



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY
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Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies

GR:REEN

Global Re-ordering:
Evolution through European Networks

Future Trends Series - GR:REEN Project

Title of the report

Global Employment Trends 2014: Risk of a jobless recovery?

Area

Demography

Reporter

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Type of the Reporter

International Organisation

Periodically updated?

Yes

First issued year

2003

Latest update

2014

Official website

<http://www.ilo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm>

Language available

English

Short summary

In this report, the ILO examines the global labour market recovery since the 2008 global financial crisis. The report highlights the role of a strategy that combines short-term measures, such as job-friendly macroeconomic and labour market policies, with further action to tackle long-standing imbalances.

Key trends

- 'Almost 202 million people were unemployed in 2013 around the world, an increase of almost 5 million compared with the year before. This reflects the fact that employment is not expanding sufficiently fast to keep up with the growing labour force.'
- 'If current trends continue, global unemployment is set to worsen further, albeit gradually, reaching more than 215 million jobseekers by 2018. During this period, around 40 million net new jobs would be created every year, which is less than the 42.6 million people that are expected to enter the labour market every year. The global unemployment rate would remain broadly constant during the next five years, at half a percentage point higher than before the crisis.'
- 'It is estimated that some 74.5 million young people – aged 15–24 – were unemployed in 2013; that is almost 1 million more than in the year before. The global youth unemployment rate has reached 13.1 per cent, which is almost three times as high as the adult unemployment rate.'

- 'The average length of unemployment spells has increased considerably, a sign of feeble job creation. In many advanced economies the duration of unemployment has doubled.'
- 'In the Developed Economies region, participation rates have dropped as young workers in particular do not see opportunities in the labour market.'
- 'The number of people in vulnerable employment expanded by around 1 per cent in 2013, which is five times higher than during the years prior to the crisis.'
- 'The number of working poor continues to decline globally, albeit at a slower rate than during previous decades. In 2013, 375 million workers (or 11.9 per cent of total employment) are estimated to live on less than US\$1.25 per day and 839 million workers (or 26.7 per cent of total employment) have to cope with US\$2 a day or less.'
- 'Informal employment remains widespread in most developing countries, although regional variations are sizeable.'

Suggestions

- 'A rebalancing of macroeconomic policies and increased labour incomes would significantly improve the employment outlook. Simulation results suggest that in high income G20 countries, such a rebalancing could reduce unemployment by 1.8 percentage points by 2020, which corresponds to 6.1 million additional jobs. These achievements would also support fiscal goals. Indeed, simulation results suggest such a policy approach would result in a significant improvement over the baseline status quo scenario.'
- 'With 23 million people estimated to have dropped out of the labour market due to discouragement and rising long-term unemployment, active labour market policies (ALMP) need to be implemented more forcefully to address inactivity and skills mismatch.'

Methodology

Research from primary sources and modelling

Reference to other trends reports? If yes, which reports?

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