

AEIS - use and development of a Czech earnings survey

Vladimír Smolka, TREXIMA, spol. s r.o., Czech Republic

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The Average Earnings Information system (AEIS) was set up as a source of income information for social partners in the tripartite negotiations. The survey was started by a private firm TREXIMA, on behalf of the Czech Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in early 1990s. The original aim was to obtain credible information about wage development in the beginning of transformation of the Czech economy. A core of the AEIS was the quarterly sample survey of employers. The data were drawn directly from payroll records, the data collection took advantage of electronic way of communication and average hourly wage (legally required) was accepted as the main indicator of wage growth. Basic principles remain in force, majority of earlier methods have changed. The AEIS adapted to national statistical system requirements and followed ESES instructions gradually. Probability sampling and weighting has been introduced, wide coverage in the establishment population frame has been achieved. At present the survey monitors one third of the entire Czech private enterprise employment. Starting 2004 the sample of public enterprises and organizations has been extended into a census. The AEIS turned into a longitudinal survey, which provides national and European structural statistics on earnings with linked employer-employee data. It is a source of data for econometrics research on wage inequality, gender pay gap, occupational structure and other current issues. Nowadays extended effort is devoted to the link among AEIS, statistical monitoring of collective bargaining and the Czech Social Security Administration System. The next common goal is to collaborate with the Czech Statistical Office on harmonization of the main earnings statistical surveys in the Czech Republic.