

Labour Statistics

Annual Labour Force Statistics

Purpose

To provide relevant, reliable annual labour force statistics covering long time series for internal OECD users (in particular, the Economics Department), member country government agencies and other external users in academic institutions and private enterprise.

Objectives and outputs

The main objective is to provide long time series for key annual statistics on labour force, employment and unemployment. This database contains annual statistics for OECD member countries comprising: employment, unemployment, employment by sectors, and employment by professional status. Published output also includes comparative tables for the main components of the labour force.

Data are available for all OECD member countries and for OECD-Total, Euro area and European Union, Brazil, Russian Federation and South Africa. Time series cover 20 years for most countries. The long time-series for the data presented facilitate identification of structural changes in labour force over time.

Published output are also accompanied by target OECD and ILO international statistical standards (definitions, etc) and summary methodological information (national definitions, coverage, collection, calculation, series breaks, sources) used by individual OECD member countries in the compilation of the statistics published in the ALFS and available in OECD.stat.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Russian Federation, South Africa.

Main Developments for 2018

General aspects:

The STD Annual Labour Force Statistics and the infra-annual labour market Statistics data collections are now integrated: annual series are now derived directly from infra-annual series rather than collected through questionnaires, with the exception of data broken down by industry and of the employment by professional status for some countries.

Eurostat is now the data source for every EU OECD countries (plus Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey).

Data collection:

Targeted countries slow at responding to the annual questionnaire will be requested to speed up their response.

Infra-annual Labour Force Statistics

Purpose

To provide relevant, reliable key infra-annual labour force statistics such as employment and unemployment (levels, rates) for internal OECD users, member country government agencies and other external users in academic institutions and private enterprise.

Objectives and outputs

The main objective is to provide long time series for key infra-annual labour statistics as well as timely short-term indicators on the labour force such as employment and unemployment. Data are disseminated in the OECD Main Economic Indicators (MEI) database, a monthly press release on harmonised unemployment, a quarterly press release on employment situation and on OECD.Stat.

The MEI database contains monthly, quarterly and annual Labour Force Survey indicators on employment, unemployment, activity, inactivity, working-age population. It also contains indicators on labour compensation and for some countries indicators on registered unemployment, vacancies, hours worked, etc.

Data are available for all OECD member countries and for key series (employment, unemployment, hourly earnings) aggregates for OECD-Total, Major seven, OECD-Europe, EU27 and Euro area and for selected non-member countries.

In the MEI, series are accompanied by summary metadata outlining key concepts, coverage, etc. Published output are also accompanied by target OECD and ILO international statistical standards (definitions, etc) and summary methodological information (national definitions, coverage, collection, calculation, series breaks, sources) used by individual OECD member countries in data compilation.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Lithuania, Russian Federation, South Africa.

Main Developments for 2018

Data collection:

Small number of countries slow at responding to the annual questionnaire will be requested to speed up their response. The collection of further data and metadata for NMEs, in particular, China and India.

Labour Market Statistics

Purpose

To produce a comprehensive set of statistics to monitor labour market developments in OECD countries, while enhancing their international comparability.

To monitor the current jobs crisis and subsequent jobs recovery.

To provide statistical information to undertake labour market analyses and policy formulation to be discussed at international meetings on labour policies.

To provide background information for preparatory work for international statistical guidelines.

Objectives and outputs

Regular collection, production and dissemination of labour statistics on labour market outcomes and performance (i.e. earnings levels, earnings distribution, etc.) and institutional variables (i.e. minimum wages, stock of participants and expenditure on labour market programmes - LMP data, EPL index, trade union membership, collective bargaining coverage, etc.) to serve as an analytical basis for labour market analysis.

Data are used to produce the statistical annex of the Employment Outlook and the internal and external on-line Labour Force Statistics database stored on OECD.Stat (Key Employment Statistics and <http://www.oecd.org/employment/onlineoecdemploymentdatabase.htm>).

Some of the data series are reported in the OECD Main Economic Indicators database and in the OECD Annual Labour Force Statistics publication.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa.

Main Developments for 2018

General aspects:

The LFS database is constantly monitored to improve country coverage and comparability regarding job tenure, hours worked, minimum wages and wage and earnings data and to compile data in the area of youth and workforce ageing, broader measures of labour underutilization beyond the standard measure of unemployment, etc.

A closer look at statistics to characterize informal employment will be undertaken based on existing international guidelines on this subject.

Work underway to consolidate earnings related statistics and to improve their comparability.

Earnings data in the OECD Earnings Distribution database are currently assessed to enhance international comparability and relevance of the database. Full-time earnings will be completed with data for all employees taking account of earnings of part-timers. A data collection with national providers is underway.

The minimum wage database is expected to be complemented with indicators on net minimum wages and the cost of the minimum wage that are well in demand among labour market data users community.

Continuous assessment of annual working time statistics to improve their international comparability with the aim of publishing of comparable estimates in the statistical annex of the Employment Outlook and of increasing country coverage.

Revisions of metadata as appropriate on labour market statistics on OECD.Stat for internal and external web based dissemination.