Economically Active Population Survey. 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 was 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 new methodology 2021 continues to consider the use of sub-sample variables, through Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2240 specifying the technical data of the dataset, and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/256, which sets out the different periodicities of the variables to be analysed in the EAPS. In 2021, the typology of sub-sample variables is extended by considering not only annual but also biennial variables and every eight years.

The purpose of these variables is to reduce the response burden of the survey, which had only grown continuously with each of its methodological changes.

The sub-sample used for the annual variables is that of households who complete their collaboration in the EAPS in each quarter of the year, i.e. those in sixth interview.

Similarly, for biennials or those collected every eight years, the sub-sample used is the sixth interview of the year of study.

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, European regulations[1] set 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

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[1] Regulation 430/2005 and Regulation 2019/2240

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

The subsample selected to provide information on these variables is the sixth interview, which was basically conducted via telephone interview. These results are consistent with quarterly results.

Initially, the selected subsample

Initially, the sub-sample selected in 2005 was the first interview, which was carried out by means of a personal interview in all cases. Nonetheless, the effect of the interview method on estimates has made it impossible to obtain data which could be compared to subsequent periods.

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 (or its annex) with regard to those contained in the quarterly files are as follows:

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION SURVEY. 2021 Methodology. Variables obtained in the annual sub-sample

The following variables are provided in the annual anonymised subsample file.

SECTOR	Study sector of the educational level attained
MOTEMP	Reason for having a temporary contract
ETT	If hired by a temporary employment agency
CONTPB	Role of the public employment office in obtaining the position
NUMTRA	Number of workers in the establishment
PERCAR	Holds supervisory duties in his or her position
DOMICI*	If work was done from home during the past four weeks
SABAD**	If work was done on a Saturday in the last four weeks
DOMING**	If work was done on a Sunday in the last four weeks
AFTERNOON**	If work was done in the evening in the last four weeks
NIGHT**	If work was done at night in the last four weeks
SHIFTS**	Mode in which the most hours would be worked
PCONC1	Works part-time due to caring for children or other family members
NDCONC1	Is not available to work more hours due to caring for children or other relatives
NBCONC1	Does not want to have a job due to caring for children or other relatives
NDCONC2	Is not available to work due to caring for children or other relatives
OCUPA***	Occupation or trade carried out in the last job
ACTA***	Activity of the establishment where you worked
SITUA***	Professional situation in the previous job

* According to European regulations, in 2021 this variable became an annual subsample. However, since the start of the pandemic and until further notice it will continue to have a quarterly periodicity, as occurred in the EPA from Q2-2020. In any case, it has been kept in the annual anonymized subsample file.

* According to European regulations, in 2021 these variables became a biennial odd-year subsample. However, since the start of the pandemic and until further notice it will continue to have a quarterly periodicity, as occurred in the EPA from Q2-2020. In any case, it has been kept in the annual anonymized subsample file.

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

New annual variables in anonymised attached file that can be linked to the annual subsample.

EXPLAB	Work experience related to studies at the highest level of training achieved while those studies were being pursued
CLPPAL	Number of clients you worked for in the 12 months prior to the reference week
DECHOR	Who decides the work schedule
METEFEC	Decisive method to find employment

Biennial variable (odd years) in anonymized attached file that can be linked to the annual subsample of that year

RZMIGR	Main reason why you came to live in Spain

Biennial variables (even years) in anonymized attached file that can be linked to the annual subsample of that year

CURSR12	Completed formal training in the last 12 months
NCUR12	Level of the most recent regulated training course taken in the last 12 months
CURNR12	Did you take non-regulated training in the last 12 months and, if so, what was the main objective of that training?
SALUDES	Self-perceived general health
SALUDACT	Prolonged activity limitations for health reasons

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
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