

# Measuring labour mobility: concepts and practice in selected UNECE countries

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# Measuring Labour Mobility

STATISTICS



- Broad definition: movements of natural persons for the purpose of work
- Measurement is challenging as it cuts across several statistical domains
- 2014- ILO Working Group on Labour Migration Statistics
- 2015 February: in-depth review by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Bureau
- 2015 June: CES plenary session supported the establishment of a task force
- 2015 October: CES Bureau established the Task Force on Measuring Labour Mobility



# Labour Mobility; Migrants; Workers

STATISTICS

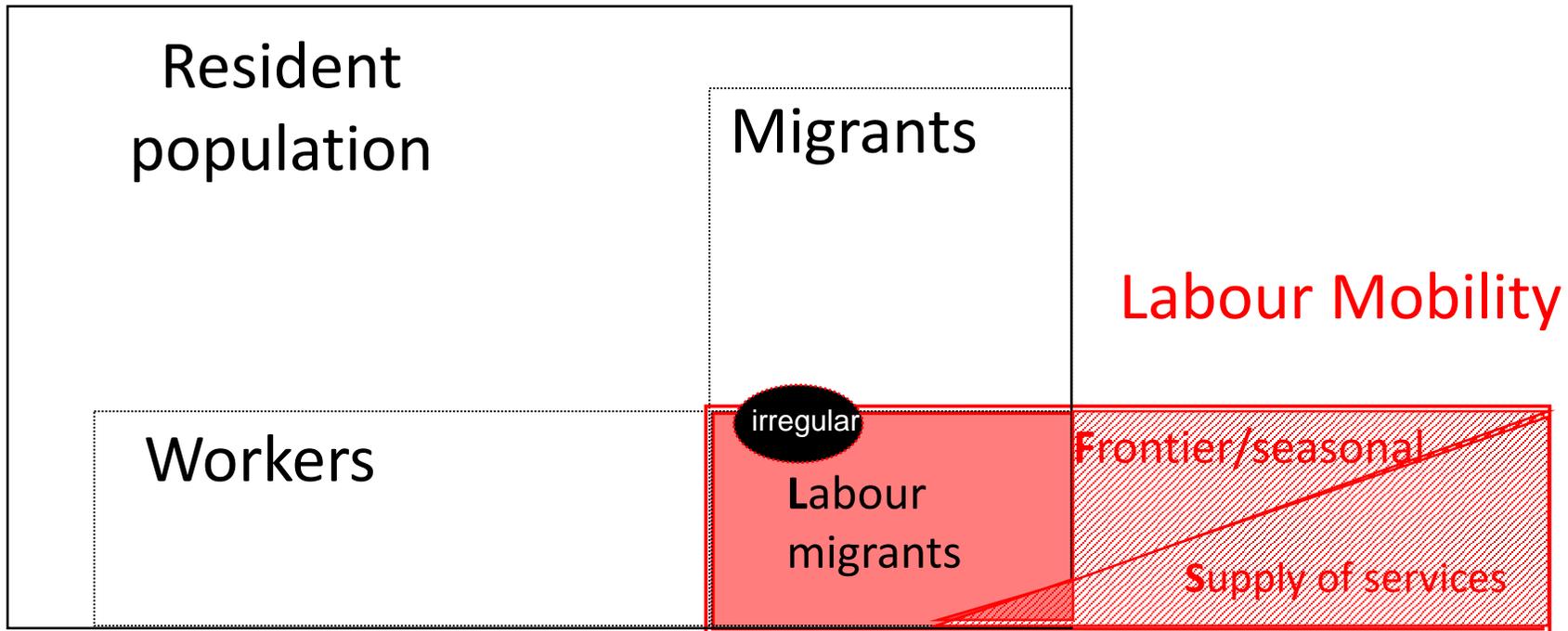


Figure adapted from Statistics Austria (2017). Labour mobility. UNECE Working Paper Series, Issue 2.



# Concept of Labour Mobility

STATISTICS



- **Labour migrants**

Persons who changed their place of usual residence from one country to another for taking up work

- Long-term - more than 12 months
- Short-term - 3 to 12 months

- **Non-migrant foreign workers**

Non-residents who moved across borders for the purpose of work

- frontier workers
- stay for less than 3 months (e.g. seasonal or agricultural workers)
- business travellers who receive remuneration from the country of origin (e.g. posted workers)

# Residence of Persons and Enterprises



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- Labour migrants whose work relation is with
  - a resident enterprise (e.g. permanent labour migration)
  - a non-resident service supplier (e.g. long-term posting)
- Non-migrant foreign workers whose work relation is with
  - a resident enterprise (e.g. seasonal or frontier workers)
  - a non-resident service supplier (e.g. short-term posting)



# Different Statistical Domains



## STATISTICS

- Migration statistics:
  - do not cover non-migrant foreign workers
  - more often measure long-term migration than short-term migration
  - do not always include the purpose of the move
- Tourism statistics
  - measure short-term moves
  - do not measure workers
- Labour market statistics often lack information on mobility
- Implications for
  - enterprise statistics
  - tourism statistics
  - national accounts, in particular balance of payments, trade in services



# UNECE Task Force on Measuring Labour Mobility



STATISTICS

- Established 2015 October
- Objective: to develop practical guidance on the compilation of labour mobility statistics and review countries' practices in this area
- Chair: Mark Feldman (Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel)
- Members: Germany, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Turkey, ILO, IOM, OECD, WTO, UNSD; UNECE
- First full report by end 2017



# Focus on 4 Groups as identified by the ILO Working Group

- **Stock of international migrants and migrant workers** in the country – identified by country of birth and country of citizenship and broken down by length of stay
- Separate estimates for **externally displaced persons** in the above stock
- Workers who travel to and engage in economic activity in a country other than their country of usual residence, e.g. **cross-border commuters**
- **In-flow** of migrants and for-work migrants to the country – those who have **not yet met the 12 month threshold** to change their usual place of residence

All groups may include regular and irregular migrants



# Case Studies

- Israel, Italy, Mexico, Norway
- Quantitative data on the 4 groups (tables)
- Clarification of data sources
- Light analysis of the impact of labour migration on the country's economy



# Data Sources

		Israel	Italy	Mexico	Norway
1	Stock of international migrants and migrant workers in the country	1: LFS 2: Entry/exit residual (possibility)	LFS	1: Intercensal survey, 2: Survey on Demographic Dynamics	registers, LFS
2	Externally displaced persons	1: Population and Immigration Authority 2: LFS	Asylum; work permits	1: Survey on Demographic Dynamics+; 2: Commission for Refugee Assistance	registers, LFS
3	Commuters in	Palestinian LFS	EU-LFS	Survey of Migration on the South Border	registers
	Commuters out	LFS	LFS, census	1 Intercensal survey, 2 Survey on Income & Expenditure; 3 Survey of Occupation and Employment.	LFS, , Sweden
4	In-flow of migrants and for-work migrants to the country	Population and Immigration Authority	Residence permits; municipality registers	1: National Institute of Migration 2: Survey on Demographic Dynamics	registers, (LFS)



# Avenues for Improvement

STATISTICS



- To provide data on stock of migrants and commuters regularly → slight changes in LFS:
  - Broaden target population to include those who stay in the country for a short time
  - Adding questions for those who work and/or commute abroad (country of work, whether the enterprise is resident or a non-resident service supplier/employer).
  - Changes in the survey plan to include coverage of workplaces that serve as irregular residences
- Use admin data to obtain residence of employer
- Exchange of data between countries
- Linking of registers

Thank you for your attention!

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