

EMPLOYMENT RATES BY AGE GROUP

The employment rates in this chapter show the percentage of persons of working age who are in employment, broken down into three age groups. The youngest age group contains persons who are just entering the labour market, the second group those in their prime working lives, and the third group those who are approaching retirement.

Employment rates in these different age groups are significantly affected by government policies with regard to higher education, pensions and retirement age.

Definition

To calculate the employment rate for a given age group, the total population in that age group is divided between those in employment and those who are not. The numbers in employment are then expressed as a percentage of the total numbers in that age group.

Long-term trends

In general, employment rates for those in the prime working age group – 25 to 54 – are relatively similar between OECD countries with ratios for all countries except Turkey ranging between 70% and 90% in 2007. Rates are most variable between countries for those in the youngest age group where, in 2007, they ranged from under 25% in Hungary, Luxembourg, Greece and Italy, to over 60% in Iceland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Australia, and Switzerland. Employment rates for the oldest age group also vary considerably between countries, with more than 70% of this age group in employment in 2007 in Iceland, New Zealand and Sweden, but less than 30% employed in Turkey and Poland.

Over the period from 1998 to 2007, employment rates for the youngest age group have been slightly declining for the OECD as a whole, with sharpest decrease in the Czech Republic and Hungary. This partly reflects government policies to encourage young people to increase their educational qualifications. For those in the prime working age group – 25 to 54 – employment rates have grown for the OECD as a whole, but there were significant falls in the employment rates for Turkey, the United States and Slovak Republic, and large gains in Spain, Ireland and Italy. Persons in the oldest age group have fared particularly well overall, with the largest increases in employment rates for Finland, the Netherlands, Hungary and New Zealand.

Employment is generally measured through household labour force surveys and, in accordance with the ILO Guidelines, employed persons are defined as those aged 15 or over who report that they have worked in gainful employment for at least one hour in the previous week. Those not in employment consist of persons who are out of work but seeking employment, students and all others who have excluded themselves from the labour force for one reason or another, such as incapacity or the need to look after young children or elderly relatives.

Comparability

All OECD countries use the ILO Guidelines for measuring employment, but the operational definitions used in national labour force surveys vary slightly in Iceland and Turkey. Employment levels are also likely to be affected by changes in the survey design and/or the survey conduct, but employment rates are likely to be fairly consistent over time.

Source

- OECD (2008), *OECD Employment Outlook*, OECD, Paris.
- For Non-Member Countries: National Sources.

Further information

Analytical publications

- Burniaux, J.-M., R. Duval and F. Jaumotte (2004), *Coping with Ageing*, OECD Economics Department Working Papers, No. 371, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2000), *From Initial Education to Working Life: Making Transitions Work*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2006), *Ageing and Employment Policies*, OECD, Paris.

Statistical publications

- OECD (2004), *Quarterly Labour Force Statistics*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2008), *Labour Force Statistics*, OECD, Paris.


Websites

- OECD Labour Statistics Database, www.oecd.org/statistics/labour.
- OECD Jobs for Youth Project, www.oecd.org/employment/youth.
- OECD Ageing and Employment Policies, www.oecd.org/els/employment/olderworkers.
- NERO Meeting on Labour Market Issues, Paris, 25 June 2004, www.oecd.org/eco/nero.
- OECD Employment Data, www.oecd.org/els/employment/data.
- Youth Employment Summit, www.yesweb.org.

Employment rates for age group 15-24

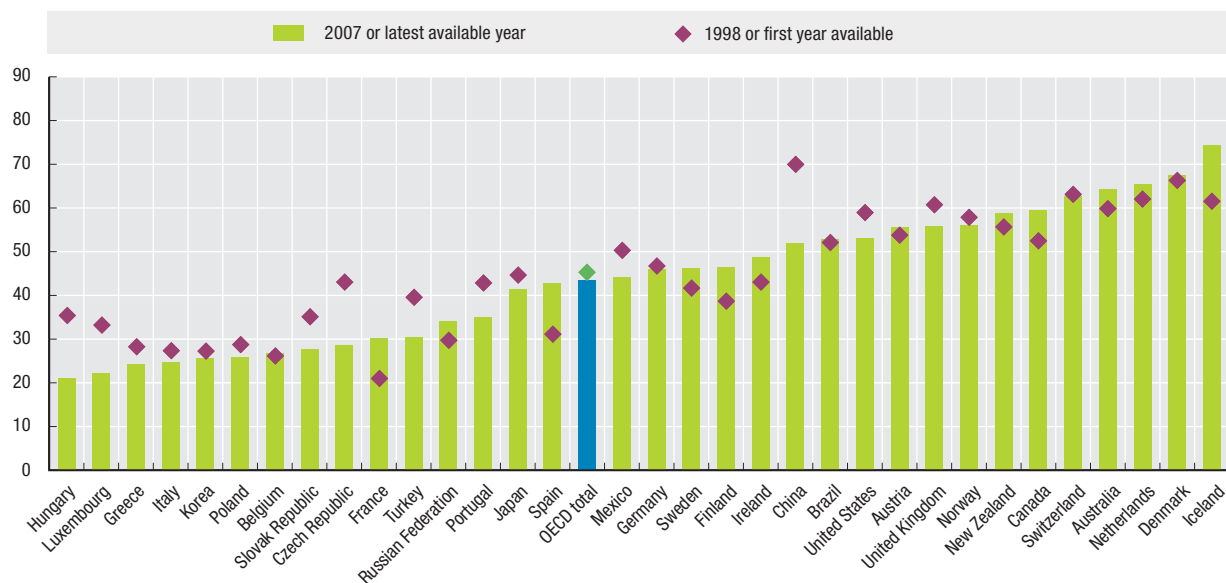
Persons in employment as a percentage of population in that age group


	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australia	58.6	60.8	60.5	58.9	59.9	61.0	62.1	61.2	61.1	61.8	62.4	63.6	63.9	64.2
Austria	59.2	57.2	55.6	54.7	53.8	53.8	52.8	51.6	51.7	51.1	51.9	53.1	54.0	55.5
Belgium	27.5	26.6	26.1	25.2	26.0	25.5	30.3	28.5	28.5	27.1	28.1	26.6	26.2	26.8
Canada	53.8	53.8	52.7	51.5	52.5	54.5	56.3	56.3	57.5	58.3	58.0	57.8	58.7	59.5
Czech Republic	47.5	46.6	45.8	44.2	43.0	40.1	38.3	36.1	33.7	31.4	28.5	27.3	27.7	28.5
Denmark	62.1	65.9	66.0	68.2	66.4	66.0	67.1	61.7	64.0	59.4	61.3	62.0	63.7	67.4
Finland	31.9	33.4	34.5	37.1	38.6	41.8	42.9	43.5	42.4	41.4	41.3	42.1	44.1	46.4
France	22.0	21.8	21.3	19.9	20.8	20.7	23.2	24.3	24.1	29.7	29.3	29.3	28.9	30.1
Germany	51.4	49.1	47.0	45.8	46.7	47.1	47.2	47.0	44.8	42.4	41.9	42.6	44.0	45.9
Greece	26.7	26.5	25.4	24.5	28.1	26.8	26.9	26.0	26.8	26.2	27.4	25.3	24.5	24.2
Hungary	30.8	31.3	30.4	31.3	35.3	35.7	32.5	30.7	28.5	26.7	23.6	21.8	21.7	21.0
Iceland	51.7	54.9	54.8	55.7	61.6	65.1	68.2	66.8	59.4	68.1	66.3	71.6	72.9	74.3
Ireland	33.5	37.3	36.4	38.3	43.0	46.4	48.2	47.0	44.8	45.2	44.7	46.4	48.4	48.8
Italy	28.3	27.3	26.9	27.0	27.2	27.3	27.8	27.4	26.7	26.0	27.2	25.5	25.5	24.7
Japan	45.0	44.7	45.0	45.3	44.6	42.9	42.7	42.0	41.0	40.3	40.0	40.9	41.4	41.4
Korea	34.5	34.6	33.7	32.2	27.1	27.6	29.4	30.1	31.5	30.8	31.2	29.9	27.2	25.7
Luxembourg	42.8	38.2	36.9	34.7	33.1	31.7	31.8	32.3	32.3	27.0	23.3	24.9	23.3	22.1
Mexico	50.3	48.2	48.2	49.2	50.3	50.3	48.9	47.2	45.4	44.1	44.3	43.7	44.8	44.2
Netherlands	55.4	56.3	58.1	60.9	62.1	65.4	66.5	66.8	66.7	64.9	63.2	61.9	63.9	65.4
New Zealand	56.5	59.4	59.5	58.2	55.7	54.6	54.6	55.8	56.6	56.3	56.8	56.9	58.8	58.7
Norway	48.4	49.2	52.3	55.1	57.9	57.8	58.1	56.5	56.9	55.3	54.4	52.9	55.8	56.0
Poland	28.0	27.3	27.9	28.8	28.6	24.3	24.5	22.1	20.0	19.6	20.0	20.9	24.0	25.8
Portugal	40.5	37.6	37.1	39.2	42.8	42.6	42.0	42.7	41.9	38.4	36.9	36.1	35.8	34.9
Slovak Republic	34.4	34.8	36.8	36.4	35.0	31.0	29.0	27.9	27.2	27.6	26.5	25.6	25.7	27.6
Spain	28.3	28.6	28.3	29.4	31.0	34.4	36.3	37.1	36.6	36.8	38.4	41.9	43.3	42.9
Sweden	41.3	42.5	40.3	39.7	41.6	43.8	46.1	47.8	46.5	45.1	42.8	42.5	44.0	46.3
Switzerland	60.3	60.1	63.3	62.9	63.2	64.8	65.1	63.9	65.4	63.5	61.9	59.9	63.3	62.6
Turkey	43.0	41.0	42.0	40.3	39.5	39.7	37.0	35.3	33.0	30.5	31.6	31.2	30.8	30.4
United Kingdom	58.8	59.0	60.2	60.8	60.8	60.8	61.5	61.0	60.9	59.7	60.1	58.6	57.3	55.9
United States	58.1	58.3	57.6	58.0	59.0	59.0	59.7	57.7	55.7	53.9	53.9	53.9	54.2	53.1
EU27 total	..	..	..	..	..	..	37.0	37.3	36.7	36.1	35.7	36.1	36.6	37.4
OECD total	45.7	45.1	44.9	45.0	45.4	45.4	45.6	44.8	43.7	42.8	43.1	43.1	43.5	43.5
Brazil	..	57.7	54.7	54.0	52.1	51.7	..	50.8	51.7	50.8	52.4	52.7	52.6	52.9
China	70.1	65.7	61.5	57.1	55.7	52.8	51.9
Russian Federation	..	41.0	38.0	33.0	29.6	34.4	34.6	33.5	34.2	32.7	32.5	32.9	32.5	34.1

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Employment rates for age group 15-24

Persons in employment as a percentage of population in that age group




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EMPLOYMENT RATES BY AGE GROUP

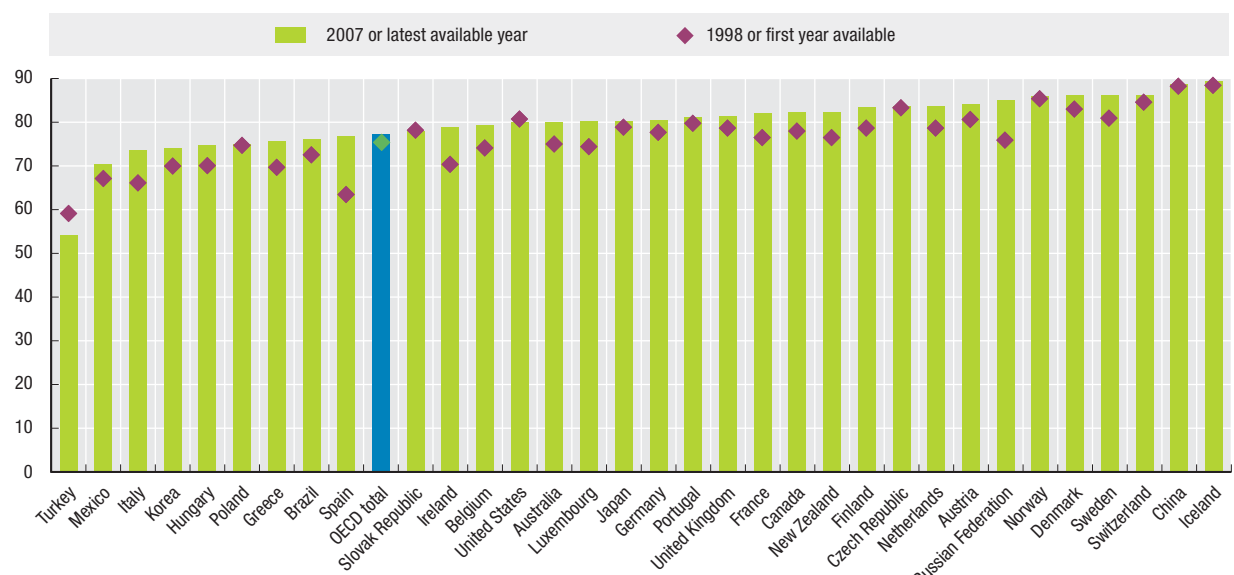

Employment rates for age group 25-54

Persons in employment as a percentage of population in that age group

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australia	73.6	75.2	74.9	74.9	75.3	75.5	76.3	76.3	76.7	77.2	77.4	78.8	79.2	80.0
Austria	79.8	80.6	80.3	80.8	81.0	82.0	82.5	82.7	83.5	84.0	82.6	82.6	83.5	84.0
Belgium	73.1	73.8	73.9	74.6	74.4	76.4	77.9	76.6	76.6	76.1	77.3	78.3	78.2	79.3
Canada	75.5	76.2	76.2	77.3	78.3	79.2	79.9	79.8	80.3	80.8	81.3	81.3	81.6	82.2
Czech Republic	86.3	86.3	85.8	85.0	83.7	81.9	81.6	82.1	82.5	81.7	81.4	82.0	82.5	83.5
Denmark	80.5	81.7	82.2	82.8	83.4	84.4	84.3	84.5	84.7	83.5	84.0	83.9	85.5	86.1
Finland	74.9	76.1	76.9	77.5	79.0	80.4	80.9	81.5	81.6	81.1	81.0	81.7	82.5	83.3
France	76.3	77.0	76.9	76.4	76.8	77.0	78.3	79.3	79.4	80.4	80.5	80.7	81.2	82.1
Germany	76.2	76.8	76.8	76.7	78.0	78.7	79.3	79.3	78.8	78.2	78.1	77.4	78.8	80.3
Greece	68.6	68.8	69.5	69.7	69.9	70.0	70.2	70.4	71.9	73.1	73.7	74.3	75.3	75.7
Hungary	71.7	70.7	70.4	70.2	70.3	72.3	73.0	73.1	73.0	73.7	73.6	73.7	74.2	74.6
Iceland	87.5	89.1	89.3	88.2	88.9	90.9	90.6	90.7	90.0	89.2	88.0	88.2	89.1	89.4
Ireland	62.7	64.7	66.3	67.4	70.6	73.2	75.3	76.4	76.4	75.7	76.5	77.8	78.2	78.8
Italy	65.8	65.5	65.7	65.8	66.3	67.1	68.0	69.2	70.1	70.8	72.1	72.2	73.3	73.5
Japan	79.5	79.3	79.6	79.9	79.2	78.7	78.6	78.6	78.0	78.3	78.6	79.0	79.6	80.2
Korea	73.6	74.2	74.7	74.8	70.2	70.3	72.2	72.6	73.4	73.1	73.4	73.4	73.9	74.0
Luxembourg	73.5	71.9	73.2	74.4	74.7	76.7	78.2	78.7	79.1	77.8	79.3	80.7	81.0	80.1
Mexico	65.0	63.7	65.2	67.6	67.3	66.9	67.4	67.1	67.6	67.3	68.7	68.8	69.9	70.3
Netherlands	73.7	75.0	75.5	77.3	79.0	79.9	81.0	81.6	81.2	81.1	80.6	80.9	82.0	83.6
New Zealand	76.2	77.6	78.4	77.8	76.8	77.6	78.6	79.3	79.6	79.8	80.8	82.0	82.1	82.2
Norway	81.3	82.4	83.7	85.0	85.8	85.5	85.3	85.1	84.4	82.9	83.1	83.2	84.4	85.8
Poland	73.8	74.2	74.6	74.7	75.0	73.7	70.9	69.3	67.5	67.6	68.3	69.5	71.8	74.9
Portugal	78.7	78.7	78.7	79.3	80.1	80.6	81.8	82.2	81.5	81.0	81.1	80.8	81.3	81.0
Slovak Republic	78.4	78.7	80.3	79.3	78.5	76.1	74.7	74.8	75.1	76.0	74.7	75.3	77.2	78.0
Spain	58.4	59.5	60.6	62.0	63.6	66.1	68.4	69.5	70.1	71.3	72.7	74.4	75.8	76.8
Sweden	81.9	82.6	81.8	80.7	81.3	82.5	83.8	84.6	84.2	83.5	82.9	83.9	84.7	86.1
Switzerland	83.2	84.2	83.6	83.4	85.0	85.1	85.4	86.0	86.0	84.8	84.7	85.1	85.2	86.1
Turkey	59.8	60.5	60.1	59.0	59.2	58.2	56.7	55.5	54.6	54.0	54.1	54.1	54.2	54.2
United Kingdom	76.5	77.1	77.4	78.3	79.0	79.6	80.2	80.5	80.3	80.7	80.7	81.1	81.2	81.3
United States	79.2	79.7	80.2	80.9	81.1	81.4	81.5	80.5	79.3	78.8	79.0	79.3	79.8	79.9
EU27 total	..	..	..	..	..	..	76.0	76.3	76.1	76.4	76.6	77.2	78.2	79.1
OECD total	74.5	74.8	75.1	75.5	75.6	75.7	76.0	75.8	75.4	75.3	75.6	75.9	76.6	77.2
Brazil	..	75.0	72.8	73.3	72.8	73.2	..	73.1	74.2	74.0	75.4	75.9	76.3	76.1
China	88.7	87.7	86.6	85.6	85.2	88.0	88.7
Russian Federation	..	81.1	80.7	77.9	76.2	77.9	80.2	80.7	81.8	81.4	82.2	82.9	83.1	85.1

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Employment rates for age group 25-54

Persons in employment as a percentage of population in that age group


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Employment rates for age group 55-64

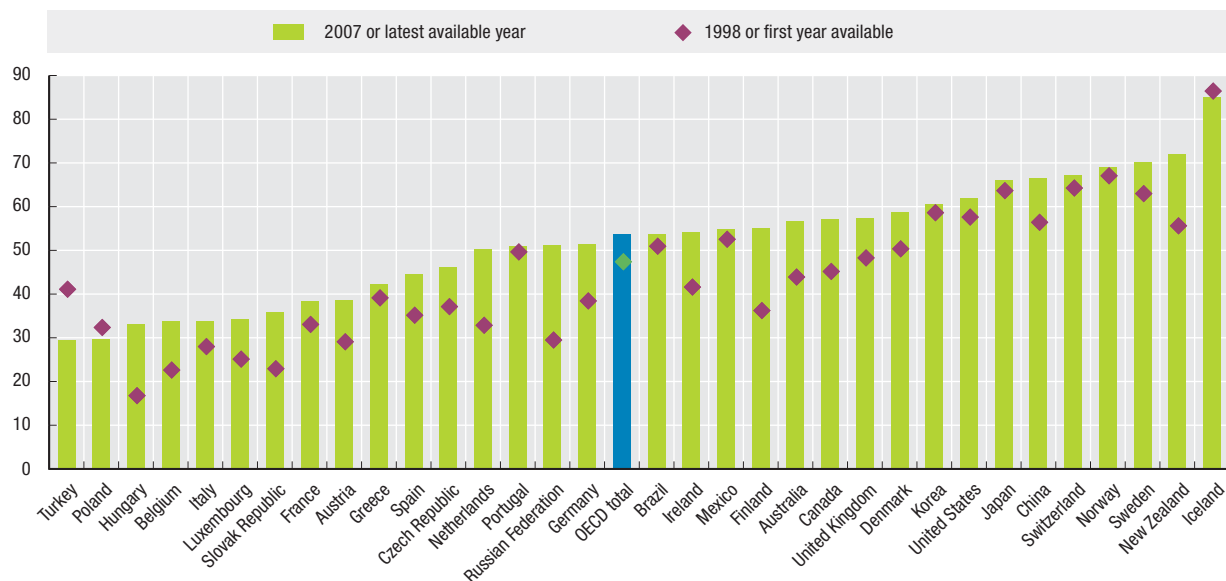
Persons in employment as a percentage of population in that age group

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australia	40.5	41.7	42.4	42.7	43.9	44.3	46.2	46.7	48.7	50.5	52.0	53.7	55.6	56.7
Austria	28.4	30.2	29.1	28.5	29.0	29.7	28.3	28.2	29.2	30.3	28.8	31.8	35.5	38.6
Belgium	22.4	23.3	21.8	22.0	22.5	24.7	25.0	25.2	25.8	28.1	30.1	32.1	30.4	33.8
Canada	43.6	43.2	43.5	44.4	45.2	46.8	48.1	48.2	50.1	53.0	53.9	54.8	55.6	57.1
Czech Republic	32.3	34.8	37.3	38.3	37.1	37.5	36.3	37.1	40.8	42.3	42.6	44.6	45.2	46.0
Denmark	50.2	49.3	47.5	51.4	50.4	54.2	54.6	56.5	57.3	60.7	61.8	59.8	60.9	58.7
Finland	33.5	34.4	35.6	35.7	36.2	39.2	42.3	45.9	47.8	49.9	51.0	52.6	54.5	55.0
France	33.4	33.5	33.5	33.6	33.0	34.2	34.3	36.5	39.3	37.0	37.6	38.7	38.1	38.3
Germany	35.9	37.4	38.0	38.3	38.4	37.8	37.6	37.9	38.6	39.0	41.8	45.5	48.1	51.3
Greece	39.5	40.5	40.7	40.7	39.1	38.4	39.0	38.0	38.9	41.0	39.4	41.6	42.4	42.1
Hungary	17.0	17.1	17.4	17.3	16.6	19.4	21.9	23.5	25.6	29.0	31.1	33.0	33.6	33.1
Iceland	84.7	85.1	83.8	83.7	86.7	85.9	84.2	85.6	87.2	83.3	82.0	84.8	84.9	84.9
Ireland	39.5	39.4	40.3	40.2	41.6	43.8	45.2	46.6	47.9	49.2	49.5	51.7	53.4	54.1
Italy	29.4	28.4	28.7	28.0	27.9	27.6	27.7	28.0	28.9	30.3	30.5	31.4	32.5	33.8
Japan	63.7	63.7	63.6	64.2	63.8	63.4	62.8	62.0	61.6	62.1	63.0	63.9	64.7	66.1
Korea	62.9	63.6	63.2	63.8	58.7	58.2	57.8	58.3	59.5	57.8	58.5	58.7	59.3	60.6
Luxembourg	23.2	24.0	22.6	23.7	25.0	26.3	27.2	24.8	27.9	30.3	30.4	31.7	33.2	34.3
Mexico	52.4	50.0	51.3	54.5	52.6	54.1	51.7	51.1	52.2	52.9	53.8	52.6	55.0	54.7
Netherlands	29.0	29.4	30.3	31.3	32.8	34.9	37.6	39.2	42.7	42.9	44.2	44.9	46.9	50.1
New Zealand	47.3	50.4	53.9	54.5	55.7	56.9	57.2	60.7	63.4	64.3	67.2	69.7	70.4	72.0
Norway	61.6	63.1	64.6	66.0	67.2	67.3	67.1	67.4	68.4	68.6	68.0	67.6	67.4	69.0
Poland	34.4	33.8	33.0	33.6	32.3	32.5	28.4	29.0	27.9	28.6	28.0	29.1	28.1	29.7
Portugal	45.9	44.6	46.2	47.1	49.7	50.4	50.8	50.0	50.9	51.1	50.3	50.5	50.1	50.9
Slovak Republic	21.3	21.7	22.8	21.4	22.8	22.3	21.3	22.3	22.9	24.6	26.8	30.4	33.2	35.7
Spain	32.7	32.4	33.2	34.1	35.1	35.1	37.0	39.2	39.7	40.8	41.3	43.1	44.1	44.6
Sweden	61.9	62.0	63.4	62.7	63.1	64.0	65.1	67.0	68.4	69.0	69.5	69.6	69.8	70.1
Switzerland	61.1	61.7	63.3	63.9	64.4	64.6	63.3	67.3	64.6	65.7	65.2	65.1	65.7	67.2
Turkey	40.8	41.7	41.6	40.5	41.1	39.3	36.4	35.9	35.3	32.7	33.1	30.8	30.1	29.4
United Kingdom	47.4	47.5	47.8	48.5	48.3	49.4	50.4	52.1	53.1	55.4	56.2	56.7	57.4	57.4
United States	54.4	55.1	55.9	57.2	57.7	57.7	57.8	58.6	59.5	59.9	59.9	60.8	61.8	61.8
EU27 total	..	..	..	..	..	..	36.8	37.5	38.2	39.9	40.5	42.3	43.5	44.7
OECD total	46.1	46.4	46.9	47.6	47.6	47.9	47.9	48.4	49.4	50.0	50.8	51.9	52.8	53.7
Brazil	..	53.3	50.7	51.1	51.0	52.2	..	51.2	52.7	52.1	52.5	54.0	54.0	53.7
China	56.5	55.9	54.5	52.6	58.3	64.5	66.5
Russian Federation	..	33.7	32.6	31.6	29.4	34.8	34.8	31.9	35.2	37.8	40.4	44.6	47.4	51.1

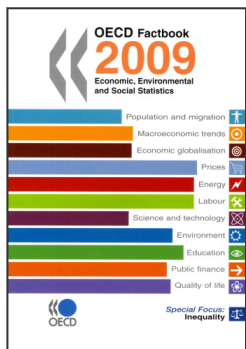
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Employment rates for age group 55-64

Persons in employment as a percentage of population in that age group



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