

Labour Statistics

Labour Statistics

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 and Quarterly Labour Force Statistics databases.

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.

Publications

Annual Labour Force Statistics

Databases

Annual Labour Force Statistics

Main Developments for 2004

General aspects:

After the changes made in 2003 (rationalisation of the publication and expansion of metadata, collection of additional information on series breaks) and the quality review, main developments envisaged for 2004 comprise:

- collection of additional information on apparent discontinuities in the series identified in national data;

- provision of feedback to national agencies slow in responding to the questionnaire;
- further improvements in the methodological information provided and the insertion of this metadata into the OECD's Metastore database;
- implementation of appropriate systematic data verification using tools currently being developed by the OECD;
- inclusion of ALFS data into the OECD.stat environment.

Data collection:

As part of the 2003 ALFS quality review targeted countries will be requested to speed up their response. The possibility of obtaining the required ALFS data directly from national databases will also be explored.

Data management:

Loading of metadata into Metastore and loading ALFS data into OECD.Stat.

Dissemination:

Load data into OECD.Stat for online dissemination and identification of key ALFS series for free dissemination on the OECD website.

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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.

Publications

Labour Market Statistics

Databases

Labour Market Statistics

Main Developments for 2004

General aspects:

Some work related to measurement of working time is foreseen, besides the expansion of the LFS database to include data related to job tenure, usual weekly hours worked, etc.

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 from the CDE to OECD.Stat and of the metadata to Metastore.

Labour Statistics

Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Purpose

To provide relevant, reliable and timely quarterly indicators for internal OECD users (in particular, the Economics Department), member country government agencies, academic institutions and private enterprises.

The Quarterly Labour Force Statistics (QLFS) publication complements labour force series published in the monthly Main Economic Indicators and Annual Labour Force Statistics (ALFS) databases.

Objectives and outputs

The publication of the most recent available information on key labour force indicators in 23 OECD member countries. QLFS contains more detailed, short-term labour market series than MEI and, in that sense, is designed to complement MEI.

The QLFS database contains quarterly statistics on: total labour force, civilian labour force, unemployment (both national series and standardised unemployment rates), civilian labour force by broad activity, labour force participation rates, and youth unemployment. A number of these indicators are also disaggregated by gender.

In the main, the series published in QLFS are derived from household labour force surveys conducted by OECD member countries, the main exceptions being data published for France, Germany and Switzerland where data are derived from a number of sources.

The main achievement in 2003 entailed further work on co-ordination in the collection of data from member countries and improvements in its consistency with MEI.

Publications

Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Databases

Quarterly labour force statistics

Main Developments for 2004

General aspects:

Continuation of work on co-ordination in the collection of data from member countries and improvements in its consistency with MEI. Provision of more detailed methodological information in the compilation of standardised unemployment rates (SURs).

Release of a methodological analysis publication (originally planned for release in 2003) on employment and unemployment statistics.

Incorporation of QLFS data into OECD.Stat.

Data collection:

Further co-ordination of data collection with MEI.

Data management:

Co-ordinated storage of QLFS metadata with MEI and ALFS in the Metastore database.

Dissemination:

Loading of QLFS data into OECD.Stat.

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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 2003 and 2004 has been and will be devoted primarily to 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.

Main Developments for 2004

General aspects:

Organisation of a Paris Group meeting of national and international experts in the measurement of working time and national accounts experts. The agenda for this meeting will aim specifically at key issues identified by the ICLS in the evolution of international standards in this area.