

OECD Health Statistics 2025

Definitions, Sources and Methods

Sickness absences of full-time dependent employees ^{New}

Sickness absences of full-time dependent employees, annual averages.

Data expressed in number of weeks of sickness absences per year, self-reported, covering both full and part-week absences.

Sources and Methods

Source: OECD estimates based on the European Labour Force Survey, unpublished data.

Methodology:

- The distinction between full- and part-time employees is based on self-reported working time status in labour force surveys.
- The number of days of sickness absences derived from the EU-labour force survey (LFS) are multiplied by a factor of 2 to account for a 50% underestimation in sickness absences reported in LFS compared to administrative records and health surveys.
- This rule of the thumb has been adopted following a data confrontation for a few countries (Switzerland, Germany and France) between LFS data and those from health surveys and administrative sources.

Iceland

Coverage: 2017-2023 data are full-week absences only.

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<https://www.oecd.org/en/data/datasets/oecd-health-statistics.html>