

Overview of the 19th ICLS "*Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization*"

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- Scope of new standards and concept of work statistics
- New concept of employment
- Labour force and labour underutilization

International standards setting in labour statistics

International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS)

- Global standard-setting mechanism in labour statistics
- ILO hosts & acts as Secretariat
- Meets every 5 years (since 1923)
- Tripartite structure: Governments (NSO, MoL), Employers' and Workers' representatives
- Observers: International and regional organizations, NGOs



ICLS Resolutions & Guidelines: Main Topics

- Work, employment, labour underutilization
- Child labour
- Working time
- Employment-related income
- Informal sector employment
- Informal employment
- ISCO (occupations)
- ICSE (status in employment)
- Household income and expenditure statistics
- Consumer price indices
- Occupational injuries
- Strikes and lockouts
- Social security
- Collective agreements
- Labour costs
- Gender mainstreaming
- Dissemination practices

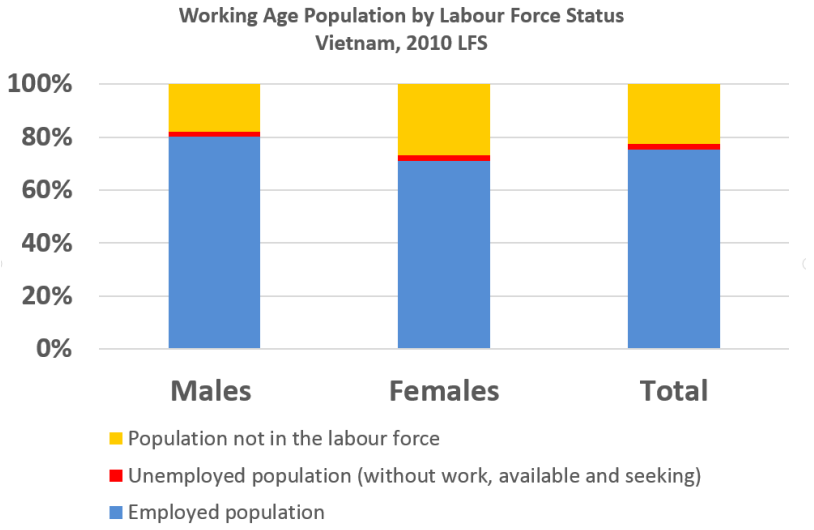
http://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/standards-and-guidelines/lang--en/index.htm

19th ICLS Resolution: scope and concept of work statistics

Why the need for revision? 18th ICLS and UNSC, 39th session (2008)

- In response to calls to **address limitations of unemployment** statistics (2003 job crisis; 2008 financial crisis)
- Provide measures of **labour underutilization**, beyond unemployment
- Recognize and provide framework for measurement of **all work, paid and unpaid**
- Respond to **emerging** social and economic information **needs** (not just labour market dynamics, but also household livelihoods, *beyond GDP indicators*, ...).

Illustration: Unemployment rate too limited to reflect labour market slacks



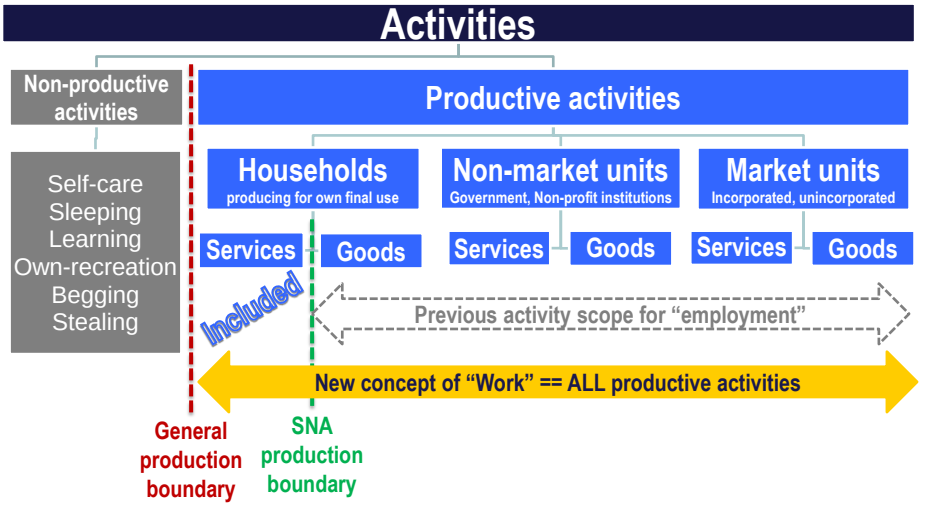
Concept of Work (§ 6, 19th ICLS Resol. I)

1st international statistical definition

"Any activity performed
by persons of any sex and age
to produce goods or to provide services
for use by others or for own use"

- Irrespective of legality, context and person status
- **Excludes**
  - Activities that do not satisfy the third person criterion
  - Activities that do not produce goods or services (begging,...)
- **Consistent** with the scope of productive activities
  - Within the SNA General production boundary
  - Complete accounting ("national" and "satellite" accounts)

Work and the 2008 SNA



Forms of work & basic concepts

- **Own-use production work**
  - Activities to produce goods & services **mainly for own final use by household**
- **Employment work**
  - Activities to produce goods & services [for others in exchange] **for pay or profit**
- **Unpaid trainee work**
  - Activities to produce goods & services for others performed **without pay in order to acquire workplace experience or skills**
- **Volunteer work**
  - **Non-compulsory** activities performed **without pay** to produce goods and services **for others**
- **Other work activities**
  - E.g. **Compulsory** activities performed **without pay** to produce goods & services **for others**

Persons in employment - Concept & main changes

Form of work: Employment



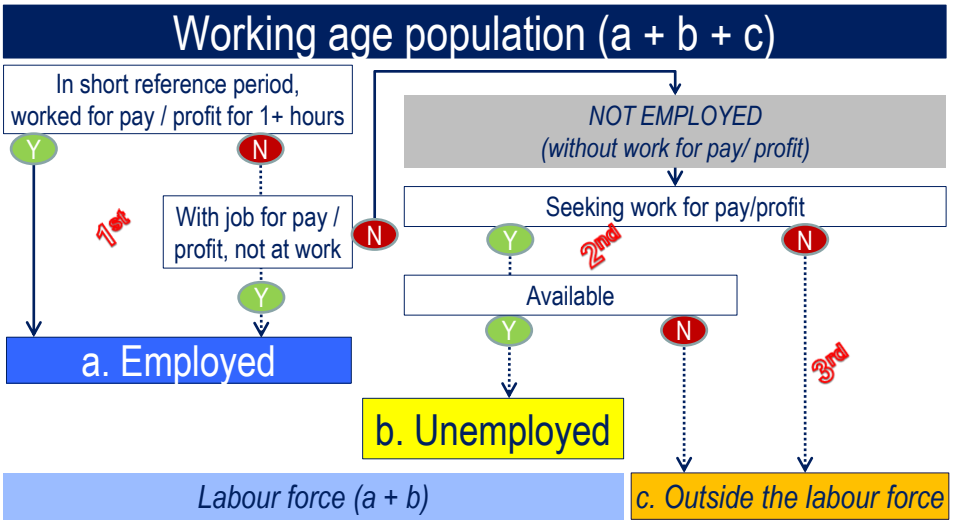
Persons in employment
Operational definition (19th ICLS Resol. I, § 27-32)

Persons of "working age who, during a short reference period", (last "seven days or one week", § 19.a), "were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit"

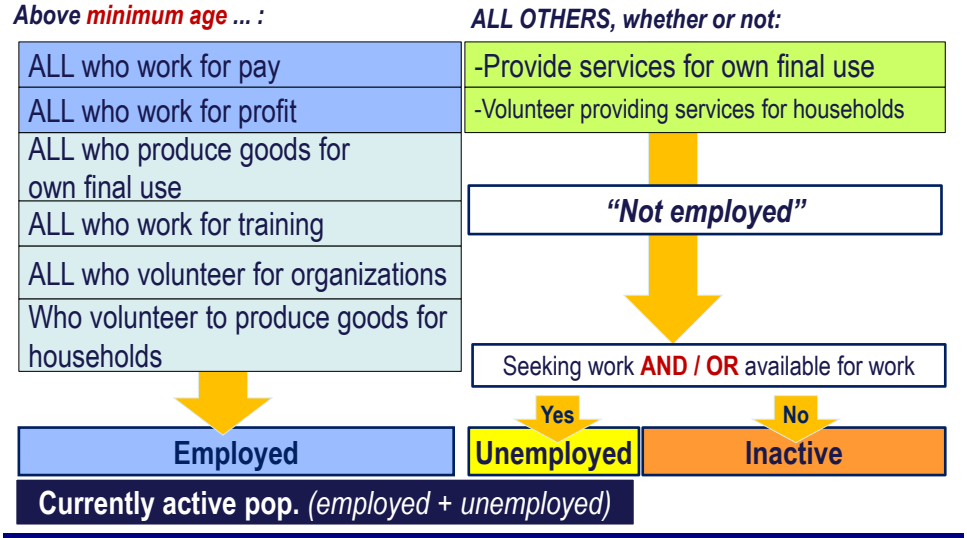
Two groups

- **Employed, at work**:
  - Worked for pay or profit for at least 1 hour
- **Employed, not at work**:
  - Worked already in the job, but not at work due to:
    - Working time arrangement (shift work, flexitime)
    - Temporary absence (expects to return within short period)

Labour force status classification



Employment & unemployment statistics as per previous standards....



Employment & Unemployment as per the NEW standards

Above minimum age ... :

ALL who work for pay

ALL who work for profit
- Employers
- Own account workers in market units
- Contributing family workers
- Members of market producer cooperatives

ALL OTHERS > age, whether or not:
- -Provide services for own final use
- -Volunteer providing services for households
- -Work unpaid for training
- -Produce goods for own final use
- -Volunteer through / for organizations
- Volunteer producing goods for households

"Not employed" (for pay/profit)

Seeking **AND** available for work for pay/profit

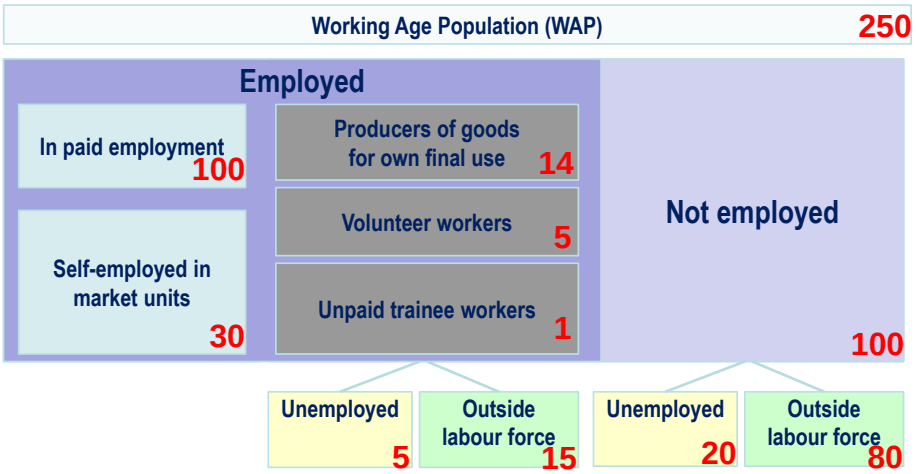
Yes → **Unemployed**

No → **Outside the labour force**

Persons in employment (work for pay / profit)

Labour force

Underutilized labour (with unmet need for employment, for pay/profit)



	13th ICLS (1982)		NEW 19th ICLS (2013)		Change
Employed	150	60.0%	130	52.0%	↓
Unemployed	20	11.8%	25	16.1%	↑
Labour force	170	68.0%	155	62.0%	↓
Outside labour force	80	32.0%	95	38.0%	↑

Labour force and Labour underutilization

Labour Force: Main changes Terminology

- **Labour force = Employed + Unemployed**
  (for pay / profit) (without employment + seeking + available)

  Supply of labour in exchange "for pay of profit" (Para 11, 19th ICLS Resolution)

  – No longer ~~"economically / currently active population"~~

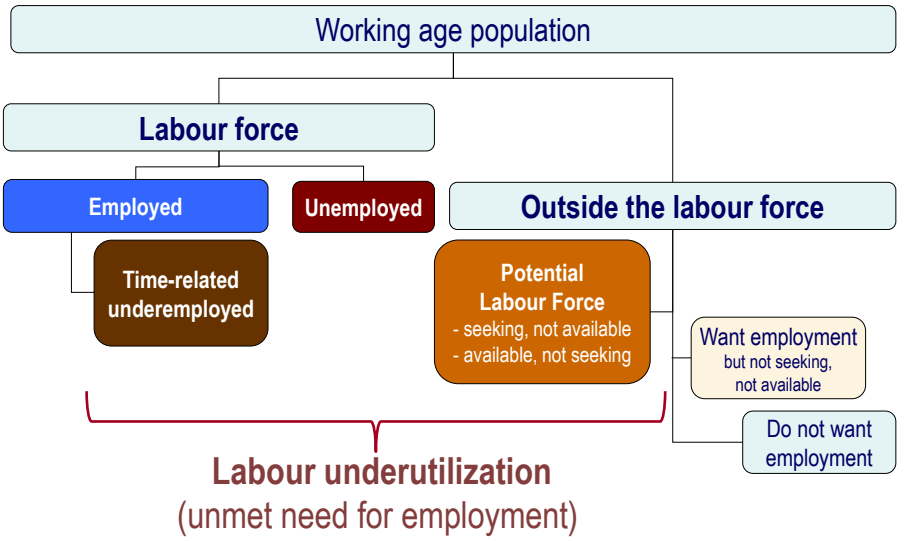
- **Outside labour force**

  – No longer ~~"economically inactive population"~~

  – No longer includes population below minimum age

-ALL forms of work are productive & contribute to the economy
-Persons outside labour force may be engaged in other forms of work
-Children may be engaged in work, including in child labour (18th ICLS)

Labour force & labour underutilization



Labour underutilization: Scope

"Refers to mismatches

between labour supply and demand,

which translate into an unmet need for employment among the population"

Para 40, Resol I. (19th ICLS, 2013)

- In reference to employment (work for pay or profit)
- Identifies groups among the employed & persons outside the labour force who share similarities with the unemployed
- Focuses on issues of insufficient labour absorption
- For broader labour market monitoring

NEW Measures of labour underutilization (LU1-LU4)

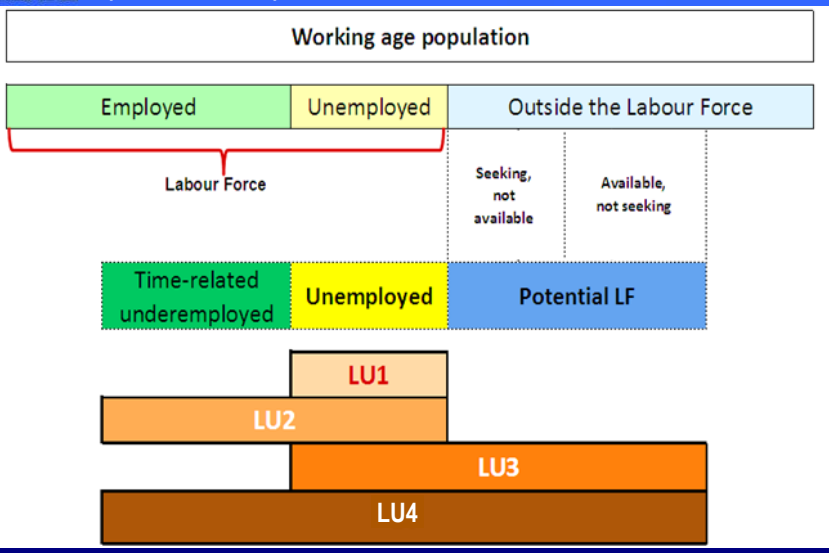
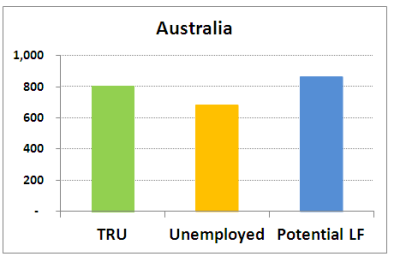
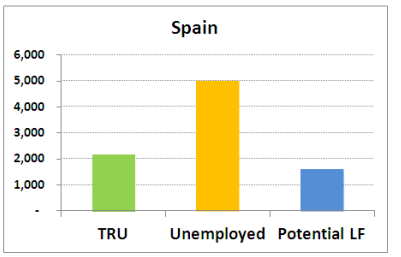
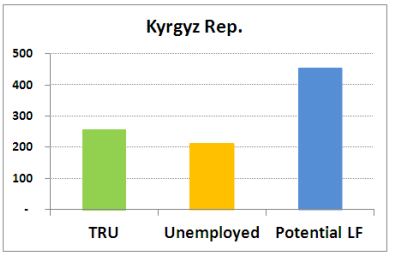
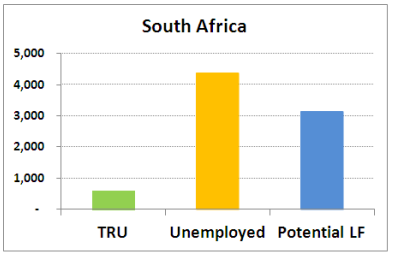


Illustration:
Persons by labour underutilization type (1,000s)



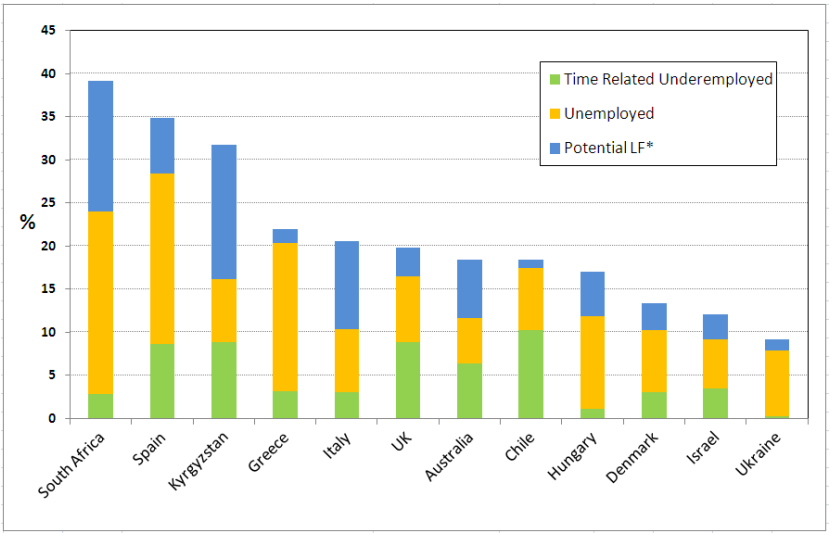






Source: ILO calculations based on national data (circa 2011)

Illustration: Composite indicator (LU4)



Source: ILO calculations based on national data (circa 2011)

Resources and Contact

- 19th International Conference of labour statisticians

  http://www.ilo.org/19thicls

- ICLS Resolutions and Guidelines

  http://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and databases/standards-and-guidelines/

- STATISTICS contact

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