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Economics

OECD Economic Surveys: Poland 2023

Poland has successfully managed a large inflow of refugees. Both monetary and fiscal policies should ensure that higher inflation does not become entrenched. Fiscal policy continues to support the economy in managing higher energy prices. Long term fiscal pressures need to be addressed, for instance by broadening the revenue base, improving spending efficiency and raising retirement age.

Digitalisation can help unleash the entrepreneurial potential of Polish businesses at home and in global markets but requires adequate skills. This requires the government to take a comprehensive approach across several policy areas, such as adult education, life-long learning and training for SMEs.

Poland has made progress in transitioning to net zero emissions by 2050, but the rate of decarbonisation needs to accelerate significantly. Setting out a clear long-term path for carbon prices would provide more clarity to households and businesses. A just energy transition requires supporting the most affected workers and regions.

SPECIAL FEATURE: DIGITALISING THE POLISH ECONOMY

OECD Economic Surveys: Israel 2023

The Israeli economy has rebounded strongly from the COVID-19 pandemic and has proven resilient to the repercussions of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Inflation has risen above the central bank's target range amid strong demand and a tight labour market. Demographic challenges, related to the rising share of population groups with weak labour market attachment and ageing, will put pressure on future growth and fiscal sustainability. Addressing these challenges and reducing large labour market disparities will require setting appropriate work incentives and providing better support for working parents; improving skills at all stages of the learning cycle; as well as increasing mobility and reallocation towards high productivity jobs and firms, in particular in the high-tech sector. To maintain good health outcomes, emerging doctor shortages need to be addressed and the interaction between the public and private health care sector reformed. Reducing digital gaps across households and firms, by improving digital infrastructure, upgrading skills, raising competition and reducing financing constraints, can boost productivity growth and narrow the productivity divide between the high-tech sector and the rest of the economy. Fully harnessing Israel's solar energy potential can help accelerate the green transition.

SPECIAL FEATURE: ADDRESSING LABOUR MARKET CHALLENGES



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Economics

OECD Economic Surveys: Bulgaria 2023

Bulgaria is converging towards more advanced economies. Soaring energy and food prices have pushed up inflation to highest levels in decades. Strong momentum in wages and pensions and support packages have stabilised purchasing power. With the currency board arrangement, the onus to decrease short-term inflationary pressures is on fiscal policy. Fiscal discipline has resulted in low public debt, but growing spending pressures related to aging, infrastructure and skills will need to be financed by greater tax collection efficiency. The fight against corruption, which imposes high transaction costs, needs to continue by implementing more effective measures. Bulgaria's climate transition strategy is under development. Environmental taxes, including excise taxes on fuels and carbon taxes on sectors outside of the emissions trading system need to increase to curb energy intensity and reduce emissions. The shrinking number of workers due to smaller young cohorts entering the labour market and outward migration are undermining Bulgaria's growth prospects and the sustainability of its social institutions. Bulgaria needs to provide more support for families, including quality childcare country-wide, and make staying in the country more attractive by raising productivity, fostering the creation of good-quality formal jobs and reinforcing the social safety net.

SPECIAL FEATURE: BETTER JOBS AND INCOMES

OECD Economic Surveys: Czech Republic 2023

Spillovers from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine have derailed the Czech Republic's post-pandemic recovery and further disrupted the impressive catch-up with OECD average incomes seen in the previous two decades. Inflation is high and a tight macroeconomic policy stance is needed to restore price stability. Fiscal pressures have risen. Reforming pensions and taxes could help maintain fiscal sustainability. The Czech labour market remains strong. The unemployment rate is low, and the employment rate and job security are high. However, severe labour and skills shortages are a major obstacle to growth. Bringing more mothers to work and increasing labour participation of older workers can help in this regard. More equitable provision of education and skills, effective lifelong learning and attracting and retaining skilled foreign labour would ease skills shortages and spur growth. The Czech economy remains highly energy intensive, still relies heavily on coal and records high greenhouse gas emissions. Major investments are needed to alter the energy mix and to improve energy efficiency. More ambitious environmental policies and an improved investment climate could help make growth more sustainable.

SPECIAL FEATURE: TOWARDS NET ZERO

Governance

Review of Lithuania's National Agenda on the Prevention of Corruption Strengthening Public Sector Integrity Strategies

This report examines the process for developing the Lithuania's National Anticorruption Programme (NAPC) for 2022-2033. It assesses the NAPC's past accomplishments as well as challenges in priority areas, and draws lessons for the coming period. It also highlights implementation gaps in at-risk areas and identifies opportunities for improving the design and implementation of the NAPC.



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Towards a Child-friendly Justice System in Latvia Implementing the Barnahus model

Latvia's current National Development Plan, approved in 2020, sets out a clear vision for the Latvian justice system by 2027. This includes establishing international standards and good practices in the development of national policies to build a child-friendly justice system. This report assesses the benefits of implementing the Barnahus model in Latvia as a child-friendly and interagency one-stop shop to support children exposed to violence or abuse as well as those who have witnessed violence. It examines a whole-of-state approach to promote a justice system that is more people- and child-friendly, incorporating sound governance mechanisms. This report provides recommendations for delivering more targeted and accessible child-friendly justice services in Latvia, as well as different approaches used in OECD Member and partner countries to close justice inequality gaps.



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Progress Review of Peru's Telecommunications Regulator Driving Performance

Regulators act as "market referees", balancing often competing interests of stakeholders, including governments, current and future actors in the markets, and consumers. At the same time, markets are changing at an unprecedented pace due to new technologies, the international drive toward carbon-neutral economies, shifts in consumer needs and preferences, and, more recently, the profound changes brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Assessing the performance of economic regulators must therefore be a continuous effort.

This progress review evaluates the changes put in place by Peru's telecommunications regulator, OSIPTEL, since the previous OECD performance assessment review in 2018, in the interest of increasing the effectiveness of its regulatory activities and improving final outcomes for consumers and the economy.



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Education

Empowering Young Children in the Digital Age

Digitalisation is transforming education as well as social and economic life, with implications for childhood. Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), with its immense potential to shape children's early development, learning and well-being, can play a major role in addressing the opportunities and risks that digitalisation brings to young children. Digitalisation also creates new ways of working that have the potential to lead to quality improvement in the ECEC sector. This report provides a 360-degree view of the challenges of digitalisation in ECEC and possible policy responses.

Teaching for the Future

Global Engagement, Sustainability and Digital Skills

Global education systems face an array of huge challenges, including question marks over how to remain relevant in a fast-changing world. This report *Teaching for the Future: Global Engagement, Sustainability and Digital Skills* outlines the challenges and key trends for teaching and schools, and sets out ambitious proposals to improve education standards to ensure learning caters to the needs of all students regardless of background. The report was used as the basis to launch for discussions about the state of global education at the International Summit on the Teaching Profession held in Washington D.C., April 2023. The summit brought together education ministers, union leaders and other representatives from the teaching profession from high-performing and improving education systems to review the quality of teaching and learning across the world. Topics discussed included The report covers the future of learning and ways to radically reimagine how education systems function in the decades to come; analysis of how to attract and support the development of high-quality teachers and teaching practices in the age of digitalisation; and ways to support the teaching of global competencies in schools, and how to promote equitable and inclusive learning environments for all.

Advancing Digital Maturity in Croatia's Higher Education System

The Croatian government views digitalisation as a way to improve access to higher education and increase its attractiveness. To this end, it is investing in modernising digital infrastructure and building capacity to effectively integrate digital technologies into the higher education sector. This report provides an account of the activities and findings of a project on assessing and improving digital maturity in Croatian higher education institutions, which was carried out by the OECD and funded by the European Union. The objective of the project was to provide support and advice to Croatian authorities as they develop their policy approach to higher education digitalisation.

This report details the activities and outcomes of the project. It reviews international best practices related to enhancing the quality of digital higher education. It also provides technical guidance to public authorities on prioritising investments in various forms of digital infrastructure. Finally, it offers guidance to Croatian higher education institutions to support their strategic development process and their investment strategies with regard to digitalisation.

Social issues/Migration/Health

Measuring Progress towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth in Japan

The report *Measuring Progress towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth in Japan* is the outcome of a collaboration with the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry which aims to monitor progress in key areas crucial to realising the Japanese government's vision for a "New Form of Capitalism". Building on the OECD Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth, the report includes a set of key indicators to support measures for the government to deliver on its vision as well as inform on best practices in other major advanced economies. A central message is that creating the equality of opportunity in Japan requires a balanced approach of taking both efficiency and equity concerns into account. The report presents the main dynamics for policy consideration to strengthen sustainability of the Japanese growth model, with due attention paid to specific issues that matter for different groups of Japanese population. Underpinned by rigorous statistical analysis at a sufficiently disaggregated level, the report helps to better understand some of the main drivers of well-being and economic success in Japan.

Health at a Glance: Latin America and the Caribbean 2023

This second edition of *Health at a Glance: Latin America and the Caribbean*, prepared jointly by OECD and the World Bank, presents a set of key indicators of health status, determinants of health, healthcare resources and utilisation, healthcare expenditure and financing, quality of care, health workforce, and ageing across 33 Latin America and the Caribbean countries. Each of the indicators is presented in a user-friendly format, consisting of charts illustrating variations across countries, and over time, brief descriptive analyses highlighting the major findings conveyed by the data, and a methodological box on the definition of the indicators and any limitations in data comparability. This edition of *Health at a Glance: Latin America and the Caribbean* also provides thematic analyses on two key topics for building more resilient health in the LAC region: the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on LAC healthcare systems, and climate change and health.



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Employment

Handbook on Measuring Digital Platform Employment and Work

National Statistical Offices face a growing policy demand for better statistics on digital platform employment and work. New statistical definitions are needed to avoid undercounting the number of people involved in these jobs. In addition, new sources of data, including non-official ones, may be needed to meet the statistical challenges of measuring digital platform employment and work. The OECD, the International Labour Organisation and the European Commission have joined forces to produce this Handbook on Measuring Platform Employment and Work, which assesses measurement options and provides first recommendations on these issues. The Handbook first proposes a general definition of digital platform work and a conceptual framework that helps identify the key features of digital platform employment and work, which statisticians should bear in mind when designing their research objectives and operational protocol. The Handbook then reviews the main statistical vehicles used for measuring digital platform employment, and discusses previous statistical initiatives by National Statistical Offices through the lens of its conceptual framework.

OECD Labour Force Statistics 2022

This annual publication provides detailed statistics on labour force, employment and unemployment, broken down by gender, as well as unemployment duration, employment status, employment by sector of activity and part-time employment. It also contains participation and unemployment rates by gender and detailed age groups as well as comparative tables for the main components of the labour force. Data are available for each OECD member country and for OECD-Total, Euro area and European Union. The time series presented in the publication cover 10 years for most countries. It also provides information on the sources and definitions used by member countries in the compilation of those statistics.

Environment

Reform Options for Lithuanian Climate Neutrality by 2050

This report presents policy reform options to support Lithuania in meeting its climate neutrality target. It takes stock of Lithuania's current and planned climate policies and assesses their potential for meeting the country's climate ambitions. The report details the results of modelling carried out to assess the effectiveness of different policy scenarios, an analysis of carbon pricing and the role of innovation, an assessment of financial needs in the transition to net zero, and an analysis of the distributional implications of carbon pricing. Bringing together these findings the report offers recommendations for policy reform, highlighting the importance of setting price signals complemented by innovation support, as well as the potential of revenue recycling options in alleviating distributional concerns.

Urban, Rural and Regional Development

City-to-City Partnerships to Localise the Sustainable Development Goals

City-to-city partnerships and decentralised development co-operation (DDC) can play a key role in advancing the SDGs and in addressing global megatrends, the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and other shocks. This report discusses the framework conditions for effective city-to-city partnerships and takes stock of existing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. As a complement, it proposes a systemic monitoring and evaluation framework for city-to-city partnerships to localise the SDGs, combining self-assessment and SDG indicators. This framework aims to bridge the gap in terms of measuring the progress of cities engaged in partnerships on the 2030 Agenda and their compliance with the G20 Rome High-Level Principles on city-to-city partnerships for localising the SDGs. The report also presents lessons learned from a pilot-testing of this new framework and highlights policy implications and ways forward to enhance the sustainability, transparency and accountability of city-to-city partnerships, in a shared responsibility across levels of government and stakeholders.

Reshaping Decentralised Development Co-operation in Germany

German federal states and municipalities have engaged in decentralised development co-operation (DDC) since the 1950s. Together, they provide over half of total official development assistance (ODA) in the world. However, most of this support remains within German borders. To incentivise further international partnerships, the federal government has established dedicated programmes and financial support schemes for states and municipalities. This report presents key data on the DDC landscape in Germany and offers guidance on how to strengthen its role in enabling peer-to-peer learning and improve collaboration between German states and municipalities. It also showcases how to further raise awareness about the mutual benefits of DDC partnerships, including through better ODA data reporting and a harmonised approach to monitoring and evaluating its results across levels of government.



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Development

Multi-dimensional Review of El Salvador Strategic Priorities for Robust, Inclusive and Sustainable Development

El Salvador has made significant development progress in the past 30 years. The end of the civil war in 1992 marked the establishment of a liberal democracy and an open export-led development model, which led to a reduction in poverty and inequality. However, with economic growth averaging a modest 2.4% in the years before the COVID-19 pandemic, and productivity growth of 0.1% over the past decade, the post-war model has not generated the economic momentum or the jobs that the country needs. Decisive action is necessary to kickstart more robust, inclusive and sustainable development. Based on a multi-dimensional analysis of development in El Salvador, this report makes four priority recommendations: 1) build the conditions for a productive transformation and modernisation of the economy; 2) increase the quantity, quality and relevance of education; 3) manage water resources better to deliver water and sanitation for all in a sustainable manner; and 4) modernise the State so it can effectively deliver key public goods, from security to education to health, and successfully steer the next stage in the country's development.

Informality and Globalisation In Search of a New Social Contract

Globalisation and rapid technological change have radically transformed labour markets, affecting the lives and prospects of billions of workers. Those in the informal economy, the vast bulk of the workforce in the Global South, have been bearing the brunt. This report is for policy makers seeking to address the factors that make those workers in informality vulnerable. It provides them with a distinctive cross-country comparison of recent informality trends, and how they were affected by the recent crises such as the COVID-19 epidemic, casting light on the impacts of sub-contracting models in global value chains, and digital labour platforms. It argues that an inclusive recovery and greater resilience to future crises necessitate that many countries renew their social contracts, to make them more inclusive of informal workers and their families.

A Decade of Development Finance for Biodiversity

The report provides an overview of development finance with biodiversity-related objectives from a wide range of sources: bilateral Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members, non-DAC and South-South and triangular co-operation providers, multilateral institutions, private finance mobilised by development finance, and private philanthropy. The estimates are based on OECD statistical data. The report identifies the main gaps between biodiversity-related priorities and investments and provides detailed estimates on financial allocations to the fight against illegal wildlife trade; nature-based solutions; indigenous peoples and local communities; the mainstreaming of biodiversity; gender equality; and climate change. These elements can help DAC members and other stakeholders to step up and target their biodiversity-related investments, notably to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

