SDG indicator 8.5.2
Unemployment rate by sex, age and disability

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The actual value of statistics resides in their use, analysis and interpretation
**Definition and concepts**

**Unemployment**
All persons of working-age who
- Are not in employment
- Are available for employment
- Are actively looking for employment

**Labour force**
Employment and unemployment

**Working-age population:**
Persons ages 15+
Calculations

Unemployment rate = \( \frac{\text{Total unemployment}}{\text{Labour force}} \) \times 100

Unemployment rate = \( \frac{\text{Total unemployment}}{\text{Total employment} + \text{Total unemployment}} \) \times 100
Implications of introducing the forms of work framework (19th ICLS)

Employment no longer includes own-use production work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intended destination of production</th>
<th>for own final use</th>
<th>for use by others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Own-use production work</td>
<td>Employment (work for pay or profit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>of services</td>
<td>of goods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relation to SNA 2008</td>
<td>within SNA production boundary</td>
<td>inside SNA General production boundary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes compulsory work performed without pay for others, not covered in the draft resolution
Implications of the 19th ICLS (cont.)

Definition of unemployment unchanged
But operational criteria stricter because of supplementary measures of labour underutilization

Unpaid workers previously considered «employed»
Now either unemployed or outside the labour force
If available and seeking work then unemployed → rise in unemployment rate

Not all countries implemented 19th ICLS standards, different approaches to implementation, different timings → international comparability issues in the interim
Data sources

Labour force surveys → preferred source

Comprehensive coverage

Accuracy thanks to specific questions on availability and job search activities

Coherent measurement of the whole working-age population (employment, unemployment and outside the labour force)

Unemployment data can be derived from administrative records (such as employment office records or unemployment insurance records) but they refer to registered unemployment, and are not comparable to the three-criteria-unemployment.
Unemployment and registered unemployment rates in a set of European countries, 2015
Desired disaggregations

Breakdowns by sex, age and persons with disabilities → to the extent possible, simultaneously

- Age (at least identify youth/adults/seniors)
- Disability status based on WG-6

Various other useful disaggregations

- Former economic activity
- Former occupation
- Duration of unemployment
- Rural/urban, subnational region, etc.
Capturing disability status in a survey or census

Washington Group (WG) short set of questions adopted in 2006

Intended to identify (in a census or survey format) people with a disability, namely those at greater risk than the general population for participation restrictions due to the presence of difficulties in six core functional domains, if appropriate accommodations are not made.

- A set of 6 questions on walking, seeing, hearing, cognition, self-care, communication
- Four graded answer categories – no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, cannot do
- Questions and response categories allow calculation of estimates for level of functioning within each domain or among different combinations of domains
- Currently used in censuses and surveys of 70+ countries
Data availability for SDG 8.5.2

Unemployment rate by sex and age, latest year available in ILOSTAT

The boundaries shown on this map do not imply endorsement or acceptance by the ILO.
Data availability for SDG 8.5.2 (cont.)

Unemployment rate by sex and disability status, latest year available in ILOSTAT
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Years available</th>
<th>Latest source (previous sources if any)</th>
<th>By sex?</th>
<th>By age?</th>
<th>By disability?</th>
<th>Share micro with ILO?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>2000-2016</td>
<td>LFS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>2010-2012</td>
<td>Official Estimates (Population Census)</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>2000-2020</td>
<td>LFS</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupied Palestinian Territory</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>2018-2021</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
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<td>Yemen</td>
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</table>
Why are data by disability status not available?

- General lack of experts on disability statistics in countries
- General lack of requisite formal national coordination mechanism for necessary stakeholders
- National capacity building is required on the collection, analysis, dissemination and utilization of data on disability (need for technical assistance)
- Perception that disability data collection is too costly
Capturing disability status is low cost

- The WG-6 only take 90 secs to ask in a data collection exercise
- Can be easily included in existing censuses and surveys at low cost

**Number of questions used to identify persons with disabilities in censuses, 2005-2014**

- **0** countries use 0 questions
- **30** countries use 1-3 questions
- **30** countries use 4-5 questions
- **90** countries use 6+ questions
Insights into the underutilization of the labour supply

Major headline indicator, widely used and recognized among main labour market measures

Reflects the inability of an economy to generate employment for those who are available and looking for a job

Indicator of the efficiency and effectiveness of an economy to absorb its labour force and of the performance of the labour market
Why do disaggregations matter?

SDG 8.5.2 - Unemployment rate by age

- High income
- Upper-middle income
- Lower-middle income
- Low income

SDG 8.5.2 - Unemployment rate by disability status

- High income
- Upper-middle income
- Lower-middle income
- Low income
Limitations

...but insufficient measure of labour underutilization

• No information on the conditions of the unemployed
• Important to keep in mind the context and complement it with other indicators: the unemployment rate is not extremely relevant in all contexts
• No information on quality of employment

Comparability issues

• Different operational criteria used, sources, definitions, reference periods (seasonality), etc.
Example: The unemployment rate has decreased

How come? Why?

- Formerly unemployed found jobs? If so, decent jobs?
- Formerly unemployed quit the job search?
- How did the inactivity rate change?
- How did the employment-to-population ratio change?
Recommendations

- Increase the availability of internationally-comparable data on PWD in the labour market
- Use Washington Group questions in surveys and censuses
- Strengthen statistical capacity to measure disability, including administrative data collection
- Improve coordination between national and international agencies in the area of disability statistics

Beyond the SDGs

- For persons with disabilities, go beyond SDG labour related indicators to look at hours worked, earnings, type of employment, etc.
- Also disaggregate by demographic, social, and economic characteristics
New ILO database on Disability Labour Market Indicators (DLMI)

- Labour force, employment, unemployment and labour underutilization measures, working time, earnings
- By disability status cross-tabulated with other breakdowns (age, sex, economic activity, occupation, etc.)
- 62 countries excluding EUROSTAT (data from EU-SILC forthcoming)
- Updated weekly alongside other LFS-based databases
References and resources

**Topic page on ILOSTAT**

ILO Guidebook on SDG Labour Market Indicators

Other publications and blog posts (methods and analysis)

Access to data

Links to SDG repositories for all indicators
Thank you