

France 1994: Survey Information

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A. General Characteristics

Name

Enquête Budget des familles 1995/ Household Budget Survey 1995.

Short History

The survey was held for the first time in 1965 and was held yearly until 1972. In 1973-74 the Budget Survey and the Survey on Food expenditure were merged together and only the results of the latter were published. There has been an interruption in the collection of data between 1972 and 1978 to rethink some questions and methodology. From 1979 onwards the survey was conducted every 5 years.

Administrative Unit responsible for the survey

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Purpose

The main purpose of the survey is to give an overview of households' economy, to collect expenditure data, data on consumption and households' economic resources. Expenditure data does not only cover households' consumption but also includes information about taxes, insurance and intergenerational transfers.

B. Population Size, sampling size and sampling methods

The survey covers the households that are resident in France, the sample frame consists of 18000 households.

For all the households, information about expenditure, income and socio economic variables are collected.

Sample size was 11294 (France)+3040 (DOMTOM) households. This sample includes all households that completed all income information in a satisfactory way (i.e. for which the income data is complete). Please note that LIS only used the sample for France and did not include the sample for the overseas territories.

C. Data collection and acquisition

Two instruments to collect the data were used.

1) Questionnaire, this questionnaire registers the socio economic characteristics of the household, its income and expenses using reference periods.

2) Expenditure Diary (during 14 days) used by all household members older than 14 years of age. This diary registers daily expenditure as well as irregular expenditure

The interviewer contacts the household 3 times in a 2-week period. Those visits last about one hour.

The complete survey consists of three parts:

- Socio-demographic part (SOCIO), all the data for 12102 households (France) and 3428 households (DOM, overseas territories) are included in this part.
- Expenditure part (DEPENSES), includes all the expenditure data and the SOCIO data as well for 10038 households (France) and 2922 households for the overseas territories.
- Income part (REVENUS) includes all the income data and the SOCIO data as well for 11294 households (France) and 3040 households for the overseas territories.

Only the income part is included in the LIS dataset!

Reference period

The data in the REVENUS sample reflect the income and income sources of the households during the 12 months prior to the survey. Interviews were held between October 1994 and October 1995 so the income refers to the income of 1993, 1994 and/or 1995, depending on the time of the interview (the average point in time was April 1994) The income is expressed in French Francs and Annual Amounts

Most of the income is reported at the individual level, some of the income is only reported at the household level (i.e. housing allowances, capital income, the sale of durable goods)

D. Quality of the data

Non- response rate

Families with middle incomes generally have a lower response rate compared to single persons, elderly, poor or rich households, this results in a biased sample. In order to avoid this, measures are taken to avoid non- response (good training for interviewers, obligatory character of the survey, a gift or those participating) and the appropriate correction for the non-response bias.

Underestimation of Income

Most income data in the income survey are reliable and differ 10% from the information available from the National Accounts. Two sorts of income are largely underestimated, self-employed income and capital income.

Imputation for missing income data

For 1 to 5 % of the cases the income values are missing or given in income bands. For self-employed, the non-response rates are higher compared to other categories. Capital income is only asked in bands but most of the capital gains are not reported anyway. To deal with the problem of missing and incomplete income data, income values have been imputed.

Comparability with earlier survey

The definition of the total income in the 1995 survey is different than the income definition in the earlier surveys (1979-1989), there were fewer income sources available and missing or incomplete income data were not imputed. It is possible to recalculate the total income for earlier surveys. This has been done by one of the INSEE divisions, the Conditions de vie division.