

EMPLOYMENT BY REGION

Inequalities in economic performance across regions partly reflect the extent to which each region is able to utilise its available labour resources, and especially to increase job opportunities for under-represented groups.

Definition

Employed persons are all persons who during the reference week of the survey worked at least one hour for pay or profit, or were temporarily absent from such work. The employment rate is the number of employed persons as a percentage of the working age (15-64) population.

The employment rate for women is calculated as the ratio between women in employment and women of the working age (15-64) in the population.

Comparability

As for other regional statistics, comparability is affected by differences in the meaning of the word “region”. This results in significant differences in terms of geographic area and population both within and among countries. To address this issue, the OECD has classified regions within

each country based on two levels: territorial level 2 (TL2, large regions) and territorial level 3 (TL3, small regions). Labour market data for Canada refers to a different regional grouping, labelled non-official grids (NOG) comparable to TL3. For Brazil, China, the Russian Federation and South Africa only large regions have been defined so far.

Data on employment growth refer to the period 1999-2012 for all countries, except for Slovenia and Switzerland, the first available year is 2001 and the last available year is 2009 for South Africa, 2010 for the Russian Federation, 2011 for Israel, Japan and Mexico. Portugal 1999-2010. Denmark, Finland and Turkey are excluded for lack of data on comparable years. Data on employment increase contributed by the top 10% of TL2 regions include only countries with average positive growth of employment over 1999-2012. Greece and Japan are excluded.

Data on regional employment growth and female employment refer to large (TL2) regions for all countries.

Overview

Differences in employment opportunities within countries are often larger than across countries. In almost half of the countries, differences in regional employment growth rates across regions were above 3 percentage points. Regional differences in employment in OECD countries were the largest in Mexico, Canada, and the United States, and among the emerging economies, the Russian Federation.

During 1999-2012 differences in regional employment growth rates across regions were above two percentage points in Chile, Israel, Luxembourg and Australia.

A small number of regions drive employment creation at the national level. On average, 39% of overall employment creation in OECD countries between 1999 and 2012 was accounted for by just 10% of regions. The regional contribution to national employment creation was particularly concentrated in certain countries. In South Africa, the Russian Federation, Hungary and the United States, more than half of employment growth was spurred by 10% of regions.

During the recent economic crisis, the regional concentration of employment creation has increased in 15 of the 31 countries, resulting in higher differences in employment among regions.

In around 26% of OECD regions, less than one out of two women was employed in 2012. Regional differences in employment for women were the largest in Turkey, Italy, Spain, Israel, the United States and the Slovak Republic.

Sources

- OECD (2013), *OECD Regions at a Glance*, OECD Publishing.

Further information

Analytical publications

- OECD (2012), *Promoting Growth in All Regions*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2011), *OECD Regional Outlook*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2009), *Regions Matter: Economic Recovery, Innovation and Sustainable Growth*, OECD Publishing.

Online databases

- OECD Regional Database.

Websites

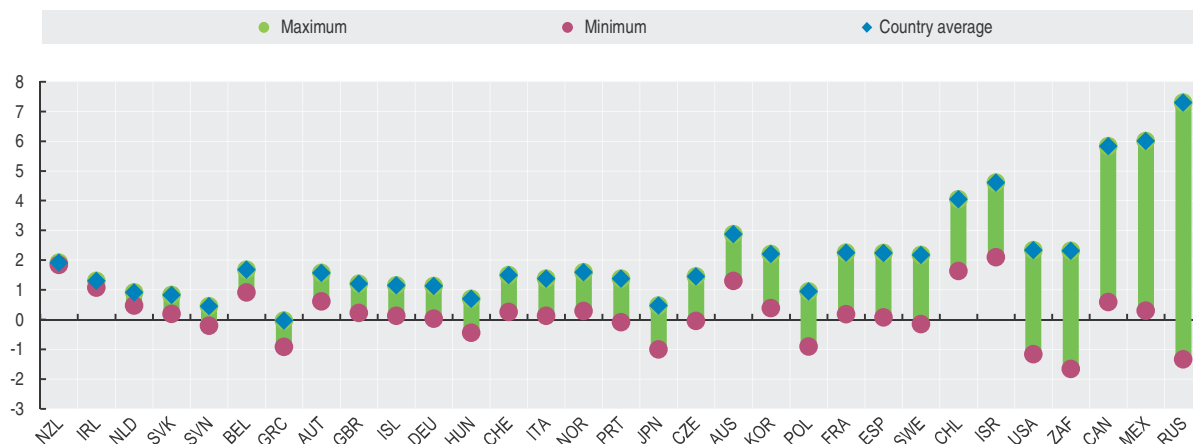
- Regional Development, www.oecd.org/gov/regional-policy.
- Regions at a Glance Interactive, rag.oecd.org.



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Differences in annual employment growth across regions

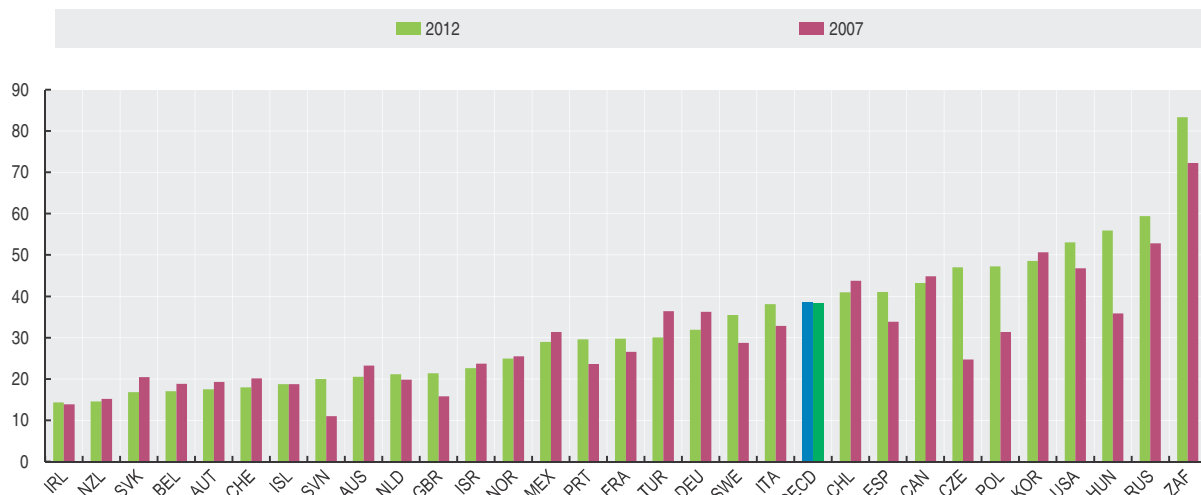
Percentage, 2012



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933025727>

Share of national employment growth due to the 10% of most dynamic regions

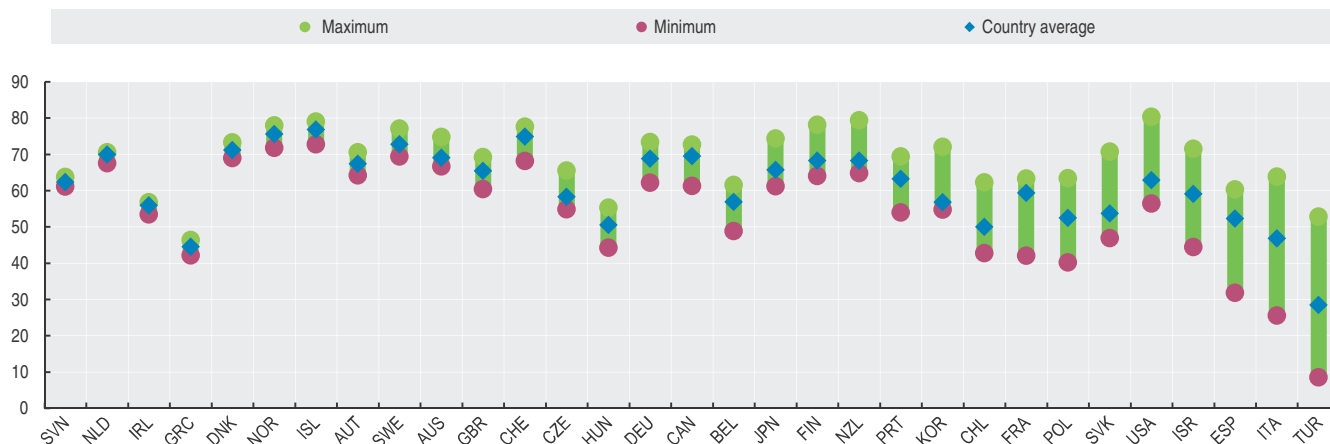
Percentage, 1999-2012 and 1999-2007



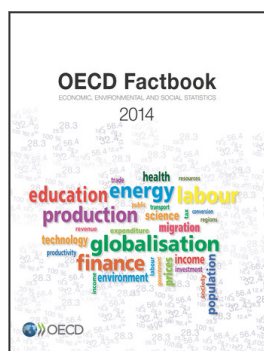
StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933025746>

Regional differences in the employment rate of women

Percentage, 2012



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933025765>



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