

15 February 2008

Communique

In response to opinions expressed in some quarters of the media with regard to the National Statistics Institute's (INE) work in producing and publishing statistical data, and in light of the harm these opinions may cause to the credibility of this institution, this communique is being issued following recommendations made in the implementation framework of the European Statistics Code of Good Practice.

1. The INE has been given the highest rating for professional independence

The INE has been given the highest rating for professional independence in the analysis carried out of all Statistics Institutes in the European Union, in order to study compliance with the Institutional principles of the Code of Good Practice.

The aforementioned code recommends that the INE play an active part as a statistical authority in discussions involving misuse or misinterpretation of statistics.

2. The statistical dissemination calendar is rigorously adhered to

The INE compiles the statistical dissemination calendar, based on the demands of users, and in particular, in line with Eurostat guidelines.

At the end of each year, the INE publishes a Short-term Statistics Availability Calendar, in which the exact date of publication is announced for all the aforementioned statistics, with the exception of the HICP Flash Estimated, which is announced two months earlier. **This calendar is rigorously adhered to.**

3. Methodological changes are made in accordance with European commitments and new information and available methods

Methodological and base changes carried out in recent years in the statistics produced by the INE, have been made in accordance with the calendars committed to in European Union Council and Parliament Regulations, and addressing the needs of adapting statistics to changes experienced in society, new information and available methodological procedures.

The most remarkable methodological changes that have been produced in the statistics compiled by the INE are:

- **Consumer Price Index.** In accordance with European regulations, in 2001, a base change and a methodological modification were carried out, by which the compilation of linked indices was included, as well as the **annual updating of weightings** and the inclusion of lowered prices. In 2006, also in accordance with European regulations, a new base change took place.

- **Economically Active Population Survey.** The changes that have been introduced in this survey were favoured by Eurostat regulations (the new definition of 'unemployed person' in 2002, and the inclusion of new questions in the questionnaire in 2005), by the application of new technologies to the data collection system (2005) and by the modification of the Spanish population framework, due to the rapid and intense growth of the Spanish population.
- **National Accounts.** The base changes in the Spanish National Accounts take place every five years, in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations and European Union manuals. All available statistical information innovations are incorporated in these base changes, which is why they are carried out after introducing changes in the basic statistics.

The methodology applied during the period of validity of a base is strictly and rigorously maintained for the duration of the same in order to guarantee the maximum homogeneity at the time of analysing temporary evolution.

The INE has always acted with complete transparency at the time of communicating to its users the methodological changes that it has implemented in its statistics, both before and after their application.

In addition, it should be remembered that the INE neither interprets the data nor makes macroeconomic forecasts.

The professionals at the INE have been and always will be at the service of the society in a framework of complete impartiality and maximum transparency. Their work will never depend on private guidelines or interests.