

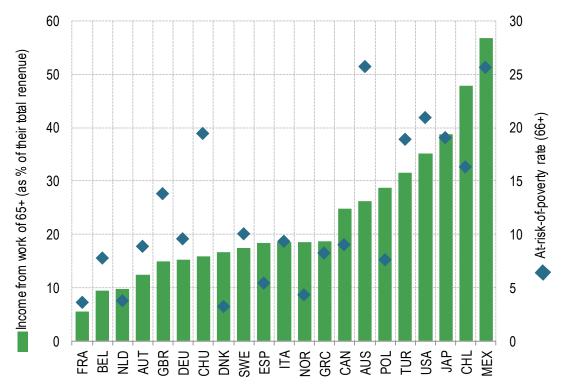


ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Increased risk-of-poverty and the participation rate of elderly people

Revenue of older people mainly consists of state and occupational pensions and income from savings and work. In countries that have, relatively speaking, more generous pension benefits, labour participation of the elderly is relatively low. In France, only 3% of people older than 65 still work, compared to almost 20% in the US and 25% in Japan. Moreover, the French old age poverty rate, the percentage of seniors (66+) whose income is lower than 50% of the median household income, is among the lowest in the OECD.

The chart shows that, in general, there is a positive relationship between the percentage of revenue of older people coming from work and their at-risk-of-poverty rate. It thus seems that, when seniors feel financially constrained, they decide to work longer. Notable exceptions are the Scandinavian countries, which show that the combination of relatively high elderly labour participation and low risk of poverty is possible.



Source: OECD