

## 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, India, the Russian Federation and South Africa only large regions have been defined so far.

Data on employment growth refer to period 1999-2010 for all countries except for Chile (1999-2009), Mexico (2000-10), Slovenia (2001-10), South Africa (1999-2009) and Switzerland (2001-10). Denmark 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 1999-2010. Hungary 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.

During 1999-2010 differences in regional employment growth rates across regions were above three percentage points in Mexico, the Russian Federation, Chile, South Africa and the United States.

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 2010 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 United States, the Russian Federation, Chile and Korea, 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 17 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 2010. Regional differences in employment for women were the largest in Turkey, Italy, Israel, Spain, the United States and Portugal.

### Sources

- OECD (2011), *OECD Regions at a Glance*, OECD Publishing.

### Further information

#### Analytical publications

- OECD (2011), *Regional Outlook 2011*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2009), *How Regions Grow: Trends and Analysis*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2009), *Regions Matter: Economic Recovery, Innovation and Sustainable Growth*, OECD Publishing.

#### Online databases

- OECD Regional Database.

#### Websites

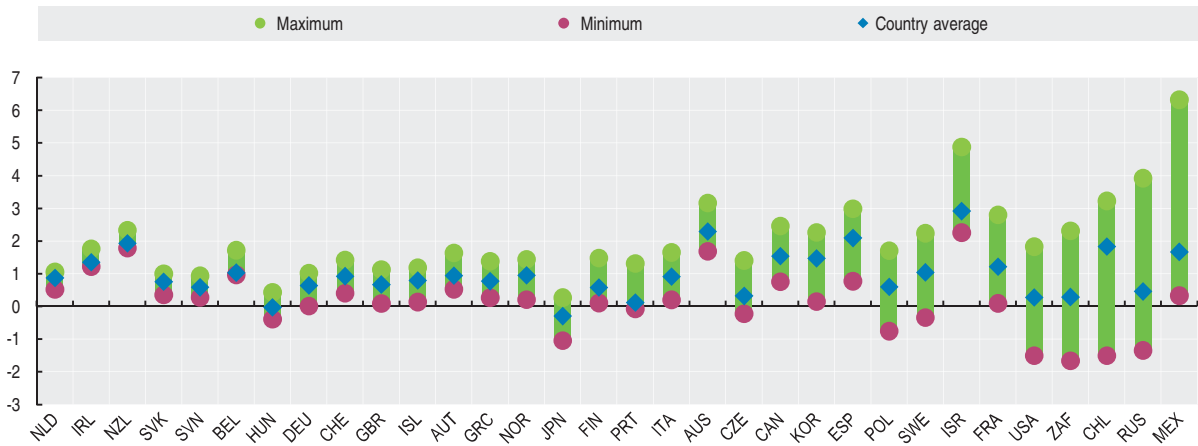
- Regional Development, [www.oecd.org/gov/regionaldevelopment](http://www.oecd.org/gov/regionaldevelopment).
- Regional Statistics and Indicators, [www.oecd.org/gov/regional/statisticsindicators](http://www.oecd.org/gov/regional/statisticsindicators).



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Differences in annual employment growth across regions

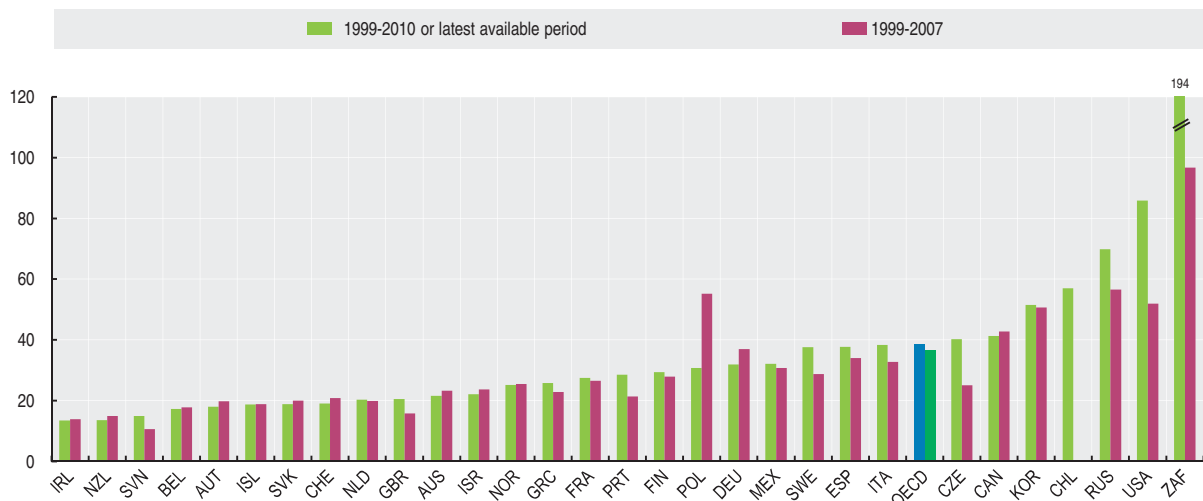
Percentage, 1999-2010 or latest available period



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932708598>

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

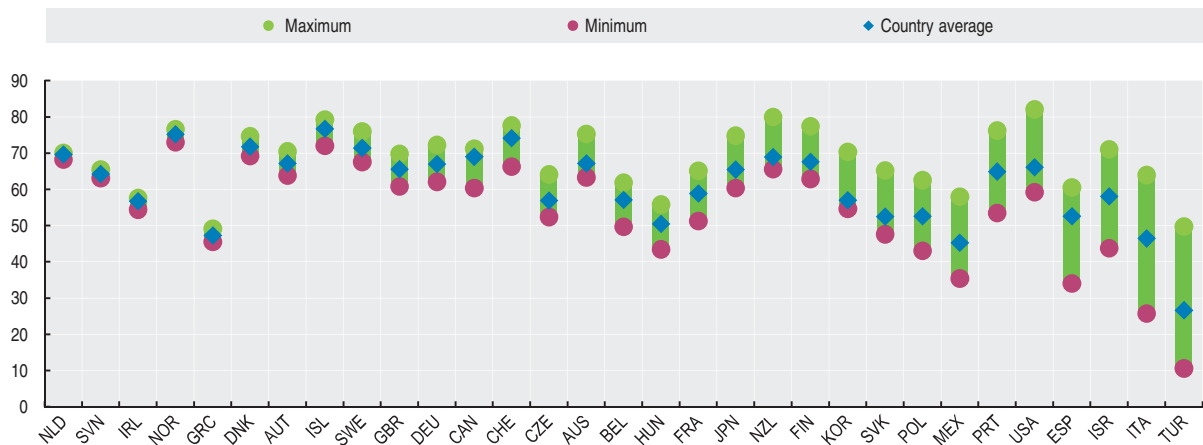
Percentage



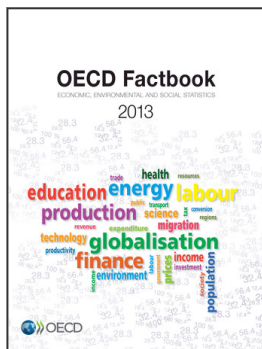
StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932708617>

Regional differences in the employment rate of women

Percentage, 2010 or latest available year



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932708636>



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