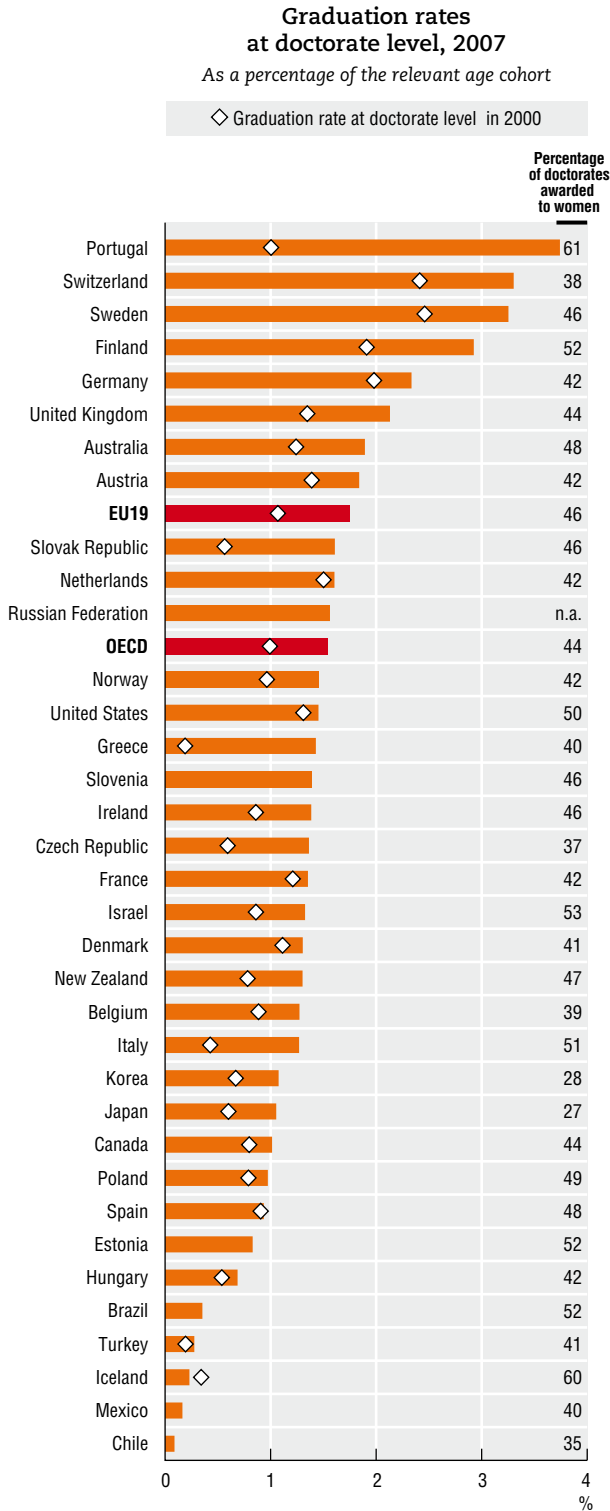


Doctoral graduates have attained the highest education level and are key players in research and innovation. They have been specifically trained to conduct research and are considered the best qualified to create and diffuse knowledge.



Source: OECD (2009a), *Education at a Glance 2009: OECD Indicators*, OECD, Paris.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/835355261387>

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2007, Brazil, China, India and the Russian Federation, taken together, trained half as many doctoral graduates as OECD countries, taken together.

(OECD Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2009.)

A small but growing proportion of the population obtains an advanced research programme degree. Since 2000, the number of OECD-area doctorates increased by 5% to reach more than 210 000 new doctorate holders in 2007. The higher participation of women at the doctoral level explains in large part the overall increase in doctorates awarded in the last decade.

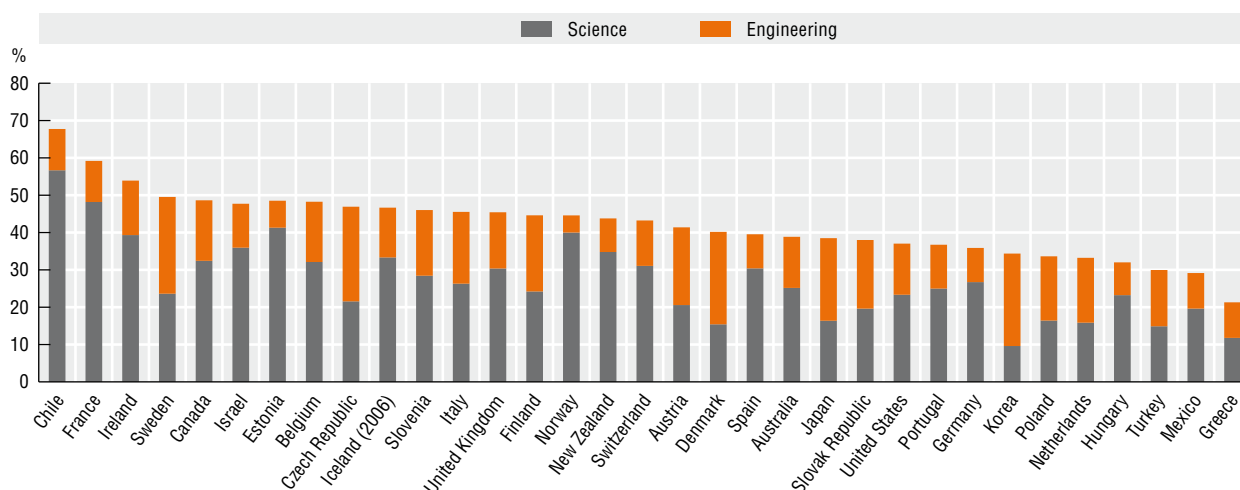
While the absolute number of science and engineering (S&E) doctorates increased significantly in all OECD countries over the last decade, the relative share of S&E doctorates has fallen in several countries. This is a serious concern for many countries given the important role played by science in today's knowledge-based economies.

Definitions

Doctoral graduates have attained the second stage of university education and obtain a degree at ISCED Level 6. They have successfully completed an advanced research programme and gained an advanced research qualification, e.g. Ph.D. Science degrees include: life sciences; physical sciences; mathematics and statistics; and computing. Engineering degrees comprise: engineering and engineering trades; manufacturing and processing; and architecture and building. Graduation rates represent the estimated percentage of an age cohort that will complete the corresponding level of education during their lifetime.

Science and engineering graduates at the doctoral level, 2007

As a percentage of all new degrees at the doctoral level

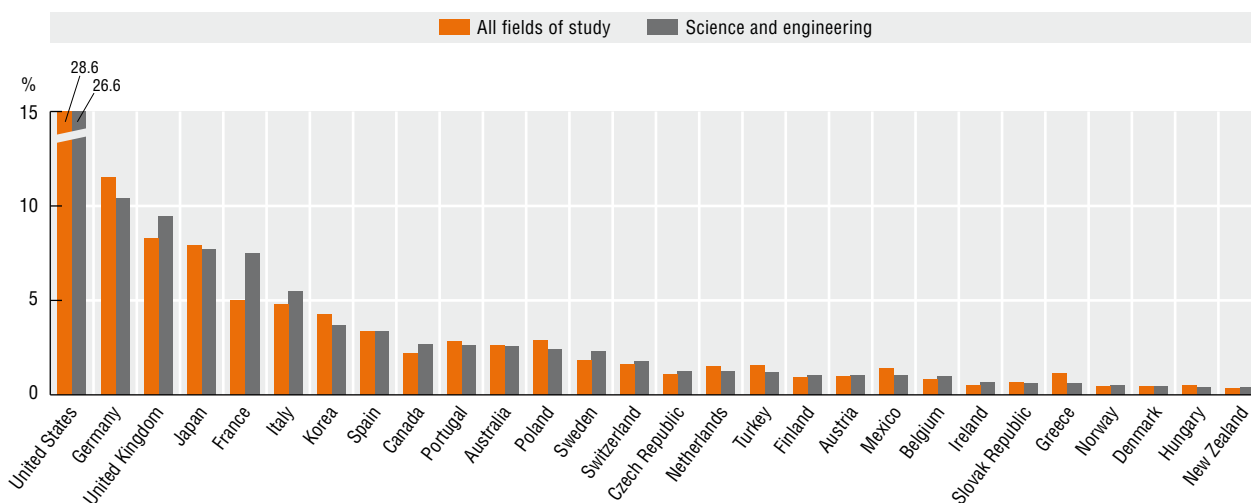


Source: OECD, Education Database, February 2010.

 StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/835355261387>

New graduates at doctorate level, by country of graduation, 2007

As a percentage of total OECD new graduates at doctorate level



Source: OECD, Education Database, February 2010.

 StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/835355261387>
Measurability

Graduation rates for tertiary programmes, including advanced research programmes, are calculated as net graduation rates (i.e. as the sum of age-specific graduation rates). Net graduation rates represent the estimated percentage of the age cohort that will complete tertiary education (based on current patterns of graduation). Gross graduation rates are used for countries that are unable to provide such detailed data. In order to calculate gross graduation rates, countries identify the age at which graduation typically occurs. The number of graduates, regardless of their age, is divided by the population at the typical graduation age. In many countries, defining a typical age of graduation is difficult because graduates are dispersed over a wide range of ages.