

Education and Training Statistics

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Education

Purpose

To produce and publish indicators and analysis on the operation, evolution and impact of education, from early childhood through formal education to learning and training throughout life. The collected data cover the outputs of educational institutions, the policy levers that shape educational outputs, the human and financial resources invested in education and structural characteristics of education systems. The main publications are the annual publications "Education at a Glance" and "Education Policy Analysis".

Objectives and outputs

Production of indicators on the financing of education, participation in and graduation from education, the educational attainment of the adult population, teacher salaries and work conditions, and instruction time.

Consolidation of the technical documentation of the education data collection. Analysis of the organisation of upper secondary education, development of a data strategy to collect information on teachers and teaching. Ongoing methodological work including: coverage study of public subsidies to households for education, expenditure comparability study, development of a new classification of educational personnel, conceptual framework for the measurement of knowledge and skills, and the development of an international module for the measurement of continuing education and training.

Publications

Education at a Glance

Databases

Education database

Main Developments for 2004

General aspects:

The activity was reviewed in 2003 in the context of the "OECD Quality Framework", thus several improvements are envisaged in 2004, especially to improve the comparability of statistics on educational finance and trend data, the coverage and definition of educational programmes, the access to data, the documentation of the database and the transparency on calculation of indicators.

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Handbook for Internationally Comparable Education Statistics

Purpose

To produce a Handbook for users and producers of OECD international education statistics. The book draws together concepts and definitions in the area of comparative education statistics and seeks to establish standards for international educational comparisons. In addition, fresh and clearer guidance will be given to data providers. Along with details of the methodology used by OECD to derive indicators from the data, it will provide much needed transparency for users of the statistics.

Objectives and outputs

To produce drafts of chapters for review by the Handbook Editorial Review Group and the wider Technical Group of data providers leading to publication of the Handbook by March 2004. Drafts should seek to clarify existing definitions, concepts and guidance and to establish agreed upon standards where they do not already exist. This will include providing guidance on estimation techniques to be used where data are either not available, incomplete or otherwise do not match the international definitions. The Handbook should also explain the rationale behind the indicators which are derived from the raw data (and published in "Education at a Glance") as well as set out the methodologies and conventions used in calculating them. The Handbook is expected to be updated every 3-4 years.

Main Developments for 2004

General aspects:

Dissemination of the first edition of the Handbook.

Dissemination:

Publication expected to be produced every 3 or 4 years

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Programme for International Student Assessment

Purpose

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) was created by the OECD member countries in 1997 to produce direct assessments of student performance, on a regular basis in an efficient, timely and cost-effective manner; and to provide more relevant and powerful indicators of human capital. PISA produces assessments of reading literacy, mathematical literacy, scientific literacy and a growing range of cross-curricular competencies among 15-year-olds in school.

Objectives and outputs

Verification and compilation of the 2003 assessment survey results, following international standards, including training sessions, data verification and procedures, a report on survey and quality assurance procedures, and national reports for participating countries.

In addition, the following reports are foreseen for 2004:

- A timely initial report that will communicate key findings and highlight important policy messages emerging from PISA.
- A data oriented report, published in electronic form that will provide access to the data and documentation underlying the initial report.
- A series of thematic reports that will use the outcomes of PISA to explore specific themes and analyse the implication of the results in a series of important policy-relevant areas. These reports will be directed at education policy advisers and policy makers as well as educational researchers. The reports' conclusions and the study's validity will be underpinned by advanced statistical analyses that will be documented in technical appendices.
- Ongoing dissemination products that will keep all stakeholders in PISA informed as PISA progresses and that include the PISA web site, a regularly updated PISA brochure and a PISA newsletter.
- Technical reports on methodologies and quality assurance mechanisms.

Publications

Web-based PISA database

Databases

PISA 2003 international database

Main Developments for 2004