Labour statistics and gender data gaps – ongoing ILO methodological work

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Background – statistical standards

Several important statistical standards adopted or under development

- **19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS)** Resolution I – work employment and labour underutilization (2013)
  - Recognition and definition of paid and unpaid work for measurement
  - Additional measures of labour underutilization to support unemployment estimates
- **20th ICLS – Resolution I – work relationships (2018)**
  - More detailed classification of status in employment plus classification of status at work
- **21st ICLS – Informality statistics (2023 – forthcoming)**
  - Refined and more detailed standards covering informality

Advancing social justice, promoting decent work
1. Promote implementation through advocacy and support

2. Provide guidance, capacity building and technical assistance

- General strategy to promote a flexible and modular LFS
- Different topics can be covered at different frequencies built on a common LFS base
- Adaptable to national context
- Extensive pilot studies and country engagement to build evidence for guidance
- 2015 – 2017: Pilot studies with 10 countries and 5 model questionnaires to develop core LFS questionnaire based on 19th ICLS standards
- 2017 – 2019: Joint pilot study with World Bank in Sri Lanka to study differences in outcomes from different types of surveys
- Various key findings highlighting sensitivity of survey design to measurement of women’s work in particular
- New indicators fill some key gender data gaps (if applied with good methods)

https://ilostat.ilo.org/resources/lfs-resources/
https://ilostat.ilo.org/about/lfs-research-and-development/
Current projects

Measurement of unpaid domestic and care work

- Started in 2020 with support of Data2x and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Focus on developing and testing ‘light’ time-use measurement approaches suitable for modular attachment to LFS
- Modules developed with multiple measurement objectives in mind (including monitoring of SDG indicator 5.4.1) and harmonised to existing and emerging UN guidance on time use statistics
- Qualitative and quantitative tests assess alternative module formats performance, quality implications, and adaptations to field operations
- Piloting focussed in India, Lesotho
- Guidance and model modules scheduled for 2023

Engendering informality statistics

- Started in 2021 with support of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Focus on improving gender relevance of statistics on informality
  - Testing new questionnaire content to deliver necessary range of information through LFS
  - Assessing use of informality statistics to inform policy making
- Qualitative and quantitative tests in Uganda and Peru now completed – reporting and guidance publication during 2023
- Topics covered include asset use in businesses, ICT use in businesses, business motivation, earnings etc.
New ILOSTAT data series:

- Global and regional time series estimates of informal employment by gender
- Global and regional “jobs gap” estimates - measures unmet demand for employment that disproportionately affects women.
- Labour income gaps by gender - measures gaps in income earned by working (whereas wage gap estimates don’t cover half of the global workforce).
- New indicators by household type and marital status
- New database on work statistics based on 19th ICLS including indicators on own-use production of goods
- Country-level data on care employment (forthcoming)
Future activities

Guidance publication incrementally during 2023

ICLS in October 2023 (new informality statistical standards)

Other topics will be addressed over time - potential topics

• Care work
• Digital platform work
• Subsistence work

Ongoing advocacy and support for implementation of latest standards and good measurement practices

Ongoing expansion of range of published data from microdata