

Part-time employment in regions

Part-time employment has increased in many OECD countries during the past years (OECD, 2012). Depending on the institutional and economic context, part-time employment can have opposite effects on the well-being of the working population. On the one hand, part-time workers may suffer a penalty compared to their full-time counterparts in terms of job-security, training and promotion, and unemployment benefits. On the other hand, part-time employment can offer a better family-friendly working-time arrangement. In general, in the presence of the right incentives, part-time jobs seem to promote labour force participation and can be a relevant alternative to inactivity (OECD, 2010). The incidence of part-time employment is not evenly distributed across OECD regions. Regions in the Netherlands and Switzerland show the highest shares of part-time employment across the OECD countries in the sample; while the regions with the lowest values of part-time employment incidence are found in Eastern European countries such as Poland, Hungary, the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic (Figure 4.26). Large regional disparities can be found within countries like Chile and Australia, where the difference between the regions with highest and lowest shares of part-time employment can be as high as 18 percentage points. Despite the lack of a harmonised definition at regional level, this pattern is similar to the national incidence of part-time employment according to the OECD definition (OECD, 2012).

Definition

The definition of part-time work varies considerably across OECD member countries. The OECD defines part-time working in terms of usual working hours fewer than 30 per week. However, for European TL2 regions, the distinction between full-time and part-time work is based on a spontaneous response by the respondent; except in the Netherlands, Iceland and Norway, where part-time is determined if the usual hours are fewer than 35 hours.

At regional level, a harmonised definition of part-time employment does not exist. Indeed, for some countries, the number of hours defining the number of part-time employees in a region differs from the OECD definition. This makes regional values differ from national estimates relying on a harmonised definition.

Incidence of part-time employment refers to the proportion of part-time employees with respect to the total number of employed persons in a region.

Employment rate is defined as the ratio between total employment (place of residence) and population in the class age 15-64.

The share of part-time employees among the working age population (15-64 years) seems to be associated with higher employment rates across OECD regions. Indeed, OECD regions characterised by high employment rates also show a higher share of part-time employment (Figure 4.27). Swiss regions have the highest rates of employment, and the second highest shares of part-time jobs with respect to the working-age population.

The composition of part-time employment is influenced not only by regional demographic characteristics but also by regulatory settings and access to certain family-oriented services such as child-care facilities. The latter in particular can contribute to increasing the participation of women in the workforce. In regions like Burgenland (Austria), Lorraine (France), and Province of Trento (Italy), women account for more than 80% of the total part-time employment, and female employment in these regions is close to the national value. Regions with small shares of women working part-time are Algarve (Portugal) and Los Lagos (Chile), where in both regions the share of women in part-time employment is lower than 50% (Figure 4.28).

Source

OECD (2013), *OECD Regional Statistics* (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/region-data-en>.

See Annex B for data sources and country-related metadata.

Reference years and territorial level

2012; TL2.

Australia, Italy, Norway and Switzerland, 2011.

No regional data are available for Iceland, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, and the United States.

Further information

OECD (2010), *OECD Employment Outlook 2010: Moving beyond the Jobs Crisis*, OECD Publishing, http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/empl_outlook-2010-en.

OECD (2012), "Incidence and composition of part-time employment", *OECD Employment Outlook 2012*, OECD Publishing, http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/empl_outlook-2012-table74-en.

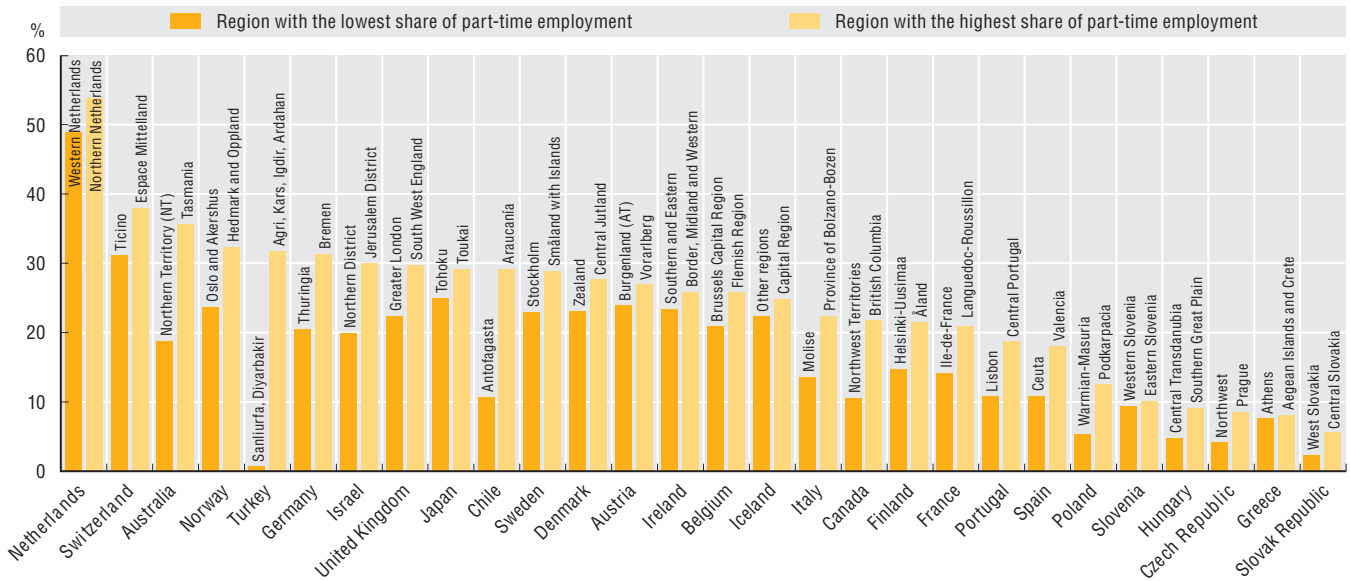
Interactive graphs and maps: <http://rag.oecd.org>.

Figure notes

4.27: Each observation (point) represents a TL2 region.

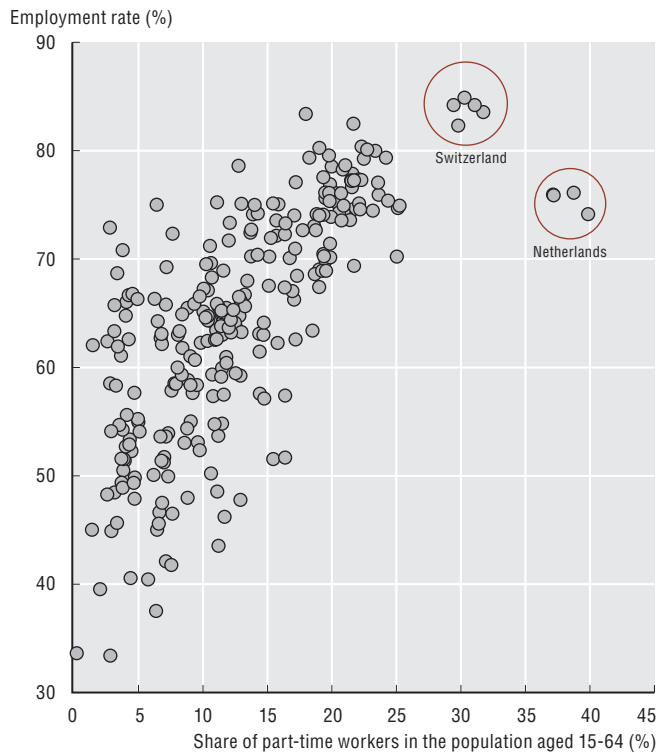
Information on data for Israel: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932315602>.

4.26. Disparities in regional part-time employment incidence, TL2 regions, 2012



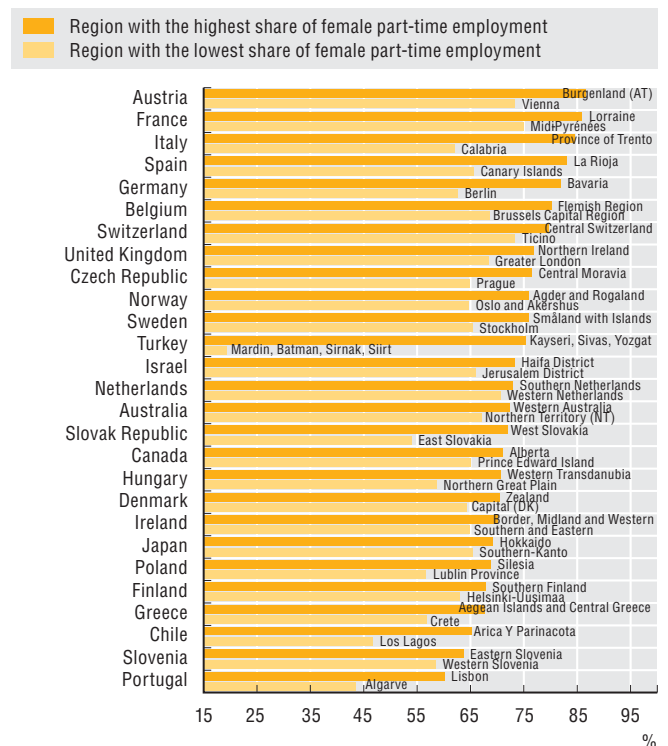
StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932914577>

4.27. Share of regional part-time employment and employment rate, 2012



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932914596>

4.28. Gender composition of part-time employment: highest and lowest region, 2012



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932914615>



From:
OECD Regions at a Glance 2013

Access the complete publication at:
https://doi.org/10.1787/reg_glance-2013-en

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2013), "Part-time employment in regions", in *OECD Regions at a Glance 2013*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1787/reg_glance-2013-37-en

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to rights@oecd.org. Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at info@copyright.com or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at contact@cfcopies.com.