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on Measurement of the Quality of Employment
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Measurement of employment quality in the labour market of Azerbaijan

Supporting paper submitted by the State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan Republic¹

Summary

1. Over the last years, the integration of traditional and non-traditional statistical indicators of the quality of employment has been promoted by the international community. Although the quality of employment can not be measured using a comprehensive indicator, there are a number of aspects of employment quality that can be identified in such a way as to satisfy universally recognized requirements.

2. It seems to us that, for the countries in transition, the concept of 'wholesome labour market' is more appropriate. Our report characterizes some employment quality indicators in the labour market of Azerbaijan. One of them is the availability of employment assistance possibilities in the labour market, which is characterized by a level of unemployment estimated at the national level by provisional data of the labour force pilot survey, at 12.1 per cent. The other indicator - employment rate - reached 81.9 per cent in 2001. For the same year, 0.2 per cent of employees of enterprises and organizations worked at half-time, and 5.1 per cent of employees were on forced leave.

3. In view of the low level of business activities in different fields of the economy, employers move employees around from one type of work to another; however, for all that, the employee maintains an adequate level of occupation (stable employment).

4. Health protection and operation and maintenance of safety facilities and procedures on the work places are covered by the labour legislation of Azerbaijan in the form of collective agreements, and contracts between employer and employee. This does not apply to the informal sector of the economy.

5. The increase in qualification and skills of employees draws adequate attention from employers, but it is not sufficient to achieve economic progress. Azerbaijan's labour market is characterized by considerable variation in employees' incomes and an essentially growing inequality of income.

6. 32,4 per cent of employees in the country belong to trade unions; the rest of the employed population is self-employed, and therefore not covered by a trade union.

1 Paper written by Elton Akhmedov, Head of Labour Statistics Division.