

OECD Health Statistics 2016

Definitions, Sources and Methods

Absence from work due to illness

The number of self-reported work days lost per year due to illness per employed person. It excludes maternity leave.

There are two main sources of data on absence from work due to illness:

- 1) **data from household surveys** (labour force, social or health surveys) providing estimates of self-reported absence from work due to illness, covering most if not all of the working population, regardless of whether the absence from work has been financially compensated or not; and
- 2) **data from administrative sources** (often social security and other insurance agencies) providing estimates of compensated absence from work due to illness, typically covering only certain segments of the working population.

Estimates from these two data sources are not directly comparable, and are therefore presented separately.

Sources and Methods

- [11_1 Self-reported absence from work due to illness](#)
- [11_2 Compensated absence from work due to illness](#)