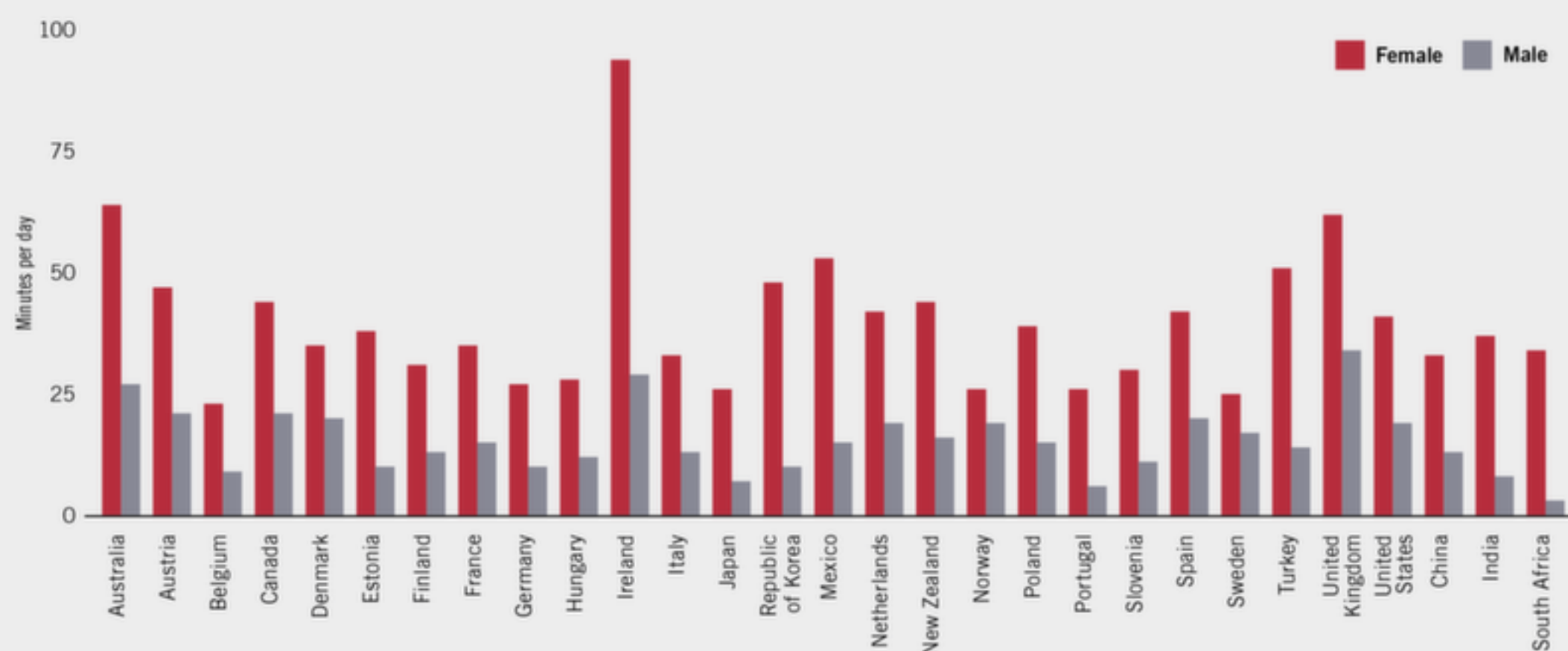


In many low and middle-income countries, time spent on unpaid work by women and girls is exacerbated by inadequate access to basic technology and infrastructure, including piped water and domestic technology, in particular in rural areas (Razavi, 2007). The lack of publicly available and safe transport for women workers, especially those with low income, limits their labour force participation as this confines them to a smaller pool of potential employers and jobs and reduces their ability to bargain over and improve the terms and conditions of employment (Salon and Gulyani 2010; Dickerson 2002). Where caring responsibilities are not adequately met, the lack of available transport can only exacerbate women's dependency on a smaller set of job opportunities (Schwanen 2007; Mauch and Taylor, 1996; Preston and McLafferty, 1993).

As discussed in Part One, over the last decades, men have increasingly taken on more responsibility for unpaid care work. Even, however, in high and middle-income countries with a relatively high participation of women in the labour force and in which women are more or less equal under the law, women are still likely to provide twice as much unpaid care work as men.<sup>46</sup> In Estonia, India, Japan, Mexico, Portugal, Republic of Korea and Turkey, women devote more than three times as much time to unpaid care work as men do (figure 31).

The pervasive inequality – even in countries where women appear to be more economically, politically and socially empowered – is also fuelled by perceptions about care responsibilities. As a report by the European Commission (2015b) shows, 50 per cent of women and men respondents from 28 countries believe that men are less competent at household tasks than women. This attitude is most prevalent in Italy (71 per cent), Hungary (71 per cent), Bulgaria (66 per cent) and Romania (63 per cent). Gender-based expectations surrounding care responsibilities also affect men's perceptions about their time spent on unpaid work at home. A study in eight countries, including Brazil, Chile, Mexico and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, found that, despite the findings of time-use surveys which indicate the reverse, between 36 and 70 per cent of men reported playing a role “equal to” or “greater than” their partner in childcare. Between 46 and 62 per cent (with the exception of India) reported that their contribution to household tasks was also equal to or greater than their partners'. Studies suggested that where men do engage in childcare, their tasks were less laborious, the most common being through play (Kato-Wallace et al., 2014; Levto et al., 2015).<sup>47</sup>

**Figure 31** Time spent daily by women and men on care for a household member (latest year available)



Note: OECD estimates based on national time-use surveys. Methodological documentation on national time-use surveys used for the estimates is in Miranda, 2011. The classification of activities tends to differ across countries: the assignment of time allocated to the activity categories defined by the OECD can only be approximated in some countries where highly detailed data are not available. Caution is thus needed in cross-country comparisons whenever the differences in minutes are not large. Data are normalized to 1440 minutes per day. In other words, for those countries for which the time use does not add up to 1440 minutes, the missing minutes are equally distributed across all activities.

Source: OECD, 2014a based on national time-use surveys.

46. Legal gender differences are widespread: 155 of the 173 economies covered have at least one law impeding women's economic opportunities (World Bank, 2015a).

47. The analysis is based on data from the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES). Data are gathered from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Mexico and Rwanda. The surveys are coordinated by Promundo and the International Centre for Research on Women. See Levto et al., 2014.