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1919-2019

**WORLD
EMPLOYMENT
SOCIAL
OUTLOOK**

A large, stylized white letter 'W' is superimposed over a collage of images. The collage includes a man in a white shirt, a bowl of yellow food, a laptop, and a bowl of orange food.



TRENDS 2019

WORLD EMPLOYMENT SOCIAL OUTLOOK

TRENDS **2019**

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Preface

This report assesses the impact of both new and long-standing challenges on global labour market trends. Its analysis should also be useful in considering the recommendations in the Report of the Global Commission on the Future of Work (ILO, 2019) and its call for a new focus on the changing nature of employment and its place in economy and society, as part of a “human-centred agenda for the future of work”.

If such an agenda is to be pursued, our analysis of labour market trends must be attentive to certain key issues. These include: equity – considering, for example, the shared experience of growth and decent work between and within regions; an expanded selection of indicators of labour market performance such as informality, underemployment and in-work poverty, in addition to the standard employment rate and unemployment rate indicators; gender, with a disaggregation of statistics not only to highlight gender differences but also to understand properly the functioning of labour markets; and sustainability, for example by understanding the virtuous and vicious cycles generated by the interaction of labour market characteristics.

This latest report on labour market trends moves towards a more nuanced and more holistic approach that could facilitate possible new approaches in working towards “a brighter future” (ibid.). Chapter 1 presents the global picture, disaggregated where possible to countries categorized by income level. Chapter 2 considers what is happening at regional level with a distinctive narrative that reflects key empirical realities, as well as policy concerns, within each region. Chapter 3 provides some initial findings on progress towards SDG 8, the UN’s 2030 Sustainable Development Goal for “inclusive and sustainable growth, employment and decent work for all”. The ILO will be developing a deeper, multidimensional analysis over the coming months as part of its preparations for the UN’s High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2019.

It is more vital than ever that the ILO’s global vision of decent work, inclusive growth and social justice should be founded on robust, up-to-date and relevant labour market research and data. We hope that this report will make an important contribution to that end.



Guy Ryder
ILO Director-General

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The ILO modelled estimates presented in this report are produced in cooperation between the Labour Market Trends and Policy Evaluation Unit of the ILO Research Department, led i.a. by Verónica Escudero, and the Data Production and Analysis Unit of the ILO Department of Statistics, led by Steven Kapsos. The authors of this report would specifically like to thank Roger Gomis for the excellent collaboration on model development and for the verification of results. The underlying database of labour market indicators is collected by the ILO Department of Statistics.

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Table of contents

Preface	iii
Acknowledgements	v
Executive summary	1
1. Global employment and social trends	5
The global labour market at a glance	5
Labour force participation	9
Employment-to-population ratio	11
Informality and status in employment	12
Structural transformation and job quality	14
Income	15
Unemployment	18
Extended labour underutilization	23
Labour markets and social unrest	24
2. Employment and social trends by region	27
Africa	28
Americas	35
Arab States	42
Asia and the Pacific	44
Europe and Central Asia	48
3. Sustainable Development Goal 8. Is the world moving towards more inclusive economic growth and decent work?	57
Sustainable Development Goal 8: Targets and indicators	58
Economic growth, transformation and productivity	60
Full and productive employment for all, with equal pay for work of equal value	65
Rights, safety and non-exploitative work	69
Summary of progress on Sustainable Development Goal 8 and next steps	71
Appendices	
A. Country groupings by region and income level	75
B. ILO modelled estimates	77
C. The relationship between the social unrest index and the unemployment rate	83
D. Tables of labour market indicators worldwide, by country income group and by region/subregion	84
Bibliography	117

Boxes

1.1	Why is unemployment so low in some low- and middle-income countries?	20
1.2	Labour flows: Why it is important to look beyond unemployment figures	21
3.1	Targets and indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 8	59
B1	Revisions to unemployment estimates	78

Figures

1.1	Snapshot of the global labour market, 2018	6
1.2	Growth of global labour force, employment and productivity, 1992–2020 (percentages)	7
1.3	Average growth of GDP and its two components (labour productivity and employment), global and by country income group, 1998–2020 (percentages)	8
1.4	Distribution of employment by aggregate sectors, global and by country income group, 1991 and 2018 (percentages)	14
1.5	Changes in extreme and moderate working poverty, 1993–2018	16
1.6	Real wage growth, global and by country income group, 2000–17 (percentages)	17
1.7	Global unemployment rate, 2000–20 (percentages)	18
1.8	Labour flows and unemployment rates, Germany, Italy, Japan and United States, 2000–18 (percentages)	21
1.9	Social unrest index, global and by subregion, 2018	24
2.1	Distribution of working-age population by status in the labour market, Africa, 2018 (percentages)	28
2.2	Distribution of the working-age, inactive, employed and unemployed population by sex and age group, Northern Africa, 2018 (percentages)	30
2.3	Employment by economic sector, sub-Saharan Africa, 2000–18 (millions)	33
2.4	Share of respondents who desire/plan to move abroad, sub-Saharan Africa, 2015/16 (percentages)	34
2.5	Labour force participation rates by broad age group, Canada and United States, 2000, 2008 and 2018 (percentages)	37
2.6	Distribution of employment by status and country income group in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2018 (percentages)	39
2.7	Variation in the share of informal employment in market services across Latin America and the Caribbean, latest year (percentages)	41
2.8	Relationship between informal employment and multidimensional poverty in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, latest year	41
2.9	Employment shares by economic sector, Asia and the Pacific, 2000 and 2018 (percentages)	46
2.10	Share of temporary employment in total employment across sectors, Asia and the Pacific, latest year (percentages)	47
2.11	Share of workers working excessive hours in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar and Viet Nam, selected sectors, latest year (percentages)	48
2.12	Distribution of temporary employment contracts by contract duration, countries in Northern, Southern and Western Europe, 2017 (percentages)	50
2.13	Share of part-time workers by main reason for part-time employment and by sex, Northern, Southern and Western Europe, 2017 (percentages)	51
3.1	Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita, global and by country income group, 2000–18 (percentages)	61
3.2	Annual growth rate of real GDP per worker, global and by country income group, 2000–18 (percentages)	62
3.3	Proportion of informal employment in non-agricultural employment, by sex and country income group, latest available year (percentages)	63
3.4	Domestic material consumption per capita and per unit of GDP, global and by region, 2000–16	64

3.5	Three indicators measuring the accessibility of financial services, by country income group, latest available year	64
3.6	Distribution of unemployment rates by age, sex, disability status and country income group, 2018 (percentages)	66
3.7	Young people with NEET status, by sex, global and by country income group, 2005 and 2018 (percentages)	67
3.8	Wage premium for men relative to women by occupation, latest available year (percentages)	68
3.9	Number of children involved in child labour, 5–17 years age range, actual and projected trend lines, 2000–25	70
3.10	Rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, European Union and rest of the world, latest available year (since 2010)	71

Tables

1.1	Labour force participation rates, global and by country income group, level in 2018 and changes during 1993–2023	10
1.2	Employment-to-population ratio, global and by country income group, 1993, 2018 and 2020 (percentages)	11
1.3	Informality and employment status, global and by country income group, levels in 2016 and 2018, and projected changes during 2018–23	12
1.4	Working poverty, by country income group and demographic group, 1993, 2018 and 2023	16
1.5	Rate and level of unemployment, global and by country income group and demographic group, 2017–20	19
1.6	Labour underutilization (based on LU3 indicator) and potential labour force, global and by country income group, 2018	23
2.1	Unemployment, employment growth, labour productivity growth and working poverty trends and projections, Africa, 2007–20	29
2.2	Unemployment, employment growth and labour productivity growth trends and projections, Northern America, 2007–20	36
2.3	Unemployment, employment growth, labour productivity growth and working poverty trends and projections, Latin America and the Caribbean, 2007–20	38
2.4	Unemployment, employment growth, labour productivity growth and working poverty trends and projections, Arab States, 2007–20	42
2.5	Unemployment, employment growth, labour productivity growth and working poverty trends and projections, Asia and the Pacific, 2007–20	45
2.6	Unemployment, employment growth and labour productivity growth trends and projections, Northern, Southern and Western Europe, 2007–20	49
2.7	Unemployment, employment growth, labour productivity growth and working poverty trends and projections, Eastern Europe and Central and Western Asia, 2007–20	53

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