

Economically Active Population Survey (EAPS-2005). Subsample variables

Introduction

One of the new features introduced in the methodological changes relating to the Economically Active Population Survey (EAPS) in 2005 was the use of a survey subsample. This was distributed throughout the year with the aim of providing structural information on the variables that was an annual average. The system of extending a survey to a subsample for researching a group of additional variables to those surveyed in each quarter is called a 'subsample system' and the additional structural variables obtained are called 'subsample variables'.

The possibility of implementing a system of this type is considered in the latest Eurostat regulations (European Council and Parliament Regulation no. 2257/2003 and European Commission Regulation no. 430/2005) and it is set out with the aim of reducing the survey's response load, which has continuously increased with each of the methodological changes.

The nature of the information in the subsample file

The use of a subsample system with these characteristics presents some problems in terms of the interpretation of results.

In reality, what it does is provide annual average data obtained using a part of the survey sample that, for the purposes of the raising factors' calculation, is treated independently. As well as the 'structural variables' that the subsample is specifically designed for, it also contains information on other survey variables (the registers corresponding to the subsample also form part of the quarterly EAPS), meaning that it can offer results from the main survey indicators on an annual average basis. In general, these indicators are different from those that would be obtained as a simple arithmetic annual average of the four quarters.

In order to alleviate this problem, regulation 430/2005 sets out that the raising of subsample results should be carried out in such a way that the subsample estimates are consistent with the arithmetic average of the four quarters for the employed, unemployed and inactive groups by sex and ten-yearly age group (condition 3 of annex 1). In addition, the INE has maintained this consistency in the total number of employed, unemployed and inactive people by Autonomous Community.

In this way, the total number of employed people in the subsample, just as with the total number of unemployed and inactive people, will be the same as the average of the four quarters, whenever the established groups or their breakdowns are considered. This wouldn't happen if the group were more specific (for example, employees with a permanent contract)

Therefore, it is useful to bear in mind that the subsample file provides additional information on the percentage structures and distributions of the 'structural' variables that are under specific study. Whenever levels of the other variables are being analysed, the quarterly averages must be used.

Subsample selection

In the 2005 survey, the selected subsample for obtaining information was made up of those households that entered the EAPS sample for the first time in each quarter¹. The main reason for this choice was the uncertainty surrounding the implementation of the CATI collection system (computer aided telephone interview), which would be used in telephone surveys and, in general, in the second and successive interviews.

Experience gained throughout 2005 showed the viability and efficiency of the CATI system. On the other hand, comparing the data obtained from the CAPI sample (collection by personal interview using laptops) and the data obtained from the CATI system and also the high completion load in relation to CAPI, demonstrated the need to change in the future the sample used to provide the structural variables to those households in successive interviews (mainly surveyed using CATI). More specifically, for 2006, the chosen subsample has been those households that ended their collaboration in the EAPS, in other words, those that were on the sixth interview.

The problem of solving the effect of the interview method on estimates detected in 2005 remained. With the aim of bringing the subsample information from the first interview closer to the survey's annual average (dominated by CATI collection), it was decided to move information on the subsample variables collected in the first interview to the second interview. This was done using direct allocation where there was no change between interviews, or with random imputation using the percentage distributions collected in the first interview. As a result, the file containing the data presented in these tables as provisional data was obtained.

The generation process for the 2005 subsample file has required an imputation component for specific information and different from the usual practice in microdata files for households in the INE. When valuing the results, this should be taken into consideration and, in case of discrepancy with the information on results for successive years, give the latter a greater degree of reliability, their files being produced in accordance with the usual standards.

Once the 2006 subsample file had been produced, which was collected using mainly CATI, and once the overall coherence of the results had been checked with data in the 2005 subsample file, the definitive 2005 data were produced.

List of subsample variables

The subsample file has a lower number of records than the quarterly EAPS files. The approximate number of households constituting the effective sample is 2/3 of the quarterly sample (the subsample file comprises approximately one sixth of the records for each quarter in the year)

The additional variables available in the subsample file with regard to those contained in the quarterly files are as follows:

¹ The EAPS is a rotating panel survey that is renewed on a six-quarterly basis. The chosen dwellings therefore remain in the sample for six consecutive quarters. For more information on the survey design, go to http://www.ine.es/en/docutrab/epa05_disenc/epa05_disenc_en.pdf

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION SURVEY. Methodology 2005. Variables obtained only in the annual subsample

SECTOR	Study sector of the level of studies attained
SECTR	Study sector of regulated studies in progress
SECTNR	Study sector of unregulated training
OBJFORM	Objectives of unregulated training
PAREMP	Company involvement in unregulated training
MOTEMP	Reason for having a temporary contract
ETT	Whether hired by a temporary employment company
CONTPB	Role of the public employment office in obtaining another position
NUMTRA	Number of workers in the establishment
PERCAR	Has supervisory duties in his or her position
DOMICI	Whether worked from home during the past four weeks
CONPAR	Whether intensive working day or split shift
SABAD	Whether worked on a Saturday during the past four weeks
DOMING	Whether worked on a Sunday during the past four weeks
TARDE	Whether worked an evening during the past four weeks
NOCHE	Whether worked a night during the past four weeks
TURNOS	Whether changed shifts during the past four weeks
MASHO2	Mode in which would work most hours
RZBUS1	Reasons for seeking alternative employment
RZBUS2	Reasons for seeking alternative employment
RZBUS3	Reasons for seeking alternative employment
CNINOS	There are no suitable childcare facilities or cannot afford them
CADDIS	There are no suitable adult dependant care facilities or cannot afford them
ANTBUS	Situation prior to seeking / securing employment
RZULT	Reason for leaving last position
OCUPA*	Occupation or trade carried out in last position
ACTA*	Activity of the establishment where worked
SITUA*	Professional situation in previous position
RACPAS	Situation one year ago
ACTPAS	Activity of the establishment worked in one year ago
SITPAS	Professional situation one year ago

* Where leaving previous employment less than a year ago, the entire sample is asked