

2. ILO METADATA SURVEY ON INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION STATISTICS

2.1 Metadata Survey Procedure

Through the metadata country survey, the ILO has sought to collect information on the availability of statistics on international migrant workers and on the sources and methods used in compiling these statistics. Completing the survey required contacting different government agencies that may have data on topics related to international migration. Depending on the data sources available, the same questionnaire would need to be administered to more than one government ministry or agency. In all cases, the ILO asked that the relevant questionnaire to be completed by the appropriate unit of the National Statistical Office (NSO) of the country, ministry or agency responsible for a particular data source in the country. The ILO metadata questionnaires, instructions on how to fill them out and a cover letter was sent to the Heads of National Statistical Offices of all (229) ILO member states and territories.

The management of the NSO was asked to designate one technical expert on migration from among the NSO staff to be the ‘focal point’ responsible for administering the questionnaires, such as distributing and collecting questionnaires to/from the relevant NSO units, ministries and agencies; communicating with ILO; and acting as liaison between the ILO and the NSO. Questionnaires were sent out in whichever of the following languages were thought to be most appropriate: English, French, Spanish and Russian. The NSOs were asked to submit the following documents by email to ILO Department of Statistics: a list of possible sources of data on international migration and international migrant workers including information on the responsible agency/unit for the source and the contact details of the experts responsible for completing each questionnaire; a completed questionnaire for each data source; supporting documents. The metadata questionnaires collected from the countries were then merged for analysis.

2.2 Metadata Survey Questionnaires and Topics Covered

The ILO developed the following seven different metadata survey questionnaires according to the type of data source, with a set of instructions on how to administer these questionnaires.

- Q0. Instructions on Administering the Methodological Questionnaires about Statistics on International Migration
- Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census
- Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys
- Q3. Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics
- Q4. Questionnaire for Establishment Census
- Q5. Questionnaire for Establishment Survey
- Q6. Questionnaire for Administrative Sources
- Q7. Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers

These seven questionnaires and the instructions on how to fill them out are given in Appendix A. The structure of the questionnaires are as follows:

- **A. Identification**
 - Identification of source
 - Identification of respondent
 - Filter questions
- **B. Periodicity and coverage**
 - Periodicity of data collection
 - Geographical coverage
 - Population groups identified and covered
 - Age coverage
 - Establishment and sector/industry coverage
- **C. Topics covered in the source**
 - Demographic characteristics
 - International migration related characteristics
 - Labour related characteristics
 - Remittances
 - Immigrants and return migrants
 - Data dissemination
- **D. Concepts and definitions**
- **E. Classification**
 - Occupation
 - Industry
 - Status in employment
 - Status in education
- **F. Data collection and dissemination**
 - Methods used for collecting data
 - Coverage rate
 - Mode of dissemination
- **G. Sample design (in Q2 and Q5)**
 - Sample frame
 - Sample size
 - Response rate

2.2.1 Identification

All seven questionnaires include an identification section that included the country name, title of the source, agency responsible for the source and its web site information, and the identification of the respondent of the metadata survey.

All seven questionnaires except Q1 (Questionnaire for Population Census) and Q3 (Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics) include filter questions that ask if the source gathers information on topics related to international migration (see Table 2.1). The respondent continues to answer the questionnaire if the source collects information on any one of the topics related to international migration, otherwise stops filling out the questionnaire. International

migration related characteristics such as country of birth, country of citizenship and nationality are asked in all questionnaires.

Table 2.1 Filter Questions

Q2	Q4 and Q5	Q6	Q7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Country of birth ▪Country of citizenship ▪Nationality ▪Country of origin ▪Foreign workers in the country ▪Household members living abroad ▪Remittances received from anyone abroad or sent to any absent household member living abroad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Country of birth ▪Country of citizenship ▪Nationality ▪Country of previous residence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Country of birth ▪Country of citizenship ▪Nationality ▪Country of origin ▪Previous country of resident ▪Foreign workers in the country ▪Members of household living abroad ▪Members of household working abroad with work permits issued by the destination country ▪Country of transit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Country of birth ▪Country of citizenship ▪Nationality ▪Foreign workers in the country ▪Country of previous residence of foreign workers in the country ▪Household members working abroad

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys, Q3. Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics, Q4. Questionnaire for Establishment Census, Q5. Questionnaire for Establishment Survey, Q6. Questionnaire for Administrative Sources, Q7. Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers.

Source: ILO, metadata.

In the Questionnaire for Administrative Sources (Q6), a separate question identifies the administrative source. The pre-coded responses are:

- Continuous population register
- Data from government/public employment services
- Register of migrant workers
- Social security registration system register of nationals issued work permits to work abroad by country of work
- Register of work permits issued to foreign workers
- Data from private employment services
- Register of international migrants
- Other (specify).

2.2.2 Periodicity and coverage

2.2.2.1 Periodicity

For the periodicity of data collection, Q2 (Questionnaire for Household Surveys), Q3 (Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics), Q4 (Questionnaire for Establishment Census), Q5 (Questionnaire for Establishment Survey) and Q7 (Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers) include the following pre-coded responses:

- Continuously
- Every "x" months

- Every "x" years
- Irregularly or only once [the last was carried out in (MM.YYYY)]
- Other [Specify]

In Q6 (Questionnaire for Administrative Sources), periodicity of data release is asked using the same pre-coded responses as given above. In Q1 (Questionnaire for Population Census), the year of the last census is inquired. In Q4 (Establishment Census), both the first and the last year of the census are inquired.

2.2.2.2 Geographical coverage

A question asking if the source covers the whole country or parts of the country is included in all questionnaires except Q3 (Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics).

2.2.2.3 Population coverage

All questionnaires, except Q4 and Q5, inquire about the population groups identified and covered in the surveys and administrative records. Q1, Q2, Q6, and Q7 focus on nationals living abroad and foreigners in the country. Instead, Q3 focuses on nationals returning, nationals leaving the country and foreigners entering the country, and transit migrants. Refugees and asylum seekers are covered in all questionnaires.

Table 2.2 Population Coverage

Q1 & Q6	Q2	Q3	Q7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nationals in the country ▪ Nationals employed in the country ▪ Nationals living abroad ▪ Nationals living and working abroad ▪ Foreigners living in the country ▪ Foreign workers living in the country ▪ Refugees ▪ Asylum seekers ▪ Other foreigners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nationals in the country ▪ Nationals employed in the country ▪ Nationals living abroad ▪ Nationals living and working abroad ▪ Foreigners living in the country ▪ Foreign workers living in the country ▪ Refugees ▪ Asylum seekers ▪ Child workers in country ▪ Workers trafficked into the country ▪ Citizens trafficked to other countries ▪ Other foreigners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entry of nationals returning from residence abroad ▪ Exit of nationals going abroad to live ▪ Exit of nationals leaving for temporary purposes such as for tourism, shopping, visiting, business, etc. ▪ Foreigners entering country to live ▪ Foreigners entering country for temporary purposes, such as tourism, shopping, visiting, business, etc. ▪ Transit migrants ▪ Refugees ▪ Asylum seekers ▪ Other foreigners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nationals in the country ▪ Nationals employed in the country ▪ Nationals living abroad ▪ Foreigners living in the country ▪ Foreign workers living in the country ▪ Refugees ▪ Asylum seekers ▪ Child workers in the country ▪ Workers trafficked into the country ▪ Citizens trafficked to other countries

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys, Q3. Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics, Q4. Questionnaire for Establishment Census, Q5. Questionnaire for Establishment Survey, Q6. Questionnaire for Administrative Sources, Q7. Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers.

Source: ILO, metadata.

2.2.2.4 Age coverage

Q2, Q3, Q6, and Q7 inquire about the age coverage of the source.

2.1.3 Topics covered in the sources

The topics covered in the questionnaires include: Demographic characteristics, international migration related characteristics, labour related characteristics, remittances, immigrants and return migrants and data dissemination.

2.2.3.1 Demographic characteristics

All questionnaires inquire whether the source obtains data on demographic characteristics given in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3 Demographic Characteristics

Q1 and Q2	Q3 and Q7	Q4 and Q5	Q6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Age▪ Sex▪ Marital status▪ Educational attainment▪ Household size	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Age▪ Sex▪ Marital status▪ Educational attainment▪ Household size▪ Household composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Age▪ Sex▪ Educational attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Age▪ Sex▪ Marital status▪ Educational attainment

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys, Q3. Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics, Q4. Questionnaire for Establishment Census, Q5. Questionnaire for Establishment Survey, Q6. Questionnaire for Administrative Sources, Q7. Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers.

Source: ILO, metadata.

2.2.3.2 International migration related characteristics

All seven questionnaires ask if the source collects data on international migration related characteristic in varying detail as given in Table 2.4. Country of birth and country of citizenship are covered in all questionnaires. Nationality, second or previous country of citizenship, country of previous residence, foreign workers in the country, household members living abroad are asked in most questionnaires. Questionnaires for administrative sources such as Q3 and Q6 contain detailed questions on international migration related characteristics such as reason for arrival/departure, destination/origin country and year of arrival/departure.

Table 2.4 International Migration Related Characteristics

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 & Q5	Q6	Q7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Country of birth ▪Country of citizenship ▪Second country of citizenship ▪Country of previous residence for foreigners ▪Country of previous residence for citizens who lived abroad but returned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Country of birth ▪Nationality* ▪Country of origin* ▪Country of citizenship ▪Second country of citizenship ▪Country of previous residence for foreigners ▪Country of previous residence for citizens who lived abroad but returned ▪Foreign workers in the country* ▪Household members living abroad* ▪Remittances received from anyone abroad or sent to any absent household member living abroad* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Country of birth ▪Country of origin ▪Country of citizenship ▪Country of residence ▪Country entering from ▪Country of destination ▪Reason for departure ▪Reason for coming to country ▪Year of arrival ▪Intended duration of stay ▪Time period allowed to stay ▪Other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Country of birth* ▪Nationality* ▪Country of citizenship* ▪Country of previous residence* ▪Reason for immigration to country ▪Duration of stay since arrival (in Q5 only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Country of birth ▪Nationality* ▪Country of origin* ▪Country of citizenship ▪Second country of citizenship ▪Country of previous residence ▪Country of transit* ▪Destination country ▪Reason for departure ▪Reason for coming to country ▪Foreign workers in the country* ▪Members of household living abroad* ▪Members of household working abroad with permits issued by destination country* ▪Year of arrival ▪Year of departure ▪Time period allowed to stay ▪Other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Country of birth ▪Nationality* ▪country of citizenship ▪Previous country of citizenship ▪Country of previous residence ▪Country of previous residence of foreign workers in the country* ▪Reason for migration ▪Foreign workers in the country* ▪Household members living abroad ▪Household members working abroad* ▪Duration of stay in country to date ▪Duration of stay abroad

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys, Q3. Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics, Q4. Questionnaire for Establishment Census, Q5.

Questionnaire for Establishment Survey, Q6. Questionnaire for Administrative Sources, Q7. Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers. * Included as part of filter questions. Source: ILO, metadata.

Q1 (Questionnaire for Population Census) and Q2 (Questionnaire for Household Surveys) identify if the census/household survey asks information on *household members who left to live, work or study abroad*. The questionnaire further inquires about the time cut-off used in identifying such persons such as household members who left in the last 6 months, 12 months, or some other time cut-off, which needs to be specified. The follow-up questions inquire whether the information on (former) household members is collected for the last time the person left, if limited to those of a certain age or to those of a certain work status, or to those who left within the last X years and have not returned. Furthermore, the following characteristics for these persons are inquired:

- Both Q1 and Q2: Name, month/year of departure, sex, main reason for leaving, age at time of leaving household, age at present, marital status at time of leaving, marital status at present, education at time of leaving, education at present, employment status at time of leaving, employment status at present, occupation at time of leaving, and occupation at present,
- Q2: Whether that person intends to return, whether that person made own decision to migrate or if someone else in household made that decision, the level of knowledge of the language of the destination country before moving there, whether that person had visited that country before moving there, whether the person had visited any other country before and which country(ies), and whether the person had a visa or other document for legal entry into that country before moving there.

In regards to persons who have left to live or work abroad, Q2 inquires if the household survey includes questions on whether the person has been recruited for work purposes abroad and whether the household maintains contact with the (former) household member.

2.2.3.3 Labour related characteristics

All ILO questionnaires ask if the source collects information on various labour related characteristics given in Table 2.5. Occupation, industry/economic sector and status in employment are covered in all questionnaires. Other labour related characteristics inquired include earnings, hours worked, and occupational injury.

Table 2.5 Labour Related Characteristics

Q1	Q2	Q3 & Q6	Q4 & Q5	Q7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Employment status ▪Occupation ▪Industry/Economic sector ▪Status in employment ▪Hours worked ▪Disability ▪Earnings ▪Household income ▪Occupational injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Employment status ▪Occupation ▪Industry/Economic sector ▪Status in employment ▪Hours worked ▪Disability ▪Earnings ▪Household income ▪Occupational injury ▪Wages ▪Months worked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Employment status ▪Occupation ▪Industry/Economic sector ▪Status in employment ▪Earnings (Q6 only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Occupation ▪Status in employment ▪Hours worked ▪Occupational injury ▪Wages ▪Remittances sent ▪Employment start date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Employment status ▪Occupation ▪Industry/Economic sector ▪Status in employment ▪Hours worked ▪Income ▪Household income ▪Occupational injury ▪Wage rate

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys, Q3. Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics, Q4. Questionnaire for Establishment Census, Q5. Questionnaire for Establishment Survey, Q6. Questionnaire for Administrative Sources, Q7. Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers.

Source: ILO, metadata.

In addition to the labour related characteristics given in Table 2.5, Q2 asks whether the household survey includes any questions on work-related benefits received such as unemployment benefits, health insurance or subsidized health care, retirement pension, paid vacation, subsidized housing, free or subsidized food, and other benefits, which need to be specified.

Q1 and Q2 further inquire whether the labour related information are asked of respondents of certain age.

2.2.3.4 Remittances sent and received

Q1, Q2, and Q7 inquire whether the data source includes questions on remittances sent or received. In Q4 and Q5 only the remittances sent are inquired.

Table 2.6 Remittances Sent/Received

Q1 and Q7	Q2	Q4 & Q5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Remittance sent ▪Remittance received ▪Reference period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Remittances sent ▪Remittances received 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Remittances sent

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys, Q3. Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics, Q4. Questionnaire for Establishment Census, Q5. Questionnaire for Establishment Survey, Q6. Questionnaire for Administrative Sources, Q7. Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers.

Source: ILO, metadata.

2.2.3.5 Immigrants and return migrants

Q1 (Questionnaire for Population Census) and Q2 (Questionnaire for Household Surveys) inquire whether the population census and the household surveys contain questions intended to collect information on immigrants and return migrants such as "Have you ever lived outside the country?" and "When did you arrive in this country?". Furthermore, Q1 and Q2 inquire whether information on the labour market status of these individuals are collected prior to their departure from the previous country of residence and reason for migration such as:

- Employment status (employed, unemployed, studying, housework, etc.)
- Status in employment (employee, employer, own-account worker, unpaid or contributing family worker, etc.)
- Occupation
- Industry/economic sector
- Reason for choosing to migrate to this country
- Reason for leaving previous (last) country of residence.

Additionally, in Q2, in regards to persons not born in the current country of residence, it is inquired whether information concerning their previous stay and the timing of this stay in the present country of residence is collected.

2.2.3.6 Data dissemination

All questionnaires except Q7 (Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers) ask if the data collected on various topics are published or disseminated and if not, the reasons for it.

2.2.4 Concepts and definitions

The responding countries are asked to provide the definition of the key concepts used in various data sources given in Table 2.7.

Table 2.7 Definition of Concepts

Q1 & Q2	Q3	Q4 & Q5	Q6	Q7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪International migrant workers ▪Nationals living abroad ▪Employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪International migrant workers ▪Overseas visitors ▪Country of residence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪International migrant workers ▪Employment ▪Short-term migrant workers ▪Wages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪International migrant workers ▪Nationals living abroad ▪Employment ▪Short-term migrant workers ▪Individual earnings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Migrant workers ▪Nationals living abroad ▪Employment ▪Short-term migrant workers ▪Household income

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys, Q3. Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics, Q4. Questionnaire for Establishment Census, Q5. Questionnaire for Establishment Survey, Q6. Questionnaire for Administrative Sources, Q7. Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers.

Source: ILO, metadata.

2.2.5 Classification

The responding countries are asked to report on the classifications they employ for occupation, industry, status in employment and education. For the classifications of occupation and industry, the countries are asked to report on the detail in which they release data in terms of classification digits.

Table 2.8 Classifications

Occupation	Industry	Status in employment	Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ISCO-68 ▪ISCO-88 ▪ISCO-08 ▪National adaptation of ISCO (name) ▪Other (name) ▪Number of digits reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ISIC rev 2 ▪ISIC rev 3 ▪ISIC rev 4 ▪NACE, NAICS ▪National adaptation of ISIC (name) ▪Other (name) ▪Number of digits reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ICSE-1958 ▪ICSE-1993 ▪National adaptation of ICSE (name) ▪Other (name) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ISCED-1997 ▪ISCED-2011 ▪ISCED-2013 ▪National adaptation of ISCED (name) ▪Other (name)

2.2.6 Data collection and dissemination

The responding countries are asked to report on their data collection and dissemination modes.

2.2.6.1 Mode of data collection

In all questionnaires except Q6 and Q7, countries are asked to report on the mode of data collection. The pre-coded responses are given in Table 2.9.

Table 2.9 Mode of Data Collection

Q1, Q4 & Q5	Q2	Q3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪PAPI ▪CAPI ▪TCPQ ▪CATI ▪By mail ▪CAWI ▪Administrative sources ▪Other (specify) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪PAPI ▪CAPI ▪TCPQ ▪CATI ▪By mail ▪CAWI ▪Other (specify) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪PAPI ▪CAPI ▪Self-administered ▪Other (specify)

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys, Q3. Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics, Q4. Questionnaire for Establishment Census, Q5. Questionnaire for Establishment Survey, Q6. Questionnaire for Administrative Sources, Q7. Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers.

Source: ILO, metadata.

In Q1, Q2, Q4, Q5 and Q6, countries are asked whether participation in data collection is compulsory or not.

2.2.6.2 Coverage rate

Q1 (Questionnaire for Population Census) and Q4 (Questionnaire for Establishment Census) inquire about the under-coverage rate in the population and establishment censuses, respectively and in the case of the latter, whether any adjustments are made (Table 2.10). Q6 (Questionnaire for Administrative Sources), on the other hand, inquires about the coverage rate in administrative data and whether any estimates exist by different population groups.

Table 2.10 Coverage and Under-Coverage Rate

Q1	Q4	Q6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Any official estimate of under-coverage rate • Under-coverage rate of total population • Under-coverage rate of emigrants • Under-coverage rate of immigrants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Percent of under-coverage ▪ Adjustment for estimated under-coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coverage rate of total population ▪ Coverage rate of total employed population ▪ Coverage rate of foreign migrants living in country ▪ Coverage rate of foreign migrant workers living in the country ▪ Coverage rate of nationals living abroad ▪ Coverage rate of nationals working abroad

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q4. Questionnaire for Establishment Census, Q6. Questionnaire for Administrative Sources.
Source: ILO, metadata.

2.2.6.3 Mode of dissemination

The responding countries are inquired about the mode of dissemination of information, if at all, and whether dissemination is through printed publication, in an electronic format, via a web site or in some other format. Countries are also asked whether metadata on the source is prepared and disseminated and whether microdata are available for research outside the agency responsible for the source and if so, whether there are limitations to micro-data access and the cost of obtaining micro-data files.

2.2.7 Sample design in Q2 and Q5

2.2.7.1 Sample frame

The questionnaires for household and establishment surveys (Q2 and Q5, respectively) inquire about the sample frame used to develop the survey sample. The pre-coded responses for Q2 and Q5 are given in Table 2.11, where multiple responses are possible.

2.2.7.2 Sample size

Q2 (Questionnaire for Household Surveys) and Q5 (Questionnaire for Establishment Survey) inquire about the sample sizes in household and establishment surveys. For Q2, countries are asked to report on sample size by various population groups such as by emigrants, return migrants and immigrants. The response rate at the individual level is also inquired in Q2.

Table 2.11 Survey Frame

Q2	Q5
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪Population census▪Area sample▪Previous sample of same survey (panel survey)▪Administrative register (name)▪Other (name)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪Establishment census▪Area sample▪Administrative register (Name)▪Other (Name)

Notes: Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys, Q5. Questionnaire for Establishment Survey.

Source: ILO, metadata.