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Division of International Labor Comparisons
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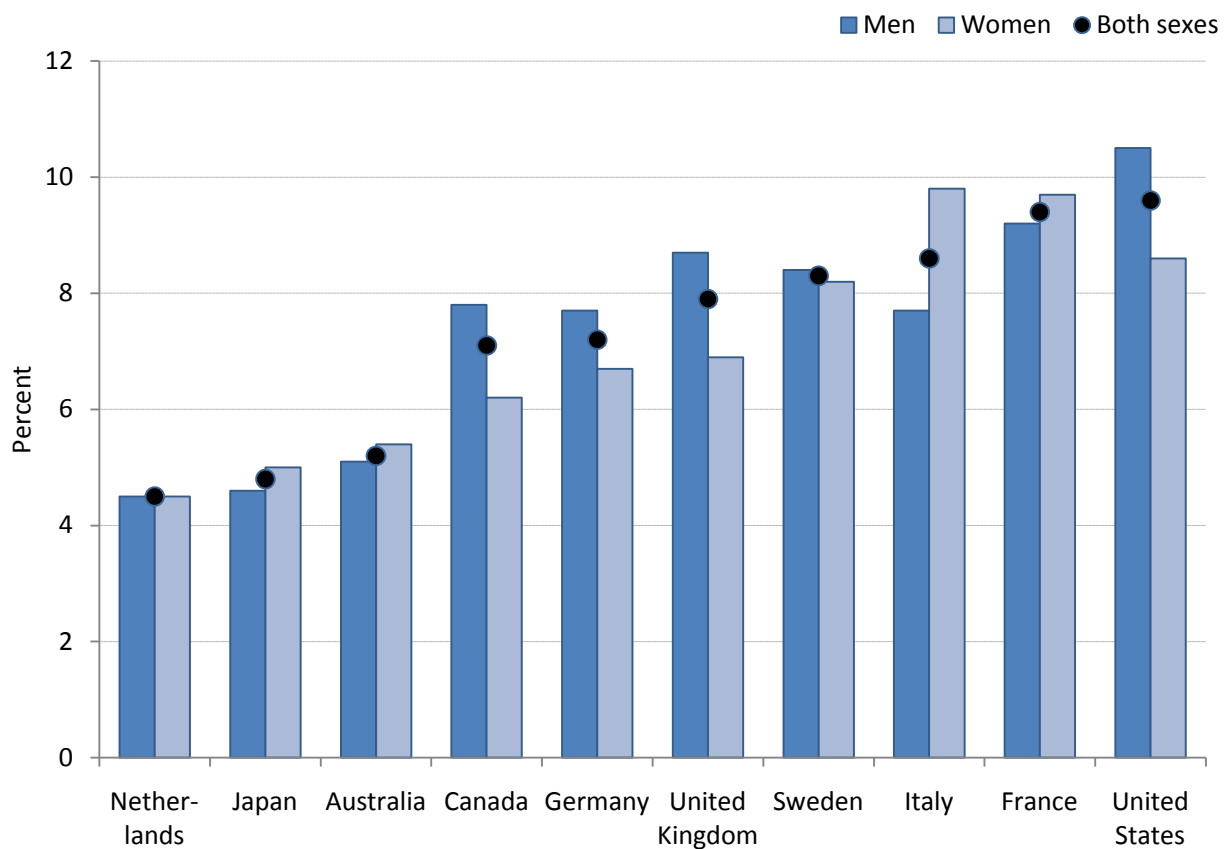
Charting International Comparisons of Annual Labor Force Statistics, 2010

Division of International Labor Comparisons

These charts present comparative trends of unemployment, employment, labor force, and population for 10 countries. The data have been adjusted for comparability. All data are based on *International Comparisons of Annual Labor Force Statistics, Adjusted to U.S. Concepts, 10 Countries, 1970-2010*, available on the Division of International Labor Comparisons Web site at www.bls.gov/ilc/flscomparelf.htm.

Unemployment rates by sex, 2010

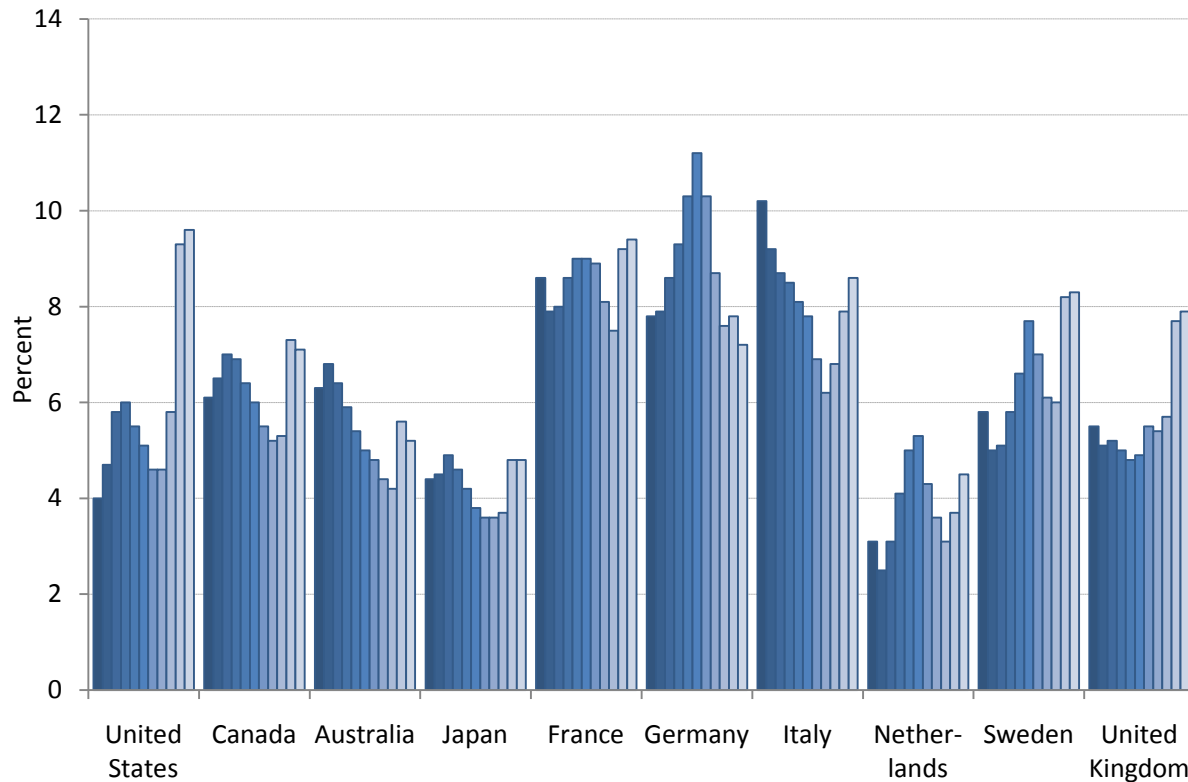
Women had higher unemployment rates than men in Japan, Australia, Italy, and France. The largest differences between men's and women's unemployment rates were in Italy and the United States (2.1 and 1.9 percentage points, respectively).



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of International Labor Comparisons, *International Comparisons of Annual Labor Force Statistics, Adjusted to U.S. Concepts, 10 Countries, 1970-2010*, [Table 1-2](#), [Table 1-3](#), and [Table 1-4](#).

Unemployment rates, 2000-2010

Six countries' unemployment rates increased between 2009 and 2010. For 4 of the 10 countries – the United States, France, Sweden, and the United Kingdom – the 2010 unemployment rate was the highest of the decade.

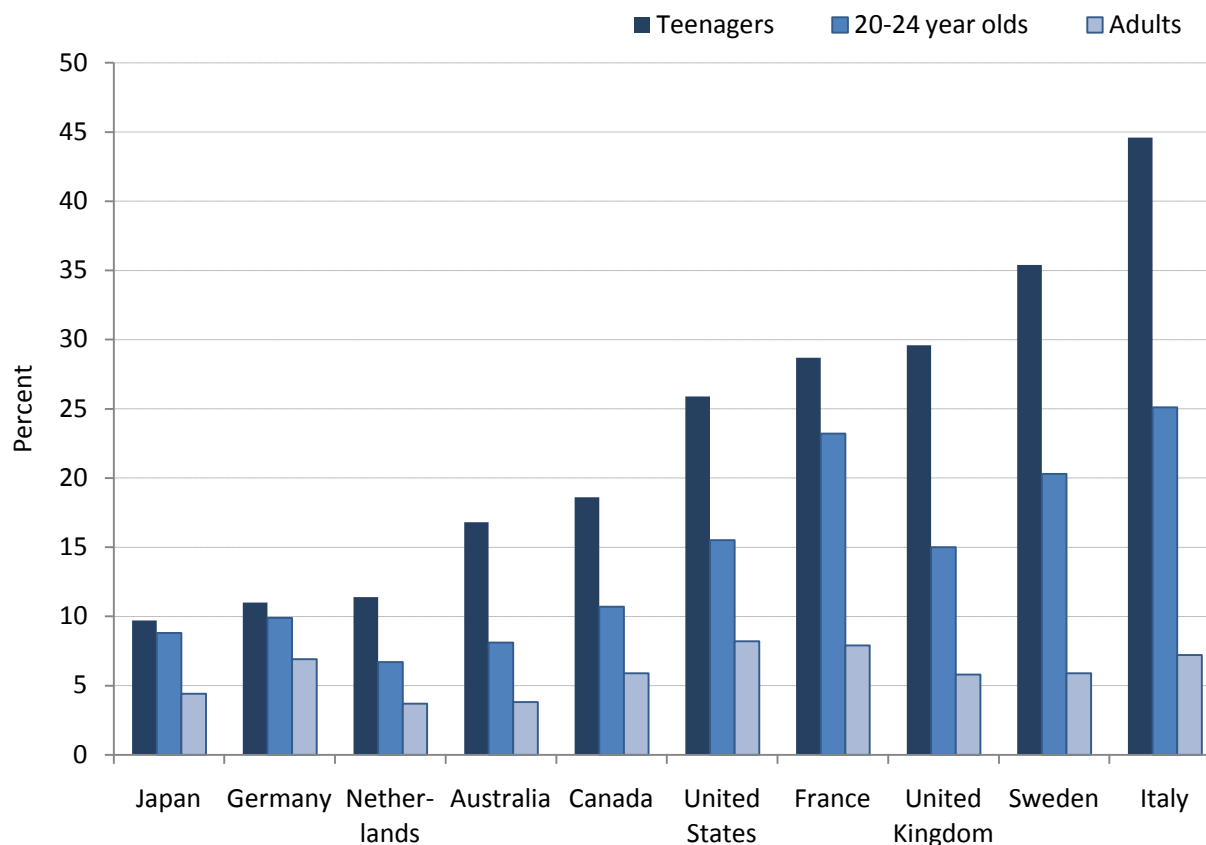


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of International Labor Comparisons, *International Comparisons of Annual Labor Force Statistics, Adjusted to U.S. Concepts, 10 Countries, 1970-2010*, [Table 1-2](#).

For monthly unemployment rates in 2011, see [International Unemployment Rates and Employment Indexes, Seasonally Adjusted, 2007-2011](#).

Youth and adult unemployment rates, 2010

Teenagers' unemployment rates are typically two to three times the adult rates. Young adults (persons ages 20-24) had lower unemployment rates than teenagers in all countries. Italy and Sweden had the largest gaps between teenage and adult unemployment rates.

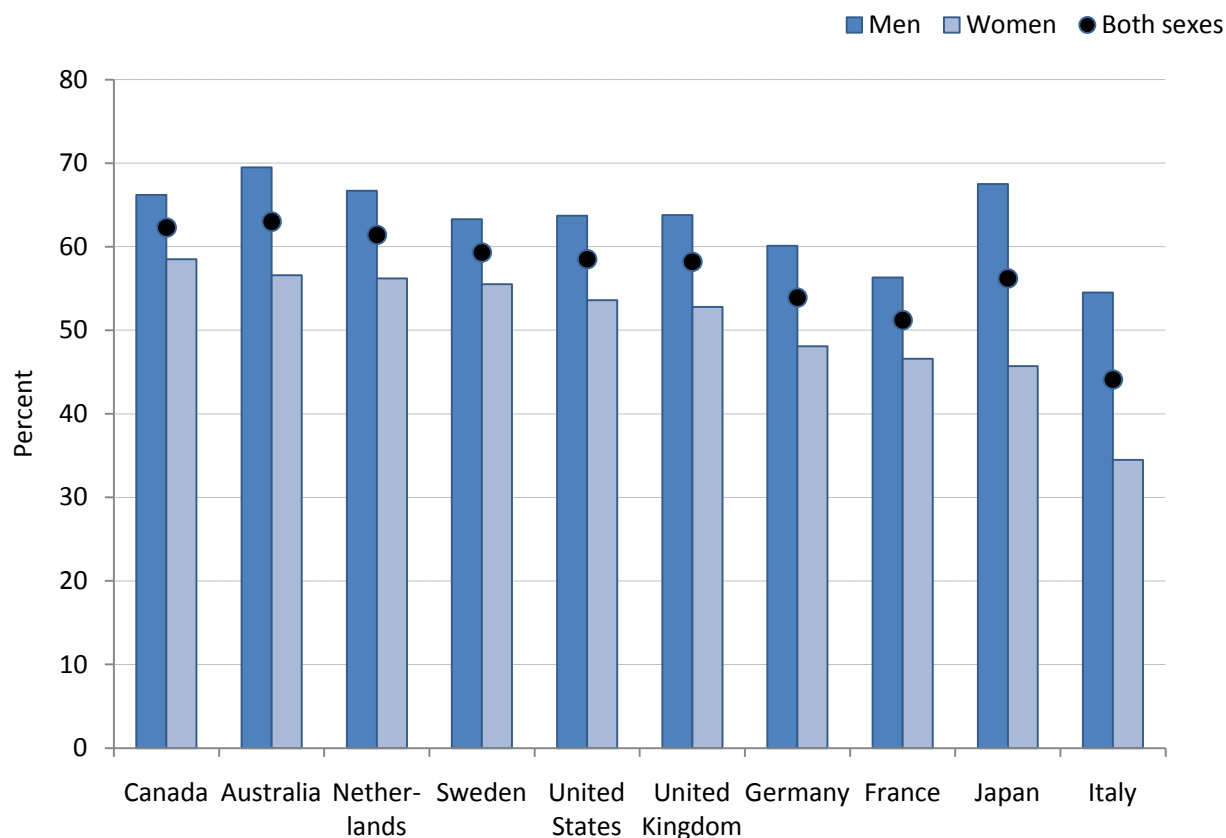


Note: Teenagers are defined as persons ages 16-19 in the United States, Canada, France, Sweden, and the United Kingdom and as persons ages 15-19 in Australia, Japan, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands. Youths are defined as persons ages 15 or 16-24, and adults as persons ages 25 and older.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of International Labor Comparisons, *International Comparisons of Annual Labor Force Statistics, Adjusted to U.S. Concepts, 10 Countries, 1970-2010*, [Table 1-5](#), [Table 1-7](#), and [Table 1-8](#).

Employment-population ratios by sex, 2010

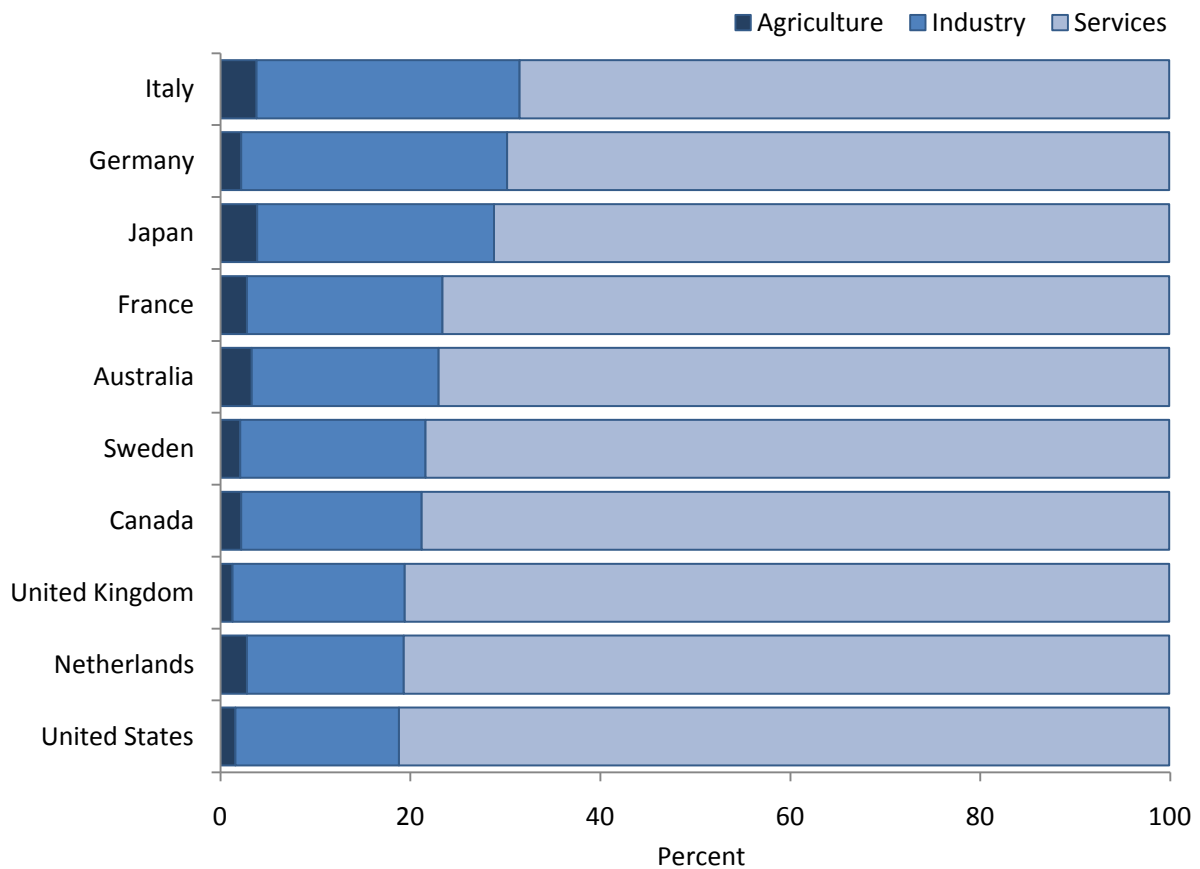
Employment-population ratios were higher for men than for women in all countries. The largest gender gaps were in Japan and Italy (21.8 and 20.0 percentage points, respectively) – the two countries with the lowest employment-population ratios for women. Meanwhile, Canada had the highest female ratio and the smallest gender gap (7.7 percentage points).



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of International Labor Comparisons, *International Comparisons of Annual Labor Force Statistics, Adjusted to U.S. Concepts, 10 Countries, 1970-2010*, [Table 2-11](#) and [Table 2-12](#).

Employment by sector, 2010

At least two out of every three workers were employed in the services sector for all countries. The share of employment in industry was lowest in the Netherlands and the United States, at approximately 17 percent each.

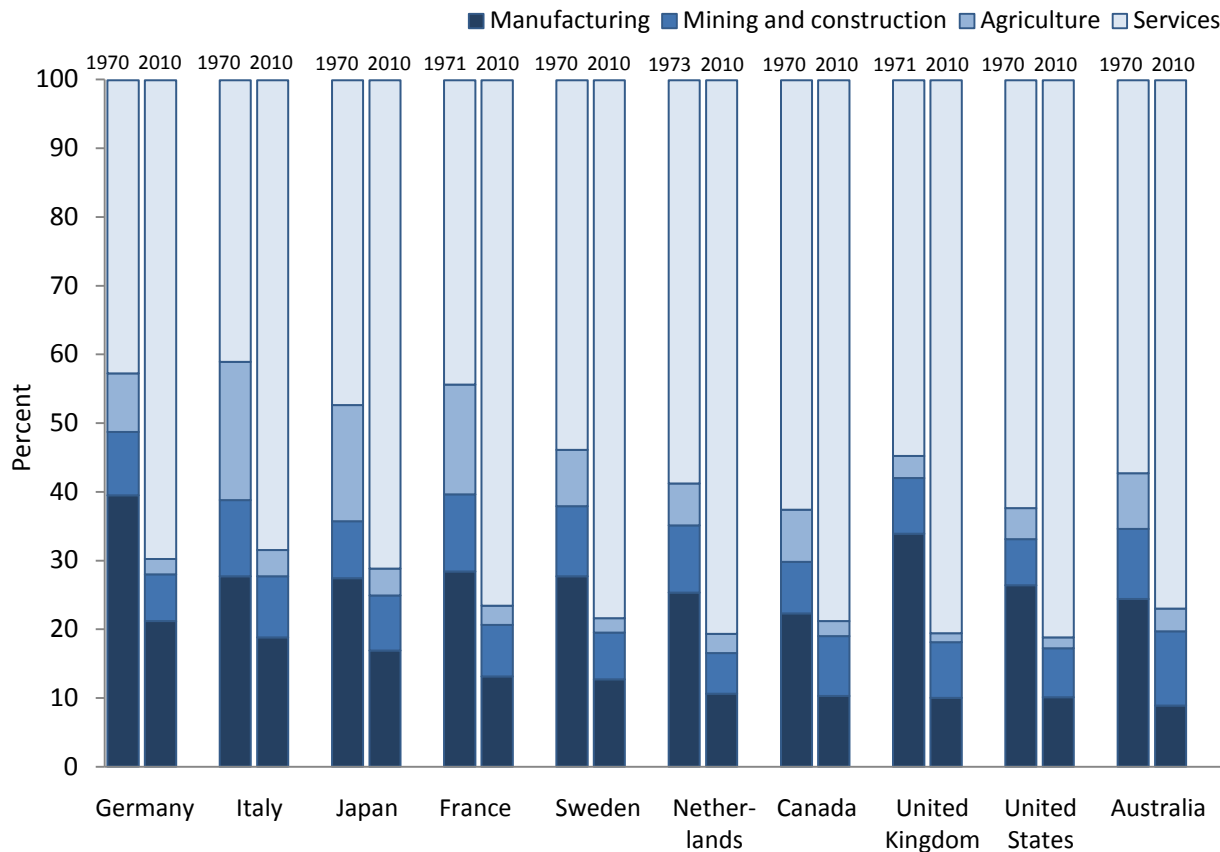


Note: The category “industry” includes manufacturing, mining and construction.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of International Labor Comparisons, *International Comparisons of Annual Labor Force Statistics, Adjusted to U.S. Concepts, 10 Countries, 1970-2010*, [Table 2-6](#), [Table 2-7](#), and [Table 2-9](#).

Employment by sector, 1970 and 2010

Most countries saw a redistribution of employment share away from manufacturing, agriculture, mining and construction and into services. Manufacturing’s share of employment decreased most over the period in the United Kingdom (-23.9 percentage points).

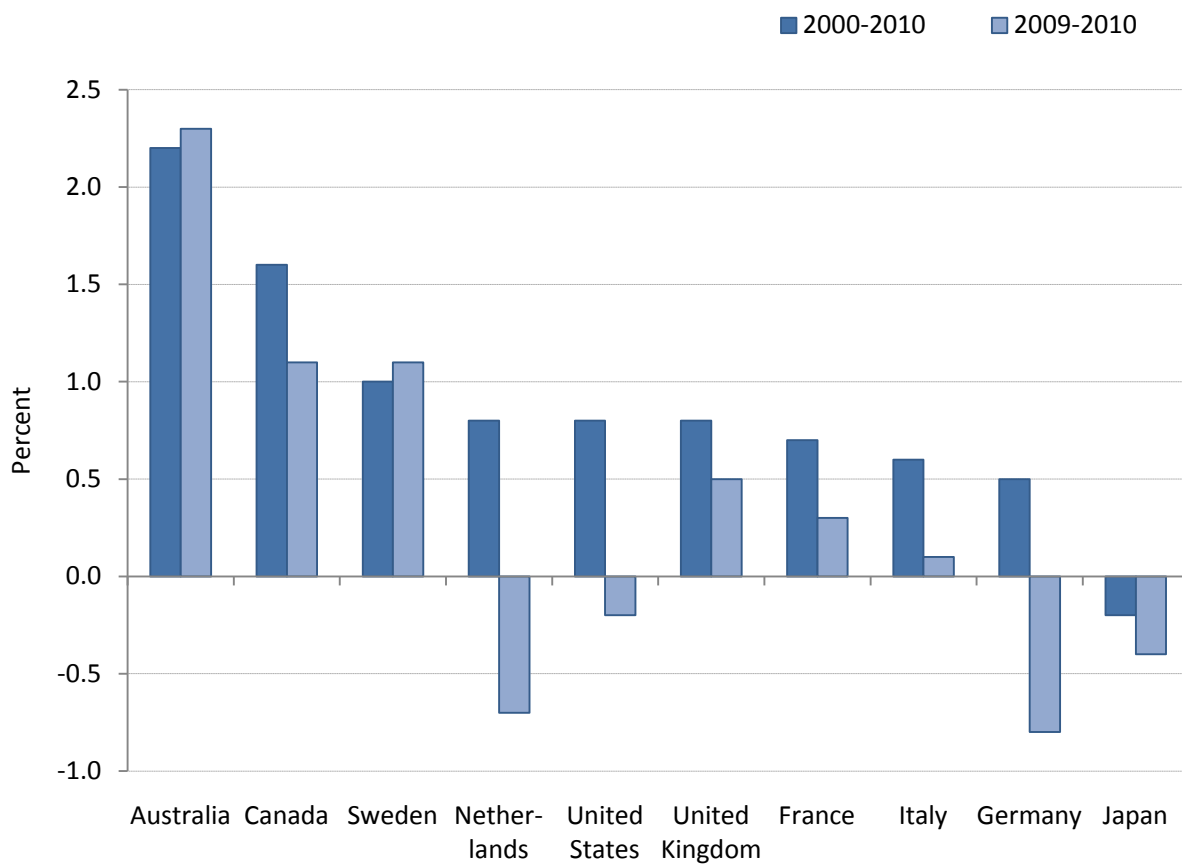


Note: The categories “manufacturing” and “mining and construction” sum to “industry.”

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of International Labor Comparisons, *International Comparisons of Annual Labor Force Statistics, Adjusted to U.S. Concepts, 10 Countries, 1970-2010*, [Table 2-6](#), [Table 2-7](#), [Table 2-8](#), and [Table 2-9](#).

Average annual growth rates for the labor force, 2000-2010 and 2009-2010

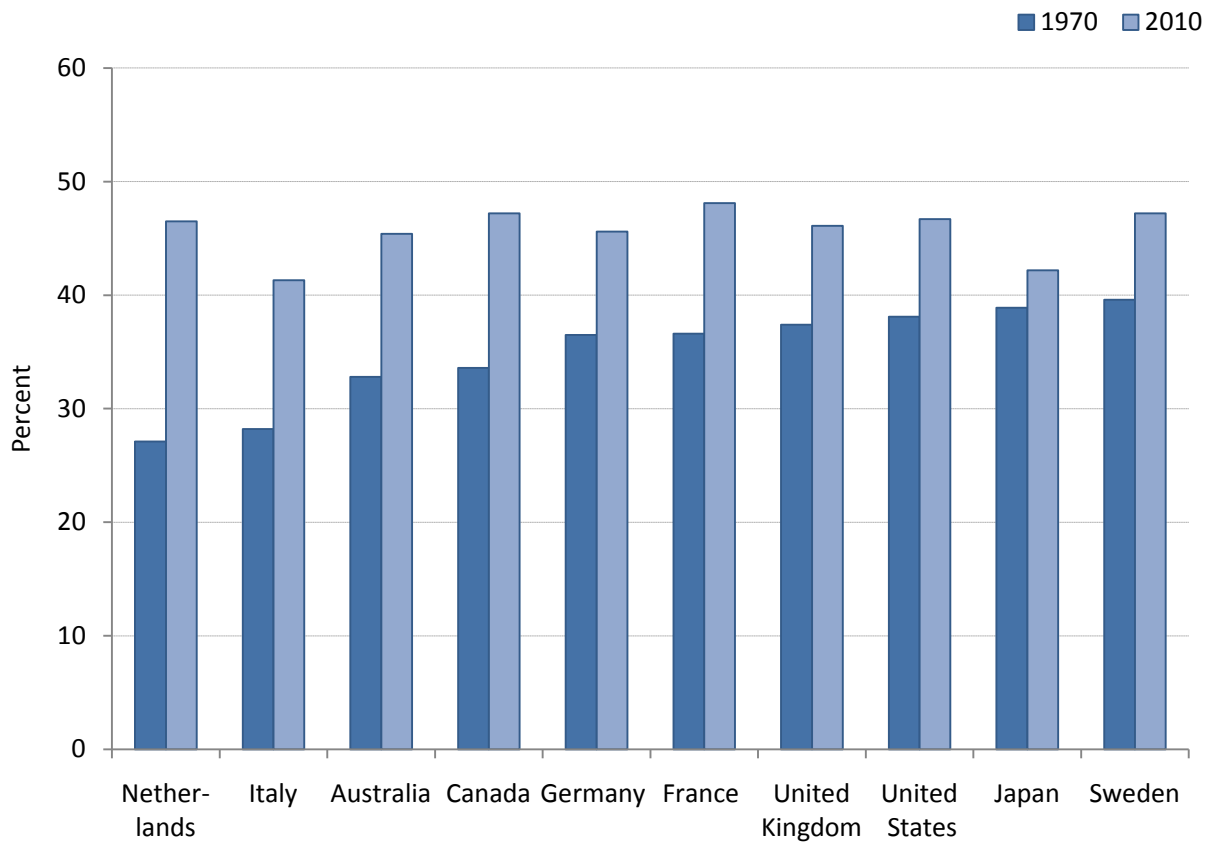
The labor force increased between 2000 and 2010 in all countries except Japan. Between 2009 and 2010, the labor force declined in the Netherlands, the United States, Germany, and Japan.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of International Labor Comparisons, *International Comparisons of Annual Labor Force Statistics, Adjusted to U.S. Concepts, 10 Countries, 1970-2010*, [Table 3-1](#).

Women's share of the labor force, 1970 and 2010

Women's share of the labor force increased in all countries over the period. The largest increase was in the Netherlands (+19.4 percentage points) and the smallest increase was in Japan (+3.3 points). Women's share of the labor force varied much less across countries in 2010 than in 1970.

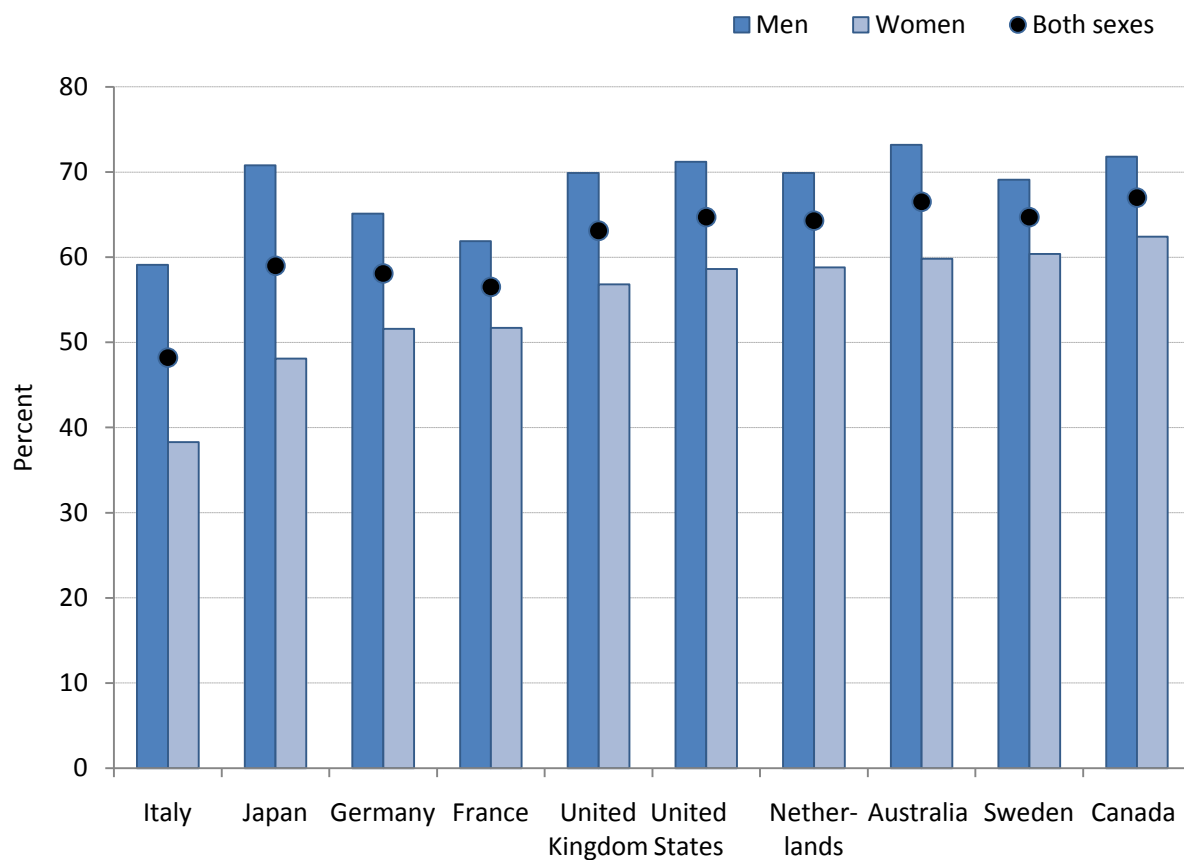


Note: Data are for 1971 for the United Kingdom and 1973 for the Netherlands, rather than 1970.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of International Labor Comparisons, *International Comparisons of Annual Labor Force Statistics, Adjusted to U.S. Concepts, 10 Countries, 1970-2010*, [Table 3-2](#).

Labor force participation rates by sex, 2010

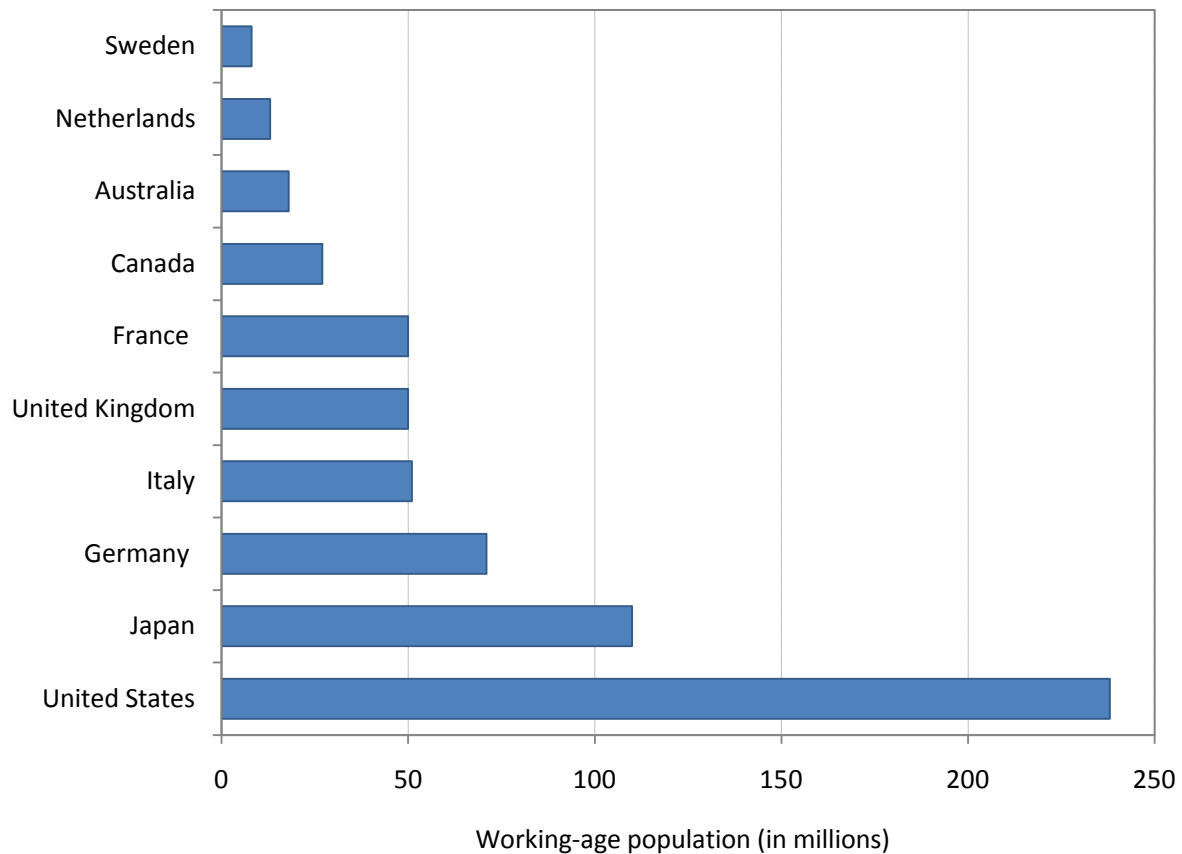
Participation rates for men were higher than rates for women in all countries. The largest gender gaps were in Japan and Italy (22.7 and 20.8 percentage points, respectively). Of all labor force participation rates for women, Canada's was the highest.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of International Labor Comparisons, *International Comparisons of Annual Labor Force Statistics, Adjusted to U.S. Concepts, 10 Countries, 1970-2010*, [Table 3-4](#) and [Table 3-5](#).

Working-age population, 2010

The United States had the largest working-age population, at approximately 238 million. The size of the working-age population in the United States is about 5 times that of the United Kingdom and 30 times that of Sweden.



Note: The working-age population is defined as the civilian non-institutional population ages 15 or 16 and over. See *International Comparisons of Annual Labor Force Statistics Adjusted to U.S. Concepts, 10 Countries, 1970-2010*, [Figure 4-1](#) for more information on lower age limits.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of International Labor Comparisons, *International Comparisons of Annual Labor Force Statistics, Adjusted to U.S. Concepts, 10 Countries, 1970-2010*, [Table 4-1](#).