

Original survey information, Australia 2003

Generic information	
Name of survey	Survey of Income and Housing Costs (SIHC).
Responsible institution	Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), http://www.abs.gov.au
Main objective	The principal objective is to facilitate the analysis and monitoring of the social and economic welfare of Australian residents in private dwellings.
Structure of data source	Cross-sectional household survey data.
Frequency	Annually from 1994-95 to 1997-98, and then in 1999-00, 2000-01, 2002-03.
Survey year / Wave	2002-2003 survey
Coverage	Individuals and families resident in private dwellings throughout Australia.
Sampling	
Sampling procedure	Sub-sample of private dwellings included in the ABS Monthly Population Survey (MPS); the MPS sample is a multistage selection of private dwellings and a list sample of other dwellings. Each selected dwelling is included in the MPS for eight consecutive months. This is achieved by dividing the sample into eight separate groups and rotating out one group each month. In any particular month, the sample selected for the SIHC is one-sixth of the last rotation group within the MPS sample.
Sample size	10,210 households
Collection	
Collection period	July 2002 to June 2003
Collection mode	Personal interview.
Description of instruments	There is one personal questionnaire for all persons aged 15 and over, and which collects data on income and housing. Information about personal and household characteristics, including part of the labour force information, is collected as part of the LFS, and then later combined with the income, housing and other info from the SIHC interview.
Definitions	
Household	A household is defined as a group of related or unrelated people who usually live in the same dwelling and make common provision for food and other essentials of living; or a lone person who makes provision for his or her own food and other essentials of living without combining with any other person. Lodgers who receive accommodation only (not meals) are treated as a separate household. Boarders who receive accommodation and meals, are treated as part of the household.
Household head	The reference person for each household is chosen by applying, to all household members aged 15 and over, the selection criteria below, in the order listed, until a single appropriate reference person is identified: (1) the person with the highest tenure when ranked as follows: owner without a mortgage, owner with a mortgage, renter, other tenure; (2) one of the partners in a registered or de facto marriage, with dependent children; (3) one of the partners in a registered or de facto marriage, without dependent children; (4) a lone parent with dependent children; (5) the person with the highest income; (6) the eldest person.
Data quality aspects	
Non-response error	-
Item non-response / imputation	Data were imputed for missing records and values. Income tax, Medicare levy, family tax benefit and some other benefits were modelled by the ABS.
Weighting	Final weights are calculated through an iterative procedure in which initial weights (inverse of the probability of selection) are adjusted by a calibration process to ensure that survey estimates conform to independently estimated benchmarks (numbers of individuals who were at least 15 years old, numbers of children who were under 15 year old, numbers of households, and the value of government benefit cash transfers). Weights inflate to the total population.
Labour market information	
Eligibility	All persons aged 15 years and over
Employment	Persons are considered employed if, during the week before the interview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - they worked one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (includes employees, employers and own account workers) - they worked one hour or more, without pay, in a family business or on a family farm - had a job, business or farm but was not at work because of holidays, sickness or other reason.
Income	
Reference period	Income is collected for two reference periods, the financial year preceding the date of interview (In Australia the financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June of the following year) and a much shorter one centered around interview time (current income). LIS has used the current income estimates.
Unit of time	Income was collected using a number of different reporting periods, such as the last financial year for own business and property income, and the usual payment for a period close to time of interview for wages and salaries. All amounts disseminated in the survey were recalculated into weekly amounts and provided in this form to LIS.
Unit of collection	Individual level income information was collected for all individuals who are at least 15 years old.
Taxes and contributions	The gross income was collected. Data on income taxes and Medicare levy paid were not collected in the survey. The ABS modeled the amount of income taxes and the Medicare levy payable by individuals according to the relevant taxation criteria (i.e. income as well as individual and family characteristics reported in the survey).
Restrictions	The full set of income variables were perturbed by the data provider.
Additional remarks	
Additional remarks	Some variables have had values ranged, collapsed or topcoded. <i>LIS note:</i> LIS was provided a restricted version of basic CURF (Confidentialized Unit Record Files).

Source: Data provider.