

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. 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 extensions include calculation of incomes and work incentives net of childcare costs. Country coverage is currently being extended to include Turkey and, as part of a grant agreement with the European Commission, six of the new EU Members States who are not currently members of the OECD.

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:

Bulgaria, Chile, Cyprus, Estonia, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia

Databases

Benefits and Wages

Main Developments for 2009

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

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Family Outcomes and Policies

Purpose

To include cross-national information on family outcomes and policies as categorised under four 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; work is ongoing on the preparation of new indicators for release by mid-2009.

Databases

OECD Family Database

Main Developments for 2009

General aspects:

The first batch of indicators was released by the end of 2006, new indicators from existing OECD databases have been released throughout 2007 and 2008, these existing indicators will be updated on a regular basis.

In 2009, new indicators will be developed concerning child health, time use, different types of families, labour market position of families and out of school hours care.

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Income Distribution and Poverty

Purpose

Analysis of main trends in the distribution of incomes, from 1980s to mid 2000s, based upon the OECD Income Distribution Questionnaire (irregular time intervals, every 4-5 years).

Objectives and outputs

A major report was published in October 2008: "Growing Unequal? Income Distribution and Poverty in OECD Countries". This report covers various dimensions of "resource distribution", and 5 of the 10 chapters draw primarily from this database. The chapters are analytic, aiming to disseminate findings from the rich OECD database to policy analysts and researchers. A final chapter discusses policy implications.

Databases

OECD Income Distribution questionnaire

Main Developments for 2009

General aspects:

In 2009, it is expected to gather comparable results for the accession countries, on the basis of the Income Distribution Questionnaire.

Data management:

<http://webnet.OECD.org/wbos/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=INEQUALITY>

<http://webnet.OECD.org/wbos/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=POVERTY>

were created in 2008.

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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.

The third edition of Pensions at a Glance will be published in 2009. The report includes updates of the models with 2006 parameters, and a special chapter covering the impact of the current financial crisis.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Slovenia

Databases

Pension monitoring database

Main Developments for 2009

Data management:

The number of indicators covered in the data will be increased leading to the creation of a pensions database. It is also planned to include a number of the indicators on OECD stat during the next year.

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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 2003.

SOCX (2008) came out in November 2008, including net (after taxes) and voluntary social spending.

Databases

Social expenditures

Main Developments for 2009

General aspects:

No major changes.

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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 fifth edition of "Society at a Glance", the OECD report of social indicators, was prepared in 2008 and will be released in April 2009. The report has established the key role of the OECD in the field of social reporting and statistics.

This 2008 edition includes a wide range of information on social issues including demography and family characteristics, employment and unemployment, poverty and inequality, social and health care expenditure, and work and life satisfaction. In addition to updating some of the indicators included in previous editions, Society at a Glance 2008 adds some new, innovative social indicators. These include indicators of adult height, perceived health status, risky youth behaviour and bullying. For the first time, Society at a Glance provides a new, condensed set of headline social indicators summarising social well-being and its recent trends. A special chapter includes a consideration of leisure time across the OECD.

Databases

Social indicators

Main Developments for 2009

General aspects:

No major changes.