

Employment by enterprise size

Key facts

- There are significant variations across countries in the distribution of employment among enterprises of different sizes. In Spain, Portugal and Italy more than 40% of employment is in micro-enterprises (enterprises with less than ten persons employed) and almost 60% in Greece, while in Japan this share is around 13%.
- In the OECD area, micro-enterprises account on average for 42% and 32% of total employment in construction and services respectively; in manufacturing their contribution to employment is 14%.
- Employment in manufacturing is dominated by large firms: they employ more than 40% of people working in the sector, despite accounting for less than 1% of all manufacturing firms. Between 2008 and 2012 employment in manufacturing decreased in virtually all countries apart from Germany and Brazil.
- There are significant differences across countries in the shares of unpaid persons employed by micro-enterprises. The highest shares are observed in the Czech Republic, Mexico and the Slovak Republic.

Definitions

The *number of persons employed* includes all persons who worked for the concerned unit during the reference year.

Total employment excludes directors of incorporated enterprises and members of shareholders' committees who are paid solely for their attendance at meetings, labour force made available to the concerned unit by other units and charged for, persons carrying out repair and maintenance work in the unit on the behalf of other units, and home workers. It also excludes persons on indefinite leave, military leave or those whose only remuneration from the enterprise is by way of a pension.

Unpaid persons employed are a subset of persons employed and include unpaid family workers and working proprietors. Figure 2.9 shows the unpaid persons employed in micro-enterprises as a share of total employment in these firms.

Information on data for Israel: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932315602>.

Relevance

Information on employment by enterprise size is useful in assessing the underlying potential that exists within an economy to generate employment growth.

Comparability

All countries present information using the enterprise as the statistical unit except Japan, Korea and Mexico, which use establishments. Data on number of persons employed for Israel, the United States and Russian Federation do not include non-employer enterprise counts.

The size-class breakdown 1-9, 10-19, 20-49, 50-249, 250+ provides for the best comparability given the varying data collection practices across countries. Some countries use different conventions: the size class "1-9" refers to "0-10" for Mexico and "1-19" for Turkey; the size class "10-19" refers to "11-20" for Mexico; the size class "20-49" refers to "21-50" for Mexico and "20-99" for the United States (for 2011 data and earlier); the size class "50-249" refers to "51-250" for Mexico, "50+" for Japan, "50-299" for Korea, and "100-499" for the United States (for 2011 data and earlier); finally, the size class "250+" refers to "300+" for Korea, "251+" for Mexico and "500+" for the United States (for 2011 data and earlier).

In case of Chile data refer to industry and not manufacturing.

Some care is needed when interpreting changes over time, as the data do not track cohorts of firms. Shrinkages in large firms may lead to them subsequently being recorded as SMEs and correspondingly, expansions in SMEs may result in them being classified as large enterprises.

Source

OECD *Structural and Demographic Business Statistics (SDBS)* (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/sdbs-data-en>.

Further reading

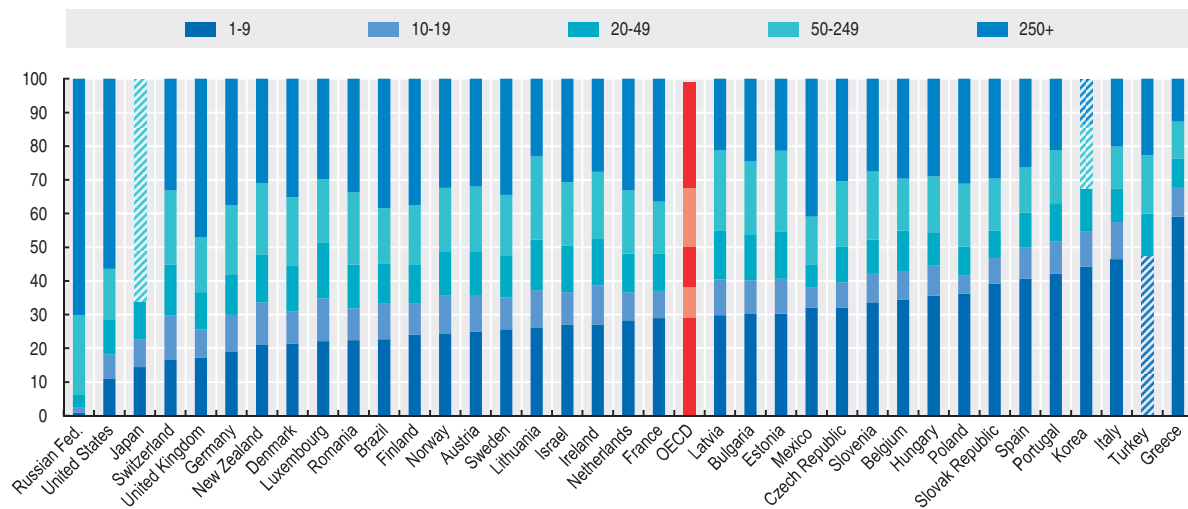
OECD (2010), *Structural and Demographic Business Statistics*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264072886-en>.

2. STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE ENTERPRISE POPULATION

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Figure 2.5. **Persons employed by enterprise size, total business economy**

Percentage, 2012, or latest available year



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Table 2.2. **Persons employed by enterprise size, total business economy**

2012, or latest available year

	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-249	250+	Total
Austria	663 955	291 803	346 308	511 654	853 689	2 667 409
Belgium	923 573	228 492	321 111	414 864	794 645	2 682 685
Brazil	7 439 200	3 454 837	3 930 623	5 380 858	12 565 022	32 770 540
Bulgaria	560 700	185 152	254 677	402 916	453 994	1 857 439
Czech Republic	1 125 174	261 322	374 220	678 144	1 061 276	3 500 136
Denmark	340 019	152 880	214 146	326 309	558 110	1 591 464
Estonia	116 507	39 685	54 027	91 894	81 954	384 067
Finland	344 491	131 404	167 351	252 787	536 755	1 432 788
France	4 468 390	1 250 362	1 710 685	2 363 918	5 622 970	15 416 325
Germany	4 991 051	2 890 732	3 193 156	5 401 977	9 888 574	26 365 490
Greece	1 279 201	184 421	188 121	238 195	274 140	2 164 078
Hungary	862 029	213 965	235 539	405 984	699 952	2 417 469
Ireland	279 703	120 023	141 587	206 129	285 313	1 032 755
Israel	539 278	191 120	274 667	376 932	611 831	1 993 828
Italy	6 792 243	1 640 665	1 452 061	1 833 330	2 943 880	14 662 179
Japan	4 549 468	2 598 881	3 596 887	20 858 492		31 603 728
Korea	6 053 143	1 414 906	1 748 833	2 660 476	1 800 533	13 677 891
Latvia	170 730	60 615	83 101	135 841	121 487	571 774
Lithuania	212 409	89 124	121 488	200 302	186 574	809 897
Luxembourg	43 337	24 739	32 243	36 882	58 344	195 545
Mexico	2 287 014	415 830	497 041	1 009 294	2 909 617	7 118 796
Netherlands	1 506 207	441 951	608 481	1 003 678	1 761 505	5 321 822
New Zealand	260 634	155 878	177 688	262 160	383 840	1 240 200
Norway	368 295	169 210	198 566	283 870	488 429	1 508 370
Poland	3 003 819	458 553	695 584	1 550 950	2 583 679	8 292 585
Portugal	1 237 441	278 614	332 587	462 751	619 976	2 931 369
Romania	856 873	361 433	497 432	820 615	1 291 015	3 827 368
Russian Federation	174 390	259 913	686 755	4 274 242	12 687 736	18 083 036
Slovak Republic	542 534	104 990	112 092	213 808	410 094	1 383 518
Slovenia	189 192	49 253	55 696	114 098	155 001	563 240
Spain	4 423 192	1 002 913	1 134 208	1 468 819	2 845 059	10 874 191
Sweden	773 351	284 165	369 272	546 300	1 038 239	3 011 327
Switzerland	428 701	342 545	391 711	571 707	857 088	2 591 752
Turkey		5 008 646	1 327 077	1 825 027	2 394 295	10 555 045
United Kingdom	3 058 287	1 486 827	1 963 222	2 895 240	8 345 973	17 749 549
United States	8 680 054	5 704 757	8 207 838	12 011 018	44 813 688	79 417 355

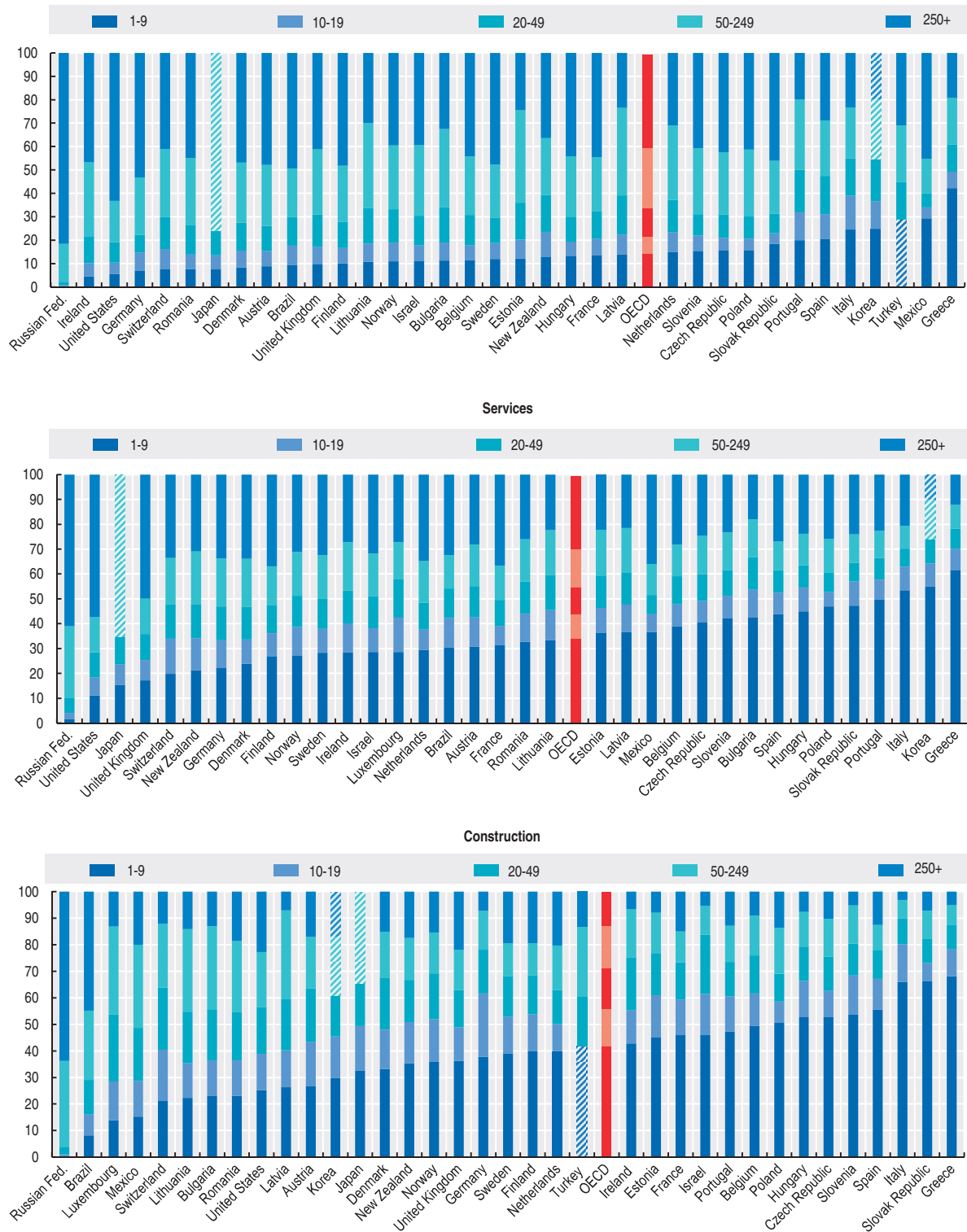
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2. STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE ENTERPRISE POPULATION

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Figure 2.6. Persons employed by enterprise size, main sectors

Percentage, 2012, or latest available year



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933230467>

2. STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE ENTERPRISE POPULATION

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Table 2.3. **Persons employed by enterprise size and sector**
Percentage, 2012, or latest available year

	Manufacturing					Services					Construction				
	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-249	250+	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-249	250+	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-249	250+
Austria	9	7	11	26	48	31	12	13	17	28	27	17	20	19	17
Belgium	12	6	13	25	44	39	9	11	13	28	49	12	14	15	9
Brazil	9	8	12	21	49	30	12	12	13	32	8	8	13	26	45
Bulgaria	11	8	15	33	32	42	11	13	15	18	23	13	19	31	13
Czech Republic	16	5	10	27	42	40	9	11	15	25	53	10	13	14	10
Denmark	8	7	12	26	47	24	10	13	19	34	33	15	20	17	15
Estonia	12	8	16	40	25	36	10	13	19	22	45	16	16	15	8
Finland	10	7	11	24	48	27	9	11	16	37	40	14	15	12	19
France	14	7	12	23	45	31	8	11	14	37	46	13	14	12	15
Germany	7	8	8	24	53	22	11	14	19	34	38	24	17	15	7
Greece	42	7	12	20	19	62	9	8	9	12	68	10	9	7	5
Hungary	13	7	10	26	44	45	9	9	13	24	53	14	13	13	8
Ireland	5	6	11	32	47	28	12	13	19	27	43	12	20	18	7
Israel	11	7	12	30	39	29	10	13	17	32	46	16	22	11	5
Italy	25	15	16	22	23	53	9	7	9	21	66	14	10	7	3
Japan	8	6	11	76		15	8	11	65		32	17	16	34	
Korea	25	12	18	26	20	55	9	10	16	10	30	16	15	22	17
Latvia	14	8	17	37	24	37	11	13	18	22	26	14	19	34	7
Lithuania	11	8	15	36	30	33	12	14	18	22	22	13	19	31	14
Luxembourg						29	14	15	15	27	14	15	25	33	13
Mexico	29	5	6	15	45	37	7	8	12	36	15	13	20	31	20
Netherlands	15	8	14	32	31	29	8	11	17	35	40	10	13	17	20
New Zealand	13	11	16	24	36	21	13	14	21	31	35	15	16	16	17
Norway	11	8	14	27	40	27	12	13	18	31	36	16	17	15	15
Poland	16	5	9	29	41	47	6	8	14	26	51	8	10	17	14
Portugal	20	12	18	30	20	50	8	9	11	23	47	13	13	14	13
Romania	8	6	13	29	45	33	11	13	17	26	23	13	18	27	19
Russian Federation	0	1	1	16	82	2	2	6	29	61	0	1	3	33	64
Slovak Republic	18	5	8	23	46	47	10	8	11	24	66	7	9	11	7
Slovenia	15	7	9	28	41	42	9	10	15	23	54	15	12	15	5
Spain	20	11	16	24	29	44	9	9	12	27	56	12	11	10	13
Sweden	12	7	11	23	48	28	10	12	17	32	39	14	15	12	20
Switzerland	8	9	14	29	41	20	14	14	19	34	21	19	23	24	12
Turkey	29		16	24	31						42		19	26	13
United Kingdom	10	8	14	28	41	17	8	10	14	50	36	13	14	15	22
United States	6	5	9	18	63	11	7	10	14	57	25	14	18	21	23


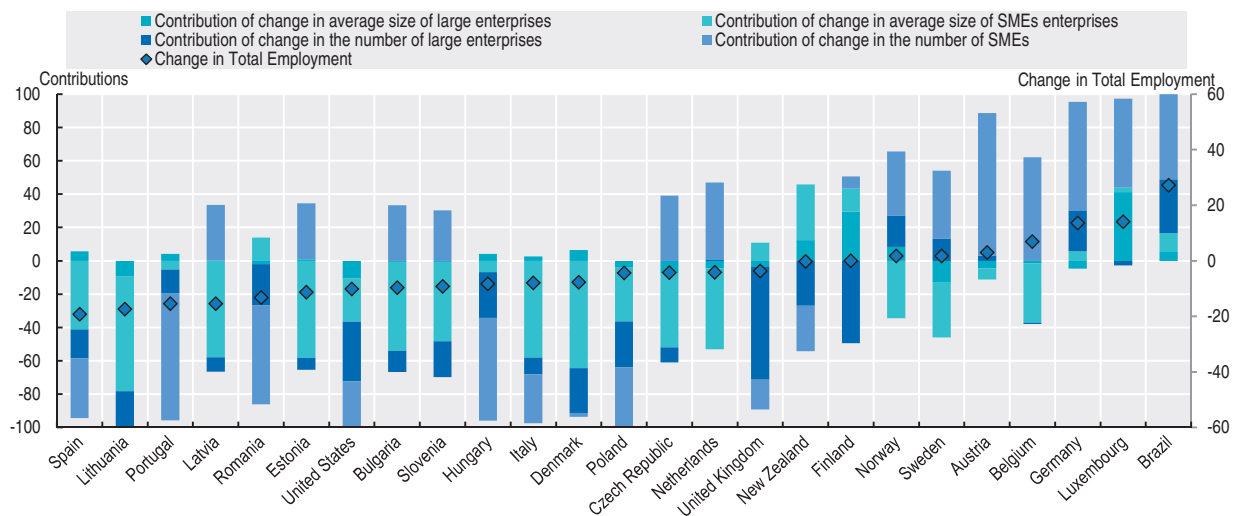
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Figure 2.7. **Change in employment, total business economy**

Change between 2008 and 2012



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Figure 2.8. **Change in employment, by main sector**
Change between 2008 and 2012

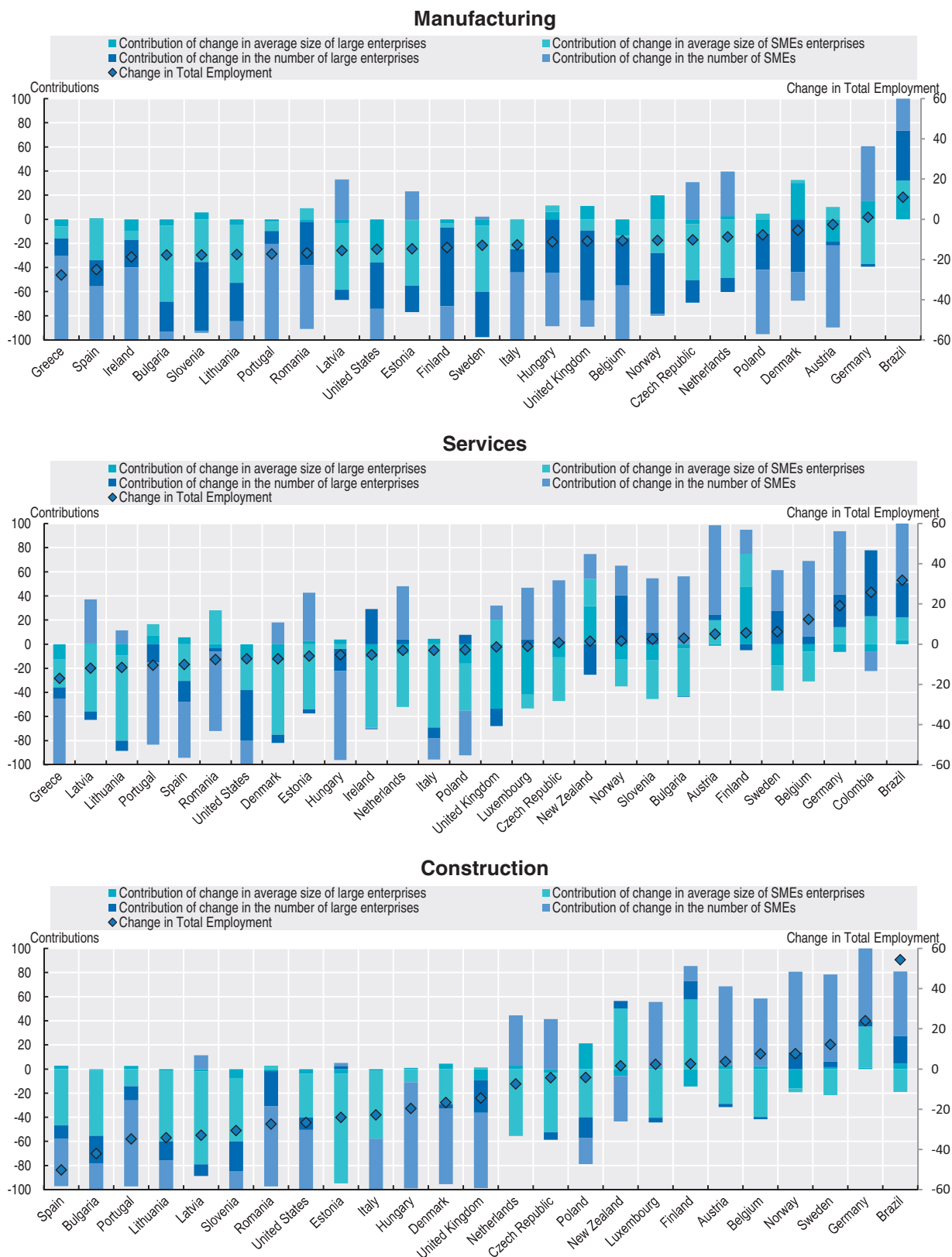
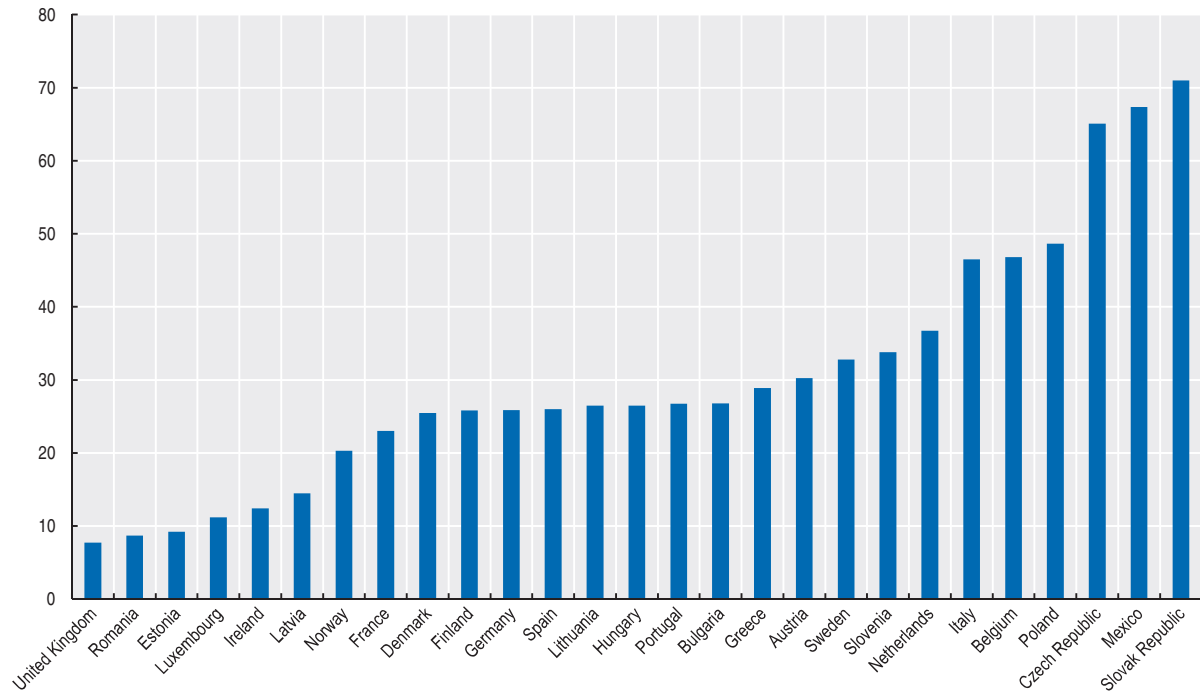


Figure 2.9. **Share of unpaid persons employed in micro-enterprises, manufacturing**

Percentage, 2012, or latest available year



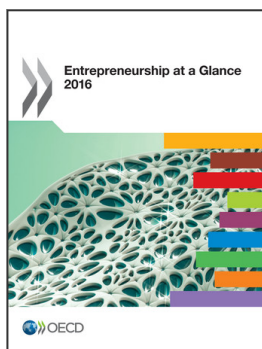
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Table 2.4. **Number of unpaid persons employed by enterprise size, manufacturing**

2012, or latest available year

	1-9	10-19	20-49	50-249	250+
Austria	16 572	1 741	531	90	21
Belgium	28 409	2 271	1 718	567	45
Bulgaria	16 024	1 662	1 454	1 111	462
Czech Republic	125 575	5 367	5 780	7 844	5 531
Denmark	7 730	1 498	519	148	256
Estonia	1 161	13	16	13	3
Finland	9 521	729	415	127	–
France	95 735	178	53	–	–
Germany	127 301	33 188	6 477	6 146	1 1443
Greece	37 978	1 205	548	248	202
Hungary	23 118	547	1 088	836	309
Ireland	900	447	313	261	5
Italy	439 401	64 251	26 290	9 521	632
Latvia	2 395	83	41	47	72
Lithuania	5 489	150	70	28	–
Luxembourg	152	22	6	–	–
Mexico	787 532	28 883	11 297	2 949	512
Netherlands	37 708	880	207	23	–
Norway	5 175	29	8	1	4
Poland	182 077	7 044	6 645	3 568	282
Portugal	34 524	189	242	236	475
Romania	7 841	116	621	1 105	1 186
Slovak Republic	58 863	339	220	76	11
Slovenia	9 953	140	35	2	–
Spain	95 992	2 574	1 428	835	963
Sweden	25 834	4 9611	5 942	11 289	22 877
United Kingdom	18 557	11 664	11 521	4 488	507

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