

## ELDERLY POPULATION BY REGION

In all OECD countries, populations aged 65 years and over have dramatically increased over the last 30 years, both in size and as a percentage of total population. As elderly people tend to be concentrated in few areas within each country, a small number of regions will have to face the social and economic challenges raised by ageing population.

### Definition

The elderly population is the number of inhabitants of a given region aged 65 or older. The population can be either the average annual population or the population at a specific date during the year considered. The average population during a calendar year is generally calculated as the arithmetic mean of the population on 1 January of two consecutive years (it is also referred to as the mean population).

The geographic concentration index offers an accurate picture of the spatial distribution of elderly population, as it takes into account the area of each region and reveals large

international differences in the degree of geographic concentration of elderly people.

The geographic concentration index compares the economic weight and the geographic weight over all regions in a given country and is constructed to account for both within- and between-country differences in the size of all regions. The index lies between 0 (no concentration) and 100 (maximum concentration) and is suitable for international comparisons of geographic concentration.

### Comparability

As for the other regional statistics, the comparability of elderly population data is affected by differences in the definition of the regions and the different geography of rural and urban communities (see Regional population), both within and among countries.

### Overview

As the elderly population may be more concentrated in few areas in each country, regions face different economic and social challenges raised by an ageing population. About 35% of elderly people within the OECD live in only 10% of regions. The share has not changed significantly in the past ten years with the exception of Ireland, due to the increase of the overall population and elderly population in the region of Dublin.

According to the geographic concentration index, Canada, Australia and Iceland are the countries with the highest concentration of elderly population. A relative geographic concentration of the elderly can facilitate the provision of services. The concentration of the elderly population may be a function of the total population – more population therefore more elderly people – or may be due to the regional disparities in age structure – same population but more elderly people. A comparison of the concentration indexes of total and elderly population shows that on average the elderly population is less concentrated than the total population.

### Source

- OECD (2009), *OECD Regions at a Glance 2009*, OECD, Paris.

### Further information

#### Analytical publications

- OECD (2001), *OECD Territorial Outlook, 2001 Edition*, OECD, Paris.
- Oliveira Martins J., F. Gonand, P. Antolin, C. de la Maisonneuve and K.-Y. Yoo (2005), *The Impact of Ageing on Demand, Factor Markets and Growth*, OECD Economics Department Working Papers, No. 420, OECD, Paris.
- Spiezia, V. (2003), "Measuring Regional Economies", OECD Statistics Brief, No. 6, October, OECD, Paris, [www.oecd.org/std/statisticsbrief](http://www.oecd.org/std/statisticsbrief).

#### Online databases

- OECD Regional Database.

#### Websites

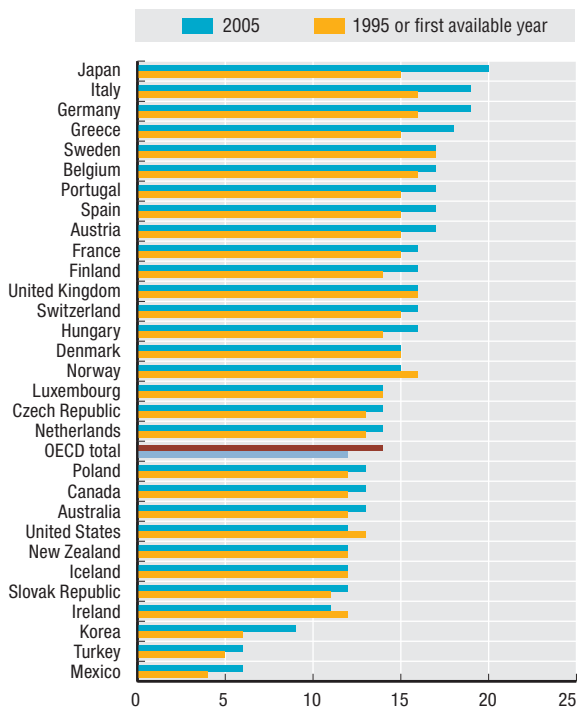
- Territorial grids, [www.oecd.org/gov/regional/statisticsindicators](http://www.oecd.org/gov/regional/statisticsindicators).
- OECD eXplorer, [www.oecd.org/gov/regional/statisticsindicators/explorer](http://www.oecd.org/gov/regional/statisticsindicators/explorer).



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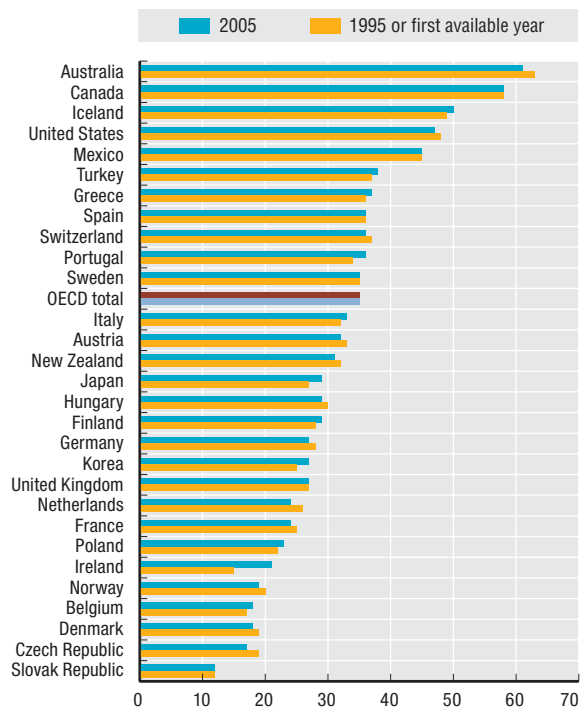
Percentage of elderly population by country

Percentage



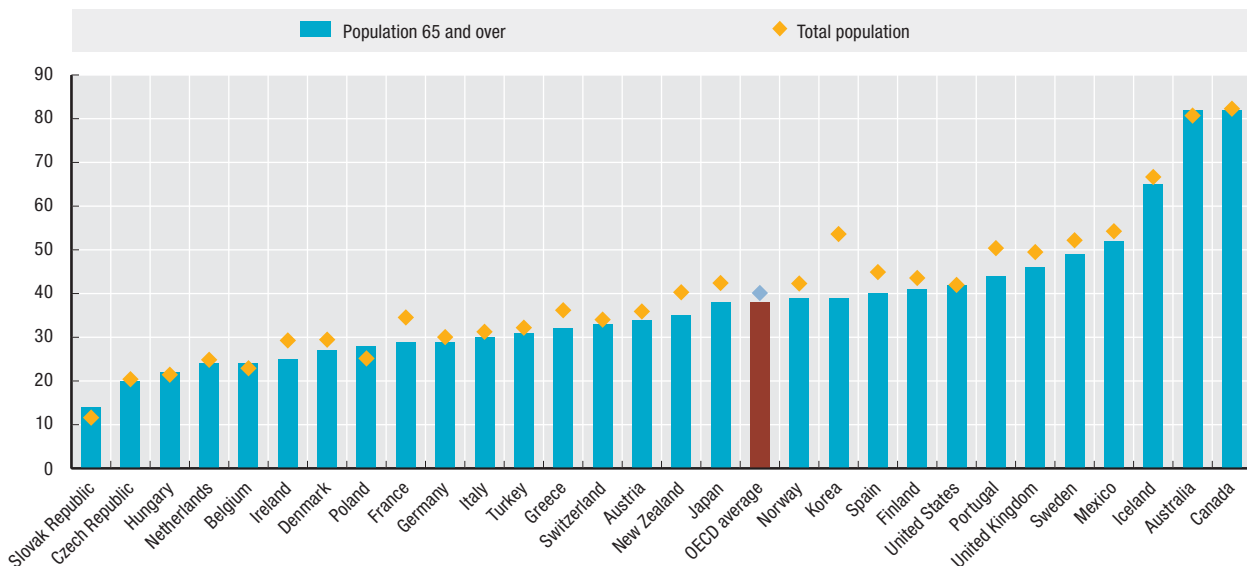
Share of national elderly population in the 10% of small regions with the largest elderly population

Percentage

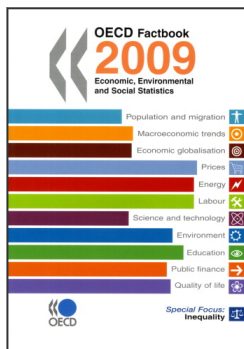


Index of geographic concentration of elderly population and population, small regions

Year 2005



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/534456588301>



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