Time-Use Statistics
(Report I, paras. 186-189)

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17 October 2018

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  • Growing time-use data demands
  • System of work statistics (19th ICLS)

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  • Publications on Time Use statistics
  • Review of country practices

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  • Methodological development & testing
Background: Paid/unpaid work time-use data demand

- **Decent work and Quality of employment**
  - Work-life balance

- **Beyond GDP**
  - Well-being, social and economic outcomes, satellite accounts

- **SDG Goal 5**
  - SDG Indicator: 5.4.1 - Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location

- **Future of work**
  - Care economy (paid/unpaid work), Women at work

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Background: System for work statistics (19th ICLS)

- **Identifies paid and unpaid forms of work**

- **Envisions a system based on different sources and frequency of collection:**
  - **LFS** as main source for monitoring labour markets
  - **Time-use surveys** as main source for own use provision of services; estimates of total working time
  - **Short add-on modules** for patterns of participation in specific forms of work and related characteristics
ILO participation in related Inter-Agency Expert Groups (i)

- UN Expert Group on the review of ICATUS (2016)
- UN Interagency Group on review of Guide on Producing Statistics on Time Use (2018-)
- Latin America regional TUS Meeting
- UN Interagency-Expert Group on Gender Statistics
- UN Global Forum for Gender Statistics

ILO participation in related Inter-Agency Expert Groups (ii)

- To promote coherence between 19th ICLS standards and International standards on Time-use statistics
ILO Publications relating to time-use statistics

- Draft Training Manual on Work, Gender and Time-Use Statistics (forthcoming)

ILO Review of national TU data collection practices (room doc. 18)

- Focus on methods to capture participation and spent in paid and unpaid forms of work
- To identify good practices
- As basis for methodological development
- With support from Data 2x
Findings: Time-use data collection (2000-2016)

| Table 1 Time-use sources by survey type and geographic region (2000-2016) (n=117) |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
|                                  | Africa | Americas | Arab States | Asia and Pacific | Europe and Central Asia | Total |
| **Large sample**                 |       |          |             |                |                         |       |
| Independent survey               | 6     | 12       | 2           | 11              | 32                       | 63    |
| Module                           | 9     | 19       | 2           | 4               | 5                        | 39    |
| Integrated questions             | 0     | 2        | 0           | 0               | 0                        | 2     |
| **Small Sample**                 |       |          |             |                |                         |       |
| Pilot                            | 1     | 1        | 0           | 4               | 6                        | 12    |
| Unavailable details              | 0     | 0        | 0           | 1               | 0                        | 1     |
| **Total**                        | 16    | 34       | 4           | 20              | 43                       | 117   |

Source: Authors’ elaboration based on UNSD Time use data portal

- Independent TUS most prevalent in Europe, Central Asia, Asia
- TU Modules in other surveys most prevalent in Americas, Africa

Approaches used in TU data collection (i)

- **Diary-based (full or light):**
  - Respondents describe their activities over a given time-period
  - Respondents may define start / end time for each activity or
  - Report activities for fixed time slots (e.g. every 10 min, every hour)

- **Stylized retrospective questions:**
  - Focus on capturing participation in designated activities without asking respondent to report the timing in the day when activities took place

  “Yesterday (Last week), how much time did you spend on activity X?”
Approaches used in TU data collection (ii)

Time-use sources by geographic region and measurement approach (2000-2016) (n=117)

- Most common to use Diary-based approaches
- Stylized retrospective questions most common in Americas

Diary-based approaches: Contextual variables

- Contextual variables (for whom, paid/unpaid, location, ...) are needed to identify different forms of work

Table 10 Time-use source by type and typology of context variables for diary-based methods (2000-2016) (n=89)

- Essential contextual variables are not always captured
- Captured generally only in Independent TU surveys
Diary-based approaches: Simultaneous activities

- Particularly relevant for measuring unpaid household provision of services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Independent survey</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Pilot</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diary-based approaches</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stylised questions</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unavailable details</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>117</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Authors’ elaboration based on UNSD Time use data portal

- Most common in independent Diary-based TU surveys
- Stylized retrospective question seldom identify simultaneous activities

Time Use modules: Type of parent survey

- Different parent surveys used
- LFS is one of the main parent surveys
Time Use modules: Diary and Stylized approaches

Table 12 Time-use modules by typology of parent survey and methods (2000-2016) (n=39)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Diary-based approaches</th>
<th>Stylized questions</th>
<th>Unavailable details</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household Budget Survey</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour Force Survey</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Standards Measurement Survey</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socio-economic Survey</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unavailable details          0  0  1  1  1  Total

Source: Authors' elaboration based on UNSD Time use data portal

- **Mix of diary-based and stylized questions used in TU modules**

Time Use modules using diary-based approaches

Table 13 Time-use diary-based modules by type of diary (2000-2016) (n=21)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Full diary</th>
<th>Light diary</th>
<th>Unavailable details</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household Budget Survey</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour Force Survey</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Standards Measurement Survey</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socio-economic Survey</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total

Source: Authors' elaboration based on UNSD Time use data portal

- **Some use full diaries, others use light diaries**
- **No light diaries with LFS identified**
Concluding remarks

• Time-use methods are main approach for statistics on own-use provision of services
• Severe data gaps
• Variety of survey methods with different measurement approaches, designs, reference periods, etc.
• Strong need for improving harmonization and international comparability
• Strong demand for technical assistance in collecting time-use data on productive activities in particular

Ways forward

• ILO developing testing strategy
  • Based on accumulated experience / guidance
  • To capture, in particular,
    • Participation & time-spent in own-use production work, including unpaid domestic and care work
    • Volume of work (time) in productive activities
• Focus on modular approaches for integration with LFS
  • Module design, field operations, sampling day/person
• In collaboration with
  • interested countries, agencies, development partners
• To contribute to UN Inter-Agency Expert Group on TUS
Points for discussion

• Comments on ongoing work in time-use methods to improve measurement of own-use provision of services

• Support for work on developing guidance on how time-use methods may be used in modules for integration with LFS