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## Conference of European Statisticians

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**Revising the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations  
for Population and Housing Censuses for the 2030 round:****Economic characteristics****Developing the Recommendations on Economic  
Characteristics: part 2****Note by the Conference of European Statisticians Task Force  
on Economic Characteristics\*\****Summary*

This document includes the draft chapter on Economic Characteristics for the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Recommendations for the 2030 round of population and housing censuses, and a summary of the changes introduced in comparison to the Recommendations for the previous, 2020 round. The main purpose of the document is to elicit comments and suggestions from national census experts on the proposed text, to ensure that it reflects the needs and priorities of national statistical offices and the latest developments in the topic area.

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## I. Introduction

1. Every ten years the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) issues Recommendations to guide countries in conducting their population and housing censuses. The Recommendations are developed by expert task forces overseen by the CES Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses.
2. Section II of this document summarizes the changes introduced in the chapter on economic characteristics, in comparison with the Recommendations for the previous, 2020 round. Section III gives a high-level overview of the draft chapter.
3. Section IV presents the draft chapter on economic characteristics for the CES Recommendations for the 2030 round of population and housing censuses.
4. The main purpose of the document is to elicit comments and suggestions from national census experts on the proposed draft text, to ensure that it reflects the needs and priorities of national statistical offices.
5. The chapter is updated and aligned with the 2030 United Nations Statistics Department Principles and Recommendations (2030 UNSD P&R), and all definitions are identical. The recommendations are also aligned with the most recent Resolutions from the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) and the revised System of National Accounts (SNA). The changes from the 2020 CESR are minor. However, the chapter is restructured in line with the 2030 UNSD P&R. Informal employment is introduced based on the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) Resolution from 2023 concerning statistics on informal employment, while four topics are no longer covered, i.e. “number of persons working in the local unit of the establishment”, “duration of job search”, “main source of livelihood” and “socio-economic group”. The exclusion of these non-core topics is based on the results from the Comprehensive Survey 2023 indicating that these variables were not relevant for the census.
6. The chapter on economic characteristics covers the productive activities of persons as e.g. aspects of labour market participation, labour market characteristics, occupation, etc. Combined with other information in the census this enables formulation and planning of a range of economic and social policy.
7. The chapter has been updated based on a redrafting of the 2020 Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations (CESR). All definitions in the chapter are aligned with the 2030 United Nation Statistics Division Principles and Recommendations (2030 UNSD P&R). The structure of the chapter is changed compared to the 2020 CESR, and reflects the structure of the relevant chapter of the 2030 UNSD P&R.
8. The recommendations in the chapter are also aligned with the most recent Resolutions from the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) and the revised System of National Accounts (SNA). Countries are recommended to always use the most updated versions of international standards.
9. From the Comprehensive Survey 2023, the Task Force noted that about 1/3 of the countries – all from Europe – collected the necessary information on economic characteristics from registers or administrative records, about half of the countries conducted a full enumeration, in some of the countries complemented by administrative data, while the rest of countries collected the data mainly from sample surveys. For several countries there seems to be a move to a census based on administrative records. This may challenge some of the definitions and recommendations, and, thus, for international comparability, it is desirable that countries provide detailed information on the definitions and methodology used.

## II. Draft text for the chapter on economic characteristics for the Recommendations for the 2030 round of population and housing censuses<sup>1</sup>

### A. Characteristics of jobs and/or establishments

10. Once the labour force status of persons has been established, additional important topics regarding the labour market participation of the population relate to the characteristics of their jobs and of the establishments in which they work. These include, in particular, status in employment, occupation, place of work, industry, institutional sector, working time and income.

*A job is defined as the set of tasks and duties performed or meant to be performed by one person for a single economic unit. Person may have one or several jobs during the reference period. The main job is that with the longest hours usually worked even if the employed person was not at work in the reference period.*

11. Job-related characteristics are generally collected in reference to the main job for a person in employment and may also be collected in reference to the last main job (if any) for persons not in employment. This allows for classification of the labour force and of persons outside the labour force by characteristics of their (last) main job. Once the (last) main job is identified, it is essential that all subsequent questions refer to that same job, even if the respondent was not at work in the reference period. The census questionnaire or the census information taken from registers/administrative records should be designed in a way that will ensure that the variables “status in employment”, “occupation”, “industry”, and “institutional sector” are measured for the same job.

12. The collection of data on characteristics of the last main job of unemployed persons, especially occupation, industry and status in employment, may be useful in order to inform policies aimed at promoting employability and job creation. To serve this purpose, it is generally recommended to set a time limit for past employment experience (for example, during the last five or ten years) and only collect information on the characteristics of the last main job if it was held within the time limit.

13. When secondary jobs held in the reference period are also identified, the questionnaire should be designed so as to enable clear and separate identification of characteristics relating to main and secondary jobs. Identification of secondary jobs is particularly important in countries where multiple job holding is commonplace, particularly in agriculture, and when collecting information on income from employment and working time, in order to support analysis of the relationship between employment, income and poverty.

#### 1. Status in employment (core topic)

*Status in employment refers to the type of explicit or implicit contract of employment with other persons or organizations that the person has in his or her job. The basic criteria used to define the groups of the classification are; the type of economic risk, to which the worker may be exposed to the loss of financial or other resources in pursuance of the activity and the unreliability of remuneration; and the type of authority over the organization of the work and over the economic unit for which the work is performed. Care should be taken to ensure that an employed person is classified by status in employment on the basis of the same job used for classifying the person by “occupation”, “industry” and “sector”.*

14. With the adoption of the 20th ICLS Resolution concerning statistics on work relationship<sup>2</sup> a new classification of status in employment ICSE-18 was introduced. ICSE-18

<sup>1</sup> Note that cross-references internal to this chapter are given as references to the corresponding paragraph according to the numbering used in the present paper. It is understood that the cross-referenced paragraph numbers will differ in the final, published version of the complete Recommendations.

<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Geneva 10–19 October 2018 “Resolution

includes ten detailed categories of status in employment that all jobs can be categorized in thus creating the opportunity to provide a more detailed picture of the different work relationships.

15. One significant change with ICSE-18 is that these ten categories also can be organized in two ways: ICSE-18 according to the type of authority (ICSE-18-A) and ICSE-18 according to the type of economic risk (ICSE-18-R).

16. When organized by authority, ICSE-18 distinguishes between independent workers and dependent workers, making it useful for various types of labour market analysis such as the impact of economic cycles and government policies. When organized by economic risk, it categorizes workers into those employed for profit and those employed for pay. This hierarchy is typically preferred for national accounts, identifying wage employment, and producing statistics on wages, earnings, and labour costs.

17. Identifying the ten detailed categories in ICSE-18 may require additional questions to correctly identify them. Accordingly, it will be important to balance the benefits of providing detailed statistics with the extra burden and cost of including these questions in a census. A recommended approach to minimize burden and costs while still obtaining key statistics is to limit the identification of ICSE-18 to selected aggregated categories. This includes identifying employers, independent workers without employees, and contributing family workers, as defined by ICSE-18 based on authority.

18. The most recent international standard is ISCE-18-A (employment categories based on authority), which is as follows:

1. *Independent workers*

A. *Employers*

11 - *Employers in corporations*

12 - *Employers in household market enterprises*

B. *Independent workers without employees*

21 - *Owner-operators of corporations without employees*

22 - *Own-account workers in households and market enterprises without employees*

2. *Dependent workers*

C. *Dependent contractors*

30 - *Dependent contractors*

D. *Employees*

41 - *Permanent employees*

42 - *Fixed-term employees*

43 - *Short-term and casual employees*

44 - *Paid apprentices, trainees and interns*

E. *Contributing family workers*

51 - *Contributing family workers*

19. Employers (A) are persons who operate their own business on their own or in partnership with others and who employ one or more persons as employees on a regular basis. In case there is a need to test the regularity of the employee, this should be understood as having at least one employee during the reference period and at least two of the three weeks immediately preceding the reference period, even if one or more employees were engaged only for a short period. ICSE-18 distinguishes between two types of employers: employers in corporations and employers in household market enterprises.

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concerning statistics on work relationship”: [Microsoft Word - Resolution concerning statistics on work relationships -final \(corrected\).docx \(ilo.org\)](#).

20. An independent worker without employees (B) is a person who a business alone or with partners but does not hire anyone regularly, except themselves, their partners, and contributing family workers. This category corresponds to “own-account worker” in ISCE-93.

21. Employers and independent workers without employees can, if feasible and relevant, be further categorized based on whether they operate a corporation or a household market, leading to the identification of the detailed categories: employers in corporations, employers in household market enterprises, owner-operators of corporations without employees, and own-account workers in household market enterprises without employees. This would require determining if the enterprise is incorporated.

22. Dependent contractors (C) are persons whose activities depend on another entity that exercise operational and/or economic control over the activities. They are not employees of that entity as they have a commercial agreement but are dependent on that unit for organization and execution of the work, income, or for access to the market. By definition, dependent contractors lack regular employees and do not own or operate an incorporated enterprise. Dependent contractors are a new category in ICSE-18, sharing characteristics of both independent workers and employees.

23. The separate identification of dependent contractors typically requires additional questions to establish whether there is a dependent relationship and if control is exercised. In a Census, this might not be relevant unless there is a strong national need.

24. If deemed relevant to distinguish dependent contractors from independent workers or employees, a minimized approach in a Census (or in a more suitable source as the Labour Force Survey) could be used to get a broad estimation of the share of dependent contractors in the country. The measurement should be restricted to non-employees with commercial agreements that do not have regular employees and do not own an incorporated enterprise, focusing on identifying whether these persons have a main client or an intermediary client that sets the price for the goods and services produced<sup>3</sup>.

25. An employee (D) is a person who is in employment for pay, on a formal or informal basis, and who do not hold controlling ownership of the unit (enterprise, a non-profit institution, government unit or household) in which they are employed.

26. ICSE-18 provides for detailed categories of employees: Permanent employees, fixed-term employees, Short-term and casual employees and Paid apprentices, trainees and interns. If feasible and relevant these four detailed groups can be identified by establishing whether the employee has a permanent agreement until retirement (or until further notice) or a fixed-term agreement, and whether the fixed term-agreement is less than three months or three months or more. Paid apprentices, trainees and interns are employees who work to acquire workplace experience or skills in a trade or profession and receive payment in return for work performed. They can potentially be identified separately through a pre-coded category.

27. Contributing family workers (E) are persons who assist a family member or a household member in a market-oriented enterprise operated by the family or household member. They do not receive regular payments, such as a wage or salary, in return for the work performed, but may receive some irregular payment. They do not make the most important decisions affecting the enterprise or have responsibility for it.

28. Member of a producers' cooperative do no longer constitute a status in employment category. In general, members of a producers' cooperative are to be consider independent worker in ISCE-18 but may under some circumstances be regarded as dependent contractors if they depend significantly on the cooperative in terms of access to market, organization of pricing of the work and fulfil the criteria to be classified as dependent contractors.

29. Seasonal workers, domestic workers, home-based workers, and workers in multi-party work relationships (including agency workers, and employees providing outsourced services) are according to the Resolution concerning statistics on work relationships so called cross-cutting categories as these would be groups that consists of several different status in

<sup>3</sup> For the recommended approach for identifying dependent contractors see *ICSE-18 manual*.

employment categories. The definition and treatment of these groups can be found in the Resolution (paragraphs 73–124).

30. When members of the armed forces paid in cash or in kind are counted among the employed, they should be included in the category of employees. However, because of the wide range of national practices in the treatment of the armed forces, it is recommended that census tabulations and related notes provide an explicit indication of the status in employment category in which they are included.

31. The treatment of additional groups such as work gang (crew) members, franchises, sharecroppers, communal resource exploiters, workers in cooperatives, outworkers and crowd workers can be found in the conceptual framework for Statistics on Work relationships as these groups are no longer addressed explicitly in the Resolution.

32. In most census questionnaires, the information concerning status in employment will be captured through pre-coded alternatives where only a few words can be used to convey the intended meaning of each category. This may mean that classification of some of the situations on the borderline between two or more categories will be carried out according to the subjective understanding of the respondent rather than according to the intended distinction. This should be kept in mind in designing the questionnaire and also when presenting the resulting statistics.

33. Countries that rely on the direct use of administrative records for the classification of persons according to status in employment, may find that e.g. the group contributing family workers and dependent contractors cannot be separately identified. Those who would have been classified to this group when using a questionnaire may either be classified as part of one of the other groups or in the case of contributing family members, excluded from persons in employment. One possibility for countries relying on administrative to better integrate ISCE-18 is to use ISCE-18-R, with the employment categories based on risk. If using ISCE-18-R, it is recommended that data for at least two main categories (1) “Workers in employment for profit” and (2) “Workers in employment for pay”, should be separately tabulated, and data on employees should be identified.

34. Activities in areas such as agriculture, fishing, hunting, and gathering intended mainly for own consumption by the household are not considered employment and therefore not to be included in ICSE-18. Instead, participation in these productive activities is to be measured through the separate concept of own-use production of goods (see paragraphs 98–102) and categorized according to the International Classification of Status at Work (ICSaW-18) as defined in the Resolution concerning statistics on work relationship<sup>4</sup>.

## 2. Occupation (core topic)

*Occupation refers to the type of work done in the main job by the person employed (or the type of work done in the last job held if the person is unemployed), irrespective of the industry or the status in employment in which the person’s job is classified. The type of work is considered in terms of the main tasks and duties performed in the job.*

35. For purposes of international comparison, it is recommended that countries make it possible to prepare tabulations in accordance with the latest revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO). An updated Standard is expected in 2028. At the time the present set of census recommendations was approved the latest revision was the one adopted by a Tripartite Meeting of Experts in Labour Statistics in 2007 and endorsed by the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2008 and generally known as ISCO-08<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> The Resolution concerning statistics of work relationships, adopted by the twentieth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, October 2018), Paragraph 59.

<sup>5</sup> *International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08) Volume 1, Structure, Group Definitions and Correspondence Tables* (Geneva, International Labour Office, 2012). [The ISCO companion guide](#) is also available to assist countries using ISCO-08. A new standard is expected in 2028 and should be used.

36. Countries should code the collected occupational data at the lowest possible level of ISCO or a related national classification supported by the information given in each response. In order to facilitate detailed and accurate coding, it would be useful for the census questionnaire to ask each employed persons for both the occupational title and a brief description of the main tasks and duties performed in the job. Information provided in response to the industry questions (see following section) may also be used to assist in the coding of occupation data, where the occupation response on its own is insufficient to assign a detailed occupation classification code.

### 3. Industry (core topic)

*Industry (branch of economic activity) refers to the kind of production or activity of the establishment or similar unit in which the main job(s) of the employed person was located during the time reference period established for data collection on economic characteristics<sup>6</sup>*

37. For purposes of international comparisons, it is recommended that countries compile information on industry according to the latest revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)<sup>7</sup>. Countries belonging to the European Economic Area should refer to the latest version of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE)<sup>8</sup>. Countries coding industry according to a national standard classification should establish correspondence with ISIC either through double coding or through mapping from the detailed groups of the national classification to ISIC.

38. It is recommended that the name and address of the establishment should also be collected, see also paragraph 79. Countries with business registers that are complete and up to date can then use this response as a link to the register in order to obtain the industry code given there to the establishment.

39. In preparation for the coding of the industry responses that cannot be matched to a pre-coded register, the organization responsible for the census should create a coding index that reflects the type of responses that will be given on the census questionnaire.

### 4. Place of work (non-core topic)

*'Place of work' is the location in which an employed person performs his or her job, or where an unemployed person last performed a job.*

40. Three main categories, or a variation based on national circumstances, are recommended for classifying the type of workplace:

(a) *Work at home.* This category includes those who perform the tasks and duties of their main job from within the home, such as farmers who work and live on their farms, homeworkers, self-employed persons operating (work)shops or offices inside their own homes, and persons working and living at work camps;

(b) *No fixed place of work.* This category should be restricted to persons who, in performing the tasks and duties of their main job, travel in different areas and who do not report daily in person to a fixed address as a work base, for example, travelling salespersons, long-distance commercial vehicle drivers, seafarers, fishermen and own-account taxi drivers. It also includes ambulant vendors, operators of street or market stalls that are removed at the

<sup>6</sup> For those persons who are recruited and employed by one enterprise but who actually work at the place of work of another enterprise (called "agency workers" or "seconded workers" in some countries), there would be user interest in gathering information about the industry of the employer as well as the industry of the place of work. However, the collection of both would be more appropriate in a labour force survey rather than in a population census. The industry of the actual place of work may provide more reliable reporting of the "industry" variable in a population census. Any such choice should, however, be consistent with the treatment of this group in the system of National Accounts.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations, forthcoming. [International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 5 \(ISIC Rev. 5\)](#).

<sup>8</sup> Eurostat, 2008. [NACE Rev. 2: Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community](#).

end of the workday, construction workers working at different sites during the reference period and push-cart operators;

(c) *With a fixed place of work outside the home.* All other persons in employment should be included in this category, including persons who move around in their job but have a fixed-base location to which they report daily, such as bus and taxi drivers (with a base), train and airline staff, and operators of street and market stalls that are not removed at the end of each workday. This group may also include individuals who travel to work, on a regular basis, across the national border to a neighbouring country.

41. The geographic location of the place of work can provide useful information for planning when used together with information on place of residence. To this end, countries may collect, for employed persons with a fixed place of work outside the home, information on the location of the place of work (or the reporting place) during the reference period. The information collected should relate to the smallest civil division in which the job is performed, for example, in order to establish commuter flows from the place of residence to the place of work.

42. It is likely that for some jobs, performance is at more than one location (for example, at home some of the time or season and in a fixed location outside the home at other times) or the category cannot be clearly distinguished. One approach, in the case of the former, would be to select the place where the individual spends or spent a major part of his or her working time. For countries using registers as the main source in the Census, the type of workplace will normally not be possible to identify. Questions on workplace would normally be more suitable in surveys as the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

43. Additional questions may also be asked on the method of travel to work in order to produce statistics on travel-to-work patterns, valuable as basis for transportation planning. Persons not travelling to work should be classified as “no travel to work”.

## 5. Institutional sector of employment (non-core topic)

*Institutional sector of employment relates to the legal organization and the principal functions, behaviour and objectives of the enterprise with which a job is associated.*

44. Following the definitions provided in the most recent version of the System of National Accounts<sup>9</sup>, distinction should be made between the following institutional sectors:

(a) *Corporations sector*, comprising non-financial and financial corporations (incorporated enterprises, private and public companies, joint-stock companies, limited liability companies, etc.) as well as quasi-*corporations* and non-profit institutions (hospitals, schools etc. that charge fees to cover their current production costs);

(b) *General government sector*, comprising central, state and local government units together with social security funds imposed or controlled by those units, and non-profit institutions engaged in non-market production controlled and financed by government, or by social security funds;

(c) *Non-profit institutions serving households* (for example religious institutions, professional societies, sports and cultural clubs, charitable institutions, aid agencies) that provide goods or services to households (free or at prices that are not economically significant) and whose main resources are for voluntary contributions;

(d) *Households* is defined as a natural person or group of natural persons who share the same living accommodation, who pool some, or all, of their income and wealth and who consume certain types of goods and services collectively, mainly housing and food. Households may also engage in production activities and the household sector include unincorporated market enterprises for the purpose of producing goods or services for sale or barter on the market.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, forthcoming. [System of National Accounts 2025](#).



## 6. Working time (non-core topic)

45. Information on two distinct concepts of working time can be collected in a population census: hours actually worked, and hours usually worked.

*Hours actually worked is defined as the time spent in a job for the performance of activities that contribute to the production of goods and services during a specified reference period. It covers the time spent in “direct hours”, in “related hours”, “down time” and short “resting time”. “Direct hours” is the time spent carrying out the tasks and duties of the job – and may be performed in any location. “Related hours”, while not leading directly to goods produced or services provided, is the time spent maintaining, facilitating or enhancing productive activities, including upkeep of the workplace, changing time or decontamination of work clothes, purchasing or transporting materials, waiting for business, customers or patients, on-call duties, travelling between work locations, and work training or skills enhancement required by the economic unit. In practice, “down time” includes unavoidable, temporary interruptions to work (for example machinery or Internet breakdown, lack of supplies). “Resting time” is inactive time for short rest or refreshment in the course of performing job-related activities, (for example coffee breaks). Longer breaks for meals, time spent not working because of vacation, holidays, sickness, industrial disputes, etc., commuting to work (if not also performing job tasks or duties) and educational leave even if paid, are excluded from hours actually worked.*

*Hours usually worked is defined as the typical value of the hours actually worked in a job per short reference period (for example one week) over a long observation period (month, quarter, season, year) that comprises the short reference period itself. This “typical value” of time worked during a normal or typical week may be the modal number of the hours actually worked in the short period as distributed over the long period. This would include overtime hours regularly worked whether paid or unpaid. Days and hours not usually worked and unusual periods of overtime are not included.*

46. If deemed relevant for countries to include working hours in the Census, a detailed discussion of the two concepts can be found in the UNSD Principles and Recommendations. The inclusion of hours usually worked can be useful for countries concerned about the relevance for some users of the one-hour criterion in the definition of employment. For countries relying on registers, it is also useful to have an alternative source for hours worked for persons in own-use production, see paragraph 29.

## 7. Income (non-core topic)

47. Countries may wish to collect information on the amounts of income received by individual persons or households during a specified reference period, from any source. If this topic is included in the census, it is recommended that data be obtained from all persons above a specified age, whether they are employed or not. Income should be measured both for the individual and for the household of which he/she is a member.

*Income may be defined as all receipts whether monetary or in kind (goods and services) that are received by the household or by individual members of the household at annual or more frequent intervals but excluding windfall gains and other such irregular and typically one-time receipts. Household income covers:*

- (a) *Income from employment (both paid and self-employment);*
- (b) *Income from the production of goods for own final use;*
- (c) *Income from the provision of household services for own final use;*
- (d) *Property income;*
- (e) *Current transfers received<sup>10</sup>.*

48. The collection of reliable data on household income, especially income from self-employment and property income, is extremely difficult in general field inquiries,

<sup>10</sup> See [Resolution concerning household income and expenditure statistics](#), adopted by the Seventeenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 2003), paragraphs 4–5.

particularly population censuses. The inclusion of non-cash income further compounds the difficulties. Collection of household income in a census, even when confined to cash income, presents special problems in terms of burden of work, response errors, and so forth. Therefore, this topic is generally considered more suitable in a sample survey of households or from administrative data such as tax or social security records. Depending on the national requirements, countries may nonetheless wish to obtain limited information on personal or household income, by covering only some of the income components (such as, income from employment), for shorter reference period (such as one month), and restricted only to cash income. As thus defined, the information collected can provide some input into statistics that have many important uses.

49. According to international standards on the subject, the income from employment of employed persons should include wages and salaries of employees, income of members from producers' cooperatives and the mixed income of employers and own-account workers operating business and unincorporated enterprises. In addition to the income from employment of employed household members, the total income of the household should include, for example, the interest, dividends, rent, social security benefits, pensions and life insurance annuity benefits of all its members. The Handbook on Household Income Statistics provides further guidance on concepts and methods related to this topic.<sup>11</sup>

50. The concepts involved in determining income are not simple to grasp and respondents may be unable or unwilling to provide exact information. For example, income should include social security, pension fund contributions and direct taxes withheld from employees' salaries, but some persons will undoubtedly not include these amounts in reporting their salaries. Significant items of total household income may also be excluded or misstated. Despite instructions given to enumerators, the data collected can therefore be expected to be approximate. Accordingly, in the presentation of results it is usually appropriate to use broad income or earnings size-classes. As an aid to the interpretation of the results, tabulations of the data should be accompanied by a description of the items of income assumed to be included and, if possible, an estimate of the accuracy of the figures.

## **B. Participation in own-use production of goods (core topic)**

51. Countries where production of goods for own final use (such as foodstuffs from agriculture, fishing, hunting and gathering, water, firewood and other household goods), represents an important component of the livelihood of a part of the population. Whether this is a main or secondary activity, one should consider collecting information in the population census on the number of persons engaged in this form of work (previously included within the concept of employment). Such information is essential for benchmarking purposes, especially where household surveys are not frequent, for comprehensive sectoral analysis particularly of work in agriculture, forestry and fishing, and to enable integration between the population census and the agricultural census.

*Persons in own-use production of goods are all those above the specified age who, during a specified reference period, performed any activity to produce goods for own final use. The notion "for own final use" is interpreted as production where the intended destination of the output is mainly for final use by the producer in the form of capital formation, or final consumption by household members, or by family members living in other households.*

<sup>11</sup> See [Resolution concerning household income and expenditure statistics](#), adopted by the Seventeenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 2003), paragraphs 4–5.

52. According to the international standards, any activity to produce goods (within the SNA production boundary) covers work performed for at least one hour in the following activities, when the intended destination of the output is mainly for own final use, as specified above:

- (a) Producing and/or processing for storage agricultural, fishing, hunting and gathering products;
- (b) Collecting and/or processing for storage mining and forestry products, including firewood and other fuels;
- (c) Fetching water from natural and other sources;
- (d) Manufacturing household goods (such as furniture, textiles, clothing, footwear, pottery or other durables, including boats and canoes);
- (e) Building, or effecting major repairs to, one's own dwelling, farm buildings, etc.

53. For measurement purposes, the intended destination of the output is established in reference to the specific goods produced, based on self-declaration (that is, mainly for own final use). In the case of goods from agriculture, fishing, hunting or gathering intended mainly for own consumption, a part or surplus may nevertheless be sold or bartered.

54. Persons may engage in own-use production of goods as a main secondary activity, throughout the year on a seasonal basis. To ensure complete coverage, the census questions on participation in own-use production of goods should be applied to all persons above a specified age for collecting information on the economic characteristics of the population, irrespective of their labour force status. The reference period may refer to the last 12 months, calendar year, agricultural year or season, as relevant to national circumstances. Where pertinent, the choice of reference period should promote coherence with the agricultural census. Countries relying on register/administrative records, will normally lack information on participation in own-use production and will need to survey this specifically, e.g. in the labour Force Survey.

55. For assessments of the volume of work performed by persons in own-use production of goods, particularly when using a long reference period, it may be useful to collect information on working time, in particular hours usually worked (see paragraph 29), or on broad categories such as part-time or full-time, part-time year or full-time year, numbers of months, as feasible and relevant to the main uses of the statistics.

### C. Informal employment (non-core topic)

*Informal employment is defined as any activity of persons to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit that is – in law or in practice – not covered by formal arrangements such as commercial laws, procedures to report economic activities, income taxation, labour legislation and social security laws and regulations. Informal employment includes the activities carried out in relation to an informal job, creating a link between the definition of an informal job and the definition of informal employment. Persons holding informal jobs includes independent workers (employers and own account workers) that owns and operates an informal enterprise, and dependent workers whose job do not have a formal status in relation to the legal administrative framework or whose activities are not effectively covered by formal arrangements. The operational definition of informal and formal jobs thus depends on the persons status in employment category, holding the specific job.*

56. Informal employment is a non-core topic defined in the Resolution concerning statistics on the informal economy, adopted at the 21<sup>st</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians in October 2023. The Resolution replaces the two preceding standards, which separately defined the informal sector and informal employment<sup>12</sup>. It encompasses a

<sup>12</sup> Respectively: [the Resolution concerning statistics of employment in the informal sector](#), fifteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 1993. and [the Guidelines concerning a statistical](#)

comprehensive statistical framework for the informal economy, incorporating conceptual and operational definitions for its various statistical components, including the informal sector and informal employment. Registers/administrative records will generally exclude productive activities that are not covered by formal arrangements, see paragraph 17.

57. As several criteria are applied for defining informal and formal jobs it would typically be a need to limit the criteria used to reduce the response burden, if measured in a census. Further discussion of these criteria can be found in UNSD Principles and recommendations.

### **III. Conclusion**

58. The draft recommendations on economic characteristics for the 2030 round of population and housing censuses are presented for comments and discussion.

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*definition of informal employment*. Seventeenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2013.