

High employment rates are found in Nepal and the Southeast Asian economies of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam, with rates above the OECD average of 74.7% (Figure 5.3, Panel A). The Asia/Pacific average is almost 10 percentage points below the OECD average, at 64.9%, with employment rates being particularly low in Fiji, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (below 55%).

On average, as among OECD countries, employment rates in the Asia/Pacific region have recovered to above pre-crisis levels in 2007 (Figure 5.3, Panel B), but with mixed patterns across countries. The largest increase between 2007 and 2012, of above 2.0 percentage points, were observed in Kazakhstan, Maldives, Mongolia and the Philippines. While the largest falls in employment rates were observed in Brunei Darussalam and India with a drop of more than 1.5 percentage points, and particularly large falls in the OECD countries of Japan and New Zealand at more than 2 percentage points.

People in high-income economies are more likely to work in the non-agricultural sector compared with those in lower-income economies (Figure 5.4). Over 75% of people employed in Macau (China) and Hong Kong (China), Singapore and Brunei Darussalam are engaged in the services sector with less than 2% employed in the agricultural sector. By contrast, the largest share of people employed in Nepal and Papua New Guinea are in agriculture (over 70%). In all economies observed, with the exception of Korea, DPR, manufacturing makes up the smallest share of employment compared with the services and agriculture sectors.

Informal employment concerns over half of the workers in the non-agricultural sector in Sri Lanka, Viet Nam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Pakistan, and is highest in India at over 80%. Informal employment covers less than 50% of the workers in the non-agricultural sector in Thailand and China (but calculations are based on six cities). **The difference in informal employment between men and women is generally small** (Figure 5.5), among the countries for which data are available, except in Sri Lanka where informal employment as a proportion of non-agricultural employment among men is nearly 10 percentage points higher than among women.

Definition and measurement

The employment/population ratio or employment rate is defined as the ratio of employed people over age 15 to the population over age 15. Data was taken from the *International Labour Organization's Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM) Database* for non-OECD countries and the *OECD Employment Database* for the four OECD countries.

Employment by sector is based on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC Revision 3.1), by which employment in agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors are defined. Employment in agriculture includes hunting, forestry and fishing; employment in industry includes mining and quarrying, manufacturing, construction and public utilities (electricity, gas and water); employment in services includes wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels, transport, storage and communications, finance, insurance, real estate and business services, and community, social and personal services.

The indicator "Informal employment as a percentage of total non-agricultural employment" here is based on ILO (2014), "Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture". The concept of informal employment includes workers such as (own-account workers, contributing family workers, paid domestic workers and many other workers whose employment relationship is, in law or in practice, not subject to national labour legislation, income taxation, social protection or entitlement to certain employment benefits (advance notice of dismissal, severance pay, paid annual or sick leave, etc.). For more information see (www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/normativeinstrument/wcms_087622.pdf).

Figure note

Figure 5.5: For China, data refer to the cities of Fuzhou, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Shenyang, Wuhan and Xi-an.

Figure 5.3. Employment/population ratio and trends

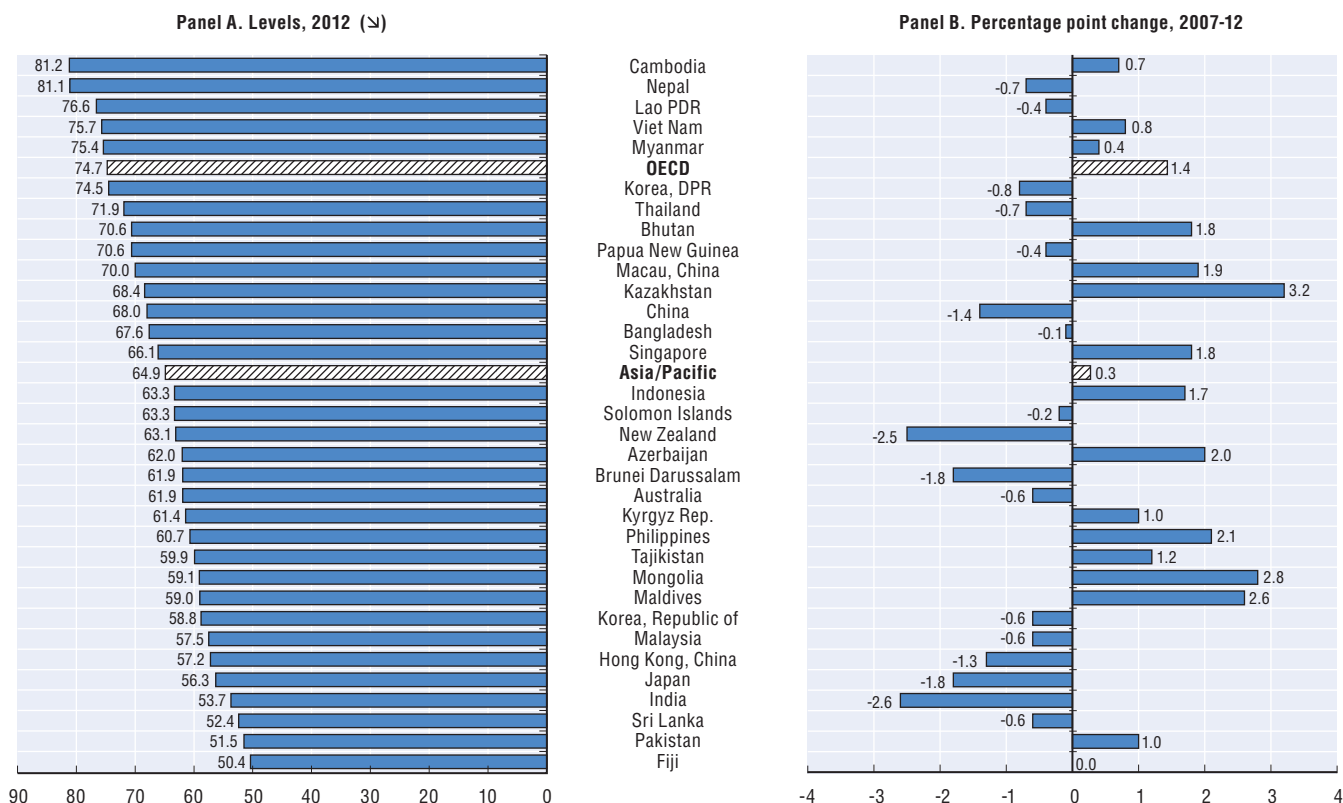


Figure 5.4. Employment by sector, 2012

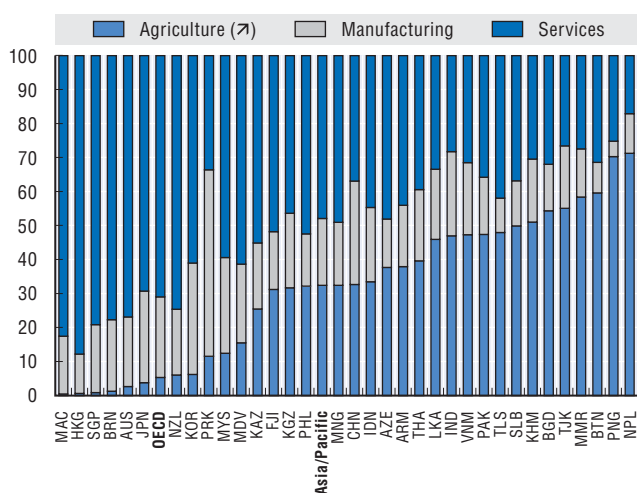
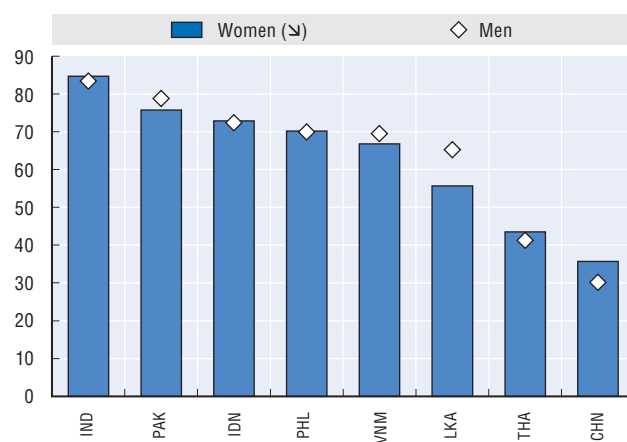


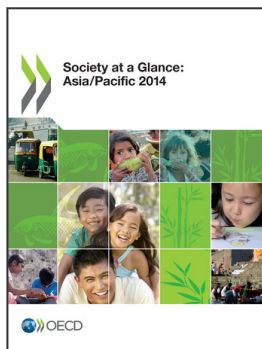
Figure 5.5. Informal employment, 2009/10

Informal employment as a percentage of total non-agricultural employment, by sex



Source: ILO, Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM); Employment by sector from ILO Global Employment Trends 2014; Informal employment from ILO LABORSTA.

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