

Original survey information, Switzerland 2004

Generic information	
Name of survey	Income and Expenditure Survey (<i>Enquête sur les Revenus et la Consommation – ERC / Einkommens- und Verbrauchserhebung – EVE</i>)
Institution responsible	Federal Statistical Office (BFS / OFS)
Main objective	This survey is carried out to provide information on patterns of consumption and income of households as well as to determine the yearly price development.
Survey structure	Cross-sectional.
Frequency	Annual since 2000.
Survey year / Wave	2004 survey.
Coverage	The private households residing permanently within the borders of Switzerland. Border residents, foreign tourists, and collective households (e.g. prisons) are not taken into account in the ERC.
Sampling	
Sampling design	The survey was conducted on the basis of 12 random monthly samples, stratified according to the seven grand regions of Switzerland. In order to obtain a sufficient number of households in each region, an oversampling of the Tessin region has been made.
Sampling frame	Electronic phone directory SWISSCOM.
Final sample size	3,270 households containing 7,993 individuals who completed the interview.
Collection	
Collection period	January to December 2004.
Instruments and main contents	The ERC was conducted using telephone interviews and written questionnaires. The sequence was as follows: Four to six weeks before the beginning of investigation, a letter with objectives of the ERC was sent to the households. A few days after sending the letter, households are contacted by telephone. If the household agreed to participate in the survey, an interview was performed. Information collected during the interview included the general household structure and characteristics (sex, age, nationality, marital status, employment status and training), information about housing (tenant or landlord), and identify the reference person (household member receiving the highest income). The recruitment phase for wave lasts about three weeks. A few days before the beginning of investigation, households who agreed to participate received a diary to record expenditures and household incomes for a month. Phone support was provided throughout the investigation period to help complete documents. After the households have completed and returned the documents, a final interview was conducted during which households were asked about their property and durables.
Definitions	
Household	A household is defined as a small group of persons who share the same dwelling, share part or the totality of their incomes and wealth and consume collectively some goods and services, mainly the accommodation and the food.
Household head	The head of household (called <i>reference person</i> in the ERP documentation) is the person who contributes most to household income and, thereby, influences most strongly the living conditions of the household.
Data quality aspects	
Unit response rate	The response rate over 12 months collection period was on average around 33%. The most common reason for non-participation was unwillingness on the part of the household, which accounted for around 55% of failed interviews. Around 12% of households could not be contacted by telephone or mail (e.g. invalid addresses or phone numbers). The 3,270 households participated voluntarily in the survey, representing on average 275 household interviewed each month.
Item non-response / imputation	The missing values in income and expenditure variables were fully imputed.
Weighting	To determine the income and expenditure averages of all private households residing in Switzerland, the data of households in the sample are weighted taking into account the following factors: 1) The inclusion probability (probability of a household being selected from the electronic directory). 2) Certain factors influencing participation household, for example, the socio-economic group, nationality or age of the reference person, household size. 3) With a calibration procedure, the weights are corrected so that the distribution of individuals in the survey corresponds to the actual distribution in the population. Through this three-stage weighting procedure the distortions relating to the participation of households in the survey is compensated. The results of the ERC in 2004 are therefore based on a realistic household structure and representative of the permanent resident population of Switzerland.
Labour market information	
Source	Telephone interviews.
Reference period	Last week.
Definition of employment	ILO employment.
Treatment of military personnel	Not identifiable.
Income	
Source	Interview.
Reference period	Calendar year 2004.
Unit of collection	All incomes are collected either at the household level or at the individual level (according to the preference of the respondents); only household level income variables are provided to LIS.
Unit of time	Mostly monthly income, few annual.
Restrictions	None.
Gross/net	Gross incomes, plus detailed information on taxes and social contributions