

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LABOUR STATISTICIANS (ICLS) RESOLUTIONS

OVERVIEW

The ICLS is a meeting of experts on labour statistics spearheaded by the International Labour Office (ILO). These statisticians are invited to make recommendations on selected topics of labour statistics in the form of **resolutions** and guidelines, which are then approved by the Governing Body of the ILO before becoming part of the set of international standards on labour statistics. These standards usually relate to concepts, definitions, classifications and other methodological procedures which are

agreed as representing “best practice” in the respective areas, and which, when used by national producers, will increase the likelihood of having an internationally comparable labour statistics as well as comparability across time within a country.

The conference is held roughly every five (5) years. There had been 17 conferences conducted so far. The first conference was held in 1923 and the latest was in 2003.

HOW TOPICS OR SUBJECTS ARE SELECTED

The agenda of an ICLS is decided by the ILO's Governing Body following proposals by the Bureau of Statistics. The *topics or subjects* to be considered are identified on the basis of the recommendations of earlier ICLS, the work of the Bureau in a particular field, through other ILO programmes; and or signals received from users, national producers and regional and international organizations. The main items on the agenda of the ICLS, usually no more than three, are those being considered for standard-setting while others are for discussion with a view of providing

guidance on the future work programme of the Bureau, including future development, updating of standards or guidelines.

The report on a subject contains proposals for a draft resolution which passes through different levels of reviews and advices by the experts. The report prepared for the ICLS thus reflects detailed methodological research and analysis that are often of help to national statistics offices. A wide range of subjects have been discussed at the ICLS with some appearing on the agenda several

times. The most frequent subjects are wages and hours of work (discussed at nearly all the ICLS), classification of occupations, occupational injuries and

unemployment. The full text of the various Resolutions can be downloaded at http://www.ilo.org/global/What_we_do/Statistics/events/icsl/lang--en/index.htm.

SUBJECTS CONSIDERED BY ICLS: 1923 - 2003

SUBJECT	ICLS	YEAR
ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT		
▪ Unemployment statistics	2 nd	1925
▪ Employment and unemployment statistics	6 th	1947
▪ Employment and unemployment statistics	8 th	1954
▪ Measurement of underemployment	9 th	1957
▪ Progress in the measurement of underemployment, particularly in less developed countries	10 th	1962
▪ Measurement of underemployment	11 th	1966
▪ Labour force, employment, unemployment and underemployment ¹	13 th	1982
▪ Implications of employment promotion schemes on the measurement of employment and unemployment ²	14 th	1987
▪ Measurement of underemployment ¹	16 th	1998
▪ Persons on extended absences from work ²	16 th	1998
MEASUREMENT OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR		
▪ Employment in the informal sector	14 th	1987
▪ Statistics of employment in the informal sector ¹	15 th	1993
▪ Guidelines concerning a statistical definition of informal employment ²	17 th	2003
CHILD LABOUR STATISTICS		
▪ Methodological considerations	16 th	1998
MEASUREMENT OF HOURS OF WORK AND ABSENCE FROM WORK		
▪ Statistics of hours of work ¹	10 th	1962
▪ Statistics of paid holidays	13 th	1982
▪ Statistics of absence from work	14 th	1987
▪ Concept and measurement of absence from work	15 th	1993

¹ Resulted in a resolution which represents the current ILO recommendations on the subject. Subsequently, some issues in a specific resolution may have been the subject of later resolutions (for example, those relating to underemployment and income from employment).

² Guidelines endorsed.

SUBJECTS CONSIDERED BY ICLS: 1923 – 2003 (Continued)

SUBJECT	ICLS	YEAR
INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT, WAGES AND LABOUR COST		
▪ Statistics of wages and hours of labour	1 st	1923
▪ International comparisons of real wages	2 nd	1925
▪ International comparisons of real wages	4 th	1931
▪ Convention concerning statistics of wages and hours of work	5 th	1937
▪ Wages and payroll statistics	7 th	1949
▪ International comparisons of real wages: a study of methods	8 th	1954
▪ Developments relating to Convention 63 *	8 th	1954
▪ Wages statistics	9 th	1957
▪ Progress in the application of Convention 63 *	10 th	1962
▪ Statistics of labour cost ¹	11 th	1966
▪ Statistics of wages and employee income ¹	12 th	1973
▪ Revision of the ILO October Inquiry on Occupation Wages	13 th	1982
▪ Income from employment	15 th	1993
▪ Measurement of income from employment ¹	16 th	1998
OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND DISEASES		
▪ Statistics of industrial accidents	1 st	1923
▪ Statistics of industrial accidents	6 th	1947
▪ Standardization of statistics of industrial injuries and occupational diseases	7 th	1949
▪ Methods of statistics of occupational diseases	8 th	1954
▪ Statistics of employment injuries	9 th	1957
▪ Statistics of occupational injuries	9 th	1957
▪ Statistics of occupational injuries	10 th	1962
▪ Statistics of occupational injuries	13 th	1982
▪ Statistics of occupational injuries ¹	16 th	1998

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* Convention concerning Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work in the Principal Mining and Manufacturing Industries, Including Building and Construction, and in Agriculture.

SUBJECTS CONSIDERED BY ICLS: 1923 – 2003 (Continued)

SUBJECT	ICLS	YEAR
STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS		
▪ Statistics of strikes and lockouts	3 rd	1926
▪ Industrial disputes: statistics of strikes	14 th	1987
▪ Statistics of strikes, lockouts and other forms of industrial action ¹	15 th	1993
COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS		
▪ Statistics of collective agreements ¹	3 rd	1926
LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY		
▪ Statistics of labour productivity	7 th	1949
▪ Developments in labour productivity statistics	8 th	1954
SOCIAL SECURITY		
▪ Social security statistics: development and uses ¹	9 th	1957
▪ Progress in the field of social security statistics	10 th	1962
HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE		
▪ Family budget surveys	3 rd	1926
▪ Methods of family living surveys	7 th	1949
▪ Family budgets and consumer prices	9 th	1957
▪ Scope, method and uses of family expenditure surveys ¹	12 th	1973
▪ Use of household income and household expenditure statistics ¹	17 th	2003
CONSUMER PRICE INDICES		
▪ Cost-of-living index numbers	2 nd	1925
▪ Special problems in the computation of consumer price index numbers	10 th	1962
▪ Consumer price indices ¹	14 th	1987
▪ Principles and methods used in constructing a CPI ¹	17 th	2003
INTEGRATED SYSTEM FOR LABOUR STATISTICS		
▪ Framework for a labour accounting system	15 th	1993

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SUBJECTS CONSIDERED BY ICLS: 1923 – 2003 (Continued)

SUBJECT	ICLS	YEAR
CLASSIFICATION OF INDUSTRIES AND OCCUPATIONS		
▪ Classification of industries and occupations	1 st	1923
▪ Classification of industries and occupations	2 nd	1925
▪ Classification of industries and occupations	3 rd	1926
▪ International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)	7 th	1949
▪ ISCO minor groups	8 th	1954
▪ ISCO major, minor and unit groups	9 th	1957
▪ Revision of ISCO	11 th	1966
▪ Revision of ISCO	13 th	1982
▪ Revision of ISCO ¹	14 th	1987
▪ Revision of ISCO ¹	17 th	1987
CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT		
▪ International classification according to status in employment (ICSE)	9 th	1957
▪ Revision of ICSE ¹	15 th	1993
▪ Status in employment (ICSE -93)	16 th	1998
PRESENTATION AND DISSEMINATION OF LABOUR STATISTICS		
▪ International coding of labour statistics	13 th	1982
▪ Dissemination practices for labour statistics ²	16 th	1998

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2 Guidelines endorsed.

FOR INQUIRIES:

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