

# OECD *Multilingual Summaries*

## **Society at a Glance 2011: OECD Social Indicators**

*Summary in English*



- *Society at a Glance* reveals social trends in OECD countries
- Mexicans work longer days than anyone else in OECD countries, devoting 10 hours to paid and unpaid work, such as cleaning or cooking at home. Belgians work the least, at 7 hours, compared to an OECD average of 8 hours a day.
- These are among the insights in the latest edition of *Society at a Glance*, which gives an overview of social trends and policy developments in OECD countries. Using indicators taken from OECD databases and other sources, it attempts to show how societies are changing over time and compared with other countries.
- A special chapter in the report looks at unpaid work, such as cooking, cleaning, caring, and shopping, in 26 OECD countries, as well as China, India and South Africa.
- Most unpaid work is routine housework. Mexicans do the most, at 3 hours 5 minutes per day, and Koreans the least, at 1 hour and 19 minutes. Much of this time is spent cooking. Americans spend the least time cooking each day (30 minutes) and Turks the most in the OECD (74 minutes). Most people spend around 50 minutes a day cooking.
- Shopping also makes up a big part of unpaid work. Most people in OECD countries spend 23 minutes a day shopping, with the French spending the most (32 minutes) and the Koreans the least (13 minutes).
- The report also attempts to estimate how much unpaid work is worth as a percentage of GDP for the 25 OECD countries for which data are available. It finds that the value of

unpaid work is considerable, equivalent to about one-third of GDP in OECD countries, ranging from a low of 19% in Korea to a high of 53% in Portugal.

- Other social indicators include fertility rates, education and health spending, inequality, migration, tolerance and trust.

Find more information on **Society at a Glance 2011** at [www.oecd.org/els/social/indicators/SAG](http://www.oecd.org/els/social/indicators/SAG)

© OECD 2011

Reproduction of this summary is allowed provided the OECD copyright and the title of the original publication are mentioned.

**Multilingual summaries are translated excerpts of OECD publications originally published in English and in French.**

**They are available free of charge on the OECD Online Bookshop [www.oecd.org/bookshop/](http://www.oecd.org/bookshop/)**

For more information, contact the OECD Rights and Translation unit, Public Affairs and Communications Directorate at: [rights@oecd.org](mailto:rights@oecd.org) or by fax: +33 (0)1 45 24 99 30

OECD Rights and Translation unit (PAC)  
2 rue André-Pascal, 75116  
Paris, France

Visit our website [www.oecd.org/rights/](http://www.oecd.org/rights/)

