

# **50 years of OECD countries at a glance**

**A visual overview of 50 years in OECD countries  
with time distance methodology**

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**At the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the OECD SICENTER presents a visual overview across several decades of the development across all current OECD countries for selected indicators based on time distance methodology.**

## **Preliminary list of indicators**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Data range</b>	<b>Section</b>
1 Life expectancy at birth: total	1960-2007	Quality of Life
2 Infant mortality	1960-2007	Quality of Life
3 Road fatalities	1990-2008	Quality of Life
4 Population growth rates, projections	2009-2050	Population and Migration
5 Elderly population (aged 65 and over)	1950-2010	Population and Migration
6 Elderly population (aged 65 and over), with projections	1950-2050	Population and Migration
7 Employment rates: total	1966-2008	Labour
8 Tertiary attainment for age group 25-64	1997-2006	Education
9 Gross domestic expenditure on R&D	1981-2008	Science and Technology
10 Households with access to telephone	1991-2007	Science and Technology
11 B1_GE: Gross domestic product per capita	1970-2009	Production and Income
12 International trade in goods and services	1960-2008	Production and Income
13 Current account balance	1990-2008	Public Finance
14 General government expenditures	1970-2008	Public Finance

**AN ADDITIONAL WAY OF PRESENTATION ACROSS MANY UNITS AND MANY YEARS**

Time distance concept arranges the same data from Factbook 2010 in an additional way so that data are arranged by selected levels of indicators showing in which year these levels of the indicators were achieved by given country.

The result is a LEVEL-TIME MATRIX, which is easily understood by everybody:

## One can immediately observe several stories:

1. The observed level-time table-graph in yellow colour shows the range of values achieved for a given country over the period from available data.

This allows for a quick level comparison:

- of the situation across the OECD countries and individual countries
- of how many steps over levels of indicators a given country has achieved  
(which is an additional indication of the dynamics in the country)

2. The year presented in **bold** show the latest available year for a given selected level of the indicator. It can help to quickly observe whether there was a noticeable decrease in the observed period.

Technically, if there are more intersections for a given level of the indicator the last year is shown.

# Life expectancy at birth: total (number of years)

data range 1960-2007

# Quality of Life

Level	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82
Japan			1960	1962	1963	1966	1970	1971	1975	1976	1979	1983	1986	1991	1996	2000	<b>2005</b>
Switzerland							1964	1970	1973	1976	1981	1985	1992	1996	2000	<b>2004</b>	
Iceland								1961	1969	1974	1975	1983	1995	1997	2000	<b>2004</b>	
Italy				1962	1966	1971	1976	1980	1984	1986	1990	1994	1998	2003	<b>2005</b>		
Australia					1970	1974	1976	1979	1982	1986	1990	1995	1999	2002	<b>2006</b>		
Sweden									1968	1976	1981	1988	1992	1996	2002	<b>2007</b>	
Spain				1961	1965	1970	1974	1977	1979	1982	1990	1994	1999	2004	<b>2007</b>		
France					1964	1970	1975	1978	1983	1987	1991	1996	2000	2004	<b>2007</b>		
Canada						1966	1972	1976	1979	1982	1988	1994	1999	<b>2003</b>			
Israel									1980	1984	1989	1993	1996	2000	<b>2003</b>		
Norway									1969	1974	1981	1991	1995	2002	<b>2004</b>		
New Zealand							1974	1979	1985	1989	1992	1996	1999	2002	<b>2006</b>		
Austria			1960	1970	1973	1977	1982	1985	1988	1993	1996	2000	2003	<b>2007</b>			
Netherlands									1973	1977	1981	1993	2000	2004	<b>2007</b>		
Germany				1963	1972	1976	1980	1984	1987	1992	1996	1999	2004	<b>2007</b>			
Greece				1960	1965	1970	1974	1978	1982	1985	1989	2000	<b>2004</b>				
Luxembourg				1971	1976	1978	1982	1985	1989	1993	1997	2003	<b>2004</b>				
Ireland				1960	1968	1979	1983	1987	1991	1997	2001	2002	<b>2004</b>				
United Kingdom					1963	1972	1979	1982	1987	1991	1996	2000	<b>2005</b>				
Finland			1963	1968	1973	1976	1978	1981	1990	1993	1997	2001	<b>2005</b>				
Belgium				1960	1970	1974	1978	1983	1986	1990	1995	2001	<b>2005</b>				
Korea	1980	1982	1984	1986	1987	1989	1991	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	<b>2006</b>			
Portugal	1969	1971	1974	1976	1977	1979	1981	1985	1988	1993	1998	2001	2004	<b>2007</b>			
Denmark								1968	1976	1990	1997	2001	<b>2005</b>				
Chile			1979	1981	1982	1984	1986	1989	1992	1995	1999	2001	<b>2005</b>				
Slovenia						1984	1987	1989	1995	1999	2002	2003	<b>2005</b>				
United States				1963	1970	1974	1976	1981	1989	1996	2001	<b>2006</b>					
Czech Republic				1971	1984	1991	1993	1997	2000	2005	<b>2007</b>						
Poland			1963	1964	1971	1992	1995	1999	2000	<b>2004</b>							
Mexico	1978	1980	1982	1984	1986	1991	1993	1997	2000	<b>2007</b>							
Slovak Republic				1971	1991	1992	1999	<b>2005</b>									
Turkey	1989	1990	1992	1994	1997	2000	2002	<b>2005</b>									
Hungary			1962	1963	1995	1999	2001	<b>2006</b>									
Estonia		1994	1995	1996	1999	2002	2004	<b>2007</b>									
OECD average				1964	1966	1973	1977	1981	1986	1990	1995	1999	2003	<b>2006</b>			
China			1984	1991	1994	1997	2002	<b>2005</b>									

Life expectancy at birth has been increasing in all countries over time, the OECD average increased in more than four decades for 10 years, from 69 to 79 years. The largest country difference is between 82 years and 73 years.

# Infant mortality (deaths per 1 000 live births)

data range 1960-2007

## Quality of Life

Level	50	48	46	44	42	40	38	36	34	32	30	28	26	24	22	20	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	2
Luxembourg											1962	1964	1966	1970	1971	1971	1972	1976	1977	1982	1985	1992	1993	2004	2007
Iceland																	1962	1965	1968	1975	1978	1979	1995	1998	2007
Japan											1960	1961	1962	1963	1963	1964	1966	1967	1969	1972	1975	1979	1984	1996	
Sweden																		1961	1964	1969	1973	1977	1991	1996	
Norway																	1961	1965	1968	1972	1976	1988	1992	1998	
Finland																1962	1963	1966	1969	1972	1975	1978	1989	1998	
Czech Republic															1966	1971	1977	1981	1984	1987	1992	1994	1996	2003	
Italy					1961	1963	1963	1964	1966	1968	1969	1971	1973	1974	1974	1975	1977	1979	1981	1983	1987	1992	1996	2003	
Portugal	1971	1971	1972	1973	1973	1974	1975	1976	1976	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1986	1987	1989	1992	1994	1998	2003	
France													1962	1964	1966	1969	1970	1972	1975	1976	1980	1986	1994	2004	
Spain			1961	1961	1962	1963	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1976	1977	1979	1981	1984	1988	1994	2004	
Greece					1962	1963	1964	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1975	1976	1977	1980	1981	1985	1986	1989	1995	1999	2004		
Germany								1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1971	1974	1975	1976	1978	1981	1984	1988	1993	2005		
Ireland										1961	1962	1965	1967	1968	1970	1973	1976	1978	1979	1983	1990	2000	2005		
Slovenia								1960	1961	1962	1965	1969	1971	1972	1974	1977	1979	1982	1986	1988	1992	1995	2005		
Austria								1960	1961	1963	1964	1966	1971	1973	1975	1975	1976	1977	1980	1983	1987	1990	1994	2005	
Israel																			1982	1985	1990	1993	1998	2006	
Switzerland																1963	1965	1968	1971	1974	1977	1981	1993	2007	
Denmark																	1962	1965	1968	1970	1972	1976	1989	1993	2007
Belgium												1961	1964	1966	1968	1971	1973	1975	1977	1980	1984	1993	1995	2007	
Netherlands																		1963	1967	1971	1977	1985	1993		
Australia																1962	1968	1974	1976	1978	1982	1990	1994		
Canada												1963	1965	1967	1969	1971	1973	1975	1978	1981	1985	1995			
United Kingdom															1963	1965	1971	1975	1977	1980	1983	1990	1997		
Korea				1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1974	1975	1976	1977	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1984	1985	1989	1991	1996	2000		
New Zealand															1961	1963	1968	1975	1978	1984	1989	1991	2002		
Estonia																		1987	1995	1996	1997	2001	2004		
Hungary			1962	1963	1963	1964	1966	1968	1974	1975	1976	1977	1977	1979	1981	1985	1987	1988	1992	1994	1997	2001	2005		
Poland	1963	1964	1965	1965	1965	1967	1968	1970	1971	1972	1973	1977	1979	1982	1985	1988	1991	1993	1995	1996	1997	2000	2007		
United States													1960	1966	1968	1970	1973	1975	1977	1981	1988	1994			
Slovak Republic												1965	1967	1976	1977	1981	1982	1985	1987	1992	1992	1996	2000		
Chile	1977	1977	1977	1977	1978	1978	1978	1978	1979	1979	1980	1980	1981	1981	1982	1983	1984	1988	1990	1992	1994	1999	2006		
Mexico	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1986	1990	1991	1991	1992	1993	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2002	2006							
Turkey	1992	1993	1994	1995	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	1999	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006										
OECD average								1960	1963	1964	1966	1970	1972	1974	1976	1977	1980	1982	1985	1989	1992	1996	2002		

Differences in infant mortality are much smaller. With the exception of two countries it is below 0.8 percent. It has been decreasing fast from very different starting values showing five decades of success.

# Road fatalities (per million inhabitants)

data range 1990-2008

## Quality of Life

Level	280	270	260	250	240	230	220	210	200	190	180	170	160	150	140	130	120	110	100	90	80	70	60	50	40
<b>EU27 total</b>																1995	1999	2002	2003	2005	<b>2008</b>				
<b>OECD total</b>																	1998	2001	2004	<b>2007</b>					
<b>Iceland</b>																		2000	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007	<b>2008</b>
<b>Turkey</b>																	1990	1991	1994	1996	1997	1999	<b>2008</b>	2001	
<b>Netherlands</b>																				1990	1996	2001	2004	<b>2006</b>	
<b>Mexico</b>																							1993	<b>2007</b>	
<b>United Kingdom</b>																				1991	1992	1993	2003	<b>2007</b>	
<b>Sweden</b>																				1990	1993	1993	2003	<b>2007</b>	
<b>Norway</b>																						2000	2003	<b>2007</b>	
<b>Switzerland</b>															1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1996	2000	2004	2005	<b>2007</b>	
<b>Japan</b>																			1995	2001	2003	2005	2006	<b>2007</b>	
<b>Israel</b>																			1994	1998	2002	2003	2006		
<b>Denmark</b>																	1991	1995	1996	2000	2003	<b>2007</b>	2006		
<b>Germany</b>											1991	1991	1992	1992	1992	1994	1996	1997	2000	2003	2004	<b>2007</b>			
<b>Finland</b>																1990	1992	1992	1993	1995	2002	<b>2007</b>			
<b>Ireland</b>																	1991	1998	2000	2002	2004	2007	<b>2008</b>		
<b>Australia</b>																	1991	1991	1995	1997	2001	2005	<b>2008</b>		
<b>France</b>										1990	1991	1992	1994	1998	2001	2002	2002	2003	2004	2006	<b>2008</b>				
<b>Spain</b>											1991	1993	1998	2000	2002	2004	2004	2005	2006	2007	<b>2008</b>				
<b>Luxembourg</b>								1991	1991	1993	1994	2000	2001	2001	2002	2002	2003	2004	2005	2007	<b>2008</b>				
<b>Italy</b>																	1993	1995	2003	2004	2006	<b>2008</b>			
<b>Canada</b>														1990	1991	1992	1993	1995	1997	<b>2006</b>					
<b>Austria</b>											1992	1994	1995	1995	1999	2001	2004	2005	<b>2006</b>						
<b>Portugal</b>	1992	1992	1992	1993	1996	1997	1997	1998	1999	2000	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003	2004	2005	2006	2006	<b>2007</b>					
<b>New Zealand</b>								1990	1991	1991	1993	1993	1995	1996	1997	1999	2000	2004	2007	<b>2008</b>					
<b>Chile</b>																	1998	1999	2000	<b>2007</b>					
<b>Hungary</b>						1990	1990	1991	1991	1992	1992	1993	1993	1995	2002	2006	2007	2008	<b>2008</b>						
<b>Belgium</b>									1991	1991	1992	1994	1995	2001	2002	2003	2004	<b>2008</b>							
<b>Czech Republic</b>														1997	2003	2005	2005	<b>2008</b>							
<b>Slovenia</b>			1994	1994	1995	1995	1995	1996	1996	1997	1997	2000	2000	2007	2007	2008	<b>2008</b>								
<b>Slovak Republic</b>														1998	1998	1999	1999	<b>2007</b>							
<b>Korea</b>							1999	2000	2000	2000	2001	2001	2001	2002	2003	2004	<b>2006</b>								
<b>United States</b>											1990	1991	1991	2000	2006	<b>2007</b>									
<b>Poland</b>									1991	1992	1998	1999	2000	2004	<b>2006</b>										
<b>Greece</b>										1999	2000	2001	2001	2002	2005	<b>2007</b>									

Road fatalities showed slow progress from about 120 to 90 in two decades for the OECD average. In Greece, Poland, United States and Korea 80-90 more people per million inhabitants are killed than in best 9 countries.

## Population growth rates, projections (annual growth in percentage)

## Population and Migration

Level	-1	-0.8	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2	0	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1	1.2	1.4	1.6
Israel									2045	2038	2029	2018	2014	2010
Ireland							2049	2041	2026	2019	2014			
Turkey							2044	2037	2031	2023	2014			
Australia								2043	2033	2026	2014			
Mexico						2042	2034	2027	2019	2010				
New Zealand							2041	2033	2023	2011				
Canada								2039	2029	2012				
Chile							2041	2033	2025	2017				
Luxembourg									2041	2030				
United States										2043				
Iceland							2038	2029	2020					
United Kingdom								2045	2025					
Norway								2040	2028					
Spain				2045	2038	2023	2015	2010						
Switzerland						2037	2025	2016						
France							2040	2017						
Sweden							2039	2025						
Denmark						2037	2011							
Korea	2048	2043	2038	2034	2028	2019	2012							
Slovenia					2038	2022	2013							
Greece				2045	2033	2020	2013							
Netherlands						2035	2014							
Belgium						2037	2023							
Austria							2028							
Finland							2029							
Portugal			2049	2038	2019	2011								
Germany			2040	2026	2014									
Italy				2040	2015									
Czech Republic				2050	2027	2016								
Slovak Republic				2036	2028	2018								
Japan	2042	2033	2024	2017	2011									
Hungary				2032	2021									
Poland				2039	2030									
Estonia					2048									
World								2046	2035	2026	2018			
EU27 total					2043	2026								
OECD total							2034	2017						

The population projections in Factbook 2010 for the next forty years (2009-2050) clearly show further decreases in the population rates.

No country is expected to increase the population growth rate over the four decades, for all of them the downward trend is projected.

After 2040 only the traditional immigration countries would show population growth rates above 0.4 percent (USA 0.8, Israel and Luxembourg 0.6, four others around 0.4 percent).

In the last two decades of the projection period 13 OECD countries would exhibit negative population rates, in Japan and Korea at about -1 percent. Five other countries would be at about stagnant population. The OECD total increasing at 0.2 percent.

# Elderly population

(aged 65 and over; as a percentage of total population)

data range 1951-2010

## Population and Migration

Level	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Japan			1952	1962	1970	1976	1980	1984	1987	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	1999	2001	2003	2005	2006	2008	2010
Italy							1958	1965	1970	1975	1985	1988	1990	1993	1996	1999	2003	2007			
Germany								1952	1957	1963	1967	1972	1992	1999	2001	2004	2005	2008			
Greece					1952	1959	1965	1969	1970	1974	1979	1991	1995	1998	2001	2004					
Sweden									1956	1962	1967	1971	1975	1979	1984	2009					
Belgium										1960	1967	1986	1991	1996	2002						
Austria									1953	1959	1964	1970	1994	2005	2007						
Spain						1957	1966	1973	1978	1985	1988	1991	1994	1997	2008						
Portugal					1951	1962	1969	1975	1979	1986	1989	1992	1996	1999	2008						
Estonia									1966	1991	1994	1996	2000	2003	2009						
Finland					1957	1965	1970	1973	1976	1980	1988	1994	2001	2005	2009						
Switzerland								1958	1968	1973	1976	1984	1997	2006	2009						
Norway								1954	1960	1965	1971	1977	2010	1994							
France										1964	1985	1990	1994	2000							
Hungary						1952	1960	1964	1967	1972	1988	1994	2000	2007							
United Kingdom									1952	1964	1970	1975	1984	2007							
Slovenia					1951	1961	1965	1971	1990	1993	1997	2000	2003	2008							
Denmark						1950	1957	1963	1969	1974	1978	2004	2008								
Netherlands						1952	1960	1969	1977	1985	1992	2004	2008								
Czech Republic							1957	1963	1966	1987	1994	2004	2009								
Luxembourg								1951	1961	1967	1975	2007									
Australia							1977	1983	1989	1996	2006	2009									
Canada						1971	1978	1984	1989	1995	2004	2010									
Poland				1962	1966	1969	1973	1990	1994	1999	2004										
New Zealand							1976	1982	1989	2005	2009										
United States								1958	1972	1978	1986	2010									
Slovak Republic					1961	1965	1969	1988	1996	2007											
Iceland						1959	1973	1983	1994	2008											
Ireland									2007												
Korea	1969	1983	1990	1996	1999	2002	2005	2007	2010												
Israel		1950	1961	1966	1972	1976	1989	2008													
Chile			1968	1988	1998	2005	2009														
Turkey		1965	1995	2007																	
Mexico		1969	2003																		
World				1989	2002																
EU27 total							1951	1961	1967	1972	1986	1991	1996	2002	2007						
OECD total							1953	1966	1974	1986	1992	2000	2006								

This level-time table-graph covers the period of 60 years (1951-2010).

Over that period the percentage of elderly population in Japan increased from 5 to 23 percent. In Italy and Germany it is around 20 percent, and about 18 percent in Greece and Sweden.

The trend towards higher share in total population is very clear, though the differences between countries in this share are substantial.



Example of compressed presentation of analysis and projections over 100 years (1950-2050)

Elderly population

(aged 65 and over; as a percentage of total population, with projections)

Population and Migration

Level	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38
Japan		1962	1976	1984	1990	1994	1998	2001	2005	2008	2012	2014	2017	2023	2031	2036	2039	2044
Korea	1983	1996	2002	2007	2013	2017	2021	2023	2025	2027	2030	2032	2035	2037	2039	2043	2046	2050
Spain			1957	1973	1985	1991	1997	2013	2020	2025	2028	2032	2035	2038	2041	2044		
Italy				1965	1975	1988	1993	1999	2007	2015	2022	2028	2031	2035	2040			
Greece			1959	1969	1974	1991	1998	2004	2015	2022	2028	2033	2037	2041	2047			
Germany				1952	1963	1972	1999	2004	2008	2018	2023	2027	2030	2034				
Portugal			1962	1975	1986	1992	1999	2013	2020	2026	2030	2035	2040	2044				
Czech Republic				1963	1987	2004	2011	2015	2020	2028	2035	2039	2042	2046				
Slovenia			1961	1971	1993	2000	2008	2015	2019	2024	2029	2035	2042	2049				
Slovak Republic			1965	1988	2007	2014	2018	2021	2026	2032	2038	2042	2046	2050				
Poland		1962	1969	1990	1999	2012	2016	2019	2023	2027	2037	2043	2047					
Finland			1965	1973	1980	1994	2005	2011	2014	2018	2023	2029						
Belgium					1960	1986	1996	2012	2018	2023	2028	2033						
Switzerland				1958	1973	1984	2006	2013	2019	2025	2030	2035						
Austria					1959	1970	2005	2014	2022	2027	2031	2038						
Hungary			1952	1964	1972	1994	2007	2015	2020	2034	2040	2045						
France					1964	1990	2000	2014	2019	2026	2032	2046						
Denmark				1957	1969	1978	2008	2012	2017	2024	2030	2047						
New Zealand				1982	2005	2012	2017	2022	2026	2030	2036	2047						
Canada			1971	1984	1995	2010	2015	2020	2024	2028	2034	2048						
Ireland				2007	2011	2017	2023	2029	2034	2039	2044	2049						
Australia				1983	1996	2009	2014	2019	2024	2029	2037							
Sweden					1962	1971	1979	2009	2014	2026	2042							
Netherlands			1952	1969	1985	2004	2011	2015	2021	2026	2047							
United Kingdom					1964	1975	2007	2015	2024	2030	2049							
Estonia					1991	1996	2003	2017	2026	2040	2050							
Norway				1954	1965	1977	2013	2020	2028	2035								
Luxembourg				1951	1967	2007	2018	2025	2030	2037								
Chile		1988	2005	2013	2020	2024	2028	2033	2039	2050								
Iceland			1959	1983	2008	2016	2021	2026	2033									
United States				1972	1986	2014	2020	2025	2045									
Mexico	1969	2011	2020	2026	2030	2035	2039	2043	2047									
Israel	1950	1966	1976	2008	2017	2026	2037	2045										
Turkey	1965	2007	2021	2029	2035	2040	2045											
World		1989	2014	2023	2031	2039	2049											
EU27 total			1961	1972	1991	2002	2012	2018	2024	2029	2034	2042						
OECD total			1953	1974	1992	2006	2014	2020	2026	2032	2039							

This level-time table-graph covers the period of 100 years. It is difficult to imagine that the usual table of 34 countries across 100 years with 3400 entries would allow such a compressed essence of the long-term information and visualisation for relevant perception of the situation.

The countries are sorted by the expected positions in the last projection decade. Ten countries are expected to have 30 percent or more of population aged 65 years or more, leading by Japan and Korea, followed by Spain, Italy and Greece.

1950-2010

2011-2030

2031-2050

# Employment rates: total (share of persons of working age in employment)

Labour

data range 1966-2008

Level	45	47	49	51	53	55	57	59	61	63	65	67	69	71	73	75	77	79	81	83	85
Iceland																		1994	1997	2004	<b>2007</b>
Sweden														1997	1999	<b>2006</b>	1992	1992	1991	1990	
Switzerland																		1997	<b>2007</b>		
Estonia									2001	2004	2005	2006	<b>2007</b>	1992	1992	1991	1990				
Denmark														1983	1994	1997	<b>2006</b>				
Norway											1975	1976	1978	1980	1995	1996	<b>2007</b>				
Netherlands				1986	1986	1987	1987	1988	1990	1991	1995	1997	1998	1999	2006	<b>2007</b>					
New Zealand												1993	1994	2000	2004	<b>2008</b>					
Finland									1994	1996	1998	1999	2005	<b>2008</b>	1990						
United States											1977	1983	1985	<b>2008</b>	2001						
Canada										1977	1984	1994	1998	2001	<b>2006</b>						
Australia								1977	1977	1984	1993	1995	2001	2005	<b>2008</b>						
United Kingdom												1986	1995	<b>1998</b>							
Austria													2005	<b>2007</b>							
Japan												1988	<b>2005</b>								
Germany										1988	2004	2006	<b>2007</b>								
Czech Republic												<b>2005</b>	1998	1997							
Ireland				1993	1995	1996	1997	1998	1998	1999	2003	2005	<b>2007</b>								
Slovenia									1994	2003	2004	<b>2006</b>									
Portugal										1986	1997	<b>1998</b>									
Spain		1986	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2003	2004	<b>2006</b>										
France								1997	2000	<b>2003</b>	1974										
Luxembourg								1996	1999	<b>2004</b>											
Korea							1984	1987	2000	<b>2003</b>											
Greece					1997	2002	2003	<b>2006</b>													
Slovak Republic							2004	2006	<b>2007</b>												
Belgium				1988	1990	1997	1999	<b>2007</b>													
Mexico								2003	<b>2006</b>												
Israel				1992	2003	2005	<b>2007</b>														
Poland				2005	2006	2007	<b>2008</b>														
Hungary					1997	1999	<b>2008</b>														
Italy				1972	1999	2001	<b>2004</b>														
Chile						2005	<b>2007</b>														
Turkey	<b>2007</b>	2002	2000	1999	1992	1989															
OECD total										1984	<b>2003</b>										

Employment rates show vast differences among OECD countries, ranging in 2007 between 85 percent in Iceland to 45 percent in Turkey. According to these figures from Factbook 2010 obviously other forms of labour utilisation must be important and employment policies must deal with such vast differences.

# Tertiary attainment for age group 25-64

(as a percentage of the population of that age group)

data range 1997-2006

## Education

Level	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46
Canada																1998	2000	2001	2003	2005
Israel																			2003	
Japan													1999	2001	2002	2003	2005			
United States															1999	2002				
New Zealand										1998	2001	2003	2004	2004	2005					
Finland											1998	2000	2004							
Sweden											1998	2005	2005	2004						
Denmark										1999	2001	2002	2003	2005						
Norway										1997	2000	2001	2004							
Estonia													2004							
Australia										1998	2000	2002	2005							
Korea							1997	1998	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005							
Belgium												1999	2002	2004						
Netherlands									2001	2002	2003	2005								
United Kingdom									1998	2001	2003	2005								
Iceland								1999	2001	2002	2003	2006								
Ireland							2000	2001	2001	2003	2004	2006								
Switzerland									2000	2002	2004									
Spain							1998	2000	2002	2004	2005									
Luxembourg					2003	2003	2004	2004	2006	2005										
France							1997	2000	2003	2006										
Germany									2006											
Greece					1997	2001	2003	2006												
Slovenia						2002	2003	2005												
Austria			1999	2001	2003	2005														
Hungary				2001	2003															
Poland			2001	2003	2004															
Mexico				2000	2004															
Slovak Republic			2003	2006																
Czech Republic			2003																	
Portugal		2002	2004																	
Chile			2004																	
Italy		2001	2005																	
Turkey	1999	2005																		
OECD average							2000	2003	2005											

Percentage of tertiary attainment of the 25-64 age group covers only about a decade of data and yet it shows one of the largest gaps among OECD countries. The three highest countries show values about 4 times higher than that in Turkey. Also S-time-distances expressed in years would be very large if long time series for advanced countries would be available to calculate them.

# Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (as a percentage of GDP)

## Science and Technology

data range 1981-2008

Level	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8	2	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.8	3	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.8	4	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.8
Israel													1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	1999	1999	2000	2000	2006	2007	2007
Sweden											1981	1983	1984	1992	1992	1994	1996	2005	2003	2002				
Finland						1982	1984	1986	1989	1991	1993	1996	1996	1998	1998	1999	2003							
Japan												1982	1984	1994	1998	2004	2006							
Korea								1991	1993	1999	2002	2004	2005	2006	2007									
Switzerland											1983	1984	2001	2003										
Iceland				1987	1990	1991	1994	1995	1997	1998	1999	1999	2000	2007										
Germany											1996	1999	1990											
United States												1981	2006											
Denmark						1985	1988	1991	1995	1998	1999	2001	2007											
Austria						1984	1991	1996	1998	2000	2003	2005	2007											
United Kingdom									2007	1993	1986													
France									1982	2003														
Netherlands									2005	1991														
Slovak Republic			2002	1998	1997	1993	1993	1992	1992	1991														
Belgium									1992	1997	2002													
Australia				1983	1988	1991	2001	2004	2006															
Canada							1988	1992	1999	2006														
Slovenia							2004	2008																
Norway						1981	1984	2007																
Luxembourg								2008																
Czech Republic					1996	2002	2005																	
Portugal		1988	1997	2005	2006	2007	2008																	
Hungary				2000	2006	1991	1990																	
Ireland				1989	1992	2004	2008																	
Spain		1981	1987	1997	2002	2006																		
Italy					1996	1991																		
New Zealand					1999	2007																		
Estonia			2000	2003	2005	2008																		
Poland				2008	1991																			
Turkey			1998	2006																				
Greece		1984	1993	1999																				
Chile				2004																				
Mexico		1993	2006																					
OECD total										1982	2005													

Share of R&D in GDP is another indicator showing very large difference among OECD countries; the share in Sweden is 6 times higher than in Turkey, Greece and Chile, even more for Mexico. Again, S-time-distances behind advanced countries expressed in years would be very large if such data would be available.

# Households with access to telephone

## Science and Technology

(number of telecommunication access paths per 100 inhabitants)

data range 1991-2007

Level	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220
Luxembourg					1991	1994	1996	1997	1998	1999	1999	2000	2000	2000	2001	2002	2002	2003	2004	2004	2004	2005
Italy					1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	1999	2000	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005	2006	2007		
Greece					1995	1997	1998	1999	1999	2000	2000	2001	2001	2002	2004	2005	2005	2006	2006	2007		
United Kingdom					1993	1995	1997	1998	1999	1999	2000	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005	2006			
Slovenia																			2007			
Denmark							1994	1995	1997	1998	1999	2000	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2006	2007			
Estonia				1997	1998	1999	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004	2005	2005	2006	2006	2007	2007			
Sweden							1993	1995	1996	1998	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2006	2007				
Iceland					1992	1995	1997	1998	1998	1999	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005					
Germany				1993	1997	1998	1999	1999	1999	2000	2000	2001	2003	2004	2004	2005	2006	2007				
Israel										1999	2000	2000	2001	2002	2004	2005	2005	2007				
Switzerland							1996	1998	1998	1999	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2007				
Finland							1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2004	2005					
Netherlands				1992	1996	1997	1998	1999	1999	2000	2000	2002	2003	2003	2004	2006						
Norway					1992	1994	1995	1997	1998	1999	1999	2001	2002	2003	2004	2007						
Ireland			1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007						
Spain			1995	1997	1998	1999	1999	1999	2000	2000	2001	2002	2004	2005	2006	2007						
Portugal			1992	1995	1997	1997	1998	1999	1999	2000	2001	2001	2002	2004	2005	2006	2007					
Austria				1994	1997	1998	1998	1999	1999	2000	2000	2002	2004	2005	2006	2007						
United States					1992	1997	1998	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2004	2005	2006							
Australia				1991	1995	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2006						
New Zealand				1993	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2004	2004	2005	2006	2007							
Czech Republic		1993	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2000	2000	2001	2001	2002	2003	2004	2006	2007						
Belgium				1995	1997	1999	1999	2000	2000	2000	2001	2002	2004	2005								
Korea			1993	1996	1997	1998	1998	1999	1999	2000	2001	2001	2004	2006								
Canada				1991	1995	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2007									
Hungary		1994	1996	1997	1999	2000	2000	2001	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007							
France					1996	1998	1999	1999	2000	2001	2003	2004	2006	2007								
Poland	1992	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004	2005	2006	2006	2007								
Slovak Republic		1995	1997	1998	2000	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007								
Japan				1993	1995	1996	1997	1998	2000	2001	2002	2004										
Turkey		1993	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007											
Chile		1997	1998	2000	2001	2001	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007											
Mexico	1994	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006														
OECD average					1995	1997	1998	1999	2000	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006							

Number of households with access to telephone by various access paths for OECD average increased 3 times in 11 years indicating the fastest growth of ICT among selected development indicators. Differences between the OECD countries including S-time-distances are not large. Complex utilisation remains the problem.

# Gross domestic product per capita

# Production and Income

(B1\_GE: expenditure approach; HVPVOB: Per head, US \$, constant prices, constant PPPs, OECD base year)

data range 1970-2009

Level	10000	11000	12000	13000	14000	15000	16000	17000	18000	19000	20000	21000	22000	23000	24000	25000	26000	27000	28000	29000	30000	31000	32000	33000	34000	35000	36000	37000	38000	39000	40000		
Luxembourg												1971	1975	1977	1979	1983	1984	1985	1985	1986	1986	1987	1988	1988	1988	1989	1989	1990	1990	1991	1991		
Norway					1971	1972	1974	1975	1977	1978	1979	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1996	1997	1999	2000	2002	2004	2005	2008			
United States									1971	1975	1976	1978	1983	1984	1985	1986	1988	1991	1993	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2003	2009	2008					
Ireland	1977	1979	1984	1987	1989	1990	1991	1993	1994	1995	1996	1996	1997	1997	1998	1998	1999	1999	2000	2000	2001	2002	2009	2008	2008	2008	2007						
Iceland				1970	1971	1972	1973	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1984	1986	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2003	2004	2004	2009	2008	2008							
Switzerland														1977	1979	1984	1985	1987	1989	1997	1999	2004	2006	2009									
Sweden								1972	1974	1979	1983	1984	1986	1994	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2004	2009	2008	2007									
Netherlands					1971	1973	1976	1983	1985	1987	1989	1990	1994	1995	1996	1998	1999	2000	2004	2005	2009	2008											
Australia							1972	1977	1982	1984	1986	1991	1993	1994	1996	1997	1998	2000	2001	2003	2005	2008											
Austria					1971	1972	1974	1976	1978	1979	1983	1986	1988	1989	1991	1995	1997	1998	1999	2002	2004	2006	2009										
Denmark					1971	1975	1977	1981	1983	1984	1985	1990	1993	1994	1996	1997	1999	2003	2009	2008													
Finland			1972	1973	1978	1979	1981	1984	1986	1994	1996	1997	1999	1999	2001	2003	2004	2009	2009	2008													
Canada							1971	1973	1975	1977	1982	1984	1985	1993	1994	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2004	2008											
United Kingdom				1972	1975	1981	1983	1985	1986	1988	1993	1994	1996	1997	1999	2000	2002	2003	2009	2007													
Belgium				1970	1972	1973	1976	1979	1983	1986	1987	1989	1991	1995	1997	1998	1999	2002	2004	2008													
Japan			1971	1972	1977	1978	1981	1983	1984	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1999	2003	2009	2008														
Germany				1972	1975	1977	1978	1983	1985	1988	1989	1990	1993	1996	1999	2000	2005	2009															
France				1971	1973	1976	1977	1980	1985	1987	1989	1994	1997	1998	2000	2004	2008																
Italy				1972	1973	1976	1978	1979	1983	1985	1987	1988	1990	1994	1997	2009	2008																
Israel												1995	1998	2004	2005	2006	2008																
New Zealand					1970	1980	1982	1993	1994	1998	2000	2001	2003	2008																			
Spain		1972	1973	1982	1986	1987	1989	1993	1995	1997	1998	2000	2002	2009	2008																		
Greece		1970	1972	1975	1976	1988	1995	1998	1999	2001	2002	2003	2005	2006	2008																		
Slovenia						1997	1998	1999	2001	2003	2004	2005	2009	2009	2008																		
Korea	1990	1991	1993	1994	1995	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2004	2005	2006	2007																			
Czech Republic				1994	1995	2000	2002	2004	2005	2006	2009																						
Portugal	1984	1987	1988	1989	1991	1996	1997	1999	2009																								
Estonia	2000	2001	2003	2004	2004	2009	2008	2008																									
Slovak Republic	1996	2000	2002	2004	2005	2006	2007	2009																									
Hungary	1995	1998	2000	2002	2003	2009																											
Poland	1999	2002	2004	2006	2007																												
Chile	2003	2006																															
Mexico	2003	2008																															
Turkey	2004	2009																															
OECD - Total				1971	1975	1977	1980	1984	1986	1988	1990	1994	1996	1998	2000	2003	2005	2008															

GDP per capita is the only indicator that is not taken from Factbook 2010, it is available in OECD database. It is better understandable if levels are expressed in US\$ than in indices. Over about 40 years OECD average more than doubled from 13000 to 27000 US\$ in constant prices. Differences between countries are very large, Norway has nearly four times the level of the last three countries.

By including 2009 it is possible to see the first year effect of the current crisis. Following the bold numbered years even these rounded approximations indicate that in 7 countries the GDP per capita has decreased by about one step of 1000 US\$, in 5 countries by 2 steps or 2000 US\$, in Ireland even by about 4000 US\$.

# International trade in goods and services (as a percentage of GDP)

## Production and Income

data range 1960-2008

Level	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100
Luxembourg																1972	1979	1983	1995	1996
Ireland							1972	1973	1975	1983	1991	1993	1994	1995	2006	2003	2002	2001		
Estonia														1996	2004	2007	2006			
Slovak Republic												1997	1999	2000	2002	2005	2008			
Belgium									1975	1979	1993	1996	1999	2004	2006	2006	2008			
Hungary							1994	1995	1995	1996	1997	1998	2004	2005	2006	2007				
Czech Republic									1991	1994	1998	1999	2003	2004	2008					
Netherlands									1978	1979	1994	2003	2005	2007						
Slovenia									1999	2003	2004	2006	2007							
Austria						1975	1995	1997	2000	2004	2006									
Denmark						1978	1994	1999	2005	2006										
Switzerland						1976	1996	1999	2005	2007										
Sweden					1973	1993	1994	1999	2005	2008										
Korea				1972	1993	1997	2003	2006	2007	2008										
Iceland							1996	2006	2008											
Finland				1992	1993	1999	2005	2008												
Norway							2004	1980												
Canada				1983	1993	2006	2002													
Israel							2001	2004												
Germany				1975	1996	1999	2004	2005												
Poland					1997	2002	2003	2006												
Chile						2000	2003	2007												
Portugal				1976	1979	1994	2006													
Greece			1972	1978	1998	2001														
New Zealand					1988	2007														
Spain			1980	1994	1997	2007														
United Kingdom					1993	2008														
Mexico		1977	1985	1994	1995															
France			1970	1978	1998															
Italy				1993	2004															
Turkey	1979	1982	1994	1999	2007															
Australia			1983	2004																
Japan		2000	2006																	
United States		1989	2008																	
EU27 total						1997	2004	2007												
OECD total				1996	2005															

The international trade in goods and services as percentage of GDP is very varied as expected. The countries in the upper part of the table have shown considerable increase in it, which would be even more pronounced if longer time series would be available. They also became more vulnerable.

# Current account balance (as a percentage of GDP)

## Public Finance

data range 1990-2008

Level	-18	-16	-14	-12	-10	-8	-6	-4	-2	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
Norway												1995	1999	1999	1999	2000	2004	2007	2008
Switzerland												2008	2008	2007	2007	2007	2006		
Luxembourg													2008	2007	2007	2000			
Korea								1996	1997	2007	2005	1999	1999	1999	1998				
Finland								1992	1993	1994	1994	2007	2004	2002					
Sweden									1993	1994	1994	2002	2003	2006					
Netherlands												2000	2003	2008	2007				
Germany										2001	2003	2004	2006						
Slovak Republic						2006	2008	2000	1995	1995	1995	1994							
Belgium									2008	2007	2007	2003							
Denmark										1998	2008	2005							
Israel								1996	1997	2003	2007	2006							
Chile								1998	2008	2008	2007	2007							
Japan												1997	2008						
Ireland							2006	2004	1999	1997									
Italy									2005	2000	1998								
France									2008	2005	2000								
Austria									1998	2001	2004								
Canada									1994	1999	2005								
Poland							2000	2007	2006	1990									
Hungary						2004	2001	1996	1992	1992									
Estonia			2007	2007	2008	2008	2002	2001	1994	1993	1993								
Czech Republic									2003	2004	2006	1993							
Turkey									2006	2004	2003	2002							
Iceland	2005	2005	2005	2004	2004	2004	2003	2003	2003	2002									
Slovenia							2008	2007	2005	2003									
United States							2006	2001	1997										
Spain				2007	2005	2004	2003	1998											
Australia							2007	2002	2001										
Mexico								1994	1994	2002									
United Kingdom									2008										
Greece			2007	2006	2006	2005	2004	1999											
New Zealand						2007	2004	2003											
Portugal				2008	2007	2004	1997												
OECD total										1998									

By 2008 only 12 countries had positive current account balance, while OECD total stayed about balanced during the last two decades. Most countries have deteriorated in 2007 or 2008, Estonia, Spain, Portugal, Greece even to -10 percent of GDP, Iceland even much more than that. No wonder that the crisis erupted.



# General government expenditures (as a percentage of GDP)

## Public Finance

data range 1970-2008

Level	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	56	58	60	62	64	66	68	70
Sweden														1973	1974	1976	1976	<b>2007</b>	2005	2003	2002	2001	1996	1996	1995	1994	1993
Finland								1974	1974	1975	1975	1976	1982	1983	1989	<b>2007</b>	2005	1999	1998	1997	1997	1996	1995	1994			
Hungary																2001	<b>2007</b>	2006	1995	1995	1995	1994	1994				
Belgium														1971	1974	1975	<b>2008</b>	2005	1993	1987	1986	1984	1983				
Denmark													1973	1974	1975	1978	1979	<b>2005</b>	2004	1998	1996	1994					
New Zealand										2004	<b>2006</b>	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1987	1987	1986							
Netherlands															<b>2004</b>	1997	1996	1996	1995	1995	1987						
Iceland										1984	1987	1988	1994	2006	2007	2007	2007	2007	2008	2008	<b>2008</b>						
Ireland								2000	2006	2007	2007	2008	<b>2008</b>	1994	1988	1988	1988	1987	1984	1983							
Austria												1971	1974	1974	1975	1977	<b>2005</b>	2005	2004	1996							
Slovak Republic											<b>2006</b>	2005	2003	2003	2002	2001	2001	2000	2000	1994	1994						
Italy										1971	1974	1975	1978	1980	1981	1982	<b>2007</b>	1997	1996	1994	1993						
France															1980	1981	1991	<b>2001</b>	1997								
Norway											<b>2008</b>	2005	2004	2004	2003	1995	1995	1994									
Germany															<b>2007</b>	2006	2003	1996	1996	1995							
Czech Republic													<b>2008</b>	2005	2003	1996	1995	1995	1995								
Canada										1973	1974	<b>2004</b>	2001	1998	1996	1995	1994	1993									
Slovenia														<b>2008</b>	2004	1996	1995	1995									
Poland													2000	<b>2003</b>	1997	1997	1996										
Spain				1973	1975	1976	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	<b>2007</b>	1997	1995	1994	1993											
United Kingdom												2000	2001	2003	2005	<b>2008</b>	1984										
Greece				1973	1974	1976	1980	1981	1981	1982	1983	1989	1991	2007	2007	<b>2008</b>											
Portugal							1977	1979	1980	1981	1989	1990	1991	2001	<b>2008</b>												
Luxembourg															<b>2006</b>	2005	2005										
Japan			1971	1973	1974	1975	1977	1991	1993	<b>2007</b>	2005	1999	1998														
Australia					1971	1973	1974	1975	1981	<b>1997</b>	1995																
United States								1974	2000	2006	<b>2008</b>																
Switzerland								<b>2008</b>	2006	2004																	
Korea	1989	1995	1997	2002	2002	2006	<b>2008</b>																				
Chile		<b>2008</b>	2002																								
OECD total														1989	1990	<b>2007</b>	1996										

Historical experience with the share of central government expenditures in GDP is very varied, for OECD total it varied between 36 and 42 percent. Except for five countries (Iceland, Greece, Portugal, United States and Korea) the latest values are lower than their highest historical values. Including data for 2009 and 2010 might show that central governments had to step in again to help the failures of the private sector in the current crisis.

## **The level-time table-graph can also lead to two novel descriptive statistical measures** **S-time-distance and S-time-step:**

One can compare the values from the time matrix:

- **for any given country horizontally**

(**S-time-step in years**) showing the time needed to achieve next level of the selected indicator value

- **vertically across countries for selected levels of the indicators**

(**S-time-distance in years**) showing the time lead (-) or time lag (+) from the benchmark thus complementing static comparisons among countries

**We showed only the level-time matrices for selected indicators. For the life expectancy we indicate how two additional descriptive statistical measures S-time-step and S-time-distance complete the framework.**

However, even by itself level-time matrix can be used in publications, web pages and other software as one of the **easily understandable first level summary visualization to help 'Turning Statistics into Knowledge'**

For methodology and numerous applications see [www.gaptimer.eu](http://www.gaptimer.eu)

# Life expectancy at birth: total (number of years, data range 1960-2007)

## Quality of Life

**S-time-step in years; time needed to achieve the next level of the selected indicator value**

LEXP level	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82
Japan			1.9	1.1	2.6	4.0	1.3	3.2	1.9	2.2	4.4	2.8	4.7	5.1	4.1	5.3
Switzerland							6.0	2.9	3.5	5.1	3.7	7.0	3.8	4.5	3.4	
Iceland								8.8	4.3	1.3	7.9	12.3	2.1	2.7	4.2	
Italy				4.5	4.5	5.3	3.7	4.0	2.3	3.3	4.5	3.5	5.6	2.2		
Australia					3.9	2.2	2.2	3.9	3.4	4.2	5.3	3.7	3.0	3.5		
Sweden								8.0	4.7	7.3	3.8	4.3	6.3	4.7		
Spain				4.5	4.5	3.8	2.8	2.4	2.5	8.5	3.8	5.6	4.2	3.5		
France					6.2	5.2	3.3	5.1	3.3	4.3	4.5	4.3	3.9	3.3		
Canada						5.5	4.8	2.5	3.6	5.7	6.0	5.0	4.3			
Israel								3.9	4.4	4.0	3.2	4.7	3.0			
Norway								4.8	7.0	9.8	4.5	6.8	1.8			
New Zealand						5.3	5.7	3.5	3.2	4.0	3.3	3.0	3.7			
Austria			9.7	2.8	4.2	5.0	3.4	2.2	5.1	3.6	3.4	3.7	3.1			
Netherlands								4.0	4.5	12.0	7.0	3.7	2.8			
Germany				9.0	4.3	4.0	3.2	3.5	5.0	4.4	2.9	4.3	3.3			
Greece				4.8	4.8	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.3	4.0	11.0	3.5				
Luxembourg				4.9	1.9	4.4	2.8	4.1	3.9	3.9	6.1	0.7				
Ireland				8.3	10.3	4.0	3.9	4.0	6.5	3.7	1.6	1.9				
United Kingdom					8.4	6.9	3.1	4.8	4.8	5.1	4.0	4.2				
Finland			5.4	4.2	3.4	2.0	3.2	8.8	3.3	3.3	4.3	3.8				
Belgium				9.4	4.1	4.7	4.6	3.3	3.4	5.5	5.4	4.3				
Korea	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.8	2.4	2.1	2.5	2.3	1.7	2.0	2.0	1.8			
Portugal	2.2	2.5	2.3	0.8	1.7	2.8	3.6	3.3	5.1	4.6	3.0	2.7	2.8			
Denmark								8.0	14.3	6.5	4.3	3.5				
Chile			1.4	1.4	1.8	2.5	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.4	2.5	3.8				
Slovenia						2.5	2.9	5.6	3.5	3.0	1.4	2.4				
United States				7.3	3.5	2.2	4.8	7.8	7.3	4.9	5.0					
Czech Republic				12.6	7.0	2.3	3.2	3.0	5.0	2.5						
Poland			1.9	6.9	20.3	3.4	4.3	1.0	3.8							
Mexico	1.9	1.9	2.2	2.5	4.2	2.8	3.7	3.3	6.7							
Slovak Republic				19.8	1.1	6.6	6.3									
Turkey	0.5	1.8	2.8	2.5	2.9	2.7	2.7									
Hungary			1.0	32.0	4.0	1.3	5.0									
Estonia		0.7	0.5	3.0	3.4	2.0	3.0									
OECD average				2.3	7.3	3.4	4.6	4.3	4.7	4.7	4.0	4.0	3.0			
China			7.1	2.7	3.5	4.6	3.1									

S-time-step is one of the possible statistical measures measuring dynamics of time series. The usual way is to express the change in percentages between two time periods.

S-time-step shows the time elapsed between two levels of the indicator. E.g. OECD average needed on the average about 4.2 years to increase life expectancy by one year. These values are calculated by horizontally subtracting times from time matrix above.

S-time-distance (in years) from benchmark OECD average for a given level of the indicator

LEXP level	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79
Japan	-1	-3	-7	-7	-10	-11	-14	-16	-16	-17	-16
Switzerland				-13	-12	-13	-14	-14	-14	-11	-10
Iceland					-21	-16	-17	-20	-16	-8	-9
Italy		-4	-7	-6	-5	-6	-6	-9	-10	-9	-9
Australia			-3	-3	-5	-7	-8	-9	-9	-8	-7
Sweden						-18	-14	-14	-11	-11	-10
Spain		-5	-8	-7	-7	-9	-11	-14	-9	-9	-7
France			-10	-7	-6	-7	-7	-8	-8	-8	-6
Canada				-11	-10	-9	-12	-13	-11	-9	-7
Israel						-5	-6	-6	-6	-7	-6
Norway						-16	-16	-14	-8	-8	-4
New Zealand				-3	-2	-1	-2	-3	-3	-4	-4
Austria	-3	4	-1	0	1	0	-3	-2	-3	-3	-3
Netherlands						-13	-14	-14	-6	-3	-2
Germany		-3	-1	0	-1	-2	-3	-3	-3	-4	-2
Greece		-6	-8	-7	-7	-8	-9	-10	-10	-3	-3
Luxembourg		5	3	1	1	0	-1	-2	-2	0	-2
Ireland		-6	-5	2	1	1	0	2	2	-1	-2
United Kingdom			-10	-5	-3	-4	-4	-4	-3	-3	-2
Finland	-1	2	-1	-1	-3	-5	0	-2	-3	-2	-2
Belgium		-6	-4	-3	-3	-3	-4	-5	-4	-2	-1
Korea	22	21	16	15	12	10	8	5	3	1	0
Portugal	12	11	5	5	4	3	3	3	2	1	1
Denmark					-13	-10	0	2	2	2	
Chile	17	16	10	10	8	6	5	4	2	2	
Slovenia			11	10	8	9	8	7	4	2	
United States		-3	-3	-3	-5	-5	-2	1	2	3	
Czech Republic		5	11	14	12	11	9	10	8		
Poland	1	5	18	18	18	15	14				
Mexico	20	20	17	17	16	15	17				
Slovak Republic		5	18	15	17	19					
Turkey	31	31	26	26	24						
Hungary	0	29	26	24	24						
Estonia	32	33	29	27	26						
OECD average	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
China	27	28	24	25	24						

S-time-distance is a special category of time distances related to the level of the indicator. It measures the distance (proximity) in time between the points in time when the two series compared reach a specified level of the indicator X.

The values of S-time-distance in this table compare the value for a country to the benchmark OECD average, showing the lead (-) or lag (+) in time. It is arrived at by subtracting for a given level the corresponding times vertically from time matrix shown above.

We can follow also changes over the increase in the indicator level. Japan has very much improved its lead against the average from -1 to -16 years. Several countries (Korea, Portugal, Chile and Slovenia) have from time lag of more than 10 years come very close to the OECD average.

# Seeing with new eyes creates new knowledge and better understanding

Time distance concept with S-time-matrix, S-time-distance and S-time-step is expressed in units of time which makes them easily understood by policy makers, media and the general public.

There is a wealth of information and of possible comparisons in these tables, e.g.

**For the majority of the selected indicators it is obvious at a glance that the differences between OECD countries are large** (for some indicators values for the best countries are 4 to 5 times higher than for the lowest countries). While best practices are of interest, it is obvious that **policies have to be adjusted and differentiated to such wide differences in the circumstances.**

**All OECD countries have enjoyed important progress in domains** like life expectancy and GDP per capita, less in road fatalities and tertiary attainment. **For some structural indicators** (like total employment rate, gross domestic expenditures in R&D, current account balance) **there was very little change for OECD average, but there were substantial changes within countries.**