

Original survey information, Italy 2004

Generic information	
Name of survey	Survey of Household Income and Wealth (SHIW) - <i>Indagine sui Bilanci delle Famiglie Italiane</i>
Institution responsible	Bank of Italy - www.bancaditalia.it
Main objective	To provide information on household microeconomic behaviour. Information includes demographic characteristics, income, wealth and expenditure
Survey structure	Cross-sectional and partly longitudinal
Frequency	Every 2 years
Survey year / Wave	2004 survey.
Coverage	All households in the national territory, with the exception of Institutions and people not registered on municipal registers (e.g. illegal immigrants)
Sampling	
Sampling design	<i>Initial sample (1987):</i> two-stage stratified sampling (municipalities and households), with the stratification of the PSUs (municipalities) by region and demographic size. Within each stratum, the municipalities in which interviews would be conducted were selected to include all those with a population of more than 40,000 inhabitants (selfrepresenting municipalities), while the smaller towns were selected on the basis of probability proportional to size (PPS). The individual households to be interviewed were then selected randomly. <i>Current sample:</i> The actual sample interviewed is composed of 3,604 panel households and 4,408 non-panel households. In order to form the panel, the municipalities were selected from among those already sampled in the 2002 survey (panel municipalities); resident households that had participated in the last two surveys were all included in the sample. The remaining panel households were selected randomly from among those interviewed in the previous survey only. The non-panel households were selected randomly from official registers in both panel and non-panel municipalities. Households were interviewed in 344 municipalities, of which 314 were panel and 30 non-panel.
Sampling frame	Municipal registry office records.
Final sample size	8,012 households containing 20,581 individuals who completed the interview.
Collection	
Collection period	February to July 2005.
Instruments and main contents	Data were collected mainly with the aid of computers, using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing program (CAPI). A total of 5,856 interviews (73.1%) were conducted using the CAPI method. The remaining interviews were conducted using paper-based questionnaires. The questionnaire used in the survey has a modular structure. It is composed of a general part addressing aspects relevant to all households and a series of additional sections containing questions relevant to specific subsets of households. To lighten the burden of the interview, some sections of the questionnaire were only administered to a random subset of the sample. Households had to answer only one of two sets of questions on relationships with banks and their opinion regarding sense of civic duty and taxation, depending on the year of birth (odd or even) of the head of household.
Definitions	
Household	A household is a group of persons living together in the dwelling on 31 December 2004, whether or not they are related by kinship, who satisfy their needs by pooling all or part of the income earned by the members to the household. Also includes any members of the households temporarily absent (e.g. on vacation, temporarily away for study, etc.).
Household head	At the survey stage, the head of household is the person who says he/she is 'the main person responsible for family finances'. This definition serves to identify the best informed person. At the analysis stage, for the results published by the Bank of Italy in "Supplement to the Statistical Bulletin: Sample Surveys", the head of household is defined as the person with the highest income – excluding unearned income. LIS keeps the original definition of the survey stage.
Data quality aspects	
Unit response rate	The response rate was higher for panel households (74.4%) than for non-panel ones (25.7%). The most common reason for non-participation was unwillingness on the part of the household, which accounted for 59% of failed interviews. Some 4.6% of households could not be contacted by telephone and were not at home on any of the three occasions the interviewers called, on different days and at different times. Of the 22,018 households contacted, 36.4% agreed to be interviewed. To conduct the 8,012 interviews, 15,109 contacts were necessary.
Item non-response / imputation	Imputing missing answers, which could have been due to reticence on the part of the respondents or difficulties in replying to the question, was necessary for all the elementary variables that make up the aggregate, since the absence of even one component would prevent calculation of the aggregate (for example, it is necessary to impute fringe benefits such as lunch coupons in order to calculate income from payroll employment). The amount of imputed data was generally small, around a few dozen cases for most variables. Answers had to be imputed for such variables as fringe benefits for payroll employees, revenues for self-employed workers and the value of business equity, although on average in fewer than 7% of cases. Regression models were used to estimate the values to assign to the missing answers on the basis of other available information. In order to avoid an excessive concentration around average values, a random component was added, extracted from a normal variable with a mean of zero and a variance equal to that of the residuals in the regression model. This preserved the mean and the variance of the data actually measured.
Weighting	Under the sampling design, each household is assigned a weight inversely proportional to its probability of inclusion in the sample; the weights are subsequently modified to take account of non response, to increase the precision of the estimators, and to align the structure of the sample with that of the population in terms of certain characteristics.
Labour market information	
Source	Interview.
Reference period	Calendar year 2004.
Definition of employment	A person is defined as employed if he/she had paid employment during the reference year, and that was his/her prevalent status over the year.
Treatment of military personnel	The conscripts are identifiable but are not treated as employed (and hence not routed to the section about employment characteristics). The regular Armed Forces are treated as employed persons, but are not identifiable.
Income	
Source	Interview.
Reference period	Calendar year 2004.
Unit of collection	Mostly at the individual level, except for property income (household level).
Unit of time	Mostly monthly income with number of months, some annual.
Restrictions	None.
Gross/net	Incomes are reported net of taxes and social contributions. Data on net personal income tax and social security contributions were imputed by the Bank of Italy and provided to LIS (see LIS variables pslot1 and pslot2).