

PREFACE

In line with the resolution concerning further work on labour migration statistics, adopted in 2013 by the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, the ILO has undertaken to identify good practices in defining international standards on labour migration statistics. A set of questionnaires was developed to survey metadata information on the data that are available in each country in respect of international labour migrants, the source of the data and the methods and definitions used.

In 2015–16, the survey questionnaires were sent to all national statistical offices in the ILO Member countries and territories, and they were requested to administer the questionnaire to all organizations and agencies that produce data related to international labour migration. The aim of the country survey is to contribute to the development of international standards on the concepts and definitions relating to the measurement of international labour migration and help improve and promote the comparability of data across countries. This effort will, in turn, make it possible to develop a better global understanding of the scope and nature of international labour migration and its relationship to national development and contribute to efforts to improve the integration of migrants into society and guarantee their rights.

The analysis of the metadata gathered through the ILO metadata country survey is presented in a separate ILO report entitled “Analysis of the ILO country survey on international migrant workers.”

The present compendium describes the metadata survey questionnaire of the ILO and provides information on the number of responding countries, the periodicity and coverage of various data sources on international labour migration, the type of information collected by countries on international labour migrants, the concepts and definitions used, the classifications used in organizing the data, the methods of data collection and dissemination, and the sampling design used for sources that are based on surveys. Furthermore, the compendium provides detailed information for each country on the sources of data related to international labour migration, on the type of information collected in each data source and on methodological issues.

The compendium has been prepared to inform researchers, national statistical offices and other producers of migration statistics about the available data sources on international (labour) migration in the ILO Member States, and its characteristics.

The ILO Department of Statistics hopes that both researchers and national statistical offices will use the material presented here to enhance understanding of and improve data collection programme in respect of international labour migration.

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Richard Bilsborrow, Jie-Won Lee and Mustafa Hakki Ozel developed the seven questionnaires.

Anastasia Antonova administered the collection of questionnaires and the merging of the data files.

Ilker Guven and Kyunghee Kim processed the data and produced analytical tables using Oracle and STATA.

The report was prepared by Meltem Dayıođlu, Kyunghee Kim and Mustafa Hakki Ozel.