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CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Joint ECE-Eurostat-ILO Seminar
on Measurement of the Quality of Employment
(Geneva, 3-5 May 2000)

Topic 1

**Jobs quality and forms of Employment: Concepts, definitions
and the statistical evidence**

Invited paper submitted by the Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom

Abstract

1. The paper will discuss conceptual issues in defining jobs quality, with particular reference to forms of employment and patterns of working, and relevance to particular sub-groups of the labour market.
2. It will comment on UK user views and the potential for combining statistics on job quality with the existing range of labour market statistics produced in accordance with international definitions and guidelines.
3. It will describe the relevant UK data sources and definitions used, and describe the work which is currently in progress in the UK to refine the definitions used in the main surveys in order to improve the quality of data on different working patterns and forms of employment. It will also discuss practical measurement issues. In addition, it will cover the employment and pension rights of temporary workers under UK law.

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4. The paper will present the statistics available in the UK on temporary working and non-standard forms of employment - for example, casual work, and different types of contract working, as well as part-time working. The paper will also discuss trends over time and their relevance to measuring job quality.

5. If time allows, there will also be an analysis of employment-related income with relative comparisons between different groups on the labour market.
