

ILO Labour Statistics databases
(LABORSTA):
The issue of quality control procedures



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- **LABOR STATistics** databases
- Data quality framework
- Tests and controls
- Future developments

« LABORSTA »

- Generic term for all ILO/STAT statistical databases
- Statistical data and
- Metadata
- Contains data since 1969
- Monthly and yearly data

LABORSTA contents

Official, national data

- Economically active population
- Employment, unemployment
- Wages, hours of work, labour cost
- Occupational injuries, strikes and lockouts
- Consumer price indices, October Inquiry

Labour force estimates and projections



Meta data - texts

- Concepts and definitions, ICLS resolutions (extracts)
- International standard classifications
- Explanatory notes
- Methodological descriptions

Data collection – Monthly data

- From national publications (printed or electronic)
- From national statistical websites
- Entered manually in LABORSTA

Data collection – Yearly data

Pre-filled:

- Paper questionnaires
 - Entered manually
- Electronic questionnaires
 - Through Internet
 - Excel files
 - Entered manually or automatically

Dissemination products

- Internet
- CD-ROM
- Printed publications
- Other “ad-hoc” products



Internet: <http://laborsta.ilo.org>

- Contains all data in LABORSTA
- Publicly available free of charge
- Updated monthly
- Contains data **and metadata**



Internet: <http://laborsta.ilo.org>

Application features:

- Allow users to select, view, print, and download data
- Minimal user navigation to access data
- Easy on-line “help”
- World-wide country coverage
- Links data and metadata



Printed publications

- Statistical publications
 - Yearbook
 - Quarterly Bulletin & Supplement
 - October Inquiry results
- Methodological information:
 - Sources & Methods: Labour Statistics

CD-ROM

- Launched in 2003
- Complements Internet dissemination
- Contains the Yearbook in PDF format
- Allows users to select, view and download data in HTML and CSV format
- Latest 10 years or data from 1969
- Contains related Sources & Methods



Other products

Special requests:

- External
 - UN MDGs Indicator 11
- Internal
 - ILO Industrial Activities Meetings

Data quality framework

Official national statistics

- Cannot be changed
- Integrated to LABORSTA as they are received
- Checked for consistency
- Detected problems reverted to countries

Tests and controls

- Tests at screen level
- Tests on totals and aggregates
- Consistency tests
- Other controls

Tests at screen level

- Performed during data entry or editing
- Tests on authorized values for discrete variables
- Consistency between variables
- Time-series variations

Tests on totals and aggregates

- Performed on additive data
- Computed totals vs. entered totals
- Redundancy
- Thresholds
- Multiples of 9

Consistency checks

Performed on:

- Different parts of one database
 - In Strikes & Lockouts: Time not Worked vs. Average duration of strikes & lockouts
- Different databases:
 - Labour Force vs. Employment & Unemployment

Automatic vs. on-demand tests

All tests:

- Are run every night for all countries, latest 10 years
- Can be run on-demand for any or all countries & specific time-spans

Tests outputs

- Recently developed tests produce HTML files
- Can be seen by all staff members
- Printed tests progressively converted
- Zero-paper test environment

Reliability index

- For each test erroneous observations flagged
- Percentage of non flagged observations
- Gives information on the test itself
 - Relevance
 - Severity (threshold)
 - Usefulness
- Gives information on data reliability

Other controls

- Backups and change lists
 - Run every day and every week
 - If changes detected
 - Backup the database
 - Generate HTML lists of changes
- Automatic documentation
 - List of variables
 - Frequencies
 - Summary of related groups of observations

Future developments

- Battery of tests could be extended
 - Examine the verification process in terms of resources spent vs. value added
- Web based questionnaires
 - Transfer data entry from ILO to constituents
 - Tests need also to be transferred

URL:

**HTTP://LABORSTA.
ILO.ORG**

