The International Labour Migration Statistics (ILMS) Database in ASEAN

Regional workshop on Strengthening the collection and use of international migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

31 Jan - 3 February 2017
Bangkok, Thailand

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok.
There is widespread recognition of the need for improved data collection and sharing on international labour migration...

“The ILO will need to reinforce its statistics and knowledge base in respect of migration. That base can then be used as a foundation for improved research and analytical work, which in turn should contribute to improved, evidence-based policy advice.”
- Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General, 2014

“[UN] Member States should promote evidence-based policy-making and invest in data collection, research and capacity development with respect to migration and its impacts on individuals, communities and societies. The international community should create a dedicated capacity-building initiative to assist countries in improving the collection and use of migration data.”
- Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General, 2013

“By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.”
- SDG Target 17.18: Capacity-building for reliable data availability
The International Labour Migration Statistics (ILMS) Database was created in order to:

1. Provide an **openly-available, relevant and comprehensive information source** to enable evidence-based policy-making on international labour migration.

2. **Map the existing data sources countries collect**, including their quality, scope, completeness, comparability and possible weaknesses that can be filled through capacity building.

3. To define a set of tables of relevance on international labour migration as a **standard reference-point for future data collection and reporting** as well as ongoing capacity building efforts.

*Currently the data for ASEAN are published as a ‘special collection’ on ILOSTAT with links on **AP-Migration** (under ‘ASEAN labour migration statistics’) and **ASEANstats** (under ‘statistics updates’):*

  www.ilo.org/ilostat/faces/home/statisticaldata  
  http://apmigration.ilo.org/asean-labour-migration-statistics  
Several consultations were used to arrive at the standard tables found in the data collection pilot 2013:

- Consulted countries on their available sources through the ‘Labour Migration Statistics Information Survey’ (Mar 2013):
  - Found out the extent and sources of the available data
  - Found out the indicators already being collected at country-level
  - Found out the key users of the data and the present needs and priorities...

- Produced a detailed ‘Review of Indicators’ (Jun 2013):
  - Evaluated existing sources (MISA, LABORSTA, secondary sources...)
  - Mapped potential indicators to be collected in an exhaustive ‘wish-list’ scenario
  - Produced several options for what to collect under the ILMS Database...

- Consulted on several drafts of the data collection pilot questionnaire, its core tables and definitions (Aug-Oct 2013).

- Held Technical Meeting with national constituents from ASEAN to validate and finalise the tables used... (Nov 2013).

- Data collection then took place in November 2013 – February 2014.
Design of the ILMQ Pilot, 2013

Some details on the process...

The ILMQ Pilot was distributed as an Excel file for easier navigation:
- As far as possible, some of the cells in the tables were already filled out, based on the existing official publications to reduce the burden on constituents...

The ILMQ Pilot was launched on 11 November 2013

Data was requested by 16 December 2013 (five weeks from the launch)

The final ILMS Database published in February 2014

The ILMQ Pilot focused on data from 2006-2013, corresponding to the Asia-Pacific Decent Work Decade

A focal specialist in each country was responsible for the collection:
- They became part of the Network of ILMS Specialists that the ILO can contact on matters of expertise in labour migration statistics...
- Their names and organizations were accredited in the published ILMS Database...
- They were instructed to use the data produced in informing policies within their own countries and shaping future reports on international labour migration...
Further data collection and usage


Each data is collected for the previous year as it takes time for countries to process data (ie in 2016 we collected 2015 data)

ILMS Databases are currently published on ILOSTAT. Two reports about the ASEAN region currently accompany this work:

*Guide on developing an international labour migration statistics database in ASEAN: Towards more effective data collection and sharing*
  

*Analytical report on the international labour migration statistics database in ASEAN: Improving data collection for evidence-based policy-making*
  
ILMS Database: 19 tables across three modules

MODULE A: International migrant stock

1. Resident population by sex, age and by labour market status, total and migrants
2. Working-age population by sex and education, total and migrants (ISCED 2011)
3. Migrants by country of origin
4. Employed migrants by country of origin
5. Employed persons by economic activity, total and migrants (ISIC, Rev.4)
6. Employed persons by occupation, total and migrants (ISCO-08)
7. Employed persons by sex and status in employment, total and migrants (ICSE-93)
8. Average monthly wages by sex, total and migrants
ILMS Database: 19 tables across three modules

MODULE B: International migrant flow

9. Inflows of migrants by sex and country of origin

10. Inflows of working-age migrants by sex and education (ISCED 2011)

11. Inflows of employed migrants by economic activity (ISIC, Rev.4)

12. Inflows of employed migrants by occupation (ISCO-08)
ILMS Database: 19 tables across three modules

MODULE C: Nationals abroad

13. Stock of nationals abroad by sex and by country of residence

14. Outflows of nationals by sex and by country of destination

15. Outflows of nationals for employment by sex and country of destination

16. Outflows of nationals for employment by education (ISCED 2011)

17. Outflows of nationals for employment by economic activity (ISIC, Rev.4)

18. Outflows of nationals for employment by occupation (ISCO-08)

19. Inflow of return migrants by sex and previous country of residence
Sources

Labour force surveys

Population censuses

**Administrative data** (e.g. Civil registers, records from Ministries, border agencies...)

**Other surveys** (e.g. Economic Censuses, Socio-Economic Surveys, Migration Surveys...)

**Official estimates** *(where they exist...)*
Data collected in ASEAN by country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE / MODULE</th>
<th>Brunei</th>
<th>Cambodia</th>
<th>Indonesia</th>
<th>Lao PDR</th>
<th>Malaysia</th>
<th>Myanmar</th>
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<th>Singapore</th>
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<td>8. Average monthly wages <em>by sex, total and migrants</em></td>
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**NOTES:**
- **GREEN** indicates data exist and have been collected for this table.
- **YELLOW** indicates relevant data exist but could not be collected at present.
- **WHITE** indicates that the relevant data do not exist.
### Employed migrants in destination countries by country of origin and sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASEAN Member State</th>
<th>Stock</th>
<th></th>
<th>from ASEAN %</th>
<th>% women</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brunei Darussalam (2014)</td>
<td>52 161</td>
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<td>79.5</td>
<td>35.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thailand (2015)</td>
<td>1 443 474</td>
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<td>89.7</td>
<td>…</td>
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</table>

Source: International Labour Migration Statistics (ILMS) Database in ASEAN, ILOSTAT

… indicates data not available
Employment by broad economic activity for the total, nationals, and migrant populations in selected ASEAN Member States, latest year (per cent)

Brunei Darussalam, 2011 (population census)

- Total: 19.7% Non-migrants, 33.2% Migrants
- Non-migrants: 11.8% Total
- Migrants: 87.3% Total
- Non-migrants: 87.3% Migrants
- Migrants: 65.0% Migrants

Malaysia, 2014 (labour force survey)

- Total: 12.3% Non-migrants, 29.0% Migrants
- Non-migrants: 9.7% Total
- Migrants: 63.9% Total
- Non-migrants: 63.9% Migrants
- Migrants: 36.4% Migrants

Singapore, 2013 (administrative records)

- Total: 29.1% Non-migrants, 48.5% Migrants
- Non-migrants: 17.3% Total
- Migrants: 81.6% Total
- Non-migrants: 81.6% Migrants
- Migrants: 51.2% Migrants

Source: International Labour Migration Statistics Database (ILMS)
Annual inflow of migrant workers by occupation (‘000)

Thailand (Labour Force Survey)

Malaysia (Labour Force Survey)

Notes: High-skill occupations are defined as International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) groups 1 (managers), 2 (professionals), and 3 (technicians and associate professionals). Medium-skill (non-manual) occupations include ISCO groups 4 (clerks) and 5 (service and sales workers). Medium-skill (manual) occupations include ISCO groups 6 (skilled agricultural and fishery workers), 7 (craft and related trade workers), and 8 (plant and machine operators and assemblers). Low-skill occupations consist of ISCO group 9 (elementary occupations). See ILO. 2012. International Standard Classification of Occupations: ISCO-08: Volume 1: Structure, group definitions and correspondence tables (Geneva, ILO). Data for Thailand (labour force survey) measure all those who migrated to Thailand within the previous

Source: International Labour Migration Statistics Database (ILMS)
Average monthly wages of the total employed and migrant workers in Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia, latest year (USD)

**Brunei Darussalam, 2014 (population census)**

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<th>Total</th>
<th>Men Mean</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Men Median</th>
<th>Women</th>
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<td>Migrant</td>
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**Malaysia, 2014 (labour force survey)**

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Source: International Labour Migration Statistics Database (ILMS)
Thank you

Nilim Baruah
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