

# OCCUPATIONAL CHANGE IN THE BELGIAN LABOR MARKET 1986-2020



New technologies are restructuring the labor market. More workers are needed in some occupations while other occupations decline. This study describes the characteristics of workers in occupations that have grown/declined most rapidly in Belgium over the past 35 years.

## OCCUPATIONAL CHANGE 1986-2020

### GROWING OCCUPATIONS

mostly include white collars workers:

- Business and administrative professionals
- ICT workers
- Health workers, legal workers, socio-cultural workers and teachers



### DECLINING OCCUPATIONS

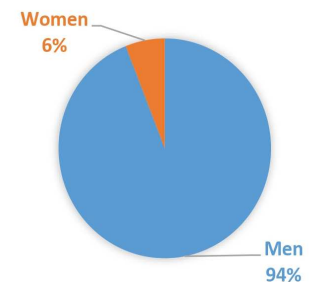
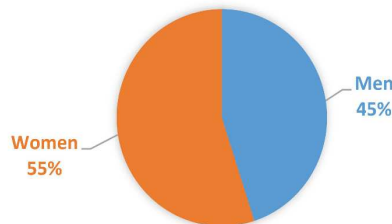
mostly include blue collars workers:

- Electrical and electronic workers
- Handicraft and printing workers
- Food, wood and garment workers
- Metal and machinery workers



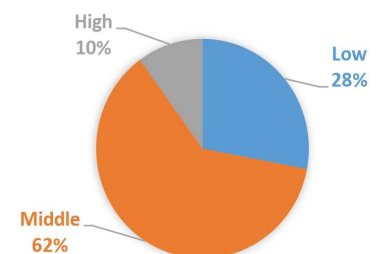
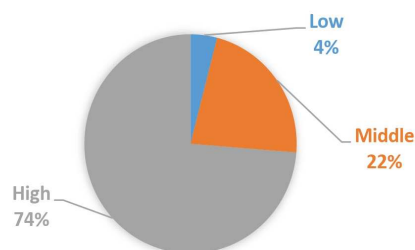
#### GENDER:

Most workers in growing occupations are female (55%), but the large majority in declining occupations are male (94%).



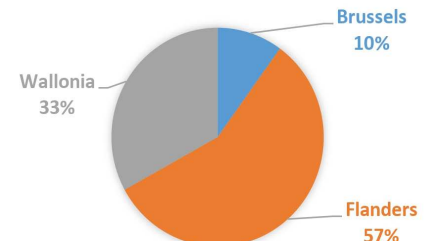
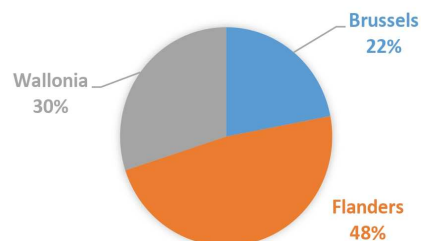
#### EDUCATION:

The large majority of workers in growing occupations are high-educated (74%), while the majority in declining occupations are middle-educated (62%).



#### REGION:

The (urban) Brussels region has a much larger share in the growing occupations.



Notes: Growing/declining occupations are defined based on 1986-2020 Belgian Labor Force Survey data (LFS-EAK). Growing occupations are ISCO-08 groups 33,24,22,26,25,23,21,31,53 and 34. Declining occupations are groups 72,75,73, 74 and 71. Worker characteristics refer to the 2013-20 period. For more detailed information and additional results, see [www.sead.be](http://www.sead.be). Authors: Céline Dettleux & Nick Deschacht (KU Leuven, Department of Economics).