Taxing Wages - Hungary

Tax on labour income

The *tax wedge* is a measure of the tax on labour income, which includes the tax paid by both the employee and the employer.

**TAX WEDGE ON LABOUR INCOME**

\[
\text{Tax wedge} = \left( \frac{\text{Personal income tax} + \text{employee and employer social security contributions (SSCs)} - \text{Family Benefits}}{\text{Total labour costs (gross wages + employer SSCs)}} \right) 
\]

**Single worker**

The tax wedge for the average single worker in Hungary remained unchanged at 41.2% in 2022 and 2023. The OECD average tax wedge in 2023 was 34.8% (2022, 34.7%). In 2023, Hungary had the 12th highest tax wedge among the 38 OECD member countries, compared with 11th in 2022.

In Hungary, income tax and employer social security contributions combine to account for 60% of the total tax wedge, compared with 77% of the total OECD average tax wedge.

**One-earner married couple with two children**

The tax wedge for a worker with children may be lower than for a worker on the same income without children, since most OECD countries provide benefits to families with children through cash transfers and preferential tax provisions.

- Hungary had the 13th highest tax wedge in the OECD for an average married worker with two children at 31.3% in 2023, which compares with the OECD average of 25.7%. The country occupied the 15th highest position in 2022.

- Child related benefits and tax provisions tend to reduce the tax wedge for workers with children compared with the average single worker. In Hungary in 2023, this reduction (9.9 percentage points) was greater than the OECD average (9.1 percentage points).
Tax wedge trends between 2000 and 2023

In Hungary, the tax wedge for the average single worker decreased by 13.5 percentage points from 54.7% to 41.2% between 2000 and 2023. During the same period, the average tax wedge across the OECD decreased by 1.4 percentage points from 36.2% to 34.8%.

Between 2009 and 2023, the tax wedge for the average single worker decreased by 11.9 percentage points in Hungary. During this same period, the tax wedge for the average single worker across the OECD increased slowly to 35.3% in 2013 and 2014 before decreasing back to 34.8% in 2023.

Average tax wedge over time for a single worker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Single worker</th>
<th>OECD Avg - Single, 24.9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>54.7%</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>51.1%</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
<td>35.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employee tax on labour income

The employee net average tax rate is a measure of the net tax on labour income paid directly by the employee.

In Hungary, the average single worker faced a net average tax rate of 33.5% in 2023, compared with the OECD average of 24.9%. In other words, in Hungary the take-home pay of an average single worker, after tax and benefits, was 66.5% of their gross wage, compared with the OECD average of 75.1%.

Taking into account child related benefits and tax provisions, the employee net average tax rate for an average married worker with two children in Hungary was 22.3% in 2023, which is the 7th highest in the OECD, and compares with 14.2% for the OECD average.

This means that an average married worker with two children in Hungary had a take-home pay, after tax and family benefits, of 77.7% of their gross wage, compared to 85.8% for the OECD average.