



International
Conference of
Labour Statisticians
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ILO Global Activities - Updates on Arab States

Introduction

The ILO Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS) leads several initiatives to support the National Statistics Offices in the Arab states in implementing the international standards on statistics of work, employment, and labour underutilization as adopted in the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS); and in adapting the new resolutions as presented in the 20th ICLS.

The ILO – ROAS provides technical support and guidance in all areas relating to labour statistics such as LFS implementation including questionnaire design, tabulation, data analysis, and others.

The ILO-ROAS monitors the progress and production of SDG indicators of which the ILO is custodian.

► Labour Statistics in COVID-19 times

- The COVID-19 pandemic affected data collection activities and regular survey planning in the Arab States region.
- The ILO Regional Office for the Arab States therefore assisted the Central Administration of Statistics in Lebanon in conducting its first ever telephone-based household survey – a follow-up LFS – in 2022.
- The questionnaire covered topics relating to the impact of COVID-19 and the final report, prepared with the support of the ILO, included an analysis of the pandemic's effect on the labour market.

► Technical support in labour statistics

Iraq

Conduct of first LFS in a decade

- In 2020–2021, the ILO assisted the Central Statistical Organization and the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office in Iraq in conducting the first LFS in a decade.

Lebanon

Conduct of 2 LFS in line with 19th ICLS

- In 2018-2019, the ILO provided technical support to the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) in Lebanon to conduct its first LFS in line with the 19th ICLS recommendations.
- In 2022, the ILO supported CAS in conducting a follow-up LFS - first ever telephone-based household survey.

► Technical support in labour statistics

Jordan

Measurement of school to work transition

- The ILO provided support to the Jordanian Department of Statistics to derive estimates of youth employment and school-to-work transitions using data from the national LFS.

Measurement of violence and harassment at work

- The ILO has developed preliminary survey tools to be tested in Jordan for enhanced knowledge and improved measurement of data related to violence and harassment at work.

Current status of LFS implementation in the Arab States

Country	Latest LFS	Periodicity
Syria	2010	-
Yemen	2013-2014	-
Oman	2016	-
Kuwait	2016-2017	-
Bahrain	2018-2019	-
Iraq	2021	-
Lebanon	2022	-
UAE	2022	Annually
OPT	2022	Quarterly
KSA	2022	Quarterly
Qatar	2022	Quarterly
Jordan	2022	Quarterly

► Technical assistance in LMIS

Saudi Arabia

The ILO is providing technical support to the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (MHRSD) in KSA to improve the operationalization of its implemented LMIS.

Jordan

The ILO is providing technical support to the Ministry of Labour (MoL) in Jordan to implement and operationalize its first LMIS.



► Microdata Sharing

- Processing microdata is a cornerstone of the ILO's statistical endeavours, yielding a rich set of labour statistics by harnessing household surveys from Member States throughout the world.
- This process involves establishing a protocol to access anonymized microdata files, harmonizing microdata variables, and generating a comprehensive set of standardized indicators following stringent quality assurance procedures.
- Collaboration remains pivotal throughout the entirety of this process, as ILOSTAT staff engage in regular communication with Member States.
- This ongoing engagement ensures data accuracy and provides a platform for addressing any queries or reservations that Member States might have.

ILO Region	Member States with publicly and freely available microdata	Member States with whom an MOU is in place (or microdata shared directly with the ILO Department of Statistics)
Arab States	Lebanon	Iraq, Jordan, KSA, UAE, Yemen

► Improving measurement of informality statistics

Developing labour statistics with a focus on informality in the Arab region

- The ILO is implementing, in collaboration with WIEGO, a regional project funded by the Ford Foundation entitled Developing labour statistics with a focus on informality in the Arab Region.
- The project is aimed at enhancing knowledge and capacity for improved data on employment in the region, in particular in terms of measuring informality through the development of a model questionnaire in Arabic based on ICSE-18 and through cognitive testing to harmonize definitions and terminologies used across the region.

► Improving measurement of informality statistics

Regional working group on informality statistics

- The ILO organized the Arab States' "Preparatory Regional Meeting of Labour Statisticians" in August 2022 which included 8 participating countries (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen).
- Arab countries agreed on the need to continue the work to striving towards more harmonization in the region in the measurement of the informal employment and informal sector.

► International Labour Migration Statistics

Assessment of labour migration statistics in the Arab States

- The ILO-ROAS is currently undertaking the first assesment of labour migration statistics in the Arab States in collaboration with an experienced team of experts from the Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population Programme (GLMM).
- The assesment serves as a review of the available data sources for labour migration by country and provides recommendations for data collection and processing at country level.
- The assesment will serve as a baseline to direct the development of labour migration statistics in the Arab States.

▶ **Trainings and capacity building activities**

The ILO organized various capacity building activities in the region since 2018.

Jordan

- ▶ Training on school-to-work indicators for officials from the Department of Statistics (2022).

Arab Region

- ▶ Series of webinars on SDG indicators in collaboration with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (October 2021 and June 2022).

GCC countries

- ▶ A preparatory workshop on the implementation of a harmonized household income and expenditure survey (May 2022).

▶ Trainings and capacity building activities

The ILO conducted in collaboration with Turin Training Center:

Arab Region

- ▶ Two editions of the “***Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy***” catered to the learning needs of Arabic speakers and aimed at building the capacity of junior statisticians across the Arab region.
- ▶ The first edition in October 2022 and the second edition in July-August 2023.
- ▶ A total of 49 participants attended the two editions, representing 14 countries (Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen);

Saudi Arabia

- ▶ A tailored training programme for the Ministry of Labour of Saudi Arabia entitled “***Labour market concepts and indicators***” for project managers and policymakers, with 20 participants (2019).

► Development of statistical resources

Arabic resources

To enhance knowledge of statistical standards and the latest ICLS resolutions, the ILO invested in the development of various statistical resources in Arabic. Important resources now available include:

- A harmonized Arabic translation of ISCO-08 (codes);
- An Arabic translation of the publication ***Decent work and the Sustainable Development Goals: A guidebook on SDG labour market indicators***;
- An Arabic translation of the 20th ICLS “***guidelines concerning statistics of labour migration***”.
- An Arabic translation of the draft resolution concerning statistics on the informal economy and an overview of statistical standards on the informal economy.

► Coordination with UN agencies

Supporting development of national statistical systems

The ILO is actively engaged with UN regional mechanisms to support the development of national statistical systems and to enhance SDG monitoring and reporting activities.

- The Data and Statistics Working Group led by the UN Regional Coordinator's Office in Lebanon.
- The Data Management and Analysis Committee led by the UN country team in Jordan.

Way forward

- ▶ Reduce international data gaps and expand the range of disaggregated, internationally comparable labour statistics published on ILOSTAT for the Arab States through increased microdata sharing.
- ▶ Increase availability of labour migration statistics.
- ▶ Continuous coordination with countries on SDG Reporting.
- ▶ Continuous provision of support for the implementation of international standards.
- ▶ Continuous support in LMIS implementation.

► **Thank you !**

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