

Key Advances in Informal Employment Statistics, 1997-2024*

Advances by WIEGO

1997	WIEGO founded
1998	WIEGO invited to join Delhi Group
2002	ILO and WIEGO publish <i>Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture</i> with data on 25 countries
2010	WIEGO launches its Statistical Brief series 1) to provide statistics on informal employment and categories of workers in an accessible format at national, urban and city levels and 2) to describe methods for the collection, tabulation and analysis of statistics on workers in informal employment
2011	ILO and WIEGO create a database on the informal economy within official ILOSTAT database with data on 40 countries
2013	ILO and WIEGO publish second edition of <i>Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture</i> with data on 47 countries; ILO publishes <i>Measuring Informality: A Statistical Manual on the Informal Sector and Informal Employment</i> prepared by the Delhi Group, including WIEGO
2014	WIEGO publishes second set of regional estimates on informal employment in the developing world (based on direct estimates for 40 countries and indirect estimates for 80 countries) in <i>Statistics on the Informal Economy: Definitions, Regional Estimates and Challenges</i>
2015	WIEGO is invited to participate in the ILO Working Group on the Revision of the International Classification of Status in Employment
2016	WIEGO posts a dashboard with key statistical indicators at national level (40 countries) and at city level (19 cities), including numbers of domestic workers, home-based workers, street vendors and waste pickers, on its dashboard
2019	WIEGO and ILO publish <i>Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Brief</i> with global and regional estimates of informal employment WIEGO is invited to participate in the ILO Working Group for the Revision of the Statistical Standards on Informality
2020	ILO/ESCWA/WIEGO collaboration on Ford Foundation-funded project: Developing labour statistics with a focus on informality in the Arab region
2020 - 2023	WIEGO participates in the Working Group for the Revision of Standards for Statistics on Informality
2021 - 2023	WIEGO participates in the Technical Advisory Group for the Engendering Informality Project
2023	WIEGO participates in the panel celebrating the centenary of the ICLS

Advances in the Statistical System

1993 (prior to WIEGO)	International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) adopts enterprise-based definition of informal sector
1997	United Nations (UN) Statistical Commission Expert Group recommends work on "informal employment" to improve measurement of women's work UN's expert group on informal sector statistics (Delhi Group) established
2002	ILO produces "Decent Work and the Informal Economy"; WIEGO provides background papers
2003	ICLS adds an employment-based definition of the informal economy
2008	<i>System of National Accounts 2008</i> for the first time includes a chapter on the "Informal aspects of the economy" – an important step in estimating the contribution of the informal economy to the Gross Domestic Product
2014	Half of proposed amendments to ILC Standard Setting Discussion on "Transitioning from the Informal to the Formal Economy" are accepted, including recommendations for monitoring with statistics
2015	The indicators for the UN Sustainable Goals include indicator 8.3.1 - Proportion of informal employment in total employment by sex and agriculture/non-agriculture
2018	ILO includes informal employment as an element of the main database with data for over 100 countries on its ILOSTAT database ILO publishes third edition of <i>Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture</i> with first global statistics of informal employment ICLS recommends a new statistical standard on the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-18) that includes "dependent contractors" as a status category and place of work as an essential variable
2023	The 21st ICLS adopts a resolution that updates and improves measurement standards on the informal economy, including criteria for the classification of dependent contractors and contributing family workers as well as an indicator framework for national reports

* An update of a figure originally in *Measuring Social Change* by Alnoor Ebrahim, Stanford University Press, 2019