

Labour Market Information and Trends

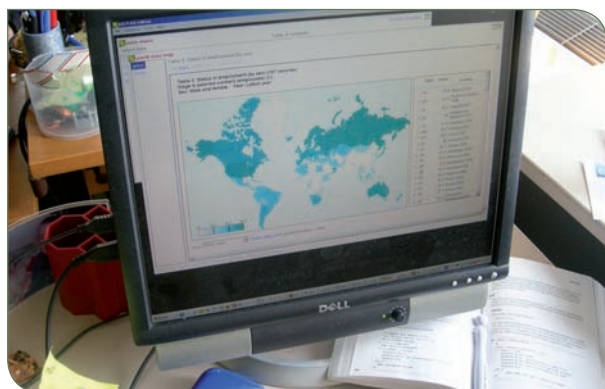
The Challenge

The formulation, monitoring and evaluation of national policies on decent work should be based on set of accurate and up-to-date employment data generated through labour market information and analysis (LMIA) systems.

LMIA systems consist of three main elements:

- collection and compilation of data and information;
- analytical capacity and tools; and
- institutional arrangements and networks.

The global economic crisis and its impact on labour markets have heightened even further the need for consistent monitoring of labour markets at all levels, and thus the need for reliable LMIA systems which can be effectively used in developing employment policies. In many developing economies however this poses serious challenges, due to resource and other constraints.



The ILO Response

All ILO work on employment derives its current mandate from the Global Employment Agenda (2003) and the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (2008). The Employment Trends Programme supports the development of effective country-level LMIA systems and produces LMIA to inform global, regional and national decent work policies.

ILO work to assist countries develop LMIA systems is carried out both through specific interventions such as support for data collection or the development of special purpose analytical tools, and through more comprehensive approaches including dedicated projects or project components. For example, a project to improve the LMIA system in Pakistan, completed in 2009, included activities to support all three elements. Other countries where the ILO supports LMIA activities include Afghanistan, Egypt, Liberia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.



The Employment Trends programme focuses its work on three major products:

Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM), a multi-functional research tool of the ILO. The KILM includes a comprehensive database of country-level data on 20 key indicators of the labour market from 1980 to the latest available year. Each indicator is accompanied by descriptions of the standard international definition of the concept and measurement procedures, guidelines on how the indicator can be used in analyses of labour market issues, and words of caution on comparability limitations. Readers are

guided on the value of using multiple indicators to develop a broader view of labour market developments. The KILM therefore serves as a tool for policy-makers and researchers in monitoring and assessing many of the pertinent issues related to the functioning of labour markets.

Global Employment Trends (GET) series. The GET series reviews global and regional economic and labour market developments based on the most recently available data with a view to developing information and analysis that is essential for promoting full, decent and productive work for all, including women and young people. Building on the KILM, the GET reports include a consistent set of tables with regional and global estimates of labour market indicators. Each issue of Global Employment Trends also contains a short-term labour market outlook based on projections or scenarios, focusing on unemployment, vulnerable employment and working poverty. The reports have been published on a yearly basis since 2003, with special editions analysing labour market trends for segments of the population such as youth (2004, 2006 and 2008) and women (2004, 2007, 2008 and 2009), or for certain regions. The January 2009 issue focused on the labour market impact of the global economic crisis. An update of the crisis impact was issued in May 2009. The gender impact of the crisis was the main subject of *Global Employment Trends for Women* in March 2009.

Millennium Development Goals (MDG) employment indicators. In 2008 a new MDG target on “achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people” was introduced together with four employment indicators. The ILO raises awareness on the MDG employment-related indicators and offers country-level support to ensure that these indicators are used in national and international labour market monitoring systems. Work on the new MDG indicators includes the organization of workshops to support country-level analysis and to highlight the linkages between the MDG employment indicators and the decent work agenda.

Key Tools and Resources

ILO. 2009. *Trends econometric models: A review of the methodology* (Geneva).

ILO. 2009. *Guide to the new Millennium Development Goals employment indicators: Including the full set of decent work indicators* (Geneva). See also the series of Millennium Goals Reports, <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>.

ILO. 2010. *Women in labour markets: Measuring progress and identifying challenges* (Geneva).

ILO. 2010. *Key Indicators of the Labour Market*, 6th edition (Geneva).

ILO. 2010. *Global Employment Trends* (Geneva).

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