

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

February 2017



## Type of survey

Labour force survey.

## Frequency

Quarterly

## 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 to 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 Costa Rica, specifically in individual dwellings. The ECE excludes the population living in collective dwellings 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).

### 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

<b>Reference population</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demographic characteristics: persons of all ages.</li><li>• Labour force status: persons aged 15 years and over.</li></ul>
<b>Reference period of labour force status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Employed: one week before the interview.</li><li>• Unemployed: last four weeks before the interview.</li><li>• Not in the labour force: one week before the interview.</li></ul>
<b>Type of classifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li><li>• Occupation: Occupational Classification of Costa Rica 2011 (COCR-2011), adaptation from the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) 08, International Labour Organization (ILO).</li><li>• Education: Educational Training Classification of Costa Rica, adaptation from the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) 2011, of UNESCO.</li><li>• Institutional sector: Institutional Sector Classification based on the System of National Accounts (SNA) 1993, of the United Nations (UN).</li><li>• Geographic level: Territorial Division of Costa Rica and Country Codes given by the Coordination of the National Statistics System (SEN).</li></ul>
<b>Number of variables</b>	The anonymized database (without some variables to safeguard the confidentiality of the information) has 245 variables.
<b>Imputation</b>	No variables are imputed.
<b>Confidentiality</b>	The Law No.7839 ensures the confidentiality of the data collected by the INEC.
<b>Disclosure Policy</b>	The INEC has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Policy for dissemination of statistics and distribution of microdata from the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC).</li><li>• Regulation of the Policy for dissemination of statistics and distribution of microdata from the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC).</li></ul>
<b>Quarters and years available</b>	From Q3-2010 to the current quarter.

Sampling	
<b>Sample design</b>	Probabilistic, stratified, two-stage cluster and replicated.
<b>Sampling frame</b>	Sampling Frame Housing 2011 (MMV-2011). The current sample is drawn from the 2011 Census.
<b>Sample size</b>	9.528 dwellings per quarter, from 794 sample areas (Primary Sampling Units or UPM); i.e. 38.112 dwellings per year.
<b>Sample rotation</b>	25% of the dwellings rotate in the sample for each quarter. The ECE is a semipanel survey.

Data collection	
<b>Collection period</b>	The survey is conducted throughout the year, divided into quarters of 12 weeks.
<b>Collection instrument</b>	From April 2014, the ECE has used Tablet. At the beginning, the ECE used PDA.
<b>Household respondent</b>	Person aged 15 years or older, who is knowledgeable about the household. In the ECE, around 40% of the respondent gave your own information.
<b>Logistics field work</b>	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).
<b>Staff field work</b>	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, in Office a group of people coordinates and supports the fieldwork staff.
<b>Collection frequency</b>	Daily collection, which is performed simultaneously in all areas of fieldwork.
<b>Type of interview</b>	Direct interview. In some cases, the interview is performed by phone.
<b>Collection method</b>	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).
<b>Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual Platform.</li> <li>• Two training feedback.</li> <li>• New staff.</li> </ul>
<b>Number of staff field work</b>	10 areas supervisors, 22 interviewers and 10 drivers. Besides, the ECE has Office staff that coordinates and supports field staff.
<b>Response rate</b>	For 2016 the response rate was 92%.

Frequency of publication results	
4 publications a year, 1 per quarter.	

Dissemination of results	
<b>Documents</b> <a href="http://www.inec.go.cr">www.inec.go.cr</a>	Quarterly report, quarterly press release, questionnaires, methodological and technical documents, analysis papers about special topics.
<b>Excel tables</b> <a href="http://www.inec.go.cr">www.inec.go.cr</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tables related to the quarterly publication, year comparison and sampling errors.</li> <li>• Other topics: formal employment, informal employment, main indicators for planning region, young and adult employment.</li> </ul>
<b>Accelerated Data Program (ADP):</b> <a href="http://sistemas.inec.cr/pad4/index.php/catalog/167">http://sistemas.inec.cr/pad4/index.php/catalog/167</a>	Information about the different processes of the ECE, methodological documents, Excel tables and database (From Q3-2010 to the current quarter).
<b>Redatam</b> <a href="http://sistemas.inec.cr:8080/bincri/RpWebEngine.exe/Portal?BASE=ECE&amp;lang=esp">http://sistemas.inec.cr:8080/bincri/RpWebEngine.exe/Portal?BASE=ECE&amp;lang=esp</a>	Database (From Q3-2010 to the current quarter).
<b>Workshops</b>	Lectures or workshops for public institutions, private organizations and others.