Taxing Wages - Hungary

Tax on labour income

The **tax wedge** is a measure of the tax on labour income, which includes the tax paid by both the employee and the employer.

**TAX WEDGE ON LABOUR INCOME**

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\text{Tax wedge} = \frac{\text{Total labour costs (gross wages + employer SSCs)} - \text{Family Benefits}}{\text{Personal income tax + employer and employee social security contributions (SSCs)}}
\]

**Single worker**

The tax wedge for the average single worker in Hungary decreased by 1.2 percentage points from 46.2 in 2017 to 45.0 in 2018.

- The OECD average tax wedge in 2018 was 36.1 (2017, 36.2). In 2018 Hungary had the 6th highest tax wedge among the 36 OECD member countries, occupying the same position in 2017. The 2018 tax wedge is the lowest an average single worker in Hungary has faced over the 2000 - 2018 period.

- In Hungary, income tax and employer social security contributions combine to account for 66% of the total tax wedge, compared with 77% of the total OECD average tax wedge.

**One-earner married couple with two children**

The tax wedge for a worker with children may be lower than for a worker on the same income without children, since most OECD countries provide benefits to families with children through cash transfers and preferential tax provisions.

- Hungary had the 16th highest tax wedge in the OECD for an average married worker with two children at 30.3% in 2018, which compares with the OECD average of 26.6%. The country occupied the 15th highest position in 2017.

- Child related benefits and tax provisions tend to reduce the tax wedge for workers with children compared with the average single worker. In Hungary in 2018, this reduction (14.8 percentage points) was greater than the OECD average (9.5 percentage points).
Tax wedge trends between 2000 and 2018

In Hungary, the tax wedge for the average single worker decreased by 9.7 percentage points from 54.7% to 45.0% between 2000 and 2018. During the same period, the average tax wedge across the OECD decreased by 1.3 percentage points from 37.4% to 36.1%.

Since 2009, the tax wedge for the average single worker decreased by 8.1 percentage points in Hungary. During this same period, the tax wedge for the average single worker across the OECD increased by 0.6 percentage points.

Employee tax on labour income

The employee net average tax rate is a measure of the net tax on labour income paid directly by the employee.

In Hungary, the average single worker faced a net average tax rate of 33.5% in 2018, compared with the OECD average of 25.5%.

In other words, in Hungary the take-home pay of an average single worker, after tax and benefits, was 66.5% of their gross wage, compared with the OECD average of 74.5%.

Taking into account child-related benefits and tax provisions, the employee net average tax rate for an average married worker with two children in Hungary was reduced to 15.6% in 2018, which is the 18th highest in the OECD, and compares with 14.2% for the OECD average. This means that an average married worker with two children in Hungary had a take-home pay, after tax and family benefits, of 84.4% of their gross wage compared to 85.8% for the OECD average.

Average tax wedge over time for a single worker

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