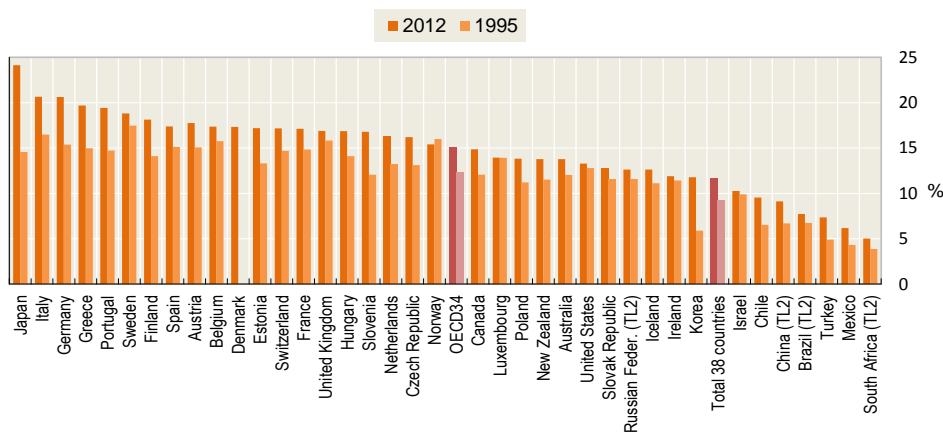


Societies are ageing fast, especially in OECD countries. The share of elderly population – those aged 65 and more – has increased to 15% in 2012 on average in the OECD from 12% in 1995. Due to the increasing life expectancy and the decline in fertility rates, the elderly population in OECD countries has increased 4 times faster than the rest of the population, in the past 20 years.

In many OECD regions at least 20% of the population is aged 65 or more. Fast ageing of population is of particular concern in many regions in Japan, Italy Portugal and Spain. The consequences of this development will generate challenges to financing public budgets and the ability to sustain public services. Spending on healthcare and elderly care will continue to rise, while finally the decreasing working-age population potentially affects the labour market and consequently economic growth.

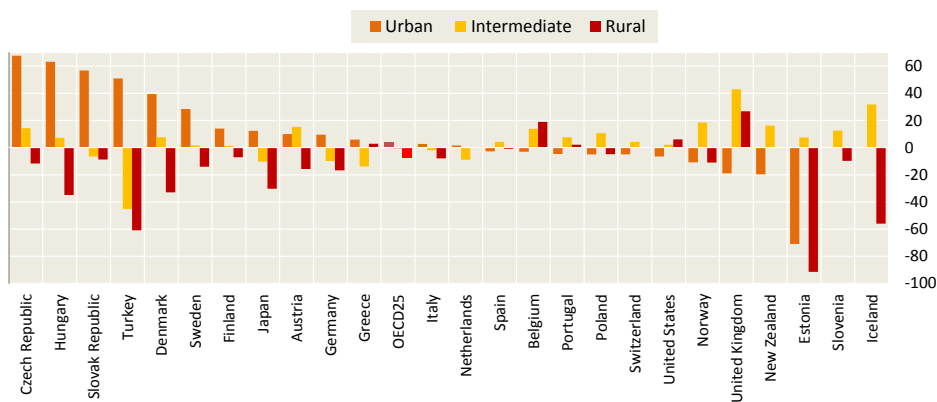
Elderly population as a % of the total population, 1995 and 2012



Source: OECD Regions at a Glance 2013

Inter-regional mobility is an important component for the change in the demographic structure. On average, 2% of the total population changes residence annually. On aggregate in the OECD area, the net migration is positive in urban regions and negative in rural ones. However, rural regions in Belgium, Greece, Portugal, United Kingdom and United States were net recipient of regional migration.

Annual regional migration rate per type of region, 2009-2011



Source: OECD Regions at a Glance 2013

Links:

- [OECD Regions at a Glance 2013](#)
- [OECD Regional Statistics and Indicators](#)
- [Regions at a Glance interactive](#)

Definitions

Regional **elderly population** is the regional population of 65 years of age and over. Regional working age population is the regional population between 15 and 64 years of age. The elderly dependency rate is defined as the ration between the elderly population and the working age population.

Data on **internal migration** refer to yearly flows of population from one TL3 region to another TL3 region (regional migration). Outflows are represented as the number of persons who left the region the previous year to reside in another region of the country, while inflows are represented as the number of new residents in the region coming from another region of the country.

The **net migration flow** is defined as the difference between inflows and outflows in a region. A negative net migration flow means that more migrants left the region than entered it.