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for the extended OECD statistical network

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SLOVENIA: NEW OECD MEMBER

THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

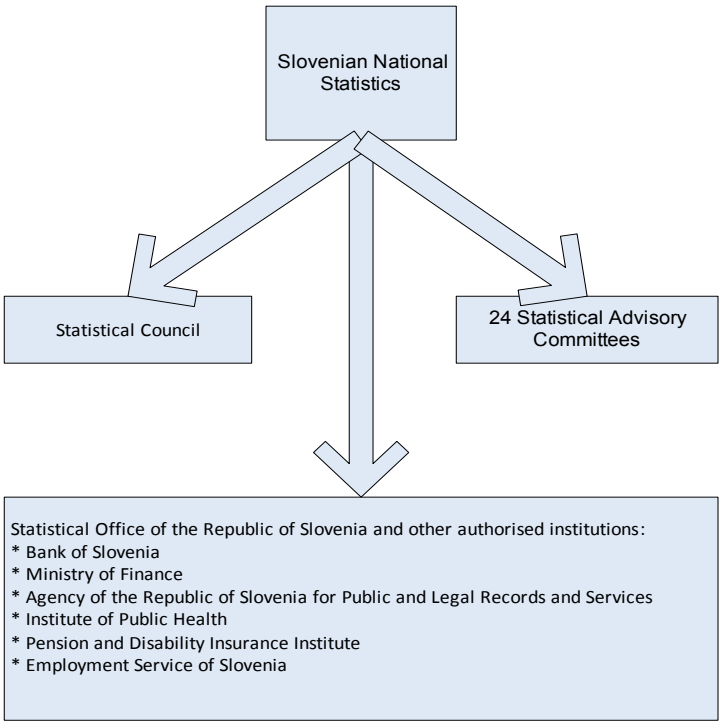
Irena Križman, Director-General of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

On 10 May 2010 the OECD Council decided to invite Slovenia to accede to the organisation and on 21 July 2010 Slovenia formally became the 32th member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. This is an important milestone not only for the country but also for the statistical system of Slovenia.

Slovenian Statistical Office – the main producer of official statistics in Slovenia

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia is the main producer of national statistics in Slovenia and the coordinator for implementing the programs of statistical surveys carried out by the Statistical Office and other authorised institutions. The Slovenian Statistical Office is a professionally independent Government service responsible directly to the Prime Minister.

The legislative framework for Slovenian national statistics is composed of the National Statistics Act, the Medium-Term Programme 2008-2012, the Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys 2010 and EU-legislation. The Act determines the mission of the Slovenian Statistical Office, which is to provide high-quality statistics and services for national and international requirements at minimal costs while respecting statistical confidentiality. The principles of national statistics define the aims of the Slovenian Statistical Office; among them, the most important are strengthening the trust of data users and data providers and maintaining professional independence.



Independent advisory institutes

The highest advisory body for strategic and development issues is the Statistical Council, which represents users and the statistically knowledgeable public. The Council is highly respected because its members are distinguished experts or representatives of the most important state institutions. Programmes of statistical surveys are regularly discussed by producers and users of statistics via 24 Statistical Advisory Committees for different fields of statistics. These advisory committees have an important impact on the development of Slovenian national statistics and predominantly contribute to the quality and the relevance of statistics.

Registered-based statistics

Slovenian national statistics are register-based. Basic registers were set up by the Statistical Office about three decades ago. Later on they were transferred to authorised institutions and now all statistical institutions authorised have access to registers and administrative sources for their statistical purposes. Consequently, the Statistical Office will for the first time carry out a completely register-based census in 2011. This method of data collection demands a much more innovative approach from the part of statisticians, but the Statistical Office can count on good cooperation with other national institutions to perform this task.

International co-operation

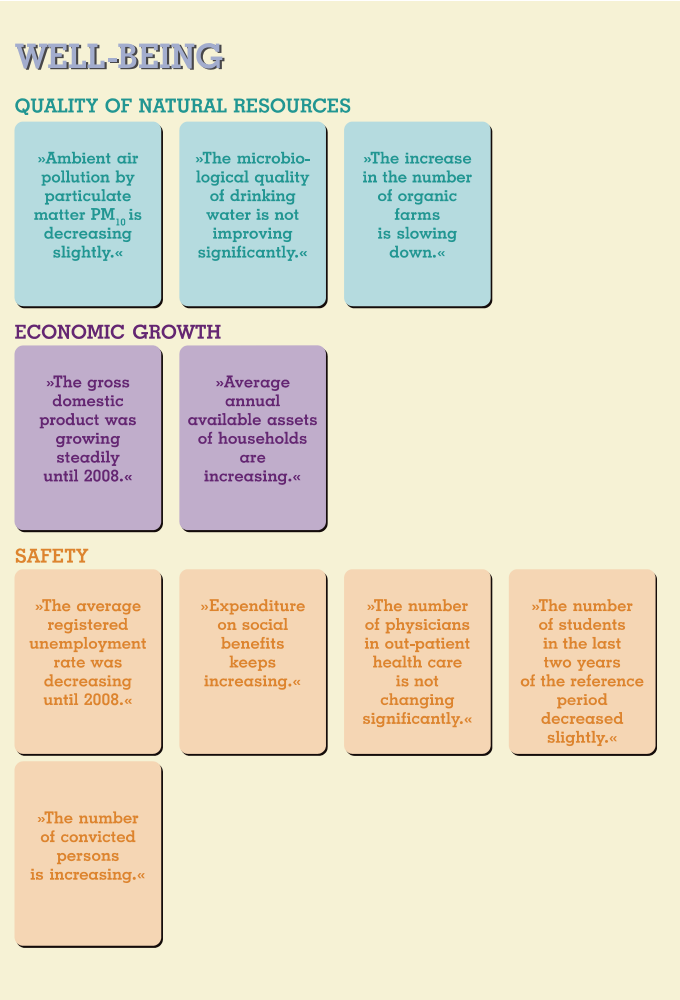
For the development of the Slovenian national statistics, active involvement of the Statistical Office in international institutions is very important. Such involvement allows the exchange of good practices in statistics and

participation in the definition of statistical standards. The Slovenian Statistical Office is a member of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), which operates within the UNECE, and a member of the CES Bureau (in June 2009 Ms Irena Križman, Director-General, was re-elected member of the CES Bureau for the 2009-2011 period). The Statistical Office also cooperates with international scientific associations in the field of statistics, among them the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS). Ms Križman was elected President of the IAOS Executive Committee for the 2009-2011 period.

The Statistical Office has established a good cooperation with other statistical institutes and on the basis of memorandums on statistical cooperation it offers help in the field of statistics within twinning projects.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
www.stat.si

Main messages of sustainable development in Slovenia, 2008



NTTS (New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics) 3rd and Final Announcement

The NTTS (New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics) is an international scientific conference on the impact of new technologies on statistical collection, production and dissemination systems.

The conference is intended to stimulate and facilitate the preparation of new innovative projects, to encourage co-operation and possible building of consortia by researchers with the aim of enhancing the quality and usefulness of official statistics and to prepare activities for the next Framework Programme for Research and Development in Statistics.

NTTS conferences have been organised in 1992, 1995, 1998 and 2001. The last one has been organised jointly with the ETK seminar in 2009 in Brussels.

NTTS 2011 will again be held in Brussels from 22 to 24 February 2011 in the European Commission's Charlemagne building.

Deadlines

- Abstract submission: 8 November 2010
- Notification of acceptance to authors: 3 January 2011
- Full paper submission: 25 January 2011

More details about topics, the scientific committee, important information for presenting abstracts and online registration are available on the website: www.ntts2011.eu

US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

LABOUR COSTS IN INDIA'S ORGANISED MANUFACTURING SECTOR

Bradley Nicholson, Economist, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Acknowledging the rising global importance of India, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently published a special study in the Monthly Labor Review detailing hourly compensation costs (employer labour costs) in India's organised manufacturing sector. The article was written by Jessica Sincavage, a senior economist at BLS, Carl Haub of the Population Reference Bureau, and O.P. Sharma, a former deputy director of Census operations in India. The full text of the article is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2010/05/art-1full.pdf.

The study, which covers the years 1999-2005, uses data from India's Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) to estimate hourly compensation costs in the organised manufacturing sector. The distinction between the organised and unorganised manufacturing sectors is particularly important for a country such as India, where each sector contributes greatly to overall manufacturing but in differing ways; the organised sector contributes roughly two-thirds of manufacturing output and the unorganised sector employs up to four-fifths of overall manufacturing employment. "Organised" establishments are those firms that are registered with the government and therefore, regularly maintain government mandated records. Generally, firms must register with the government if they employ 10 or more persons. The majority of "unorganised" firms are significantly smaller, often employing only a few people, many of whom are unpaid. BLS chose to focus on the organised sector because it most closely mirrors the concept of manufacturing in other industrialised nations and because of data limitations in regards to the unorganised sector.

The BLS has a history of publishing comparable estimates of hourly compensation costs since the 1970s. Data are typically taken from national statistical offices and are adjusted wherever possible to the common conceptual framework that BLS has established. According to BLS, hourly compensation is composed of wages (basic wages, overtime wages, regular bonuses, etc) and benefits (pay for time not worked, irregular bonuses, family allowances, legally and contractually required insurance schemes, private pensions, etc). For more in-depth information on the BLS methodology, see www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/ichcc.pdf.

The estimates of hourly compensation costs for India are not directly comparable with the regular BLS series due to data limitations. As is the case with many countries, there are issues in obtaining reliable, detailed, and timely data on employment and hours. In terms of employment, ASI data includes all forms of workers, including contract workers. Contract workers are typically excluded from BLS estimates of hourly compensation costs and the inability to remove them from the data could skew the estimates (contract workers are not required to have paid time off and other social benefits which, in effect, could cause contract workers to be compensated at much lower levels). Working hours data are not available at all; the only reported statistic that the BLS can use are data on "man days." This forces the BLS to utilise information gained from interviews of employers in Delhi to create functional estimates for hours worked. There is also a relatively long data lag (5 years at the time of this article).

For these reasons, the BLS has opted to maintain the India series as its own special entity outside of its regular hourly compensation cost series and strongly suggests that any comparison between the special series and the regular series be done with these differences in mind. While this caveat is significant, it does not diminish the importance of the BLS study, which is the first to systematically adjust (wherever feasible) compensation costs for India's manufacturing sector to a comparable international framework.

BLS estimates show that total hourly compensation for all employees in Indian manufacturing increased 36 percent over the period of the study when measured on a national currency (rupee) basis. Much of this growth occurred in the years 1999 to 2003, while the growth rate of compensation costs decreased slightly in 2004 and 2005. Growth in wages, which increased by 40.7 percent, was the main force behind the overall increase in hourly compensation. Benefits, as a proportion of total compensation, actually decreased by 3.3 percent over the years studied.

The results of the BLS's study show India to be relatively inexpensive in regards to employing workers in manufacturing. When the estimates

for India's organised manufacturing sector are compared to the BLS's regular hourly compensation series of other countries, India ranks the lowest at only 3.1 percent of hourly compensation compared to the United States in 2005 (when measured in U.S. dollars). In the regular BLS series, the Philippines ranks the lowest with an hourly compensation cost equal to 3.6 percent of the U.S. costs in 2005. For reference, compensations costs in 2005 for Mexico and Brazil (two nations typically thought of as having low manufacturing costs) were 12.0 percent and 16.8 percent of costs in the United States, respectively. Compensation costs for Germany were 128 percent of U.S. costs in 2005.

This sort of cross-country comparison also lends itself well to sub-manufacturing industries, the specific industries that make up manufacturing as a whole. These comparisons can be made because the data for India are adjusted to be comparable to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). In India, high employment and low compensation industries such as Food, Beverage, and Tobacco manufacturing (NAICS 311-312) substantially brought down the average level of compensation in manufacturing. Workers in this industry were paid 16.54 rupees per hour and their industry represented roughly a fifth of employment in the organised manufacturing sector. This contrasts greatly with Petroleum and Coal Product manufacturing (NAICS 324) which was the highest compensated sub-manufacturing industry at 72.46 rupees per hour but accounted for only 1 percent of all manufacturing employees.

India's manufacturing sector has also been frequently compared to that of China. While manufacturing in India has been growing rapidly in recent times, it is still rather small when compared to China. The value of exported manufactured goods in China in 2005 was ten times the value of India's exports in the same year while Chinese manufacturing employs roughly 100 million more workers than India's organised manufacturing sector. BLS special studies, available at www.bls.gov/fls/china.htm, allow rough comparisons of hourly compensation costs to be made between these two countries. It is important to note, however, that estimates for China and India were calculated using unique methods and are not directly comparable with one another or the regular BLS compensation series. In 2005, the latest year for which data are available for both countries, Indian hourly compensation costs were 18 cents higher on average than those of China when measured in U.S. dollars.

As countries such as India and China become increasingly important in the global economy data of this type will be all the more vital as customers look for ways to assess labour costs around the world. To these ends, the BLS is constantly striving to expand its international series and to refine its estimates so as to ensure the highest level of quality. As more current data become available, the Indian series will be updated to display the most up-to-date trends. The BLS is also currently researching the feasibility of expanding its analysis to include workers in the unorganised manufacturing sector in India which, as previously mentioned, could substantially decrease the estimates.

Figure 1. **Hourly Compensation in India: Costs and Components**
Percentage Change

ISRAEL: NEW OECD MEMBER

THE CENTRAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS OF ISRAEL

Shlomo Yitzhaki, Government Statistician and Director General of ICBS

Israel is the 33rd country to join the OECD. Its accession process to the organisation lasted over two years, and served as a catalyst for development and change in different spheres and themes of life, including Israel's statistical system. Statistics, one of the main factors by which changes are measured, served as an infrastructure in almost all areas of interest in the accession process and beyond. However, relating to the OECD as a reference organisation started long before the accession process, and the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS) has taken an active part in OECD committees since the mid-1990s.

The ICBS was established in 1948, a few months after the establishment of the State, as part of the new national government framework, reporting directly to the Prime Minister's Office. The act is an assertion of the importance of statistical information, demographic and socio-economic, in Israel. The functions ordained, and the first statistical actions taken by the ICBS, aimed to serve and reflect national goals - no different in an emerging society than in a mature one: demographic changes, the need to care for the population's housing, health and education, and to develop a stable economy.

ICBS is the central producer of official statistics in Israel. From the outset, processes aiming at centralisation were put in place. These are perceived as essential to the coordination and integration of official statistics. Nevertheless, government ministries gather, produce and use administrative data as part of their daily activities, and they generate statistics as a means of fulfilling their national duties. The Government Statistician, who also serves as the Director-General of the ICBS, leads the national statistical system with the Public Council for Statistics at his side. He is to be consulted when statistical activities are planned, in accordance with the Statistical Ordinance.

The changing role of international organisations in the globalisation and technology–intensive era, has a major influence on the dynamics between the various parts of the Israeli statistical system. The accession process to the OECD empowered the ICBS as the leading organisation in the national statistical system, because of the OECD's most demanding professional requirements. Moreover, networking and better coordination between the ICBS and its national partners were established to serve mutual interests and goals. This is expected to further enhance and improve the process of providing official statistics in Israel in the coming years.

In 2010, the ICBS had 860 staff, including over 200 interviewers. Of the staff, 35% hold Master's degrees, 2.5% hold Doctoral degrees, and 67 % are women. The Bureau is organised into three types of units: subject-matter units, functional units and administrative units. It comprises seven specialized departments: Economic Infrastructure, Demography and Census, Chief Scientist, Macro-Economics, Micro-Economics, Business Economics, and Information Technology. The functional and administrative departments are: Statistical Methodology, Surveys, Administration and Human Resources. The Government Statistician's Office includes units under direct supervision of the Government Statistician and his Deputies: International Relations and Statistical Coordination, Information and Media Relations, Legal Advisor, Internal Auditing and Information Security. In addition, there are two regional offices for data collection: Haifa and the North; and Tel-Aviv, Central and South. The Headquarters of the ICBS is located in Jerusalem.

There are several operation mechanisms used by the ICBS, and data sources are the most prominent and influential component of these mechanisms. Registers, administrative files and surveys serve, in different combinations, all processes of statistical information generation.

Registers: The main goal of the first population census, conducted in 1948, was to establish the Population Register of Israel. The Ministry of Interior maintains the register and the ICBS uses it for different purposes: population estimates, demography statistics and sampling. Moreover, the 2008 Population Census used the register as the pivot for estimates that were corrected according to evaluation surveys. Future censuses will also use this methodology along with additional registers, one of which is the Buildings & Dwellings Register. This register was established by the ICBS and is based on municipal taxes files. The third important register for ICBS work is the Business Register. It consolidates the various

administrative business files, mainly VAT and National Insurance Institute files, and is updated on an ongoing basis. In addition to business statistics, it provides sampling frames for the various monthly and annual business surveys carried out by the ICBS. All registers carry a unique unit ID. In most cases PINs are identical in all administrative files carrying individual information in Israel, while many of the files with business records carry identical or convertible identification numbers. As a result, record linkage is possible and of high quality.

Administrative files: The continually improving ability to transfer, store and retrieve data has opened endless possibilities to statistics offices. ICBS has seized opportunities to enrich its statistics without adding to the response burden from surveys. Its policy is to use those files as an alternative source of information, as supplementary information and as a tool for editing and imputation and for quality assurance. The extensive use of administrative files does not focus on one domain but is widespread. For example: transportation and transportation-related statistics are based on a set of administrative files from the Ministry of Transport and the Israel Police, among which are registered motor vehicles, drivers licensed to drive, road accidents with casualties, and traffic violation files. Taxation files are used for various statistics, from employees' wages and income to businesses'turnover and revenues. Border Control files, along with entry visas, residence permits, work permits and immigrants files are all used for population and demography statistics. The ICBS reputation for a high level of integrity is a necessary pre-condition for the reception of sensitive files used for socio-economic research.

Surveys: ICBS conducts business, individual and household surveys, whose number is expected to double in the next few years, with the aim of providing data as required by national and international institutions. Israel's accession to the OECD was one of the main catalysts in this process, but not the only one. The main surveys under development are:

- Rolling census – Although the census will be based on egisters, the surveys will provide the under- and over-coverage estimates and socio-economic attributes. The plan is to draw samples on a yearly basis.

- Monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) – ICBS has been conducting the LFS since the early 1950's; however, its requency and method have changed over time, and the quarterly survey no longer responds to current needs. A monthly survey is in its last planning stages and is expected to be launched in the field in April 2011. The sample size is to be tripled, and the waves design has changed to 8-4-8.

- Longitudinal Survey – This survey is planned to be launched in 2012. It will investigate individuals and households in order to trace long-term changes in the fields of education, health, employment, incomes, expenditures, poverty and more.

ICBS has planned and started conducting several business surveys that were either not previously surveyed or carried out by other government ministries:

- Job Vacancy Survey – This survey will allow the Bureau to generate statistics on the supply side of the labour market, in addition to statistics on the demand side generated by the LFS. First results have already been published.

- Business Tendency Survey – This survey will allow for a comparison between expectations and actual development in the economy. The data collection process will start in December 2010.

Additional surveys are conducted in order to supplement national accounts, balance of payments, globalisation statistics and other business statistics.

The financial crisis has increased the need for timely data. Experiments are being conducted in the collection of data directly from the government accounting system, and from the internet. To increase the use of data by researchers the ICBS has established a remote research room. Future plans include a higher reliance on GIS systems to improve the accuracy of spatial statistics.

The ICBS's purpose is to serve the public, and to enable decision-makers to obtain all the information that is available and relevant to their needs.

The Central Bureau of statistics of Israel
www.cbs.gov.il/engindex.htm

MEASURING TRUST IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS: THE AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Although national statistical organisations have been providing governments, and the wider public, with statistics for over a century; only recently has the importance of measuring trust in official statistics been widely acknowledged. In 2009, the OECD began the groundwork for development of an internationally comparable instrument to measure trust in national statistical organisations and their products.

The central national statistical organisation in Australia, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), as part of its role as a member of the Taskforce for the Development of OECD Statistical Products, and as an active member of the Electronic Working Group (EWG) headed by Ivan Fellegi (the former chief statistician of Canada) helped develop the trust framework. A 'model' survey was written and the EWG recommended cognitive piloting of the instrument.

A Model of Trust

Although there is no single accepted definition in the literature of trust in general, or indeed trust in official statistics, the EWG suggested that trust in official statistics could be divided into two separate, but related, components: trust in statistical products and trust in the statistical institution. In turn, these components are influenced by a number of factors, illustrated in Figure 1.

The OECD framework for measurement of trust in official statistics was reproduced from the «Report of the Electronic Working Group» (2010) which is itself taken from prior work by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and a paper by Felligi (2004). The model defines trust in statistical products (defined as product trust) as being determined mainly by the quality of the statistical product itself – this includes many of the elements of the ABS Data Quality Framework like relevance, timeliness, accuracy and coherence.

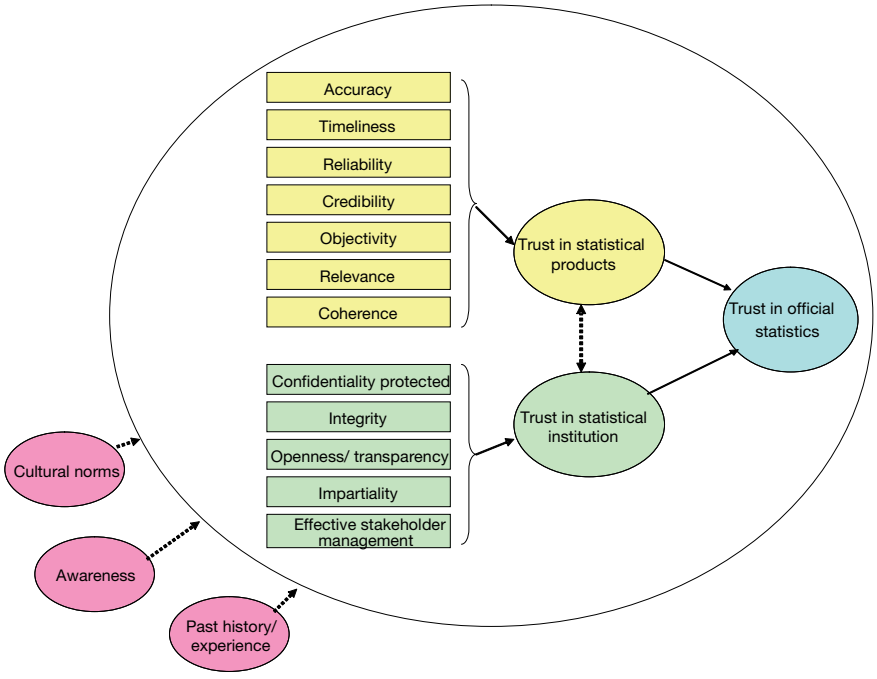
Trust in the organisation that produces the statistics (institutional trust), on the other hand, is a broader concept and can be influenced by both the institution's efforts (like protecting confidentiality) but is also dependent on wider social and cultural norms (like a nation's general climate toward government institutions, for example).

A four-point rating scale was used to measure both institutional and product trust. Respondents were given the options of 'trust a great deal', 'tend to trust', 'tend to distrust' or 'distrust a great deal'. Responses of 'not sure' or 'don't know' were also recorded separately. In this article, 'trust/distrust greatly' is used in preference of 'trust/distrust a great deal' for brevity.

About the ABS Survey

Australia was the first OECD member country to pilot the OECD model survey, and from this cognitive pilot, a localised instrument was developed and used for the Community Trust in ABS Statistics Survey (CTASS). Key aspects of the OECD survey were retained – such as separate measures of institutional and product trust. Both the cognitive pilot and

Figure 1. **Framework for measurement of trust in official statistics**



the survey were undertaken by an external consultant.

In total, 137 interviews with specialist users of ABS statistics and 2,242 interviews with the eneral community were conducted in May and June 2010. The general community survey was undertaken by an independent consultant using a quota-based household sampling methodology, with the electronic white pages used as the population frame. Quotas were based on age group, gender, and region, and the resulting sample closely mirrors the demographics of the Australian population. The interviews were conducted using a Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system.

The response rate was 26% based on the number of respondents divided by the total in-scope contacts. The response rate is much lower than the usual level of response that is experienced in surveys conducted by the ABS. The response of this survey is comparable to similar market research studies conducted by commercial survey organisations that are undertaken on a voluntary basis. Given the low response rates and potential for non-response bias, and the coverage limitations of the electronic white pages frame, users are advised to interpret the findings with caution.

Prior to the survey, about 200 users responded positively to an ABS letter sent to the in-scope population of about 900 specialist users about their willingness to participate in the Specialist User Survey. The Survey was then conducted on these 200 specialist users, from which 137 responses were obtained.

Further details on the methodology, including discussion of potential non-response bias, can be obtained in the report Trust in ABS and ABS Statistics, available at http://nss.gov.au/

Main Findings

Both the general community and specialist users have a high level of trust in the ABS and its statistical products. Additionally, there is widespread public and specialist user agreement that official statistics are important tools in understanding the economic and social landscape.

In the general community sample, 92% of respondents who rated the ABS (that is, excluding the 'not sure/don't know responses) said they either 'tended' to trust the ABS or trusted the ABS 'a great deal'. Similarly, 87% of respondents said they tended to trust or greatly trusted ABS statistics. See Figure 2.

All of the 137 specialist users rating the ABS said that they "trust greatly" or "tend to trust" in relation to the ABS as an institution. Of these specialist users, more than twice as many gave a rating of "trust greatly" (69%) compared to "tend to trust" (29%). In relation to product trust, 99% of specialist users rating the ABS trusted ABS products whilst only 1% of users said they tended to distrust. Similar to institutional trust, specialist users rating product trust were about twice as likely to give the ABS a "trust greatly" rating (64%) compared to "tend to trust" (33%). See Figure 3.

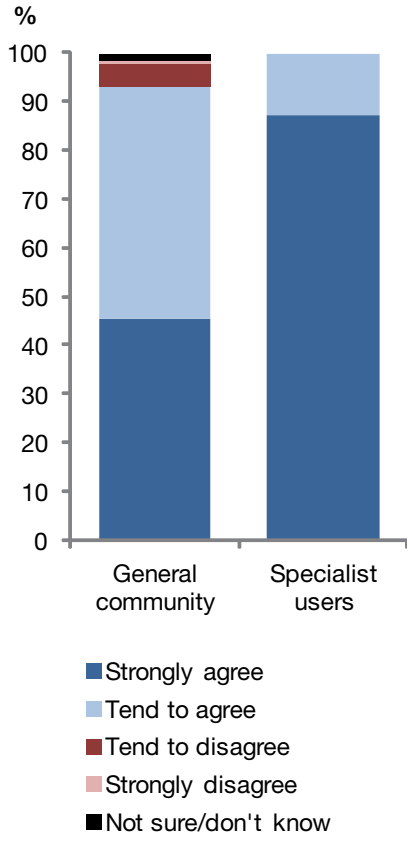
Of Australians, 93% agree that official statistics are important tools in understanding the economic and social landscape. The specialist users were more likely to strongly agree (87%) compared to the general public (45%). See Figure 4.

Complete results are available in the Trust in ABS and ABS Statistics report.

Figure 2. **Institutional and Product trust in the ABS general community**

Figure 3. **Institutional and Product trust in the ABS specialist users**

Figure 4. **Statistics produced by the ABS are important general community and specialist users**

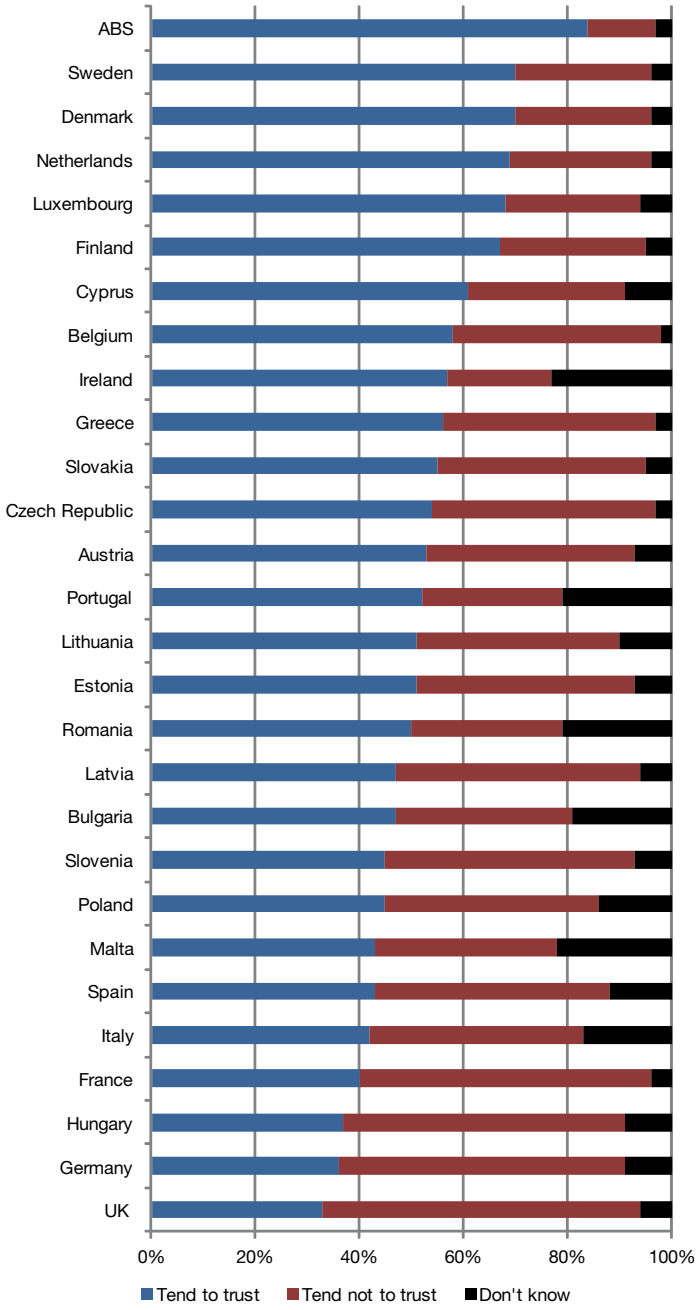


International Comparison

The European Commission, as part of its Eurobarometer series of surveys, polled citizens in 27 European Union (EU) countries on their trust in official statistics. These questions were undertaken in: Special Eurobarometer 323 – Europeans' knowledge of economic indicators. Although the results need to be read with a number of caveats with respect to differences in question wording and timing between the ABS trust survey and the Eurobarometer survey, the results suggest Australians' trust of ABS products compare very favourably to that in European Union countries. See Figure 5 for comparisons.

Caveats include for example: The Eurobarometer survey fieldwork was carried out in August-September 2009 whilst the fieldwork for the ABS trust survey was carried out in May-June 2010. The question in the Eurobarometer survey was "Personally, how much trust do you have in the official statistics in [OUR COUNTRY], for example the statistics on unemployment, inflation or economic growth? Would you say you tend to trust these statistics or tend not to trust them?" In comparison, the ABS survey question was "Personally, how much trust do you have in the statistics produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics? For example the statistics on unemployment, inflation, the Census, etc? Do you trust them a great deal; tend to trust them; tend to distrust them or distrust them a great deal?"

Figure 5. **ABS Product trust and Eurobarometer 2009 trust results**



For the purposes of comparison, the ABS response categories of 'Trust greatly' and 'tend to trust' were recategorised into the 'tend to trust' category, whilst 'tend to distrust' and 'distrust greatly' were recategorised into 'tend not to trust'. Not sure/don't know responses are included.

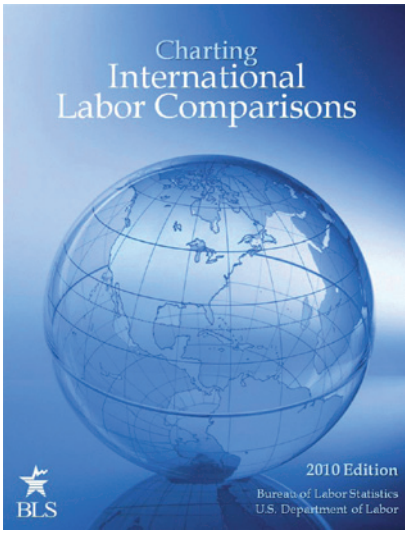
US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

CHARTING INTERNATIONAL LABOUR COMPARISONS, 2010 EDITION

Marshall Carter, US Bureau of Labor Statistics

France ranks lower in standard of living (according to its 2008 GDP per capita statistics) than it does in labour productivity placing it 15th out of 21 economies, far behind the leaders, Norway and the United States. But GDP per employed person—an overall measure of productivity—told a different story. Among 20 economies, France was in fourth place, while Norway and the United States maintained their top positions.

These rankings are among those illustrated in the 36 charts of Charting International Labor Comparisons published in April by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and available at www.bls.gov/ilc/chartbook.htm. Because definitions and concepts often differ, direct comparisons of statistics across countries can be misleading. To improve comparability of international labour statistics, the BLS International Labor Comparisons (ILC) program adjusts data to a common conceptual framework. Charting International Labor Comparisons features data for the most recent year available, as well as trends over time, for the main indicators produced by ILC: hourly compensation costs in manufacturing; manufacturing productivity and unit labour costs; labour force, employment, and unemployment; GDP per capita and per employed person; and consumer prices. The chart book also includes data from the OECD and other international organisations to expand country and indicator coverage. The appendix describes definitions, sources, and methods and some caveats concerning comparability.



The 2010 edition introduces descriptions of indicator definitions and usage to facilitate greater understanding of the data. Through non-technical language, the chart book presents comparable data illustrating the relative position and performance of covered economies for five topics: GDP, the labour market, competiveness in manufacturing, prices, and indicators for large emerging economies. Charts in the first four sections cover varying numbers of economies in North America, Asia, Oceania, and Europe. The selected economies are not representative of all of Europe or the Asian-Pacific region but rather tend to be the more industrialised economies in these regions. Charts in section 5 cover the United States, which serves as a point of reference, and six large emerging countries: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, and South Africa. Highlights from each of the five sections are provided below.

Gross domestic product

GDP per capita in 2008 was highest in Norway and the United States and lowest in Mexico. Korea ranked near the bottom, yet experienced the fastest average annual growth of real GDP per capita from 1998 to 2008. Italy grew slowest over the period.

The labour market

Average annual growth in the labour force from 1998 to 2008 was fastest in Ireland and Spain, but declined slightly in Japan. During this period, both Ireland and Spain experienced increases in part-time employment far larger than their gains in full-time employment, a phenomenon common in other countries as well. The disparity between growth in part-time and full-time employment is partly explained by the increasing number of women in the labour force.

Unemployment rates vary widely among age groups, with youth affected by unemployment disproportionally compared to adults. In 2008, the most significant gaps occurred in Italy, Sweden, and Spain, where youth unemployment rates were more than two to three times higher than the adult rates.

Competitiveness in manufacturing

From 1998 to 2008, Korea experienced the fastest average annual growth in manufacturing productivity, but also had increasing unit labour costs. In contrast, Japan had the seventh fastest growth in manufacturing productivity over the

period and experienced noticeable declines in unit labour costs.

Prices

Consumer price inflation in 2008, as measured by the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), grew more quickly than the annual average for 2003-2008 in all countries, with the fastest growth rates for both periods in the United States and Spain and the slowest in Japan.

HICPs and Consumer Price Indexes (CPIs) measured inflation similarly for the 2003-2008 period for most countries. The United Kingdom had a significant difference between the two indexes because the national CPI market basket includes only retail goods, whereas the HICP covers a broader range of consumer expenditures, including, for example, health, education, and financial services.

Indicators for large emerging economies

Thirty percent of the world's industrial output in 2008 was produced by two countries: the United States and China. Though the volume of production is high in both countries, China's economy is more reliant on international trade; in 2008, trade in goods as a percentage of GDP was more than double that of the United States.

The populations of China and India were similarly large in 2008, both more than three times the U.S. population and together comprising more than a third of the world total. China's GDP per capita was double that of India's, yet represented only 13 percent of the U.S. level.

The figures illustrated in the chart book are aggregate measures and thus represent a broad economic view. The user should be aware of data limitations and consider other factors, which may not be illustrated in the chart book, when assessing a country's performance.

For further information on the chart book or ILC data, contact the ILC program at ilcHelp@bls.gov or visit www.bls.gov/ilc.

EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2010 INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

As governments move to get their finances back into shape in the wake of the global economic crisis, education is the subject of renewed focus. On the one hand, it is a large item of public expenditure in most countries. On the other, investing in education is essential if countries want to develop their long-run growth potential and to respond to the changes in technology and demographics that are reshaping labour markets.

Education at a Glance 2010 provides data and analysis to illuminate both sides of this equation – investment and returns. More broadly, it provides data on a whole range of issues in education, including levels of attainment, access and the learning environment.

Education: Investments and returns

OECD countries invest heavily on education. Below tertiary level, expenditure by educational institutions per student increased in every country, on average, by 43% between 1995 and 2007, despite relatively stable student numbers. At tertiary level, expenditure by educational institutions per student increased by 14 percentage points on average in OECD countries from 2000 to 2007, after remaining stable in the previous five years. This reflects in part governments' efforts to deal with the expansion of tertiary education through massive investment.

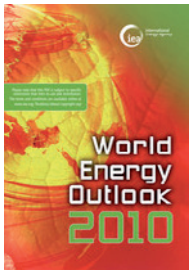
Public resources invested in education pay off in a number of ways, including, for example, higher tax revenues. Even after subtracting the public revenue that has financed the degree, an average of USD 86 000 remains, almost three times the amount of public investment per student in tertiary education. The returns to society are even larger because many other benefits of education are not directly reflected in tax income.

Education also plays a major role in helping to keep workers in the labour force longer – an advantage that is becoming a necessity as populations age in OECD countries. And it increases employability: on average across OECD countries since 1997, unemployment rates of those with tertiary-level attainment have stayed at or below 4% while for those with less than upper secondary education they have breached 10% several times.

OECD (2010), Education at a Glance 2010: OECD Indicators, OECD Publishing.
www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010

PUBLICATIONS

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

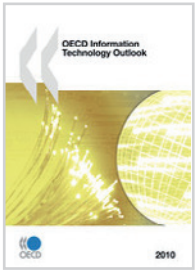


World Energy Outlook 2010

The world appears to be emerging from the worst economic crisis in decades. Many countries have made pledges under the Copenhagen Accord to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. Commitments have also been made by the G-20 and APEC to phase out inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies. Are we, at last, on the path to a secure, reliable and environmentally sustainable energy system?

Updated projections of energy demand, production, trade and investment, fuel by fuel and region by region to 2035 are provided in the 2010 edition of the World Energy Outlook (WEO). It includes, for the first time, a new scenario that anticipates future actions by governments to meet the commitments they have made to tackle climate change and growing energy insecurity.

OECD (2010), World Energy Outlook 2010, OECD Publishing.
www.worldenergyoutlook.org



OECD Information Technology Outlook 2010

Information technology (IT) and the Internet are major drivers of research, innovation, growth and social change. The 2010 edition of the OECD Information Technology Outlook analyses the economic crisis and recovery, and suggests that the outlook for IT goods and services industries is good after weathering a turbulent economic period better than during the crisis at the beginning of the 2000s. The industry continues to restructure, with non-OECD economies, particularly China and India, major suppliers of information and communications technology-related goods and services.

OECD (2010), OECD Information Technology Outlook 2010, OECD Publishing.
www.oecd.org/sti/ito

OECD Economic Outlook 2010

Economic activity in OECD countries will gradually pick up steam over the coming two years, but the recovery will be uneven and unemployment will remain persistently high, according to the OECD's latest Economic Outlook.

With the functioning of the financial sector returning to normal and households and business in a position to renew spending and investment, the main challenge facing governments today is moving from a policy-driven recovery toward self-sustained growth.

OECD (2010), OECD Economic Outlook, Vol. 2010/2, OECD Publishing.
www.oecd.org/oecdEconomicOutlook

AGENDA

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

OECD

Date	Meeting
8-10 Dec. 2010	Innovative Approaches to Turn Statistics into Knowledge, seminar organised by the OECD Statistics Directorate, Statistics South Africa and the World Bank. Cape Town, South Africa. www.oecd.org/progress/ict/statknowledge
13 Dec. 2010	Conference on the Indicators of Integration, Working Party on Migration, OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs. OECD, Paris, France.
24 Jan. 2011	Economic Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean, organised by the OECD Development Centre, the Inter-American Development Bank and the French ministry of Economy, Industry and Employment. Bercy, Paris, France.
17-18 Feb. 2011	Tenth Global Forum on Competition : Cross-Border Merger Control and Crisis Cartels. OECD, Paris, France.
28 Feb.-2 Mar 2011	Conference on Strengthening Sectoral Position and Flow Data in the Macroeconomic Accounts jointly organised by the IMF and OECD. IMF, Washington, D.C, USA.
14-16 Mar. 2011	Group of National Co-ordinators on Indicators of Education Systems (INES), OECD Directorate for Education. OECD, Paris, France.
22-25 Mar. 2011	Working Group on International Investment Statistics (WGIIS), Investment Committee, OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, Paris, France.
11-13 May 2011	Latin American Conference on Measuring Well-Being and Progress, jointly organised by OECD, INEGI and the Foro Consultivo Cientifico y Tecnologico (FCCT). Mexico.
17-19 May 2011	Working Party No. 2 on Tax Policy Analysis and Tax Statistics, organised by the Centre for Tax Policy and Administration. OECD, Paris, France.
25-27 May 2011	International Transport Forum on Transport and Society. Leipzig, Germany. www.internationaltransportforum.org
26-27 May 2011	Health Care Quality Indicators (HCQI) Expert Group, OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs. OECD, Paris, France.
6 Jun. 2011	21st Session of the Working Party on Territorial Indicators (WPTI), Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development. OECD, Paris, France

Other statistics meetings

26-30 Jan. 2011	World Economic Forum. Davos, Switzerland. www.weforum.org/en/events/AnnualMeeting2011/index.htm
6-11 Feb. 2011	World Social Forum. Dakar, Senegal. www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/index.php?cd_language=2&id_menu=12_1
19-21 Mar. 2011	China Develepment Forum. Beijing, China. www.cdrf.org.cn/
16-17 Apr. 2011	2011 Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund. Washington D.C., USA www.imf.org/external/am/index.htm
31 May-2 Jun. 2011	Development Challenges in a Post-Crisis World, ABCDE 2010 conference organised by the World Bank and the Swedish government. http://go.worldbank.org/2ICIKNRHS0

Unless otherwise indicated attendance at OECD meetings and working parties is by invitation only.

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