



International Labour Organization  
Organisation internationale du Travail  
Organización Internacional del Trabajo

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*Updating the  
International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)*

*Draft ISCO-08 Group Definitions:  
Occupations in Social*

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**ISCO 08 Code****263****Title EN****Social and religious professionals****Lead Statement**

Social and religious professionals conduct research, improve or develop concepts, theories and operational methods, and apply knowledge related to human development, behaviour, beliefs, societies and economies. They provide services to support the social, emotional, spiritual and economic well-being of individuals and families in a community.

Tasks performed usually include: formulating and applying solutions to present or projected economic, political or social problems; researching into and analyzing past events and activities and tracing the origin and evolution of the human race; studying mental processes and behaviour of individuals and groups; providing social and spiritual services; preparing scholarly papers and reports; conducting religious services and perpetuating sacred traditions, practices and beliefs.

**Included occupations**

Occupations in this minor group are classified into the following unit groups:

- 2631 Economists
- 2632 Sociologists, anthropologists and related professionals
- 2633 Philosophers, historians and political scientists
- 2634 Psychologists
- 2635 Social work and counselling professionals
- 2636 Religious professionals

**Excluded occupations****Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****2631****Title EN****Economists****Lead Statement**

Economists conduct research, monitor data, analyze information and prepare reports and plans to resolve economic and business problems and develop models to analyze, explain and forecast economic behaviour and patterns. They provide advice to business, interest groups and governments to formulate solutions to present or projected economic and business problems.

**Task statement**

Tasks include:

- (a) forecasting changes in the economic environment for short-term budgeting, long-term planning and investment evaluation;
- (b) formulating recommendations, policies and plans for the economy, corporate strategies and investment, and undertaking feasibility studies for projects;
- (c) monitoring economic data to assess the effectiveness, and advise on the appropriateness, of monetary and fiscal policies;
- (d) forecasting production and consumption of specific products and services based on records of past production and consumption and general economic and industry-specific conditions;
- (e) preparing forecasts of income and expenditure, interest rates and exchange rates;
- (f) analyzing factors that determine labour force participation, employment, wages, unemployment and other labour market outcomes;
- (g) applying mathematical formulae and statistical techniques and apply to test economic theories and devise solutions to economic problems;
- (h) compiling, analyzing and interpreting economic data using economic theory and a variety of statistical and other techniques;
- (i) advising on economic policy and possible courses of action in the light of past, present and projected economic factors and trends;
- (j) preparing scholarly papers and reports;
- (k) examining problems related to the economic activities of individual companies;
- (l) conducting research on market conditions in local, regional or national areas to set sales and pricing levels for goods and services, to assess market potential and future trends and to develop business strategies.

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Econometrician
- Economic adviser
- Economic policy analyst
- Economist
- Labour economist

**Excluded occupations**

- Statistician - 2120

**Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****2632****Title EN****Sociologists, anthropologists and related professionals****Lead Statement**

Sociologists, anthropologists and related professionals investigate and describe the structure of societies, the origin and evolution of humanity, and the interdependence between environmental conditions and human activities. They make the knowledge obtained available as a basis for policy decisions.

**Task statement**

Tasks include:

- (a) conducting research on the origin, development, structure, social patterns, organizations and inter-relationships of human society;
- (b) tracing the origin and evolution of humanity through the study of changing characteristics and cultural and social institutions;
- (c) tracing the development of humanity through the material remains of its past, such as dwellings, temples, tools, pottery, coins, weapons, or sculpture;
- (d) studying physical and climatic aspects of areas and regions, and correlating these findings with economic, social and cultural activities;
- (e) advising on the practical application of these findings in the formulation of economic and social policies for population groups and regions, and for the development of markets;
- (f) preparing scholarly papers and reports.

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Anthropologist
- Archaeologist
- Ethnologist
- Geographer
- Sociologist

**Excluded occupations****Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****2633****Title EN****Philosophers, historians and political scientists****Lead Statement**

Philosophers, historians and political scientists conduct research into the nature of human experience and existence, phases or aspects of past human activities, and political structures, movements and behaviour. They document and report on findings to inform and guide political and individual actions

**Task statement**

Tasks include-

- (a) researching, mostly by reasoning, into the general causes, principles and meanings of the world, human actions, experience and existence, and interpreting and developing philosophical concepts and theories;
- (b) consulting and comparing primary sources, such as original or contemporary records of past events, and secondary sources such as archaeological or anthropological findings;
- (c) extracting relevant material, checking its authenticity, and researching into and describing the history of a particular period, country or region, or a particular facet - for example economic, social or political - of its history;
- (d) conducting research in such fields as political philosophy, or past and present theory and practice of political systems, institutions or behaviour;
- (e) observing contemporary political institutions and opinions, collecting data on them from various sources, including interviews with government and political party officials and other relevant persons;
- (f) presenting findings and conclusions for publication or use by government, political parties or other organizations and interested persons;
- (g) preparing scholarly papers and reports.

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Historian
- Philosopher
- Political scientist

**Excluded occupations**

Political adviser - 2422

**Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code**  
**2634**  
**Title EN**  
**Psychologists**

**Lead Statement**

Psychologists research into and study the mental processes and behaviour of human beings as individuals or in groups, and apply this knowledge to promote personal, social, educational or occupational adjustment and development.

**Tasks statement**

Tasks include -

- (a) planning and carrying out tests to measure mental, physical and other characteristics such as intelligence, abilities, aptitudes, potentialities, etc., interpreting and evaluating results, and providing advice;
- (b) analyzing the effect of heredity, social, occupational and other factors on individual thought and behaviour;
- (c) conducting counselling or therapeutic interviews with individuals and groups, and providing follow-up services;
- (d) maintaining required contacts, such as those with family members, educational authorities or employers, and recommending possible solutions to, and treatment of, problems;
- (e) studying psychological factors in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illnesses and emotional or personality disorders, and conferring with related professionals;
- (f) preparing scholarly papers and reports;
- (g) formulating achievement, diagnostic and predictive tests for use by teachers in planning methods and content of instruction;
- (h) conducting surveys and research studies on job design, work groups, morale, motivation, supervision and management.

**Included occupations**

- Clinical Psychologist
- Educational Psychologist
- Organizational Psychologist
- Psychotherapist
- Sports psychologist

**Excluded occupations**

**Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****2635****Title EN****Social work and counselling professionals****Lead Statement**

Social work and counselling professionals provide advice and guidance to individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations in response to social and personal difficulties. They assist clients to develop skills and access resources and support services needed to respond to issues arising from unemployment, poverty, disability, addiction, criminal and delinquent behaviour, marital and other problems.

**Task statement**

Tasks include:

- (a) interviewing clients individually, in families, or in groups, to assess their situation and problems and determine the types of services required;
- (b) analyzing the client's situation and presenting alternative approaches to resolving problems;
- (c) compiling case records or reports for courts and other legal proceedings;
- (d) providing counselling, therapy and mediation services and facilitating group sessions to assist clients to develop skills and insights needed to deal with and resolve their social and personal problems;
- (e) planning and implementing programs of assistance for clients including crisis intervention and referral to agencies that provide financial assistance, legal aid, housing, medical treatment and other services;
- (f) investigating cases of abuse or neglect and taking action to protect children and other at risk persons;
- (g) working with offenders during and after sentence, to help them to integrate into the community and to change attitudes and behaviour in order to reduce further offending;
- (h) providing advice to prison governors and to probation and parole review boards that help determine whether, and under what conditions, an offender should be incarcerated, released from prison or undergo alternative correctional measures;
- (i) acting as advocates for client groups in the community and lobbying for solutions to problems affecting them;
- (j) developing prevention and intervention programs to meet community needs;
- (k) maintaining contact with other social service agencies, educational institutions and health care providers involved with clients to provide information and obtain feedback on clients' overall situation and progress.

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Addictions counsellor
- Bereavement counsellor
- Child and youth counsellor
- Family counsellor
- Marriage counsellor
- Parole officer
- Probation officer
- Social worker
- Women's welfare organizer

**Excluded occupations**

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Welfare worker - 3412

**Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****2636****Title EN****Religious professionals****Lead Statement**

Religious professionals function as perpetrators of sacred traditions, practices and beliefs. They conduct religious services, celebrate or administer the rites of a religious faith or denomination, provide spiritual and moral guidance and perform other functions associated with the practice of a religion.

**Task statement**

Tasks include:

- (a) perpetuating sacred traditions, practices and beliefs;
- (b) conducting religious services, rites and ceremonies;
- (c) undertaking various administrative and social duties, including participating in committees and meetings of religious organizations;
- (d) providing spiritual and moral guidance in accordance with the religion professed;
- (e) propagating religious doctrines in own country or abroad;
- (f) preparing religious sermons and preachings,
- (g) developing and directing study courses and religious education programmes;
- (h) counselling individuals regarding interpersonal, health, financial, and religious problems;
- (i) scheduling and participating in special events such as camps, conferences, seminars, and retreats.

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Bonze
- Imam
- Minister, religion
- Poojari
- Priest
- Rabbi

**Excluded occupations**

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Lay preacher - 3413
- Monk - 3413
- Nun - 3413

**Notes**

Members of religious orders whose work involves performing the tasks of other occupations, for example as teachers, nurses or welfare support workers, should be classified according to the main tasks and duties performed in the job.

**ISCO 08 Code****3412****Title EN****Social work associate professionals****Lead Statement**

Social work associate professionals administer and implement social assistance programs and community services and assist clients to deal with personal and social problems.

**Tasks Statement**

Tasks include:

- (a) collecting information relevant to clients' needs and assessing their relevant skills, strengths and deficits;
- (b) helping physically or mentally handicapped persons to obtain services and to improve their ability to function in society;
- (c) assisting clients to identify options and develop plans of action while providing necessary support and assistance;
- (d) assisting clients to identify and access community resources including legal, medical and financial assistance, housing, employment, transportation, assistance with moves, day care and other referral services;
- (e) counselling clients living in group homes and half-way houses, supervising their activities and assisting in pre-release and release planning;
- (f) participating in the selection and admission of clients to appropriate programs;
- (g) providing crisis intervention and emergency shelter services;
- (h) implementing life skills workshops, substance abuse treatment programs, behaviour management programs, youth services programs and other community and social service programs under the supervision of social work or health care professionals;
- (i) assisting in evaluating the effectiveness of interventions and programs by monitoring and reporting on clients' progress;
- (j) maintaining contact with other social service agencies, schools and health care providers involved with clients to provide information and obtain feedback on clients' overall situation and progress.

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Community development worker
- Community service worker
- Crisis intervention worker
- Disability services officer
- Family service worker
- Life skills instructor
- Mental health worker
- Welfare support worker
- Women's shelter supervisor
- Youth worker

**Excluded occupations**

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Marriage counsellor - 2635
- Parole officer - 2635
- Probation officer - 2635
- Social worker - 2635

**Notes**

**ISCO 08 Code****3413****Title EN****Religious associate professionals****Lead Statement**

Religious associate professionals provide support to ministers of religion or to a religious community, undertake religious works, and preach and propagate the teachings of a particular religion.

**Tasks include**

Tasks include:

- (a) undertaking religious works;
- (b) preaching and propagating the teachings of a particular religious faith;
- (c) assisting at services of public worship and religious rites;
- (d) providing religious education, spiritual guidance and moral support to individuals and communities;
- (e) administering and participating in programs to provide food, clothing and shelter to those in need.

**Included occupations**

Examples of the occupations classified here:

- Lay preacher
- Monk
- Nun

**Excluded occupations**

Some related occupations classified elsewhere:

- Bonze - 2636
- Imam - 2636
- Minister - 2636
- Poojari - 2636
- Priest - 2636
- Rabbi - 2636

**Notes**