Using graduate surveys at country level: the case of Mexico

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Context

- Lack of data on graduates
- Lots of speculations about unemployment and problems with link and match (taxi drivers and merchants)
- PROFLEX questionnaire applied by nine universities (3 private, 6 public)
- Sample: 4260 interviews, stratified by institution and field of study

Employment

Table 1. Percentage of unemployed graduates, by country and area								
	Spain	**France**	**Germany**	**UK**	**Europe**	**Chile**	**Mexico**	**Latin America**	**Japan**
Country total	12,5%	12,7%	9,4%	10,3%	**10,0%**	9,0%	14,5%	**11,4%**	**10,5%**
Education	14,7%	8,9%	7,8%	2,0%	**12,0%**	6,2%	12,7%	**7,1%**	**11,9%**
Humanities	20,4%	19,0%	13,2%	17,3%	**15,4%**	16,9%	15,4%	**15,3%**	**12,9%**
Social Sciences	12,3%	15,3%	11,3%	13,5%	**10,5%**	11,1%	15,1%	**11,8%**	**11,4%**
Economy and Business	10,5%	7,9%	3,9%	7,4%	**7,8%**	7,9%	10,9%	**10,1%**	**11,0%**
Law	17,3%	17,7%	13,7%	14,3%	**12,9%**	12,7%	14,1%	**12,1%**	**11,7%**
Technology	7,9%	7,7%	7,4%	8,2%	**6,2%**	6,9%	10,0%	**8,6%**	**7,0%**
Health	5,8%	7,5%	9,6%	8,0%	**9,2%**	4,3%	16,1%	**11,0%**	**11,8%**
Sciences	15,5%	16,9%	15,3%	8,8%	**13,1%**	23,2%	27,0%	**22,8%**	**11,5%**
Number of interviews	5384	1614	1667	1397	**36973**	2846	3992	**8295**	**2073**

Table 3. Gross monthly income (Mexican pesos, 2008)		
Area	Mean	Number
Education	6,413	405
Humanities	7,552	57
Social Sciences	8,941	484
Economy and Business	8,960	766
Law	13,581	326
Technology	9,108	717
Health	6,536	346
Sciences	6,558	286
Total	8,655	3,386

Table 4. Job satisfaction (scale 1-5)	
Mexico	4.10
Chile	4.09
Germany	3.84
Spain	3.70
Europe	3.83
Latin America	4.07
Japan	3.50

Table 5. Match between studies and current job (%)

Chile	95.2
Germany	88.9
Mexico	88.3
Spain	81.5
Latin America	90.8
Europe	85.8
Japan	53.2

In your opinion, what is the appropriate area of study for your job?		
Appropriate area	Frequency	Percentage
Only my own area	1153	32.9%
My own area or a related one	1896	54.1%
A completely different area	262	7.5%
No particular area	195	5.6%
Total	3506	100.0%

Differences in income Public-Private universities			
Sector	Gender	Average monthly income (Mexican pesos)	
Public	Male	4930.31	1201
	Female	4261.48	1329
	Total	4578.83	2530
Private	Male	21413.29	449
	Female	15488.94	426
	Total	18528.98	875
Total	Male	9415.46	1650
	Female	6986.78	1755
	Total	8163.67	3405

	Position	Sector		Total
		Public University	Private University	
Director/manager	N	181	269	450
	%	7.4%	30.6%	13.5%
Scientific Professional	N	1430	196	1626
	%	58.1%	22.3%	48.7%
Intermediate technician	N	357	105	462
	%	14.5%	12.0%	13.8%
Employee	N	316	283	599
	%	12.8%	32.2%	17.9%
Others	N	178	25	203
	%	7.2%	2.8%	6.1%
Total	N	2462	878	3340
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	% of Total	73.7%	26.3%	100.0%

Educational level father and alumni income		
Educational level father	N	Average monthly salary alumni
No studies	297	1808
Primary school	643	7799
Secondary school	546	6882
Upper secondary or Vocational	353	14415
Undergraduate	604	14333
Postgraduate	144	15503
Not applicable	21	9482
Total	2609	9773

Some conclusions

- It is very important to do comparative and comparable studies, not to establish rankings among universities, but to see what factors influence the success of graduates in the labour market

- The factors of impact seem to be different among countries, depending on the economy and the organization of the educational system

Conclusions

- In the Mexican case, much of the "success" depends on the choice of university and educational programme

- Institutional prestige seems far more important than particular curricular content. This prestige is based on success of graduates

- Students and their families "read" the system and the labour market, and make decisions

Conclusions

- Family decisions are based on educational background and income
- Families seem to be better informed than policy makers
- Match and link do not seem mayor problems (or seem to exist mainly in the head of policy makers and academics)
- Many policies are ill-informed and hunch based (or borrowed from other countries)

Thank you