



Job Creation and Local Economic Development 2020: Rebuilding Better examines the impacts of COVID-19 on different types of local labour markets. It also considers their performance prior to the pandemic, and how COVID-19 could impact other ongoing local labour market transitions such as digitalisation, automation and the polarisation of jobs. Finally, it discusses the role local actors will play in rebuilding better. Consult the full publication [here](#).

Greece¹

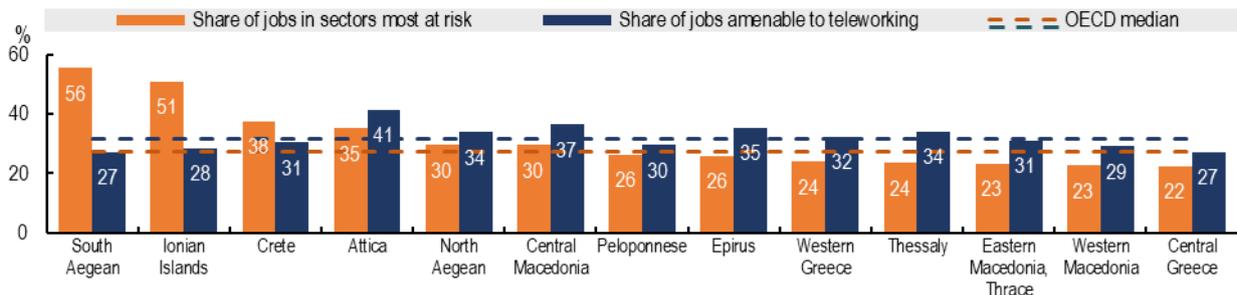
The share of jobs amenable to teleworking in Greece varies from 27% in Aegean and Central Greece to 41% in Attica.

No regions in Greece had lower unemployment rates in 2018 compared to 2008, a trend seen in less than one-third of OECD countries.

All regions in Greece saw declining shares of middle-skill jobs between 2000 and 2018, and unlike broader OECD trends, these were not offset by increasing shares of high-skill jobs in most regions.

The potential impacts of COVID-19 on local labour markets

Jobs in sectors most at risk and amenable to teleworking



Note: Share of jobs at risk is based on estimates of sectors most impacted by strict containment measures, such as those that involve travelling and direct contact between consumers and service providers. The sectoral composition of the regional economy is based on data from 2017 or latest available year. Share of jobs amenable to teleworking is based on the types of tasks performed in different occupations, and the share of those occupations in regional labour markets. These figures do not account for gaps in access to IT infrastructure across regions, which could further restrict teleworking potential. The OECD median presented here is the median of OECD regions with available data for each indicator.

Source: OECD calculations on OECD (2020), "Regional economy", *OECD Regional Statistics (database)*, <https://doi.org/10.1787/6b288ab8-en>; and OECD (2020), *OECD Regions and Cities at a Glance 2020*, <https://doi.org/10.1787/959d5ba0-en>.

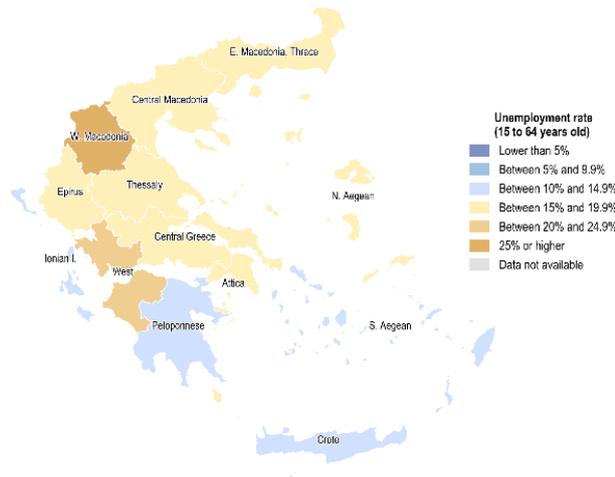
COVID-19 has put unprecedented pressure on local labour markets and economies. The share of jobs in the sectors most at risk from containment measures (e.g. accommodation and food services, and wholesale and retail trade) varies from less than 15% to more than 35% across OECD regions. In Greece, disparities between regions are relatively large: the share of jobs in sectors most at risk ranges from 22% in Central Greece to 56% in South Aegean. While half of regions had a lower share of jobs at risk than the OECD median region, Greece also has two regions with some of the highest shares of jobs at risk.

While containment measures have restricted economic activity in some sectors, the rapid expansion of teleworking has helped maintain other jobs. About half of Greek regions have a lower share of jobs amenable to teleworking than the OECD median region. The share of jobs amenable to teleworking varies roughly 14 percentage points across regions, from 27% in South Aegean and Central Greece to 41% in Attica, the capital region.

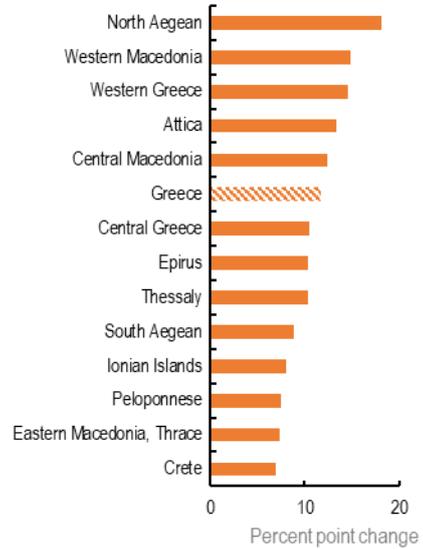
This document, as well as any data and any map included herein, are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

Local labour market performance prior to COVID-19

Unemployment rate, 2019



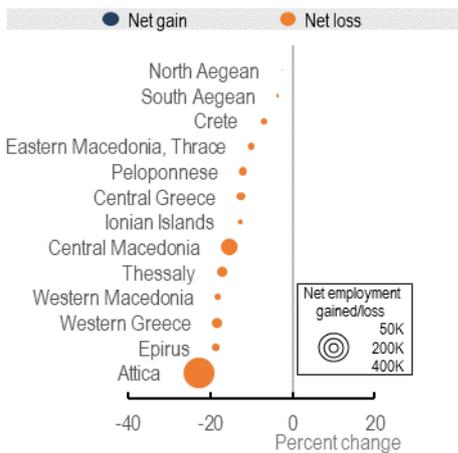
Change in unemployment rate, 2008-2018



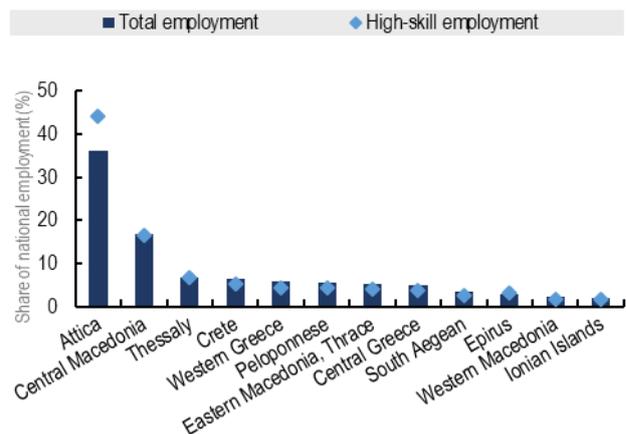
Note: The unemployment rate is computed as the share of unemployed people over the labour force, for the age group 15-64.
 Source: OECD (2020), "Regional labour markets", *OECD Regional Statistics (database)*, <https://doi.org/10.1787/f7445d96-en>.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment rates in Greece were generally high. Rates varied over two-fold across regions, from a low of 11.9% in Crete to a high of 25% in Western Macedonia in 2019. Looking at the decade following the 2008 crisis, no regions had unemployment rates lower in 2018 than in 2008, a pattern seen in less than one-third of OECD countries. Regional gaps in unemployment also grew over this period.

Change in net employment, 2008-2018



Employment by region and skill level, 2018

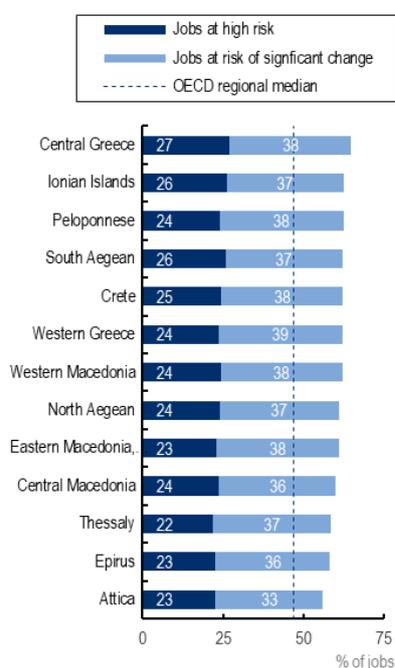


Source: OECD (2020), "Regional labour markets", *OECD Regional Statistics (database)*, <https://doi.org/10.1787/f7445d96-en> and OECD calculations on EU Labour Force Survey.

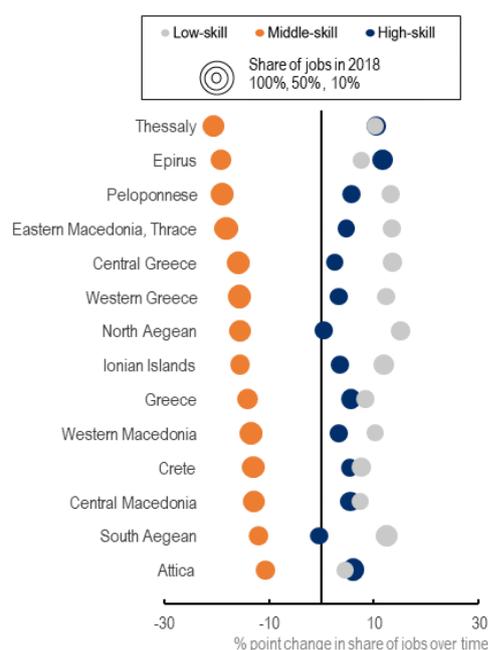
In all regions, the number of people employed shrunk between 2008 and 2018. Attica, the capital region, was responsible for over 50% of net employment loss over this period. In 2018, Attica accounted for almost over one-third of all employment in Greece and roughly 44% of all high-skilled employment. Looking at a longer time period (2000-2018), the geographic concentration of jobs (as measured by the number of people employed) increased in Greece. It also increased for high-skill jobs specifically, but to a lesser degree.

Local labour market transitions

Share of jobs at risk of automation, 2018



Job polarisation, 2000-2018



Note: In Panel A “high risk” refers to the share of workers whose job faces a risk of automation of 70% or above. “Significant risk of change” reflects the share of workers whose job faces a risk of automation between 50% and 70%.

In Panel B, High-skill occupations include jobs classified under the ISCO-88 major groups 1 (legislators, senior officials, and managers); 2 (professionals); and 3 (technicians and associate professionals). Middle-skill occupations include jobs classified under the ISCO-88 major groups 4 (clerks); 6 (skilled agricultural workers); 7 (craft and related trades workers); and 8 (plant and machine operators and assemblers). Low-skill occupations include jobs classified under the ISCO-88 major groups 5 (service workers and shop and market sales workers); and 9 (elementary occupations).

Source: OECD calculations based on Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) (2012); and EU Labour Force Survey; Nedelkoska, L. and G. Quintini (2018), “Automation, skills use and training”, <https://doi.org/10.1787/2e2f4eea-en>; and OECD (2020), *OECD Employment Outlook 2019: The Future of Work*, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9ee00155-en>.

COVID-19 will likely accelerate automation, putting additional pressures on places with relatively high shares of jobs at risk. All regions in Greece have a higher share of jobs at high risk or risk of significant change from automation than the OECD median region. The share of jobs at risk ranges from 56% in Attica to 65% in Central Greece.

Following general OECD patterns, in Greece, all regions saw the share of middle-skill jobs decrease between 2000 and 2018. The share of middle-skill jobs decreased by 15 percentage points or more in over half (8) regions. Attica saw the share of middle-skill jobs decrease by over 10 percentage points, representing a net loss of over 168 000 middle-skill jobs. Unlike trends in most OECD countries, decreasing shares of middle-skill jobs were predominantly *not* offset by increasing shares of high-skill jobs. In all regions except for Attica, Thessaly and Epirus, the share of low-skill jobs grew relatively more.

Notes

¹ Data is presented at the TL2 level, which typically corresponds to the first administrative tier of subnational government. See Reader's Guide of the full report for more information on the methodologies behind the calculations.