19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians

Standards & Surveys Unit

ILO Department of Statistics
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Role of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS)

- **Mandate**
  - Set international standards in labour statistics

- **Structure**
  - Tripartite representation: Governments, Employers & Workers

- **Frequency**
  - Hosted by ILO every 5 years (since 1923)
  - Next: 2-11 October 2013

- **Participants**
  - Expert statisticians nominated by Governments (MoL, NSO), Employers’ and Workers’ organizations
  - Regional and international organizations as observers
Objectives of International standards in labour statistics

• **Primary objectives**
  – Provide guidance to countries in establishing or updating their labour statistical systems
  – Promote coherence in concepts & methods across sources & topics
  – Promote international comparability

• **Secondary objectives**
  – Cornerstone for technical assistance
  – Basis for preparing technical manuals, training, workshops
Types of international standards in labour statistics

- **Conventions and recommendations**
  - Part of International labour code
  - Legally binding in ratifying countries

- **Resolutions**
  - Non-binding
  - Provide detailed guidelines on conceptual frameworks, operational definitions and measurement methodologies

- **Guidelines**
  - Provide additional guidance on particular topics or issues

*More information available at:*
Conventions and Recommendations (1985)

• **Convention 160**
  - Basic framework for development of national labour statistics programmes (principles of confidentiality, consultation, dissemination of data and metadata)
  - Promotes application of appropriate methodologies

• **Minimum list of nine topics:**
  - Employment, Unemployment, Economically active population
  - Hours of work, Wages, Labour Cost
  - Consumer price indices, Household expenditure and income
  - Occupational injuries, Strikes and lockouts

• **Recommendation 170**
  - Supplements C160 (minimum periodicities and classifications by topic)

• **Supervisory mechanism to monitor application (since 1988)**
  - 49 ratifications (incl. partial): Azerbaijan, Benin, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan
Resolutions and Guidelines

Topics

- Economically active population, employment, unemployment, underemployment
- Underemployment and inadequate employment situations
- Child labour
- Working time
- Informal sector employment
- Informal employment
- ISCO (occupations)
- ICSE (status in employment)
- Employment-related income
- Household income and expenditure statistics
- Consumer price indices
- Occupational injuries
- Strikes and lockouts
- Social security
- Collective agreements
- Labour costs
- Gender mainstreaming
- Dissemination practices
Topics for 19th ICLS (October 2013)

• For adoption
  – Update of standards on economically active population, employment, unemployment, underemployment (1982)

• For discussion
  – Statistical definition of green jobs
  – International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE)

More information available at: http://www.ilo.org/19thICLS
Scope of update

- **New framework for Work & Labour force Statistics**
  - First international statistical definition of “Work”
  - Narrower scope of “Employment” focused on income-generating work
  - New definitions to measure separately from employment
    - Own use production work (of goods and of services)
    - Unpaid trainee work
    - Volunteer work
- **Broader measures of labour underutilization**
  - More targeted Unemployment as search for income-generating work
  - Measures of insufficient volume of employment among
    - Employed
    - Outside the labour force
New Framework for Work Statistics

Form of Work

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<th>Employment</th>
<th>Unpaid Trainee work</th>
<th>Volunteer work</th>
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Activities within SNA production boundary

Activities inside SNA General production boundary
Figure 11: Countries including specific worker groups in employment, by region (%)
Full and separate measurement of participation in all forms of work

- Employed
- Volunteer workers
- Producers of goods for own use
- Unpaid trainee workers
- Producers of services for own use
Supplementary measures of labour underutilization

- **Working age population**
  - **Labour force**
    - **Employed**
    - **Unemployed**
      - **Time-related underemployed**
      - **Marginally attached**
        - seeking, not available
        - available, not seeking
  - **Outside the labour force**
    - Other outside the labour force, neither seeking, nor available

Labour underutilization (unmet need for employment)

- For regular dissemination together with Unemployment
- To be supplemented with additional indicators of inadequate employment
Relevance of revisions to meet multiple needs

- Better inform employment creation & income generation policies
- Make visible subsistence production for poverty reduction policies
- Improve estimates of work in agriculture
- Measure labour input into ALL productive activities
- Estimate contribution of all forms of work to economy
- Measure contribution of production for own use to household welfare, food security
- Address social dimensions of work: Social cohesion, wellbeing
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- ICLS - UNSC - Other revisions

- Review of national practices
- User-producer consultation
- Working Group Meetings
- Regional Consultations
- Reviews proposal
- Recommends revisions
- Reviews proposal
- Adopts resolutions & guidelines
- Approves resolutions & guidelines as international standards