

**THE TREASURY**

Submission No. 134

The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

26 February, 2003

Dr. A. Southcott, MP
Chairman
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Ageing
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Att: Allyson

Dear Dr Southcott

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGEING

I am writing with regard to Treasury's appearance before the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Ageing on 7 February 2003.

At that Standing Committee, you requested a break-down by age of the labour force participation rates for thirty OECD countries (page 36 of the Hansard transcript of that date refers).

In response to this request, attached are the labour force participation rates for thirty OECD countries divided by gender and age.

Yours sincerely

David Tune
General Manager
Fiscal and Social Policy Division

Labour Force Participation Rates for Males by Age (2000)^{(1) (2) (3)}

| Country | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65+ |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Australia | 54.6 | 85.0 | 91.9 | 91.6 | 87.1 | 73.2 | 46.9 | 9.9 |
| Austria | 47.7 | 74.4 | 92.4 | 96.3 | 91.1 | 63.1 | 13.2 | 4.4 |
| Belgium | 11.6 | 65.5 | 95.6 | 94.3 | 85.9 | 53.8 | 18.8 | 2.2 |
| Canada | 51.8 | 79.9 | 91.6 | 92.4 | 88.9 | 72.9 | 46.1 | 9.5 |
| Czech Republic | 16.0 | 79.4 | 96.0 | 96.8 | 92.3 | 75.8 | 24.5 | 6.8 |
| Denmark | 64.7 | 84.4 | 92.4 | 93.0 | 89.2 | 82.9 | 93.3 | 3.9 |
| Finland | 30.4 | 71.1 | 91.7 | 92.8 | 87.9 | 66.0 | 28.3 | 6.3 |
| France | 11.4 | 55.5 | 93.7 | 95.9 | 92.8 | 65.8 | 15.5 | 1.9 |
| Germany | 36.7 | 79.0 | 93.9 | 98.4 | 94.9 | 77.7 | 31.0 | 4.6 |
| Greece | 15.9 | 68.1 | 94.8 | 97.0 | 91.3 | 72.1 | 45.2 | 8.4 |
| Hungary | 12.9 | 67.7 | 89.3 | 89.7 | 79.6 | 51.8 | 12.0 | 3.9 |
| Iceland | 55.8 | 84.9 | 93.6 | 98.7 | 96.0 | 96.9 | 91.9 | 28.9 |
| Ireland | 34.1 | 79.1 | 94.0 | 93.4 | 88.0 | 64.7 | 64.7 | 14.7 |
| Italy | 21.9 | 63.6 | 81.1 | 94.7 | 95.1 | 69.2 | 31.4 | 5.8 |
| Japan | 18.4 | 72.7 | 96.7 | 97.7 | 97.0 | 94.2 | 72.6 | 34.1 |
| Korea | 11.6 | 51.6 | 89.4 | 95.0 | 91.0 | 77.8 | 63.2 | 39.8 |
| Luxembourg | 12.5 | 61.5 | 93.8 | 96.8 | 91.4 | 58.0 | 16.5 | 2.3 |
| Mexico | 56.2 | 84.0 | 96.4 | 97.5 | 94.3 | 87.1 | 73.7 | 50.1 |
| Netherlands | 59.3 | 82.4 | 95.0 | 94.4 | 90.7 | 68.3 | 24.5 | 5.4 |
| New Zealand | 53.7 | 79.2 | 91.1 | 91.5 | 91.5 | 72.2 | 72.2 | 11.8 |
| Norway | 52.3 | 79.3 | 91.0 | 92.5 | 90.8 | 84.8 | 60.6 | 14.2 |
| Poland | 12.8 | 68.7 | 94.0 | 92.1 | 79.1 | 51.4 | 29.7 | 12.4 |
| Portugal | 29.0 | 70.6 | 92.8 | 94.2 | 91.0 | 73.8 | 55.8 | 25.4 |
| Slovak Republic | 21.2 | 80.5 | 94.9 | 95.5 | 90.9 | 65.6 | 10.6 | 2.0 |
| Spain | 32.8 | 66.7 | 92.3 | 95.3 | 90.6 | 75.6 | 42.8 | 2.5 |
| Sweden | 32.0 | 70.0 | 88.6 | 92.1 | 91.1 | 72.8 | 72.8 | 15.1 |
| Switzerland | 70.5 | 70.5 | 96.5 | 97.0 | 97.0 | 79.3 | 79.3 | 14.3 |
| Turkey | 45.3 | 72.0 | 92.5 | 94.3 | 76.5 | 57.9 | 47.4 | 31.9 |
| United Kingdom | 63.9 | 81.9 | 93.8 | 93.3 | 88.1 | 74.8 | 50.3 | 7.9 |
| United States | 53.0 | 82.6 | 93.4 | 92.6 | 88.6 | 77.1 | 54.8 | 17.5 |

Source: OECD Labour Force Statistics 1980-2000

(1) The participation rate for a given age group is defined as the ratio between the total (or civilian) labour force for the age group divided by the total population for the age group.

(2) Austria – 1998 and Netherlands – 1999

(3) The age brackets for some countries differ to those listed. The closest possible category has been used, however, refer to the source document for more details.

Labour Force Participation Rates for Females by Age (2000)^{(1) (2) (3)}

| Country | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65+ |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Australia | 58.7 | 77.5 | 69.7 | 71.4 | 70.9 | 47.7 | 22.3 | 2.9 |
| Austria | 35.1 | 70.9 | 77.5 | 76.4 | 68.2 | 24.8 | 8.4 | 1.9 |
| Belgium | 8.8 | 55.8 | 83.7 | 76.5 | 58.3 | 24.9 | 7.1 | 1.1 |
| Canada | 51.8 | 73.9 | 79.7 | 80.2 | 75.5 | 53.4 | 27.2 | 3.3 |
| Czech Republic | 13.9 | 61.8 | 70.1 | 89.0 | 86.6 | 32.6 | 11.9 | 2.4 |
| Denmark | 61.9 | 74.2 | 82.4 | 88.9 | 81.8 | 67.7 | 23.6 | 1.6 |
| Finland | 36.6 | 64.8 | 78.3 | 87.8 | 87.6 | 66.7 | 21.6 | 2.0 |
| France | 6.0 | 46.9 | 78.6 | 79.9 | 76.5 | 51.9 | 13.5 | 0.9 |
| Germany | 27.9 | 68.8 | 76.3 | 78.9 | 75.3 | 55.3 | 12.7 | 1.7 |
| Greece | 13.4 | 56.3 | 71.2 | 65.0 | 48.6 | 31.4 | 20.5 | 2.7 |
| Hungary | 10.3 | 50.4 | 60.4 | 70.5 | 73.6 | 20.7 | 5.1 | 1.9 |
| Iceland | 65.5 | 81.0 | 85.4 | 87.7 | 91.8 | 80.2 | 72.5 | 12.0 |
| Ireland | 26.2 | 67.6 | 77.2 | 63.1 | 52.2 | 27.8 | 27.8 | 2.9 |
| Italy | 14.9 | 50.2 | 61.8 | 63.6 | 47.2 | 33.4 | 8.0 | 1.6 |
| Japan | 16.6 | 72.7 | 63.9 | 65.3 | 69.9 | 58.7 | 39.5 | 14.4 |
| Korea | 12.5 | 60.8 | 52.2 | 61.3 | 60.5 | 50.7 | 45.5 | 22.5 |
| Luxembourg | 8.6 | 51.0 | 75.7 | 64.0 | 52.8 | 20.9 | 12.5 | 1.2 |
| Mexico | 30.0 | 42.9 | 46.4 | 48.0 | 40.7 | 32.9 | 23.6 | 14.5 |
| Netherlands | 61.2 | 79.9 | 79.5 | 72.5 | 61.8 | 36.1 | 9.7 | 1.3 |
| New Zealand | 53.1 | 67.1 | 67.9 | 75.6 | 78.2 | 48.0 | 48.0 | 4.4 |
| Norway | 52.4 | 68.9 | 81.7 | 85.6 | 83.4 | 71.8 | 48.4 | 8.5 |
| Poland | 9.0 | 58.6 | 76.5 | 82.8 | 70.3 | 31.8 | 16.3 | 5.2 |
| Portugal | 21.9 | 58.8 | 82.1 | 79.6 | 68.9 | 47.8 | 36.7 | 13.5 |
| Slovak Republic | 20.9 | 62.9 | 77.2 | 89.5 | 81.7 | 17.2 | 3.4 | 0.6 |
| Spain | 21.5 | 56.9 | 74.1 | 64.1 | 47.4 | 28.5 | 16.6 | 0.9 |
| Sweden | 37.8 | 61.6 | 81.9 | 87.9 | 87.0 | 65.9 | 65.9 | 6.1 |
| Switzerland | 66.0 | 66.0 | 78.6 | 78.6 | 77.3 | 62.4 | 8.2 | 8.2 |
| Turkey | 23.4 | 31.1 | 29.6 | 28.2 | 24.5 | 22.7 | 17.0 | 10.3 |
| United Kingdom | 61.6 | 68.9 | 75.3 | 77.2 | 75.9 | 57.6 | 25.9 | 3.4 |
| United States | 51.3 | 73.3 | 76.3 | 77.3 | 76.8 | 61.2 | 40.1 | 9.4 |

Source: OECD Labour Force Statistics 1980-2000

(1) The participation rate for a given age group is defined as the ratio between the total (or civilian) labour force for the age group divided by the total population for the age group.

(2) Austria - 1998 and Netherlands - 1999

(3) The age brackets for some countries differ to those listed. The closest possible category has been used, however, refer to the source document for more details.