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Joint ECE-Eurostat-ILO Seminar
on Measurement of the Quality of Employment
(Geneva, 3-5 May 2000)

Topic 1

Temporary jobs and rotation in the Spanish labour market

Supporting paper submitted by the National Statistical Institute of Spain

1. The document analyses the quality of employment in the Spanish labour market from the point of view of work contracts of limited duration. It includes a comparison with data on temporary jobs of the European Union countries. The document presents the main characteristics of employees under this kind of contracts: sex, age groups, level of education, branch of industry and public or private sector. It also includes an evaluation of a rotation problem that has appeared in the labour market: employees who have several successive temporary contracts of short duration, even of only one day.
2. This topic is studied in two complementary ways. First, the total duration of the temporary contract is analysed and compared with the time that the employee has been working for the same employer. Second, a flow analysis is carried out. Temporary employees under a work contract of three months or less in one quarter are identified and analysed in the next quarter to search for their labour status: temporary job, contract of unlimited duration, not in employment. A similar analysis is also made for persons not in employment.

3. The paper finally assesses the number of employees who have had a temporary job in the past and are now receiving unemployment benefits. This figure is analysed by sex and by the variable *time worked in the previous job*.

4. The document is mainly based on data from the Spanish Labour Force Survey (SLFS). The SLFS is a quarterly sampling survey with a final sample size of nearly 65.000 households. The whole country is covered. Between one quarter and the following, one sixth of the sample is renewed, so that after six quarters the whole sample is changed. Each household remains six consecutive quarters in the sample.

5. The survey has been carried out since 1964 by the National Statistical Institute. Since 1995, the interviewers use laptop computers and since 1998, the second and subsequent interviews are mainly telephone interviews. First interview is always a face to face interview.

6. Other sources used for this paper are the European Union Labour Force Survey and Social Security data.