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▶ ILO Flagship Report



▶ **World
Employment
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Outlook**
Trends 2020



World Employment and Social Outlook

Trends 2020

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Preface

There is a growing perception that labour markets are not adequately distributing the fruits of economic growth, and that the resulting inequality poses a threat to social cohesion. Evaluating these phenomena requires a rigorous assessment of economic and social trends shaping the world of work. It is especially crucial that we understand the degree to which all people of working age can access decent work and realize their full potential in work. Robust evidence on these issues needs to feed directly into the design of economic and social policies that can help countries navigate a sustainable and inclusive path of development.

Researchers and statisticians at the ILO have undertaken extensive data collection and modelling efforts to develop new sets of global estimates of indicators that provide a comprehensive picture of labour markets. New data presented in this report shed light on major gaps in access to work, as the full extent of labour underutilization extends beyond unemployment. In addition, the report highlights the persistence of significant deficiencies in the quality of work, including

high rates of informality and working poverty, which are unlikely to recede significantly in light of insufficient or non-inclusive growth. Finally, the report demonstrates that pronounced inequalities prevail in labour markets. In particular, new estimates of the size of the labour income share for the world's workforce, as well as its uneven distribution among workers, provide a novel perspective on labour market inequality in different regions of the world. This report also presents the labour market situation and prospects of rural and urban workers, which is a key line of segmentation that divides the economic and social prospects among the world's workforce.

As with previous editions, the ILO's annual flagship *World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends* report continues to provide an authoritative global overview of where the world stands with respect to the global employment picture. This 2020 edition of the series draws a comprehensive picture of the progress made and of the remaining gaps in achieving social justice and decent work.



Guy Ryder
ILO Director-General

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