The International Conference of Labour Statisticians

100 years of ICLS

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***

### Table I: Index Numbers of Retail Prices of Food in Various Countries

**Base: July 1914 = 100**

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**Notes:**
- (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 1913 to 1916 figures relate to November.
- (f) Figures give the average for the period April-September and October-March.
- (g) Until December 1920, 22 States.
- (h) Quarterly index. From 1914 to 1916, index for the third quarter of each year.
- (i) From 1914 to 1918 figures relate to 2 items.
- (j) From 1914 to 1918 figures relate to the whole country.
- (m) From 1921 to 1925 figures relate to average for the year.
- (n) For 1921 index relates to December, for 1927 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 13\textsuperscript{th} ICLS (1982)

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

Household work in Myanmar (2013)