



Policy webinar on Inequalities in Household Wealth and Financial Insecurity of Households

Organised by the OECD and EC DG Employment

Tuesday 6 July 2021
14:30-16:00 CET

The distribution of household wealth has gained centre stage in public policy debate in OECD and EU countries. Wealth is much more concentrated at the top than income, with 10% of the wealthiest households holding more than half of total wealth and the top 1% holding almost one fifth. At the other end of the spectrum, many households have very low and even negative levels of wealth among many households – a major challenge that the COVID-19 crisis has further exposed: while the wealthy could afford waiting for the dust to settle those with little or no assets were often forced to enter into debt or increase their borrowing to make ends meet. As the repercussions of the COVID-19 crisis will continue to be felt for some time, there is a pressing need for policies to rebuild the financial resilience of vulnerable households.

This webinar presented new comparative measures of household wealth distribution as well as the key findings from the last [OECD policy brief](#) on “Inequalities in household wealth and financial insecurity of households”. The OECD Wealth Distribution Database ([WDD](#)) contains comparative statistics on the extent of wealth concentration across OECD countries, based on harmonised wealth microdata. The brief analyses the most recent levels and longer-term trends in the distribution of financial and non-financial wealth and its composition at the top and the bottom of the distribution. It looks at the availability of liquid wealth holdings for poorer households as a buffer to draw in exceptional circumstances such as the current crisis, to ensure stable living conditions and guarantee financial security. Finally, it discusses policy options to help counteract high and rising wealth inequality.

The event was open to OECD and EC staff, Member Countries’ delegates and policy professionals, academics, civil society, and others interested in this important agenda.

Click [here](#) to watch the recording of the webinar.

To know more about the work of the OECD Centre for Well-Being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE) on wealth inequality go to: <https://oe.cd/wdd>.

Agenda

- 14:30 Opening remarks by **Romina Boarini**, Director, OECD Centre for Well-Being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE) and **Joost Korte**, Director General, EC DG Employment
- 14:45 [Presentation of the policy brief by Carlotta Balestra](#), Policy Analyst, OECD WISE Centre
- 15:00 Roundtable discussion, chaired by **Michael Förster**, Senior Policy Analyst, OECD WISE Centre
 - **Brian Nolan**, Full Professor, University of Oxford
 - **Olivier Bontout**, Deputy Head, Social Investment Strategy Unit, EC DG Employment
 - **Stéphane Carcillo**, Head of Jobs and Income Division, OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs
 - [Presentation by Aura Leulescu](#), Deputy Head, Social Indicators - Methodology and Development; Relations with users, Eurostat
 - [Presentation by Ingrid Woolard](#), Full Professor and Dean, Stellenbosch University
- 15:40 Questions from participants
- 16:00 End of the event