



International labour migration: Concepts, definitions and statistical sources

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Workshop on Labour migration statistics
28 – 29 November 2017, Colombo, Sri Lanka

- International legal instrument
- Statistical definitions
 - International migrant
 - Migrant workers
 - Remittances
- Sources
- Measurement in household surveys
- ILOSTAT: Data collection processes

International legal instrument

- *UN International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families*
 - Adopted in 1990 by the UN General Assembly resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990
 - Legal definition that can serve as basis for statistical measurement

Migrant worker: refers to a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national

Categories of migrant workers: UN Convention (1990) I

1. **Frontier worker**

- migrant worker who retains his or her habitual residence in a neighbouring State to which he or she normally returns every day or at least once a week

2. **Seasonal worker**

- refers to a migrant worker whose work by its character is dependent on seasonal conditions and is performed only during part of the year;

3. **Seafarer** (including fishermen)

- refers to a migrant worker employed on board a vessel registered in a State of which he or she is not a national;

Categories of migrant workers: UN Convention (1990) II

3. Worker on an offshore installation

- migrant worker employed on an offshore installation that is under the jurisdiction of a State of which he or she is not a national;

4. Itinerant worker

- migrant worker who, having his or her habitual residence in one State, has to travel to another State or States for short periods, owing to the nature of his or her occupation;

5. Project-tied worker

- migrant worker admitted to a State of employment for a defined period to work solely on a specific project being carried out in that State by his or her employer

Categories of migrant workers: UN Convention (1990) III

6. Specified-employment worker:

- Sent by employer for defined period of time to undertake a **specific assignment or duty**; or
- Who engages for defined period of time in work that requires professional, commercial, technical or other **highly specialized skill**; or
- Who, upon the request of an employer in the State of employment, engages for a restricted and defined period of time in **work whose nature is transitory or brief**

• Self-employed worker

- Engaged in remunerated activity otherwise than under a contract of employment and who earns a living through this activity working alone or together with family members

International statistical standards

- No agreed framework for statistics on migrant workers
- In use:
 - **International migration statistics (UN)**
 - **Main objectives:** Demographic accounting of population (immigration/emigration & population change)
 - **ILO working definitions**
 - **Main objectives:** Characterize labour market dynamics, impact, inform employment & labour migration policies
- To meet both objectives:
 - Need use of coherent concepts, definitions, methods

Statistical definitions:

International migrant (UN)

- UN International recommendations on statistical measurement of international migration (1997):
 - **International migrant:**
 - Any person who **changes** his or her **country of usual residence**
 - **Identifies two groups:**
 - Long-term international migrants
 - Basis for statistics on **immigrants** and **emigrants**
 - Short-term international migrants

Statistical definitions:

International migrant (UN)

- **Usual residence:**

- UN Recommendations on P&H Censuses, rev. 2



- Place at which a person has **lived continuously for at least 12 months**, not including temporary absences for holidays, work assignments, **or intends to live for at least 12 months**
 - Place at which a person has lived continuously for most of the last 12 months (i.e. for at least 6 months and 1 day), not including temporary absences for holidays, work assignments, or intends to live for at least 6 months

Usual residence determined on the basis of duration of stay

Statistical definitions:

International migrant (UN)

Long term migrant:

- A person who moves to a country other than that of his/her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination becomes his/her new country of usual residence

Emigrant	Immigrant
-Leave the country by crossing the border	-Enter the country by crossing the border
-Be a usual resident of country of origin	-Not a usual resident of country when entering
-Stay (intend to stay) abroad for at least 1 yr	-Stay (intend to stay) in the country for at least 1 yr
*Excludes diplomats, consular corps, members of armed forces, nomads, border workers	

Statistical definitions:

International migrant (UN)

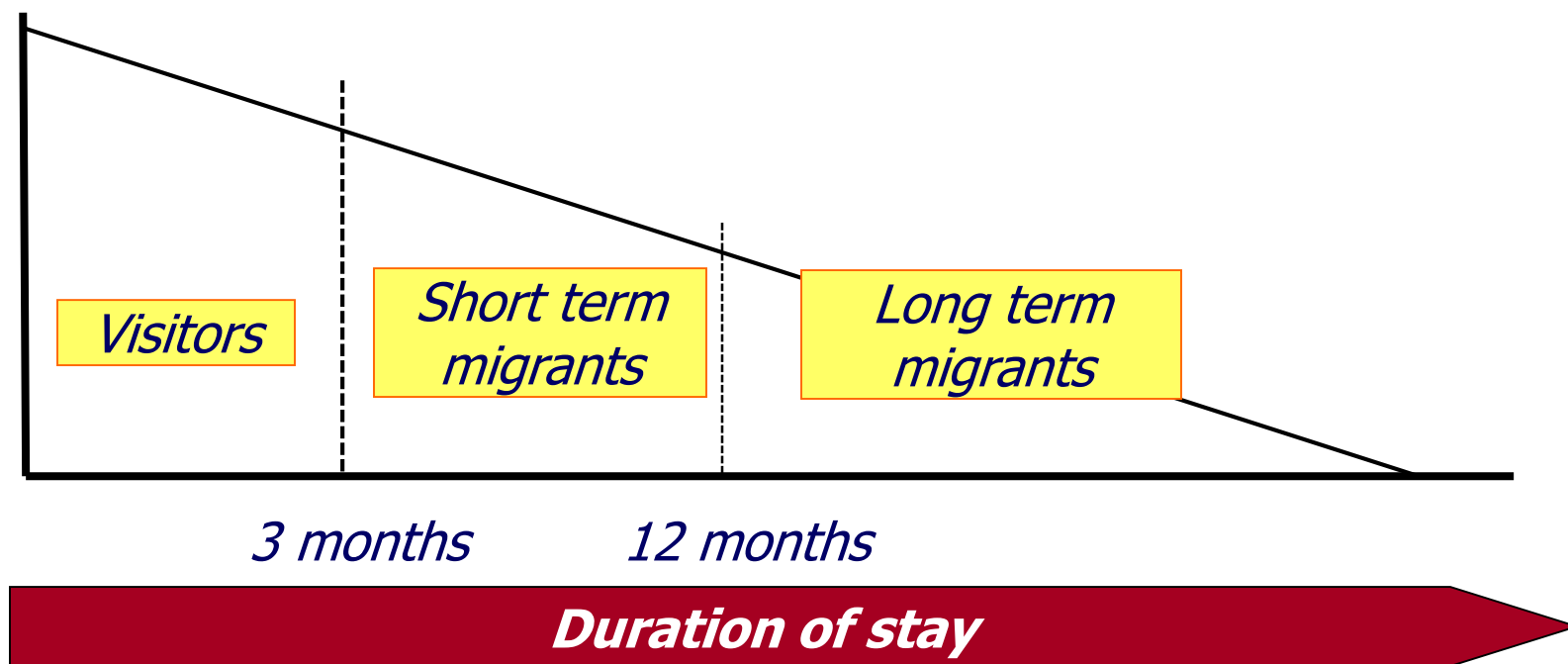
Short term migrant:

- A person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of **at least 3 months but less than a year (12 months)**
- Except in cases where the move is for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage

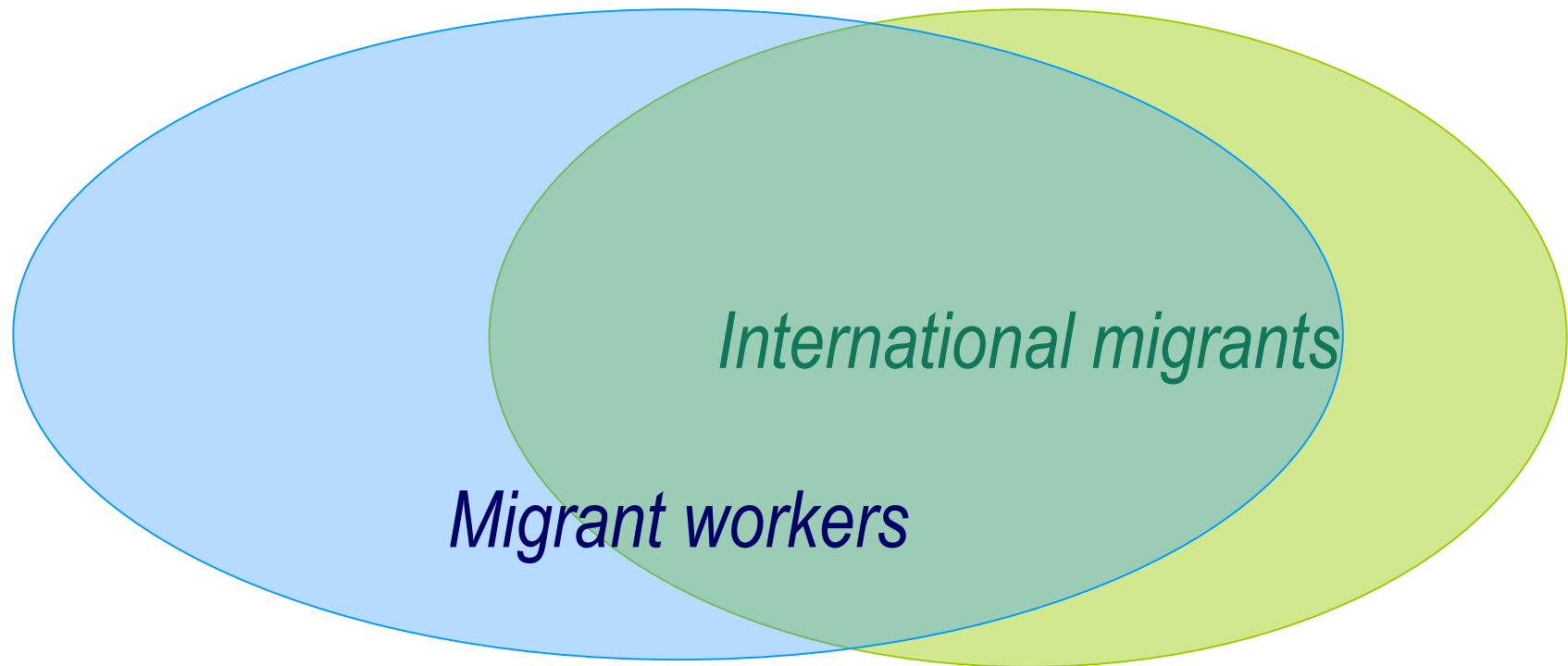
Statistical definitions:

International migrant (UN)

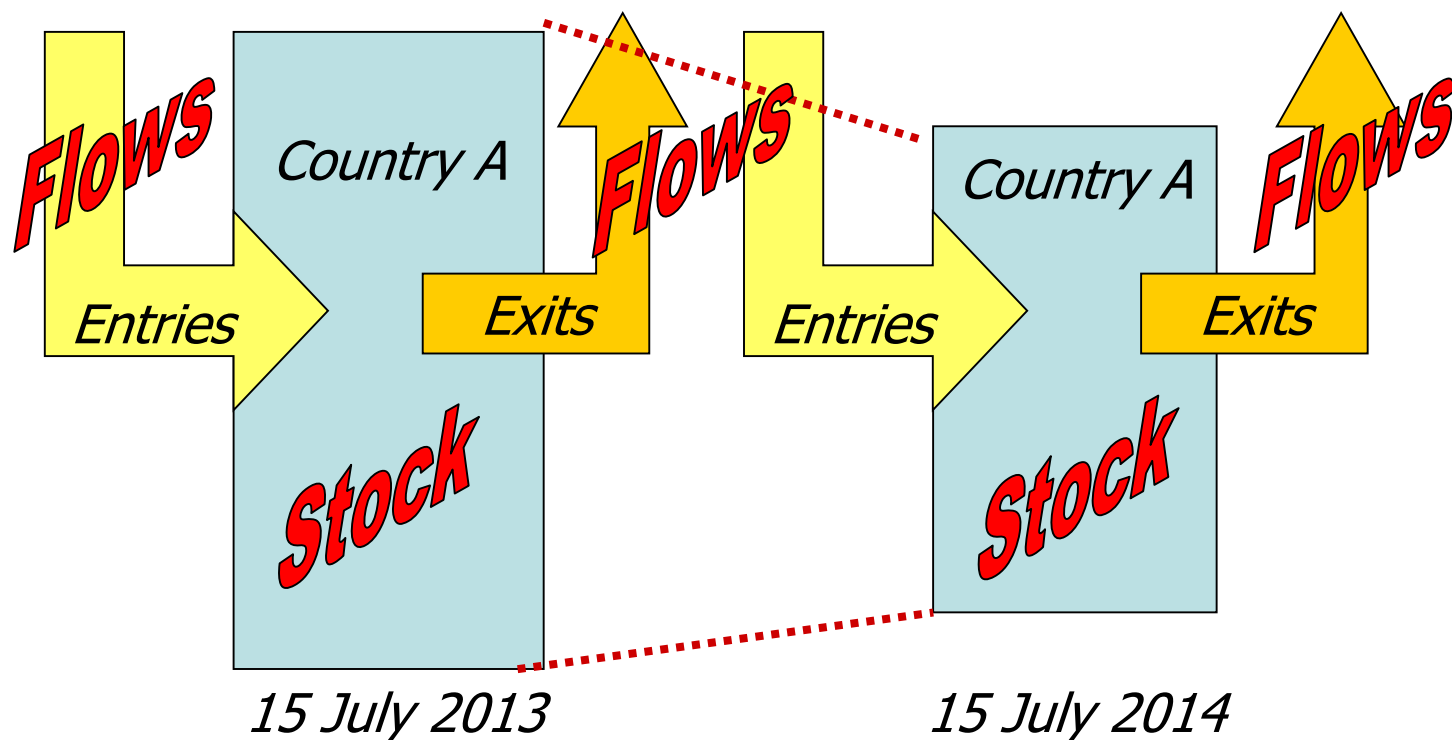
- Principal measurement criteria:
 - Move from one country to another country by crossing a border
 - Change in usual residence
 - Minimum duration of stay (3+, 12+)



Relation between international migration & migrant workers



Stocks and flows



Stock: Number of migrants present in a country at a specified reference date

Flow: Number of migrants that changed country of residence during a specified reference period

Stocks and flows: Groups of interest

- Stock of foreign workers (*immigrants*)
- Stock of migrants workers abroad (*emigrants*)
- Inflow of foreign workers
- Outflow of migrant workers
- Return flow of migrant workers

Working statistical definitions: Migrant workers I

- **Stock of foreign workers:**
 - Foreign-born persons (*non-citizens*)* who at a particular date or a during specific reference period would be counted as being **employed or unemployed in the country**.
- **Stock of migrant workers abroad:**
 - Native-born persons (*citizens*)* who at a particular date or during a specific reference period would be counted as being **employed or unemployed in another country**.

Working statistical definitions:

Migrant workers II

- **Inflow of foreign workers:**

- Foreign-born persons (*non-citizens*)* who during a particular reference period arrived in the country with the objective to take employment there.

- **Outflow of migrant workers:**

- Native-born persons (*citizens*)* who during a particular reference period left the country with the objective to take employment in another country.

- **Return flow of migrant workers:**

- Native-born persons (*citizens*)* who during a particular reference period returned to their country after having been employed or unemployed in another country.

Working statistical definitions: Migrant workers III

- **Essential criteria**

- Border crossing
- Purpose of move: To seek work for pay/profit or To work for pay/profit
- Labour force status
- Country of birth
- *Citizenship**

**Due to its relevance to inform employment policies that define labour market rights on the basis of citizenship.*

Note: Change in usual residence & duration of move not essential as they exclude groups of short-term migrant workers

How to identify both: international migrants & migrant workers

- **Common elements:**
 - Border-crossing
 - Country of origin (usual residence/birth) / destination
- **Additional elements needed:**
 - Duration of trip
 - at minimum: less than 3 mo./ 3 mo. to less than 12 mo./ 12+ mo.
 - Duration in country of origin
 - As per definition of usual residence
 - Purpose of trip
 - at minimum: seek work for pay/profit; work for pay/profit
 - Labour force status

Remittances: International Standards

- IMF, Balance of Payment Statistics (BPM6)
 - Household income from foreign economies arising mainly from the temporary or permanent movement of people to those economies
 - Include cash and non-cash items that flow through formal or informal channels across borders
 - Funds and non-cash items sent or given by individuals who have migrated to a new economy and become residents there
 - Net compensation of border, seasonal, and short-term workers who are temporarily employed in an economy in which they are not resident

Remittances: Components

– **Compensation of employees**

- Income earned by workers in economies where they are not resident (or from non-resident employers).
- Comprises wages, salaries, and other benefits (in cash or in kind) earned by individuals—in countries other than those in which they are residents—for work performed for and paid for by residents of those countries.
- Includes seasonal, other short-term workers and border workers

– **Personal transfers**

- All current transfers between residents of one economy and residents of another, regardless of source of income, relationship between households, and purpose of transfer.

Remittances: Core items

Individual (current/return migrants)

- Remittances sent in ref. period
- Recipients of remittances
 - Household, other
- *Countries*
- Type (cash, in kind)
- Duration
- Frequency & amounts
- Channels for transfer
- Uses of remittances

Household

- Remittances received in a reference period (12 months)
- Relationship of senders to HH
- Kind (cash, in kind)
- Frequency & amounts
- Channels for transfer
- Uses of remittances
- *Transfers made to other countries*

Data sources

- Administrative records
- Population and housing censuses
- Household surveys

Administrative records

Produced as a by-product of the regular functions of an agency or institution

Advantages

- Best suited to measure flows
- Compiled continuously
- Cost effective
- Data relates to the application of rules regulations

Disadvantages

- Data not always reported for statistical use
- Coverage limited to admin. process
- Limited information on characteristics of migrants
- Information may relate to entries/exits not to number of ILM

Types of administrative records

Inflow of labour migrants

- New entry or immigration visas
- New permission to work in the country
- Reports from recruitment agencies
- Reports to tax offices or social security authorities
- Apprehension of people crossing borders without documents

Types of administrative records

Outflow of labour migrants

- New permissions to work abroad
- Reports from recruitment agencies
- New exit permits or emigration visas
- New members of special insurance schemes

Population Censuses

Advantages

- Complete enumeration
- Best to measure stocks
- For basic characteristics
- Benchmark data
- To evaluate & produce national estimates from sample surveys
- Sampling frame & sample design

Disadvantages

- Infrequent - every 10 years
- Only few questions on each topic can be included
- If de jure, can exclude groups of recent ILM

➤ *For data quality: (i) publicity campaigns to promote complete enumeration
(ii) rules used to determine usual residence (if de jure)*

Household surveys

Advantages

- Best to determine labour characteristics
- Can be used to study causes and consequences of migration
- Can be used to make intercensal stock estimates
- Frequent information

Disadvantages

- Small sample size
- Sample design often not optimized to capture ILM
- Coverage tends to exclude foreign population and those living in group quarters

➤ For data quality consider: (i) prevalence of migration and (ii) geographic distribution of migrants in the sample design; (iii) coverage of foreign population; (iv) field procedures to reduce underreporting

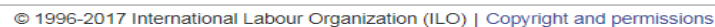
Good practices to improve statistics

Promote:

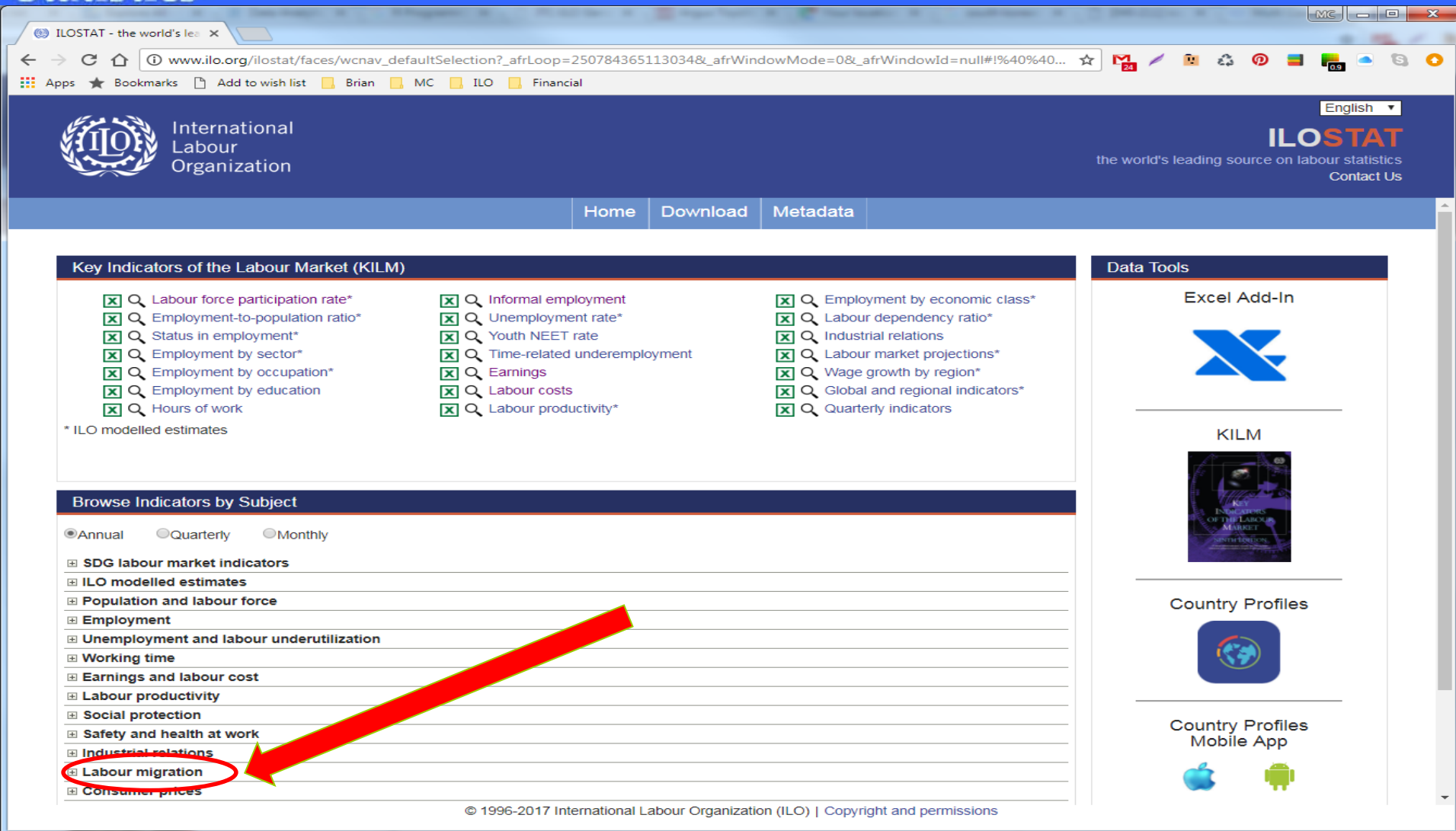
1. Inclusion of essential questions in population census
2. Inclusion of migration modules in large-scale household surveys with adequate sample design/size
3. Compilation and release existing administrative data for statistical purposes
4. Harmonization of concepts and definitions across data sources
5. Dissemination of census data tabulations by native/foreign-born status, duration of stay, and basic economic characteristics (LF status, main occupation, industry, status in employment)
6. Sharing of census data on foreign-born population across countries

Survey design issues

- **Rules for defining (usual) household membership**
- Need to take into account:
 - Extent of short term labour migration in the country
 - Main objectives of the data collection
 - Coherence with other statistics
- Important to define treatment of
 - Border workers
 - Seasonal workers
 - Itinerant workers
- If work abroad only for short periods <12 months –best to include as usual members of the household
- Those spending 12+ months abroad are not to be treated as usual household members.



Access to Labour migration



The screenshot shows the ILOSTAT website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ILO logo and the text 'International Labour Organization'. Below this, there is a search bar and a language selector set to 'English'. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM):** This section lists various indicators with checkboxes. A red arrow points to the 'Labour migration' indicator, which is circled in red.
- Browse Indicators by Subject:** This section allows users to filter indicators by frequency (Annual, Quarterly, Monthly) and subject. The 'Labour migration' indicator is highlighted in this section.
- Data Tools:** This section includes links to 'Excel Add-In', 'KILM', 'Country Profiles', and 'Country Profiles Mobile App'.

At the bottom of the page, there is a copyright notice: '© 1996-2017 International Labour Organization (ILO) | Copyright and permissions'.

International Labour migration tables

 Hours of work

 Labour productivity

 Quarterly indicators

* ILO modelled estimates



statistics by reading this new
Quick Guide on Sources and
Uses of Labour Statistics

Browse Indicators by Subject

☒ Social protection

☒ Safety and health at work

☒ Industrial relations

☒ Labour migration

International migrant stock

- ▶ Resident population by sex, total and migrants
- ▶ Working-age population by sex and education, total and migrants
- ▶ Working-age population by sex, total and migrants
- ▶ Migrants by country of origin
- ▶ Labour force by sex and age, total and migrants
- ▶ Employment by sex and age, total and migrants
- ▶ Employment by sex and status in employment, total and migrants
- ▶ Employment by economic activity, total and migrants
- ▶ Employment by occupation, total and migrants
- ▶ Employed migrants by country of origin

Nationals abroad

- ▶ Stock of nationals abroad by sex and country of residence
- ▶ Outflow of nationals by sex and country of destination
- ▶ Outflow of nationals for employment by sex and country of destination
- ▶ Outflow of nationals for employment by sex and education
- ▶ Outflow of nationals for employment by economic activity
- ▶ Outflow of nationals for employment by occupation

International migrant flow

- ▶ Inflow of working-age migrants by sex and education
- ▶ Inflow of migrants by sex and country of origin
- ▶ Inflow of employed migrants by economic activity
- ▶ Inflow of employed migrants by occupation
- ▶ Mean monthly employment-related income of employed persons by sex, total and migrants
- ▶ Median monthly employment-related income of employed persons by sex, total and migrants

☒ Consumer prices

Data Tools

Excel Add-In



R-ILOSTAT



SDMX API



Country Profiles



Country Profiles
Mobile App



Excel template questionnaire on labour migration statistics



- Planned links being prepared (not yet active)
 - Afghanistan: <http://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/xQ/MIG/html/AFG.html>
 - Bangladesh: <http://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/xQ/MIG/html/BGD.html>
 - Bhutan: <http://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/xQ/MIG/html/BTN.html>
 - India: <http://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/xQ/MIG/html/IND.html>
 - Iran: <http://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/xQ/MIG/html/IRN.html>
 - Maldives: <http://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/xQ/MIG/html/MDV.html>
 - Nepal: <http://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/xQ/MIG/html/NPL.html>
 - Pakistan: <http://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/xQ/MIG/html/PAK.html>
 - Sri Lanka: <http://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/xQ/MIG/html/LKA.html>

Note: Template discussed in 3rd Workshop on International Labour Migration Statistics in the Asia and the Pacific, 25-27 September 2017, Interciti Hotel, Daejeon, Rep. of Korea

ILMS data request on migration

- To be launched in April 2018
 - Data due July/Aug
- Email from ILMS_QUEST@ilo.org
 - To: ILMS focal points
 - cc: Heads of agencies
- Provides link to country-specific HTML page

Sample HTML page: Migration questionnaire

1. Instructions
2. Contacts
3. Data availability



ILO-KOSTAT International Labour Migration Statistics (ILMS) Questionnaire: KOREA, REPUBLIC OF

Table of contents

- INSTRUCTIONS
- CONTACTS
- DATA AVAILABILITY

INSTRUCTIONS

Using the Excel file below, please provide the latest data available and historical revisions if necessary. Detailed instructions are available in the [Guide to reporting international labour migration statistics \(ILMS\)](#) to the ILO using the Excel questionnaire. Data should be submitted to ILMS_quest@ilo.org no later than **31 July 2018**.

[ILO-KOR-MIG-2018-ALL.xlsx](#)

CONTACTS

The 2018 ILO questionnaire was sent to the following contacts on 1 April 2018:

Agency	Name	Job Title	Email
Ministry of Employment and Labor			
Ministry of Employment and Labor			
Ministry of Employment and Labor			
Ministry of Employment and Labor			
Ministry of Foreign Affairs			
National Statistical Office (NSO)			
National Statistical Office (NSO)			

Contact us at ILMS_quest@ilo.org if v

DATA AVAILABILITY

Below is the latest year available (as of 1 April 2018) for each indicator in ILOSTAT. Empty cells indicate that we have not received any data from your country for the indicator.

Topic	Indicator	Latest year	Survey name
International migrant stock	[606] Resident population by sex, total and migrants (Persons)	2015	Foreigner Labour Force Survey

ILMS questionnaire: indicators

[MST] International migrant stock

Population***

- Total
- Working-age

Labour force**

Employment***

Wages/Income*

[MNA] Nationals abroad

Stock of nationals
abroad*

Outflow of nationals*

- Total
- For employment

[MFL] International migrant flow

Inflow of migrants

- Total**
- Working-age*
- Returned*
- Employed**

LEGEND

- * Reported by < 15 countries
- ** Reported by 15-24 countries
- *** Reported by 25+ countries

ILMS questionnaire: classifications

Classification type	Target
Migrant status	Total, migrants (no line for non-migrants)
Sex	
Education	ISCED-2011
Economic activity	ISIC-Rev. 4
Occupation	ISCO-08
Country	• of origin • of destination • of residence

For the online questionnaire: Data unit as persons



Enter data in units



Not thousands

- Precision allows for more precise calculations for derived indicators (ex: participation rates)
- Data will be published in thousands
 - Conversion to thousands done automatically through our ILOSTAT questionnaire upload system

Metadata for online questionnaire: Concepts and methods

- Read tips/targets under each topic and indicator
- Refer to guide for further guidance
- Contact ILMS_QUEST@ilo.org for clarifications

42 **[606] Resident population by sex, total and migrants (Persons)**

43 **TARGET:** Total population (ages 0+) who were usual residents living in the country, regardless of their legal residency status or

44 citizenship.

45 **Source** [2] Foreigner Labour Force Survey

46 **COMPLETE IF DATA WERE REVISED**

Sex	Status	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Total	Total										
	Migrants										
Male	Total										
	Migrants										
Female	Total										
	Migrants										

47 **Notes (optional)**

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Sources MST MNA MFL +

READY

90%

Recommended data checks

- Sum of parts = Total
 - Ex: Males + Females = Total
 - Except where data for total and migrants (no line for non-migrants)
- Population > labour force > employment
- Youth < working-age 15+
- Inflows < migrant stock
- Outflows < population



Systemic checks required

- Metadata completed
- Data checks as specified by NSOs
- Consistency over time
 - Identify changes in table totals > 10%
- Consistency across datasets
 - Employment same as in regular annual data collection



Visit www.ilo.org/ilostat

Email us at ilostat@ilo.org or
ilostat_quest@ilo.org (for data reporting)

THANK YOU