

# Labour Statistics

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## Annual Labour Force Statistics

### Purpose

To provide relevant, reliable annual labour force statistics covering long time series for internal OECD users (in particular, the Economics Department), Member country government agencies and other external users in academic institutions and private enterprise.

The Annual Labour Force Statistics (ALFS) publication complements labour force statistics published in the monthly Main Economic Indicators (MEI).

### Objectives and outputs

The main objective is to provide long time series for key annual statistics on population, labour force, employment and unemployment. This database contains annual statistics for OECD Member countries comprising: population, total employment, unemployment, civilian employment by sectors, part-time employment, duration of unemployment. Published output also includes participation and unemployment rates by gender and detailed age groups as well as comparative tables for the main components of the labour force.

Data are available for all 30 OECD Member countries and for OECD-Total, Euro area and EU15. Time series cover 20 years for most countries. The long time-series for the data presented facilitate identification of structural changes in labour force over time.

Published output are also accompanied by target OECD and ILO international statistical standards (definitions, etc) and summary methodological information (national definitions, coverage, collection, calculation, series breaks, sources) used by individual OECD Member countries in the compilation of the statistics published in the ALFS.

Following the major restructure of the 2003 publication the only changes made to the 2004 edition of ALFS entailed further adjustments and enhancements to the metadata provided for each country.

### Databases

Annual Labour Force Statistics

### Main Developments for 2005

#### General aspects:

Migration of metadata into the MetaStore database to ensure consistency of this metadata with that provided for similar series for MEI. Migration of ALFS data into OECD.Stat. Research into the possible collection of additional series on other key labour market issues such as the ageing labour force.

Revision of explanatory text to incorporate (initial) summary reasons for differences between labour force estimates and estimates compiled by national accountants for labour input measures to national accounts.

**Data collection:**

Targeted countries slow at responding to the annual questionnaire will be requested to speed up their response.

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## Labour Market Statistics

### Purpose

To provide statistical information for discussion at international meetings on labour policies and for preparatory work for international statistical guidelines. To produce a comprehensive set of statistics to monitor developments in OECD labour markets, improving their international comparability.

### Objectives and outputs

Collection, production and dissemination of labour statistics containing labour force, performance (i.e. earnings, etc.) and institutional variables (i.e. minimum wages, ALMP data, trade union membership, collective bargaining coverage, etc.) to enable labour market analysis. Data are used to produce the statistical annex of the Employment Outlook and the internal and on-line Labour Force Statistics database. Some of the data series are also shown in the Annual Labour Force Statistics publication.

### Databases

Labour Market Statistics

### Main Developments for 2005

#### General aspects:

Updating of the earnings databases and some methodological work on earnings concepts and sources. Complementing the ALFS database with statistics to better characterise inactivity and those related to labour force situation of individuals by family type, etc.

Migration of data and metadata to OECD.Stat for internal and external web based dissemination. Work carried forward in 2005 and largely dependant on ITN for reaching the final dissemination target.

#### Data collection:

Where possible, development of capability for direct access to labour force survey (public use) microdatasets in (non-EU) countries.

#### Data management:

Migration of the database to OECD.Stat and of the metadata to MetaStore.

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## Working Time Measurement

### Purpose

The purpose of the activity is to contribute to the revision of existing international guidelines and recommendations on working time measurement. The absence of comparable statistics on working time, particularly annual working time statistics, is one of the major impediments to the development of internationally comparable productivity measures.

### Objectives and outputs

The process for revising existing international guidelines and recommendations on working time measurement is for the OECD to play a leading role in the work of the Paris City Group on Labour and Compensation Statistics. The Group comprises experts in this field from national agencies and international organisations.

The work of this Group in 2004 has been devoted almost entirely on issues in this area, specifically: working time arrangements; measurement of hours worked, in particular (but not only) annual hours; use of hours worked-statistics in derived products such as productivity.

The output of the work of the Paris Group has been specifically designed to feed into the deliberations of the ILO's International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) which at its November-December 2003 meeting afforded high priority to the revision of the 1962 ICLS Resolutions on working time measurement.

Participants at the 2004 meeting of the Group included national accountants from the OECD, Eurostat and several OECD Member countries. The main outcome from this involvement is identification of the need to ensure appropriate coordination between the work of the Paris Group and the SNA revision process. An initial proposal for this to occur was submitted to the ISWGNA in November 2004.

### Main Developments for 2005

#### General aspects:

Preparation of a draft revised ILO Resolution on working time measurement for discussion at the 2005 Paris Group meeting. National accounts experts and relevant experts from the Big 6 countries will also be invited to attend this meeting.

Preparation of a report to the March 2005 UNSC and of a detailed submission to the National Accounts ISWG by June 2005 outlining proposals for a clarification of SNA on labour input and clarification of issues in other parts of the SNA that touch on working time measurement.