



Issues and Challenges in measuring Labour Statistics

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Various sources of labour statistics

Labour statistics are compiled by various agencies

Each agency collect the statistics for different objectives

This information is often scattered and uncoordinated

- Reference period
- Concepts and definitions
- Codes and classification

Changes in classification

From time to time, international standards proposed revisions to classifications used for various reasons.

This resulted in adaptation of these classifications at country-level

Time series statistics might be compromised and break will exist in the time series.

Work on backcasting and mapping of this classification has to be done to iron out the break

Statistical issues on labour statistics in the dimension of education

- Data availability.
 - The *preferred source for this type of data is a labour force survey*, since it provides reliable information on both the educational attainment and the labour market status of individuals.
 - Other types of household surveys and population censuses can also be used to derive these data.
 - This means that, in general terms, it can be hard to obtain reliable and frequent statistics on the labour force by educational attainment for those countries that do not have a regular labour force or household survey in place.

Statistical issues of employment in the informal economy

- The concept of informal sector and informal employment was designed in such a way as to allow countries to accommodate their own situations and needs.
 - *developing countries* may choose to develop a measure that *includes informal jobs of own-account workers and employers*.
 - *developed countries* may wish to limit the measurement of informal employment to employee jobs only.
 - The built-in flexibility of the statistical concept create limitations when it comes to the comparability of statistics across countries.

Errors in measurement due to

Sampling error and non-sampling error

- Survey

Use of non-standard definition

Use of non-standard classification

Statistical issues of employment in the gig economy

Gig workers

- spread among diverse occupation groups.
- not easily identified in surveys of employment and earnings.
- similar in the sense that they work for pay or profit or family gain (in cash or in kind).

To identify this group

- We must go back to the concept of temporary absence from work

A more frequent and more granular labour statistics

Frequency

- Depends on country purposes
 - Often for monitoring business and economic cycles as well as design human resource policies.
- Subject to capacity of data collection agencies
 - Technical
 - Financial
 - Human resource

A more frequent and more granular labour statistics (cont'd)

Granularity

- Often to target specific groups
- Heavy reliance on surveys data
 - can subject to standard error
 - Produced unreliable estimates
- To optimise use and increase efficiency of data collection through administrative data sources



End of Session 11