

## Original survey information, Estonia 2004

<b>Generic information</b>	
Name of survey	Estonian Social Survey (ESS). ESS is the Estonian branch of a pan-European survey EU-SILC (Survey on Income and Living Conditions).
Institution responsible	<i>Statistics Estonia</i> , <a href="http://www.stat.ee">http://www.stat.ee</a>
Main objective	To measure the income and living conditions of Estonians, and through them the problematic areas of the society - poverty, inequality and social exclusion.
Survey structure	Rotating panel survey: the sample is composed by 4 independent panel sub-samples. Three panels are in the survey from previous years and one is a first-timer. All sample households included in the survey by sampling are interviewed in 4 consecutive years.
Frequency	Annual.
Survey year / Wave	2005 survey.
Coverage	All households in the national territory, with the exception of collective households (e.g. students' hostels, social welfare homes) and household of foreigners.
<b>Sampling</b>	
Sampling design	The sample of 2005 survey comprised of two parts. The first part consisted of households that were selected for the survey in 2004 and were followed up in 2005 operation. Initially the sample of 2004 survey was randomly divided into 4 rotational groups. None of these rotational groups were dropped out of the survey in 2005, due to the smaller than expected response rate in 2004. The new rotational group was added to the survey in 2005. For this new part stratified unequal probability sampling of households was used, with a household selected with probability proportional to the number of persons aged 14+ in it. While selecting the new part of the sample the register of persons aged 14 or over was sorted and stratified on county level (i.e. geographically).
Sampling frame	The counties were grouped into three strata by the population size. The basis for the sampling frame for selection of the new part of the sample was the Population Register of Estonia. This is the document-based register of Estonian citizens and those having living permission. Records of the register are updated both in real-time and regularly from administrative sources. The register data originates from local governments, civilian registry offices, county councils, courts, Citizenship and Migration Board and other governmental organizations. Note that due to absence of registration law in Estonia, there is also some under-coverage of persons and addresses present in the population register.
Final sample size	4,169 households containing 9,643 individuals who completed the interview.
<b>Collection</b>	
Collection period	ESS is a continuous survey conducted every year from February to June. Due to the launch of CAPI in 2005 as the new method for data collection, the start of the fieldwork was postponed and the official fieldwork period lasted from April 2005 to July 2005.
Instruments and main contents	Data are collected through face to face interview with the following instruments: - <i>Household Questionnaire</i> , asked to the reference member of the household, with the following 6 sections: Interviewer's section, Tracing, General data of household, Living conditions, Economic welfare, and Planned change of residence; - <i>Personal Questionnaire</i> , asked to all 16-year old and older, with the following sections: Interviewer's remarks, Background data, Studies, Everyday activities, Income, and Health, as well as 3 modules for 2005: Social origin, From school to work, Trade unions and collective agreements.
<b>Definitions</b>	
Household	Household is defined as a group of people who live in a common dwelling (at the same address) and share joint financial and/or food resources. Persons included in the household are members of the household. A household may also consist of one member only.
Household head	Reference member of the household is a 15-year-old or older household member who contributes the largest share to the household's income.
<b>Data quality aspects</b>	
Unit response rate	Household response rate was 81.16% and within the household the individual response rate was 98.15%.
Item non-response / imputation	All missing values of income variables were imputed. If the income from the previous year was known for the household or person being imputed, then this value of income was imputed, but before that the value concerned was increased or decreased according to the general trend (this trend was estimated by comparing the data from current year and previous year). If the value from the previous year was not available (the person or household concerned had not participated in the survey or had not had any income of this kind), the value was imputed by applying multiple sequential regression models. For monthly income (salary, pension), a monthly amount was imputed and thereafter multiplied by the number of months when the person or household got the relevant type of income, in order to obtain the respective yearly amount. When only single values of a variable are missing, then also imputation with the median/average value or hot-deck imputation (random donor) is used. If an interval of values for the missing value of a single income component is asked, first the missing intervals are imputed, and then the exact values within each interval. The percentage of imputed values among different income variables largely depends on the type of income source.
Weighting	The weight was determined on the basis of the 2002 National Census data (broken data by number of persons and urban and rural areas) in order to correct for the non-representativeness of the population due to the non-participation of a number of selected household (as there was a difference between the structure of the survey sample and that of the selected one in terms of socio-demographic characteristics).
<b>Labour market information</b>	
Source	Interview (Personal questionnaire to household members aged 16 or above)
Reference period	Week before the interview
Definition of employment	There are two employment definition: one is strictly ILO, and the other is the socio-economic status that best describes the person at the moment of interview
Treatment of military personnel	Military persons are identifiable. Regular Armed Forces are treated as workers, while conscripts are not
<b>Income</b>	
Source	Interview (monthly budget diary)
Reference period	Month of interview
Unit of collection	All monetary net incomes are reported at the individual level (with the exclusion of dwelling support); non-monetary incomes, taxes, social contributions and operating farm costs are reported at the household level only.
Unit of time	Monthly amounts
Restrictions	None
Gross/net	Most of the data on income variables are collected net in ESS. In case of income from wage labour, income from self-employment and income from the rental of property or land, the respondent may choose if she wishes to declare the amount before or after taxation. Property income was the only variable which was collected as gross. Almost all income variables are converted into both net and gross values. Algorithms drafted based on the Income Tax Act, Social Tax Act, Funded Pensions Act, and Unemployment Insurance Act versions in force in 2003 are used in the conversion process. The variable calculation rules composed based on these algorithms are updated every year if something changes in tax or benefit rates. In case of non-taxable income variables, net values are set to equal gross values.