

Women in business

The figure (1) below displays the International stats of women in Business and the numbers of starting entrepreneurs and young entrepreneurs (enterprises not older than 3,5 years) per 100 adults (in the age of 16 till 64 year) for 29 countries.

Red= female

Green= male

These countries are part of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM-www.gemconsortium.org)

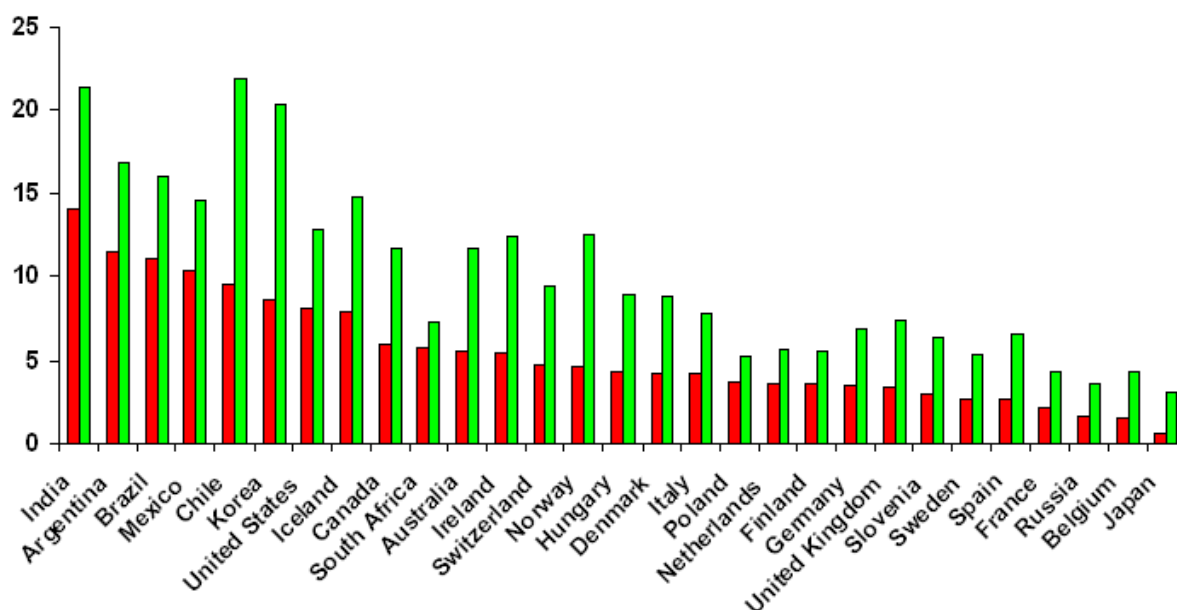


Figure 1
(source: GEM, 2004)

At the European level the share of self-employed as a percentage of total employment varies between the countries.

Table 1 Self-employed (men and women) as a percentage of total employment, 2002

Greece	24.4	Netherlands	7.6
Spain	12.2	Sweden	6.5
Italy	11.0	Germany	5.0
United Kingdom	8.6	Estonia	4.5
Finland	8.4	Denmark	3.9
Switzerland	x		

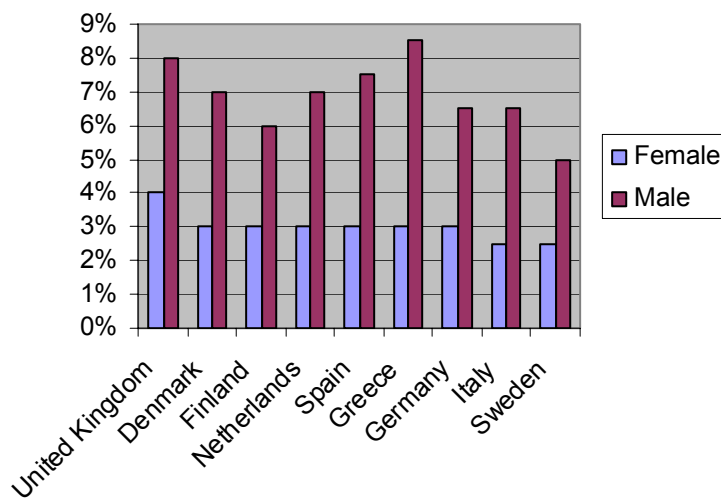
Source: EUROSTAT; LFS, New Cronos, Nutek

In Europe, women entrepreneurs and their businesses is a growing segment of the business population. In the 1990s, there was a significant increase in the number of businesses owned by women. However, the number of female entrepreneurs compared to male entrepreneurs worldwide is relatively low thus one exception is

found in the agricultural sector in which approximately 41 percent of women and 57 percent of men are self-employed¹.

The female Total Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) index measures the percent of women in the labor force that is either involved in starting a new business or who own or manage a business that is less than 42 months old. Figure 2 shows the comparative results for men and women in some of the European countries. The participation of women in entrepreneurship varies but the differences between men and women are remarkably stable across the countries. There is no country where women are more active than men².

Figure 2. Total Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA prevalence) 2004 by Gender and Country.



In Europe there is no significant difference in the educational attainment levels between women and men who are self-employed. It can be noted that European self-employed women under the age of 40 years tend to have a higher education than men. In addition, in Europe approximately 31 percent of the self employed women aged between 25 and 39 have tertiary level qualifications and a further 46 percent have upper secondary level educations. These numbers can be compared with 27,5 percent of men with tertiary level qualifications and 44 percent with upper secondary level educations. It can be noted that Europeans aged 40 and above consist of a larger proportion of self-employed male entrepreneurs with tertiary level education (32 percent) than women (30 percent). These proportions are higher than for employees with tertiary education (25 percent for both women and men) thus less for those people undertaking an upper secondary degree (42 percent for women and 43 percent for men)³.

¹ Franco, A. & Winqvist, K. (2002). *Statistics in focus. The entrepreneurial gap between women and men*. Eurostat. (http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-NK-02-011/EN/KS-NK-02-011-EN.PDF)

² Minniti, M., Arenius, P. & Langowitz, N. Global Entrepreneurship Monitor. (2005). *2004 Report on Women and Entrepreneurship*. Center for Women's Leadership at Babson College.

³ Franco, A. & Winqvist, K. (2002). *Statistics in focus. The entrepreneurial gap between women and men*. Eurostat. (http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-NK-02-011/EN/KS-NK-02-011-EN.PDF)