

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this manual is to give an account of those of the main methods of projecting labour supply and demand which are currently regarded as suitable for preparing quantified projections for periods of from 5 to 10 years. Shorter-term projections, including one-year projections, are not covered. In dealing with the determination of the trend of employment in future years, this manual describes not only projection techniques based on extrapolation of past trends, but also more complex methods which take into account all factors affecting labour supply and demand. The methods proposed have been classified according to their practical value and the advantages and disadvantages of each of them described; furthermore, special attention has been paid to the problems of developing countries, and an indication given in all cases as to whether the method discussed seems satisfactory for developed countries only or for developing countries only.

The manual is divided into three parts, with annexes containing examples which complement the text. Part One deals with labour supply, i.e., with projections of the economically active population and Part Two with labour demand, that is, the manpower requirements of the economy. Each of these parts is divided into three chapters: Chapter I gives the definition of economically active population used in the part concerned and outlines the problems of principle involved in making projections, Chapter II explains proposed projection methods in detail, and Chapter III is devoted to ancillary computations which will yield a more accurate projection of the trend of employment in future years, such as the preparation of working-life tables for the purpose of determining the labour supply or, for demand projections, the use of employment projections by occupation to prepare projections by level and type of training. Finally, in Part Three, supply and demand are collated.