National Classification of Activities, CNAE-2009

- **What is a statistical classification?**

Statistical classifications are structures prepared for the purpose of being able to group homogeneous units, according to a defined criterion, in a single category. With this, a set of information can be treated through a code, facilitating statistical analyses and the interpretation of the data.

The units that an activity classification groups are those companies and establishments that have common activities. The concept of activity considers the input used, the productive process and the output obtained.
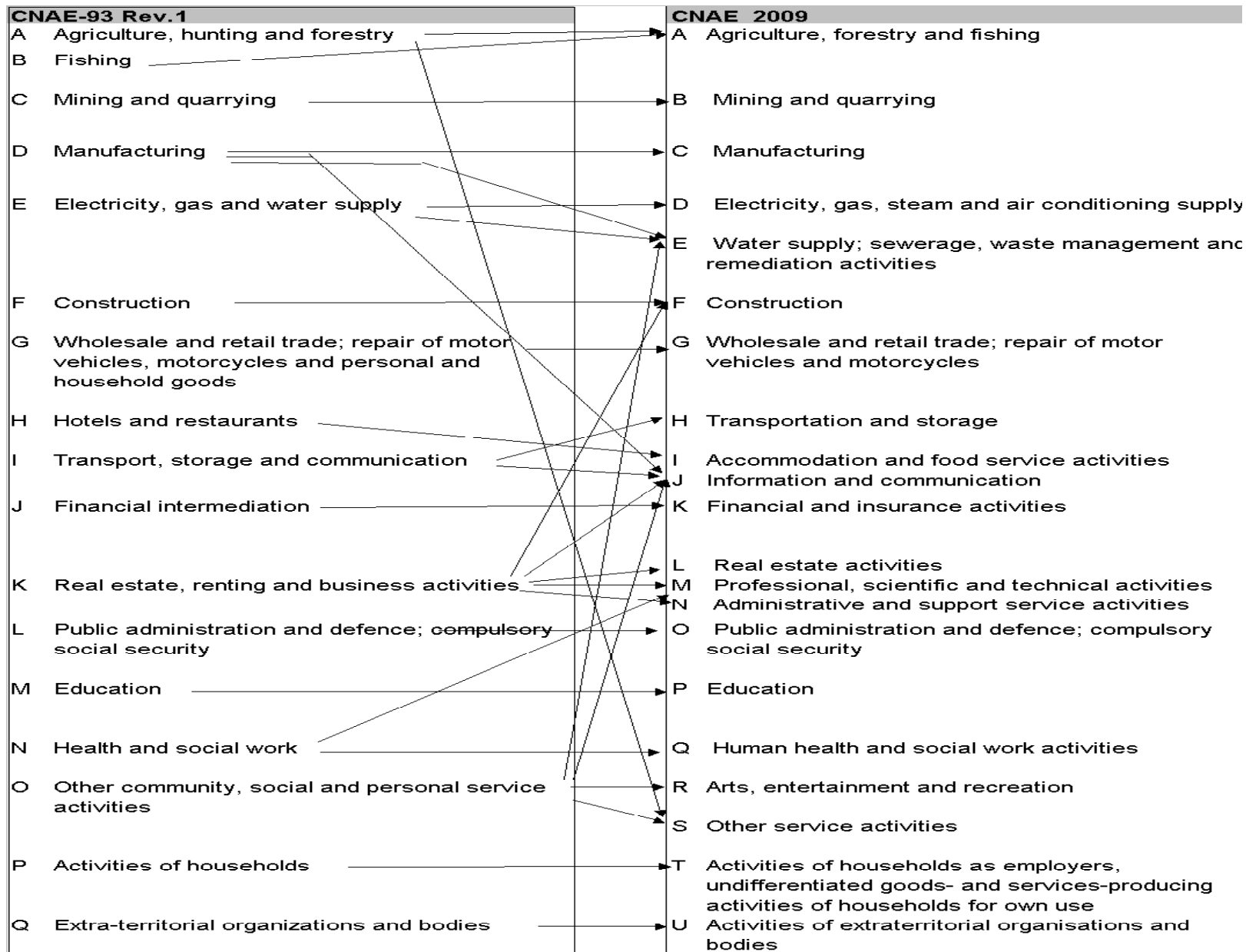
- **Why change classifications?**

The previous activity classification was from 1993, with some slight modifications in 2003. Evidently, the economy has changed substantially since the year 1993, mainly from the perspective of productive processes, where new technologies, and the Internet in particular, have produced an important impact on the economy. In addition, the services sector has developed enormously, and therefore has a greater presence. Other activities, such as the environment, have gained importance in our society, and must be better measured.

In the global economy as well, a fundamental fact has taken place: greater globalisation. This indicates that the needs for international comparison have grown, and one element that is essential in ensuring said comparison is the existence of harmonised classifications.

- **How are the two classifications related?**

The following chart shows that there is a greater breakdown on the level of the main categories. For example, in the services sector, the number of categories has increased considerably. Conversely, agriculture has been combined with fishing.

CNAE-93 Rev.1	CNAE 2009
A Agriculture, hunting and forestry	A Agriculture, forestry and fishing
B Fishing	
C Mining and quarrying	B Mining and quarrying
D Manufacturing	C Manufacturing
E Electricity, gas and water supply	D Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
	E Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
F Construction	F Construction
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods	G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
H Hotels and restaurants	H Transportation and storage
I Transport, storage and communication	I Accommodation and food service activities
	J Information and communication
J Financial intermediation	K Financial and insurance activities
	L Real estate activities
K Real estate, renting and business activities	M Professional, scientific and technical activities
	N Administrative and support service activities
L Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security
M Education	P Education
N Health and social work	Q Human health and social work activities
O Other community, social and personal service activities	R Arts, entertainment and recreation
	S Other service activities
P Activities of households	T Activities of households as employers, undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use
Q Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	U Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies

When will this classification begin to be used?

The preparation project of a new classification must be perfectly engrained worldwide, ensuring the participation of existing supra-national unions, for example, the European Union or the NAFTA Treaty (the United States, Canada and Mexico), and must consider the specific interests of the countries.

A plan was passed in the United Nations in 1998, establishing the objective of having the classifications compiled in the year 2007, for the purpose of preparing the statistical systems so that the classification could be used at the end of this decade.

The European Union has prepared an implementation plan, in which, any European survey will use the classification in parallel in all of the Member States, with the objective of guaranteeing the comparability of the information. In most of the European surveys, 1 January 2009 has been considered the starting date for the use of the classification. Of course, Spain has joined the plan of the European Union, and CNAE-2009 will begin to be used on the agreed dates.

The availability calendar for the main surveys of the INE with CNAE-2009 is as follows:

Survey	Date of availability of the first data with CNAE-2009
Economically Active Population Survey (EAPS)	April-08
Central Companies Directory (CCD)	November-08
Monthly short-term surveys (Retail Trade Index, Services Sector Activity Index, Turnover Index, ...)	March-09
Survey on the Use of Information and Communication Technologies and Electronic Commerce in Companies	October-09
Structural economic surveys (Annual Services Survey, ...)	November-09
Statistics on Scientific Research and Technological Development Activities	November-09
Technological Innovation in Companies Survey	November-09
Quarterly Labour Cost Survey	June-09
Harmonised Labour Cost Index	June-09

- **Who will use the classification?**

The classification will be used in statistics in general, in those surveys that ask about the economic activity of the establishment or company. In addition, as this classification is coordinated with the European classification, there is a guarantee of perfect coherence of the Spanish codes with the codes of the rest of the European Union countries. Even on a global level, and on a two-digit level, there can be a direct comparison.

- **How can I view the classification?**

The INE has developed a computer application called Ayudacod, which by means of the introduction of a literal, offers those codes that are related to the description expressed. With this application, one may view the explanatory notes of each code. If a user has doubts regarding interpretation, the INE has a query system, at the following address: nomenclaturas@ine.es. In addition, for those who need to carry out statistical studies with the classification, the INE offers online information regarding the classification (structure, explanatory notes, etc.): http://www.ine.es/inebmenu/mnu_clasifica.htm