

# **Economically Active Population Survey**

**Module of persons with  
disabilities and their  
relationship with their  
employment.**

**second quarter 2002**

Madrid, 2003

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# 1. Background

The Community Labour Force Survey (LFS) is performed coordinately 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.

In the second quarter of 2002 persons with disabilities and their relationship with their employment have been researched according to Commission Regulation 1566/2001 of 12 July. Questions are intended for persons aged 16 to 64. The methodology applied is explained below.

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**2. Design of the  
survey and  
fieldwork**

The ad hoc module for persons with disabilities and their relationship with their employment has been performed together with the EAPS of the second quarter of 2002, 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 publicatons. 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 housing.

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 3,484 sections. on average, 18 dwellings are interviewed per section, which implies 65,000 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 filtering
- Week for sending the questionnaires to the Central services(by teleprocessing)

Each of the 52 Provincial Delegations was sent the electronic questionnaire application including the questions for the module in December 2001.

The internet link enabling delegations to check the instructions needed to complete the module was set up in January 2002.

Fieldwork was performed between 8 April and 6 July of 2002, corresponding to the reference period of 1 April to 30 June 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	62,650	100.00	10,589	100.00	52,061	100.00
Refusals	2,072	3.31	924	8.73	1,148	2.21
Absences	2,649	4.23	621	5.86	2,028	3.90
Unavailable	238	0.38	31	0.29	207	0.40
Total lack of Response	4,959	7.92	1,576	14.88	3,383	6.50
Original sample Interviewed	57,691	92.08	9,013	85.12	48,678	93.50

In line with the processing of events during fieldwork applied in the EAPS, the 924 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 58,615 households (57,691 original households and 924 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
Sample interviewed	58,615	100.00	9,937	100.00	48,678	100.00
Original sample	57,691	98.42	9,013	90.70	48,678	100.00
Substituted refusals	924	1.58	924	9.30	0	0.00

On the other hand, the final sample from which the estimates are obtained exceeds the 58,615 households that appear in Table B; this is due to the fact that during automatic treatment of the information information is copied of households from the previous quarter (in this case the first quarter of 2002) 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	59,184	100.00	9,937	100.00	49,247	100.00
Sample interviewed	58,615	99.04	9,937	100.00	48,678	98.84
Duplicated households	569	0.96	0	0.00	569	1.16

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### **3. Questionnaire**

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## **Questionnaire for the module of the 2nd quarter of 2002 of the Economically Active Population Survey**

**Module filter:** the module will be answered by persons aged between 16 and 64.

### **M. Persons with disabilities and their relationship with employment**

**1.- Do you suffer from any health problem or from any type of disability the duration of which is or will be equal to or more than 6 months?**

Yes	1	
No	6	End of module

**2.- What type of health problem or disability do you suffer?**

*(If suffering several, choose the one which most limits working ability)*

Problems in arms or hands (including arthritis and rheumatism)	1	
Problems in legs or feet (including arthritis and rheumatism)	2	
Problems in back or neck (including arthritis and rheumatism)	3	
Sight problems (despite wearing glasses or contact lenses)	4	
Hearing problems (despite wearing a hearing aid)		5
Speech impediments		6
Skin problems, including serious disfigurements and skin allergies		7
Respiratory problems, including asthma, bronchitis and respiratory allergies		8
Heart, circulatory or blood pressure problems		9
Kidney, stomach, liver or digestive problems in general	10	
Diabetes		11
Epilepsy (including episodes)		12
Mental problems or nervous or emotional problems		13
Other progressive diseases (includes the types of cancer with diagnosis is not clear, Multiple Sclerosis, AIDS / VIH and Parkinson's)		14
Other health problems		15

**3.- How long have you been suffering these problems?**

Less than 6 months	1
From 6 months to < 1 year	2
From 1 year to < 2 years	3
From 2 years to < 3 years	4
From 3 years to < 5 years	5
From 5 years to < 10 years	6
10 years or more	7
does not know	8

If you have suffered health problems or disabilities for more than one year, that is, M3=3-7: go to 5

**4.- What do you think the total duration of your health problems or disability will be?**

From 6 months to < 1 year	1
1 year or more	2
does not know	3

**5.- What was the cause of your disability or health problem?**

Congenital problem or complications at birth	1
Accidents or injuries	

- work-related accidents, including traffic accidents suffered during the working day (excludes accidents *on the way to and from work*)

2

- traffic accidents not related to work (includes accidents *on the way to and from work*)

3

- accidents occurring in your free time, when practicing sports or at home

4

#### Illnesses

- accidents related to the type of work

5

- accidents not related to the type of work

6

does not know

7

If you are unemployed, that is, C3=6: Go to 7
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#### **6.- During the reference week, did you work or did you have a job included in an employment promotion programme for disabled persons or persons with disabilities?**

Yes 1

No 2

does not know 3

#### **7.- Do your health problems restrict the type of work you can or could carry out?**

Yes, quite a lot 1

Yes, to some extent 2

No 3

does not know 4

#### **8.- Do your health problems limit the number of hours, days or periods you can or could work (that is, the amount of work you can carry out)?**

Yes, quite a lot 1

Yes, to some extent 2

No 3

does not know 4

**9.- Do (or would) your health problems make travel to your workplace more difficult?**

Yes, quite a lot	1
Yes, to some extent	2
No	3
does not know	4

If the interviewee has answered No or Does not know in M7 and in M8 and in M9, that is, if M7=3 or 4 and M8=3 or 4 and M9=3 or 4, then: End of module

**10.-If the interviewee is employed, in other words, if C3= blank or 1:**

**Do you receive any type of assistance at work?**

*If you are unemployed, that is, If C3=6:*

**Would you need any type of assistance in order to work?**

Yes	1
No	2 End of module
Does not know module	3 End of

**11.- What type of assistance do you receive or would you require?**

*(If more than one, record the most effective)*

Assistance related to type of work	1
Assistance related to the amount of work	2
Assistance related to travel to work	3
Assistance related to mobility at work	4
Support and understanding from supervisors and peers	5
Others	6
does not know	7

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**4. Instructions to  
complete the  
questionnaire**

## **Module for persons with disabilities and their relationship with employment (literal transcription of instructions provided to provincial survey supervisors and interviewers)**

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### AN 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 2002 the subject to be investigated is that of *persons with disabilities and their relationship with employment*.

The reason for carrying out this study is the need, for all member countries, to have a set of data on disabilities within the labour market. Analysing the National Statistical Plan for each one of the countries, it is verified that practically all of them have amongst their objectives studies on this subject.

There is an increasing compromise to reducing unemployment levels amongst persons with disabilities. At the same time, there is an attempt to improve their working conditions, eliminating architectural barriers and facilitating their complete integration in their workplace.

The results of this module will give us an idea of the situation of these persons with respect to their employment, both regarding improvements achieved and those still required. According to this, the policies having provided good results will be emphasised, and others will be developed which improve the conditions.

Abiding by the module title, we understand by **disability** any limitation in developing daily tasks, including work. This limitation can affect both the nature, the duration or the quality of the activity to be undertaken.

The disabilities module intends to center upon restrictions in activities more than upon limitation of functions. It intends to understand disabilities as a problem of interaction between the individual and the environment, more than as something individual. We will thus be dealing with a dynamic concept, more than with a static feature.

The module will allow us to obtain results both from persons with a job and from those who not having a job could incorporate to one.

**Disabilities and the relationship of those suffering them with employment** will be analysed through the following variables: Type of health problem or disability suffered, time he or she has been suffering from this disability, total duration thereof, cause for said disability, employment promotion programmes for

disabled or handicapped people, restriction of the type or quantity of work undertaken due to the disability (or type or quantity of work that would be undertaken if not working at the time of the interview), difficulty in travelling to and from work (or to a future job, if not working at the time), and type of assistance provided at work, or type of assistance he or she needs or would need.

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## B POPULATION SCOPE

The module is aimed at persons from 16 to 64 years of age. From the first question, participation in the interview is restricted to those suffering some type of health problem or some type of disability, as long as the duration thereof is or will be equal to or more than six months.

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## C INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The printed version of the questionnaire is included in the annex. The instructions for filling out the questionnaire are detailed below.

**1.- Do you suffer from any health problem or from any type of disability the duration of which is or will be equal to or more than 6 months?**

Yes	1	
No	6	End of module

Interviewees having suffered the problem or disability for 6 months or more, and those who suffering the disability for less than 6 months, expect the total duration to be longer than said time interval will answer Code 1.

The 6 month period should be considered, more than the definition of a time period, as a manner of distinguishing between chronic diseases, such as: diabetes, epilepsy, schizophrenia,...and acute diseases, such as for example: spraining an ankle, breaking a leg, appendicitis, respiratory tract infections... Thus, as a norm, persons suffering health problems during 6 months or more due to an accident, but who are recovering, will answer Code 6. However, if as a result of the accident they have been somehow physically or psychically disabled, they will answer Code 1.

If the interviewee does not know what the total duration of the problem will be, he will have to estimate the time taking into account any kind of medical information he has.

Problems characterised by isolated periods repeated in time (such as epileptic attacks) or those of a recurrent nature (for example, back aches), must be coded with 1 if they have certain continuity in time (that is, if the interviewee has suffered these more than once).

In the case of terminal diseases, or those whose duration depends on the result of a treatment (for example chemotherapy) will be coded as 1.

**2.- What type of health problem or disability do you suffer?**

*(If suffering several, choose the one which most limits working ability)*

Problems in arms or hands (including arthritis and rheumatism)	1
Problems in legs or feet (including arthritis and rheumatism)	2
Problems in back or neck (including arthritis and rheumatism)	3
Sight problems (despite wearing glasses or contact lenses)	4
Hearing problems (despite wearing a hearing aid)	5
Speech impediments	6
Skin problems, including serious disfigurements and skin allergies	7
Respiratory problems, including asthma, bronchitis and respiratory allergies	8
Heart, circulatory or blood pressure problems	9
Kidney, stomach, liver or digestive problems in general	10
Diabetes	11
Epilepsy (including episodes)	12
Mental problems or nervous or emotional problems	13
Other progressive diseases (includes the types of cancer with diagnosis not clear, Multiple Sclerosis, AIDS / VIH and Parkinson's)	14
Other health problems	15

Codes 1-3 include deformities of the limbs or postural deformities.

Code 4 will be chosen only in the case that the glasses or contact lenses are not sufficiently effective as to make the sight problems disappear. The same for Code 5 and hearing problems, despite wearing hearing a aid.

Code 6 does not take into account language problems due due to not knowing the language.

Code 7 includes, among skin disfigurements: scars, birth marks, as well as skin diseases, but not tattoos or *piercings* in different parts of the body.

Spring-time allergies should not be taken into account in Code 8, unless they are so strong that they alter the normal living conditions of the interested party.

Code 9 includes cerebrovascular accidents.

Code 13 considers mental, emotional or nervous problems such as: psychosis, (schizophrenia, for example), affective disorders (such as manic depression) and other less serious disorders (anxiety, depression, panic, phobias...).

This code also includes learning difficulties (for example dyslexia) since, in the past, serious learning difficulties were considered mental deficiencies or mental retardation.

Code 14 incorporates all progressive diseases which influence the daily activities of the interviewee, even when at the time of the interview said repercussion is lower.

Code 14 will be chosen for those persons who have health problems because they are affected by HIV (that is, who have AIDS antibodies), despite there not being proof of AIDS having developed in their organism.

Code 15 will be chosen in the case of alcohol or drug dependence. Here will be recorded also reproductive problems, unless they are related to a progressive disease, in which case they will be included in Code 14.

### **3.- How long have you been suffering these problems?**

Less than 6 months	1
From 6 months to < 1 year	2
From 1 year to < 2 years	3
From 2 years to < 3 years	4
From 3 years to < 5 years	5
From 5 years to < 10 years	6
10 years or more	7
does not know	8

If the person does not know exactly how long he or she has been suffering the health problems, the time elapsed from the first medical visit for that reason will

be taken into account, or otherwise the period from when said problem started to affect the person's daily life.

If you have suffered health problems or disabilities for more than one year, that is, M3=3-7: go to 5

**4.- What do you think the total duration of your health problems or disability will be?**

From 6 months to < 1 year

1

1 year or more

2

does not know

3

**5.- What was the cause of your disability or health problem?**

Congenital problem or complications at birth

1

Accidents or injuries

- of work, including traffic accidents suffered during

development of the working day (excluding accidents *in itinere*)

2

- traffic accidents not related to work (includes accidents *on the way to and from work*) 3

- accidents occurring in your free time, when practicing sports or at home

4

Illnesses

- accidents related to the type of work

5

- accidents not related to the type of work

6

does not know

7

Accidentes *to and from work* are accounted for with Code 3 of accidents not related to work. The explanation is that these accidents do not occur during the working day, but before it starts, or after it finishes.

Code 2 includes both traffic accidents or injuries, and intoxications or poisoning produced by products or materials worked with (for example toxic products) or by the environment worked in (for example a mine).

If you are unemployed, that is, C3=6: Go to 7

**6.- During the reference week, did you work or did you have a job included in an employment promotion programme for disabled persons or persons with disabilities?**

Yes

1

No

2

does not know

3

Employment promotion programmes for disabled persons which have proved beneficial are the following:

- Apprenticeship contracts.
- Vocational training contract.
- Self-employment support programmes.
- Tax incentives for increasing the number of disabled workers for companies paying company tax or subjected to the direct estimation method.
- Contracts in special employment centers.
- Aids to State Administration Bodies. Agreements between the INEM and State Administration Bodies and their Autonomous Institutions, Autonomous Communities, Universities and Non-Profit Institutions.
- Other aids and subsidies to promoting social economy.
- A 2% quota of disabled workers in a company, both private and public, having 50 or more workers.
- Readmission of workers after a declaration of permanent total or absolute incapacity or partial permanent incapacity.

Code 3 should be used only when there is no other option, or when the informant is not the interested party and does not have the appropriate information.

**7.- Do your health problems restrict the type of work you can or could carry out?**

Yes, quite a lot	1
Yes, to some extent	2
No	3
does not know	4

Possible restrictions on type of work include, for example, deficiencies in work quality, the impossibility of developing indoor or outdoor work, the need to work sitting down, etc.

Code 4, as in the previous question, is reserved for the case in which the informant is not the interested person and does not know the exact answer.

**8.- Do your health problems limit the number of hours, days or periods you can or could work (that is, the amount of work you can carry out)?**

Yes, quite a lot	1
Yes, to some extent	2
No	3
does not know	4

Code 4 will be useful in the case that the informant is not the interested person and does not have enough data in order to choose between one of the three first codes.

If the answer is *Yes, quite a lot* (Code 1) and the number of hours usually worked is more than or equal to 35, a warning message will appear, since in principle it could be strange that he should work so many hours, with the amount of work the person may perform being quite limited. Therefore, the interviewer should confirm that both data (those from Question D16 and from question M8) are correct.

In a similar manner, if the answer is *Yes, to some extent* (Code 2) and the usual number of hours worked is more than or equal to 40, another warning message will appear, so that the interviewer can make sure that the answers to the questions on usual weekly working hours (D16) and on limitations on the amount of work (M8) are correct.



**9.- Do (or would) your health problems make travel to your workplace more difficult?**

Yes, quite a lot	1
Yes, to some extent	2
No	3
does not know	4

Travel difficulties do not mean whether or not the interviewee can walk, but in case he or she cannot walk, if he or she can easily access the workplace. That is, it is a problem of the existence or not of architectural barriers, and therefore, of interaction between the person affected and the environment he or she moves in. It is determined by external factors such as: building and pavement design and accessibility; the possibility of using wheelchairs, etc., in short, it tries to know whether or not there are obstacles preventing the mobility of handicapped persons.

As for previous questions, Code 4 is designed for the case in which the informant is not the interested person.

If the interviewee has answered No or Does not know in M7 and in M8 and in M9, that is, if M7=3 or 4 and M8=3 or 4 and M9=3 or 4, then: End of module
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**10.-If the interviewee is employed, in other words, if C3= blank or 1:**

**Do you receive any type of assistance at work?**

*If you are unemployed, that is, If C3=6:*

**Would you need any type of assistance in order to work?**

Yes	1	
No	2	End of module
Does not know	3	End of module

This question is drafted in two different ways; one or the other will be used according to whether the interested person is employed or not. If the interested

person is employed, he or she will answer the first option, otherwise, he or she will answer the second option.

In the case of employed persons it is interesting to know whether they are provided assistance at work, and in the case of unemployed persons it is interesting to know, in the event that they did work, whether or not they would need some kind of assistance.

**11.- What type of assistance do you receive or would you require?**

*(If more than one, record the most effective)*

Assistance related to type of work	1
Assistance related to the amount of work	2
Assistance related to travel to work	3
Assistance related to mobility at work	4
Support and understanding from supervisors and peers	5
Others	6
does not know	7

This question will be answered by those who answered affirmatively to Question number 10, that is, employed persons receiving assistance at work, or unemployed persons who, if they worked, would need it.

One example of assistance related to Code 1 would be the need to use Braille language.

The need for interpretation through sign language by supervisors and peers will be coded with number 5.

The need for wheelchair ramps will be coded with numbers 3 or 4, depending on which of the two options would most reduce limitations.

Code 1 includes tasks designed specifically for handicapped persons, the use of specific equipment or material or adaptation to the workplace.

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## **5. 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 the identification variables of the basic EAPS questionnaire are filtered by automatic detection and manual correction; 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 the module's identification variables (quarter, province, section, dwelling and number of persons) is performed alongside that of the basic questionnaire.

#### 2.- Quarterly treatment

Having received the thirteen weeks forming the second quarter of 2001, the usual processing is applied to the basic EAPS questionnaire; having finished the latter, the module variables are then filtered; the software produced by the Subdirectorate-General for Statistical IT called DIA (Automatic Detection and Imputation) is used for this purpose. This software is also applied to filter the basic file of the survey.

The basic file of the EAPS for the second quarter of 2002 has 146,373 records of persons 16 years of age and over; of these, 113,267 correspond to persons who must answer the module. Furthermore, there are 920 records copied during the quarterly filtering stage from the basic EAPS questionnaire who should have answered the module and which are, logically, blank. Thus, the real sample excluding copied records amounts to 112,347.

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. An equivalence is applied to the resulting file and it is merged with the basic file of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) of the second quarter 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 1566/2001 of July 12th.