

Working hours

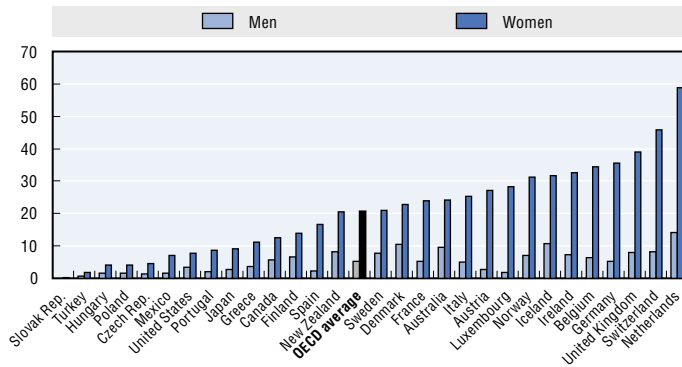
Did you know?

More than one in four women work part-time and nearly three out of four part-time jobs are held by women. Part-time work by women increases when they live with a partner and increases still further if they have dependent children.

Men tend to work longer hours than women in paid employment, but women work more hours in *unpaid* activities – housework and caring for children and elderly parents. Most OECD countries carry out “time-use” surveys to measure this unpaid employment, but these are not done regularly or on a comparable basis.

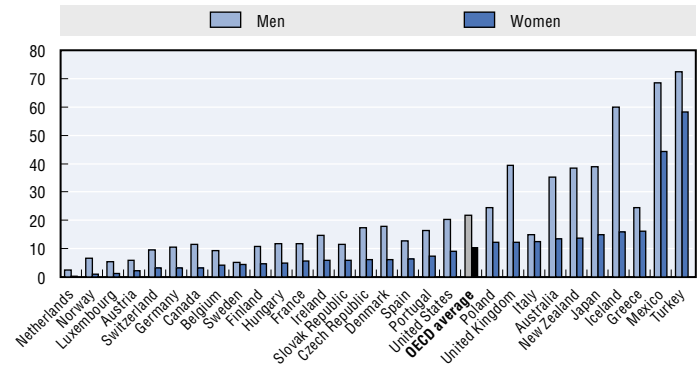
People who work for less than 30 hours per week in their main job are considered as part-time workers, although not all countries use this definition. Part-time work is particularly favoured by women in the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium and Ireland but is rare in central Europe, Turkey, Mexico and the United States. The only country in which part-time employment of men significantly exceeds 10% is the Netherlands.

Percentage of employed persons who work less than 20 hours per week (2002)



In most OECD countries the standard working week is around 40 hours but many people work longer. Working paid or unpaid long workweeks is a “man’s thing” in all OECD countries. In Iceland, Mexico and Turkey 60% or more of men report that they work more than 45 hours per week. High percentages of women also work more than 45 hours in Turkey and Mexico. On the other hand, workaholics of either gender are rare in Netherlands, Norway, Luxembourg, Austria and Sweden.

Percentage of employees who work more than 45 hours per week
Years around 2002



Source: OECD Employment and Labour Market Statistics.

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.