

# WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE LTC SECTOR ACROSS OECD COUNTRIES

Paola Sillitti, Health Division, OECD

International day of care and support GOLTC online event 29 October 2024

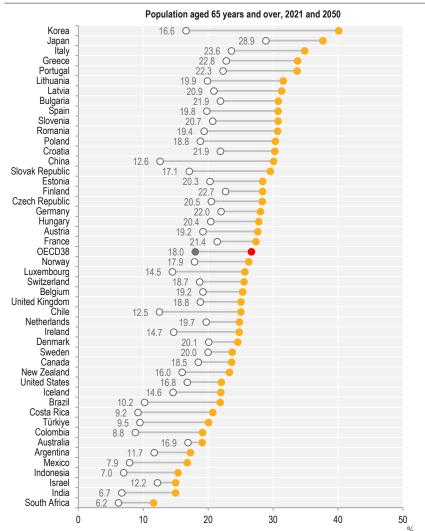


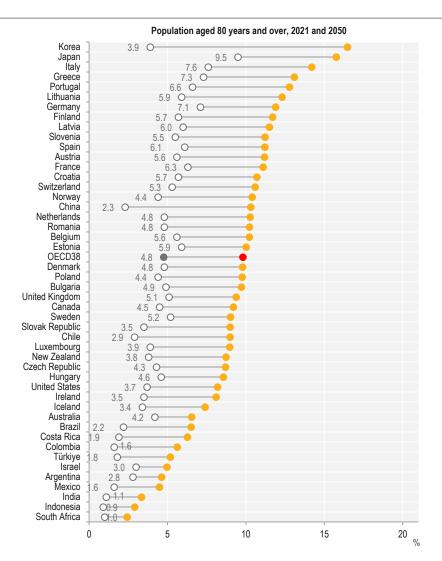


## CURRENT TRENDS IN AGEING AND CARE NEEDS



#### Across the OECD, societies are ageing





Population 65+ from <9% in 1960 to 18% in 2021

In five countries (KOR, JAP, ITA, GRE, PRT), it will exceed 1/3 in 2050

Source: OECD Health Statistics 2023



#### Population ageing increases care needs



Ageing population



• High prevalence of multiple chronic conditions & changes in diseases profile (e.g. increases in Alzheimer's and dementia)



Increased demand for formal and informal care

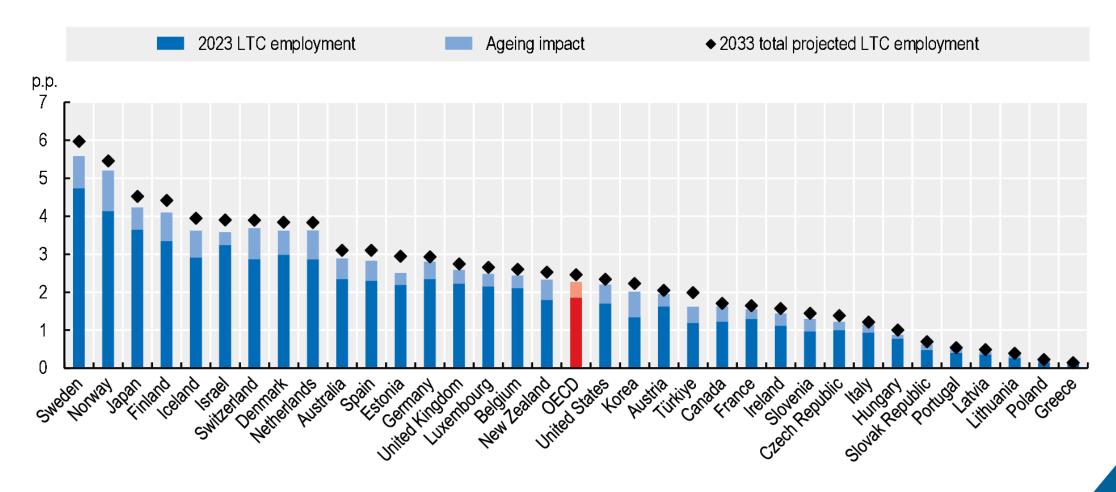


# FORMAL LONG TERM CARE WORKFORCE



#### LTC workforce shortages are a longstanding issue

The LTC share of total employment needs to increase by 32% over the next decade to meet demand





#### Working conditions in LTC are poor and unattractive



LTC salaries are lower than in the hospital sector



Part-time employment in LTC is twice the average OECD rate.



The average **tenure** is twoyear lower in LTC than in the overall labour market



Migrant workers play an important role in many countries



15% of LTC workers report health issues due to their job



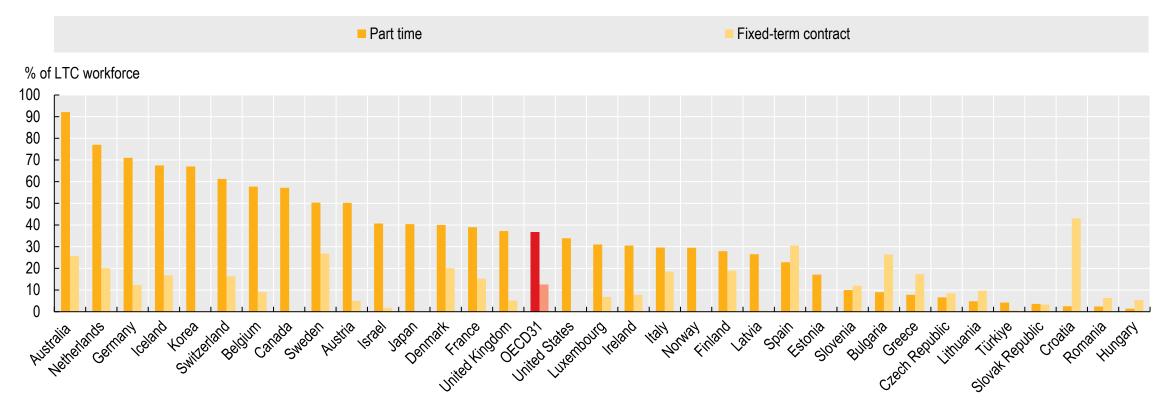
More than 45% of LTC workers are exposed to mental health risk factors

Source: OECD



### Considerable amount of LTC workers works part time and in fixed-term contracts

Share of long-term care workers who work part time or on fixed-term contracts, 2021 (or nearest year)

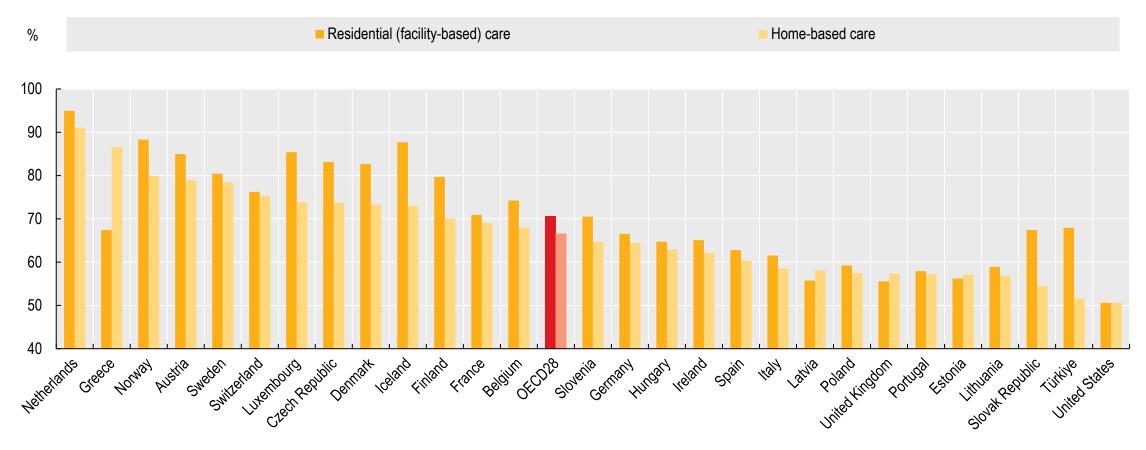


Source: OECD Health Statistics 2023



# Wages of personal care workers are below economy-wide wages

Average hourly wages of personal care workers, as share of economy-wide average wage, 2018



Source: OECD calculations based on 2018 EU-SES data, and 2021 OEWS Survey data for the United States



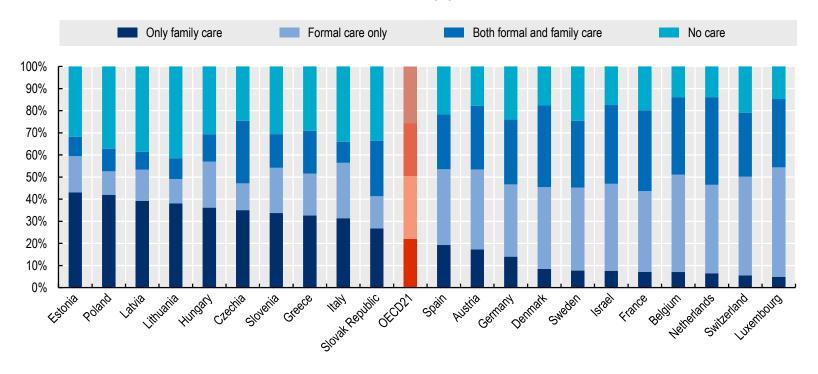
### INFORMAL CARERS



#### The informal sector provides the bulk of LTC

#### Around half of older people with care needs receive informal care

Share of the population 65+ with at least three ADL or IADL limitations, by type of care received

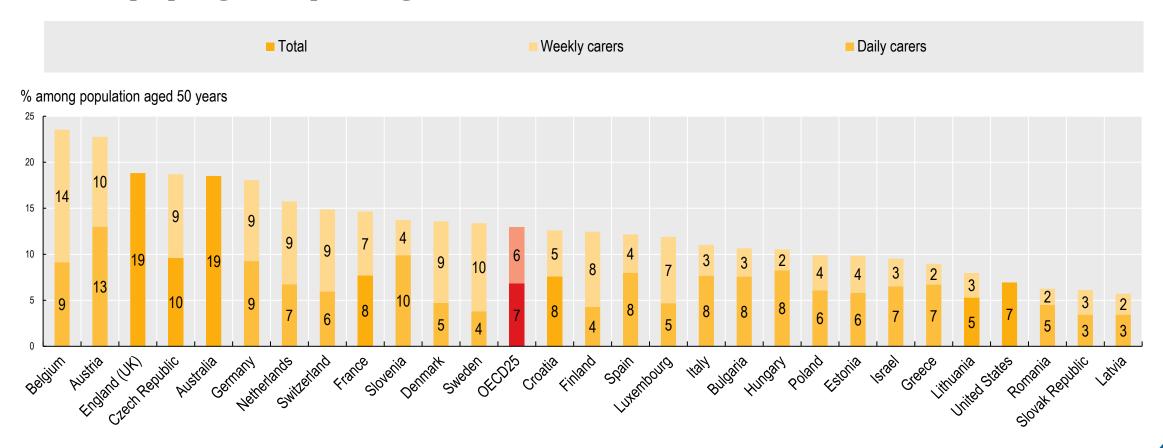


Note: Family care is received from family and friends; formal care is delivered by paid carers. Countries are sorted by the number of people receiving only family care. Source: OECD (2023[18]), Beyond Applause? Improving Working Conditions in Long-Term Care, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1787/27d33ab3-en">https://doi.org/10.1787/27d33ab3-en</a>



### A large proportion of people aged 50+ provides informal care

Share of people aged 50+ providing informal care

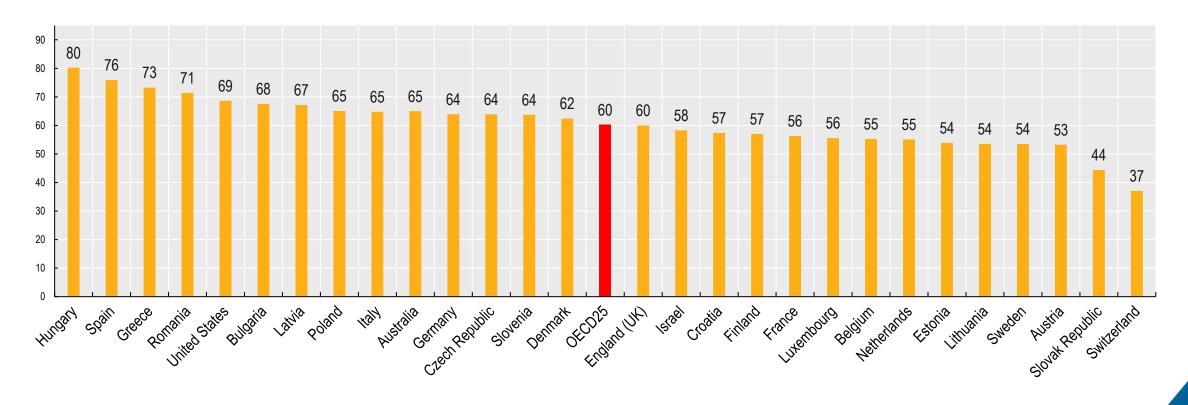


Source: SHARE, wave 8 (2019-20); SDAC (2018) for Australia; ELSA, wave 9 (2018-19) for the United Kingdom; HRS, wave 14 (2018-19) for the United States.



#### Informal long-term care is largely female

Share of women among informal daily carers (among the population aged 50+), 2019 (or nearest year) % of women



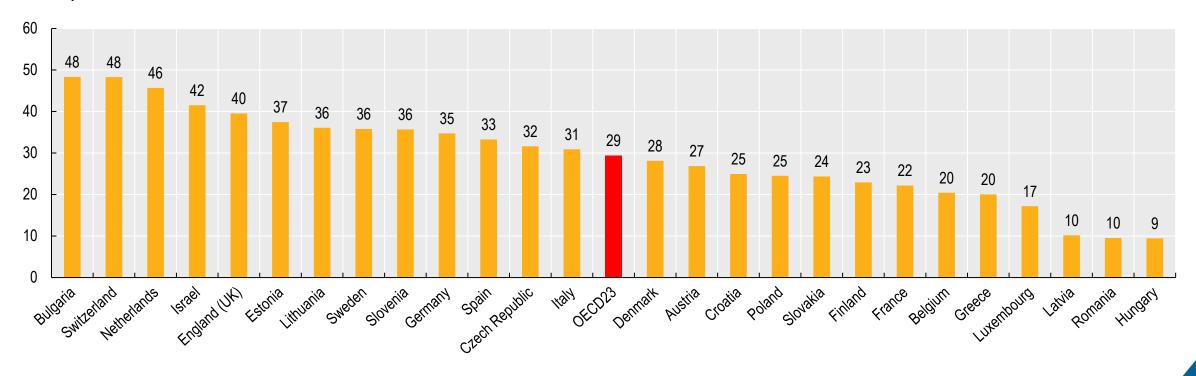
Source: SHARE, wave 8 (2019-20); SDAC (2018) for Australia; ELSA, wave 9 (2018-19) for the United Kingdom; HRS, wave 14 (2018-19) for the United States.



#### More than 1 in 4 daily carers work at the same time

Share of informal daily carers that report working in addition to caring, 2019 (or nearest year)

#### % of daily carers



Source: SHARE, wave 8 (2019-20); SDAC (2018) for Australia; ELSA, wave 9 (2018-19) for the United Kingdom; HRS, wave 14 (2018-19) for the United States.



### POLICY OPTIONS



#### Policy options to support formal and informal carers



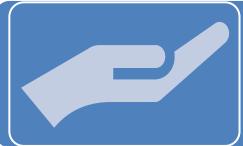
#### Slowing down the insurgence of care needs

• Prevention, early diagnoses and adequate rehabilitation



#### Improving attractiveness of LTC sector

- Wage increases, opportunities for career progression, training
- Attracting foreign workers likely not sustainable in the long run



#### Supporting the informal carers

• Carer leave, allowances, respite care, training



#### The OECD supported countries facing workforce challenges in LTC for over a decade

2011 2020 2023



#### **Help Wanted?** PROVIDING AND PAYING FOR LONG-TERM CARE





**OECD Health Policy Studies** 

**Who Cares? Attracting** and Retaining Care Workers for the Elderly





Beyond Applause? Improving **Working Conditions** in Long-Term Care





















### THANK YOU!