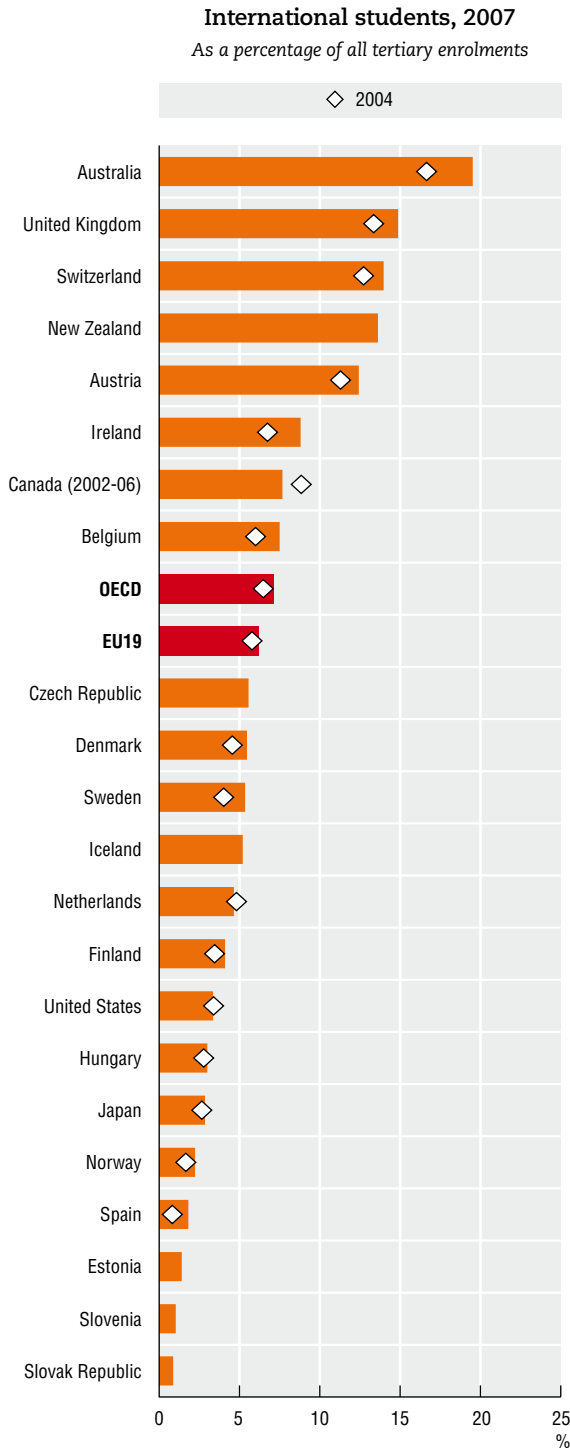


Mobility – and in particular international mobility – of skilled human resources plays an important role in innovation. It contributes to the creation and diffusion of knowledge, particularly tacit knowledge, which is more effectively shared within a common social and geographical context. Coherent and efficient migration regimes help making the most of brain circulation.



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

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/835412110164>

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 65% of foreign tertiary students in the United States come from Asia.

(OECD, Education Database, 2010.)

One way for students to expand their knowledge of cultures and languages, and better equip themselves in an increasingly globalised labour market, is to pursue their higher-level education in countries other than their own. Some countries, particularly in the European Union, have established policies and schemes that promote such mobility to foster intercultural contacts and to help build social networks.

The proportion of international students in tertiary enrolments provides a good indication of the magnitude of student mobility in different countries. The indicator can be broken down by level and field of education and can be used to highlight programmes that attract students from abroad.

Young people are also more likely to move between jobs than older professionals. Job-to-job mobility is particularly strong in the Nordic countries, probably as a consequence of an active labour market policy combined with social safety nets.

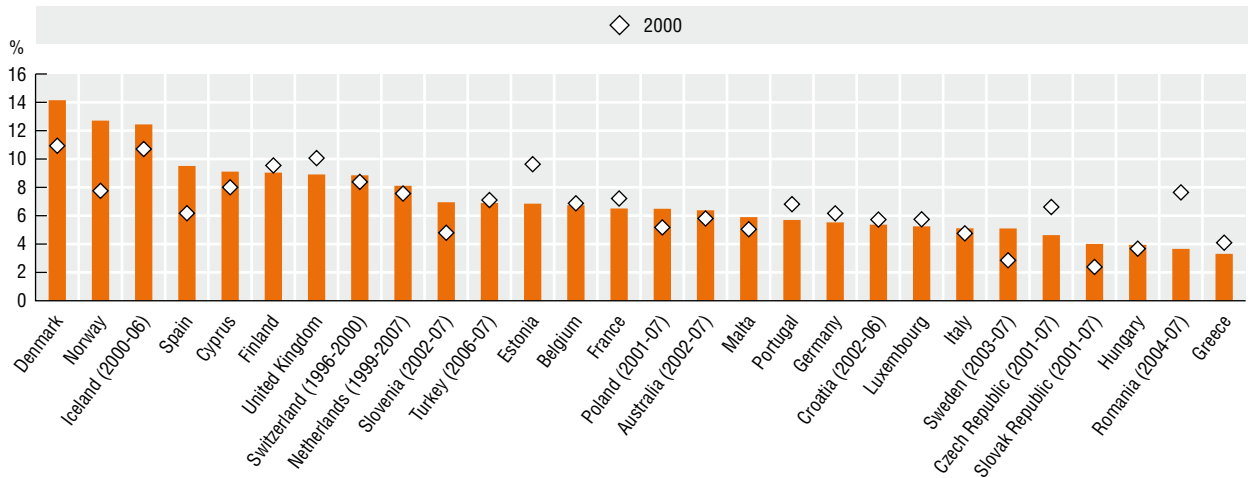
New data on doctorate holders reveal that in European countries 15% to 30% have experienced mobility over the past ten years. International mobility of professionals is driven by a variety of motives ranging from personal and family considerations to academic and job-related reasons.

Definitions

International students are those who travel to a country different from their own for the purpose of tertiary study. Depending on country-specific immigration legislation and data constraints, the definition is based either on the student's country of residence or on the student's country of prior education. *Job-to-job mobility* is defined as the movement of an individual between one job and another from one year to the next. It does not include inflows into the labour market from a situation of unemployment or inactivity. The rates are established by using information on when the current job began and the working status of the person one year before the survey. *Mobile doctorate holders* are those who have stayed abroad and returned to their home country for professional or personal reasons.

Job-to-job mobility of human resources in science and technology (HRST), employed 25-to-64-year-olds, 2007

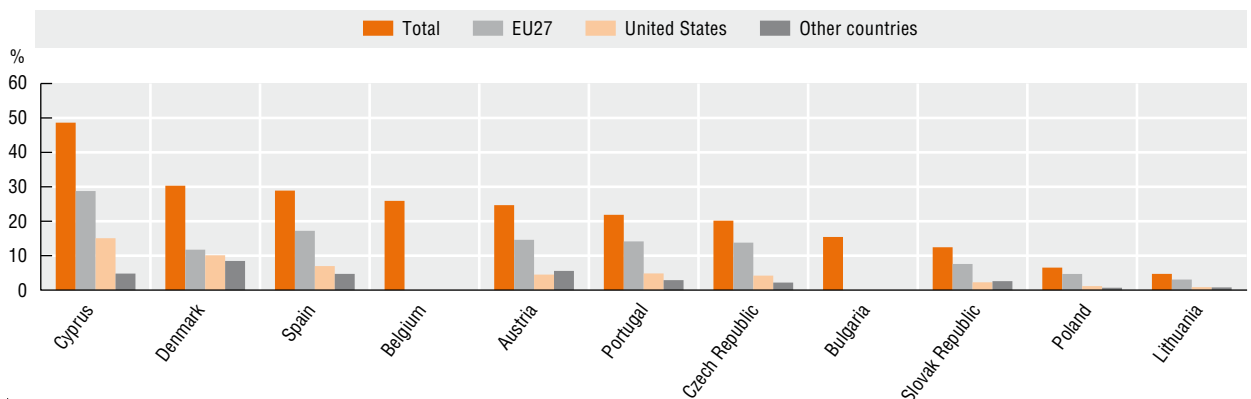
As a percentage of total employed HRST, 25-to-64-year-olds



Source: Eurostat, based on European Labour Force Surveys, October 2009.

 StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/835412110164>
International mobility of doctorate holders, by main destination, 2006

Percentage of national citizens with a doctorate having lived/stayed abroad in the past ten years


How to read this figure

30% of doctorate holders currently based in Denmark had stayed abroad in the last ten years. The breakdown of their last destination is: 12% in Europe, 10% in the United States and 8% in other countries.

Source: OECD/UIS/Eurostat CDH data collection 2009.

 StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/835412110164>
Measurability

The measurement of mobility poses a real challenge to statisticians, mainly because of the difficulty of tracking a moving target. Mobility can occur between jobs in the same enterprise, the same industry or the same sector of the economy, between different sectors (e.g. from a university to an enterprise), or between countries. International mobility is often approximated by measures of stocks (e.g. foreign citizens or foreign-born) and not of flows (change of situation or move to another country). A further complication is the difficulty of differentiating temporary mobility from migration. The OECD has made good progress in recent years in developing better statistics on international mobility and migration, notably of international students, using the results of the 2000 worldwide cycle of censuses. The Careers of Doctorate Holders (CDH) project has introduced new ways of capturing mobility by introducing, on the one hand, a new definition of “internationally mobile doctorate holders” and, on the other, a series of questions on national origin, the list of countries in which doctorate holders have studied, worked or carried out research, and the reasons for mobility. The first results, shown above, are promising, but need to be consolidated with the next data collection.