

Note on the consistency of employment estimates in National Accounts (NA) and the Economically Active Population Survey (EAPS)

The Economically Active Population Survey is one of the key sources of information on employment in Spain. This survey provides quarterly information and, using the averages of the four quarters of the year, also an average annual employment rate.

Moreover, within the System of National Accounts (SNA), annual employment estimates are prepared which are an integral part of the account aggregates. National accounts provide a panoramic composite view of the economic activity in the country in a given fiscal year and provides a list of consistent macroeconomic factors underpinning the system, taking into account all the available statistical information. In particular, for the estimate of employment, the EAPS is used as a key reference source in the National Accounts, but other sources of information are also used, such as government personnel records, the persons employed in the financial sector (data provided by the central bank, Banco de España), structural surveys of companies, people registered with Social Security, income earners as shown by tax sources, etc.

The EAPS is a sample survey aimed at the population, and therefore, apart from the characteristics of a statistical sampling operation (subject to variability of estimates, incidents in the fieldwork, etc.), it also obtains information on the survey variables and, in particular, on employment, based on responses given by respondents to the questions asked in the interview. Specifically, information on the activity of the establishment where the employed person works is coded based on the description given by the respondent to the survey. Discrepancies are anticipated in the allocation by business sectors compared to what could emerge from other statistical sources from companies or other sources of information. Also, in the EAPS the characteristics refer to the concept of national employment and in the NA to domestic employment. These discrepancies should be considered normal.

Although employment estimates offered by the EAPS and SNA are different in nature and therefore contain differences, they nevertheless need to maintain a basic consistency, because despite being obtained with different methodologies, the purpose of both estimates is the same, being the estimate of an average level of employment in a given year.

In order to illustrate the differences between the two estimates, reconciliation tables were prepared for the period 2011-2014 (with the years 2012 and 2013 being provisional estimates in the SNA and the year 2014 a forecast) using the new 2010 base for the SNA and the CNAE-2009 classification of economic activities.

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Comparison tables between the EAPS and employment estimates given in the National Accounts (1)

Unit: thousands of people

	2011	2012 (P)	2013 (P)	2014 (A)
EMPLOYMENT AS PER NATIONAL ACCOUNTS (I)	19,112.5	18,337.7	17,798.3	17,962.9
DIFFERENCES BY BRANCHES OF ACTIVITY: EAPS EMPLOYMENT - NA EMPLOYMENT				
A. Agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing	-4.8	2.6	1.0	10.3
B_E. Extractive industries; manufacturing industry; supply of electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning, water, sanitation activities, waste management and decontamination	139.2	160.3	126.6	142.9
F. Construction	21.4	21.7	44.8	47.1
G_I. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; transport and storage; hotel services	-437.2	-424.4	-334.6	-332.8
J. Information and communications	55.2	71.7	69.6	67.1
K. Financial and insurance activities	75.6	54.7	84.9	96.5
L. Real estate activities	-91.7	-88.3	-83.4	-85.9
M_N. Professional, scientific and technical activities	-346.0	-314.4	-315.6	-329.1
O_Q Public administration and defence; mandatory social security; education; health and social service activities	136.0	42.3	-86.6	-72.2
R_U. Arts, recreation and entertainment activities, repair of household goods and other services use	-243.0	-236.3	-172.5	-165.6
Residual value	4.3	5.0	6.6	3.0
PERSONS IN EMPLOYMENT AS PER EAPS (II)	18,421.4	17,632.7	17,139.0	17,344.2
DIFFERENCES DUE TO DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THE TWO SOURCES (I)-(II)	-691.1	-705.0	-659.3	-618.7

(1) 2010 base framework. CNAE 09

Legend:

- (+) EAPS estimate higher than NA estimate
- (-) EAPS estimate lower than NA estimate
- (P) Provisional
- (A) Preview

Sources used in the comparison of specific economic activities:

A. Agriculture, cattle breeding, forestry and fishing	EAPS
B_E. Extractive industries; manufacturing industry; supply of electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning; water supply, sanitation activities, waste management and decontamination	EAPS/Structural statistics on companies
F. Construction	EAPS/Structural statistics on companies
G_I. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; transport and storage; hotel services	EAPS/Structural statistics on companies
J. Information and communications	EAPS/Structural statistics on companies
K. Financial and insurance activities	Bank of Spain/Directorate General of Insurance/Social Security
L. Real estate activities	EAPS/Structural statistics on companies
M_N. Professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities	EAPS/Structural statistics on companies
O_Q. Public administration and defence; mandatory social security; education; health and social service activities	Statistical bulletin of the central register of staff/Staff working in the public sector
R_U.Arts, recreation and entertainment activities, repair of household goods and other services	EAPS/Structural statistics on companies/Social Security