

Guidelines concerning Statistics on International Labour Migration

Adopted by the
**20th International Conference of
Labour Statisticians (ICLS)**

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Background

- The 19th ICLS adopted a Resolution concerning further work on labour migration statistics recommending the ILO to:
 - set up a working group with the aim of sharing good practices, discussing and developing a work plan for defining international standards on labour migration statistics that can inform labour market and migration policies,
 - prepare a progress report for discussion at the next ICLS.
- In order to implement the Resolution, the ILO established a Tripartite Working Group on Labour Migration Statistics to:
 - provide guidance regarding agreed upon international standards, concepts and definitions, and
 - foster the exchange of experiences among data collection institutions and across countries.



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Rationale

Protection of migrant workers:

- Manage labour migration taking into consideration the interests of different stakeholders and the origin and destination countries;
- Strong evidence to better protect international migrant workers;

Limitations of the existing conceptual framework:

- Lack of international standards regarding concepts, definitions and methodologies for the measurement and harmonization of labour migration statistics.
- Data comparability issues exist within countries.



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Concepts and Definitions

Guiding international instruments, frameworks, standards concerning international migrant workers

- ILO Constitution, ILO Conventions No 97 and No 143, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (especially Article 1, 2, and 3) - in terms of migrant workers` coverage;
- UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration (1998) – in terms of demographic definitions;
- The Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses - in terms of census related definitions;
- Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization – in terms of measuring labour.



Concepts and Definitions

- ‘Labour migration’ or ‘migrant worker’ is a marriage between two concepts:
 1. demographic one – ‘migration’ or ‘migrant’ and
 2. socio-economic one ‘labour’ or ‘worker’;
- ILO’s concern is the labour dimension, and in this context the protection of migrant workers;
- The importance of short-term (less than 12 months, or less than 6 months) migration is growing globally, and not currently covered by existing statistical definitions. Therefore, these groups remain invisible for policy-makers;
- The proposed definition of international migrant workers in the guidelines does not change the UN definition of international migrants, and does not have impact on its application.



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Concepts and Definitions



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Resident population of a country (Para. 11)

- ... comprises all persons who are *usual residents* of the country, regardless of sex, national origin, citizenship or geographic location of their place of work.
- ... includes stateless persons and non-citizens who are usual residents but have no documentation of residence.
- ... defined in line with a specific usual residence period (e.g. more than 12 months).

International migrants (Para. 13)

- ... all those residents who have ever changed their country of usual residence.
- ... measured as “all ... usual residents ... who are citizens of another country (foreign population) or whose place of birth is located in another country (foreign-born population)”.

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Concepts and Definitions

International Migrant workers (Para. 14-19)

- The concept refers to “***international migrant and non-resident foreign workers***”, and;
- ... includes all persons of working age present in the country of measurement who are in one of the following categories:

a. Usual residents :

...international migrants who, during a specified reference period, were either in the labour force of the country of their usual residence, i.e. either in employment or in unemployment;

b. Not usual residents (non-resident foreign workers):

... persons who, during a specified reference period, were not usual residents of the country but were present in the country and had labour attachment to the country (i.e. were either in employment supplying labour to resident producer units of that country or were seeking employment in that country).



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Concepts and Definitions



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International Migrant workers: coverage

- The concepts of “*working age population*”, “*labour force*”, “*employment*” and “*unemployment*” are defined in line with 19th ICLS Resolution I.
- Depending on policy objectives, countries may wish to also include among international migrant workers persons who, during the specified reference period, were in the potential labour force or were engaged in unpaid forms of work, as defined in 19th ICLS Resolution I.
- The specified reference period should, in principle, be short, such as seven days or one week.

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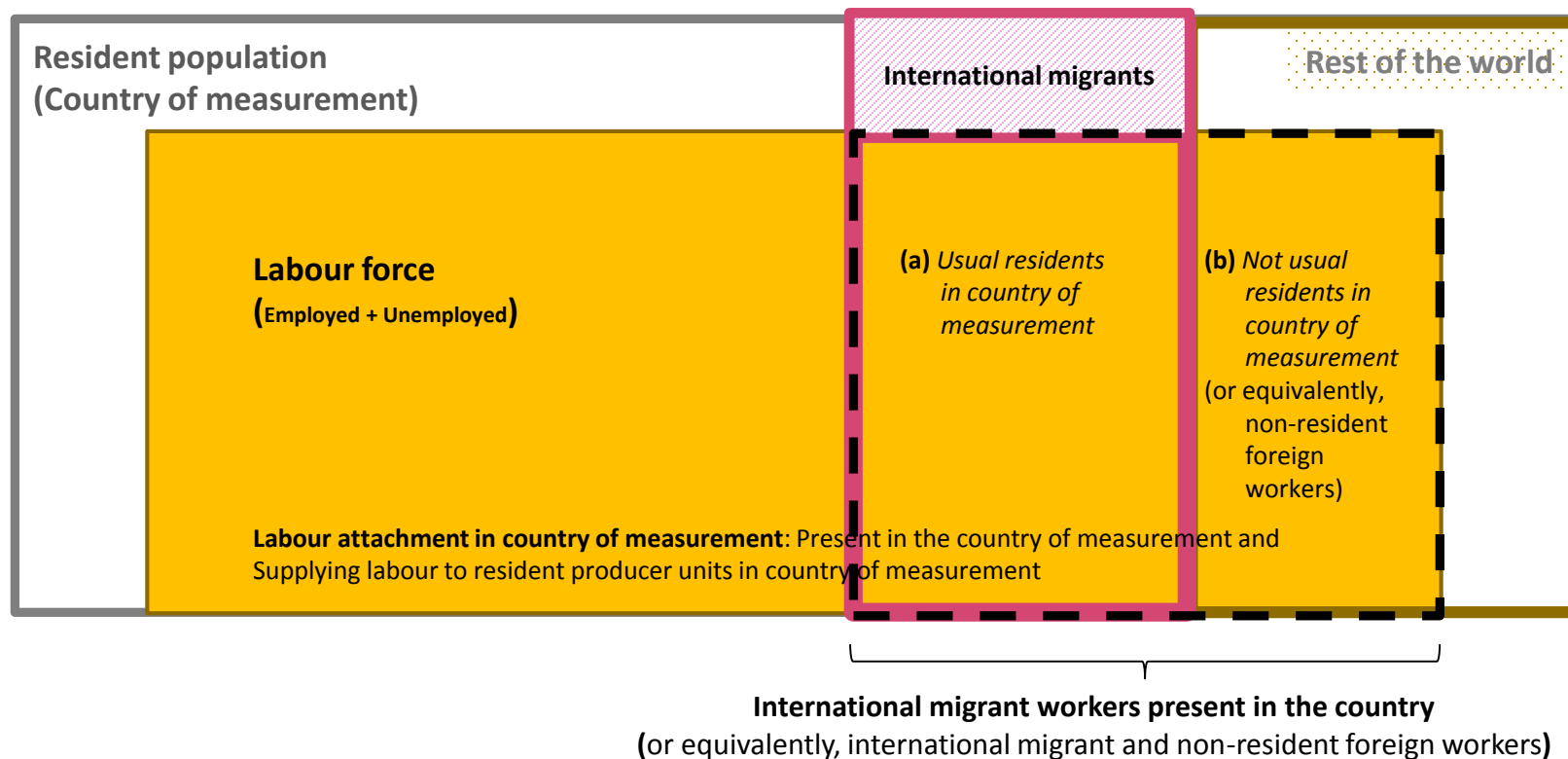


Concepts and Definitions



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1. Schematic representation of the measurement framework of international migrant workers



Concepts and Definitions

For-work international migrants (Para. 22):

- ... aims to measure the movements of persons from one country to another for the purpose of undertaking or seeking work.
- **For-work international migrants** are all international migrants workers who entered the country of measurement during a specific reference period for the purpose of undertaking or seeking employment and whose intention was documented or declared at the time of entry to the country.
 - a) The specified reference period for the measurement of for-work international migrants should be long such as 12 months;
 - b) They are distinguished from other international migrants who enter the country primarily for reasons not related to undertaking or seeking employment;
 - c) The term “undertaking or seeking employment” is understood to mean engaging in employment or seeking and being available for employment;
 - d) The term “documented or declared” is understood to mean documented in official immigration registers or declared to relevant immigration authorities at the time of entry.

Concepts and Definitions



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Return international migrant workers (Para. 23):

- Intends to provide a basis for measuring the work experiences of international migrant workers.
- Defined as all current residents of the country (of measurement) who were previously international migrant workers in another country or countries.
 - a) The measurement of return international migrant workers does not depend on the current labour force status of persons in the country of current residence.
 - b) They also include those current residents of the country of measurement who were working aboard without being usual residents of the country in which they worked.
 - c) Recommended to have a relatively short duration of labour attachment (6 months -cumulative) in the country of destination.
 - d) It is recommended that the reference period for the date of return (to be counted as return migrant workers) should be relatively long, such as last 12 months or last 5 years, or it may be left open and then classified by date of return.

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Special categories of workers



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Included, categories are not exhaustive and not mutually exclusive (Para. 20):

- Frontier workers,
- Seasonal workers, itinerant workers, project-tied workers, specified-employment workers,
- Self-employed workers,
- Seafarers (including fishermen),
- Workers employed on an offshore installation, etc.

Excluded (Para. 21):

- Foreign military and diplomatic personnel,
- International travellers on tourism trips with no purpose of working, etc.

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Data collection issues

- For a comprehensive sets of international labour migration statistics, including special categories, information may come from diverse sources, and these should be treated as complementary (Para. 54).
- Useful to distinguish the sources of stock and flow statistics as follows:
 - Sources generating stock statistics;
 - Sources generating flow statistics;
 - Sources that can generate both flow and stock statistics;
 - Other sources such as targeted sample surveys.
- Within each data source, special methodologies (sampling procedures) should be developed to deal with the particular measurement issues concerning international labour migration (Para. 55). For example measuring non usual residents, or special subcategories.



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