

Continuous Employment Survey (ECE)

Informal employment

Fact Sheet

May 2025



ILO recommendations

- Resolution concerning statistics of employment in the informal sector, adopted by the Fifteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), 1993.
- Guidelines concerning a statistical definition of informal employment, adopted by the Seventeenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), 2003.
- Measuring informality: A statistical manual on the informal sector and informal employment, 2013.

General aspects

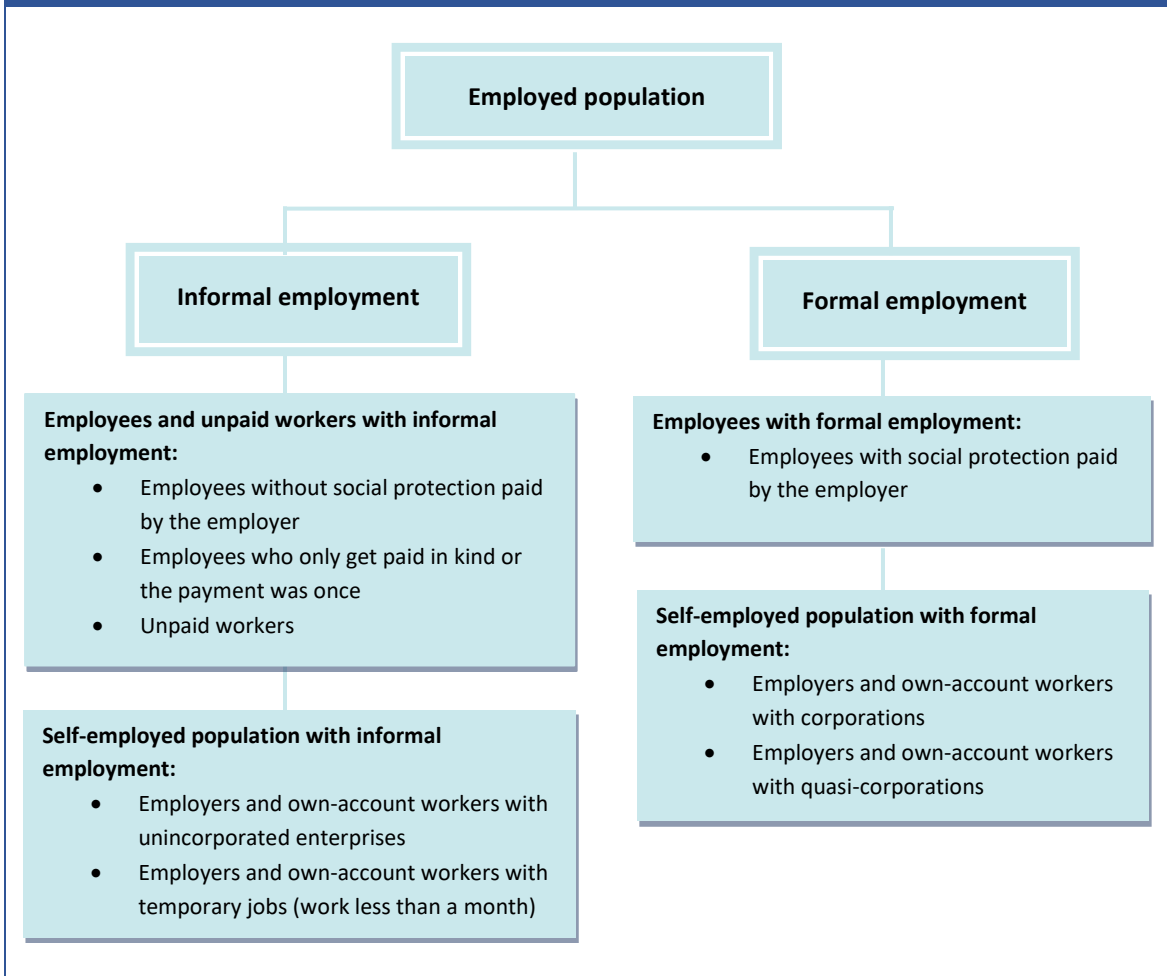
- Main job.
- Employed population aged 15 years and over.
- All workers captured in the survey are included: agricultural and related activities, domestic workers and contributing workers.

Informal employment concept

The informal employment comprises the total number of jobs with the following characteristics, according to the status in employment:

- Employees without social protection paid by the employer, this means employees without social protection reductions.
- Employees who only get paid in kind or the payment was once, who by the nature of their employment, are not susceptible to social protection reductions.
- Unpaid workers, irrespective of whether they work in formal or informal enterprises.
- Employers and own-account workers that have enterprises not registered in the National Registry of Property of Costa Rica and do not keep formal accounts periodically.
- Own-account workers with temporary jobs (working less than a month), who by the nature of work are not likely to be registered or kept formal accounts periodically.

Informal and formal employment framework



Scope

- Employed population in the informal sector: the ECE only has information about the legal organization of the enterprise and the type of accounts kept for the enterprise for the self-employed population (own account workers and employers).
- Producers' cooperatives: they are considered into the self-employed population.
- Informal employment on the secondary job: the ECE could generate information from Q4-2014. However it is still pending.

Quarters and years available

From Q3-2010 to the current quarter.

Dissemination of results

Excel tables: www.inec.go.cr

Accelerated Data Program (ADP): <http://sistemas.inec.cr/pad4/index.php/catalog/167>

Redatam: <https://sistemas.inec.cr:8443/bininec/RpWebEngine.exe/Portal?BASE=ECE&lang=esp>