



International
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Measuring informality: A statistical manual on the informal sector and informal employment



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Preface

This manual is intended as a technical guide for national statistical offices and other producers of statistics on the informal sector and informal employment. It presents the current international standards on employment in the informal sector that were adopted by the 15th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in 1993, as well as the guidelines on informal employment adopted by the 17th ICLS in 2003. It also provides practical guidance on implementing the standards, by presenting alternative measurement methodologies along with examples based on national experience, and includes guidelines for the dissemination of statistics on the informal sector and informal employment.

The manual was prepared in response to the 15th ICLS *Resolution concerning statistics of employment in the informal sector*, which called upon the ILO to prepare a manual with technical guidelines on the contents of the resolution based on lessons learned from country experiences. Since the adoption of this resolution the ILO, in collaboration with the Delhi Group, as the Expert Group on Informal Sector Statistics is known, has been closely involved in supporting national efforts to design and implement surveys on informal employment and the informal sector, and in disseminating and evaluating information about the lessons learned from the experience. This has resulted in recommendations for improving the quality and comparability of informal sector and informal employment statistics. The accumulated experience relating to the measurement of the informal sector and informal employment is consolidated in this manual.

The manual is a collaborative effort of the Delhi Group, the global networking Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) and the ILO Department of Statistics. It was written by national and international experts. Adriana Mata Greenwood, senior statistician of the ILO Department of Statistics, was responsible for bringing the manual to completion.

The International Labour Organization wishes to acknowledge the contributions of the following individuals who played a significant role in the preparation of this manual: Ralf Hussmanns (former official of the ILO), who initiated the project and contributed substantially to its contents, Elisa Benes (ILO), Jacques Charmes (IRD), Eivind Hoffmann (former official of the ILO), Rodrigo Negrete Prieto (INEGI,

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Last but not least, the International Labour Office wishes to recognize all national statistical offices, Ministries of Labour and workers' and employers' organizations, as well as the entire international statistical community for having been so supportive in advancing the measurement of such a complex component of economic and labour markets as informality. In particular, the ILO acknowledges the valuable financial contribution of the Government of India to the preparation of the manual. We hope that this will be a useful starting point towards further refinements in the quantification of informality.

Rafael Diez de Medina

ILO Department of Statistics

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