

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Opportunities for part-time work are especially important for people whose family obligations prevent them from working full-time, such as women with young children and those caring for elderly relatives. Indeed, recent surveys in a large number of OECD countries show that most people who work part-time do so from choice. This suggests that countries with little part-time employment could foster increased employment by policies that promote the availability of part-time jobs.

Definition

Part-time employment refers to persons who usually work less than 30 hours per week in their main job. This definition has the advantage of being comparable across countries as national definitions of part-time employment vary greatly from one country to another. Part-time workers include both employees and the self-employed.

Employment is generally measured through household labour force surveys. According to the ILO Guidelines, employed persons are those aged 15 or over who report that they have worked in gainful employment for at least one hour in the previous week or who had a job but were absent from work in the reference week. The rates shown here refer to the number of persons who usually work less than 30 hours per week as a percentage of the total number of those in employment.

Overview

The incidence of part-time employment for the OECD area as a whole was 17% in 2010. But this incidence differed significantly across countries. In the Netherlands and Switzerland over 25% of all those in employment were working part-time, while this share was under 10% in one third of OECD countries, and especially low in Hungary, the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic, as well as in Estonia and Slovenia. In the Russian Federation this rate is around 5%.

In recent years, part-time work has accounted for a substantial share of overall employment growth in many OECD countries. For the OECD as a whole, the incidence of part-time employment rates increased by 5 percentage points between 2000 and 2010. Part-time employment rates grew by more than 5 percentage points in Austria, Ireland, Mexico and the Netherlands, with the largest increase in Chile at 13%. Part-time employment rates fell by more than 1 percentage point in Iceland and Poland, as well as in the Russian Federation.

The growth of part-time employment has been especially important for groups that are often under-represented in the labour force such as women – over 5 percentage points in Chile, Austria, Korea, Italy, Spain, Ireland and Greece; youths – over 15 percentage points in Korea, Spain, Ireland and Chile; and, to a lesser extent, older workers.

Comparability

All OECD countries use the ILO Guidelines for measuring employment. Operational definitions used in national labour force surveys may, however, vary slightly across countries. Employment levels are also likely to be affected by changes in the survey design and the survey conduct. Despite these changes, the employment rates shown here are fairly consistent over time. Information on the number of hours usually worked is collected in household labour force surveys. The part-time rates shown here are considered to be of good comparability.

Sources

- OECD (2011), *OECD Employment Outlook*, OECD Publishing.
- For non-member countries: National sources.

Further information

Analytical publications

- OECD (2007), *Babies and Bosses – Reconciling Work and Family Life*, series, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2003), *The Sources of Economic Growth in OECD Countries*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (1999), *Implementing the OECD Jobs Strategy: Assessing Performance and Policy*, OECD Publishing.

Statistical publications

- OECD (2011), *Labour Force Statistics*, OECD Publishing.

Online databases

- *OECD Employment and Labour Market Statistics*.

Websites

- OECD Employment Policies, www.oecd.org/els/employment.
- OECD Labour Statistics, www.oecd.org/statistics/labour.



Incidence of part-time employment

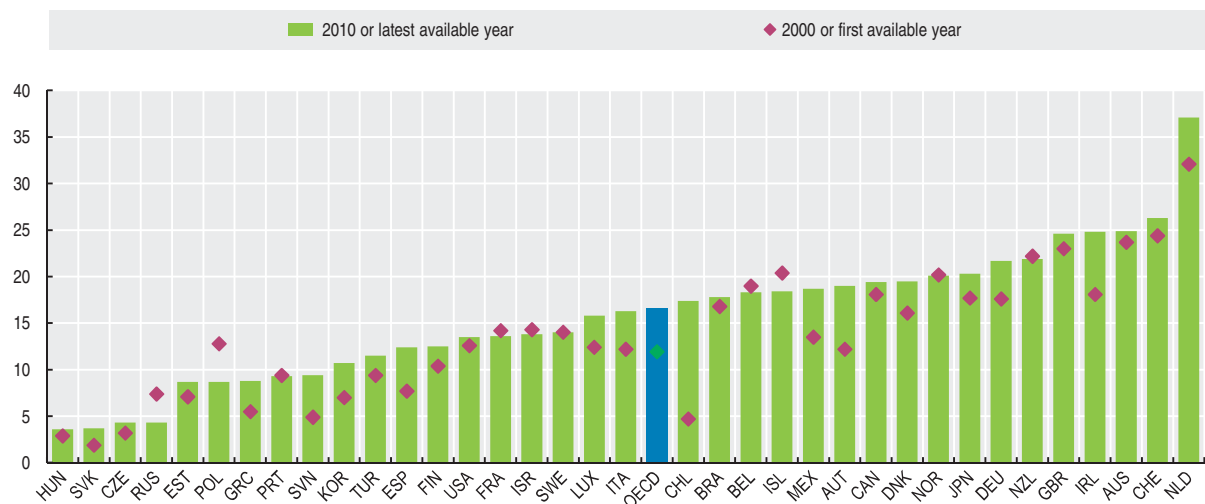
As a percentage of total employment

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Australia	..	..	..	..	23.7	24.0	24.3	23.8	24.0	23.9	23.8	23.8	24.7	24.9
Austria	10.8	11.5	12.3	12.2	12.4	13.3	13.7	15.4	16.3	16.8	17.3	17.7	18.5	19.0
Belgium	15.0	15.6	19.9	19.0	17.0	17.6	18.3	18.5	18.5	18.7	18.1	18.3	18.2	18.3
Canada	19.1	18.8	18.4	18.1	18.1	18.8	19.0	18.6	18.4	18.2	18.3	18.5	19.3	19.4
Chile	4.7	4.1	4.6	4.7	5.6	5.2	5.7	6.6	7.2	7.7	8.0	9.1	10.5	17.4
Czech Republic	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.9	4.3
Denmark	17.2	17.1	15.3	16.1	14.7	15.5	16.2	17.0	17.3	17.9	17.3	17.8	18.9	19.5
Estonia	..	..	..	7.1	7.1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8.7
Finland	9.3	9.7	9.9	10.4	10.5	11.0	11.3	11.3	11.2	11.4	11.7	11.5	12.2	12.5
France	14.8	14.7	14.6	14.2	13.8	13.8	13.0	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.3	12.9	13.3	13.6
Germany	15.8	16.6	17.1	17.6	18.3	18.8	19.6	20.1	21.5	21.8	22.0	21.8	21.9	21.7
Greece	8.3	9.1	8.0	5.5	4.9	5.4	5.6	5.9	6.4	7.4	7.7	7.9	8.4	8.8
Hungary	2.9	3.2	3.2	2.9	2.5	2.6	3.2	3.3	3.2	2.7	2.8	3.1	3.6	3.6
Iceland	22.4	23.2	21.2	20.4	20.4	20.1	16.0	16.6	16.4	16.0	15.9	15.1	17.5	18.4
Ireland	15.0	17.6	17.9	18.1	17.9	18.4	18.9	18.9	19.3	19.3	19.8	20.8	23.7	24.8
Israel	13.2	14.3	14.6	14.3	15.1	15.2	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	14.6	14.5	14.6	13.8
Italy	11.3	11.2	11.8	12.2	12.2	11.6	11.7	14.7	14.6	15.0	15.2	15.9	15.8	16.3
Japan	..	..	..	..	..	17.7	18.2	18.1	18.3	18.0	18.9	19.6	20.3	20.3
Korea	5.0	6.7	7.7	7.0	7.3	7.6	7.7	8.4	9.0	8.8	8.9	9.3	9.9	10.7
Luxembourg	11.0	12.6	12.1	12.4	13.3	12.5	13.3	13.2	13.9	12.7	13.1	13.4	16.4	15.8
Mexico	15.5	15.0	13.7	13.5	13.7	13.5	13.4	15.1	16.8	17.0	17.6	17.6	17.9	18.7
Netherlands	29.1	30.0	30.4	32.1	33.0	33.9	34.5	35.0	35.6	35.4	35.9	36.1	36.7	37.1
New Zealand	22.3	22.7	23.0	22.2	22.3	22.5	22.2	21.9	21.6	21.2	22.0	22.2	22.5	21.9
Norway	21.0	20.8	20.7	20.2	20.1	20.6	21.0	21.1	20.8	21.1	20.4	20.3	20.4	20.1
Poland	11.9	11.8	14.0	12.8	11.6	11.7	11.5	12.0	11.7	10.8	10.1	9.3	8.7	8.7
Portugal	10.2	10.0	9.4	9.4	9.2	9.6	9.9	9.6	9.4	9.3	9.9	9.7	9.6	9.3
Slovak Republic	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.6	2.3	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.7
Slovenia	..	..	..	..	..	4.9	5.0	7.5	7.4	7.8	7.8	7.5	8.3	9.4
Spain	7.9	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.8	7.6	7.8	8.4	11.0	10.8	10.7	11.1	11.9	12.4
Sweden	14.2	13.5	14.5	14.0	13.9	13.8	14.1	14.4	13.5	13.4	14.4	14.4	14.6	14.0
Switzerland	24.0	24.2	24.8	24.4	24.8	24.8	25.1	24.9	25.1	25.5	25.4	25.9	26.5	26.3
Turkey	6.1	6.0	7.7	9.4	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.1	5.6	7.6	8.1	8.5	11.1	11.5
United Kingdom	22.9	23.0	22.9	23.0	22.7	23.2	23.5	23.6	23.0	23.2	22.9	23.0	23.9	24.6
United States	13.5	13.4	13.3	12.6	12.8	13.1	13.2	13.2	12.8	12.6	12.6	12.8	14.1	13.5
OECD total	11.7	11.8	12.0	11.9	12.0	14.4	14.6	15.0	15.2	15.2	15.4	15.6	16.4	16.6
Brazil	16.8	17.9	18.0	18.2	19.0	19.2	18.3	18.1	17.8	..
Russian Federation	4.4	4.6	8.2	7.4	5.2	3.8	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.3

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Incidence of part-time employment

As a percentage of total employment



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