Preface

This 9th edition of the Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM) is being issued by the ILO Department of Statistics for the first time. The series dates back to 1999 and was previously published by the ILO's Employment Sector. As part of the ILO reorganization in 2012, the Department of Statistics was mandated to consolidate all existing ILO statistical databases into ILOSTAT, the successor to LABORSTA and other databases published in the past by the ILO. ILOSTAT is the largest repository of labour statistics in the world, covering all dimensions of decent work.

The KILM builds on the data reported by countries to ILOSTAT and it is enriched by external statistical sources from other organizations including Eurostat, OECD, UNESCO and the World Bank. KILM relies on internationally comparable data derived from statistical standards agreed by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Indicators in the database are disaggregated wherever possible, with the goal of identifying key trends and priority groups for labour market interventions.

It is a user-friendly and easy to understand database, containing 17 indicators that capture the most important aspects of the world's labour markets. In a joint collaboration with the ILO Research Department, it also includes global, regional and national estimates for selected indicators. These estimates are explicitly identified in the database and follow methodologies that are reviewed and improved with the release of each edition.

The publication of this edition occurs at an opportune and important time, as the global community has just adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda calls for a "data revolution" to strengthen the production and dissemination of statistics in all domains in order to better understand developments at the national, regional and global levels and thereby enable better informed policy-making.

The indicator framework to track progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is currently being discussed by countries and the international organizations with a goal to complete the work by the end of 2016. The framework will build on existing indicators and will also embrace the new ones.

Inclusive and sustainable economic growth and full and productive employment and decent work for all is the overarching objective of Goal 8 of the Agenda. Many of the indicators on key aspects of decent work will build on existing ones and databases like KILM will help to set benchmarks and to monitor labour markets around the world.

This edition of KILM also provides thematic discussions of the educational level of the labour force and unemployment. It analyses trends in the share of youth who are not in employment, education or training, the so-called NEETs. Reducing the size of this group is a specific target within Goal 8 of the SDGs.

There are many organizations and colleagues who are acknowledged in the next section but I want to especially thank the producers of the data reported here: national statistical offices, ministries of labour and other national institutions who diligently, carefully, and often with scarce resources, produce each survey, registry, census and other statistical sources to shed light on the world of work, carefully following international definitions and standards and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

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