

Title	The Role of Quality of Employment Indicators in General Social Reporting Systems
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Abstract	<p>Perhaps one unforeseen consequence of the creation of our modern systems of national income and employment indicators was that, until very recently, the "quality of life" in most industrialized societies was assessed primarily in terms of such indicators as the "gross national product"; and the "unemployment rate." The anomalies of this "economic philistinism"(a characterization due to Gross, 1966: ix) became a subject of public discussion in the decade of the 1960s. The ensuing debate has spawned numerous proposals for the extension of "social reporting" beyond those market activities indexed by economic indicators and displayed in the annual Economic Report of the President to a fuller range of those conditions of life in modern societies which contribute to its misery or bliss, conditions that are to be measured by generalized "social indicators."</p> <p>All subsequent lists of social conditions which are to be chronicled in social reporting systems have included the nature of employment (or working life). The purpose of this paper is to locate the place of "quality of employment" indicators within this larger social indicator perspective and to indicate some ways in which procedures for the analysis of general social indicators can be related to changes in employment indicators. Specifically, we first describe briefly the development of the social indicators movement. Then we outline the definitional problems surrounding the social indicators notion and delineate the nature of two different, but complementary, types of social indicators. Next, we place quality of employment indicators within this context. Finally, we introduce the notion of a social indicator model as an aid in the interpretation of social indicators and cite some applications to quality of employment indicators.</p>