Statistics on “wages”

Status quo
and work ahead

As part of the work to develop a harmonized framework for wages statistics, requested by the 18th ICLS in 2008

- Review of household survey questionnaires
- Technical assistance in countries
- Development of a “model” questionnaire (for household surveys and establishment surveys)
- Manual on wages

Existing manual – 1979
Only covers establishment surveys of the formal sector

Work in progress!!
Review of household survey questionnaires

- 113 surveys, mostly LFS, no household income survey (113 countries)
  - 92 of these measure employee income
  - Only 34 surveys measure self employment mixed income
- Significant country variability in
  - Coverage of jobs, income components
  - Number of questions used
  - Type of questions used
  - Time units

National measures of employee income

- Job coverage
  - Most cover both jobs
- Number of questions used
  - Itemised approach (one question for each component)
  - just one question (52%)
- Type of questions: request ...
  - Exact amounts (73%)
  - Income categories (15%)
  - Both type of questions (12%)
- Coverage of employee income components
  - All components, (excluding social security benefits)
  - Excluding statutory deductions (net income)
  - Excluding all deductions (take home pay)
- Time unit – hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, yearly wages
  - Fixed (68%) or flexible
  - Income usually received or received during the last pay period
National measures of self-employment income

- Number of questions used
  - Most use one question – respondent’s own estimation of profits
  - The rest use a set of questions for each of the components (sales, costs, etc.)

- Coverage of components
  - Own final consumption is explicitly included only in 9 surveys

- Time units
  - Hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, yearly wages

Manual on the measurement of wages

- Harmonize the six international concepts of wages
  - Wage rates (12th ICLS, 1973)
  - Earnings (12th ICLS, 1973)
  - Labour cost (11th ICSL, 1966)
  - Compensation of employees (SNA 2008)
  - Employment related income (16th ICLS, 1998)
  - Income from employment (17th ICLS, 2003)

- Provide guidelines for their measurement
  - To guarantee full coverage of workers – including those in the informal sector
  - Through household and establishment surveys
  - Will need the participation from countries with experience in this field
Issues for discussion

• Relevance of a manual on wages
• Interest in participating in the drafting of the manual