

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.

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, the six new EU Members States who are not currently members of the OECD.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Slovenia

Databases

Benefits and Wages

Main Developments for 2006

General aspects:

More detailed modelling of childcare costs. Review of assumptions on housing costs. More comprehensive definition of average earnings that is more representative of the earnings situation of employees in a number of different sectors. Wider country coverage (Turkey plus six non-member countries).

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Global 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 2006

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.

Selected indicators will be migrated into StatWorks and OECD.Stat. With a view to disseminate the data together with metadata the latter will be revised and enriched.

Data collection:

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

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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.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Slovenia

Databases

Pension monitoring database

Main Developments for 2006

General aspects:

The second edition of Pensions at a Glance will be published in late 2006 or early 2007. The report will include up-dates of the models with 2004 parameters, and incentives for early and late retirement.

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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 2005, SOCX took part in the STD quality review process.

Working paper no.29 (www.oecd.org/els/workingpapers) presented net (after taxes) and voluntary social spending for 2001.

Databases

Social expenditures

Main Developments for 2006

General aspects:

Main improvements are described in the Quality review undertaken in 2005. 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). SOCX is planned to be published in June 2006 with 2003 data, including net (after taxes) and voluntary social spending.

Data collection:

SOCX will be updated in 2006, with new figures for 2002 & 2003 spending data. Module of net (after taxes) and voluntary private social spending will be integrated as part of SOCX.

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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

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.

Social indicators provide a concise overview of social trends and policies while paying due attention to the different national conditions in which such policies are being pursued. The social indicators in 'Society at a Glance' may be represented along a two-dimensional classification. The first dimension corresponds to three main goals of social policy, i.e. self-sufficiency, equity and social cohesion. The second dimension corresponds to the nature of the indicators, i.e. social context, social status, and societal responses.

Databases

Social indicators

Main Developments for 2006

General aspects:

The fourth edition of "Society at a Glance" will be prepared in 2005 (to be published early 2006). It updates some of the indicators included in the 2001 and 2002 editions, and adds new ones.

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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 2006

General aspects:

To the light of the statistical data collection of pension statistics a further improvement of the current Glossary is foreseen. The glossary with additional terms would be published in 2006 together with country metadata describing funded pension systems along with the OECD classification of pension plans and funds.