Promotion and ratification of ILO Convention No. 160 (1985) on Labour Statistics
Participants in the Conference are invited to express their views on the feasibility of ratifying the Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160), and to consider and evaluate the urgency of its ratification in the case of the countries that have ratified the Convention concerning Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work, 1938 (No. 63), in view of the upcoming abrogation of Convention No. 63 in 2024. The countries concerned are Algeria, Barbados, Chile, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Kenya, Myanmar, Nicaragua, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.

Les participants à la Conférence sont invités à donner leur avis quant à la possibilité de ratifier la convention (n° 160) sur les statistiques du travail, 1985, et à considérer, après évaluation, le caractère urgent de cette ratification dans le cas des pays ayant ratifié la convention (nº 63) concernant les statistiques des salaires et des heures de travail, 1938, compte tenu de l’abrogation prochaine de cette même convention en 2024. Les pays concernés sont l’Afrique du Sud, l’Algérie, la Barbade, le Chili, Cuba, Djibouti, l’Égypte, la France, le Kenya, le Myanmar, le Nicaragua, la République arabe syrienne, la République-Unie de Tanzanie et l’Uruguay.

Se invita a los participantes en la Conferencia a que expresen sus puntos de vista sobre la viabilidad de ratificar el Convenio sobre estadísticas del trabajo, 1985 (núm. 160) y a que consideren y evalúen la urgencia de su ratificación en el caso de los países que han ratificado el Convenio sobre estadísticas de salarios y horas de trabajo, 1938 (núm. 63), en vista de la próxima derogación de este último en 2024. Los países en cuestión son Argelia, Barbados, Chile, Cuba, Djibouti, Egipto, Francia, Kenya, Myanmar, Nicaragua, la República Árabe Siria, la República Unida de Tanzania, Sudáfrica y el Uruguay.
Introduction

ILO is a normative institution

Main mission is that of setting and promoting labour standards and rights at work

Article 10.1 of the ILO’s Constitution (1919)

“The functions of the Office shall include the collection and distribution of information relating to the international adjustment of conditions of industrial life and labour…”

International labour standards on labour statistics

- Convention No. 63 – Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work (1938)
International (labour) standards on labour statistics

What are international labour standards?

Legal instruments drawn up by the ILO’s constituents (governments, employers and workers) setting out basic principles and rights at work

- Conventions (or Protocols) - legally binding international treaties
- Recommendations - non-binding guidelines

What are international standards on labour statistics?

Resolutions and guidelines adopted by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians

- Resolutions - non-binding, technical but general
- Guidelines - non-binding guidelines, more specific topics
### International labour standards on labour statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section of the Convention</th>
<th>Convention No. 63</th>
<th>Convention No. 160</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Provisions</strong></td>
<td>Art 1 Obligation to compile, publish and communicate statistics relating to wages and hours of work</td>
<td>Art 1 Obligation to regularly collect, compile and publish basic labour statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Art 2 Ensures that the Convention remains up-to date by requiring States to take into consideration the latest ILO (including the ICLS) standards and guidelines when designing or revising concepts, definitions and methodologies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Art 3 Protection of confidentiality of information</td>
<td>Art 4 Protection of confidentiality of information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Labour Statistics</strong></td>
<td>Art 5-12 Average earnings and hours actually worked in mining and manufacturing industries (including building and construction)</td>
<td>Art 7-8 Labour force (economically active population, employment, unemployment and visible underemployment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Art 13-21 Time rates of wages and of normal hours of work in mining and manufacturing industries (including building and construction)</td>
<td>Art 9-10 Wages and working time (average earnings and hours of work)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Art 22 Wages and hours of work in agriculture</td>
<td>Art 11 Labour cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Art 11 Labour cost</td>
<td>Art 12 Consumer price indices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Art 13 Household income and expenditures</td>
<td>Art 14 Occupational injuries and diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Art 15 Industrial disputes</td>
<td>Art 16 Requires States to accept the obligations of one or more Articles in Part II, and to indicate with which Article(s) of Part II it undertakes to comply. States may progressively accept the obligations of additional Articles from Part II.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acceptance of obligations</strong></td>
<td>Art 2 Allows ratifying states to exclude from its acceptance of the Convention: (a) Any one of Parts II, III, or IV; or (b) Parts II and IV; or Parts III and IV.</td>
<td>Art 17 Provides for progressive expansion by enabling States to place limits on the scope of the statistics collected pursuant to the Article(s) of Part II which the State accepts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proposed abrogation of Convention No. 63

- Since 1988, Convention No. 63 has been closed to further ratifications.
- 2018: the Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group considered Convention No. 63 to be outdated
  - Recommended the ILC to consider its abrogation at its 112th session in 2024

Standard Review Mechanism and its Tripartite Working Group

- Aim: ensure that international labour standards are clear, robust, up-to-date, and respond to changing patterns of the world of work
- Makes recommendations to the ILO Governing Body on the status of standards
- Instruments determined to be outdated may be proposed for abrogation or withdrawal.
- Abrogation of ILO Conventions means that these standards are no longer part of the ILO’s body of standards and cease to bind any country that has ratified them
2018 ICLS - Call for ratification of Convention no. 160

20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (2018)

“Given the benefits of ratification of C160 both for the ratifying country and the ILO, the Office strongly encourages countries not having ratified it to explore the possibility of doing so.”

Convention No. 160

- Relevant
- Comprehensive
- Flexible
- No too demanding
Ratification of Convention No. 160

- SRM TWG encouraged the Office to actively promote the ratification of Convention No. 160 and provide the necessary technical assistance in this regard.

- In view of the proposed abrogation of **Convention No. 63**, as a priority, the Office is following-up with member States and non-metropolitan territories currently bound by Convention No. 63.
  - ‘Remedial ratification’ of Convention No. 160 - ratification of the up-to-date Convention related to the outdated Convention proposed for abrogation.

- **Convention No. 2 on Unemployment (1919)** - ‘remedial ratification’ of Convention No. 160.
  - Article 1 - Each ratifying Member State is bound to communicate all available information, statistical or otherwise, concerning unemployment.
Ratifying member States

Convention No. 63 (14 countries)

- Algeria (1962)
- Barbados (1967)
- Chile (1957)
- Cuba (1954)
- Djibouti (1978)
- Egypt (1940)
- France (1951)
- Kenya (1964)
- Myanmar (1961)
- Nicaragua (1981)
- South Africa (1939)
- Syrian Arab Republic (1960)
- United Republic of Tanzania (1962)
- Uruguay (1954)

Convention No. 160 (51 countries)

- Sierra Leone (2022)

- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe and Central Asia
- Americas
- Africa
- Arab States

Convention No. 2
(33 countries concerned)

- Argentina
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Central African Republic
- Chile
- Colombia
- Djibouti
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Estonia
- Ethiopia
- France
- Guyana
- Iceland
- Japan
- Kenya
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Myanmar
- Nicaragua
- North Macedonia
- Papua New Guinea
- Romania
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Slovenia
- South Africa
- Sudan
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Türkiye
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
# Data availability in countries bound by Convention No. 63

## C160 and ILOSTAT data availability, selected countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Data reporting</th>
<th>ILOSTAT questionnaire responses</th>
<th>Microdata sharing</th>
<th>19th ICLS application</th>
<th>Data coverage (latest year available in ILOSTAT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbadhos</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not since 2017</td>
<td>LFS, HS (SLC)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2019 2019 0 2022 0 2022 2016 2016 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yearly</td>
<td>HS (CASEN), LFS (ENE)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2022 2022 2022 2021 2019 2022 0 2018 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td></td>
<td>Once in 2011</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2017 2014 2010 2021</td>
<td>0 2008 0 2010 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td></td>
<td>Never</td>
<td>HS (EDAM)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2017 2017 2017 2022 0 2022 0 2008 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yearly</td>
<td>LFS, SWTS</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2021 2021 2021 2022 0 2022 2008 2018 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yearly</td>
<td>LFS (EE)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2022 2022 2022 2023 2022 2022 2021 2020 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td></td>
<td>No longer requested</td>
<td>LFS</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2020 2020 2020 2022 0 2020 0 2019 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania, United Republic of</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not since 2014</td>
<td>LFS, NHHS, NPS, SWTS</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2020 2020 2020 2022 0 2022 2014 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yearly</td>
<td>ECH</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2022 2022 2022 2020 0 2022 0 2018 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A value of 0 indicates no data.

Source: ILOSTAT
Data availability under Convention No. 160

C160 ratification and ILOSTAT data

- Number of ratifying countries having accepted the corresponding article
- Number of countries for which post-2015 data is available in ILOSTAT

Source: ILOSTAT and NORMLEX

21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians
Data availability under Convention No. 160

Reporting obligation on ratifying member States

- Effective implementation of Articles accepted
- Submitting Article 22 reports to the ILO’s Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations every 6 years
  - Data (and underlying methodology) is considered duly reported if widely available:
    - Online at the NSO’s (or other competent national authority’s) website
    - Official publications by NSO (or other competent national authority)
    - Submitted to the ILO’s Department of Statistics via annual questionnaire or other arrangements
- No considerable issues noted by the CEACR
- No country has been examined before the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards
Ratification and effective implementation of Convention No. 160

Convention No. 160 – only binding international labour standard on labour statistics

- Highly relevant and up-to-date and is at the heart of ILO Department of Statistics
- Development tool and not a means of coercion: contribute to the development of solid and comprehensive national system of labour statistics

Why ratify Convention No. 160?

- Long-term commitment to systematic collection of labour statistics
- Gaining even more importance and relevance in times of big data
  - SDG monitoring efforts and ILO’s ongoing effort to provide indicator framework for measuring social justice
  - Data collection related to other ILO Conventions (unemployment, violence and harassment and OSH)
- Provides valid grounds for requesting and raising funding for assistance

Process of ratification ILO Conventions

- Close collaboration between ILO, Government and relevant national agencies (NSOs)
- Decision is taken – in most cases – by the parliament (or other legislative body)
- Acceptance of articles need to be communicated together with ratification to the ILO
Ratification and effective implementation of Convention No. 160

Next steps

- Priority focus – 14 countries bound by Convention 63
  - Meeting to be organized with representatives of countries concerned with participation of ILO officials (NORMES and STATISTICS) to discuss viability of ratification
  - Office will provide technical guidance to the follow-up at the country level with the involvement of NSOs and relevant ministries
- Office will continue to devote efforts to assist ALL countries to ratify and effectively apply Convention No. 160
  - Department of Statistics – continues to contribute to cross-Office collaboration to follow-up the SRM TWG’s recommendations
    - Development of internal plans of action
    - Identification of opportunities for ratification
    - Provision of technical oversight of the implementation
Participants in the Conference are invited to express their views on the feasibility of ratifying the Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160), and to consider and evaluate the urgency of its ratification in the case of the countries that have ratified the Convention concerning Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work, 1938 (No. 63), in view of the upcoming abrogation of Convention No. 63 in 2024.

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Thank you!

sari@ilo.org