

Uruguay 2004: Original Survey Information

Summary Table

Generic information	
Name of survey	Continuous Household Survey (Encuesta Continua de Hogares – ECH)
Institution responsible	National Institute of Statistics (Instituto Nacional de Estadística - INE)
Main objective	To provide basic information to determine the level of economic activity of the urban population; to study its socio-economic characteristics and the income level of households.
Survey structure	Cross-sectional. Continuous collection.
Frequency	Yearly (since 1981, although it has changed over time).
Survey year / Wave	ECH 2004
Coverage	Residents of private dwellings, in Montevideo and its periphery and urban localities of 5.000 inhabitants or more in the interior of the country.
Sampling	
Sampling design	Probabilistic, stratified and two-staged (three-staged in departments with more than one locality of 5.000 to 15.000 inhabitants).
Sampling frame	VII Population, III Households and V Dwellings Census, 1996.
Final sample size	18.392 dwellings and 55.587 individuals.
Collection	
Collection period	Continuous (January-December 2004)
Instruments and main contents	A questionnaire, with two sections on dwelling and household characteristics, one section on general characteristics, health and education of all household members, and two sections on occupational status and income generated by household members 14 years old and older.
Definitions	
Household	Private household (ECH's unit of analysis): Person or group of persons, usually but not necessarily related by kinship, who live under one roof and depend on a common fund, at least for food. These people tend to pool their incomes, create a common budget, and share the use of durable and non-durable goods. Every private household should have a head. Collective households are not subject matter of the ECH.
Household head	Person recognized as such by the other members of the household.
Data quality aspects	
Unit response rate	96.60%
Item non-response / imputation	Not performed.
Weighting	Expansion factors are derived from the sampling design to expand the sample to the national urban population. There are annual, semiannual and quarterly expansion factors according to the period over which one wants to report statistics.
Labour market information	
Source	Interview
Reference period	General rule: Week before the interview (Monday through Sunday). For job search and related activities: four weeks prior to the interview.
Definition of employment	Occupied are those persons 14 years old or older who worked at least one hour the week before the survey, or who did not work for reasons of vacation/holidays, illness or accident, labour dispute; or who interrupted their work due to bad weather, breakdowns in machinery or lack of raw materials, but are sure of having the job to go back to. Included in this category are unpaid family workers and honorary teachers.
Treatment of military personnel	Identifiable through the code of occupations (ISCO-88 adaptation to the Uruguayan case).
Income	
Source	Interview
Reference period	There are two reference periods depending on the concept of income. For labor income, pension, subsidies or leases the relevant period is the calendar month prior to the interview. For income from profits, dividends or interest the reference period is the last twelve months prior to the interview.
Unit of collection	Individual
Unit of time	Monthly, except for income from leases, interest from bank accounts, profits, dividends, severance pay or extraordinary income, in which case the unit time is annual.
Restrictions	None
Gross/net	Revenues are reported net of taxes. There is no information on taxes in the survey. INE imputes the values of monthly contributions to health insurance (<i>cuotas mutuales</i>), military health (<i>sanidad militar</i>) and family allowances.

This document is based on “Household Survey Methodology”, publication by the Uruguayan National Institute of Statistics (INE).

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A. General Characteristics

Official name of the survey/data base:

Continuous Household Survey (Encuesta Continua de Hogares – ECH).

Administrative Unit responsible for the survey:

National Institute of Statistics (Instituto Nacional de Estadística – INE)
Socio-demographic Division
<http://www.ine.gub.uy>

The Continuous Household Survey (ECH) is the main household survey of Uruguay, and is the basic source of information for most of the social and socio-economic studies of the country’s population. Though ECH is an urban survey, it’s important to point out that the urban population accounts for 91.8% of the national population.

The ECH has its origins in the “Atlantis model” developed by the United States Census Bureau, and has been collected without interruption since 1968. Since its inception, the survey has undergone several changes, both in terms of geographical coverage and content of the questionnaire, responding to the need of updated information in face of the changes experienced in the living conditions of the population and in the labor market in Uruguay.

Originally, the survey only covered the Department of Montevideo, and in 1981 was expanded to the rest of the country’s urban areas. Until 1997, the survey was representative of localities of 900 or more inhabitants and of the entire Department of Montevideo (urban and rural area). Since 1998 the ECH only covers localities of 5000 or more inhabitants in the interior of the country, but coverage was expanded in the

Department of Montevideo to include its area of influence (periphery). The last amendment to the ECH questionnaire was made in 2001.¹

The main objectives of the survey are:

- To determine the level of activity of the country's urban population.
- To provide basic information for the study of the socio-economic characteristics of the national urban population.
- To determine the income level of urban households in the country.

B. Population, sample size and sampling methods

Population coverage

Residents of private dwellings containing one or more private households. Members of collective households or individuals residing in collective households are excluded.

Sample size

In 2004, the sample reaches 18.392 dwellings and 55.587 individuals.

Sampling design

The sampling frame is based on the dwelling and household listings by census zone (*zona censal*) of the VII Population, III Households and V Dwellings Census of May 22, 1996.

Sampling is probabilistic and stratified. The sample is drawn in three stages: locality, census zone (*zona censal*) and private dwelling.

Locality: all localities of 15.000 or more inhabitants and one locality with 5.000 to 15.000 inhabitants per department (if any) are considered. If there is more than one locality with 5.000 to 15.000 inhabitants, one is selected randomly.

Census zone (Zona censal): (primary sampling unit in departments with only one locality with 5.000 to 15.000 inhabitants; secondary sampling unit in the rest): In Montevideo and its periphery (30km radius from the center of Montevideo) all census zones (*zonas censales*) are covered. In the interior, census zones (*zonas censales*) are selected with probability proportional to size measured in number of private dwellings.

Private Dwelling (secondary or tertiary sampling unit, as applicable): 3 first option dwellings and 2 alternatives are randomly selected within each census zone (*zona censal*) (census zones are consolidated if they do not have the minimum of 5 dwellings).

The stratification variable is the real average income per capita of the household, at the census segment level (*segmento censal*) in Montevideo and at the department level in

¹ In 2006 the survey went through another important methodological change. The coverage became national, representing both the urban and rural areas, and the questionnaires were modified significantly.

the rest of the country. The variables that determine the sample sizes for each stratum are the unemployment rate and the average household income.

C. Data collection and acquisition

Collection period

Continuous (January-December 2004)

Reference period

The reference period varies according to the type of information being considered:

- General rule: Week before the interview (Monday through Sunday)
- Employment: Four weeks prior to the interview (includes job search efforts and related)
- Income:
 - _ Calendar month prior to the interview, for labor income, pensions, subsidies, leases
 - _ Last twelve months prior to the interview, for incomes from profits, dividends, interests

Data collection

Data collection is carried out on a continuous basis. The collection instrument is the direct interview with paper forms. The respondent is a household member above 18 years old (excluding domestic service), mentally competent and well-informed on the characteristics of the other members of the household.

D. Definition of the survey units

The units of analysis are private households and their members.

Household

Households can be classified into private and collective.

Private household: Person or group of persons, usually but not necessarily related by kinship, who live under one roof and depend on a common fund, at least for food. These people tend to pool their incomes, create a common budget, and share the use of durable and non-durable goods. Private households and their members are the analytical unit of the ECH.

Collective household: Group of persons who share accommodations and food for reasons related to work, study, discipline, health, among others. These households are not subject matter of the ECH.

Head of household

Every private household should have a head, which will be taken as reference to determine the relationship between household members. Household head is defined as the person recognized as such by the other members of the household.

E. Contents

The ECH questionnaire includes the following sections:

- a. Identification of the survey and officials involved
- b. Control of visits
- c. Characteristics of dwelling (type; number of households per dwelling)
- d. Characteristics of households (objective: determine the quality of life of households. Included in this section is information on tenancy regime of dwelling, access to public services, household appliances, and housing expenditures)
- e. Characteristics of household members (socio-demographic, health, education)
- f. Occupational status
- g. Income (monetary or in-kind; from economic or non-economic activities, current or not)

F. Quality of data

Response rate

The response rate is 96.6%, refusal rate 0.5% and absenteeism rate 0.7%.

Editing and coding

The survey has a number of instruments and stages of quality control:

Control rules (Reglas de crítica): divided into errors and warnings. Errors are problems detected during data entry, which prevent the recording of the information in case of inconsistencies. Warnings are messages that appear to the data entry operator during data entry, that call attention of unusual situations.

Field supervision: At least 10% of the dwellings selected are re-interviewed by staff specially trained for supervision. Additionally, any dubious or inconsistent interview is performed again.

Re-typing control: A percentage of the interviews is re-typed.

Macro controls: Periodic checks of the questionnaire with SPSS program.

Imputation

Not performed.

Weighting procedure

There is no information indicating the existence of any correction of the expansion factors for non-response bias. Expansion factors are derived from the sampling design to expand the sample to the national urban population.

The database has annual, semiannual and quarterly expansion factors according to the period over which one wants to report statistics. A level of inference quarterly can be used if working with the national sample, Montevideo or Urban Interior (*Interior urbano*); statistics at the department level can only be performed on a yearly basis.

G. Uses of the survey

Publications

- Encuesta Continua de Hogares-2004. Principales Resultados, INE
- Encuesta Continua de Hogares-2004 (Tabulados), INE
- Estimaciones de pobreza por el método del ingreso-Año 2004, INE, April 2005
- Comunicados de Prensa, ECH 2004, INE
- Cifras, publicación oficial del INE
- Anuario estadístico 2005, INE
- Uruguay en cifras 2004, INE

Poverty and Income Distribution

Incidence of extreme poverty, by reference unit and year of survey (in percentages)

Reference unit and year	Total	Montevideo	[Resto Interior Urbano]
Households			
2000	0.7	0.7	0.8
2001	0.7	0.6	0.8
2002	1.0	1.1	1.0
2003	1.6	1.8	1.3
2004	2.0	2.4	1.8
Persons			
2000	1.5	1.3	1.7
2001	1.3	1.1	1.5
2002	1.9	2.1	1.8
2003	2.8	3.3	2.2
2004	4.0	4.7	3.3

Incidence of poverty, by reference unit and year of survey (in percentages)

Reference unit and year	Total	Montevideo	[Resto Interior Urbano]
Households			
2000	11.0	10.8	11.1
2001	11.7	11.5	12.0
2002	15.3	15.0	15.7
2003	21.0	20.5	21.5
2004	21.9	21.9	21.9
Persons			
2000	17.8	17.7	17.9
2001	18.8	18.4	19.2
2002	23.6	22.9	24.4
2003	30.9	29.9	31.8
2004	32.1	31.7	32.5

Source: Estimaciones de pobreza por el método del ingreso - 2004, Oriental Republic of Uruguay, National Institute of Statistics, April 2005.