Migration Survey

Methodology

1.1 The Migration Survey (MS)

The Economically Active Population Survey (EAPS), statistical reference source for knowledge of the labour market, also allows for studying the migratory phenomenon through the Migration Survey (MS), conducted in parallel with the former.

For this reason, the MS requires a low additional cost over the economic and human resources used for the EAPS, given that it employs the entire compilation process in the phases of field work and of filtering and computer data processing. In addition, it allows for obtaining information from the migrants as regards the labour market, which distinguishes it as a unique source in comparison with another statistical reference source for the study of migratory movements, the Residence Variation Statistics (RVS).

The design of the EAPS is aimed at providing the most exact information possible on the main population categories related to the labour market and its temporal evolution. Other survey variables such as the *municipality of residence one year ago,* a classifying variable that is fundamental in the MS for determining whether or not a person is a migrant, are not a priority objective in the design of the EAPS and, therefore, the results derived from this type of variable may have several problems, one of which, from the specific point of view of the MS, is the sub-estimation of the number of migrants.

On the other hand, one of the methodological innovations of the EAPS in 2005 was the use of a survey sub-sample, distributed over the entire year, for the purpose of providing information on structural variables on the annual average.

This survey system extended to a sub-sample, to cover a series of variables additional to those researched each quarter, is called a **sub-sample system**, and the additional structural variables obtained are called sub-sample variables.

The possibility of implementing this system is considered in Eurostat regulations (European Council and Parliament Regulation no. 2257/2003 and European Commission Regulation no. 430/2005) with the objective of lessening the response workload of those interviewed in the survey.

The results of the MS presented here, referring to years 2006 and 2007, are obtained from the **sub-sample file**, whose registry design contains, in addition to the quarterly variables (the same as those from the quarterly EAPS file), the specific structural sub-sample variables, among which we find some of those used in the MS, as will be explained in the following section.

The content of this sub-sample file is obtained from the information provided by the households selected in the quarterly EAPS sample and that are in their sixth interview, that is, the ones that are finishing their collaboration in each quarter. Therefore, this annual sub-sample file contains a lower number of registers than that of the quarterly files, given that it is comprised of, approximately, one sixth of the registers for each quarter of the year, in such a way that that total annual number of informant households is some 2/3s of the total sample from each quarter.

Likewise, another fundamental difference of the annual sub-sample file, in comparison with the quarterly files, is that as a sub-sample, the value of the elevation factors is different from that of the quarterly elevation factors, although the coherence of the quarterly estimates is guaranteed (using the corresponding elevation factors) with the annual sub-sample estimates in the main groups of the labour market, because the computation of the sub-sample elevation factors is carried out in such a way that they verify certain consistency conditions

established in Regulation 430/2005, by which the results calculated for these groups, using the sub-sample elevation factors, are identical to those that would be obtained as the average of the results of the four quarters of the year, using the quarterly elevation factors.

In order to broaden more specific information on the sub-sample variables, the nature of the file and the selection of the sub-sample, see the INE website (http://www.ine.es), and more specifically, within the *INEbase,* in the *Society* section, in the *Labour Market* subject, the *Economically Active Population Survey (EAPS)* statistical operation, in whose section of *Annual results/ Sub-sample variables*, there is a *Methodological note* that explains these matters in detail.

1.2 Source of basic information

The questions that allow for gaining knowledge about the migratory phenomenon are those which appear in **Section I** of the EAPS questionnaire, in which reference is made to the **situation** of the interviewee **one year ago**.

Of these variables, which we describe below, the three relating to the activity situation, professional situation and branch of activity one year ago are specific sub-sample variables, whereas the two relating to the change in municipality of residence one year ago and, if the answer is affirmative, to the place of residence one year ago, are quarterly variables, according to the denomination explained in the previous section.

The retrospective characteristics researched are the following:

Place of residence

- The same municipality as now

- A different municipality

In the latter case, the province and the municipality (if the person resided within the national territory) or the country (if s/he arrived from abroad) must be stated.

For those persons under 16 years of age, the place of residence is the only retrospective characteristic studied.

Those persons aged 16 years old and over are also asked for the following information:

Situation with regard to economic activity:

- Working or employed

- Unemployed (available and seeking employment)

- Studying

- Retired or off work

- Permanently disabled

- Dedicated to household tasks

- Carrying out voluntary social work, charitable activities, etc. ...

- Another situation

- Does not know

Professional situation (only for those who responded that, one year ago, they were *working or employed*):

- Businessperson with employees

- Independent worker or businessperson without employees

- Member of a cooperative

- Person who works without a set pay in the company or business of a relative s/he lives with

- Public sector wage earner

- Private sector wage earner

- Another situation

Activity of the establishment in which s/he was working (only for those who responded *working or employed* to the question on the situation with regard to economic activity). This is coded in accordance with the National Classification of Economic Activities. Revision 1 (NACE-93. Rev.1) to three digits.

All of these questions allow for the study of **domestic migratory movements**, as well as **arrivals from abroad**. These correspond, not only to Spaniards returning to Spain, but also to persons of any other nationality, who come to our country with the intention of residing therein.

(Note. In all of the questions in this Section I of the EAPS questionnaire, there is the option of responding *Does not know*, but, except in the case of the *activity situation one year ago* variable, this response has not been included here explicitly because, as a result of the automatic filtering and imputation process (DIA) of the survey, said response does not exist in the final variable, nor, consequently, does it exist in the tabulation plan of the MS).

1.3 Concepts referring to migration

For the purposes of the Migration Survey (MS), a **migrant** is considered to be any person who, residing at the time of the interview in a municipality within the population scope of the EAPS, resided on the same date, one year prior, in another municipality or in another country.

The terminology *place of residence* requires the qualification of the concept of domestic migration with reference to the places of origin and destination. Thus, it is considered to be **domestic migration** when both places correspond to the same country, while if they belong to different countries, then it is **foreign migration**.

The transfer of a human group from one dwelling to another within the same town is of no interest when studying the general phenomena of migration. This is the reason why only domestic migration between different municipalities is considered.

Therefore, it can be said that a **migrant** is any person who, in a given reference period, has changed his/her municipality (or country) of residence.

Within domestic migration, the concepts of **intra** and **inter** are introduced to distinguish between migration that takes place within a specific area (intra) and that which takes place between different areas (inter). Through the Survey results, intra and inter migratory movement referring to provinces, Autonomous Communities, areas (groupings of Communities) and type of habitat (rural or urban) is analysed.

The areas considered in the MS, each of which comprises one or several Autonomous Communities, correspond to the level I territorial divisions of the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) used by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) in the Community Labour Force Survey (LFS).

These areas are the following:

Northwest: Galicia, Asturias and Cantabria

Northeast: País Vasco, Navarra, La Rioja and Aragón

Madrid: Madrid

Centre: Castilla y León, Castilla-La Mancha and Extremadura

East: Cataluña, Comunitat Valenciana and Illes Balears

South: Andalucía, Murcia, Ceuta and Melilla

Canarias: Canarias

Abroad: Migrants originating abroad

For the distinction between the two types of habitat, urban and rural, the criterion used is whether or not the municipality considered exceeds the figure of 10,000 persons.

Another concept is that of **migratory flow**, understanding this to be the group of migrants who, originating in a given area, transfer their residence to an area other than the previous one during a specific period (emigration exit flow) or a group of migrants who arrive at a given area from any other (immigration entry flow).

The intensity of the migratory flow is the number of migrants who comprise said group.

The difference of the intensities of two migratory flows in opposite directions, such that the area of destination of one is the area of origin of the other, and vice-versa, is called **net migration or net migratory balance**.

Lastly, as corresponds to all non-exhaustive statistical research, the estimates of the results tables are affected by the corresponding sample error, by which the reduced magnitude figures must be interpreted with due caution. This has prevented the supply of information by Autonomous Communities, having applied the aggregation criterion, NUTS I, which groups them into areas.

1.4 Dissemination of the information

Considered in a broad sense, the dissemination phase of the information includes the tabulation plan.

From this perspective, on being associated with the EAPS, the MS can take advantage of the higher number and relevance of the variables researched in the EAPS, which amounts to a greater knowledge of the migratory phenomenon, fundamentally in its relationship with the labour market.

As mentioned previously, the main and basic question to determine the condition of migrant of an interviewee is that of the place of residence one year ago, included in Section I of the EAPS questionnaire.

The same Section I also includes the sub-sample variables mentioned above, which allow for ascertaining her/his situation of activity one year ago, and in the case of the migrant who was working or had employment in her/his place of origin, for ascertaining the occupation and branch of labour activity that s/he carried out in her/his municipality of origin.

The tabulation plan of the MS is used, on the one hand, by these variables that we can call **variables** of **origin**, because they provide information on the migrant in the municipality of origin, that is, information associated with her/his place of origin, whether it be territorial or work-related.

On the other hand, some more significant variables are also used from other sections of the questionnaire, providing current information on the migrant, associated with her/his place of destination, and which may therefore be called **variables** of **destination**.

Thus, in the *cover* of the questionnaire, we find the municipality and the province of her/his current residence, and the *back cover* informs on the nationality, sex and age of the migrant, while the marital status is included in *Section A (general data)*.

Sections B (relationship with economic activity) and C (employment characteristics) inform on her/his current activity situation, professional situation, occupation and branch of activity. *Section F (education and training)* provides information on the (current) level of training attained by the migrant.

For a complete description of the EAPS-2005 questionnaire, see the same aforementioned address (Society/Labour Market/EAPS), although in this case, in the *Methodology* section.

Following with the tabulation plan of the MS, the joint use of both types of variables, of origin and of destination, accounts for greater and better information on the migrants. Therefore, from a quantitative point of view, it allows for the possibility of increasing the number of tables available to potential users. Likewise, qualitatively, on carrying out a more broken down and interrelated processing of the tables, it allows for greater wealth in the results analysis.

Considering their descriptive nature, there are three types of **classifying variables** of the tabulation plan: demographic, of activity and territorial. The first refer to the basic demographic characteristics: sex, age, marital status and level of training attained of the migrants.

The variables of a territorial nature can consider, in an isolated manner, the information regarding the place of origin or the place of destination, in which case, this territorial

information (origin or destination) is related to the main demographic variables and/or to the most significant variables of the labour market. A special case is the processing of the effective migrants from abroad (tables 16 and 17), who are also classified as per their nationality (Spanish, dual nationality or foreign).

In addition, the territorial scope can consider, jointly, the information of the places of origin and destination, yielding tables (18 to 23) that, in an aggregated manner, analyse the domestic migrants according to the intra-inter division in different scopes (provincial, Autonomous Community, area or type of habitat). Another possibility that the MS considers, also with the information from both places of origin and destination, is the analysis of the movements of the migrants in dual-entry tables, which jointly consider the areas of origin and destination (table 14) or the types of habitat (rural/urban) of origin and destination (table 38).

Finally, the variables related to economic activity are the most important, because they allow the MS to be worth noting as a unique and relevant statistical source in the analysis of the migratory phenomenon. Thus, table 5 considers the current situation of activity (employed, unemployed, inactive) of the migrant in the municipality of destination, as compared with her/his situation one year ago in the place of origin. It also provides information on the activity and unemployment rates of migrants in terms of some of the aforementioned demographic (table 7) and territorial (tables 34 and 49) variables.

The group of employed migrants is the target of special interest, as we study their occupation, branch of activity and professional situation during the current reference period (tables 8, 9 and 10), and in addition, those who worked or had employment the previous year in the municipality of origin are classified, jointly considering the professional situation (table 11) and the branch of activity (table 12) in both periods, the current period and one year ago. Information (table 13) also exists regarding the time that they have worked in their current employment.

In conclusion, we should mentioned that, in order to code the variables on the level of training attained, occupation and branch of activity, we use the National Classification of Education (NCE-2000), the National Classification of Occupations (NCO-94) and the National Classification of Economic Activities. Revision 1 (NACE-93 Rev.1), respectively.