

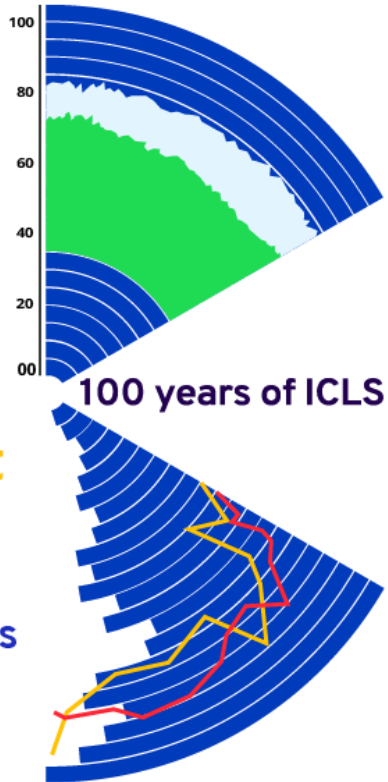


International
Labour
Organization



International
Conference of
Labour Statisticians

11-20 October 2023



The International Conference of Labour Statisticians

Historical moments

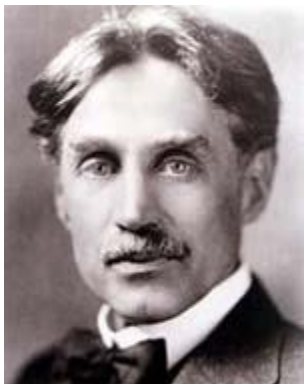
Dorothea Hoehtker (ILO Research)

▶ Albert Thomas – Social justice based on statistical evidence

Albert Thomas in his office



► Humble beginnings – The ILO Statistical Section in 1922



Royal Meeker, chief of the ILO's scientific division



First statistics of retail prices, published in the 1921 *International Labour Review*

	Australia	Austria	Belgium (c)	Canada (b)	Denmark (f)	Finland	France (i)	Germany (e)	India	Italy	Netherlands	New Zealand (e)	Norway	South Africa	Spain (g)	Sweden (d) (n)	Switzerland (d) (j)	United Kingdom (d)	U. S. A. (c)		
No. of towns or localities	30	Vienna	1,028 budgets	60	100	20	Paris	320	200	Calcutta	Rome	Milan	(m) Amsterdam	25	30	9	Chief towns	40	23 (k)	630	51
No. of items	46	12	22	29	—	37	13	13	15	46	9	38	—	18	12	50	37	20	43 (h)		
Base period	1911	July 1914	Apr. 1914	July 1914	July 1914	July 1914	1910	1910	1910	July 1914	1914	1st half 1914	1913	1909-1913	July 1914	1910	Apr. 1909 Mar. 1914	July 1914	June 1914	July 1914	1913
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)
1914 July	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1915 "	131	181	—	105	128	—	120	123	155	108	95	—	114	112	—	107	107	—	119	132	98
1916 "	130	386	—	114	146	—	129	142	210	110	111	—	117	119	160	116	113	152	141	161	109
1917 "	126	622	—	157	166	—	183	184	221	116	137	—	146	127	214	128	127	180	179	204	143
1918 "	131	1788	—	175	187	—	206	244	249	121	203	325	175	129	279	134	151	258	222	210	164
1919 "	147	3037	—	186	212	—	261	289	433	155	206	310	196	144	289	139	168	318	250	209	186
1920 Jan.	160	4620	381	206	251	898	290	—	520	153	275	412	197	158	295	177	180	—	238	235	197
" Feb.	162	—	400	212	—	909	297	—	588	154	299	418	199	160	294	187	—	—	231	233	196
" Mar.	163	—	450	215	—	915	339	319	667	151	300	406	199	162	298	183	—	287	234	235	196
" Apr.	173	5454	458	215	—	920	358	—	756	151	310	423	200	162	305	183	—	—	231	246	207
" May	177	—	444	224	—	914	378	—	894	159	325	445	202	163	311	188	—	—	238	255	211
" June	187	—	451	228	—	926	369	379	924	164	315	458	204	163	311	194	—	287	235	258	215
" July	194	5570	454	227	253	982	373	—	1005	170	318	445	210	167	319	197	189	—	239	262	215
" Aug.	194	5777	492	221	—	1089	373	—	1041	167	322	454	212	171	333	196	—	—	239	267	203
" Sept.	197	6206	500	215	—	1134	407	388	1091	166	324	468	217	173	336	195	—	298	248	270	199
" Oct.	192	6184	517	213	—	1172	420	—	1323	165	341	480	219	177	339	197	—	—	246	291	194
" Nov.	186	7131	505	206	—	1206	426	—	1421	161	361	515	214	176	342	196	—	—	236	282	189
" Dec.	184	8918	506	200	—	1233	424	450	1472	—	375	535	202	179	342	188	—	286	230	278	175
1921 Jan.	—	—	493	190	276	1174	410	—	1520	—	367	573	193	178	334	173	—	—	224	263	169
" Feb.	—	—	484	—	—	1107	382	—	1431	—	376	564	193	175	308	165	—	—	221	249	155
" Mar.	—	—	—	—	—	858	429	1418	—	386	582	—	169	—	—	—	—	247	218	238	154
" Apr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(a) Monthly figures relate to average of month.
 (b) Monthly figures relate to end of month.
 (c) Monthly figures relate to the 15th of the month.
 (d) Monthly figures relate to the 1st of the following month.
 (e) From 1915 to 1919 figures relate to November.
 (f) Average of selected weeks in the half year.
 (g) Figures give the average for the periods: April-September and October-March.
 (h) Until December 1920, 22 items.
 (i) Quarterly index. From 1914 to 1919, index for the third quarter of each year.
 (j) From 1914 to 1919 figures relate to 1 June.
 (k) From 1914 to 1919, figures relate to the whole country.
 (l) Until December 1920 figures relate to 15th of month; after January 1921, to the 1st of the following month.
 (m) From 1914 to 1919 figures relate to average for year.
 (n) For 1916 index relates to December, for 1917 to September.

Setting the scene – The first International Conference of Labour Statisticians (1923)

The *Kursaal* de Genève –
a prestigious venue

Source: *Notrehistoire.ch*



► The ICLS in the 1920s – A meeting of European experts?

Statisticians at the third
ICLS in 1926



► Cold War and Decolonization – New challenges for the ILO....

Delegates at the 1964
International Labour Conference



.....and its statistical work

Different work realities:
Agricultural workers in Sudan
(1960s)



► Modernizing ILO statistics – The 13th ICLS (1982)

Discussing technological change



19th ILCLS 2013 – A first ever international statistical definition of “work”

Household work in Myanmar
(2013)

