

Other Activities

Other Activities

Co-ordination of OECD Statistical Activities

Purpose

To co-ordinate OECD statistical programmes with Eurostat, ECE, IMF, UN and other organisations with respect to both data collection and the development of international statistical standards. To increase the visibility of statistical activities carried out by the OECD and to co-ordinate internal OECD statistical activities to improve the quality of statistics and the efficiency of the OECD statistical organisation.

Objectives and outputs

Collaborate with other Directorates of the Organisation, with national data providers and with other international organisations to: reinforce the quality of OECD statistical data and the efficiency of statistical activities across the Organisation, improve data collection and data provision on member countries, increase the visibility of OECD statistical work, and contribute to the development of the international statistical system.

Co-ordinate the preparation of and publish the annual OECD statistical programme of work.

Improvement in the consistency of data collected and disseminated by the OECD through the development of the OECD statistical information system and co-ordination of the migration of existing statistical activities towards the new statistical information system. Provide linkages with similar facilities in other international organisations and national agencies.

Further improve relationships with national statistical activities and improve international co-operation between OECD member countries in the area of statistics through the OECD Committee on Statistics, composed of Heads of National Statistical Agencies.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, Chile, China, India, Russian Federation, South Africa

Databases

OECD statistical programme of work

Main Developments for 2007

General aspects:

The OECD Committee on Statistics has endorsed the Statistics Strategy for 2007-08. Therefore, several new activities will be launched in 2007. According to the outreach strategy, a special attention will be given to the policy dialogue and the co-ordination of work with non-members, especially China, Russia, Brazil, Chile, India and South Africa.

The OECD is also active in the implementation of the strategy developed by the UN Committee on Co-ordination of Statistical Activities to develop an international statistical system. Particularly important is also the OECD involvement in the SDMX initiative for the development of standards for data and metadata exchange.

Other Activities

Development and Implementation of the OECD Quality Framework

Purpose

To enhance the quality of OECD statistics, to provide a systematic mechanism for ongoing identification and resolution of quality problems, to increase the transparency of the processes used by the OECD to assure quality, to reinforce the political role of the OECD in the context of an information society.

Objectives and outputs

The framework focuses on improving the quality of data collected, compiled and disseminated by the OECD through an improvement of the Organisation's processes and management, though there will be a positive spillover effect on the quality of data compiled at national level. The framework is composed of four elements: a definition of quality and its dimensions; a procedure for assuring the quality of proposed new statistical activities; a procedure for evaluating the quality of existing statistical activities on a regular basis; and internal quality guidelines covering all phases of the statistical production process.

Main Developments for 2007

General aspects:

In 2007, a new version of the Quality Framework and Guidelines will be issued to incorporate recent changes of the Statistical Information System, the development of guidelines for statistical publications and more precise guidelines for the management of microdata.

The OECD is also participating in a project to develop a standard statistical quality framework for international organisations, launched under the auspices of the Committee on Co-ordination of Statistical Activities.

Other Activities

OECD Factbook

Purpose

To meet the needs of a wide range of users for a one-stop resource containing broadly based, comparative, country-based, economic, social and environmental data. To help users in assessing the position of a single country taking into account multiple dimensions and promoting the importance of "policy coherence".

Objectives and outputs

The objective of the activity is the production of the OECD Factbook to bring together data concerning various economic, social and environmental phenomena and highlight measurement issues, underlining areas where the comparability of statistics across countries is weak and describing initiatives undertaken to overcome these problems.

The Factbook is published both on paper and on Internet. The electronic version is made available for free and contains longer time series and more detailed metadata.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, China, India, Russian Federation, South Africa

Main Developments for 2007

General aspects:

The 2007 edition will be produced using PubStat and will contain a special section on migration. The number of series for large non-member economies will be increased.

Other Activities

OECD in Figures

Purpose

To produce an original, simple to use, annual pocket statistical data book covering different domains.

Objectives and outputs

OECD in Figures contains key data on OECD countries, ranging from economic growth and employment to trade and migration. There are comparable tables on the environment, science and public finances. For added perspective, OECD in Figures includes a selection of graphs, giving snapshots on subjects such as GDP, education spending, services trade, health funding, development aid and renewable energy.

Main Developments for 2007

General aspects:

In 2007, a discussion will take place on how to improve the production process and the content of the publication.

Other Activities

OECD Metadata Management System (MetaStore)

Purpose

To provide a central repository for accessing and managing statistical metadata. Under the guidance of the OECD Quality Framework, the MetaStore aims to address issues for metadata accessibility, timeliness of metadata management, as well as coherence, interpretability, credibility, relevance and accuracy of metadata content.

Further purposes relate to the integration of MetaStore with other ITC components of the Statistical Information System. These include the facilitation of metadata import processes to OECD.Stat, the use of MetaStore for StatWorks metadata management, and the storage of publication specific metadata for publication processes.

Objectives and outputs

The first production version of MetaStore has been in production since September 2004. The primary objective is to provide a central repository for all OECD statistical database users to manage and access metadata. In terms of a more detailed perspective of the specifications for the system, several other objectives for metadata management are expected to be achieved during 2007. The metadata contents of the MetaStore system has been made available on the web and will be further optimized for search engine indexing in order to maximise the visibility and accessibility of the data for which metadata is attached. Enhanced reporting features during 2006 enable the system to maintain both process driven metadata and can be utilised for metadata driven processes. Further objectives of 2007 aim to communicate these features to users and assist in the implementation of metadata driven processes into production systems.

Databases

OECD MetaStore

Main Developments for 2007

General aspects:

Optimise web content for search engine indexing to enhance visibility of statistical data.

Integrate process driven metadata to metadata driven process cycles in statistical data production environments.

Other Activities

OECD Statistical DataWarehouse (OECD.Stat)

Purpose

OECD.Stat is the core element of the new OECD Statistical Information System as it is the central repository and retrieval tool for the Organisation's statistical information resources. OECD.Stat is designed to contain the validated datasets to be shared and/or published, a special dataset for "Reference Series", all the statistical metadata associated with these datasets, and the glossary of statistical terms.

Objectives and outputs

OECD.Stat consists of a closed data warehouse with its standard entry and exit gates and a user front end (browser). OECD.Stat is the basis of the new corporate tools for the statistical publications and electronic dissemination.

The main objectives and benefits for statisticians are: improved efficiency of statistical processes; improved quality, timeliness, visibility and accessibility of OECD's statistical resources; recording of historical data; harmonisation effect of statistical classifications etc.; new and easier horizontal data products such as "Statistical Yearbook" and "OECD in Figures"; simplified and harmonised user access right management.

The data warehouse is physically independent from production systems and permits an easier management of connections from production databases (when new database versions or platforms), avoiding multiple interlinks between different production platforms.

Main objectives and benefits for analysts are: fast and user-friendly tools for locating and retrieving verified statistical data and metadata; availability of Reference Series and joint display of data from different OECD sources; easier interpretability of data; easier gathering of data to support horizontal projects; pre-defined executive reports; accessibility in-house and on the Internet without additional installations.

During 2005 80% of the OECD datasets were loaded into the OECD.Stat Data warehouse.

As of May 2005 the data was made available to all OECD Staff via a Web Browser. As of November 2005, the Web Browser was made available to member countries government staff via the OLISnet service. A limited amount of free data is available via the Web Browser to the general public on the Internet.

The OECD.Stat datawarehouse can now be accessed via the OECD analytical software (FAME and SAS) and includes a utility for automatically publishing data in Beyond2020 format for the OECD commercial service (SourceOECD).

Main Developments for 2007

General aspects:

In 2007, OECD.Stat will be used by the IMF as part of a collaboration project.

The OECD Statistical Programme of Work 2007, Part II

OECD.Stat will be incorporated into the commercial dissemination system (SourceOECD)

Other Activities

Profile of Key Gender Statistics

Purpose

To paint a statistical picture of socio-economic differences between men and women across the OECD. To demonstrate the OECD's interest and commitment to this important area by providing a free publication.

Objectives and outputs

The project has produced a new publication and an on-line database. Existing OECD data have been used to paint a picture of differences between men and women across the OECD using economic and social indicators with associated commentary.

Main Developments for 2007

General aspects:

Publication of "Women and Men in OECD Countries".

A discussion will take place to decide on the next steps. The possibility of co-operating with UN/ECE in this area will be analysed.

Other Activities

Publishing from the Statistical Information System

Purpose

Provide a publishing environment for the production of statistical publications in the framework of the new OECD Statistical Information System.

The environment comprises an authoring tool where the table structure is defined by the authors, and a formatting engine where the data are extracted from OECD.Stat and formatted for multiple outputs such as paper, PDF, Excel and HTML. The environment improves the efficiency of the publishing process and the quality of final publications in print and electronic format.

Objectives and outputs

Standardisation of applications used for publishing statistics and developing a common look and feel for statistical publications.

Produce publications through the OECD.Stat process as the databases are migrated into the central database OECD.Stat. Continue to develop new procedures to take into account specificities of these new publications.

Main Developments for 2007

General aspects:

The publishing environment will be used in 2007 to publish updates of publications already produced out of OECD.Stat in 2006 and to apply the new procedures to a number of additional statistical publications.

Other Activities

Software Toolkit for OECD Statistical Databases (StatWorks)

Purpose

To provide a generic software toolkit for the management of OECD statistical production data. The StatWorks software provides a common, SQL-based repository for statistical data and a set of tools for data management. The application is designed to be fully integrated with other OECD corporate systems such as the OECD.STAT data dissemination warehouse, the MetaStore metadata interface and new tools for paper and electronic publications.

Objectives and outputs

The main objective of the StatWorks development is to modernise the software platforms for management of OECD statistics in replacing multiple, non-standard systems with a single, generic application. The application manages the following statistical production processes: initial data migration, database administration, security management, data collection, data importing and validation, calculations, data querying and data export.

During 2004 the StatWorks software was implemented as a production application. The software is used to manage 22 different databases (either fully migrated, in the process of migration or being tested in pilot exercises) across 9 substance directorates.

In addition the StatWorks software is being or has been evaluated by other international organisations (UNESCO, FAO, Eurostat, ILO, UNCTAD and IMF).

Main Developments for 2007

General aspects:

Additional new features will be implemented to Validation, Calculations and Reporting interfaces.

Other Activities

Statistical Training Programme

Purpose

To develop and maintain a programme of training events in statistical subject areas, to include: a programme of regular courses provided by OECD staff; a dynamic timetable of events such as seminars/workshops provided by staff and visiting speakers; liaison with other agencies providing training, e-learning materials, and a statistical "knowledge base".

The events are aimed at both compilers/managers of data and users, and may be open to both OECD staff and external participants.

Objectives and outputs

This initiative was launched in early 2001, and has been carried forward by an OECD-wide co-ordination group which reports to the SPG. All statistical staff was surveyed in 2004 to identify their statistical training needs. The programme of regular training courses and one-off seminars was adjusted to address the needs of staff. Regular courses are available covering drafting for statisticians, national accounts. IT courses covering OECD specific software such as STD browsers and more generic techniques are also provided on a regular basis. One-off workshops and seminars are organised during the year.

Main Developments for 2007

General aspects:

Further courses will be added in 2007, including training in various aspects of statistical quality. Regular courses and more co-ordination with other international organisations and NSOs will increase the training opportunities for OECD staff.