

Main changes in the ECE
About the document "Methods and procedures"
2016

The document "Methods and Procedures" was published in 2012, as a compilation of the different processes developed by 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 the mobile device for the capture of information in the field, from PDA to Tablet. From April 2013 the capture of information is carried out by Tablet, using an Android operating system and also a SQL application. Additionally, the review system for field supervisors was redesigned. This allowed a better design of the questionnaire, higher speed, accessibility, security, and more controls and inconsistencies identification.
2. Migration of the information processing system in the headquarters. In 2015, a new computer system began to be used for the processes of transference, allocation, coding-validation and inconsistency; the main objective of this was to improve the integrity, security and speed in the processing of the information. Furthermore, to have more automated quality controls.
3. Creation of an editor of questions and inconsistencies. With the systematization of the processes of the survey, two systems were created: the question editor and inconsistencies editor; both are complement for the applications of capture, review of field supervisors, transference, coding-validation and consistency process. 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 (COC-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 into account the point 4, the ECE carried out a process of re-coding of the variable of occupation coded with COC-2000. The re-codification implemented the latest codification manual COCR-2011, for the main and secondary occupation.
6. Codification of the economic activity from 4 to 5 digits, according to the Classification of Economic Activities in Costa Rica (CAECR 2011); a national adaptation of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC Rev.4) of United Nations. This process started on October 2011.
7. Migration to the new Sampling Frame Housing (MMV-2011) and subsequently, the updating of the weights of the survey, based on the Census of Population and Housing 2011.

¹ The ECE plans to update the document "Methods and procedures" throughout the course of 2017-2018.

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.
9. Change in the organization of fieldwork. Instead of the quarter has 13 weeks now have 12 weeks, this was modified to give workshops and training to field staff twice in the year.
10. Methodological improvements and updated concepts. The ECE has 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. Re-coding of 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 long series with the ECE (2010 to the present time). This harmonization was undertaken by adjusting the expansion factors of the EHPM and also through adjustments on the definitions used for the analysis of the labour market; in this sense, the variables of the EHPM has been re-created as similar as it is possible to ECE and even updated to the latest international classifications currently used (for example industry, occupation and education); all this for guarantee the comparability between the variables of the both surveys.