

Social and Welfare Statistics

Social and Welfare Statistics

Benefits and Wages

Purpose

Monitor reforms of tax and benefits systems and their impact on work incentives and income adequacy. Results are used as the basis of the OECD's "Benefits and Wages" publication and as inputs into a wide range of studies produced within and outside the OECD. In addition, the group develops and maintains tax-benefit models. These computer models allow a wide range of tax and benefit indicators to be produced. Finally, an online "tax-benefit calculator" has now been made available on the web-page www.oecd.org/els/social/workincentives and will be maintained and updated in the future.

Objectives and outputs

The Benefits and Wages series addresses the complicated interactions of tax and benefit systems for different family types and labour market situations. The series is a valuable tool used to compare the different benefits made available to those without work and those with different levels of in-work income. The resulting indicators (such as 'net replacement rates') are useful for addressing issues of both work incentives and adequacy of household incomes.

Recent updates include calculations of incomes and work incentives net of childcare costs. Country coverage was recently extended to include Chile, Estonia, Israel and Slovenia, and, as part of a grant agreement with the European Commission, the new EU Members States who are not currently members of the OECD: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Romania. Preliminary models have been developed for Russia. Finally, ad-hoc models were developed jointly with the World Bank for a number of south-eastern European countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Serbia.

An interface for interactive web access to tax-benefit models has been developed ("tax-benefit calculator") and is available on the web-page www.oecd.org/els/social/workincentives. It will be maintained and updated in the future.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta, Republic of Serbia, Romania, Russian Federation

Databases

Benefits and Wages

Main Developments for 2011

General aspects:

Improved modelling of child-related policies, including transfers available to parents of very young children (e.g. maternity benefits). Improved modelling of the gender dimension of social policies (e.g. by collecting better earnings data for men and women).

Data collection:

include Bulgaria, Romania, Chile, Israel, Russia

Social and Welfare Statistics

Family Outcomes and Policies

Purpose

To include cross-national information on family outcomes and policies as categorised under 4 broad headings: the structure of families, families and children, the labour market position of families, public policies for families and children, and child outcomes.

Objectives and outputs

Following up on the OECD Babies and Bosses reviews on the reconciliation of work and family life in selected Member States, and in view of the strong demand for cross-national indicators on the situation of families and children, the OECD has developed an on-line database on family outcomes and family policies with indicators for all OECD countries. The database brings together information from different OECD databases (for example, the OECD Social Expenditure database, the OECD Benefits and Wages database, or the OECD Education database), and databases maintained by other international organisations.

Development of the database is an ongoing process. The first batch of indicators on policies and outcomes was released in 2006. The database now has 58 online indicators containing information on the structure of families and demographic behavioural trends, public policies for families, the employment status of the latter, and child outcomes.

By the end of 2010, we produced 5 new indicators and updated 15 existing indicators.

In addition, in 2010, the database launched its "country snapshots". This tool allows data users to assess countries' position with respect to the OECD average. The assessment can be done using 16 indicators from the four different areas of the OECD Family database.

Child well-being indicators for children in OECD countries are also being constructed. These indicators belong to 6 different dimensions: material well-being; housing and environment; education; health; risk behaviours; and quality of school life. More via www.oecd.org/els/social/childwellbeing.

Databases

OECD Family Database and Child Wellbeing

Main Developments for 2011

General aspects:

In 2011, we will continue to develop new indicators and we will update around 30 of the already existent indicators.

We will develop a family support calculator which will consider comprehensive indicators on financial support through tax/benefit systems for model type families with different earnings.

The Family database will migrate to Access (SQL platform) to facilitate updating indicators.

Social and Welfare Statistics

Income Distribution and Poverty

Purpose

Analysis of main trends in the distribution of incomes from 1980s, based upon the OECD Income Distribution Questionnaire (irregular time intervals, every 4-5 years).

Objectives and outputs

Following the release in October 2008 of "Growing Unequal? Income Distribution and Poverty in OECD Countries", maintenance work and adjustments were carried out on the database. A data update on late 2000s data was carried out in 2010 on a key series of the questionnaire, as a basis for the 2011 Social Policy ministerial. Data will be released during Winter 2011.

Databases

OECD Income Distribution questionnaire

Main Developments for 2011

General aspects:

A data update on late 2000s data was carried out in 2010 on a key series of the questionnaire, as a basis for the 2011 Social Policy ministerial.

In 2010, we gathered comparable results for the accession countries, on the basis of the Income Distribution Questionnaire.

New data will be released during Winter 2011.

Data management:

metadata in:

<http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=INEQUALITY>

<http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=POVERTY>

are regularly updated following comments from users.

Social and Welfare Statistics

Mental Health, Disability and Work

Purpose

Over the past four years, the OECD Review "Sickness, Disability and Work: Breaking the Barriers" (see www.oecd.org/els/disability) concluded that policy has changed very much in many countries but not enough in most cases; by and large policies remain too passive in nature. The review identified two big questions to be addressed more fervently: First, why so many people take leave of absence or apply for a disability benefit on the grounds of mental illness; and secondly, how people with mental health conditions could be better integrated into the labour market.

The new OECD Review "Disability and Work: Challenges for Labour Market Inclusion of People with Mental Illness" aims to address these two questions, by drawing lessons from policies and outcomes in ten member countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States).

Objectives and outputs

The launch meeting at OECD headquarters in Paris, April 26-28, 2010 is intended to bring together policymakers, researchers, and other experts who can contribute state-of-the-art evidence and experience to frame the issues surrounding increasing labour market inclusion for individuals with a mental health-related disability.

A data questionnaire was sent in the Autumn 2010 to ten member countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States) participating in the new OECD Review "Disability and Work: Challenges for Labour Market Inclusion of People with Mental Illness".

Release in November 2010 of "Sickness, Disability and Work: Breaking the Barriers - A Synthesis of Findings across OECD Countries" - see www.oecd.org/els/disability.

Main Developments for 2011

General aspects:

Preparation of a background report (release in Autumn 2011), including new comparative indicators and analysis on the relationship between mental health conditions, work and benefit reciprocity; based on data received from ten OECD countries. The report and the indicators will inform the second phase of the project which aims to provide evidence-based policy conclusions for the countries participating in the project.

Social and Welfare Statistics

Pension Monitoring

Purpose

In order to ensure that pension reforms are both financially and socially sustainable, it is essential to monitor the outcomes of changes in pension system parameters and rules. The activity uses a microeconomic approach which is particularly suitable for international comparison of pension policies. Prospective individual benefit entitlements from mandatory pension arrangements are modelled for full-career workers at different earnings levels. The framework uses the same economic assumptions for all countries and thereby abstracts from non-pension factors, which often distort international comparisons of pension systems.

Objectives and outputs

To monitor pension systems and pension policies in OECD countries, to collect, up-date and analyse information on pension system rules and parameters and to model prospective pension entitlements for standard retirement, early retirement and interrupted careers. The output of this activity is published in regularly updated reports.

The fourth edition of Pensions at a Glance will be published in early 2011. The report includes updates of the models with 2008 parameters, including special chapters covering pension ages, life expectancy, incentives to retire and older workers.

In 2010:

- Key data were disseminated in OECD.Stat via
<http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=ELSPENSIONS>

- an on-line Pension calculator was updated, via
http://www.oecd.org/document/12/0,3343,en_2649_34757_43024076_1_1_1_1,00.html

- most indicators related to pensions are available on-line in MS-Excel format via
www.oecd.org/els/social/pensions/PAG#data

The fifth edition of Pensions at a Glance will be published in 2012. The report will include updates of the models with 2010 parameters.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa

Databases

Pension monitoring database

Main Developments for 2011

General aspects:

The range of countries covered under the Pensions at a Glance umbrella is constantly expanding with an update for PaG Asia due in early 2011 and work will commence on the LAC region with provisional results being available mid/late 2011. Further areas of analysis will concentrate on periods of career absence because of unemployment.

Data management:

The number of indicators covered in the data will be increased leading to the creation of a pensions database.

Social and Welfare Statistics

Revision of the Canberra Handbook on the Measurement of Household Income

Purpose

To revise the 2005 Handbook on the Measurement of Household Income, in the light of evidence from new research and statistical conventions

Objectives and outputs

Work started in the fall of 2009, continued in 2010 and will be completed by mid-2011. A complete re-draft of the Handbook is now available and will be circulated in early-2011 to the CES Bureau. After circulation to member countries, the final version should be adopted by the CES plenary in June 2011.

Main Developments for 2011

General aspects:

A first draft of the revised handbook is now available.

Social and Welfare Statistics

Social Benefit Recipients

Purpose

Detailed data on benefit recipiency in a comparative framework are needed to assess how effective social safety nets are at reaching their objectives.

For instance, they show who benefits from social safety nets, and what share of a targeted population is actually covered. In a longitudinal perspective, these recipiency data help identify the role of safety nets across the economic cycle, and how recipients adjust to changes in programme rules. These questions are essential in the perspective of adapting social systems to future economic and demographic challenges.

Currently, comprehensive data on benefit recipiency is not easily available, and is sometime difficult to obtain even at country level. Furthermore, very little information is usually provided on beneficiary characteristics, almost no information is available on programme entries and exits except in some cases.

The database should ideally cover income replacement benefits and their main supplements paid to the working age population.

Objectives and outputs

A first partial and preliminary version of the database will be made available by December 2011. This version will include annual caseloads for 2008 and, to the extent possible, inflows during the same period. Subject to data availability the number of recipients will be broken down by age and gender.

Main Developments for 2011

General aspects:

N/A

Social and Welfare Statistics

Social Expenditure

Purpose

The database has been developed to monitor trends in aggregate social expenditure as well as changes in its composition. SOCX includes historical series from 1980 on public and mandatory private social expenditure at programme level classified under the major social policy areas.

Objectives and outputs

Social Expenditure Database: data collection (in co-operation with Eurostat for EU countries) and dissemination on the internet www.oecd.org/els/social/expenditure of expenditure data, programme by programme, grouped in the main expenditure categories, from 1980 to 2007.

SOCX (2010) came out in October 2010, including net (after taxes) and voluntary social spending.

Databases

Social expenditures

Main Developments for 2011

Data collection:

Data update every other year. 2006 and 2007 were collected in first semester of 2010.

We should compute some short term spending projections till 2012.

Social and Welfare Statistics

Social Indicators

Purpose

Social indicators have been developed to provide the broad perspective needed for any international comparison and assessment of social trends, outcomes and policies. By linking social status and social response indicators across a broad range of policy areas, social indicators help to identify whether and how the broad thrust of social policies and societal actions are addressing key social policy issues.

Objectives and outputs

The sixth edition of *Society at a Glance*, the biennial OECD overview of social indicators will be published in April 2011.

This report addresses the growing demand for quantitative evidence on social well-being and its trends. It updates some indicators included in the five editions published since 2001 and introduces several new ones.

The 2011 report heralds the arrival of four new OECD member countries Chile, Estonia, Israel and Slovenia. These countries are included in *Society at a Glance* for the first time. Data on Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russia and South Africa is also included where available.

This report features a special chapter on unpaid work (Chapter 1). It also provides a guide to help readers in understanding the structure of OECD social indicators (Chapter 2), and a summary of the main trends (Chapter 3). More detailed information on all indicators, including those not in this edition, can be found on the OECD web pages (www.oecd.org/els/social/indicators).

Society at a Glance – Asia/Pacific Edition 2011, a joint OECD/Korea Policy Centre publication, will also be published in 2011 - it offers a concise quantitative overview of social trends and policies across Asia-Pacific economies.

Databases

Social indicators

Main Developments for 2011

Data collection:

Data update every other year (data update in 2010).