

Social and Welfare Statistics

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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 for 28 countries. These computer models allow a wide range of tax and benefit indicators to be produced.

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.

Databases

Benefits and Wages

Main Developments for 2005

General aspects:

Greater level of detail for some benefit categories (e.g. childcare benefits). The definition of earnings will be reviewed with the aim of expanding the sectoral coverage of the earnings data used to derive average earnings.

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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.

Databases

Pension monitoring database

Main Developments for 2005

General aspects:

A first report on monitoring the future impact of today's pension policies and a companion paper on the impact of career interruptions on pension entitlements will be published in early 2005, based on the rules of OECD pension systems in the year 2002. An updated report with the rules of 2004 will be published in 2006.

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Pension Statistics

Purpose

To develop a set of internationally comparable indicators, which will enable to assess and monitor the size and activity of the private pension sector from OECD and non-OECD countries.

Objectives and outputs

Collection of private pension statistics on an on-going basis and description and assessment of countries' statistical methodology use in the gathering of private pension data using the OECD Taxonomy on pension plans and pension funds.

Release of a first data set. In order to develop a common understanding and vocabulary, ongoing work on a taxonomy for pension plans, pension funds and pension entities and a glossary for pension related terms also complements the statistical project on pension. The "OECD Pensions Glossary" includes an expanded list of terms, proposed definitions and related vocabulary.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, Bulgaria, Estonia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovenia, Thailand

Databases

OECD Global Pension Statistics

Main Developments for 2005

General aspects:

The geographical coverage would be extended to additional OECD and non-OECD countries and, with a view to compiling longer time series of data, data collection for past years will be considered.

In order to reduce the delays in the production of pension statistics and indicators, the activity will be migrated to StatWorks and OECD.Stat.

Publication of a newsletter including the indicators.

Data collection:

A Pension statistics 'tour d'horizon' will be prepared aiming at presenting the recent trends in the private pension area.

Data management:

With a view to disseminate the data together with metadata the latter will be revised and enriched.

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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 2001.

In 2004, SOCX took part in the STD quality review process.

Development of net (after taxes) and voluntary social spending is on-going.

Databases

Social expenditures

Main Developments for 2005

General aspects:

Main improvements are described in the Quality review undertaken in 2004. They include: improving the consistency of the data with the OECD Labour Market Policy and Health database; and improve transparency of data classification along the SOCX (OECD) and ESSPROS (Eurostat) methodologies (in collaboration with Eurostat).

Development of net (after taxes) and voluntary social spending is on-going.

Data collection:

No major data update in 2005, but development of module of net (after taxes) and voluntary private social spending.

Data management:

Development of module of net (after taxes) social expenditure.

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Social Indicators

Purpose

To continue development work on social indicators, using existing data, with a focus on social policy effectiveness and presenting data on policy interventions, on the one hand, and social outcomes, on the other.

Objectives and outputs

The third edition of "Society at a Glance" was prepared in 2004 (to be published early 2005). It updates some of the indicators included in the 2001 and 2002 editions, and adds new ones including measures of subjective well-being for the first time. This report aims to inform the discussion of OECD Social Policy Ministers to be held on 31 March – 1 April 2005

Databases

Social indicators

Main Developments for 2005

General aspects:

A third issue of the publication will be published in March 2005, aiming to inform the discussion of OECD Social Policy Ministers to be held on 31 March – 1 April 2005. This report attempts to satisfy the growing demand for quantitative evidence on whether our societies are getting more or less unequal, healthier, and cohesive. It updates some of the indicators included in the 2001 and 2002 editions, and adds new ones including measures of subjective well-being for the first time.

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The OECD Taxonomy for Pension Plans and Pension Funds

Purpose

Develop a common understanding and vocabulary of the OECD approved classification of pension plans and pension funds.

Objectives and outputs

In order to develop a common understanding and vocabulary, ongoing work on a taxonomy for pension plans and pension funds and a glossary for pension related terms also complements the statistical project on pension. The 'OECD Pensions Glossary' includes an expanded list of terms, proposed definitions and related vocabularies.

Main Developments for 2005

General aspects:

To the light of the statistical data collection of pension statistics a further improvement of the current Glossary is foreseen. The approved classification of pension plans and pension funds will be published together with the glossary of pension terms. In addition, the glossary would be enriched of new pension related terms in 2005.