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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia**

**REPORT**

**WORKSHOP ON ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION: EMPLOYMENT,  
UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT  
CAIRO, 17-21 SEPTEMBER 2000**

**CONTENTS**

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>	<i>Page</i>
Introduction.....	1-3	2
<b>I. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP.....</b>	<b>4-7</b>	<b>2</b>
A. The principal objective.....	4	2
B. Other objectives .....	5-6	2
C. Long-term objective.....	7	2
<b>II. ATTENDANCE AND OPENING CEREMONY.....</b>	<b>8-10</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>III. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKSHOP.....</b>	<b>11-36</b>	<b>3</b>
A. First day .....	11-15	3
B. Second day .....	16-20	4
C. Third day .....	21-27	6
D. Fourth day .....	28-33	7
E. Fifth day .....	34-36	8
<b>IV. RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>8</b>

**ANNEXES**

I. List of participants.....	10
II. Organization of work .....	14
III. Workshop documents.....	16
IV. Workshop assessment questionnaire.....	17

## **Introduction**

1. The International Conference of Labour Statisticians, which meets every five years, is responsible for examining and adopting international standards on labour statistics. The purpose of the standards is to provide countries with guidelines for developing national statistical programmes and, as far as possible, enhance international comparability.
2. At its 13<sup>th</sup> meeting in October 1982, the Conference officially adopted new standards concerning the economically active population, employment, unemployment, and underemployment (Resolution I); and defined the objectives and scope of statistical programmes, basic concepts and definitions, principal classifications and criteria to be applied to all data, and general guidelines for assessing and disseminating data. A manual was prepared on the economically active population and published in 1990. It has two objectives, namely, to explain international concepts and definitions related to the economically active population, and to provide technical guidelines for applying international standards to all data gathered on the economically active population through household and other surveys. The intention is to use the manual as a basic teaching aid in training courses connected with surveys of the labour force and other surveys that include sections on the economically active population and its special characteristics.
3. In the framework of the efforts of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to promote national capacity-building with respect to the collection of statistical data about the labour market, the Statistics Division of ESCWA organized a regional workshop entitled "The Economically Active Population: Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment", which was held in Cairo from 17 to 21 September 2000 in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Cairo Demographic Centre.

### **I. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP**

#### **A. THE PRINCIPLE OBJECTIVE**

4. The principle objective of the Workshop was to train specialists and analysts in the field of labour statistics from ESCWA member countries. The training programme focused on issues related to the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment, and introduced the participants to the latest international recommendations and standards in this field. The Workshop was based on the manual prepared by ILO. The manual is composed of 14 chapters, the first of which introduces the economically active population, while the others focus on conceptual, methodological and technical questions (annex III, workshop documents).

#### **B. OTHER OBJECTIVES**

5. The Workshop sought to provide a regional forum in which member countries could express opinions about the international guidelines on the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment on the basis of their particular national circumstances, and exchange experiences on those subjects.
6. The Workshop also aimed to present the key indicators of the labour market that were developed by ILO.

#### **C. LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE**

7. The long-term objective of the Workshop was to increase specialists' and analysts' knowledge of international guidelines concerning the measurement of the various sections of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment.

## II. ATTENDANCE AND OPENING CEREMONY

8. The Workshop opened at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday 17 September 2000, at the Cairo Demographic Centre and was attended by 24 trainees representing 11 ESCWA member countries and three ILO experts, as well as participants from the Cairo Demographic Centre and Arab and international organizations and institutes (see annex II for the list of participants). The opening speech was made by Major-General Ehab Elwy, President of the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics of Egypt (CAPMAS), who began by welcoming the participants. He said that the Workshop was concerned with one of the most important subjects in the field of labour statistics, since plentiful, detailed, modern reports and statistics on the size, structure and characteristics of the labour force and unemployment levels were of profound interest to planners and those responsible for making policy on population issues and socio-economic development at all levels. He stressed the importance of the role of the statistical apparatus in providing such data, guided by the most up-to-date international concepts, standards and classifications relating to the labour force and its assorted structures produced by the United Nations and its various commissions and agencies.

9. Mr. Hisham Makhoul, Director of the Cairo Demographic Centre, spoke next. He welcomed the participants, especially Mr. Hussein Abdul Aziz Sayed, Chief of the ESCWA Statistics Division. He emphasized the importance of continuing cooperation between ESCWA and the Demographic Centre with respect to harmonizing and exchanging views, knowledge and information in the age that has been called "the information age". He invited the participants to the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Population, Sustainable Development and the Challenges of Globalization in Developing Countries on the Threshold of the Third Millennium, to be held in Cairo from 21 to 23 November 2000.

10. The Chief of the Statistics Division, speaking on behalf of ESCWA, welcomed the participants, to whom he conveyed the greetings of the Executive Secretary of the Commission. He then presented the objectives of the meeting, namely, to inform participants about the latest international concepts, definitions and standards connected with labour statistics. He said that work to improve living standards, eradicate poverty, curb unemployment, increase employment opportunities and bring about justice and partnership between men and women was in line with ESCWA objectives. If they were to be realized, it was essential to employ modern methods of measurement, taking into account the many statistical methods, procedures and classifications provided by the United Nations in order to enhance international comparability and facilitate the work of those using the data. He called upon participants to study the issues with absolute seriousness and adopt a mechanism for coordinating and ensuring the integration of endeavours. He ended by thanking ILO for its invaluable participation and the Cairo Demographic Centre for hosting the Workshop.

## III. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKSHOP

### A. FIRST DAY

11. During the first session of the first day, the Chief of the Social Statistics Section of ESCWA presented the objectives of the Workshop and the organization of work (see annex II). The Workshop activities included presentation of the concepts, methods and procedures relating to surveys of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment, using Arabic copies of the manual prepared by ILO and national reports on the various subjects covered in the manual (see annex III). The Workshop activities lasted for five days, sessions being held daily from 9 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

12. Mr. Ralf Hussmanns of ILO then presented the first concept, concerning the economically active population. He explained that economic activity is based on the production of goods and services as defined by the United Nations Systems of National Accounts, whether for the market, for barter or for own consumption, and paid household and personal services. International measurement standards define the active population: the first measure is of the currently active population, or labour force, which is measured in relation to a short reference period such as one week or one day, while the usually active population is measured in relation to a long reference period such as one year. The currently active population comprises all persons employed or unemployed during the reference period. The labour force framework uses a sliding scale to classify people of working age into three basic categories which give precedence to the employed over the unemployed and to the unemployed over those who are not economically active. The measurement

of current activity is a freeze-frame of the economically active population at a given moment; however, if activity is characterized by significant seasonal variations or movements in the labour force, the view of employment achieved during the short reference period will not apply to the remaining periods. In order to observe and follow up changes over time, the current measurement of activity must be repeated during every period, or a longer period must be used (usually active population), in order to allow for those distortions.

13. Mr. Hussmanns discussed the international definition of employment, which includes people who are in paid employment or self-employment, whether "at work" or with a job or an enterprise but "not at work". He said people "at work" are those who, during the reference period, performed some work for wage or salary, in cash or in kind. He explained that the term "some work" may be interpreted as work for at least one hour during the reference period, and that it covers all types of work in any country. The category "with a job or enterprise but not at work" refers to persons who, having already worked in their present job, were temporarily not at work during the reference period and had a formal attachment to their job. He went on to say that the international standards contain special provisions with respect to students, apprentices and people engaged in non-economic activities (producers for own consumption) and members of the armed forces.

14. Ms. Adriana Mata of the International Labour Office presented statistics on hours of work, explaining that the international definitions adopted by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 1962 at its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, include two concepts of hours of work, namely, normal hours of work and hours actually worked. But these definitions are limited as to activities and workers covered because they deal with people in paid employment in manufacturing industries and were intended mainly for establishment surveys. One of the current objectives with regard to statistics on hours of work is to extend their scope to include other activities. Similarly, if employment is to be measured in terms of volume and productivity, the measurement of hours of work must be improved by clarifying concepts and broadening the scope to include all workers.

15. There followed a presentation of Bahrain's experience of producing data on the economically active population. Ms. Layla Radhi of the Central Statistics Organization stressed the importance of data in general, and statistics on the economically active in particular, in crystallizing ideas, and preparing and implementing future projects, and emphasized Bahrain's interest in producing such data. She then reviewed the five sources of data on the country's active population, namely: (a) the Central Statistics Organization; (b) the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; (c) statistics on labour in the public sector issued by the Government services secretariat; (d) statistics on workers in the private sector in establishments subject to the country's social security regulations; and (e) public contractual funds bodies. She said there were plans to undertake the first survey of the labour force which would be carried out at the same time as the census of population, citizens, buildings and establishments in April 2001. The survey would be conducted on the basis of the recommendations of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which had called for such a survey to be undertaken in all the Council's member countries.

## B. SECOND DAY

16. On the second day, Mr. Hussmanns explained that unemployment is measured by using three criteria, namely, "without work" during the reference period, "currently available for work" and "seeking work". The last criterion is used for those who have taken steps in the previous four weeks to seek paid employment or self-employment. He explained that there are special provisions for people without work who have made arrangements to take up work at a date subsequent to the reference period, and added that the international standards include a provision allowing for the criterion "seeking work" to be relaxed in certain cases. It may be relaxed fully with respect to all people without work or in part, when it will be applicable only to certain groups of workers, such as those temporarily laid off and seasonal workers.

17. Ms. Mata introduced the concepts of underemployment and inadequate employment, adopted by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians at its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting in 1998, and explained that the distinction between the two concepts was more operational than conceptual and designed to enable countries to measure underemployment. The international definition of the concept has two components: the number of people underemployed and the volume of underemployment (working fewer hours than the established number of working hours, but wishing and being available to work more hours). Accordingly, the concept is not

applicable to the unemployed or persons who are not economically active. In order to be classified as underemployed, the individual must be willing and able to engage in additional work. In order to measure underemployment, countries should consider only those persons who worked fewer than the established number of hours during the reference period. Inadequate employment covers persons who want to change their work situation because, *inter alia*, their wages are inadequate or insufficient or their income has fallen.

18. Mr. Fathi Nsour from Jordan gave a paper about the importance of household surveys, particularly those relating to the labour force. He explained the operations and measures undertaken when drawing up the outlines and details of the phases of the survey, examining groups of activities including preparing the budget, designing the sample and recruiting and training staff. He discussed the steps that have to be taken and the arrangements that must be made when organizing field work, including the provision of office space and electronic equipment and the dissemination of the results. Mr. Nsour then explained the definitions, measurements and reference periods connected with employment and unemployment in Jordan. He pointed out that the criterion used in determining the reference period for employment was that the individual should be available for work during the week preceding the interview day. With regard to underemployment, the reference period was the four weeks preceding the interview. The reference period for unemployment was established by the individual being available for work during the week preceding the day of the interview or having made arrangements to begin work during the following 15 days, in addition to having been seeking work during the four weeks preceding the day of the interview. He went on to say that people who are underemployed are workers aged at least 15 years old who are ready and willing to change their job or place of work or do additional work because their present job is insufficiently paid or otherwise unrewarding, is not appropriate to their level qualifications or the hours are too short.

19. Ms. Mata presented the main economic classifications, namely, the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC - Rev. 3), the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88) and the International Classification by Status in Employment (ICSE-1993). She said that the United Nations was responsible for the first, while ILO was responsible for the other two. She added that the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities was the basis for classifying the activity of economic establishments or units in which the individual works during the reference period, while the International Standard Classification of Occupations examines the individual's occupation or type of work during the reference period. It organizes according to skill and degree of specialization all the tasks and duties performed by an individual. The International Classification by Status in Employment organizes the employment contracts of the economically active individual with respect to his or her employment, whether he or she is an employer, an own-account worker, an employee or an unpaid family worker. She said that most countries find it difficult to use this or any other classification of status in employment.

20. Mr. Abdullateef Al-Shaibani reviewed Yemen's experience of using economic classifications of the economically active population. In his paper, he discussed important aspects of this experience, which was characterized by the inadequacy of the mechanism for transferring classification-related experience, the lack of any scientific evaluation and dependence on a sporadic supply of information. Mr. Al-Shaibani reviewed the problems that had hindered the development of Yemeni expertise, including limited participation by Yemeni statisticians in regional and international conferences and meetings on employment statistics and the lack of relevance to the statistical apparatus of the recommendations made by such conferences. He then discussed the method of gathering data on the economically active population. This method was applied by specialists in employment and unemployment statistics, and was therefore limited in terms of population and social expertise, and characterized by rigidity and unoriginality. He explained methods of applying activity and occupation models and of overcoming errors, as well as the classifications used with respect to industry and the occupation and status of people in employment. He ended by calling for the drafting of an instrument to enable countries and the relevant departments of regional and international organizations to exchange experience in order to make available the studies and recommendations emanating from seminars and conferences on censuses and statistical surveys.

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### C. THIRD DAY

21. On the third day, Mr. Nsour discussed planning and conducting surveys of the economically active population and reviewed the various aspects related to planning labour force surveys. He discussed various sources in which data about the economic activities of the population could be found, the most important being household surveys, population censuses, establishment sample surveys and administrative records. He explained their uses and discussed their differences from the point of view of content, scope, units of measurement used, data collection methods and cost. He then talked about the structure and size of surveys and the importance at the planning stage of bearing in mind survey objectives, information sought, operational specifications and the conditions under which the survey is to be conducted, including appropriate timing and reference period. He also discussed the revision of survey design and its importance for improving organization and adequacy of execution in the allotted time. The need for improvement and the need to maintain the ability to make comparisons must be balanced against the amount expended on the survey.

22. Mr. Ahmed Kilani presented a paper on the experience of the Syrian Arab Republic in planning labour force surveys, and reviewed the important research on the labour force that had been carried out in that country since 1960. He described the objectives of each survey, how samples had been selected and how the questionnaire had been designed. He said that in the Syrian Arab Republic, surveys of the labour force fell into three divisions, according to size of sample, units of measurement and subjects dealt with by the survey. He also discussed some of the phases in conducting a survey, including choice of questionnaire, application on the ground, drafting tables and interpreting results.

23. Ms. Nagla Salem of CAPMAS presented the methodology of sample design for measuring employment and unemployment in Egypt and discussed questions relating to defining the target population of the survey sample and the requirements of the surveying context in order that it be representative of the population. She stressed that a fundamental part of survey planning and design is defining the population from which generalizations will be made. That population included urban dwellers working in the various State establishments, and excluded members of the armed forces, foreigners, seasonal migrants, displaced persons and persons aged less than 12 years and more than 65 years. She reviewed the concept of the sampling frame and the use of major samples that are usually relatively large survey units, in view of the fact that the larger the sample unit is, the lower the costs are. Ms. Salem went on to discuss certain practical aspects of sample design, such as the importance of using moderation when deciding how big the sample should be, when the survey should be conducted, what the reference period should be, and of periodically varying the sample, and systematically changing groups of sample units in order to ensure a certain degree of correspondence between various periods.

24. Ms. Salem presented a paper about Egypt's experience of sample design. She discussed the stages of statistical research through samples as conducted in Egypt, and explained that CAPMAS uses the population and settlement framework when preparing research samples on the labour force. However, this has some disadvantages, including the interval between surveys, because in Egypt the census is conducted only every 10 years; the lack of maps of the areas in which persons are registered, and the difficulty field workers have in reaching families or population units because the sample units are scattered. The Agency therefore prepared a special framework for selecting samples, namely, area sampling, which may be used as a master sample. This sampling is carried out once every three or five years, and the basic sample is used to divide the survey areas within it into blocks. The families and population units included in such blocks may subsequently be used in further research.

25. Ms. Mata discussed the concept of gender and labour statistics and stressed the importance of analysing the impact of gender issues at all stages of gathering and processing labour market data. She reviewed some of the questions relating to the economically active population, employment and unemployment, and gender, and the importance of those questions for highlighting the similarities or differences between men and women, as well as ascertaining the extent of women's participation in the labour market.

26. Mr. Mohamed Mouhajer of the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics gave a paper about the problems involved in gathering labour statistics in Arab countries. He emphasized the importance of adjusting international recommendations in order to make them appropriate to Arab countries and permit them to be used as guiding principles relevant to national situations while being amenable to international comparability. Mr. Mouhajer reviewed the concepts of manpower, economic activity, unemployment in the broadest and narrowest senses of the term and underemployment. He said that it was necessary to use the "usual activity" methodology to measure activity, in accordance with the requirements of Arab countries, which are characterized by mobility of labour and seasonal employment. He stressed the need to consider the particular components of underemployment, including productivity, income and working time, in order to measure the labour supply, in addition to certain general principles for data collection, including determining the age at which the individual started work and methods for determining the principal occupation, including by time spent and income earned.

27. Ms. Nadine Shaar of the Statistics Division of ESCWA then discussed ESCWA's labour force statistics database. The database contains 22 tables of the economically active population, employment and unemployment, disaggregated by such demographic characteristics as age, sex and educational level. The data was derived from a number of sources, the most important being national sources including censuses and surveys of the labour force.

#### D. FOURTH DAY

28. On the fourth day of the workshop Mr. Hussmans explained the essential aspects of questionnaire design for labour force surveys such as precise, detailed definition of the information sought, and the concepts, definitions and classifications to be used. He discussed a number of questionnaire flow charts relevant to the subjects dealt with during the workshop, including the active population, employment unemployment and working hours. He explained that questionnaire requirements, which vary from one country to another according to the particular circumstances obtaining therein, determine the appropriate number, form and wording of questions. His presentation was based on the chapter on questionnaire development and design in the ILO manual.

29. Mr. Habib Alloutia of the Ministry of National Economy of Oman outlined his country's experience of conducting periodic household sample surveys in order to measure the volume of employment and unemployment in Oman and ascertain the particular characteristics of the unemployed. The study is divided into two phases, the first of which contains data on every individual in the household, activity, average income and monthly expenditure, while the second phase contains data specific to unemployed persons who have never worked. The speaker also discussed the various concepts on which the drafting of questions in the questionnaire were based.

30. Mr. Saleh Al-Kafri of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics discussed survey operations and data processing in line with ILO recommendations. He reviewed the various procedures involved in carrying out a survey, namely, the recruitment and training of staff, the selection of materials for the survey, preparation of the sampling frame, field work, the preparation of data, classification and publication. He explained that the most important concerns included defining the various stages of the survey and allocating to each stage the necessary time and effort. Essential aspects of any survey were training, previous experience, and the accuracy, evaluation and publication of data, although in general, the focus was on the routine work of gathering data and drafting tables.

31. Mr. Nazieh Arman of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics talked about Palestine's experience of conducting a labour force survey and processing the resultant data. In his paper, he discussed the sampling frame and methods of rotating samples in order to observe substantive changes in certain characteristics of the labour force. He emphasized the importance of the compilation and accuracy of data given that, in most cases, this is what delays the survey. He also discussed the calculations and tables used in data compilation, and publication strategies including monthly or annual reports and the Internet.

32. Mr. Kamil Al-Adhath of ESCWA discussed the general framework for evaluating statistical data and ways of dealing with errors. He explained that the evaluation process was used in making appropriate



corrections and adjustments and was useful in appraising, improving and designing a survey. He talked about various types of errors, including measurement errors, which arose when what was observed or measured diverged from what one wanted to measure in the units making up the survey and errors of interpretation or development, which arose when generalizing from the results of the units observed to the whole study. He explained ways of dealing with such errors including analysing the information gathered during the survey as part of the normal survey operation, making comparisons in addition to the basic survey operation and comparison with data from independent sources.

33. Mr. Jeff Johnson of the International Labour Office presented the key indicators of the labour market, a set of 18 indicators drawn up by ILO in order to observe labour market trends. He discussed their scope, namely, 100 countries for each indicator and the method of collection and sources of the data. He went on to explain each of the indicators, the variable it measures and the measurement technique. He showed how the data shed light on women's issues, since they make it possible to examine the extent of women's involvement in the labour market and the nature of the work they do compared to men. Mr. Johnson said that ILO was considering adopting additional indicators covering other subjects and reducing the lapse of time between the collection and dissemination of data.

#### E. FIFTH DAY

34. On the last day, on the basis of the participants' discussions during the workshop, recommendations were drafted which were discussed clause by clause. The participants suggested a number of changes which were reflected in the final draft.

35. The participants then assessed the Workshop, classifying what they had learned from the Workshop activities according to its usefulness (see annex IV).

36. During the final session, the head of the Social Statistics Section of ESCWA thanked all the participants, the ILO experts, the Cairo Demographic Centre and all its employees, to whom the Workshop owed much of its success, the interpreters who had contributed to its success and the staff of the Statistics Division of ESCWA for the preparations they had made.

#### IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

37. At the end of the Workshop the participants recommended the following:

(1) Member countries, in cooperation with ESCWA and ILO, should draft a proposal on a regional interpretation of existing international recommendations concerning the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment. A model questionnaire must be designed on the basis of this proposal.

(2) Member countries must conduct regular surveys at appropriate intervals of the work force, using the rotating sample method, if possible. It is essential to evaluate survey data as an integral part of the survey process.

(3) ESCWA and ILO must be urged to provide the technical and training cooperation necessary at national level to design and conduct surveys of the labour force and to translate the necessary materials into Arabic.

(4) Member countries must be urged to disseminate labour force survey data in conformity with the official statistical principles issued by the United Nations Statistical Commission and adopted by the Statistical Committee of ESCWA.

(5) Member countries must be urged to provide ESCWA and ILO with data on the labour force and the methodologies used in conformity with national statistical regulations.

(6) Member countries should be encouraged to exchange national experiences in the field of labour market statistics.

(7) ESCWA and ILO should be urged, whenever the financial sources are available, to hold regional workshops in order to continue the exchange of information and expertise between member countries.

(8) Member countries should be urged to play a more proactive role in drafting international recommendations by taking part in international conferences on labour statistics.

(9) In addition to obtaining data on seasonal underemployment, member countries should be encouraged to devise and try out ways of measuring the most important types of inadequate employment and keep ILO and ESCWA fully informed of the results in order to build up a body of international knowledge in this field.

(10) The work of compiling, maintaining and updating international statistical classifications including the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, the International Standard Classification of Occupations and the International Classification by Status in Employment, requires a team of qualified personnel. The national classifications adopted must reflect the national situation and be sufficiently flexible to keep pace with the corresponding international classifications.

(11) The roles of women and men differ from country to country in accordance with the influence of social and cultural factors. Labour statistics must, therefore, reflect the differing situations of women and men with respect to work and way of life in each country, and such differences must be taken into consideration when definitions, measurement methods and classification tables are drafted. Member countries must be urged to analyse social type in order to evaluate the quality and accuracy of the statistics.

(12) ILO should be urged to distribute in the region, in Arabic, the key indicators of the labour market containing the concepts and methods of electronic accounting.

(13) ESCWA and ILO should be urged to organize workshops on the analysis of labour market survey data and, in particular, the use of labour market indicators in national reports that are submitted to policy makers.

Annex I

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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## Annex II

### **ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

#### Sunday, 17 September 2000

9.30 – 10 a.m.	Opening ceremony.
10 – 10.30 a.m.	Break.
10.30 – 11 a.m.	Introduction: Purpose of the workshop.
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<u>Concept 1:</u> The economically active population (ILO). The currently active population (the labour force) (ILO). The usually active population (ILO). <u>Concept 2:</u> Employment and hours of work (ILO).
1 – 1.30 p.m.	Break.
1.30 – 2 p.m.	The economically active population: national experience (Bahrain).
2 – 2.30 p.m.	Discussion.

#### Monday, 18 September 2000

9 – 9.45 a.m.	<u>Concept 3:</u> Measurement of unemployment (ILO).
9.45 – 10.30 a.m.	<u>Concepts 4 and 5:</u> Underemployment and inadequate employment (ILO).
10.30 – 11 a.m.	Break.
11 – 11.30 a.m.	Unemployment and underemployment: national experience (Jordan).
11.30 – noon	Break.
Noon – 12.45 p.m.	<u>Concept 6:</u> Major economic classifications (ILO).
12.45 – 1.10 p.m.	Major economic classifications: national experience (Yemen).
1.10 – 2.10 p.m.	Discussion.

#### Tuesday, 19 September 2000

9 – 9.45 a.m.	<u>Method 1:</u> Survey planning, design and redesign (Jordan).
9.45 – 10.15 a.m.	Survey planning: national experience (Syrian Arab Republic).
10.15 – 10.45 a.m.	Break.

Tuesday, 19 September 2000 (continued)

10.45 – 11.30 a.m.	<u>Method 2:</u> Sample design (Egypt).
11.30 – noon	Sample design: national experience (Egypt).
Noon – 12.30 p.m.	Gender issues in the labour force (ILO).
12.30 – 1 p.m.	Break.
1 – 1.30 p.m.	Problems of compiling labour statistics in Arab countries (Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics).
1.30 – 2 p.m.	ESCWA labour force statistics database.
2 – 2.30 p.m.	Discussion.

Wednesday, 20 September 2000

9 – 9.40 a.m.	<u>Method 3:</u> Questionnaire: development and design (ILO).
9.45 – 10.15 a.m.	Questionnaire design: national experience (Oman).
10.15 – 10.30 a.m.	Break.
10.30 – 11.30 a.m.	<u>Method 4:</u> Survey operations and data processing (Palestine).
11.30 – noon	Data processing: national experience (Palestine).
Noon – 12.45 p.m.	<u>Method 5:</u> Data accuracy and evaluation (ESCWA).
12.45 – 1.15 p.m.	Break.
1.15 – 2 p.m.	Key indicators of the Labour Market (ILO).
2 – 3 p.m.	Discussion.

Thursday, 21 September 2000

9 – 10 a.m.	Recommendations.
10 – 10.30 a.m.	Closing ceremony.



Annex III

**WORKSHOP DOCUMENTS**

Title	Symbol
Proposed organization of work	E/ESCWA/STAT/2000/WG.2/L.1
Information note	No symbol
Survey operations and data processing according to International Labour Organization recommendations (Palestinian Central Bureau for Statistics)	E/ESCWA/STAT/2000/WG.2/2
Problems of compiling labour statistics in Arab countries (Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics)	E/ESCWA/STAT/2000/WG.2/3
Gender Issues in Labour Statistics (ILO)	E/ESCWA/STAT/2000/WG.2/4
The International Labour Office: Key Indicators of the Labour Market (ILO)	E/ESCWA/STAT/2000/WG.2/5
Palestine's experience of operating surveys and data processing	E/ESCWA/STAT/2000/WG.2/CP.1
Yemen's experience of using classifications of the economically active population	E/ESCWA/STAT/2000/WG.2/CP.2
Producing data on the economically active population in Bahrain	E/ESCWA/STAT/2000/WG.2/CP.3
Methodology of conducting household surveys	E/ESCWA/STAT/2000/WG.2/CP.4
Egypt's experience of sample design	E/ESCWA/STAT/2000/WG.2/CP.5
Periodic household surveys in the Sultanate of Oman	E/ESCWA/STAT/2000/WG.2/CP.6
Data accuracy and evaluation (with particular reference to labour force and household surveys)	No symbol
The Hours that We Work: The Data We Need, the Data We Get (ILO)	No symbol
Surveys of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment	E/ESCWA/STAT/1997/1

Annex IV

**WORKSHOP ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE  
NUMBER OF QUESTIONNAIRES: 22**

The participants' replies to the questionnaire were as follows:

Do you think the workshop achieved its objectives?  
Everyone answered in the affirmative.

Have you benefited from the workshop?  
"Yes."

Answers about the various aspects of the workshop:

**Organization of the workshop:**

	Very good %	Good %	Fair %
General organization	77	23	-
Hotel and hospitality	17	61	22
Travel arrangements	50	44	6
Workshop venue	59	36	5
Duration of workshop	41	55	4
Interpreting	62	38	-
National reports	32	64	4

**The workshop itself:**

	Very important %	Important %	Unimportant %
Presentation of new information	50	45	5
Presentation of new methods	38	58	5
Explanation of important problems deserving research and study	45	55	-
Long-term benefit to the work	50	50	-
Opportunity to exchanges ideas, information and opinions	73	27	-

**Presentation of the key indicators of the labour market:**

Do you think the key indicators of the labour market are sufficient for monitoring the labour market?  
42 per cent of participants thought they were sufficient.

Do you think you need a training course to clarify the key indicators of the labour market?  
81 per cent answered in the affirmative.

**The indicators the participants thought were not currently available in their countries:**

Indicator	Percentage
Educational attainment and illiteracy	5
Employment by sector	9
Unemployment by educational attainment	14

Inactivity rate	27
Real manufacturing wage indices	45
Time-related underemployment	54
Hourly compensation costs	59
Part-time workers	59
Unemployment	14
Hours of work	18
Youth unemployment	18
Long-term unemployment	41
Poverty and income distribution	64
Labour productivity	64
Urban informal sector employment	73

**Participants particularly appreciated or considered they had learned a great deal about the following:**

- Detailed explanations of various subjects;
- Importance of compiling labour statistics annually;
- Modern conventions and definitions;
- Experiences of ESCWA countries;
- The concept of underemployment;
- Questionnaire design;
- Key indicators of the labour market.

**Participants did not feel the following were fully dealt with:**

- The concept of unemployment and the unemployed;
- Treatment of the key indicators of the labour market was insufficient;
- Methodology of gathering data on the labour force in establishments and institutions;
- How ESCWA assesses data on the labour force;
- Poverty (the poverty line) and to what extent it is connected with the economically active population.