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Sommario/riassunto	Informal employment can be defined as 'the paid production and sale of goods and services that are unregistered by, or hidden from, the state for tax, social security and/or labour law purposes but which are legal in all other respects' (Williams and Windebank, 1998: 4). It is now recognised that informal employment is growing in importance as economies develop. This recognition that informal employment is far from some vestige of a pre-capitalist past that is peripheral and dwindling, but is a strong and growing part of advanced economies, has resulted in recent years in a growing interest in