

Women Entrepreneurship

Key findings: Australia

Who wants to be an entrepreneur?

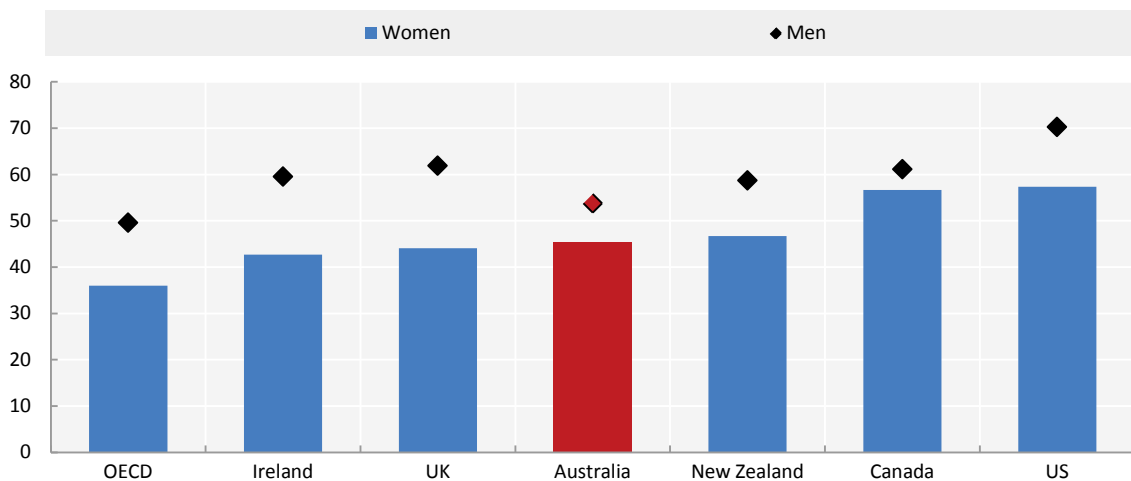
Entrepreneurship is crucial to economic development, promoting social integration and reducing inequalities. *OECD Entrepreneurship at a Glance* presents an original collection of indicators that measure the state of entrepreneurship, providing an important reference for policy insights and policy making.

Perceived risks are higher for women.....

One important determinant of entrepreneurship relates to the relative risk involved, or rather assessment of risk. This is to a large extent determined by risk of failure but also reflects other factors, such as social security safety nets, access to finance, access to child-care, and indeed potential rewards; which helps to explain the significant differences across countries on how entrepreneurial risk is perceived. One pattern however, is remarkably consistent: **women, the world over, are less prone to taking the entrepreneurial plunge.**

Although Australia is no exception to this pattern, with 54% of men but only 45% of women expressing a preference for starting their own business rather than working for someone else, the relative gap between men and women is smaller than in most OECD countries (Figure 1). While the share for women is significantly above the OECD average (35%), it is also significantly lower than the corresponding shares in Canada and the United States.

Figure 1. How is the entrepreneurial risk perceived?
Percentage of individuals who agree with the statement "I would rather take a risk and build my own business than work for someone else", 2013



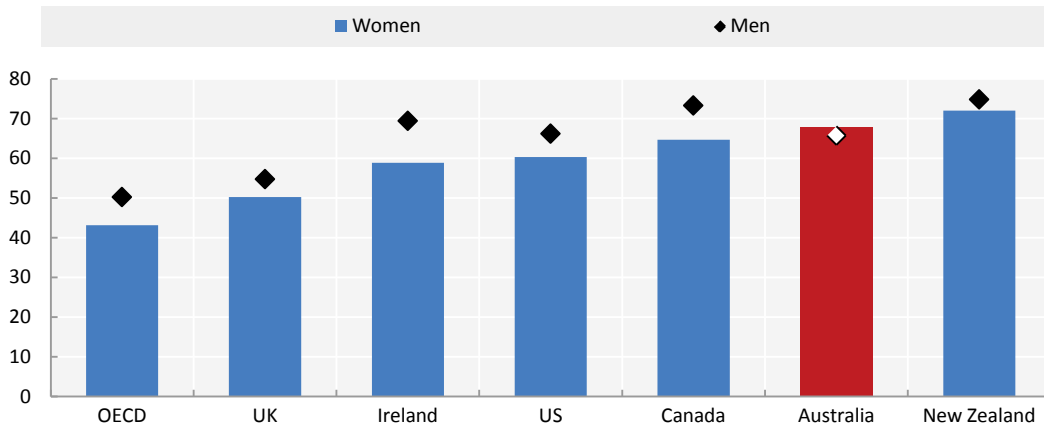
Source: OECD based on Gallup data.

....reflecting perceived gaps in opportunities for: training...

Most countries in the OECD area exhibit a significant gender gap with regards to access to training to create and grow a start-up. Australia, with no discernible difference by gender, fares better

than most countries, and the shares for both men and women are among the highest in the OECD (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Is it possible to access training on how to start or grow a business?
 Percentage of individuals who consider they have access to formal or informal training on how to start or grow a business, 2013

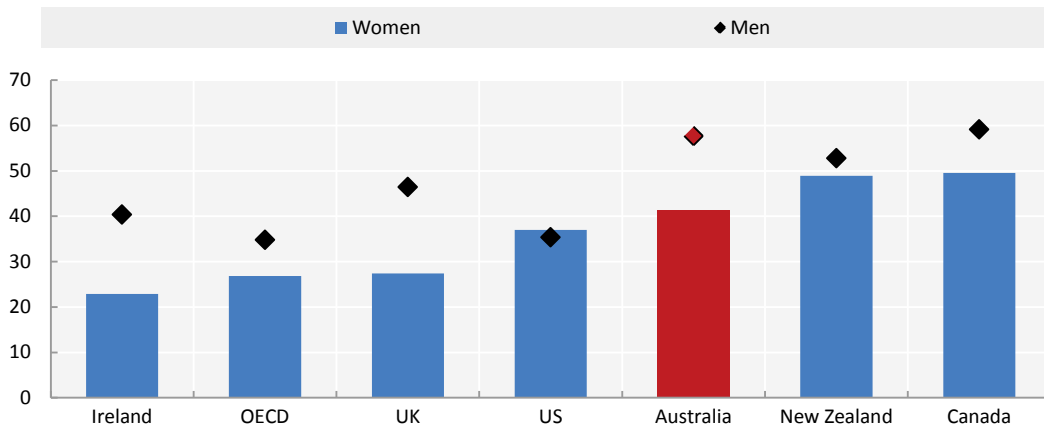


Source: OECD based on Gallup data.

...and finance

Similar gender gaps exist across the world regarding access to finance. Although the share of Australian women declaring that access to money is not a barrier to starting a business (41%) is above the OECD average (35%), it is well below the equivalent share for men (58%) (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Is it possible to access money to start a business?
 Percentage of individuals who consider they have access to money (own savings or any other source) they would need if they wanted to start or grow a business, 2013

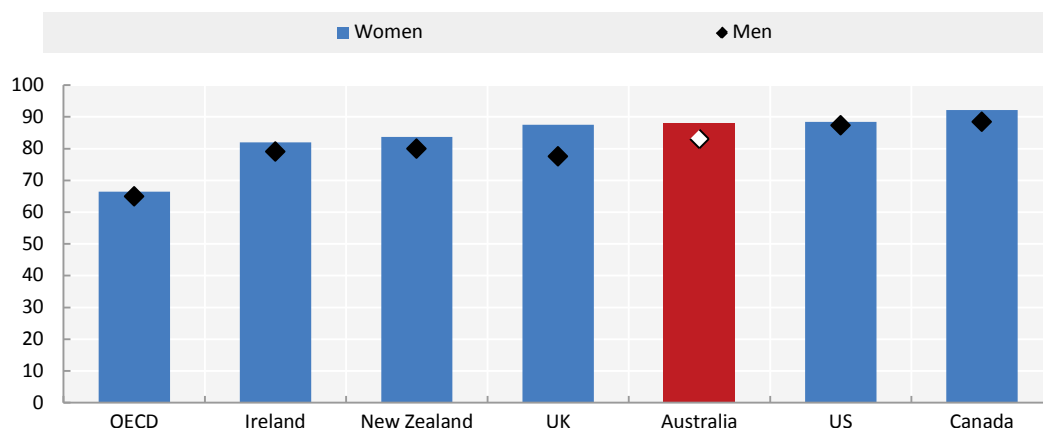


Source: OECD based on Gallup data.

But perceptions towards entrepreneurship show little gender bias

Gender gaps in the willingness to take entrepreneurial risk cannot be attributed to a general aversion of women towards entrepreneurship. Indeed, in Australia a vast majority of women see entrepreneurs as positive role models, and, as in most other OECD countries, the share is slightly higher than that of men (Figure 4).

Figure 4. In my country, people who run their own business are considered good role models for youth
Percentage, 2013



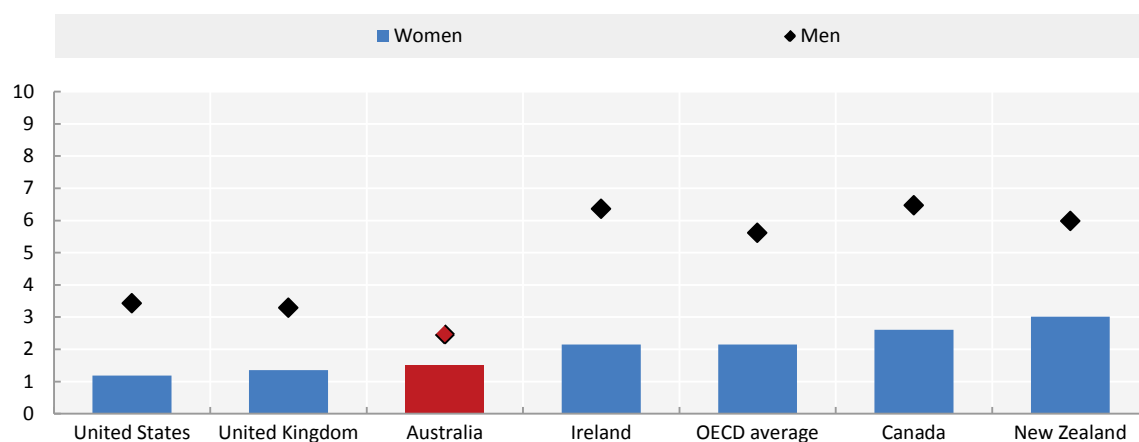
Source: OECD based on Gallup data.

Current trends in women entrepreneurship

Self-employment rates are often used as an important indicator of entrepreneurialism. The shares of employed Australian women who are self-employed with employees (1.5%) or are own-account workers (6.2%) are among the lowest in OECD English-speaking countries, and lie significantly below the corresponding OECD averages (Figure 7 and Figure 8).

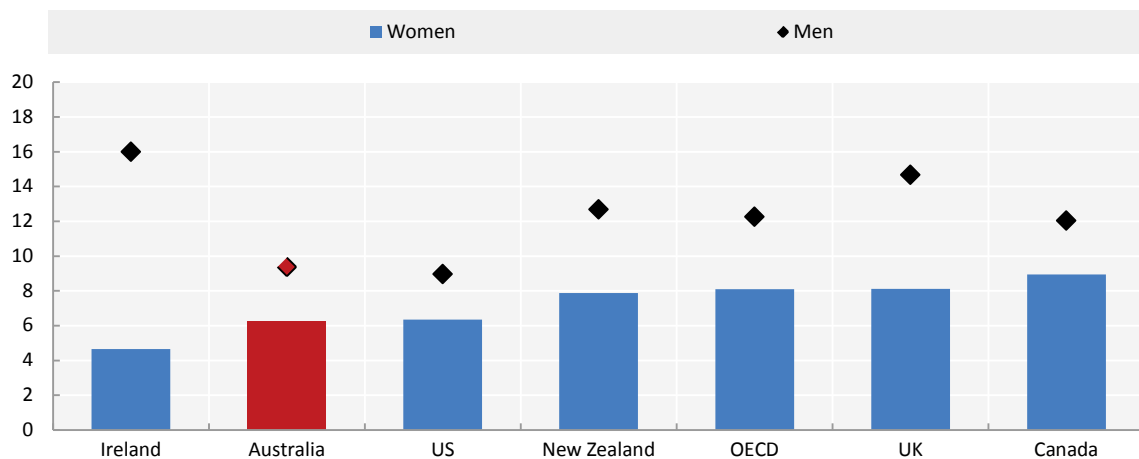
Although differences across countries partly reflect 'push', notably limited paid employment opportunities, as well as 'pull' factors, in most OECD countries the gap between the proportions of male and female entrepreneurs with employees (3.5 percentage points on average) is similar to the gender gap between the shares of own-account workers (4.1 percentage points on average). In Australia, these gaps are relatively smaller.

Figure 7. Share of employed women and men who are self-employed with employees
Percentage, 2014



Source: *Entrepreneurship at a Glance 2016, forthcoming*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

Figure 8. Share of employed women and men who are own-account workers
Percentage, 2014



Source: *Entrepreneurship at a Glance 2016, forthcoming*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

Further reading

Entrepreneurship at a Glance, OECD publishing, Paris, http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/industry-and-services/entrepreneurship-at-a-glance_22266941.

OECD Gender Data Portal: <http://www.oecd.org/gender/data/entrepreneurship.htm>