Netherlands 1993: Survey Information

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A. General Characteristics

Name of the survey

Sociaal Economisch Panelonderzoek
Socio -Economic Panel Survey

Administrative unit responsible for survey

Central Bureau of Statistics Netherlands
Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS)

Statistical Analysis Department

Kloosterweg 1
6401CZ Heerlen Netherlands

Phone +33(0)45-5707220
Fax +33 (0)45-5706272

E-MAIL Address *glnn@cbs.nl*

History and Purpose of the Survey

Survey was conducted for the first time in 1984. Until 1989 the survey was
conducted twice a year, from 1990 onwards, the survey is conducted once a year.
In 1987 the data of 1984 were available as microdata. The main focus of the
survey is:

Description of the main aspects of welfare and the relations between them for individuals and households. These aspects are for instance income, income transfers, living conditions, behavior concerning savings and consumption, labour market and demographic variables, education and appreciation and perception of welfare

The main source of funding is governmental funding.

The principle users of the data collected in the survey are: government agencies, universities, research institutes and Eurostat.

Until now there has been no release of data files for the general public. Data files have been released on contractual basis for specific users. Because of statistical protection rules a number of variables are not made available, such as date of birth and municipality code, or only in less detail (standard educational classification, classification of occupations and the standard industrial classification).

B. Population, sample size and sampling methods

Sampling Frame

The sample units are selected from the post office address lists and the sampling frame includes the total population of household heads. Once he sample was selected all sampled units were eligible for interviewing.
The total number of units in the population from which the sample was selected is:

Number of households in the population of December 31, 1983 was 5,4 million.
Number of persons in the population of December 31, 1983 was 14,1 million
Number of households in the population of December 31, 1990 was 6,1 million.
Number of persons in the population of December 31, 1990 was 14,7 million.
.   Number of households in the population of December 31, 1993 was 6,4 million.
Number of persons in the population of December 31, 1993 was 15,1 million.

All geographic areas are represented in the sampling frame.

People living in institutions

Population living in institutions has not been included in the sampling frame. Neither are military living in military housing.

Sample Design

A two-stage sample has been designed with a sample of municipalities and secondly a sample of addresses. The sample was designed to be self-weighting. There has not been an oversampling of specific groups…..

Sample Size

Population of wave 17, in 1994:

Unweighted N= 13,109 individuals

Weighted N= 13,109 individuals (average weighting factor is 1)

 Number of sample units for which no data was obtained

Population of wave 17, in 1994 (persons):

Unweighted N= *1.696 non-response*
              59 deceased
              19 institutional household
              5 abroad

Weighted N=   *1.696 non-response*
              59 deceased
              19 institutional household
              5 abroad

No information is available about the sampled but not interviewed households when the household was to be interviewed for the first time; information of panel members is available from the previous waves. Tables about respondents not interviewed could be prepared but are not available yet.

Sampling variability

Sampling variability is variation that occurs by chance because a sample was surveyed rather than the entire population. Standard errors are common measures of sampling variability although they also include some of the effect of non-sampling error.

No estimates of sampling variability, (standard errors) have been computed for this survey

Other

The natural increase of the panel is not sufficient to offset the loss through panel attrition. Therefore an additional sample is needed regularly to keep the sample on a minimum level of 5000 households.

C. Weighting procedure information

A survey weight has been assigned to each sample case. This was done in order to adjust the sample for survey units that were selected but not interviewed. The weighting also helped to adjust for missing data or other non-sampling errors related to income.

The subgroups for which weighting factors are calculated, are based on demographic variables, such as sex, marital status and age. These weighting factors partially correct biases caused by non-response for other variables, such as income.
The sum of the survey weights is NOT equal to the total number of units in the sampling frame?

But: The sum of the survey weights is equal to the number of units (persons) in the net sample.

Estimates are derived from the sample are in principle representative for the total population defined by the sampling frame of 1984 and the natural increase since 1984 but not for the immigration since 1984. However, this principle has been complicated because of the additional samples, needed to keep the total sample on a minimum basis of 5000 households. These additional samples include immigrants.

D. Data Collection and Acquisition

The data collection for the 1994 survey started in April and was completed in September. The data was collected through a face to face interview through electronical questionnaire (CAPI) and the possibility for a PAPI income questionnaire.

In the period 1984-1990 the data was collected through a face-to-face interview with paper questionnaire.

The Questionnaire is organized by household and consists of three parts:

 A. Household box for demographic variables
 B. General part on living conditions (household questionnaire)
 C. Personal questionnaire for all household members of 16 years and over, up to a maximum of 6 members

Participation in the survey was voluntarily and the participants' privacy protected. All datafiles released by CBS are liable to privacy regulations. Contracts for users also contain privacy regulations for the use of data

Every household member was required to answer the questions him/her self. Proxy answers are not allowed.
Respondents were asked to consult or use pay records, tax returns, etc. to help provide accurate information and 80-85% of the respondents used records to help them answer the income questions.

H. Definition of the survey units

Basic unit of aggregation

The household is the basic unit of aggregation, but microdata-files are organized on a personal level. Household variables such as household composition or income are added to the record of each household member.

Who is included in a survey unit and who not?

      a.   all households of a sampled address are selected, up to a maximum of three households
      b.   All members of the household, present or temporarily absent, become panel member
           Temporarily present persons do not become panel member
      c.   Panel members stays in the panel, as long as they are a member of a private
           household and living in the Netherlands
      d.   Panel attrition occurs through death, emigration, movement to an institutional
           household or refusal to cooperate any longer.
      e.   Births out of a panel member become a panel member of their own, to correct the sample (together with deaths) for natural changes in the population.
      f.   Individuals with whom panel members generate new households through marriage or living together, etc. are considered as non-panel members. However, these individuals are not removed from the sample at the time they are not living with a panel member anymore. Selection of (non)panel members is possible in principle, but the variable
           Indicating Panel membership has not been delivered.to LIS in the datafiles of 1991 and 1994
      g.   Household members may refuse to fill in a personal questionnaire. These individuals are however mentioned in the household box.

The overall sampling unit can be divided into subgroups if several families share the same housing unit

Household members have not been assigned a familycode, because the number of multiple family households is too small to make it worthwhile. However, the codelist of relationships is extensive, so that the identification of multiple families is

possible. Besides that, relationships are not only coded relative to the unit head, but also to all household members It is possible to identify all household members.

Codelist of relationships to unit head:

1. living alone
2. unit head
3. spouse
4. never married child
5. married or formerly married child
6. child-in-law
7. father or mother
8. father or mother – in –law
9. brother or sister
10. brother or sister – in- law
11. grandchild
12. {not used}
13. {not used}
14 cohabitant
15 child of cohabitant
16 other relative
17 other household member

Head of survey unit

In case of a married couple, the male is considered to be the survey unit head. In other cases the breadwinner is the survey unit head.

Children

Natural offspring, adopted- and stepchildren are coded as "child", provided they are never married or do not have children of their own. In those instances they are coded as "married or formerly married child".

It is possible to distinguish between the children of the survey unit head or spouse and a child of other members of the household (see coding list above).

Spouse

A spouse is legally married to the head of unit. Cohabitation receives a separate code, but these groups may be combined if necessary

G. Quality of the data

Item and Group non- response rates

Because the sample is drawn from a list of addresses, nothing is known of the sampled but not interviewed households that are not already in the panel. Information of panel attrition can be obtained from previous waves.

Overall non-response rates

In 1994, 9 % of the panel households did not respond. Of households in the additional sample 63% did not respond. The overall non-response rate was 12 %.

Sub-group non-response

In wave 17 of 1994 of the panel members of 16 years and over mentioned in the household box, 93.5% filled in a personal questionnaire and 6.5 % refused to do so.

Item non-response

In 1999 (not available for 1991 and 1994), of the individuals who filled in a personal questionnaire, .3 % did not fill in the income items.

Quality of the income data

An evaluation of the income data in this survey has been made. (more information is available upon request). Income-result of this panel-survey were compared with results of income of
IncomePanel Study, a study that is based on a large sample from tax-registers.
Similar evaluations have been made for education and labour market variables and they have been compared with results from the Labour Force Survey.

Internal checks

Internal checks for consistency errors for data have been made.

Other

Hot deck or cold deck imputation for income variables have not been conducted, neither were other adjustments made for non-response.
There was no top or bottom coding.
Child allowance income has been imputed

Data on education, labour market and household variables are obtained through open questions, while coding is done to a large extent automatically through word-recognition

Coding of education is based on a retrospective of all courses since primary school
Panel members are asked to report additional courses since the previous wave. This information is added to a database of former information to detect changes in the highest level of education obtained.

Questions with regard to labour market variables are repeated each year with comparison between waves internally.
In a panelbox movements in or out of the household since the previous wave are obtained.