

Labour Statistics Convention 160 and Labour Statistics Recommendation 170

Every June of each year, member states, of the International Labour Organization (ILO) numbering about 183 as of latest count, meet at the International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva, Switzerland. Among the main tasks of the ILC is the crafting and adoption of international labor standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations. Conventions are legal instruments which come into force in a country once ratified by its law-making body. Such ratification commits the member States to fulfill the obligations specified in the Convention and to report regularly on its application. Recommendations, on the other hand, are intended to guide national actions but are not open to ratification, hence, not legally binding, but occasional reporting is required. In 1985, the ILC adopted the Labour Statistics Convention (C160) and the supplementary Labour Statistics Recommendation (R170).

This issue of the LABSTAT Updates presents the major provisions of Labour Statistics Convention 160 and Recommendation 170. Also included is a list of the basic labor statistics, covered by these two documents, that are presently compiled by the Philippine labor statistics system.

One of the tasks of the International Labour Conference is to supervise the application of Conventions and Recommendations at the national level. It examines the reports (in prescribed formats), which the governments of all member States are required to submit, detailing their compliance with obligations arising out of ratified Conventions, and their law and practice in respect of Conventions and Recommendations (ratified or not).

Labour Statistics Convention 160 (C160)

Member States that ratify C160 are obliged to "regularly collect, compile and publish basic labor statistics, which shall be progressively expanded in accordance with its resources to cover the following subjects:

(a) economically active population, employment, where relevant unemployment, and where possible visible underemployment;

- (b) structure and distribution of the economically active population, for detailed analysis and to serve as benchmark data;
- (c) average earnings and hours of work (hours actually worked or hours paid for) and, where appropriate, time rates of wages and normal hours of work;
- (d) wage structure and distribution;
- (e) labor cost;
- (f) consumer price indices;
- (g) household expenditure or, where appropriate, family expenditure and, where possible, household income or, where appropriate, family income;
- (h) occupational injuries and, as far as possible, occupational diseases; and
- (i) industrial disputes."

For full text of these Convention and Recommendation, see <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdisp1.htm> and <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/recdisp1.htm>, respectively.

It also states that in designing or revising the concepts, definitions and methodology used in the collection, compilation and publication of the aforementioned statistics, members shall take into consideration the latest standards and guidelines established under the auspices of the ILO, and that the representative organizations of employers and workers, where they exist, shall be consulted with a view to taking into account their needs and to ensuring their cooperation.

Article 6 of C160 further provides that detailed descriptions of the sources, concepts, definitions and methodology used in collecting and compiling the basic labor statistics shall be (a) produced and updated to reflect significant changes; (b) communicated to the International Labour Office as soon as practicable; and (c) published by the competent national body.

Articles 7 to 15 (Part II) details the basic labor statistics that member States should collect, compile and publish. Countries shall specify in its ratification the Article or Articles of Part II which it accepts as its obligations. It may also limit initially the scope of statistics to specified categories of workers, sectors of the economy, branches of economic activity or geographical areas.

In accordance with Article 22 of the ILO Constitution, member States which have ratified conventions shall make an annual report, in prescribed format, to the ILO on the measures it has taken to give effect to the provisions of Conventions to which it is a party. For the first report, full information are required to be given on each of the provisions of the Convention and on each of the questions set out in the report. For subsequent reports, information on the following are normally given: (a) any new legislative or other measures affecting the application of the Convention; (b) replies to the questions in the report form on the practical application of the Convention (for example, statistics, results of inspections, judicial or administrative decisions) and on the communication of copies of the report

to the representative organizations of employers and workers and on any observations received from these organizations; and (c) replies to comments by supervisory bodies.

ILO Convention No. 160 has been ratified by 48 member States, the latest of which is Hungary in 2010. The Philippines has not ratified the Convention.

Labour Statistics Recommendation 170 (R170)

ILO Recommendation concerning labor statistics (R170) was also adopted in 1985 as a companion to Convention 160. It specifies the basic coverage, frequency of compilation and cross-classification variables for each of the labor statistics enumerated in Articles 7 to 15 of ILO Convention 160. It also recommended that statistics of productivity should be progressively developed and compiled by major industry groups. The latter is not included in Convention 160.

Part II of the said Recommendation states that member countries should progressively develop the appropriate national infrastructure of which the major elements should include the following: (a) a comprehensive and up-to-date registry of establishments or enterprises for the purposes of surveys or censuses; which should be sufficiently detailed to permit the selection of samples of establishments or enterprises; (b) a coordinated system for the implementation of surveys or censuses of establishments or enterprises; (c) a capability for the implementation of a continuous and coordinated series of national surveys of households or individuals; and (d) access for statistical purposes, with appropriate safeguards for their confidential use, to administrative records (such as those of employment services, social security bodies, labor inspection services).

Moreover, member countries are advised to establish appropriate national standard classifications, and should encourage and coordinate the observance as far as possible of these classifications by all bodies concerned. It should take the necessary steps to harmonize the

statistics compiled in pursuance of R170 from different sources and by different bodies.

The Philippine labor statistics system collects the basic labor statistics in most of the frequency and cross-classifications recommended by R170. *(See Table 1)*

TABLE 1 - Basic Labor Statistics of the Philippines

Basic Labor Statistics	Data Type	Agency	Source	Periodicity	Data Disaggregation (as released by source agency)	Data Release Schedule
A. Statistics of the Economically Active Population, Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment						
Economically active population (Labor force)	HB	National Statistics Office (NSO)	Labor Force Survey (LFS)	Quarterly (January, April, July, October)	Region, sex, age group, employment status (employed, unemployed, not in the labor force)	Preliminary: 45 days after reference period ¹ ; Final: 6-7 months after reference period
Employment	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	Region, sex, age group, highest grade completed, major industry group, major occupation group, class of worker, total hours worked, nature of employment	-do-
Unemployment	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	Region, sex, age group, highest grade completed, job search method, number of weeks looking for work	-do-
Visible underemployment	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	Region, sex, major occupation group	-do-
B. Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work						
Wage rates						
- Agriculture	HB	Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS)	Agricultural Labor Survey (ALS)	Semestral	Region, sex, type of crop (palay, corn, coconut, sugarcane), type of farm operation	1 st sem: 5 months after reference period; 2nd sem: 10 months after reference period
- Non-agriculture	EB	BLES	Occupational Wages Survey (OWS)	Every 2 years	Region (accounting clerks, unskilled laborers), selected occupations in selected industries	One year after reference period

Notes: 1. Data disaggregations other than those published by NSO are done by the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics using the LFS-Public Use Files (PUF) and are disseminated through its various publications.

2. Codes for Data Type: HB - Household-based EB - Establishment -based DS - Derived Statistics AB - Administrative-based

1 Preliminary release limited to few data disaggregations.

TABLE 1 - Basic Labor Statistics of the Philippines *cont'd.*

Basic Labor Statistics	Data Type	Agency	Source	Periodicity	Data Disaggregation (as released by source agency)	Data Release Schedule
B. Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work						
Wage structure and distribution	EB	BLES	OWS	Every 2 years	Basic pay/allowance: Region, major and minor industry group	One year after reference period
Average earnings	-do-	NSO	Census/Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry (CPBI/ASPBI)	CPBI: every 5-6 years; ASPBI: Annually	Region, major and minor industry group, employment size <i>Tabulated/published by BLES.</i>	27 months after reference period
Labor cost	-do-	BLES	Labor Cost Survey (LCS)/BITS; LCS conducted as an independent survey before BITS.	Every 6 years	Level and composition: Major and minor industry group	22 months after reference period
Normal hours of work	HB	NSO	LFS	Quarterly (January, April, July, October)	Region, sex, major occupation group <i>Tabulated/published by BLES, based on LFS- PUF.</i>	12 months after reference year
Average weekly hours worked	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	Region, sex, major industry group, major occupation group, class of worker	6-7 months after reference period
	EB	-do-	CPBI/ASPBI	CPBI: every 5-6 years; ASPBI: Annually	Region, sex, major and minor industry group (industry sector), employment size <i>Tabulated/published by BLES.</i>	27 months after reference period

TABLE 1 - Basic Labor Statistics of the Philippines *cont'd.*

Basic Labor Statistics	Data Type	Agency	Source	Periodicity	Data Disaggregation (as released by source agency)	Data Release Schedule
C. Consumer Price Indices						
Consumer Price Index Inflation Rate	DS	NSO	Survey of Retail Prices of Basic Goods (NSO); Prices of Agricultural Commodities (BAS)	Monthly	Region, province and selected cities, commodity group	5 days after reference period
D. Statistics of Family Income and Expenditures						
Number of families	HB	NSO	Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES)	Every 3 years	Region, income class, expenditure class, family size, main source of income, per capita income class	One year after reference year
Family income	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	Region, income class, family size, income decile, per capita income decile	-do-
Family expenditures	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	Region, income class, family size, expenditure group, income decile, per capita income decile	-do-

TABLE 1 - Basic Labor Statistics of the Philippines *cont'd.*

Basic Labor Statistics	Data Type	Agency	Source	Periodicity	Data Disaggregation (as released by source agency)	Data Release Schedule
E. Statistics of Occupational Injuries and Diseases						
Occupational injuries	EB	BLES	Occupational Injuries Survey (OIS)/BITS; OIS conducted as an independent survey before BITS.	Every 2 years		22 months after reference period
- Cases					Major and minor industry group, employment size, incapacity for work, type of injury, part of the body injured, cause of injury, agent of injury	
- Frequency/incidence rates					Major and minor industry group, incapacity for work	
- Severity rate/average days lost of temporary incapacity cases					Major and minor industry group	
Occupational diseases ²	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	Major and minor industry group, type of occupational disease	-do-
F. Statistics of Industrial Disputes						
Strikes and lockouts	AS	National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB)	Administrative Records	-	Region, major industry group, workers involved, mandays lost, issues involved; <i>Disaggregation by minor industry group: tabulated/published by BLES.</i>	2 weeks after reference period for weekly data (national); 2 months after reference period for monthly data (regional)

² The Employees' Compensation Commission has started to build-up the database on employees' compensation claims from the Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System from which statistics on occupational diseases can be generated.

TABLE 1 - Basic Labor Statistics of the Philippines *cont'd.*

Basic Labor Statistics	Data Type	Agency	Source	Periodicity	Data Disaggregation (as released by source agency)	Data Release Schedule
Notices of strikes/lockouts	AS	NCMB	Administrative Records	-	Region, major industry group, workers involved, issues involved; <i>Disaggregation by minor industry group: tabulated/published by BLES</i>	2 weeks after reference period for weekly data (national); 2 months after reference period for monthly data (regional)
G. Statistics of Productivity						
Labor Productivity (all economic units)	DS	BLES	National and Regional Accounts National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB); LFS	Annually	Region, major and minor industry group	12 months after reference year
Labor Productivity (establishment based)	-do-	-do-	CPBI/ASPBI	CPBI: every 5-6 years; ASPBI: Annually	Major and minor industry group, employment size <i>Tabulated/published by BLES.</i>	27 months after reference period