

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, six of the 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 2007

General aspects:

More detailed modelling of childcare costs. Review of assumptions on housing costs. Wider country coverage (Turkey plus six non-member countries). Interactive web access to tax-benefit models

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Family Outcomes and Policies

Purpose

To include cross-national information on family outcomes and policies as categorised under 4 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 has been released.

Databases

OECD Family Database

Main Developments for 2007

General aspects:

The first batch of indicators was released by the end of 2006, but work is ongoing on the preparation of new indicators for release throughout 2007. The existing indicators will be updated on a regular basis.

Data management:

Published for the first time via www.oecd.org/els/social/family/database

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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 2007

General aspects:

The second edition of Pensions at a Glance will be published in 2007. The report will include updates of the models with 2004 parameters, and a comparison of pre- and post-reform pension systems in countries which have had major reforms since 1990.

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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.

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 (2006) will come out in February 2007, including net (after taxes) and voluntary social spending.

Databases

Social expenditures

Main Developments for 2007

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 (2006) will be published in February 2007 with 2003 data, including net (after taxes) and voluntary social spending.

Data collection:

Data update every other year. No data update in 2007.

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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 fourth edition of "Society at a Glance", the OECD report of social indicators, will be released in early 2007. The report has established the key role of the OECD in the field of social reporting and statistics.

The discussion by delegates of the Working Party on Social Policies in November 2006 has confirmed the importance they attach to this activity, and identified concrete steps (e.g. the establishment of a steering group of country representatives) to make the report more relevant in the future.

Databases

Social indicators

Main Developments for 2007

General aspects:

The fourth edition of "Society at a Glance" updates some of the indicators included in the first three editions, and adds new ones including measures of childcare costs, poverty persistence, health inequalities and trust in political institutions. This report also includes two special chapters: i) a "guide" to help readers in understanding the structure of OECD social indicators; and ii) an attempt to take stock of the role of social indicators for the broader agenda of measuring the well-being of OECD citizens and societies.

Data collection:

Data update every other year. No data update in 2007.

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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 2007

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 2007 together with country metadata describing funded pension systems along with the OECD classification of pension plans and funds.