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

All highly gender relevant

Highlight key differences in working and labour market experiences of women and men

Promote measurement of all work, both paid and unpaid

More in depth overview of unmet need for employment

ILO strategic approach to implementation

International Labour Organization

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/

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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

  - Providing inputs to development of new standards with a gender focus (https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/working-papers/WCMS_861882/lang--en/index.htm)

  - 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.

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Data publication

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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

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