

3. RESULTS OF ILO METADATA SURVEY

A total of 229 member countries were contacted by the ILO. A total of 128 countries responded. This section of the Compendium discusses the responses received from the member countries.

3.1 Number of reporting countries and questionnaires received

Table 3.1 shows that out of 229 ILO member countries 128 countries or 55.9% have responded to the ILO country survey by returning at least one questionnaire. As many as 83.3% of countries in Europe and Central Asia have responded, while the response rate from Americas is lower at 37.3%. The response rate varies by income with high income countries having, on average, a higher response rate than countries in lower incomes regions.

Table 3.1 Number of Reporting Countries by Region and Income Group

Region and income group		Member countries (A)	Countries reporting (B)	Response rate (B/A)	Countries not reporting
Total		229	128	55.9	101
Region	▪Africa	56	32	57.1	24
	▪Americas	51	19	37.3	32
	▪Arab States	12	5	41.7	7
	▪Asia and the Pacific	50	22	44.0	28
	▪Europe and Central Asia	60	50	83.3	10
Income group	▪High income	84	56	66.7	28
	▪Upper-middle income	58	28	48.3	30
	▪Lower-middle income	57	27	47.4	30
	▪Low income	30	17	56.7	13

Source: ILO, metadata.

Within each questionnaire type, a country could return zero, one, or more than one questionnaire, each covering a particular data source in the country. The number of questionnaires returned by 128 countries is 480. Table 3.2 shows the distribution of countries by the number of questionnaires filled out. A total of 17 countries filled out a single questionnaire, while one country filled out as many as 14 questionnaires.

Table 3.2 Number of Reporting Countries by Region and Questionnaires Received

Number of questionnaire	Total	Africa	Americas	Arab States	Asia & the Pacific	Europe & Central Asia
Number of countries	128	32	19	5	22	50
▪1 Questionnaire	17	3	6	0	7	1

▪2 questionnaires	28	7	5	2	7	7
▪3 questionnaires	21	7	6	0	0	8
▪4 questionnaires	24	10	1	1	5	7
▪5 questionnaires	15	2	1	2	2	8
▪6 questionnaires	12	2	0	0	0	10
▪7 questionnaires	2	1	0	0	0	1
▪8 questionnaires	4	0	0	0	0	4
▪10 questionnaires	3	0	0	0	1	2
▪11 questionnaires	1	0	0	0	0	1
▪14 questionnaires	1	0	0	0	0	1
Number of questionnaires received	480	107	43	18	61	251

Source: ILO, metadata.

Table 3.3 shows the number of questionnaires received by questionnaire type. Of the 128 countries that returned at least one questionnaire, 122 reported on their most recent population census (i.e. no census is reported by 6 countries). Household surveys were identified as sources on information on international migration by 86 countries, the total number of completed ILO Household Questionnaires received being 120. The largest number of different household surveys reported by any one country is five. A total of 72 countries reported on their administrative sources, the total number of completed ILO questionnaires on Administrative Sources being 127. The largest number of different administrative sources reported by any one country is seven. Other data sources generally do not involve multiple questionnaires of the same type.

Household Surveys can be Labour Force Surveys, Household Income and Expenditure Surveys, Income and Living Standards Surveys etc. Table 3.4 shows the type of Household Surveys the countries have reported on. Of the 120 Household Questionnaires received, 49 are on Labour Force Surveys and 16 are on Living Standards Measurement Surveys including EU-SILC. A total of 12 countries reported on special Migration Surveys that they carry out.

Table 3.3 Number of Reporting Countries by Questionnaire Type and Questionnaires Received

Number of questionnaire	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7
Number of countries	122	86	48	18	16	72	25
1 questionnaire	122	62	47	18	14	47	24
2 questionnaires	0	17	1	0	2	12	1
3 questionnaires	0	5	0	0	0	5	0
4 questionnaires	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
5 questionnaires	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
6 questionnaires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 questionnaires	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

Number of questionnaires received	122	120	49	18	18	127	26
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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.

Table 3.4 Number of Q2 Received by Type of Household Survey

Type of household survey	Total	Africa	Americas	Arab States	Asia & the Pacific	Europe & Central Asia
Number of questionnaires received	120	25	12	5	10	68
▪Labour force survey	49	6	5	4	2	32
▪Household income & expenditure survey*	12	2	0	0	3	7
▪Demographic and health survey	2	1	0	0	0	1
▪Living standards measurement survey**	16	3	0	0	0	13
▪Special migration survey	12	1	0	0	4	7
▪Others	29	12	7	1	1	8

Notes: Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys.*Household Budget Survey, Household Expenditure Survey, Household Income and Expenditure Survey, Household Income Survey, etc.** EU-SILC, Integrated Survey on Living Conditions of the Households, Modular Integrated Survey on Living Conditions of Households, etc.

Source: ILO, metadata.

Table 3.5 Number of Q6 Received by Type of Administrative Source

Type of administrative source	Total	Africa	Americas	Arab States	Asia and the Pacific	Europe and Central Asia
Number of questionnaires received	127	15	8	2	12	90
▪Continuous population register	22	2	2	1	0	17
▪Register of migrant workers	4	1	0	0	0	3
▪Register of nationals issued work permits to work abroad, by country of work	5	1	1	0	1	2

▪Data from private employment services	4	4	0	0	0	0
▪Data from government/public employment services	16	0	0	0	2	14
▪Social security registration system	15	1	1	0	0	13
▪Register of work permits issued to foreign workers	24	5	2	0	4	13
▪Register of international migrants	11	0	0	0	3	8
▪Other	26	1	2	1	2	20

Notes: Q6. Questionnaire for Administrative Sources.

Source: ILO, metadata.

Table 3.5 shows a tabulation of different types of administrative sources that countries have reported on. Among 127 administrative sources that produce migration related statistics, 22 are Continuous Population Registers, 16 are from government/public employment services, 24 are registers of work permits issued to foreign workers.

3.2 Periodicity and coverage

Producing timely statistics on international labour migration depend on how frequently the data are collected. The ILO Country Survey questionnaires inquire about the periodicity of data collection in Questionnaires Q2 through Q7. Table 3.6 summarizes this information by questionnaire type. Of the 358 questionnaires received, 94 are carried out on a continuous basis, 87 every x months, 131 every x years and 33 irregularly. Household Surveys (Q2) and Border/Admission Statistics (Q4) gather information on a more frequent basis than other sources of data.

For the Population Census and Establishment Census, the ILO questionnaires inquire about the year of the last census. This information is given in Table 3.7.

Another important question regarding the various data sources relates to whether a particular source covers the whole country or only parts of the country. The responses of the countries on geographical coverage are given in Table 3.8, which shows that of the 431 questionnaires received for questionnaire types Q1, Q2 and Q4 through Q7, the overwhelming majority (390 data sources) cover the whole country and only 41 cover parts of the country.

Table 3.6 Periodicity of Data Collection by Questionnaire Type

Periodicity	Total	Q2 LFS	Q2 Other	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6*	Q7
▪Continuously	94	29	11	27	0	0	27	0
▪Every "X" months	87	9	4	16	0	2	47	9
•1 month	36	2	1	12	0	0	19	2
•3 months	28	5	3	2	0	1	12	5

	•4 months	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	•6 months	12	1	0	2	0	1	7	1
	•No response	10	1	0	0	0	0	8	1
▪	Every "X" years	131	7	39	5	14	13	41	12
	•1 year	80	3	15	4	5	8	35	10
	•2 years	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
	•3 years	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
	•4 years	5	0	1	0	0	4	0	0
	•5 years	21	4	12	0	3	1	0	1
	•10 years	8	0	1	0	6	0	0	1
	•No response	10	0	2	1	0	0	6	1
▪	Irregularly or only once	33	4	17	1	4	3	0	4
▪	Other	12	0	0	0	0	0	11	1
▪	No response	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Number of questionnaires received		358	49	71	49	18	18	127	26

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. * Periodicity of data release.
Source: ILO, metadata.

Table 3.7 Year of Last Census

	Total	80s	90s	1st half of 2000	2 nd half of 2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Q1	122	1	1	5	20	25	46	7	4	10	2	1
Q4	18	1	1	0	3	1	6	0	1	5	0	0

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

Table 3.8 Geographical Coverage

Geographical area	Total	Q1	Q2	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7
Number of questionnaires received	431	122	120	18	18	127	26
▪Whole country	390	109	107	17	16	117	24
▪Parts of country	41	13	13	1	2	10	2

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys, 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.

With the exception of Q4 (Establishment Census) and Q5 (Establishment Survey), the ILO Country Survey questionnaires inquire about the population coverage of the data sources. For the purposes of international labour migration, the population groups of interest are ‘foreigners living in the country’, ‘foreign workers living in the country’, ‘nationals living abroad’ and ‘nationals living and working abroad’. In addition, ‘refugees and asylum seekers’, ‘workers trafficked into the country’ and ‘citizens trafficked to other countries’ may be of interest to countries where such phenomena are important. Data on these groups at a point in time provide stock statistics on the size and characteristics of these groups. In addition, flow statistics may be of importance and therefore, countries may wish to keep track of the ‘entry of nationals returning from residence abroad’, ‘exit of nationals to live abroad’ and ‘foreigners entering country to take up residence’. As shown in Table 3.9A, while Q1 (Population Census) and Q2 (Household Surveys) and to a lesser extent Q6 (Administrative Sources) provide stock data on most of the relevant groups, flow data is more likely to be collected by Q3 (Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics). (Empty cells in the tables indicate that the ILO Survey questionnaire did not include that item in a specific questionnaire.)

Table 3.9B provides information on whether countries that collect data on population groups of interest publish or disseminate statistics on these groups. The comparison of Table 3.9A and Table 3.9B suggests that most countries that collect information on groups of interest for international labour migration also publish or disseminate statistics on these groups.

Table 3.10 gives the age coverage of the data sources for international labour migration. The majority of data sources – 186 out of 322 – cover all age groups. Specialized surveys such as the Labour Force Surveys cover the working age population.

Table 3.9A Population Coverage

Population group	Total	Q1	Q2 (LFS)	Q2 (Other)	Q3	Q6	Q7
▪Nationals in the country	291	117	48	63		46	17
▪Nationals employed in the country	287	116	48	61		45	17
▪Nationals living abroad	75	30	8	12		20	5
▪Nationals living and working abroad	69	30	9	13		17	0
▪Foreigners living in the country	265	108	31	44		62	20
▪Foreign workers living in the country							
	293	107	38	47		81	20
▪Refugees	145	54	7	11	25	41	7
▪Asylum seekers	94	35	2	5	16	31	6
▪Child workers in country	22		0	18			4
▪Workers trafficked into the country	7		2	2			3
▪Citizens trafficked to other countries	6		2	0			4
▪Entry of nationals returning from residence abroad	28				28		
▪Exit of nationals to live abroad	27				27		
▪Exit of nationals for temporary purposes	30				30		
▪Foreigners entering country to live	35				35		
▪Foreigners entering country for temporary purposes	38				38		
▪Transit migrants	18				18		
▪Other foreigners	83	30	9	5	16	24	0
Number of questionnaires received	444	122	49	71	49	127	26

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys, Q3. Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics, Q6. Questionnaire for Administrative Sources, Q7. Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers. Empty cells indicate that that particular information is not sought in a specific questionnaire. Zeros mean that the information is sought but no positive response was received.

Source: ILO, metadata.

Table 3.9B Population Coverage Published

Population group	Total	Q1	Q2 (LFS)	Q2 (Other)	Q3	Q6	Q7
▪Nationals in the country	247	109	44	49		33	12
▪Nationals employed in the country	230	103	44	47		26	10
▪Nationals living abroad	42	23	1	4		11	3
▪Nationals living and working abroad	43	23	2	9		9	0
▪Foreigners living in the country	193	89	20	23		47	14
▪Foreign workers living in the country	184	77	27	20		47	13
▪Refugees	68	26	1	6	11	20	4
▪Asylum seekers	41	12	0	2	8	15	4
▪Child workers in country	7		0	7			0
▪Workers trafficked into the country	4		1	1			2
▪Citizens trafficked to other countries	4		1	0			3
▪Entry of nationals returning from residence abroad	15				15		
▪Exit of nationals to live abroad	13				13		
▪Exit of nationals for temporary purposes	19				19		
▪Foreigners entering country to live	23				23		
▪Foreigners entering country for temporary purposes	28				28		
▪Transit migrants	8				8		
▪Other foreigners	57	20	5	5	11	16	0
Number of questionnaires received	444	122	49	71	49	127	26

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys, Q3. Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics, Q6. Questionnaire for Administrative Sources, Q7. Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers. Empty cells indicate that that particular information is not sought in a specific questionnaire. Zeros mean that the information is sought but no positive response was received.

Source: ILO, metadata.

Table 3.10 Age Coverage

Age group	Total	Q2(LFS)	Q2(Other)	Q3	Q6	Q7
▪All ages	186	5	29	46	85	21
▪Other	128	44	42	3	34	5
•5+	2	1	1	0	0	0
•6+	1	0	1	0	0	0
•7+	1	0	1	0	0	0
•10+	5	1	4	0	0	0
•12+	2	0	2	0	0	0
•14+	3	0	1	0	2	0
•15+	50	31	13	1	3	2
•16+	21	2	10	0	8	1
•17+	1	0	0	0	1	0
•18+	4	0	1	0	2	1
•21+	2	0	0	0	2	0
•0-65	1	0	0	0	1	0
•0-79	1	0	1	0	0	0
•10-19	1	0	1	0	0	0
•12-75	1	1	0	0	0	0
•14-65	1	0	0	0	1	0
•15-64	2	1	1	0	0	0
•15-65	1	0	0	0	1	0
•15-70	1	0	1	0	0	0
•15-74	10	6	2	0	1	1
•15-75	1	0	1	0	0	0
•15-79	1	1	0	0	0	0
•15-99	1	0	0	0	1	0
•20-60	1	0	0	0	1	0
•Others	13	0	1	2	10	0
▪No response	8	0	0	0	8	0
Number of questionnaires received	322	49	71	49	127	26

Notes: Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys, Q3. Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics, Q6. Questionnaire for Administrative Sources, Q7. Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers.

Source: ILO, metadata.

For Q4 (Questionnaire for Establishment Census) and Q5 (Questionnaire for Establishment Survey), the ILO questionnaires inquire about the coverage of the data source in terms of establishment size, type and industry. Tables 3.11 and 3.12 suggest that it is not uncommon for these data sources to limit the information collected to establishments of certain size or economic sector.

Table 3.11 Establishment Coverage

Establishment size and type	Total	Q4	Q5
▪All economic establishments of any size	11	11	0
▪All establishments with at least "X" workers/employees	14	4	10
•No. of workers/employees	1	8	3
	10	6	1
▪Only formal sector establishments	7	7	0
▪All formal sector establishments and a sample of informal sector establishments	0	0	0
▪Only private sector establishments	2	2	0
▪Only establishments in urban area	0	0	0
▪Only non-farm establishments	1	1	0
▪Other	2	2	0
Number of questionnaires received	36	18	18

Notes: Q4. Questionnaire for Establishment Census, Q5. Questionnaire for Establishment Survey.
Source: ILO, metadata.

Table 3.12 Industry Coverage

Industry/economic sector	Total	Q4	Q5
▪All industry/economic sectors	18	11	7
▪Not all	17	7	10
▪No response	1	0	1
Number of questionnaires received	36	18	18

Notes: Q4. Questionnaire for Establishment Census, Q5. Questionnaire for Establishment Survey.
Source: ILO, metadata.

3.3 Topics covered

The ILO Country Survey questionnaires inquire about the coverage of six main topics by the relevant data sources: demographic characteristics, international migration related characteristics, labour related characteristics, remittances sent and received, immigrants and return migrants and data dissemination.

3.3.1 Results for demographic characteristics

Table 3.13 tabulates the number of data sources by questionnaire type that collect demographic information. The table suggests that most data sources collect information on basic demographic characteristics.

Table 3.13 Demographic Characteristics Covered

Demographic characteristics	Total	Q1	Q2 (LFS)	Q2 (Other)	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7
▪Age	439	122	49	67	42	11	13	115	20
▪Sex	456	122	49	68	44	16	16	118	23
▪Marital status	322	120	48	64	17			60	13
▪Educational attainment	319	121	45	67	8	8	11	46	13
▪Household size	247	122	47	65	4				9
▪Household composition	13				5				8
Number of questionnaires received	480	122	49	71	49	18	18	127	26

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. Empty cells indicate that that particular information is not sought in a specific questionnaire. Zeros mean that the information is sought but no positive response was received.

Source: ILO, metadata.

3.3.2 Results for international migration related characteristics

Countries collect a variety of international migration related information via various data sources as given in Table 3.14. Of these characteristics, country of birth, nationality and country of citizenship are the most commonly collected information. Aside from Border/Admission Statistics (Q3) and Administrative Sources (Q6), the two sources that collect such information are Population Census (Q1) and Household Surveys (Q2), in particular the Labour Force Surveys (Q2 LFS).

Table 3.15 shows that when Population Census (Q1) and Household Surveys (Q2) do collect such information, particularly on country of birth and country of citizenship, the information collected pertains to all persons. Such is not necessarily the case for country of previous residence, which is asked of particular groups of persons.

▪Intended duration of stay	17				17				
▪Time period allowed to stay(e.g., if with work permit)	67				13			54	
▪Time period allowed to stay(e.g., if with work permit)	44							44	
▪Other	30				12			18	
Number of questionnaires received	480	122	49	71	49	18	18	126	27

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. Empty cells indicate that that particular information is not sought in a specific questionnaire. Zeros mean that the information is sought but no positive response was received.

Source: ILO, metadata.

Table 3.15 Persons Covered by International Migration Related Characteristics

Migration characteristics and persons covered		Total	Q1	Q2 (LFS)	Q2 (Other)
▪Country of birth	•All persons	165	98	28	39
	•Not for all	31	11	7	13
	•Not collected or no response	46	13	14	19
▪Country of citizenship	•All persons	155	87	29	39
	•Not for all	23	7	6	10
	•Not collected or no response	64	28	14	22
▪Second country of citizenship	•All persons	36	25	2	9
	•Not for all	27	18	3	6
	•Not collected or no response	179	79	44	56
▪Country of previous residence for foreigners	•All persons	69	51	6	12
	•Not for all	36	23	8	5
	•Not collected or no response	137	48	35	54
▪Country of previous residence for citizens who lived abroad but returned	•All persons	53	42	3	8
	•Not for all	41	25	8	8
	•Not collected or no response	148	55	38	55
Number of questionnaires received		242	122	49	71

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys. Countries answering the question on whether they collect 'migration related characteristics' may fail to answer the coverage question. Therefore, responses in Table 3.15A and B may not exactly tally.

Source: ILO, metadata.

The two most likely sources of information on (former) household members who left to live abroad are Population Census (Q1) and Household Surveys (Q2). Concerning these household members, the ILO Country Survey questionnaires inquire whether countries collect information on such persons via Q1 and Q2. This information is tabulated in Table 3.16A, which suggests that it is not a common practice for countries to collect information on absent household members. However, the small number of countries that do collect information on absent household members, gather a variety of demographic and labour related information on these (former) household members abroad as given in Tables 3.16B and 3.16C.

Table 3.16A Household Members who Left for Abroad

Information on household members who left abroad		Total	Q1	Q2 (LFS)	Q2 (Other)
▪ Ask about household members who left for abroad (A)	- Yes	91	54	13	24
	- No	151	68	36	47
• Time cut-off	- The last 6 months	14	8	1	5
	- The last 12 months	18	12	4	2
	- Others	52	32	6	14
	- Not in (A) or no response	158	70	38	50
• Asking the last time the person left	- Yes	72	44	10	18
	- No	13	7	1	5
	- Not in (A) or no response	157	71	38	48
• Limited to those of a certain age or work status	- Yes	21	7	4	10
	- No	66	45	7	14
	- Not in (A) or no response	155	70	38	47
• Limited to those who left within the last X years and have not returned	- Yes	30	15	3	12
	- No	55	36	9	10
	- Not in (A) or no response	157	71	37	49
Number of questionnaires received		242	122	49	71

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys. Countries answering the question on whether they collect information on 'household members who have left for abroad' may fail to answer additional questions connected with this question given in the table and therefore, the sub-totals in the table may not exactly tally.

Source: ILO, metadata.

Table 3.16B Characteristics of Household Members who Left for Abroad

Characteristics	Total	Q1	Q2 (LFS)	Q2 (Other)
▪Name	68	39	9	20
▪Month/Year of departure	55	31	4	20
▪Sex	81	47	10	24
▪Main reason for leaving	48	27	7	14
▪Age at time of leaving household	33	20	0	13
▪Age at present	58	33	11	14
▪Marital status at time of leaving	12	6	0	6
▪Marital status at present	43	22	10	11
▪Education at time of leaving	17	9	1	7
▪Education at present	44	23	10	11
▪Employment status at time of leaving	16	6	1	9
▪Employment status at present	33	16	6	11
▪Occupation at time of leaving	11	6	0	5
▪Occupation at present	34	18	7	9
▪Whether that person intends to return	7		0	7
▪Whether that person made own decision to migrate or if someone else in household also made the decision	4		0	4
▪The level of knowledge of the language of the destination country before moving there	3		0	3
▪Whether that person had visited that country before moving there	1		0	1
▪Whether that person had visited any other country before and which country(s)	2		0	2
▪Whether that person had a visa or other document for legal entry into that country before moving there	2		0	2

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys. Empty cells indicate that that particular information is not sought in a specific questionnaire. Zeros mean that the information is sought but no positive response was received.

Source: ILO, metadata.

Table 3.16C Persons who Have Left to Live or Work Abroad

Information on persons who have left for abroad	Total	Q2 (LFS)	Q2 (Other)
▪ Question such as `Was he/she recruited in this country by someone, offering work abroad, and making arrangements for him/her to go abroad to work?`	2	0	2
• Question `when did he/she accept that offer to go abroad or make his/her own arrangements instead?`	2	0	2
▪ Question such as `Have you had regular communications with this person?`	1	0	1
• Question `When was the last communication?`	1	0	1
• Question such as `In what form was this communication?`	1	0	1
• Question such as `Did this person ask for assistance in any form at this time?`	1	0	1

Notes: Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys.

Source: ILO, metadata.

3.3.3 Results on labour related characteristics

Information on labour related characteristics such as employment status, occupation, industry/economic sector, and status in employment are collected in Population Census (Q1) and Household Survey (Q2) in particular in Labour Force Surveys (Q2 LFS) (Tables 3.17A). As suggested in Table 3.17A, it is not common for administrative sources to collect information on labour related characteristics of respondents.

In the Population Census (Q1) and Household Surveys (Q2), when information on labour related characteristics is collected, this is often done for the working age population (WAP). Age 15 is the most commonly used lower age threshold to define WAP (see Table 3.17B).

Establishment Census (Q4) and Establishment Surveys (Q5) also collect information on labour related characteristics of employed persons. As noted earlier, empty cells in a table such as those in Table 3.17A for Q4 and Q5 do not suggest lack of information on a particular topic but rather that this information is not sought in a particular ILO questionnaire. For instance, in Q4 and Q5 employment status of workers are not inquired because Establishment Census and Surveys naturally only include employed persons. Likewise, the industry or economic sector is not inquired because this information is collected at the establishment level. Different from Population Census and Household Surveys, Establishment Census and Surveys collect detailed information on establishment characteristics (Table 3.17C).

Table 3.17A Labour Related Characteristics Covered

Labour related characteristics	Total	Q1	Q2 (LFS)	Q2 (Other)	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7
▪Employment status	299	117	47	66	13			40	16
▪Occupation	331	113	47	60	16	10	12	59	14
▪Industry/Economic sector	311	116	47	61	10			58	18
▪Status in employment	311	116	47	64	7	12	7	43	14
▪Hours usually worked	153	37	46	50		4	6		9
▪Disability	100	67	13	20					
▪Individual earnings per month	122	20	34	37				21	9
▪Household income	81	20	11	48					2
▪Occupational injury	27	4	8	5		2	1		3
▪Wage or earnings rate per time period	76		18	36		5	14		7
▪Months worked in past year	39		12	27					
▪Whether send or sent remittances to other country	2					1	1		
▪Data of beginning to work for company	10					3	7		
▪Unemployment benefits	30		10	20					
▪Health insurance or subsidized health care	34		9	25					
▪Retirement pension	50		13	37					
▪Paid vacation	39		13	26					
▪Subsidized housing	30		5	25					
▪Free or subsidized food	21		3	18					
▪Other benefits	33		9	24					
Number of questionnaires received	480	122	49	71	49	18	18	127	26

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. Empty cells indicate that that particular information is not sought in a specific questionnaire. Zeros mean that the information is sought but no positive response was received.

Source: ILO, metadata.

Table 3.17B Age Coverage for Labour Related Characteristics

Age group	Total	Q1	Q2(LFS)	Q2(Other)
▪All ages	21	10	2	9
▪5+	7	5	1	1
▪6+	14	10	0	4
▪7+	1	1	0	0
▪10+	17	11	1	5
▪12+	5	3	0	2
▪14+	7	5	0	2
▪15+	84	46	24	14
▪16+	18	5	3	10
▪19+	1	1	0	0
▪0-79	1	0	0	1
▪15-59	2	0	0	2
▪15-64	3	1	1	1
▪15-70	1	0	0	1
▪15-72	1	1	0	0
▪15-74	7	1	4	2
▪15-75	2	1	1	0
▪15-79	2	1	1	0
▪Other	13	12	0	1
▪No response or information not collected	35	8	11	16
Number of questionnaires received	242	122	49	71

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys.
Source: ILO, metadata.

Table 3.17C Topics for Establishments

Topics	Total	Q4	Q5
▪Industry/economic sector	34	18	16
▪Number of employees	34	18	16
▪Labour turnover	6	4	2
▪Profit/loss in most recent year available	8	8	
▪Total sales revenue or gross receipts in most recent year available	9		9
Number of questionnaires received	36	18	18

Notes: Q4. Questionnaire for Establishment Census, Q5. Questionnaire for Establishment Survey.
Empty cells indicate that that particular information is not sought in a specific questionnaire.
Zeros mean that the information is sought but no positive response was received.
Source: ILO, metadata.

3.3.4 Results on remittances sent and received

The ILO Country Survey includes questions on remittances sent and received in the Questionnaire for Population Census (Q1), Questionnaire for Household Surveys (Q2) and Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers (Q7). Accordingly, of the

122 countries that report on their Population Census, 15 have questions on remittances received and 3 on remittances sent. Of the 71 Household Survey questionnaires returned, 21 survey instruments include questions on remittances sent and 31 on remittances received. Despite the richness of labour related questions in Labour Force Surveys (LFS), rarely do they include questions on remittances sent or received.

Table 3.18 Remittance Sent and Received

Remittance sent and received	Total	Q1	Q2(LFS)	Q2(Other)	Q7
▪Remittance sent	25	3	1	21	0
•Additional question(s)	15		0	15	
▪Remittance received	49	15	1	31	2
•Additional question(s)	26		1	25	
▪Reference period for remittances	8	7			1
Number of questionnaires received	269	122	49	71	26

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys, Q7. Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers. Empty cells indicate that that particular information is not sought in a specific questionnaire. Zeros mean that the information is sought but no positive response was received.

Source: ILO, metadata.

3.3.5 Results on immigrants and return migrants

As probable sources of information on immigrants and but particularly return migrant workers, the ILO Country Survey questionnaires on Population Census (Q1) and Household Surveys (Q2) include a series of questions given in Table 3.19 that aim to understand the type of information collected on immigrants and return migrants. Out of 122 countries filling out Q1, 52 include in their Population Census a question such as the following: “Have you ever lived outside of this country”. However, the number of countries that collect labour related information prior to the person’s departure from the last country of residence is rather small. Household Surveys including the Labour Force Surveys are not likely to collect such information either.

Table 3.19 Immigrants and Return Migrants

Information on immigrants and return migrants		Total	Q1	Q2 (LFS)	Q2 (Other)
▪ Question such as `Have you ever lived outside the country?`		77	52	10	15
• Question `When did you arrive in this country?`		66	47	7	12
• Data obtained while in previous residence	- Employment status	16	8	2	6
	- Status in employment	14	7	2	5
	- Occupation	13	8	2	3
	- Industry/economic sector	13	7	2	4
	- Reason for choosing to migrate to this country	15	9	2	4
- Reason for leaving previous country of residence		11	5	1	5
▪ Question such as `Did you ever live in this country before?` asked of non-native born persons.		9		3	6
• Question `when did you leave this country to live abroad?`		3		0	3
Number of questionnaires received		242	122	49	71

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys. Empty cells indicate that that particular information is not sought in a specific questionnaire. Zeros mean that the information is sought but no positive response was received.

Source: ILO, metadata.

3.3.6 Results on data dissemination

The ILO Country Survey questionnaires also inquire whether any of the information collected on demographic characteristics, international migration characteristics, labour related characteristics, remittances, and immigration and return migration experiences of respondents are published or disseminated. The results given in Table 3.20 suggests that it is not uncommon for countries not to disseminate or publish some aspect of the information gathered.

Table 3.20 Data Collected but Not Published/Disseminated

Collected but not disseminated data	Total	Q1	Q2 (LFS)	Q2 (Other)	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6
▪ Yes	154	24	20	24	14	4	6	62
▪ No	257	88	26	45	26	14	12	46
▪ No response	43	10	3	2	9	0	0	19
Number of questionnaires received	454	122	49	71	49	18	18	127

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.

3.4 Concepts and definitions

The ILO Country Survey questionnaires ask that countries provide the definitions for the key concepts used in their various data sources. The way in which countries define ‘international migrant workers’ is asked in all questionnaires, with the assumption that different government bodies responsible for different sources of data may define international migrant workers differently. The other concepts to be defined include the following: In the Questionnaire for the Population Census (Q1) and the Questionnaire for Household Surveys, the concepts to be defined are ‘nationals (citizens) living abroad’ and ‘employment’; in the Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics the concepts to be defined are ‘overseas visitors’ and ‘country of residence’; in the Questionnaires for Establishment Census and Establishment Surveys, the concepts to be defined are ‘short-term migrant workers’, ‘employment’ and ‘wages’; in the Questionnaire for Administrative Sources and the Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers, the concepts to be defined are ‘short-term migrant workers’, ‘nationals (citizens) living abroad’, ‘employment’ and ‘individual earnings’. In addition, the Questionnaire on the Estimation of International Migrant Workers asks the countries to define ‘household income’.

Table 3.21 tabulates the responses received from countries. Not all responding countries have provided an explanation for the key concepts used. For instance, of the 122 countries responding to the Questionnaire for Population Census (Q1), 69 provided a definition on ‘international migrant workers’, 63 on ‘nationals living abroad’ and 100 on ‘employment’. In regards to the Questionnaire for Border/Admission Statistics, of the 49 responses received (where multiple responses from a given country is possible) only 19 included a definition for international migrant workers.

Table 3.21 Concepts and Definitions

Concepts and definitions	Total	Q1	Q2 (LFS)	Q2 (Other)	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7
▪International migrant workers	263	69	26	32	19	10	11	76	20
▪Nationals living abroad	144	63	18	25				28	10
▪Definition of employment	292	100	46	51		14	15	50	16
▪Overseas visitors	32				32				
▪Country of residence	26				26				
▪Short-term migrant workers	32					4	2	19	7
▪Wages	23					10	13		
▪Individual earnings	30							30	
▪Household income	4								4
Number of questionnaires received	480	122	49	71	49	18	18	127	26

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. Empty cells indicate that that particular information is not sought in a specific questionnaire. Zeros mean that the information is sought but no positive response was received.

Source: ILO, metadata.

3.5 Classification

The ILO Survey questionnaire also ask countries to provide information on the classifications they use for occupations, industry, status in employment and education. Table 3.22 tabulates the responses received from countries, which suggest that most countries use some international standard or an adaptation of it in classifying occupations, industry, status in employment and education. Table 3.23 provides further information on the detail in which information on occupations and industry is disseminated.

Table 3.22 Classifications of Occupation, Industry, Status in Employment and Education

Classifications		Total	Q1	Q2 LFS	Q2 Other	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7
■ Occupation	● Total	347	111	49	62	18	14	15	65	13
	● ISCO-68	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	● ISCO-88	34	12	6	5	3	1	2	4	1
	● ISCO-08	129	43	32	24	2	4	6	12	6
	● National adaptation of ISCO	112	37	8	19	5	6	5	28	4
	● Other	68	17	3	14	8	2	2	21	1
■ Industry	● Total	337	111	49	62	8	17	16	58	16
	● ISIC rev 2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	● ISIC rev 3	28	13	4	5	2	1	0	2	1
	● ISIC rev 4	49	15	9	7	2	6	3	4	3
	● NACE, NAICS	99	27	25	21	1	2	6	13	4
	● National adaptation of ISIC	90	37	9	16	0	4	3	16	5
	● Other	69	19	2	13	3	3	4	23	2
■ Status in employment	● Total	239	90	44	51	4	10	4	24	12
	● ICSE-1958	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	● ICSE-1993	94	24	30	23	2	2	1	6	6
	● National adaptation of ICSE	92	51	11	11	1	5	3	6	4
	● Other	52	14	3	17	1	3	0	12	2
■ Status in education	■ Total	275	103	47	63	6	8	9	28	11
	● ISCED-1997	70	41	7	10	3	2	2	3	2
	● ISCED-2011	68	10	24	21	0	2	4	5	2
	● ISCED-2013	11	3	3	3	1	0	0	1	0
	● National adaptation of ISCED	82	38	10	16	0	2	3	9	4
	● Other	44	11	3	13	2	2	0	10	3
Number of questionnaires received		480	122	49	71	49	18	18	127	26

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.

Table 3.23 Detailed Data Release

Number of digits used to release data		Total	Q1	Q2 (LFS)	Q2 (Other)	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7
■Occupation	●Total	347	111	49	62	18	14	15	65	13
	●1	68	24	14	14	0	4	4	4	4
	●2	44	12	8	14	2	1	2	5	0
	●3	20	10	4	2	3	0	1	0	0
	●4	78	31	15	10	3	1	4	11	3
	●5	14	2	1	3	0	0	0	7	1
	●6	16	2	2	1	1	1	0	9	0
	●No response	107	30	5	18	9	7	4	29	5
■Industry	●Total	337	111	49	62	8	17	16	58	16
	●1	59	14	14	15	0	3	4	6	3
	●2	67	23	10	21	1	2	3	5	2
	●3	25	12	5	3	1	0	0	3	1
	●4	51	18	11	5	1	1	3	9	3
	●5	27	5	1	2	1	4	2	10	2
	●6	9	2	2	2	0	1	0	2	0
	●No response	99	37	6	14	4	6	4	23	5
Number of questionnaires received		480	122	49	71	49	18	18	127	26

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.

3.6 Method of data collection and dissemination

Table 3.24 shows the data collection methods of responding countries. On the basis of 327 questionnaires received, it can be concluded that the most common form of data collection is PAPI (i.e. face-to-face interview with an enumerator using a paper questionnaire), which is used in 174 data sources. The second most popular method is CAPI (i.e. face-to-face computer assisted interview by an interviewer).

Table 3.24 Data Collection Methods

Data collection methods	Total	Q1	Q2 (LFS)	Q2 (Other)	Q3	Q4	Q5
▪PAPI	174	85	21	49	5	9	5
▪CAPI	86	19	27	31	6	1	2
▪TCPQ	15	4	6	3		1	1
▪CATI	44	8	23	13		0	0
▪By mail	29	16	1	2		6	4
▪CAWI	52	28	6	7		2	9
▪Administrative sources	35	23				5	7
▪Self-administered form	18				18		
▪Others	50	19	0	6	23	1	1
Number of questionnaires received	327	122	49	71	49	18	18

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. PAPI is face-to-face interview by an enumerator using paper questionnaire, CAPI is face-to-face computer assisted interview by an enumerator, TCPQ is telephone interview by an enumerator, CATI is computer assisted telephone interview by an enumerator with data recorded on computer, 'by mail' is self-administered mail questionnaire, CAWI is self-administered online questionnaire. Empty cells indicate that that particular information is not sought in a specific questionnaire. Zeros mean that the information is sought but no positive response was received.

Source: ILO, metadata.

Table 3.25 Participation in Data Collection

Participation is ...	Total	Q1	Q2 (LFS)	Q2 (Other)	Q4	Q5	Q6
▪Compulsory	297	109	23	32	15	13	105
▪Not compulsory	82	5	25	37	2	2	11
▪No response	26	8	1	2	1	3	11
Number of questionnaires received	405	122	49	71	18	18	127

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.

Source: ILO, metadata.

In most countries, participation in Population Census is compulsory, which is also the case for Establishment Census and Establishment Surveys but not necessarily for Household Surveys (Table 3.25.)

The ILO Country Survey asks countries whether any official estimate of the under-coverage rate is done for the Population Census (Q1) and the Establishment Census (Q4). Out of 122 countries responding to the Questionnaire for the Population Census (Q1), 66 responded affirmatively (Table 3.26). In regards to the Questionnaire for the Establishment Census (Q4),

out of 18 countries 11 responded affirmatively and 6 reported having done adjustments for under-coverage.

In the case of Administrative Sources, the ILO Country Survey questionnaire asks countries about the coverage rate of the registration systems they use. Out of 127 questionnaires returned, only a small number of them include an estimate (Table 3.27). Country respondents are instructed to leave this section of the questionnaire blank if the coverage rate is not known.

Table 3.26 Estimation of Under-coverage Rate

Estimation of under-coverage		Total	Q1	Q4
▪ Any official estimate of the under-coverage rate	• Yes	66	55	11
	• No	58	58	0
	• No response	16	9	7
▪ Adjustment for estimated under-coverage	• Yes	6		6
	• No	8		8
	• No response	4		4
Number of questionnaires received		140	122	18

Notes: Q1. Questionnaire for Population Census, Q4. Questionnaire for Establishment Census. Empty cells indicate that that particular information is not sought in a specific questionnaire. Zeros mean that the information is sought but no positive response was received.

Source: ILO, metadata.

Table 3.27 Estimation of Coverage Rate

Estimation of coverage rate		Q6
▪ Total population	• Yes	15
	• No or no response	112
▪ Foreign migrants living in country	• Yes	20
	• No or no response	107
▪ Nationals living abroad	• Yes	4
	• No or no response	123
▪ Total employed population	• Yes	12
	• No or no response	115
▪ Foreign migrant workers living in the country	• Yes	26
	• No or no response	101
▪ Nationals working abroad	• Yes	4
	• No or no response	123
Number of questionnaires received		127

Notes: Q6. Questionnaire for Administrative Sources.

Source: ILO, metadata.

Table 3.28 tabulates the mode of dissemination for the data gathered. The most common mode is web sites followed by print publication. Dissemination of information in an electronic format is also common.

Table 3.28 Mode of Dissemination

Mode of data dissemination	Total	Q1	Q2 (LFS)	Q2 (Other)	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7
▪Printed publication	269	99	33	42	26	11	7	41	10
▪Electronic format	148	67	17	19	7	9	6	18	5
▪Web site	366	109	46	53	33	14	10	84	17
▪Others	89	24	9	14	8	1	0	26	7
▪None to date	37	7	1	12	5	2	0	7	3
Number of questionnaires received	480	122	49	71	49	18	18	127	26

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. Multiple responses allowed.

Source: ILO, metadata.

When the source of information is a census or a survey rather than an administrative record, countries tend to provide metadata on the source (Table 3.29). Countries are also more likely to make micro-data available for censuses and surveys as compared to administrative records (Table 3.30).

Table 3.29 Metadata Prepared and Disseminated

Metadata dissemination	Total	Q1	Q2 (LFS)	Q2 (Other)	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7
▪Yes	270	88	43	46	10	11	12	49	11
▪No	167	21	5	19	35	7	4	63	13
▪No response	43	13	1	6	4	0	2	15	2
Number of questionnaires received	480	122	49	71	49	18	18	127	26

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.

Table 3.30 Availability of Micro-data Files for External Users

Micro-data availability	Total	Q1	Q2 (LFS)	Q2 (Other)	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6
▪Yes	239	72	34	48	15	11	10	49
▪No	170	39	13	19	24	7	7	61
▪No response	45	11	2	4	10	0	1	17
Number of questionnaires received	454	122	49	71	49	18	18	127

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

Source: ILO, metadata.

3.7 Sample design

For Household and Establishment Surveys, census and administrative register data are commonly used as sample frames (Table 3.31). In the case of Household Surveys, countries tend to evaluate the response rate of the survey, which is often done on the basis of households rather than individual respondents (Table 3.32).

Table 3.31 Sample Frame

Sample frame used	Total	Q2(LFS)	Q2(Other)	Q5
▪Census	79	32	44	3
▪Area sample	13	5	7	1
▪Previous sample of same survey(panel survey)	5	0	5	
▪Administrative register	46	20	15	11
▪Other	14	5	8	1
Number of questionnaires received	138	49	71	18

Notes: Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys, Q5. Questionnaire for Establishment Survey. Empty cells indicate that that particular information is not sought in a specific questionnaire. Zeros mean that the information is sought but no positive response was received.

Source: ILO, metadata.

Table 3.32 Estimation of Response Rate

Evaluation of response rate		Total	Q2(LFS)	Q2(Other)
▪Evaluate the response rate or refusal rate	- Yes	87	39	48
	- No	23	7	16
	- No response	10	3	7
•Individuals	- Yes	32	12	20
	- Not estimated or no response	88	37	51
•Households	- Yes	72	30	42
	- Not estimated or no response	48	19	29
Number of questionnaires received		120	49	71

Notes: Q2. Questionnaire for Household Surveys.

Source: ILO, metadata.

