

Employment

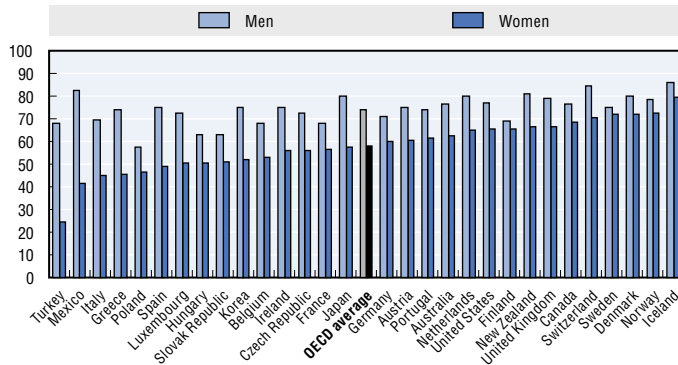
Did you know?

The “employment rate” is the number of people of working age who are in employment divided by all those of working age.

Employment rates of women are below employment rates of men in all OECD countries. But nearly everywhere, the gap between male and female employment rates has been falling. There are only five countries where the gap between male and female employment rates have risen since the mid-1990s – Turkey, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Finland and Sweden.

A higher percentage of men than women are employed in each OECD country. Less than 50% of women are in paid employment in Turkey, Mexico, Italy, Greece, Spain and Poland, while more than 70% are employed in Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland. The gender gap is most pronounced in Turkey and Mexico but is also high in Japan, Korea and Ireland.

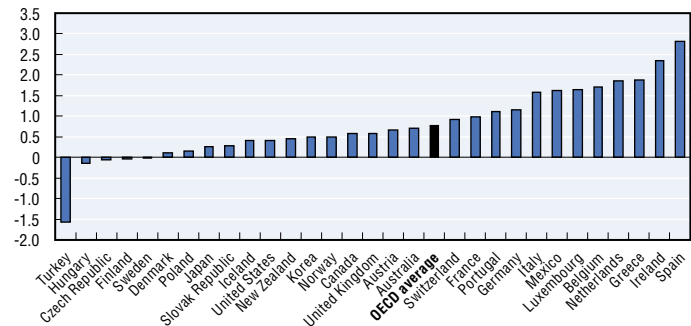
Percentage of men and women of working age in employment
2004



However, differences in employment rates for men and women are falling in almost all countries. The chart below shows how much faster female employment rates have been growing compared to male employment rates over the last decade. The growth of female employment has been higher than that of men in all OECD countries except Turkey, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Finland and Sweden. Female employment rates have been growing much faster than those for men in Spain, Ireland, Greece and the Netherlands.

Difference between women and men in annual average
increases of employment rates

Average annual increase from 1991 to 2004



Source: OECD (2006), OECD Factbook: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics, OECD, Paris; OECD (2006), OECD Employment Outlook, OECD, Paris.

Further reading:

OECD (2005), OECD Employment Outlook, OECD, Paris.

OECD (2006), Economic Policy Reforms: Going for Growth – 2006 Edition, OECD, Paris.

OECD (2006), OECD Factbook 2006: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics, OECD, Paris.