

# The Spanish Labour Force Survey (EPA)

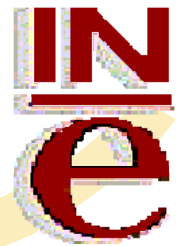
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7<sup>th</sup> Workshop on LFS Methodology



Madrid, May 2012

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1. General description of the survey
  2. The field work
  3. Other peculiarities and current tasks



# 1.- General description of the survey

- **Quarterly Continuous Survey.**
- **Target population: people living in private households.**
- **Province (NUTS 3) representativeness (52 provinces).**
- **Two-stage stratified sampling.**
- **Primary sampling units (PSU): Census Sections**
- **Secondary sampling units (SSU): Residential dwellings**

■ **Sample size: 65.000 households, distributed among  $3.588+234 = 3822$  censal sections. Approximately 180.000 people in the sample (0,5% of the population)**

■ **The sampling period is the quarter and each primary sampling unit (PSU) is visited in one of the 13 weeks of the quarter.**

■ **The selected households are interviewed for six consecutive quarters.**

■ **A sixth of the sample is renewed each quarter.**





- **Ratio estimators. Auxiliary variable: population projections**

- **Calibration**

- **Population projections by sex and five-year-age groups at NUTS 2 level**

- **Population by nationality and 2 groups of age, at NUTS 2 level**

- **Population by 2 groups of age in provinces**



- The first interview is a personal interview (CAPI).
- The second to the sixth interviews are carried out by telephone and controlled by CATI system.
- Data sent weekly to the INE headquarters. Edited monthly.
- Quarterly results published the last Friday of the month following the reference quarter
- Series linkage



## 2.- Role played by the field work in the quality of the EPA data

- **Field work changed in 2005**

- **In 2005:**

- ◆ **New requirements of information for the European LFS. Wave approach.**

- ◆ **New population projections based on 2001 Census**

- **And at the same time:**

- ◆ **Re-design of the questionnaire**

- ◆ **Introduction of CATI mode**



# The re-design of the questionnaire

- **Discussions with the main national users**
  - ◆ **Labour and Social Affairs Department**
  - ◆ **Economy Department**
  - ◆ **Central Bank**
  - ◆ **Social agents (Trade Unions, Associations of Bussines...)**
  - ◆ **Academic institutions**
- **Detailed analisys of the deficiencies and the new requirements**
- **Questions and variables**



# The re-design of questionnaire (cont)

- **New design to lighten the interviewer and respondent burden:**
  - ◆ **New ordering of modules.**
  - ◆ **New wording and grouping of questions.**
  - ◆ **Special focus of 'search of employment', 'working time' (new variable: overtime) and full harmonisation of employment definition (SIGNISAL)**
  - ◆ **New structure in the paragraph of 'Looking for a job'.**
  - ◆ **Use of the official regional languages and English (French and Arabic afterwards)**

# The re-design of questionnaire (conc.)

- Different questionnaires according to the interview number (wave approach, ad-hoc module).
- Qualitative tests were done to check modules on 'hours worked' and 'searching of work'

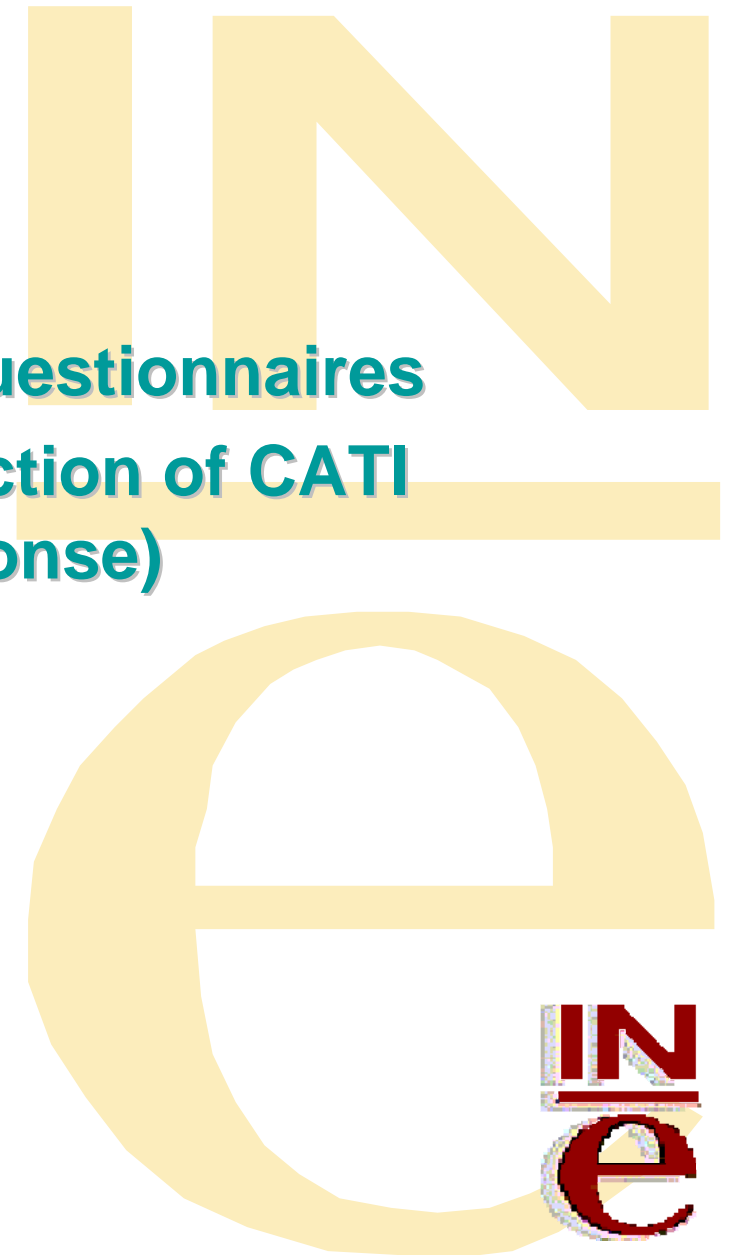
# New method of data collection: CATI-CAPI

- **Causes for the introduction of CATI:  
Effects of changing the unemployment definition**
  - ◆ In the first quarter of 2002 a new definition of the unemployment was introduced.
  - ◆ Erratic estimates.
  - ◆ Large differences in the behaviour of this variable among regions, provinces and interviewers.
- **Standardization of the interview**
  - ◆ To eliminate the interviewer effect



# Controls

- **Pilot survey:**
  - ◆ **Different models of questionnaires**
  - ◆ **Effects of the introduction of CATI  
(increase of non-response)**



# CATI description

- Specially designed telephone and a desktop PC with the electronic questionnaire loaded.
- The system select the calls in a random way.
- Working day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- 60% of the sample is in CATI.



# CATI description (conc.)

- The interviewers supervisor can check the interviewers who are making calls and select one of them.
- At the same time the supervisor is listening a interview, he can watch the PC screen of the interviewer to monitor how the interview is being carried out.

# Some results as consequence of changes in 2005

Minutes	4° 2004 (before changes)	1° 2005	4° 2005
1 st interview	15'	50'	50'
Later interviews	5.5'	26'	26'

Non response	4° 2004 (before changes)	1° 2005	4° 2005
Refusals	3.7	8	8.9
Non contact	5.9	11.2	10.4

## More controls

- **‘Witness’ sample (muestra testigo) in 1st quarter 2005 to measure the impact of all changes (15,000 households)**





## After 2005:

- Actions taken to adapt the questionnaire to certain population groups (retired persons aged 65 years or more, people with disabilities, persons aged more than 75 years, family workers, persons at leave) with very stable situations

## Other findings

- Even the electronic questionnaires are standard, the CAPI and CATI methods have different dynamics.
- The results with CAPI are more similar to the previous methodology
- Let's see some examples

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Quarter 4-2005

**Employees by type of contract**  
Non-weighted data

interview nr	Permanent		Temporary		Total	
		%		%		%
1	5667	72,67	2131	27,33	7798	100
2	5262	67,21	2567	32,79	7829	100
3	5447	67,66	2604	32,34	8051	100
4	5291	66,55	2660	33,45	7951	100
5	6180	67,35	2996	32,65	9176	100
6	6179	67,56	2967	32,44	9146	100
<b>Total</b>	34026	68,12	15925	31,88	49951	100

Quarter 4-2005

## People in non-regular education (=1). Non-weighted data

interview nr	1		2		3		Total	
		%		%		%		%
1	861	4,24	1	0,00	19464	95,76	20326	100
2	1680	8,40	1	0,00	18324	91,60	20005	100
3	1853	9,15	1	0,00	18394	90,84	20248	100
4	1939	9,63	3	0,01	18196	90,36	20138	100
5	2186	9,35	2	0,01	21184	90,64	23372	100
6	2128	9,10	1	0,00	21258	90,90	23387	100
<b>Total</b>	10647	8,35	9	0,01	116820	91,64	127476	100

### 3.- Other peculiarities and current tasks

- Data on households
- Flows statistics
  - ◆ Transition probabilities currently published
  - ◆ Gross flows under study
- Use of administrative registers
  - ◆ Wages from the main job
  - ◆ Claimants register
  - ◆ Social Security register
  - ◆ New migration statistic
  - ◆ Other statistics derived from the EPA: Employment of persons with disabilities
- Monthly data on employment and unemployment





**Thank you very much!**

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