

Abstract on paper to be presented at IARIW- conference 2008; Session 4A Global and National Flows of People and Jobs.

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Since end of 2004 there has been a debate in Norway regarding employment figures. This has mainly been related to how employment statistics cover a person working on a short term basis in Norway without being a resident. The increased focus on this group is a result of the increasing “globalized” labour market which in the case of Norway, became obvious by the EU enlargement in 2004. It is a challenge to measure foreigners working in Norway, and especially those working on a short term basis. According to international recommendations the latter group is not part of what should be covered by the Labour Force Survey. For employment figures in the National Accounts, however, it is important to have a complete picture of total employment. If not, productivity analysis will be more or less meaningless.

In 2005 Statistics Norway launched statistics covering employment among non-residents. However, it is difficult using the available statistics in the compilation of the National Accounts. The reason for this is that the new statistics covers all foreigners without taking into account if they are working in a domestic company or in a foreign company (for instance sub-contracted). On the other hand, the statistics does not cover those working in the “black/informal economy”.

The paper examines methods and data sources to be used for compiling employment in the National Accounts, with a special focus on how to include non-resident employees.