

Main changes in the ECE

About the document "Methods and procedures"

The document "Methods and Procedures" was published in 2012, as a compilation of the different processes that develop the Continuous Employment Survey (ECE); however, over the years there have been some changes in the survey, among the most important are¹:

1. Migration of mobile device for the capture of information in the field, from PDA to Tablet. From 2013 the capture of information is carried out by Tablet, using an Android operating system and also a SQL application. In addition, the review system for field supervisors was redesigned. This allowed a better design of the questionnaire, higher speed, accessibility, security, more controls and inconsistencies.
2. Migration of the information processing system in office. In 2015, a new computer system began to be used for the processes of transference, allocation, coding-validation and inconsistency; the main objective was to improve the integrity, security and speed in processing information. Besides, have more automated quality controls.
3. Creation of an editor of questions and inconsistencies. With the systematization of processes of ECE, two systems were created: the question editor and inconsistencies editor; both are complement of applications: of capture, review of field supervisors, transference, coding-validation and consistency. The function of these systems is to generate and incorporate changes automatically in all processes of the survey.
4. Migration of occupation manual. Since the beginning of the ECE, the occupation was coded according to the Classification of Occupations of Costa Rica 2000 (COCR-2000), which is a national adaptation of the International Standard Classification of Occupations of the International Labour Organization (ILO) 1988 (ISCO-88). In January 2013, the ECE implemented the new manual COCR-2011, which is based on ISCO-08.
5. Taking in to account the point 4, the ECE did a process of coding of the occupations coded with COCR-2000, in order to have this variable coded with COCR-2011 for every year of the survey. This was done for the main and secondary occupation, at the same time.
6. Codification of the economic activity of 4 to 5 digits, according to the Classification of Economic Activities in Costa Rica (CAECR 2011), which is an adaptation of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC Rev 4), of United Nations. This was evolved from October 2011.
7. Migration to the new Sampling Frame Housing (MMV-2011) and updating of the weights of the survey, based on the Census of Population and Housing 2011.
8. Migration from segments to Primary Sampling Units (UPM). There was a map updating and an expanding of the sample of the ECE in 600 dwellings. This change occurred throughout 2014.

¹ The ECE plans to update the document "Methods and procedures" in the course of 2016.

9. Change in the organization of fieldwork. Instead of the quarter has 13 weeks now have 12 weeks, this was modified in order to give workshops and training to field staff twice in the year.
10. Methodological improvements and update concepts. The ECE have added new sets of indicators such as formal and informal employment, and young population.
11. New reports for control the tracking of processes of fieldwork and validation, besides the final product quality.
12. Recoding the International Standard Classification of Education, ISCED 2011, of UNESCO.
13. Harmonization of the Household Survey of Multiple Purposes (EHPM), from 1987 to 2009, in order to have a comparable series with the ECE (2010 to present time). A linkage was made between the series by adjusting the expansion factors according to the latest population projections. However, exits some methodological differences.