

Indicator
<b>Proportion of migrants employed in vulnerable employment, by sex</b>
Definition
<p>Vulnerable employment is defined as the sum of the employment status groups of own-account workers and contributing family workers. They are less likely to have formal work arrangements, and are therefore more likely to lack decent working conditions, adequate social security and ‘voice’ through effective representation by trade unions and similar organizations. Vulnerable employment is often characterized by inadequate earnings, low productivity and difficult conditions of work that undermine workers’ fundamental rights.<sup>1</sup></p>
Goal and target addressed (targets and goals taken from the Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda)
<p>Goal 8. Create Jobs, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Equitable Growth; Target 8a. Increase the number of good and decent jobs and livelihoods by x</p>
Rationale
<p>The share of workers in vulnerable employment is directly linked to the share of people living in poverty. Due to their immigration status, discriminatory or poorly enforced labour laws and obfuscated employment relations, migrant workers are often at greater risk to working in vulnerable types of employment. So far, there is a lack of information on the number of male and female migrants working in vulnerable employment. The MDG indicator 1.7 (Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment) is not disaggregated by sex nor does it capture specifically migrants, many of whom are working in vulnerable employment. The ILO International Labour Migration Statistic does not capture the issue of vulnerable employment,<sup>2</sup> nor do the indicators put forward in the Human Development Report 2009 “Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development”<sup>3</sup> on “education and employment of international migrants in OECD countries.” Moreover, indicators are not disaggregated by sex (or age or migration status), nor are the OECD data sources based on which those figures were calculated.<sup>4</sup> The ILO key indicators of the labour market database do include the share of women in vulnerable employment, however without looking at migrants.</p>
Method of computation

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/features/WCMS\\_120470/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/features/WCMS_120470/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <http://laborsta.ilo.org/>

<sup>3</sup> UNDP, Human Development Report, Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development. 2009. Available from: [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/269/hdr\\_2009\\_en\\_complete.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/269/hdr_2009_en_complete.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> OECD, Database on Immigrants in OECD Countries. 2009. Available at <http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?lang=en>.

The share of vulnerable employment is calculated as the sum of contributing family workers and own-account workers as a percentage of total employment.

The indicator of status in employment – used to identify people in vulnerable employment – distinguishes between three categories of the employed, following the International Classification by Status in Employment (ICSE), approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1958 and revised at the 15th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in 1993: (1) wage and salary workers; (2) contributing family workers; and, (3) self-employed workers, including self-employed workers with employees (employers), self-employed workers without employees (own-account workers) and members of producers' cooperatives.

1. **Employees** are all those workers who hold the type of jobs defined as “paid employment jobs”, where the incumbents hold explicit (written or oral) or implicit employment contracts that give them a basic remuneration that is not directly dependent upon the revenue of the unit for which they work.
2. **Employers** are those workers who, working on their own account or with one or a few partners, hold the type of jobs defined as a “self-employment jobs” (i.e. jobs where the remuneration is directly dependent upon the profits derived from the goods and services produced), and, in this capacity, have engaged, on a continuous basis, one or more persons to work for them as employee(s).
3. **Own-account workers** are those workers who, working on their own account or with one or more partners, hold the type of jobs defined as a “self-employment jobs” [see ii above], and have not engaged on a continuous basis any employees to work for them.
4. **Members of producers' cooperatives** are workers who hold “self-employment jobs” [see ii or iii above] in a cooperative producing goods and services.
5. **Contributing family workers** are those workers who hold “self-employment jobs” as own-account workers [see iii above] in a market-oriented establishment operated by a related person living in the same household.
6. **Workers not classifiable by status** include those for whom insufficient relevant information is available, and/or who cannot be included in any of the preceding categories.

The latest figures for this indicator, published on the 2010 update of the MDG Database, were estimated based on three different projection models (or scenarios) as follows:

- Scenario 1 was generated using the historical relationship between economic growth and unemployment at the country level between 1991 and 2008, together with the IMF GDP growth projections for 2009.
- Scenario 2 was generated on the basis of the relationship between economic growth and unemployment during the worst observed economic downturn in each country, by applying this relationship to the 2009 IMF GDP growth projections.
- Scenario 3 was generated by taking the worst observed year-on-year increase in each country's unemployment rate and assumes that this same increase would happen simultaneously in all developed countries in 2009. Given the lagged impact of the crisis in developing economies, for these countries, half of the largest observed increase is assumed to occur in 2009.

For a brief explanation of the aforementioned scenarios please see page 9 of:

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_emp/---emp\\_elm/---trends/documents/publication/wcms\\_114102.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_elm/---trends/documents/publication/wcms_114102.pdf)

<p>For a detailed explanation of the aforementioned scenarios please see page 31 of : <a href="http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_elm/---trends/documents/publication/wcms_120382.pdf">http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_elm/---trends/documents/publication/wcms_120382.pdf</a><sup>5</sup></p>
<b>Data collection and source; references</b>
<p>ILO OECD</p>
<b>Periodicity of measurement</b>
<b>Gender and disaggregation issues</b>
<p>Data should be disaggregated by sex and age. Due to their economic, gender, ethnic and immigration status, among other factors, women migrant workers are at greater risk to be in, what the International Labour Organization (ILO) calls, 'vulnerable' types of employment. The proposed indicator would allow capturing different groups of women migrant workers, including domestic workers that do not have access to social protection schemes and are often concentrated in low-paid jobs.</p>
<b>Comments and limitations</b>
<b>National or international agency</b>
<p><b>UN Women</b></p>

<sup>5</sup> <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx?IndicatorId=0&SeriesId=760>