as “self-employed” in population or labour force surveys.

The *number of women (men) employers* is given by the number of women (men) who report their status as “self-employed with employees” in population surveys. The number of women (men) own-account workers is given by the number of women (men) who report their status as “self-employed without employees”. The *share of women (men) employers (own-account workers)* is given in relation to the total number of women (men) in employment.

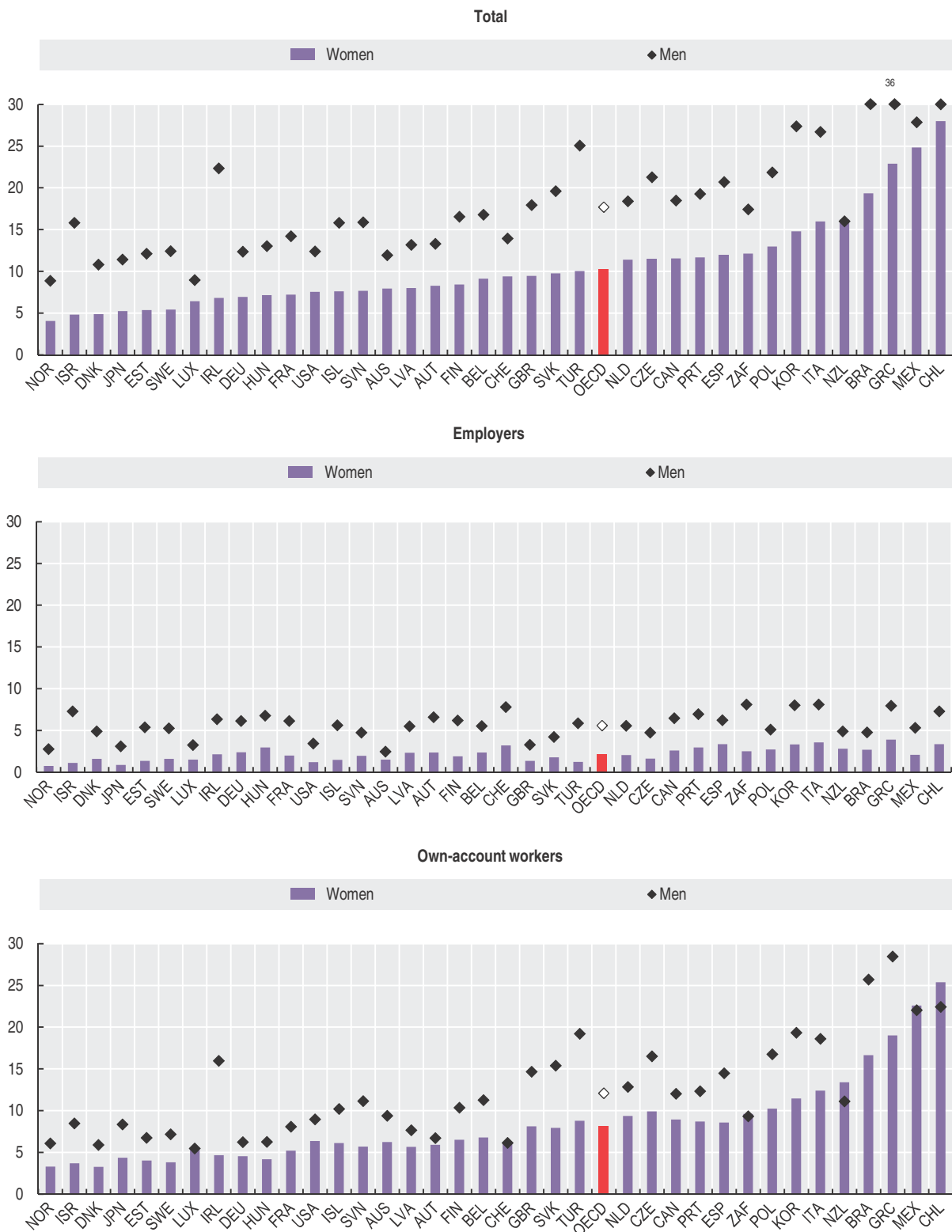
The *gender gap in self-employment rate for the year t* corresponds to the difference between male and female self-employment rates in t. *Contribution of female (male) self-employment rate change* is calculated as the difference between t and t-n female (male) self-employment rates.

*Share of women (men) employees having a second job as self-employed* is calculated by dividing the number of women (men) employees who declare that they have a second job as self-employed by the total number of women (men) employees.

The *average number of weekly hours worked* corresponds to the number of hours the person normally works, per week. This includes all hours worked, including overtime, regardless of whether they were paid. It excludes travel time between home and workplace, and main meal breaks (normally taken at midday).

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

Figure 7.1. **Share of self-employed by gender**  
Percentage of total employment, 2014 or latest available year

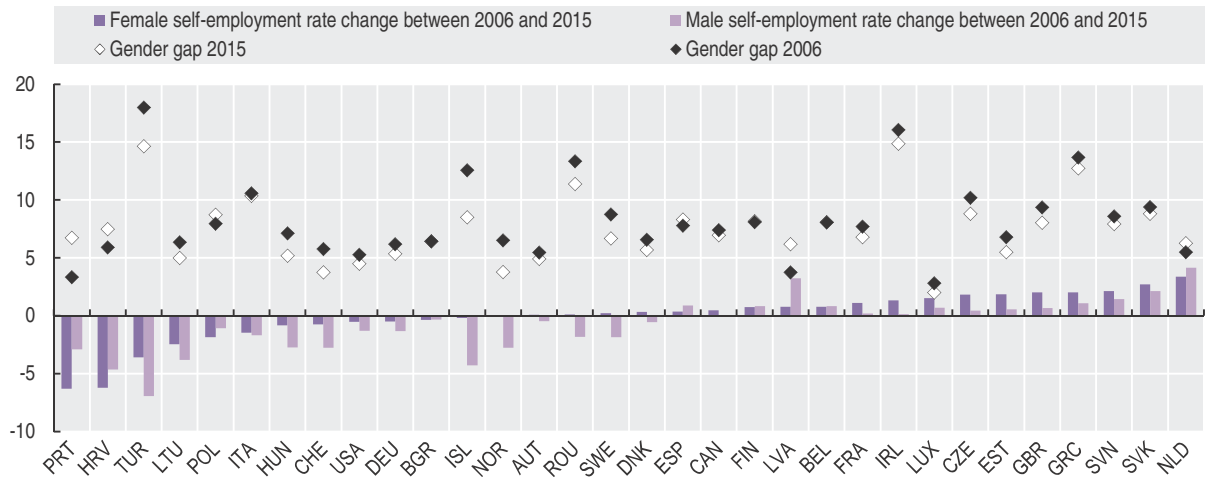


StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933404508>

## 7. THE PROFILE OF THE ENTREPRENEUR

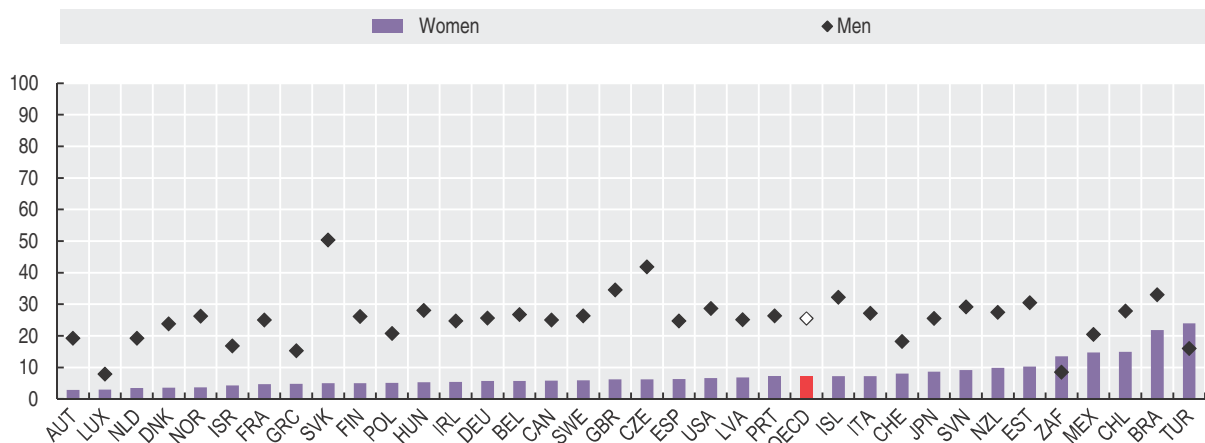
### Gender differences in self-employment rates

Figure 7.2. **Gender gap in self-employment rates**  
Percentage point difference



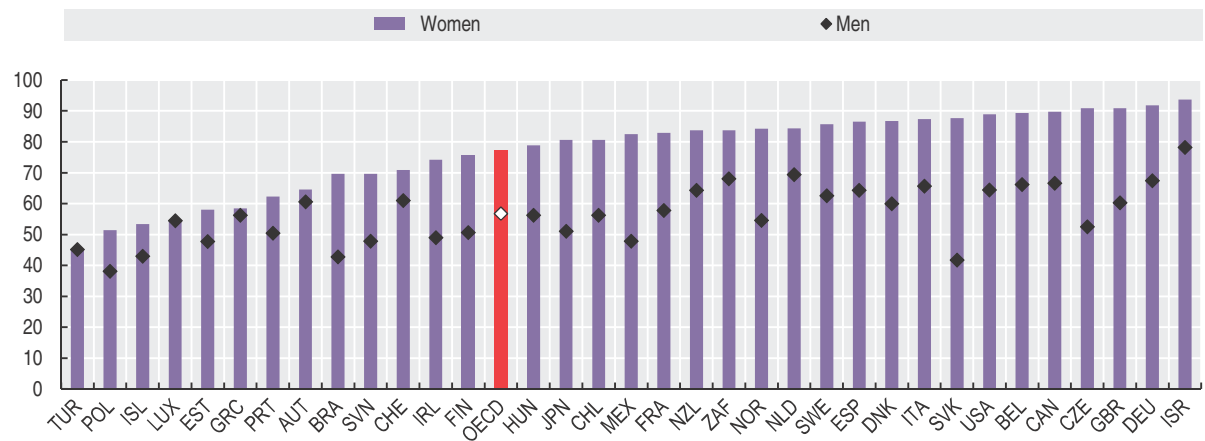
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Figure 7.3. **Self-employed whose activity is in manufacturing and construction**  
Percentage of total self-employed by gender, 2014-5 average



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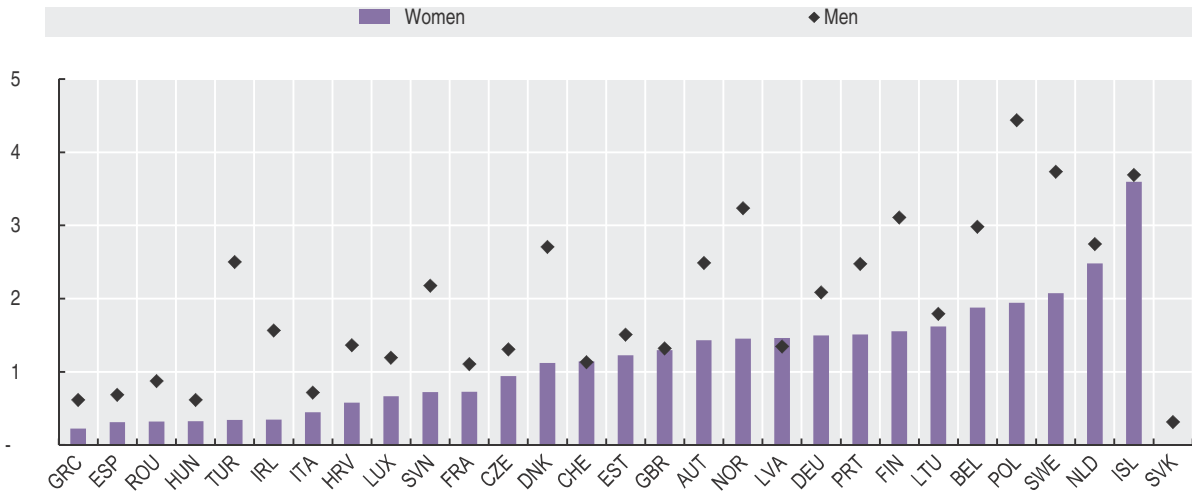
Figure 7.4. **Self-employed whose activity is in services**  
Percentage of total self-employed by gender, 2014-5 average



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933404536>

Figure 7.5. Share of employees having a second job as self-employed, by gender

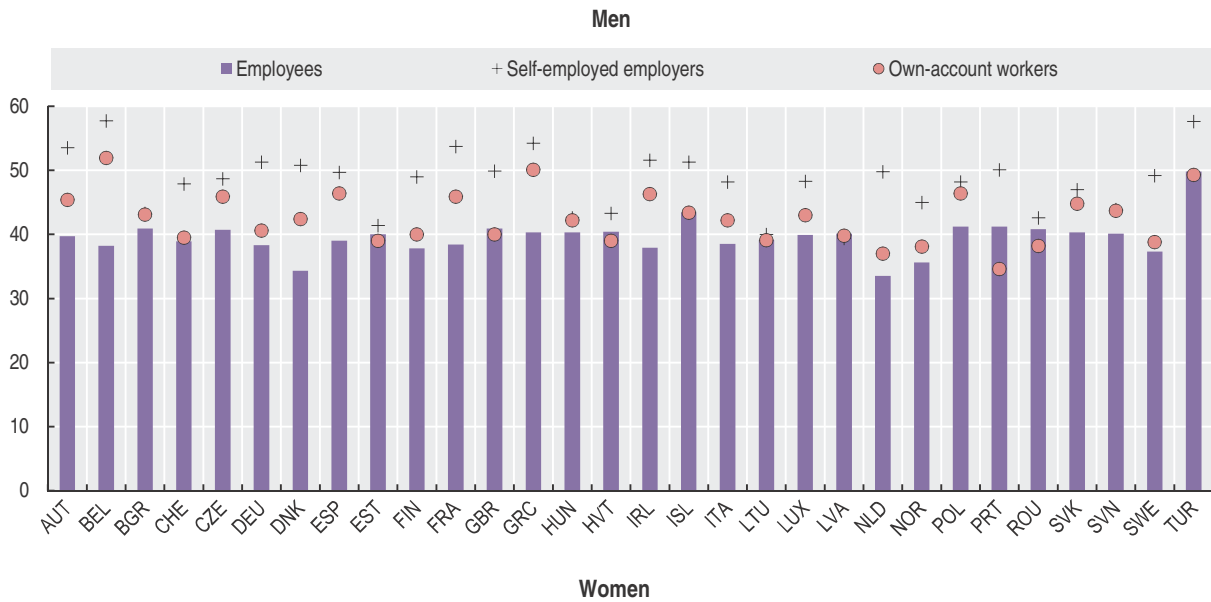
Percentage of all employees by gender, 2015



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933404549>

Figure 7.6. Average weekly hours of work in main job, by gender

Number of hours per week, 2015

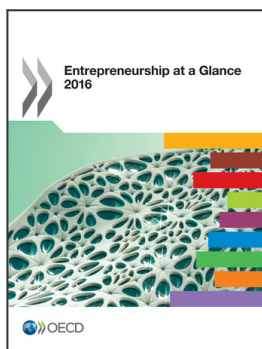


Men



Women

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933404552>



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