Social and Welfare Statistics
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. Finally, the online "tax-benefit calculator" and tax-benefit models for 33 OECD and an additional 6 EU countries to 2013 are available on the web-page www.oecd.org/social/benefits-and-wages.htm and are updated annually.

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 updates include calculations of incomes and work incentives net of childcare costs. Country coverage has been extended to include a 2013 model for Croatia.

An interface for interactive web access to tax-benefit models ("tax-benefit calculator") is available on the web-page www.oecd.org/social/benefits-and-wages.htm. Also available on this web page are country files and model output for 40 countries.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania

Main Developments for 2015

General aspects:

On-line publication of 2013 tax-benefit models, country files and an expanded range of work incentive and income adequacy indicators for 39 countries. Development of 2014 models for 40 countries. Continue up-date of synthetic earnings distribution data, by gender, to latest post-crisis year available.

Release of Policy Brief - "FOCUS on Minimum wages after the crisis: Making them pay" in May 2015

Data collection:

Include Chile
Social and Welfare Statistics

Family and Child Outcomes and Policies

Purpose

To provide cross-national information on family outcomes and policies as categorised under 4 broad dimensions: (i) the structure of families, (ii) the labour market position of families, (iii) public policies for families and children, and (iv) child outcomes. See www.oecd.org/els/family/database.htm

Objectives and outputs

In view of the strong demand for cross-national measures on the situation of families and children, the OECD Family database was developed to provide indicators on family outcomes and family policies across OECD countries, the OECD's enhanced engagement partners and EU member states.

The database brings together information from various national and international databases, both within the OECD and external organisations. Development of the database is an ongoing process. The database currently includes 70 indicators under four main dimensions: (i) structure of families, (ii) labour market position of families, (iii) public policies for families and children and (iv) child outcomes. Each indicator typically presents the data on a particular issue as well as relevant definitions and methodology, comparability and data issues, and information on sources.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa

Main Developments for 2015

General aspects:

Main developments over the course 2015 were as follows:

- The update of 50 existing Family Database indicators to include information from the latest available year, plus in several cases the addition or extension of time-series data.

- The development of 6 existing Family Database indicators to include information on ‘at-risk’ groups and a breakdown by socio-economic gradient.

- The update of the ‘OECD Snapshots on family and child outcomes and policies’, an interactive excel tool that provides users with a summary overview of the situation on family and children policies and outcomes in each OECD country.

- The migration of 20 key Family Database indicators to OECD.Stat.

In addition, 2 new indicators were added to the “Child Well-being Module” (CWBM), a Family Database sub-module that provides age-specific information on child well-being. These indicators cover children in jobless households and in households with a long-term unemployed parent, and children’s self-rated health, respectively.
Social and Welfare Statistics

Income Distribution and Poverty

Purpose


Objectives and outputs

The OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs (DELSA) and the Statistics Directorate (STD) started a new wave of data requests with our member countries. Starting in 2012, a basic set of indicators will be updated on an annual basis in view of monitoring the impact of the business cycle on income disparities and economic hardship.

For the annual update, the questionnaire contains three tables providing indicators on: i) aggregate income levels and inequalities; ii) income components by deciles; iii) income and poverty situation by household types. It also includes a metadata questionnaire. Since 2012, maintenance work and adjustments were carried out on the database.

Main Developments for 2015

General aspects:

In May 2015, our report "In It Together: Why Less Inequality Benefits All" has been released describing the most recent inequality trends throughout the crisis. At the same time, the 2015 data update has been released. The annual data update will be carried out in 2016 based on series of the questionnaire.

Based on these data, we also released the OECD "Compare Your Income" web tool.

Social and Welfare Statistics

Indicators for Measuring Well-Being

Purpose

To maintain and enhance a framework of indicators for measuring well-being that feed both into the Better Life Index and the "How's Life?" publication.

Objectives and outputs

Establish well-being indicators database, improve and enhance the BLI, and continue work towards the publication of "How's Life?".

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, Russian Federation

Main Developments for 2015

General aspects:

In 2015 the main objective will be updated the Better Life Index, prepare the release of the third edition of "How’s Life?", as well as specific projects to implement the "How's Life" statistical agenda.
Social and Welfare Statistics

Mental Health, Disability and Work

Purpose

In the late 2000s, the OECD Review “Sickness, Disability and Work: Breaking the Barriers” concluded that policy has changed very much in many countries but not enough in most cases; by and large policies remain too passive in nature. The review identified two big questions to be addressed more fervently: First, why so many people take leave of absence or apply for a disability benefit on the grounds of mental illness; and secondly, how people with mental health conditions could be better integrated into the labour market. The new OECD Review “Disability and Work: Challenges for Labour Market Inclusion of People with Mental Illness” aims to address these two questions, by drawing lessons from policies and outcomes in ten member countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States). See www.oecd.org/employment/emp/mental-health-and-work.htm.

Objectives and outputs

A data questionnaire was sent in 2011 to ten member countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States) participating in the new OECD Review "Disability and Work: Challenges for Labour Market Inclusion of People with Mental Illness". It serves as a basis for the current phase of the project which looks in depth into the challenges and policies of selected OECD countries. In 2015 the country report for Austria and Australia were published as well as a Synthesis report. See www.oecd.org/employment/emp/mental-health-and-work.htm.

Main Developments for 2015

General aspects:

Development of comparative indicators and analysis on the relationship between mental health conditions, work and benefit recipiency; based on data received from ten OECD countries.

The reports and the indicators form the second phase of the project which aims to provide evidence-based policy conclusions for the countries participating in the project. The new series of reports is looking at how the broader education, health, social and labour market policy challenges identified in Sick on the Job? Myths and Realities about Mental Health and Work (OECD, 2012) are being tackled in a number of OECD countries. Four country reviews were released in 2013 (Belgium, Denmark, Norway and Sweden), three in 2014 (Austria, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) and two reviews (Australia and Austria) as well as a Synthesis Report in 2015. This report summarizes the findings from the participating countries and makes the case for a stronger policy response. A High-level Policy Forum on Mental Health and Work was held in The Hague in March to discuss these findings (http://www.oecd.org/els/fit-mind-fit-job-9789264228283-en.htm).
Purpose

The OECD Gender Data Portal includes selected indicators supporting the analysis of gender inequalities in education, employment and entrepreneurship; see www.oecd.org/gender/data

Objectives and outputs

The OECD Gender data portal, launched in December 2012, is updated on an annual basis. The statistics and indicators presented on the data portal are meant to assist the monitoring and analysis of gender inequalities in the key areas of education, employment and entrepreneurship.

This activity is part of the ongoing OECD Gender Equality Initiative, which aims to strengthen gender equality in education, employment and entrepreneurship.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, South Africa

Main Developments for 2015

General aspects:

The OECD updates a rich set of indicators on education, employment and entrepreneurship by gender annually on the OECD Gender data portal. The update is made available every year on 8 March, the International Women's Day.
Social and Welfare Statistics

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. See http://oe.cd/pag

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:

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Peru, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia Former, South Africa, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela

Main Developments for 2015

General aspects:

Social and Welfare Statistics

Social Benefit Recipients

Purpose

Detailed data on benefit recipiency in a comparative framework are needed to assess how effective social safety nets are at reaching their objectives.

For instance, they show who benefits from social safety nets, and what share of a targeted population is actually covered. In a longitudinal perspective, these recipiency data help identify the role of safety nets across the economic cycle, and how recipients adjust to changes in programme rules. These questions are essential in the perspective of adapting social systems to future economic and demographic challenges.

Currently, comprehensive data on benefit recipiency is not easily available, and is sometimes difficult to obtain at country level. Furthermore, very little information is usually provided on beneficiary characteristics, almost no information is available on programme entries and exits.

The database should ideally cover income replacement benefits and their main supplements paid to the working age population.

Objectives and outputs

The main objectives for 2015 are the update of the database with 2011 and 2012 figures (validated by countries) and the dissemination of most important trends in benefit recipiency though a web site.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Bulgaria, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania

Main Developments for 2015

General aspects:

In 2014, the following activities are being done:

a) SOCR database updated with 2011 and 2012 figures.

b) SOCR webpage created including trends, reference series, methodological documentation and analytical work on social benefits recipients. The web page is hosted here: www.oecd.org/social/recipients.htm

Data collection:

No major changes are planned.
Social and Welfare Statistics

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 reliable and internationally comparable statistics on public and (mandatory and voluntary) private social expenditure at programme level classified under the major social policy areas. This version also includes estimates of net total social spending for 33 OECD countries. See www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm.

Objectives and outputs

SOCX provides a unique tool for monitoring trends in aggregate social expenditure and analysing changes in its composition. It covers 34 OECD countries for the period 1980-2011/12 and estimates for 2012-2014. The main social policy areas are as follows: Old age, Survivors, Incapacity-related benefits, Health, Family, Active labour market programmes, Unemployment, Housing, and Other social policy areas.

Social Expenditure Database: data collection (in co-operation with Eurostat for EU countries) and dissemination on the internet www.oecd.org/social/expenditure.htm of expenditure data, programme by programme, grouped in the main expenditure categories, since 1980.

The OECD Social Expenditure Database (SOCX) is updated together with the publication of a brief on trends in social spending.

The OECD Social Expenditure Database (SOCX) is available via the OECD statistical browser OECD.stat.


SOCX covers 34 OECD countries for the period 1980-2011/12 and includes estimates on total public social spending for 2012-2014.

The SOCX methodological guide can be found in the OECD Working Paper #124 "Is the European welfare state really more expensive? Indicators on social spending, 1980-2012 and a manual to the OECD Social Expenditure database (SOCX)".

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Asia, Brazil, China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Latvia, Russian Federation, South Africa

Main Developments for 2015

General aspects:

The work on short term public social spending projections will be carried on regularly to better monitor trends in aggregate social expenditure as well as the inclusion of net social spending indicators into OECD.stat.
Social and Welfare Statistics

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. See http://www.oecd.org/social/societyataglance.htm

**Objectives and outputs**

Preparation of the 8th Edition in May/June 2016, with a special chapter on social policies for NEETs (Youths Not in Employment, Education not Training).

**Main Developments for 2015**

**General aspects:**

Publication of the 8th edition in May/June 2016.

**Data collection:**

Data update every other year (data update in 2012).