

Encuesta Continua de Empleo (ECE) Continuous Employment Survey Fact Sheet

February 2015



Type of survey

Labour force survey.

Owner institution

National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Costa Rica, with funding from the Central Bank of Costa Rica (BCCR).

Strategic objective

Generate regular information about the evolution of the main indicators of Costa Rica labour market in the short and long term.

Specific objectives

- Collect data on households concerning the labour market in an agile and timely way.
- Generate quarterly indicators of Costa Rica labour market.
- Analyze the dynamic of labour market in Costa Rica through indicators of change.
- Provide accurate information for analysis of the labour situation of the country.
- Support the design and evaluation of labour policies.

Legal framework

The National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC), under the terms conferred by Law No. 7839 of October 15, 1998 (published in the Official Journal La Gaceta on November 4, 1998), started the execution of the Continuous Employment Survey (ECE) nationwide on May 31, 2010.

Description

The ECE is a statistical survey that collects information about the employed, unemployed and not in the labour force population in Costa Rica. In addition, it is a quarterly household survey and is carried out simultaneously throughout the national territory. The data generated by ECE show seasonal variations in the labour market and contribute to enrich the official statistics of the INEC.

Universe of study

Population resident in occupied individual households. The ECE excludes the population living in collective households such as hospitals, convents, barracks or prisons.

Geographic coverage

1. National level.
2. Rural / urban area.
3. Costa Rica planning region (Central, Chorotega, Pacífico Central, Brunca, Huetar Caribe y Huetar Norte).

Frequency of publication results

4 issues a year, 1 per quarter.

Subjects

The ECE questionnaire consists of 10 sections:

1. Households identification
2. Section A: Demographic characteristics
3. Section B: Labour force status (employed, unemployed and not in the labour force)
4. Section C: Employed population
5. Section D: Self-employed population (employers and own-account workers)
6. Section E: Employee population
7. Section F: Secondary employment
8. Section G: Employment with insufficient hours and inadequate employment
9. Section H: Unemployed population
10. Section I: Primary production for household consumption

Statistics and databases

Reference population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographic characteristics: persons of all ages. • Labour force status: persons aged 15 years and over. 						
Reference period of labour force status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employed: one week before the interview. • Unemployed: last four weeks before the interview. • Not in the labour force: one week before the interview. 						
Type of classifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic activity: Economic Activities Classification of Costa Rica 2011 (CAECR-2011), adaptation from of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Rev.4, of the United Nations. • Occupation: Occupational Classification of Costa Rica 2011 (COCR-2011), adaptation from the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) 08, International Labour Organization (ILO). • Education: Educational Training Classification of Costa Rica, adaptation from the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) 1997, of UNESCO. • Institutional sector: Institutional Sector Classification based on the System of National Accounts (SNA) 1993, of the United Nations (UN). • Geographic level: Territorial Division of Costa Rica and Country Codes given by the Coordination of the National Statistics System (SEN). 						
Number of variables	The anonymized database (without some variables to safeguard the confidentiality of the information) has 245 variables.						
Imputation	No variables are imputed.						
Confidentiality	The Law No.7839 ensures the confidentiality of the data collected by the INEC.						
Data owner	National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Costa Rica.						
Disclosure Policy	<p>The INEC has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy for dissemination of statistics and distribution of microdata from the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC). • Regulation of the Policy for dissemination of statistics and distribution of microdata from the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC). 						
Quarters and years available	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>III and IV quarter 2010</td> <td>I, II, III and IV quarter 2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I, II, III and IV quarter 2011</td> <td>I, II, III and IV quarter 2014</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I, II, III and IV quarter 2012</td> <td>I, II and III quarter 2015</td> </tr> </table>	III and IV quarter 2010	I, II, III and IV quarter 2013	I, II, III and IV quarter 2011	I, II, III and IV quarter 2014	I, II, III and IV quarter 2012	I, II and III quarter 2015
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Sampling	
Sample design	Probabilistic, stratified, two-stage cluster and replicated.
Sampling frame	Sampling Frame Housing 2011 (MMV-2011). The current sample is drawn from the 2011 Census.
Sample size	9.528 housing units by quarter, from 794 sample areas (Primary Sampling Units or UPM).
Sample rotation	25% of the housing units rotate in the sample each quarter. The ECE is a semipanel survey.

Data collection	
Collection period	The survey is conducted throughout the year, divided into quarters of 12 weeks.
Collection instrument	From April 2014, the ECE has used Tablet. At the beginning, the ECE used PDA.
Household respondent	Person 15 years of age or older who is knowledgeable about the household. In the ECE, around 40% of the respondent gave your own information.
Logistics field work	The country was divided into 10 strategic areas of field work: San Jose 1, San José 2, Liberia, Cañas, Puntarenas, Guápiles, San Vito, Perez Zeledón, San Carlos and Limón, which are coordinated and assisted from office (in INEC building).
Staff field work	The ECE hires persons in each area of fieldwork. There is a supervisor, interviewers and operators of mobile equipment (drivers) by area. The amount of interviewers by area depends on the workload. Additionally, there is people in office that coordinates and supports the fieldwork staff.
Collection frequency	Daily collection and performed simultaneously in all areas of fieldwork.
Type of interview	Direct interview. The interview is performed by phone, when the person requests it in that way in some cases.
Collection method	The distribution of the workload is performed by electronic transfer from office to field, and vice versa, through a computer system developed for this task. (office ↔ supervisor ↔ interviewer).
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Platform. • Two training feedback. • New staff.
Number of staff field work	10 areas supervisors, 22 interviewers and 10 drivers. Besides, the ECE has office staff that coordinates and supports field staff.
Response rate	For the third quarter of 2014 the response rate was 95%.

Dissemination of results	
Documents www.inec.go.cr	Quarterly report, quarterly press release, questionnaires, methodological and technical documents, analysis papers about special topics.
Excel tables www.inec.go.cr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables related to quarterly publication: main characteristics of the labour force status, characteristics of the employed population, contrasts between employee and Self-employed population and labour income. In addition, tables concerning to year comparison and sampling errors. • Other topics: formal employment, informal employment and main indicators for planning region.
Metadata www.inec.go.cr	Information about the different processes of the ECE and database, according to the Accelerated Data Program (ADP).
Redatam www.inec.go.cr	ECE database will be available soon in REDATAM.
Workshops	Lectures or workshops for public institutions, private organizations and others.

International recommendations	
International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations (UN) and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and The World Bank.	