This valuable, wide-ranging reference tool meets the ever-increasing demand for timely, accurate and accessible information on the rapidly changing world of work. Now in its 4th edition, the Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM) Interactive Software offers the general user with instant and uncomplicated access to data on the world's labour markets.

Harvesting vast information from international data repositories, and regional and national statistical sources, this important reference tool offers data for over 200 countries for the years 1980 through the latest available subsequent year. Using statistical data on the labour force, employment, unemployment, underemployment, educational attainment of the workforce, wages and compensation, productivity and labour costs, employment elasticities, and poverty as market indicators, the software provides users with access the most current information available.

The KILM Interactive Software includes all the basic statistics used to calculate 20 key labour market indicators. Its easy to use format makes searching for relevant information quick and simple and this latest version includes numerous exciting innovations. First, the software includes electronic access to the "key issues of the labour market" chapter, as well as all other text describing the use of each indicator with useful information on the sources and definitions. The "key issues" chapter highlights "hot topics" relating to the world's labour markets while demonstrating how labour market information is used to analyse labour market issues and to guide policy recommendations. Second, the software offers an improved updating functionality. Data updates will be automatically downloaded each time a user opens the programme. Finally, the new "cross-table" functionality allows users to view multiple indicators in one grid.

The history of the KILM

Data needed for monitoring and assessing the current realities of the world at work is essential for any organization, institution or government that advocates labour-related strategies. In recognition of this, the International Labour Office (ILO) launched the Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM) programme in 1999 to complement the regular data collection programmes and to improve dissemination of data on the key elements of the world’s labour markets.

The KILM is designed with two primary objectives in mind: (a) to present a core set of labour market indicators; and (b) to improve the availability of the indicators to monitor new employment trends. The indicators were initially chosen in a collaborative effort involving the ILO Employment Sector and the Bureau of Statistics in consultation with experts from ILO field offices, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and several national representatives from Ministries of Labour and national statistical offices.

The selection of the indicators was based on the following criteria:

(a) conceptual relevance; (b) data availability; and (c) relative comparability across countries and regions. The design and presentation of the core indicators has evolved slightly since the first edition. Two new indicators were added in the second edition (2001-2002) – occupational wages and earning indices (KILM 16) and labour market flows (KILM 19).

The KILM 4th Edition maintains the 20 indicators with one significant change: the replacement of the labour market flows with that of employment elasticities in KILM 19.