

Glossary: International standard classification of occupations (ISCO)

Statistics Explained

The **International standard classification of occupations**, abbreviated as **ISCO**, is an international classification under the responsibility of the [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#) for organising jobs into a clearly defined set of groups according to the tasks and duties undertaken in the job.

ISCO is intended both for use in compiling statistics and for client-oriented uses such as the recruitment of workers through employment offices, the management of migration of workers between countries and the development of vocational training programmes and guidance.

The first ISCO version, known as *ISCO-58*, was adopted in 1957 by the Ninth International Conference of Labour Statisticians; subsequent versions were *ISCO-68* (Eleventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 1966), *ISCO-88* (Fourteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 1987) and the fairly recent *ISCO-08*, adopted in December 2007.

Example (ISCO-88)

1 LEGISLATORS, SENIOR OFFICIALS AND MANAGERS

11 Legislators and senior officials

111 Legislators and senior government officials

114 Senior officials of special-interest organisations

2 PROFESSIONALS

21 Physical, mathematical and engineering science professionals

211 Physicists, chemists and related professionals

2111 Physicists and astronomers

2112 Meteorologists

2113 Chemists

2114 Geologists and geophysicists

Further information

- [International Labour Organization \(ILO\) - ISCO - International Standard Classification of Occupations](#)

Related concepts

- [International standard classification of education \(ISCED\)](#)
- [Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community \(NACE\)](#)

Source

- [International Labour Organization \(ILO\) - ISCO - International Standard Classification of Occupations](#)