

Sources of sex-disaggregated data

Whatever social problem we are addressing – such as the low proportion of women in entrepreneurship – the analysis of information and data should always be disaggregated by sex. This is the only way to uncover existing inequalities and their causes and to find effective solutions.

Were we to look only at aggregated data, we might overlook important factors with the potential to explain the different representation of women or men in certain areas or the different levels of uptake among women and men of certain types of programmes or support.

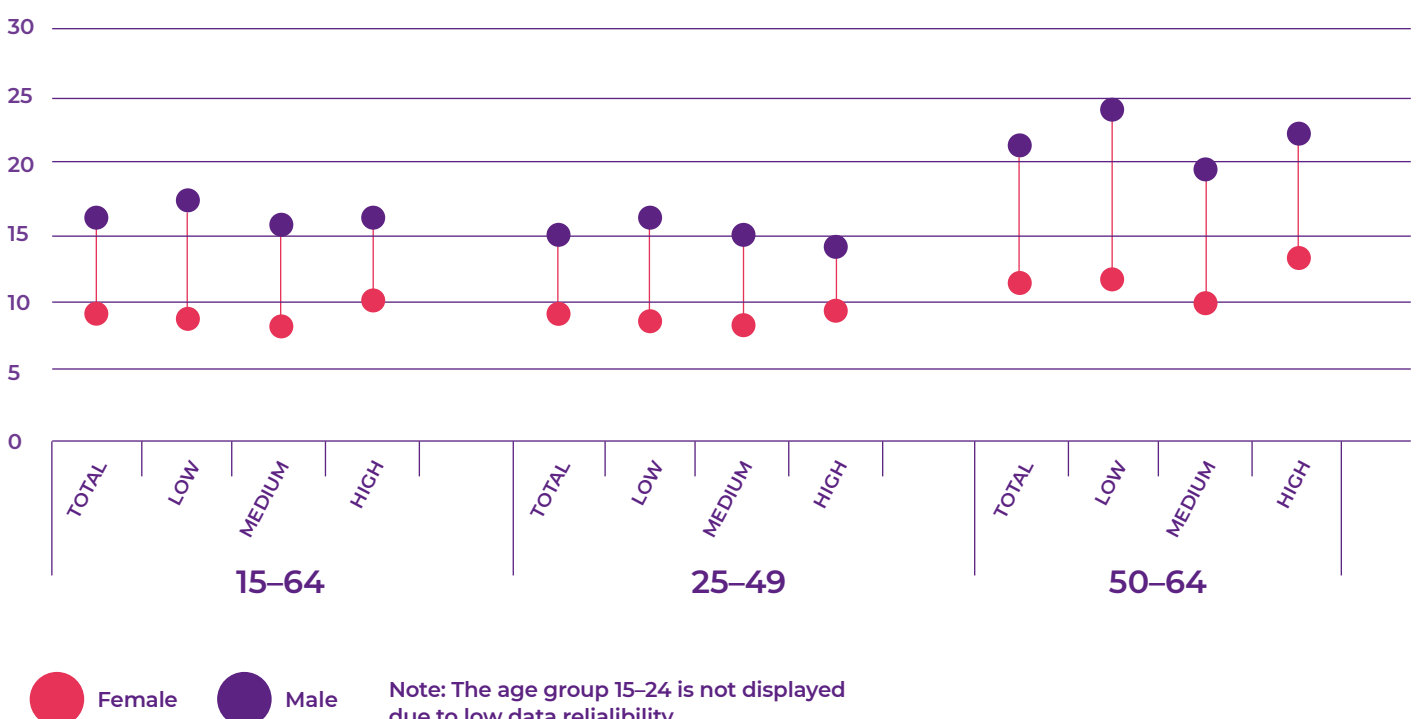
Analysing sex-disaggregated data can provide important insights into gender inequalities in entrepreneurship. Other categories, such as age, educational attainment, ethnicity/race/migration status/country of origin, or business/

socio-economic status, should also be used at the same time, as they, too, may affect the situation of entrepreneurs. One problem, however, may be the lack of available data disaggregated by sex in intersection with other categories.

In this document, we present a selection of databases that publish sex-disaggregated data that can be used in the analysis, planning, and evaluation of entrepreneurship support and other measures.

Self-employment by sex, age group and educational attainment level in the EU

(in % of total employment, by sex)



EIGE

Database and provider	EIGE – European Institute for Gender Equality
Link to data	→ eige.europa.eu → Gender Equality Index → EIGE's publications
Basic characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Gender Equality Index (GEI), which is compiled by the EIGE, assesses a number of areas of gender equality in EU Member States. It provides an assessment of the state of gender equality in individual countries and in the EU as a whole and allows comparisons with other countries, either overall or in individual indicators within seven domains (e.g. work, money, health, etc.).• Although the GEI does not include a separate domain focusing on entrepreneurship and innovation, it shows the general state of gender equality in a given country and in the area of paid work, which is highly relevant for entrepreneurship and innovation.• The EIGE also occasionally produces sub-reports and studies (EIGE surveys) and policy briefs (→ EU policies and strategies).• The EIGE gender statistics database contains a large amount of data on the labour market and working conditions with a focus on employment contracts.
Relevant variables	The GEI domain ‘work’: labour market participation: the full-time employment rate, working life expectancy, segregation and the quality of work, persons employed in education, health, and social work, etc., including the effects of variables such as family status, age, educational attainment, country of origin, and health limitations.
Relevant publications	→ GEI → Grey literature on entrepreneurship → Gender in entrepreneurship → Promoting women ´s economic independence and entrepreneurship - good practice → Factsheet - good practices in women entrepreneurship → Good practices in the area of women ´s entrepreneurship
Examples of the data’s use in	<p>State administration</p> <p>To develop data-based policies, the GEI can be used to monitor, for example, the rates of labour market participation of women and men in international comparisons, or to compare the gender employment gap, which can lead to more appropriate targeting of active employment policies.</p> <p>Business</p> <p>Some GEI-based variables can be taken into account when developing support programmes (mentoring/courses). The GEI can help identify, for example, the absence of matching opportunities, i.e. offering the possibility of babysitting during the courses or the possibility to participate online or can help to focus courses on relevant topics such as managerial competences (given the data on gender vertical segregation) including financial management in business.</p> <p>Academia</p> <p>The GEI can serve as initial information on the state of equality in individual countries and, more specifically, it can serve as the basis for sub-comparisons of countries or groups of countries (e.g. by type of welfare state) across the GEI domains.</p> <p>Civil society</p> <p>GEI can offer evidence for argumentation (e.g. selecting a specific area of equality according to its relevance for a particular organisation) to present to donors or in setting-specific services and programmes – for example, identifying the share of women in economic decision-making positions in the specific country in international comparison.</p>
Last year of data collection	2023 (GEI)
Frequency of data collection	Yearly
International comparison	Comparisons of EU countries. The website offers tools for comparing individual GEI domains and countries
Availability of data	Available online free of charge
Limitations	<p>A lack of basic data sources that focus directly on entrepreneurship and innovation.</p> <p>The publications that focus primarily on entrepreneurship are not up-to-date (the latest one is from 2019).</p>

Eurostat

Database and provider	Eurostat For entrepreneurship, the Labour Force Survey is essential
Link to data	→ Database
Basic characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union. Eurostat's task is to provide harmonised statistical data at the EU level, as well as statistical comparisons between regions (NUTS) and Member States. Its data serve as the official basis for economic decision-making by European institutions and bodies.Eurostat obtains all its data from organisations mandated by individual Member States to collect statistical data on their territory (e.g. Statistical Office). Eurostat is therefore primarily concerned with compiling this data and translating it into a comparable form.
Relevant variables	<p>Data on different areas, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Economics and finance,Population and social conditions,Science, technology and the digital society, and more. <p>Variables relevant to the topic of Gender and Entrepreneurship:</p> <p>General information on the position of women and men in the labour market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Employment/unemployment rates (gender breakdowns, the gender gap for men and women, and by whether they are parents of children under 6),Gender pay gap,Use of childcare services for children under 6,Unpaid domestic work. <p>Data highlights on self-employed persons (LFS series)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of entrepreneurs,Share of entrepreneurs out of the total number of employed,Classifications by sex, age, educational attainment, economic activity, and occupation.
Relevant publications	<p>The most important statistics are published in press releases. For example:</p> <p>→ Gender gap in self-employment rises with age</p> <p>→ Labour Force Survey (LFS) ad-hoc module 2017 on the self-employed persons — Assessment report — 2018 edition</p> <p>Eurostat data are used in major publications on gender and entrepreneurship, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rugina, S., & Ahl, H. (2023). How research positions Central and Eastern European women entrepreneurs: A 30-year discourse analysis. Entrepreneurship & Regional Development, 35(3-4), 241-263.
Examples of the data's use in	<p>State administration</p> <p>The data can be used to identify labour market flexibility, which affects the work-life balance of workers (a lack of flexibility makes entrepreneurship a necessity, especially for parents of young children). The data can also be used to formulate proposals for legislative changes towards greater labour market flexibility and to promote access to childcare.</p> <p>For this purpose, variables such as: the employment rates of women and men, part-time work (women and men), the employment rates of parents of young children.</p> <p>Business and civil society</p> <p>The data can help answer questions such as: What kind of women are entrepreneurs? What kind of women don't do business? What is the reason that these groups of women choose/do not choose entrepreneurship?</p> <p>For this purpose, variables such as: comparisons of the number and nature of women entrepreneurs (with respect to gender, age, educational attainment, etc.), possible uses for promoting women entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Academia</p> <p>The data can help to track the evolution of the number of entrepreneurs over time, reveal links to economic developments (e.g. during a pandemic, economic crisis), and track the impact on women and men.</p> <p>For this purpose, variables such as: the share of entrepreneurs in total employment (gender breakdown).</p>
Last year of data collection	Data are collected annually, with exceptions, so the last year of data collection is usually last year.
Frequency of data collection	Annually
International comparison	Comparisons of EU countries plus selected non-EU countries (varies by topic/question)
Availability of data	<p>Basic data and classifications are available free online. Eurostat offers data users the possibility to combine multiple dimensions of data online (e.g. by gender, by country, percentage or nominal data, etc.).</p> <p>Some of the data from the Labour Force Survey are available in the Eurostat online database under the Employment and Unemployment tab.</p>
Limitations	<p>Only basic classifications are available on the Eurostat website. Access to primary data is limited.</p> <p>Microdata that allow the identification of a statistical unit (e.g. a person in a Labour Force Survey or an enterprise for innovation statistics) are strictly confidential. Under strict security procedures, various anonymised data sets are provided to research institutions for research projects.</p>

Database and provider	OECD database
Link to data	→ OECD Social and Welfare Statistics
Basic characteristics	This source contains data obtained mainly from national statistical offices and other verified sources, including their own questionnaire surveys and data collection on policies, measures, support and legislation.
Relevant variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are many indicators on entrepreneurship, including data on the shares of self-employed and entrepreneurs with employees, by education, sector, and gender. There are also attitudinal questions on the outlook for entrepreneurship.• The topic Gender Equality is part of the OECD Social and Welfare Statistics dataset and is further broken down into sub-topics: Gender Equality in Business, Gender Equality in Education, Gender Equality in Employment.• Indicators under the sub-theme Gender Equality in Entrepreneurship include share of self-employed in total employment, share of entrepreneurs in employment, gender gap in earnings of the self-employed, attitudes towards entrepreneurial risk and entrepreneurial opportunities, access to finance and training to start a business, share of the population who have borrowed money to start a business.• The data are also disaggregated by educational attainment, age, and sometimes citizenship and sector, but not for all indicators.
Relevant publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Entrepreneurship Policies through a Gender Lens. 2021. OECD Studies on SMEs and Entrepreneurship, OECD Publishing, Paris→ Framework for the Evaluation of SME and Entrepreneurship Policies and Programmes 2023, OECD Studies on SMEs and Entrepreneurship, OECD Publishing, Paris→ Society at a Glance 2024. OECD Social Indicators, OECD Publishing, Paris
Examples of the data's use in	<p>State administration</p> <p>Evaluation of the support for entrepreneurship can be directly aided by data on shares of entrepreneurs according to different breakdowns and on the views and experiences of entrepreneurs.</p> <p>The OECD also offers analyses and thematic studies that analyse policies and support programmes implemented in other countries and describe good practices and recommendations for specific policies or situations, such as gender inequalities in access to business support.</p> <p>Business</p> <p>Comparisons can be made between countries, regions, and markets, or between standards and working conditions in different countries, to draw inspiration from good practices and specific workplace measures.</p> <p>Academia</p> <p>The data can be used for various comparisons and analyses. There are also highly relevant thematic studies that can be used as background and resources for scientific research on a specific topic.</p> <p>Civil society</p> <p>The data can be used as a basis for applications for support programmes and services, in particular comparisons between countries, or for setting up specific programmes.</p>
Last year of data collection	2023, also irregularly or more frequently (monthly)
Frequency of data collection	Annually or less frequently, some ad hoc surveys
International comparison	Comparisons of OECD member countries as well as other non-member countries and regions of the world.
Availability of data	Available online free of charge
Limitations	Only basic classifications by gender are available on the website, sometimes together with age and educational attainment, but these classifications are not available systematically for all indicators. More detailed or thematic data are not always tracked continuously. Microdata are not freely available.

This material was produced as part of the European project Gendered Innovation Living Labs (GILL) (→ **GILL**). The GILL project focuses on innovation, research, and entrepreneurship and aims to create a space for sharing and creating tools, methods, and knowledge for a more inclusive and innovative business environment.

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