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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Joint ECE-Eurostat-ILO Seminar  
on Measurement of the Quality of Employment  
(Geneva, 3-5 May 2000)

Topic 1

**Canadian data sources measuring alternative forms of employment**

Invited paper submitted by Statistics Canada

1. This paper addresses the surveys which have been used in Canada to measure the various forms of employment during the 1990s. It begins with an examination of some of the conceptual issues which underlie these measures, explicitly or implicitly. It then looks at the surveys, some of them regular (like the Labour Force Survey) and some of them to varying degrees *ad hoc* and designed to fill in the gaps left by the regular sources.

2. In the context of the Seminar, the section on concepts is intended provide the beginning of a conceptual structure for the measurement of alternative forms of employment. Such a conceptual structure might prove useful as we move towards international harmonization of statistics on forms of employment. By discussing the concepts underlying the definitions associated with various forms of employment, we have a better idea of the common ground on which international standard definitions can be built.

3. The balance of the paper will look at the content of Canadian surveys which measure various forms of employment, not always consistently. The paper

will also present some overview statistics derived from these surveys to convey an appreciation of the relative magnitudes of the various forms of employment in the Canadian labour market.