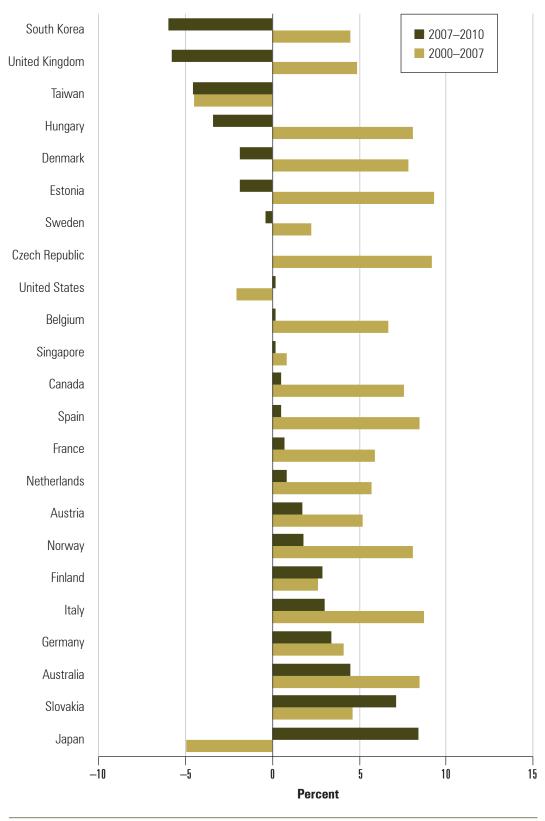
Converting unit labor costs (compensation per unit of output) to U.S. dollars enables comparisons of international competitiveness. **Competitiveness** increases as unit labor costs decrease.

 Growth in manufacturing unit labor costs was faster from 2000 to 2007 than the growth between 2007 and 2010 in most countries. Japan and Slovakia had the sharpest increases in unit labor costs during the latter period.

Growth in manufacturing unit labor costs in U.S. dollars, selected countries, average annual rates, 2000-2007 and 2007-2010



SOURCES: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.