The World's Women 2005: Progress in Statistics

Technical notes for Annex 1: Tables A5 to A10

Table A5 – Population
Technical notes

Estimates and projections of the total population and population by age and sex are prepared by the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, (DESA), United Nations, and revised every two years in order to incorporate new data. In general, the population figures are estimates of persons resident in the country or area at mid-year. They are usually based on population census data adjusted to the specified year, taking account of birth, death and international migration rates as determined from population surveys and registers and other national sources as available. Short-term residents and visitors in the country or area for less than one year are usually excluded. Indicators related to age and sex composition of the population have been calculated from estimates and projections of population by age group and sex described above. For small countries or areas, no estimates and projections were prepared; the figures shown are derived directly from official national statistics of population by age and sex.

The population growth rate shown is an estimate of the annual average over the five-year period indicated. The approach used in estimating rates of population growth assumes exponential growth.

The percentage of the population that is urban is based on estimates and projections prepared by the Population Division, DESA, United Nations. The urban-rural classification of population follows the national census definition and varies from one country or area to another. National definitions are usually based on criteria that may include any of the following: size of population in a locality, population density, distance between built-up areas, predominant type of economic activity, legal or administrative boundaries and such urban characteristics as specific services and facilities.

Estimates of the ratio of women to men among international migrants are taken from the database *Trends in Total Migrant Stock*, maintained by the Population Division, DESA, United Nations. Estimates of migrant stock are based on the number of foreign-born or the foreign residents in a country enumerated by national population censuses and sample surveys, and complemented by the number of refugees in a country. Statistics on the foreign-born provide a crude measure of the volume and composition of migration during an indefinite number of years prior to the census. International comparability of that indicator is affected, among other things, by the fact that some countries report data on non-citizens rather than on the foreign-born.

Table A6 – Marriage, households and childbearing
Technical notes

The indicators "percentage aged 15-19 years ever married" and "singulate mean age at marriage" are derived from population censuses or nationally representative household surveys. All individuals who have ever been married are included in the count of ever-married persons, regardless of their current marital status.

Singulate mean age at marriage is an estimate of the average age at which women or men marry for the first time. It is the average number of years lived prior to first marriage by a hypothetical cohort, if they marry before age 50. Singulate mean age at marriage is calculated on the basis of a single census or survey according to procedures described by Hajnal in "Age at marriage and proportions marrying" (Population Studies, vol. 7, No. 2).

The legal age for marriage shown in the table is the legal minimum age at which marriage can be performed without parental consent. Marriage is defined in terms of the laws of the individual country or area. In most countries or areas, a lower minimum legal age than the one shown is specified for marriage with parental consent.

Average household size and percentage of households headed by women are based mainly on population census results, supplemented by data from nationally representative sample surveys. The average household size is calculated from the total household population and the total number of households. In most censuses, persons not resident in a given household at the date of the census are not considered members of that household. However, a few national population censuses may include some categories of absent household members.

The two most commonly recognized concepts of households are the "housekeeping concept" and the "household-dwelling" concept. The "housekeeping concept" is based on the arrangements made by persons, individually or in groups, for providing themselves with food or other essentials for living. A household may be either (a) a one-person household, in which a person makes provision for his or her own food or other essentials for living without combining with any other person to form part of a multi-person household, or (b) a multi-person household, that is, a group of two or more persons living together who make common provision for food or other essentials for living. The persons in the group may pool their incomes and may, to a greater or lesser extent, have a common budget; they may be related or unrelated persons. The "household-dwelling" concept views all persons living in a housing unit as belonging to the same household. According to this concept, there is one household per occupied housing unit.

The head of the household is defined as that person in the household or the family who is acknowledged as such by the other members. However, it is important to recognize that many countries use the concept of reference person in listing household members and that this person may or may not be the "household head". Where this is the practice, the "household head" identified in tabulations is, in reality, the reference person and should be treated with caution. Even in countries that use the concept of head of household, the procedures followed in applying the concept may distort the true picture, particularly with regard to women heads of households.

Nonetheless, for most countries, this is the only practical way of identifying households for which women are responsible.

Contraceptive use pertains to current use of contraceptives by women of reproductive age currently married or in a union, unless otherwise indicated, and includes all contraceptive methods, traditional as well as modern. Data on contraceptive use are taken mainly from representative national sample surveys of women of reproductive age.

The total fertility rate is defined as the number of children that would be born to a woman if she were to live to the end of her childbearing years and bear children in accordance with prevailing age-specific fertility rates.

The indicator "births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years" refers to the number of children born alive in one year per 1,000 women aged 15-19.

Table A7 - Health
Technical notes

Life expectancy at birth is the expected number of years to be lived by a female or male newborn, if she or he is subject to the age-specific mortality rates prevailing in the year(s) to which the life expectancy refers. Life expectancy at age 60 is the additional number of years expected to be lived by a woman or man who has survived to age 60. The indicators are obtained from the estimates and projections prepared every two years by the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations. For many developing countries that lack complete and reliable statistics on births and deaths based on civil registration, various estimation techniques are used to calculate life expectancy using other sources of data, mainly population censuses and demographic surveys. Life expectancy at birth by sex gives a statistical summary of current differences in male and female mortality across all ages. Trends and differentials in infant and child mortality rates are the predominant influence on trends and differentials in life expectancy at birth in most developing countries.

Infant mortality rate is the total number of deaths in a given year of girls or boys less than one year old divided by the total number of female or male live births in the same year, multiplied by 1,000. It is an approximation of the number of deaths per 1,000 girls or boys born alive who die within one year of birth. That series is obtained from the estimates and projections of the number of survivors at exact age 1 by sex, prepared by the Population Division, based on a review of all available national sources. In countries where civil registration and vital statistics are deficient, the most reliable sources are demographic surveys of households. Where the surveys are not available, other sources and general estimates are made, which are necessarily of limited reliability.

The estimated number of people living with HIV/AIDS and the percentage of women among adults living with HIV/AIDS have been produced and compiled by UNAIDS/WHO. The estimates have been shared with national AIDS programmes for their review and comment, but are not necessarily the official estimates used by national Governments. The estimated number of

people living with HIV/AIDS includes all adults aged 15-49 and children under 15 infected with HIV, whether they have developed symptoms of AIDS or not, alive at the end of 2003. The percentage of women among those living with HIV/AIDS is calculated for adults aged 15-49 years.

Maternal mortality ratio is the most commonly used measure of maternal mortality, and it is defined as the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births during a given time period. The tenth revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10) defines a maternal death as the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes. Maternal mortality is difficult to measure, particularly in settings where deaths are not comprehensively reported through the civil registration system and where there is no medical certification of cause of death. Moreover, even where overall levels of maternal mortality are high, maternal deaths are nonetheless relatively rare events and thus prone to measurement error. As a result, all existing estimates of maternal mortality are subject to greater or lesser degrees of uncertainty. Approaches used for estimating levels of maternal mortality in this table vary considerably in terms of methodology, source of data and precision of results. The main approaches are household surveys (including sisterhood surveys), censuses, Reproductive Age Mortality Studies (RAMOS) and statistical modeling.

The percentage of women receiving prenatal care refers to women who had one or more antenatal care contacts during their last pregnancy. For most countries, the main sources of information on antenatal care use are household surveys. Data sources used by the World Health Organization include the Demographic and Health Surveys (ORC Macro and national statistical offices), Reproductive Health Surveys (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (UNICEF), Pan Arab Project for Child Development (PAPCHILD) maternal and child health surveys, Gulf Family Health Surveys, Fertility and Family Surveys (ECE), national surveys, and the data files of the Population Division and of the World Health Organization.

The percentage of deliveries attended by a skilled attendant is based on all deliveries by a skilled attendant, irrespective of the outcome (live birth or foetal death). A skilled attendant is an accredited health professional – such as a midwife, doctor or nurse – who has been educated and trained to proficiency in the skills needed to manage normal(uncomplicated) pregnancies, childbirth and the immediate postnatal period and in the identification, management and referral of complications in women and newborns. Traditional birth attendants, trained or not, are excluded from the category of skilled attendant at birth. As with prenatal care, information on childbirth care is drawn primarily from household surveys.

Table A8 – Education and literacy
Technical notes

Statistics on enrolment and teachers are compiled by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) from data provided by national Governments in response to UIS questionnaires.

The 1997 International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 97) defines primary education as programmes that are normally designed on a unit or project basis to give students a sound basic education in reading, writing and mathematics along with an elementary understanding of other subjects such as history, geography, natural science, social science, art and music. The customary or legal age of entrance to this level of education ranges between ages 5 to 7 years and is the start of compulsory education where it exists. In principle, this level covers six years of full-time schooling.

The primary net enrolment ratio (NER) is the number of boys and girls of primary-school age that are enrolled in primary education, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group. It shows the extent of participation in primary education of children belonging to the official age group corresponding to primary education in the given country. A high primary NER denotes a high degree of participation of primary school-age children in primary education. The theoretical maximum value is 100. If the primary NER is below 100, then the complement, that is, the difference between the NER and 100, provides a measure of the proportion of children not enrolled at the specified level of education. However, since some of those children could be enrolled at levels of education other than the primary level, the difference should in no way be considered as indicating the proportion of primary school-age children not enrolled in schools.

While enrolment data offer an easy way of comparing the number of boys and girls enrolled in schools, these statistics do not reflect differences between boys and girls in rates of absenteeism, repetition or dropping out.

The 1997 International Standard Classification of Education defines secondary education as education programmes at ISCED levels 2 and 3. Lower secondary education (ISCED 2) is generally designed to continue the basic programmes of the primary level but is typically more subject-focused, requiring more specialized teachers for each subject area. The end of the level often coincides with the end of compulsory education where it exists. In upper secondary education (ISCED 3), the final stage of secondary education in most countries, instruction is often organized even more along subject lines and teachers typically need higher or more subject-specific qualification than those at ISCED level 2.

The secondary net enrolment ratio is the number of boys and girls in the theoretical second-level age group that are enrolled in that level, expressed as a percentage of the total population in the corresponding age group. It shows the extent of participation in secondary education of children belonging to the official age group corresponding to second-level education in the given country. A high secondary NER denotes a high degree of participation of secondary school-age children or youth in second-level education. The theoretical maximum value is 100. If the secondary NER is below 100, then the complement, that is, the difference between the NER and 100, provides a measure of the proportion of children or youth of secondary school age not enrolled at that level of education. However, since some of those children or youth could be enrolled at levels of education other than at the secondary level, the difference should in no way be considered as indicating the proportion of secondary school-age children not enrolled in schools.

Rates of illiteracy are generally derived from national population censuses or sample surveys.

UNESCO defines a “literate” person as one who can "with understanding both read and write a short simple statement on [her or] his everyday life", and an “illiterate” person as one who cannot "with understanding both read and write a short simple statement on [her or] his everyday life". That definition of literacy is widely used in national population censuses and surveys, but its interpretation and application may vary to some extent among countries, depending on national, social and cultural circumstances. Furthermore, this concept of literacy includes persons who, although familiar with the basics of reading and writing, might still be considered functionally illiterate. Though, a measure of functional illiteracy would thus also be useful, such statistics are collected in only a few countries.

The illiteracy rate refers in general to the proportion of the population above a certain age who are illiterate, expressed as a percentage of the corresponding population. Illiteracy rates are shown for the age group 15-24. For young people in developing regions, literacy may be a better measure of education than enrolment since it usually reflects a minimal level of successfully completed schooling. Data are lacking for a number of countries or areas in the developed regions. For those areas, a question on literacy was not included in the population censuses, since illiteracy has been reduced to minimal levels through several decades of universal primary education.

The ISCED 97 defines tertiary education as education programmes at ISCED levels 5 and 6. Education at ISCED level 5 includes programmes that are theoretically based or research preparatory (history, philosophy, mathematics, etc.) or that give access to professions with high skill requirements (e.g., medicine, dentistry, architecture, etc.), and those programmes that are practical, technical or occupationally specific. Level 6 includes tertiary programmes that lead to the award of an advanced research qualification. The programmes are therefore devoted to advanced study and original research and are not based on course work only.

The tertiary gross enrolment ratio is defined as enrolment at the third level, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population in the theoretical school age group corresponding to that level of education. For the tertiary level, the population is the five-year age group following on from the secondary-school leaving age. The tertiary gross enrolment ratio is used to show the general level of participation in this level of education.

The term “teachers” refers to persons employed full-time or part-time in an official capacity to guide and direct the learning experience of pupils and students, irrespective of their qualifications or the delivery mechanism, i.e. face-to-face and/or at a distance. Excluded from this category are educational personnel who have no active teaching duties (e.g. headmasters, headmistresses or principals who do not teach) and persons who work occasionally or in a voluntary capacity.

Table A9 – Economic activity and maternity leave benefits

Technical notes

Indicators concerning the total economically active population aged 15 or over have been compiled by the International Labour Office (ILO). Data shown are for the latest year for which data are available. The adult economic activity rate is defined as the proportion of the population aged 15 years or over who furnish, or are available to furnish, the supply of labour for the production of goods and services in accordance with the System of National Accounts.

The definition of the economically active population provided by the ILO comprises all employed and unemployed persons, including those seeking work for the first time. It covers employers operating unincorporated enterprises, persons working on their own account, employees, contributing family workers, members of producers' cooperatives and members of the armed forces. In principle, a person who performs such work for as little as one hour per week is considered economically active. The definition recommended by the ILO also accounts for production of primary products, such as foodstuffs, fetching and transporting water, and collecting firewood for own consumption. Certain other non-monetary activities – for example construction, major repair and renovation of owner-occupied dwelling – are considered economic activity, and persons engaged in such production are regarded as economically active.

The unemployment rate is the proportion of the labour force that is unemployed. The unemployed are persons who are currently without work, who are seeking or have sought work recently and who are currently available for work. The base for these statistics is the labour force (the economically active portion of the population), not the total population.

The International Conference of Labour Statisticians adopted the following definition of the unemployed as an international recommendation in 1982:

All persons who during the reference period were:

(1) "without work", that is, were not in paid employment or self employment as specified by the international definition of employment;

(2) "currently available for work", that is, were available for paid employment or self-employment during the reference period; and

(3) "seeking work", that is, had taken specific steps in a specified recent period to seek paid employment or self-employment.

The term "part-time workers" refers to persons with jobs whose working hours total less than "full time" (see definition below). The measures presented are total part-time employment as a percentage of total employment, calculated separately for women and for men, and the proportion of women among all part-time workers. All but two countries derived the information from labour force surveys; the remaining two obtained their information from population censuses.

There is no internationally accepted standard for the minimum number of hours worked per week that would constitute full-time work. The framework is therefore established on a country-by-country basis or in special regional compilations. Many countries have established demarcation points that lie between 30 and 40 hours per week. Other countries classify part-time and full-time workers on the basis of respondents' interpretations of their personal work situations, that is, whether they view themselves as full-time or as part-time jobholders. In an attempt to make statistics on part-time work comparable across countries, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development applied a 30-hour cut-off for distinguishing part-time from full-time workers. Thus, in the OECD data set, one of the main sources of the KILM database, persons who work 30 hours or more per week are considered "full-time workers" and those who work less than 30 hours per week are considered "part-time workers".

Data on maternity leave benefits currently available to women in countries surveyed by the ILO include the length of time for which benefits are provided, the extent of compensation and the institution responsible for providing the coverage. The data was compiled by the ILO, based on information provided by countries as of 2004.

Table A10 – Employment characteristics and political participation
Technical notes

The distribution of workers of each sex by status in employment is shown for employers, own-account workers, employees and contributing family workers only. The groups may not add up to 100 per cent because members of producers' cooperatives and workers not classifiable by status are not shown.

The four groups are as defined in the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-1993), as follows:

- Employers are those workers who, working on their own account or with one or a few partners, hold the type of job defined as a "self employment job" and, in this capacity, on a continuous basis (including the reference period) have engaged one or more persons to work for them in their business as "employee(s)".

- Own-account workers are those workers who, working on their own account or with one or more partners, hold the type of job defined as a "self-employment job" and have not engaged on a continuous basis any "employees" to work for them during the reference period.

- Employees are all those workers who hold the type of job defined as "paid employment jobs".

- Contributing family workers are those workers who hold a "self employment" job in a market-oriented establishment operated by a related person living in the same household, who cannot be regarded as a partner, because their degree of commitment to the operation of the establishment, in terms of working time or other factors to be determined by national circumstances, is not at a level comparable to that of the head of the establishment. (Where it is

customary for young persons, in particular, to work without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a related person who does not live in the same household, the requirement of "living in the same household" may be eliminated.)

The ratio of female wages to male wages in manufacturing is shown as a percentage. The wage statistics from which the ratio is computed are, in general, average earnings per wage earner (regardless of age) or in some cases wage rates. The data on average earnings are usually derived from payroll data supplied by a sample of establishments, often also furnishing data on hours of work and on employment. In a few cases, average earnings are compiled from social insurance statistics or labour force surveys.

International comparisons of the wage ratios presented here must be made with great caution. The coverage, definitions and methods of compiling wage statistics differ significantly from country to country. Disaggregation of statistics by sex is available for only a few countries and may be based on a narrow segment of the population. Furthermore, earnings are very much dependent on the number of hours worked, and in countries where female workers generally work many fewer hours than male workers, this factor must be kept in mind when interpreting the wage ratio.

The proportion of women among legislators and managers provides an indication of the presence of women in decision-making positions. It is derived from statistics on the distribution of the employed population (in some cases of the economically active population) by occupation, collected mainly through labour force surveys. Some other household surveys and population censuses also provide this information. The category "legislators, senior officials and managers" refers to major group 1 of the 1988 revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88) and includes the following sub-groups: (a) legislators and senior officials; (b) corporate managers; and (c) general managers. In the case of countries that used the earlier international classification (ISCO-68), the category refers to major group 2, administrative and managerial workers, which encompasses (a) legislative officials and government administrators and (b) managers.

The proportion of parliamentary seats occupied by women is calculated for only the lower chamber in countries with a bicameral assembly. Data are based on the sex distribution as at 30 October 2004. The numbers shown reflect changes, if any, after the most recent election prior to that date, such as results of by-elections or replacements following the resignation or death of a member of parliament.