

Economically Active Population Survey

Module for the transi- tion from education to the labour market

Second quarter of 2000

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA



Madrid, 2001

1. Background

The Community Labour Force Survey (LFS) is performed co-ordinately throughout the scope of the European Union, in accordance with the terms envisaged in Council Regulation 577/98 concerning the organisation of a sample survey on economically active population in the Community (Official Journal of the European Communities L-77, of March 14th).

In the case of Spain, the LFS is included in the Economically Active Population Survey (EAPS). EAPS data has been adapted to the aforementioned regulation as from the first quarter of 1999.

This regulation states that in the second quarters of each year, the LFS should include a series of questions on specific issues linked to the labour market.

The subject researched in the second quarter of 2000 has been that of the transition from education to the labour market and it is regulated by Commission Regulation number 1925/1999 of 8 September (Official Journal of the European Communities L-238, of 9 September). The methodology applied is explained below.

2. Survey and field-work design

The *ad hoc* module for the transition from education to the labour market has been performed together with the EAPS of the second quarter of 2000, therefore its sample design is the same as that of the EAPS. The most important features thereof are described below (for more details you can consult the National Statistics Institute *EAPS publications. Technical Manual* and *EAPS. Description of the survey, definitions and instructions for completing the questionnaire*).

The EAPS is a continuous quarterly sample survey that deals with the whole country. It is aimed at the population residing in main family dwellings, in other words, those used as the regular, permanent dwelling during most of the year. The survey does not take into account group dwellings (hospitals, nursing homes, barracks, convents ...) or secondary or seasonal dwellings).

The survey uses a stratified two-stage sampling, census sections being the first stage units and the family dwellings being the second stage units. Everybody living in the chosen dwellings is interviewed.

Sample size is made up of 3,484 sections; on average, 18 dwellings are interviewed per section, which implies 62,000 dwellings per quarter.

The sample has been spatially distributed following a compromise allocation between proportional and uniform allocation, aimed at providing estimates by provinces (NUTS 3) and by autonomous communities (NUTS 2).

Conversely, the sample is distributed uniformly over the thirteen weeks that form each quarter, interviewing approximately 5,000 dwellings a week.

The sections sample is divided into 6 subsamples called *rotation shifts* and every quarter the dwellings of one rotation shift are replaced; with this mechanism each family is interviewed for six consecutive quarters and is replaced by another family of the same section at the end of the six-quarter period.

Fieldwork is performed by National Statistics Institute interviewers in each one of its 52 delegations. The first interview is in person, and the second and following are by telephone, unless the family does not have a telephone or prefers interviews in person. All the interviews are performed with a laptop or desktop computer. At the delegation there is a weekly work system that basically has the following sequence:

- Week for interview
- Week for revision and refinement
- Week for sending the questionnaires to the Central services (by teleprocessing)

During the month of November 1999, EAPS supervisors in each one of the 52 delegations travelled to the Central Services in Madrid in order to attend a three day training course in which they were explained the *ad hoc* module for the second quarter of 2000 and the classification of studies (finished and current) and study sectors that started to be applied during the first quarter of 2000.

Fieldwork was performed between 10 April and 8 July of 2000, corresponding to the reference period of 3 April to 2 July of the same year.

The sample size and lack of response are presented in table A.

Table A. Sample size and lack of response by interview order

	Total		First interview		Second to sixth Interview	
	Absolute value	Percentage	Absolute value	Percentage	Absolute value	Percentage
Initial sample	63,328	100.00	10,404	100.00	52,924	100.00
Refusals	2,376	3.75	958	9.21	1,418	2.68
Absences	2,921	4.61	665	6.39	2,256	4.26
Unavailable	215	0.34	3	0.03	212	0.40
Total lack of Response	5,512	8.70	1,626	15.63	3,886	7.34
Original sample Interviewee	57,816	91.30	8,778	84.37	49,038	92.66

In line with the processing of events during fieldwork applied in the EAPS, the 958 households who refused to answer during the first interview were replaced by other households, who were selected randomly from the same sections. The final sample of interviewees amounted to 58,774 households (57,816 original households and 958 substituted households who refused to participate in the first interview). Its composition is shown in Table B.

Table B. Sample interviewed by interview order.

	Total		First interview		Second to sixth Interview	
	Absolute value	Percentage	Absolute value	Percentage	Absolute value	Percentage
Interviewed sample	58,774	100.00	9,736	100.00	49,038	100.00
Original sample	57,816	98.37	8,778	90.16	49,038	100.00
Substituted refusals	958	1.63	958	9.84	0	0.00

On the other hand, the final sample from which the estimates are obtained exceeds the 58,774 households that appear in Table B; this is due to the fact that during automatic treatment of the information is copied of households from the previous quarter (in this case the first quarter of 2000) that have been absent, that have refused or that have been unavailable during the second quarter but which were interviewed during the first quarter. The object of this procedure is to reduce the bias that may occur in the estimates due to lack of response. Table C shows the final sample according to interview number.

Table C. Final sample by interview number

	Total		First interview		Second to sixth Interview	
	Absolute value	Percentage	Absolute value	Percentage	Absolute value	Percentage
Final sample	60,139	100.00	9,736	100.00	50,403	100.00
Interviewed sample	58,774	97.73	9,736	100.00	49,038	97.29
Duplicated households	1,365	2.27	0	0.00	1,365	2.71

3. Instructions for questionnaire completion

(Literal transcription of the instructions provided to the interviewers)

A INTRODUCTION

A series of questions on specific subjects of the labour market are introduced in the Economically Active Population Survey the second quarters for each year. These questions are included in what is called *Ad hoc module* and they are performed in coordination with the Labour Force Surveys in other countries of the European Union, according to that indicated in Regulation 577/98 of the Council on the organisation of a sample survey on the economically active population of the Community (Official Journal of the European Communities L-77, March 14).

For the second quarter of the year 2000, the subject to be researched is that of *the transition from initial education to the labour market*.

Initial education is considered to be any studies or training performed from primary level and **without interruptions of more than one year**. Interruptions that are temporary for any of the following reasons will not be considered:

1. maternity or paternity leave
2. serious illness
3. military service or substitute social service
4. to be waiting for a certificate or diploma in order to access higher-level studies

The concept of studies or training includes both general and professional studies official or non-official and part or full time. In the case of studies that alternate theory lessons in a classroom with work experience in a company (dual or mixed system), these will be considered education if at least ten percent of the total training time is in the classroom.

Current (or past) studies undertaken by the interviewee on his or her own are included in the concept of studies or training and, especially, preparation for public exams is included.

Instructions for filling out the questions in the module are indicated below.

B POPULATION SCOPE

The module is aimed at persons between 16 and 35 years of age (both ages included) who in the last ten years (between 1991 and the date of the interview) have finished, abandoned or discontinued their initial studies or training for more than one year. If initial studies or training have been temporarily interrupted due to paternity or maternity leave, serious illness, military service or substitute social service or awaiting a certificate in order to access higher level studies, no interruption will be considered and therefore the population affected is not the subject of the study.

The first three questions are aimed at determining persons between 16 and 35 years old who should perform the module (persons under 16 years of age and persons 36 or older are not the population under study for this module).

1. Did you interrupt your initial studies or training during more than one year? (use Code 2- *No, I never interrupted initial studies or training during more than one year- if the interruption was due to maternity or paternity leave, serious illness, military service or substitute social service or awaiting a certificate in order to access higher level studies*).

No, I never studied or received any training 1 *End of the module*

No, I never interrupted studies or training
initial during more than one year 2

Yes 3 *Go to 3*

<i>If the person answers 2 and has undertaken studies in the last four weeks (1 or 2 in B.4): End of the module</i>

Persons who have never studied (1 for this question) and students who have never interrupted their studies (2 for this question and 1 or 2 in B.4) should not perform the module. The rest is formed by two groups:

1. Persons who are not currently studying and who did not interrupt their initial studies or training (2 for this question and 3 in B.4). This group goes to Question 2.
2. Persons who did interrupt initial studies or training (3 for this question), whether they have or not undertaken studies in the last four weeks. This group goes to Question 3.

Interviewed persons who have interrupted initial education less than one year ago and who intend to retake it before the end of the year, will answer 2 for this question and 1 for the following question, independently from the reason for interrupting studies.

Therefore, Question 2 of the module will be reached by persons who have not undertaken studies in the last four weeks (3 in B.4) and who have never interrupted their initial education, or who have interrupted it less than one year ago and for a period of less than one year (2 for Question 1).

2. Why are you not studying or training?

Due to maternity or paternity leave, serious serious, due to military service or substitute social service substitution or awaiting a certificate in order to access

if they have higher study levels 1 *End of module*

Because they have finished or abandoned the studies 6

Persons who have finished or abandoned their initial studies or formation will answer Question 3 of the module. Those who have interrupted their studies for the reasons mentioned in Option 1 finish the interview at this point.

3. If you have answered Yes to the first question: What year did you first interrupt your initial studies or training?

If you have answered 6 for the second question: What year did you finish or abandon your initial studies or formation in?

Year.....

If you finished, abandoned or interrupted them for the first time in 1990 or before this: End of the module

Persons recording a year equal or prior to 1990 are not the object of the module either, since the first time they finished, abandoned or interrupted initial studies occurred more than ten years ago.

4. What month did you finish, abandon or interrupt your studies for the first time?

(If the year recorded in Question 3 is 1997 or earlier, the month can be left blank)

Month

C LEVEL OF STUDIES REACHED WHEN FINISHING, ABANDONING OR INTERRUPTING INITIAL EDUCATION FOR THE FIRST TIME

5. When finishing, abandoning or interrupting initial studies or training for the first time, was your greatest level of training and study sector the same as those declared for Question B.1?

Yes 1 *Go to 7*

No, I had a different training level or study sector 6

6. What was that training level and in what study sector was this?

These two questions intend to gather the training level and study sector of the person when they finished, abandoned or interrupted initial education for the first time. As for question B.1, you must take into account studies of at least 300

hours (or 6 months duration) that have raised the interviewee's training level. If both training level and study sector are the same as those answered for question B.1 of the basic questionnaire, answer Yes for Question 5 (Code 1) and go to Question 7. If one of the two (or both) are different answer No for Question 5 (Code 6) and specify training level and study sector in Question 6.

Interviewees who must answer Question 6 will be clarified that the level that must be coded is the **highest finished level they had** when they stopped studying, and not the level of any training they may be currently receiving; Moreover, this level cannot be greater than the current training level (coded in Question B.1 of the basic questionnaire), since B.1 indicates the greatest training level currently reached by the interviewee.

D FIRST SIGNIFICANT JOB, AT LEAST SIX MONTHS LONG AND 20 WEEKLY HOURS THAT THE INTERVIEWEE HAD AFTER FINISHING, ABANDONING OR INTERRUPTING INITIAL EDUCATION FOR THE FIRST TIME

Questions 7, 8, 9 and 10 refer **to the first job** that the interviewee may have had (or has) **after first finishing, abandoning or interrupting their initial studies or training**. It must be a significant job for the interviewee, and in any case it should last at least six months with a weekly schedule of at least 20 hours. Occasional jobs and compulsory military service (or substitute social service) should be excluded. In order to calculate the duration in employed persons all the time the interviewee has worked for one same employer will be taken into account, as long as there is no interruption between one contract and the next.

Persons who started working in a first significant job before having finished, abandoned or interrupted their initial studies or training should not consider it when answering these questions, although they can consider other significant jobs that they started after having finished, interrupted or abandoned their initial studies or training (independently from having found it before or after having finished, abandoned or interrupted their initial studies or training).

7. After having finished, abandoned or interrupted initial studies or training for the first time, did you find a significant job lasting at least six months and at least 20 weekly working hours? (exclude occasional work, compulsory military service, substitute social service, as well as possible significant jobs had before finishing, abandoning or interrupting their initial studies or training for the first time)

(If several answers are possible, record the one with the lowest code)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Yes, it is the main job | 1 Go to 11 |
| Yes, it is the second employment | 2 |
| Yes, it was the previous job | 3 |
| Yes, it was my job one year ago | 4 |
| Yes, it was another job | 5 |

Has not found a significant job after
Finishing, abandoning or interrupting for the first time
studies or initial training

6 Go to 11

If option 3 was answered and it was 8 or less years ago that the interviewee left the previous job: Go to question 11

Code 1 can only be answered by employed persons who have started working continuously for the current company, business or cooperative (date recorded in D.11) after having finished, abandoned or interrupted their initial studies or training for the first time (date recorded in questions 3 and 4 of the module). Moreover, usual weekly hours should be greater or equal to 20 (or 0); if this is not the case then verify that the job is significant because at the last job the interviewee worked 20 hours or more.

Code 3 is only valid if the interviewee declares having left the previous job at least six months after having started it. Moreover, the date recorded in Questions 3 and 4 of the module should be earlier than the date in which the interviewee started working for the last company, business or cooperative (date indicated in F.7)

If Code 6 is recorded and the interviewee has declared in the main questionnaire that he or she has or has had a job of some importance after having finished, abandoned or interrupted initial education, the interviewer will have to confirm that this job is not considered a significant job; this probing is especially important if the occupation coded implies a high degree of specialisation or dedication (business manager, lawyer, ...)

8. What month and year did you start that job in?

(If started in 1997 or earlier the month can be left blank)

*If the interviewee has answered 2 for question 7: Go to question 11
If the interviewee has answered 3 for question 7: Go to question 10*

9. What month and year did you end that job in?

(If finished in 1997 or earlier the month can be left blank)

The date recorded for Question 8 must be later than those of Questions 3 and 4, and the difference between the date recorded for Question 9 and that recorded for Question 8 must be equal to or greater than six months. Moreover, if for Question 7 Code 4 has been recorded (the interviewee's job one year ago), the difference between the date of the reference Sunday and the date in which the job was finished should be equal to or less than one year.

10. Occupation in the job being dealt with

Will be coded to three digits of NCO-94

E CONTINUOUS PERIODS OF JOB SEEKING AFTER FINISHING, ABANDONING OR INTERRUPTING THEIR INITIAL STUDIES OR TRAINING FOR THE FIRST TIME

Questions 11 and 12 research whether the interviewee, after finishing, abandoning or interrupting initial education for the first time, searched for employment continuously and actively for more than one month. Only job seeking time while the interviewee was unemployed should be accounted for. Since preparation for public exams is included in the training concept, in order to answer these two questions we will not consider preparation for public exams as a job seeking method.

11. Having finished, abandoned or interrupted initial education for the first time, were you unemployed and seeking employment actively and continuously for one month or more?

- | | |
|-----|----------------------|
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 6 Go to box above 13 |

12.- How long was your continuous search for employment?

(If you had several search periods record the longest)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| One or two months | 1 |
| Between three and five months | 2 |
| Between six and eleven months | 3 |
| One year or more | 4 |

Interviewed people who started to seek employment actively before finishing, abandoning or interrupting initial studies or training for the first time count the duration of the job search from the date in which they finished, abandoned or interrupted initial studies or training for the first time and not from the time in which they started seeking employment.

F LEVEL OF STUDIES OF PARENTS

In order to finish the module we will study the level of studies of the parents. In the case that any or both have been interviewed at home, this information has already been gathered in the corresponding main questionnaire and it is not necessary to ask again. If any of the parents live at another home, are deceased or are non-interviewable, you must ask about their level of studies.

<i>If both parents have been interviewed at home: End of the interview</i>
--

If the father has not been interviewed at home:

13. What is (or was) your father's level of studies?

Primary or lower studies	1
Compulsory secondary education or equivalent	2
Post Secondary Education or equivalent	3
Higher education or equivalent	4

If the mother has not been interviewed at home: End of the survey

14. What is (or was) your mother's level of studies?

Primary or lower studies	1
Compulsory secondary education or equivalent	2
Post Secondary Education or equivalent	3
Higher education or equivalent	4

4. Information processing

Once the Central Services receive the questionnaires with the survey information (both the main questionnaire and the *ad hoc* module), they are processed to obtain the final file and the estimates.

The information from the module is processed following a structure similar to the basic questionnaire in line with the following principles (for further information, check the *EAPS publication. Information processing*):

- It should not interfere in the processing of the basic questionnaire.
- It should follow a general structure, so that the least possible changes are made from one year to the next.
- It should be simultaneous or subsequent to the processing of the basic questionnaire.

In accordance with these principles, the processing stages applicable to the module are as follows:

1. Monthly treatment

Each month they are filtered by automatic detection and manual correction of the identification variables of the basic EAPS questionnaire; this filtering has been modified during the second quarters of each year so that they are also valid for the *ad hoc* module.

Thus, the filtering of module's identification variables (quarter, province, section, dwelling and number of persons) is performed alongside that of the basic questionnaire.

Filtering for the month of April (weeks 1 to 4 of the quarter) recovered the entire information for a module record. Filtering for the month of May (weeks 5 to 8 of the quarter) recovered 6 records. Filtering for the last 5 weeks showed 236 records for persons who had completed the basic questionnaire but who, due to problems during transmission from the provincial delegations did not have information for the module. During the months of September and October information from 145 of those records was recovered, with the remaining 91 records having to be discarded, the variables for this module thus remaining blank.

2. Quarterly treatment

The variables for the *ad hoc* module have been filtered after having received the thirteen weeks of the second quarter of 2000. Filtering was performed in two stages. The first stage consisted in filtering the questionnaire and the content of all the variables, except those relating to the date in which the first significant job started and ended (Questions 8 and 9 of the module questionnaire corresponding to variables 221/226 and 227/232 of the regulation); the software produced by the Subdirectorato-General for Statistical IT called *DIA* (Automatic Detection and Imputation) was used for this purpose. In a second phase a customised filtering program has been prepared for the two variables whose content had not been filtered (Questions 8 and 9 of the module). These two filtering phases have been run once the final file of the basic EAPS questionnaire was received.

The basic file of the EAPS for the second quarter of 2000 has 152,374 records of persons 16 years of age and over; of these, 53,918 correspond to persons from 16 to 35 years of age, who should therefore answer at least the first question of the module. However, in 1,168 cases no questions have been answered; this is due to one of the following two reasons:

- Errors in transmission from the provincial delegations. They are the aforementioned 91 records.
- Records that were copied from the first quarter of 2000 in the quarterly filtering phase for the basic EAPS questionnaire (2,972 records); of these 1,077 correspond to persons between 16 and 35 years of age.

Taking into account that the population from 16 to 35 years of age that has left education in the last ten years represents 28 percent of the group of these ages, according to EAPS data, the previous 1,168 cases imply about 327 records without data in the different questions of the module. Of these 25 would correspond to transmission errors and 302 to records copied from the previous quarter.

Of the 52,750 registers of persons between 16 and 35 years of age that were automatically filtered with DIA, in 58 of them some kind of imputation was performed to eliminate inconsistencies between variables or flow problems. Finally, the customised filtering of Questions 8 and 9 implied 88 imputations.

Once the variables are filtered the final file of the ad hoc module is obtained containing the identification variables, the raising factor, some important variables of the basic file and all the variables of the module. All retrospective series have been recalculated taking into account the reponderation applied to the elevation factors since 2002, in order to reduce decompensation due to lack of response and thus improve estimates. This reponderation process has also been applied to the module in order to be able to perform comparisons with the rest of the annual data.

An equivalence is applied to the file obtained and it is merged with the most basic file of the second quarter Labour Force Survey (LFS) in order to generate the complete LFS file: the most variable basic LFS variables of the module.

The design of the part of the LFS register corresponding to the module is adapted to that specified in aforementioned Commission Regulation 1,925/1999 of July 8th.