

Original survey information, Ireland 2007

Generic information	
Name of survey	Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)
Responsible institution	Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ireland; http://www.cso.ie/en/silc/abouttheeu-silc/
Main objective	SILC is an income survey used for research in the fields of poverty, social exclusion and household income and tax-benefit modelling.
Structure of data source	The survey is a four-year rotational panel.
Frequency	Annual
Survey year / Wave	2008 / wave 6 (Ireland was in the first pilot of EU-SILC in 2003)
Coverage	Population living in private households
Sampling	
Sampling procedure	Two-stage stratified sampling: the first-stage units are the census sections and the second stage are main family addresses. The sampling frame is the Census of Population 1996 Enumeration Areas (EA).
Sample size	The final sample contains 5,247 households.
Collection	
Collection period	From January 2008 to December 2008
Collection mode	Interview (Computer Aided Personal Interviewing - CAPI). Social security benefits (e.g. child benefit, unemployment payments, payments relating to old age) were extracted from administrative records of the Department of Social and Family Affairs if the respondent agreed to furnish her Personal Public Service Number (PPS No.). These respondents constitute approximately 2/3 of the sample; for the remaining 1/3 of the sample data on social security benefits was collected through interviews.
Description of instruments	Interviews were carried out on the basis of the following tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Household register</i>: household (change in) composition and membership, number of household members. - <i>Household questionnaire</i>: dwelling characteristics and ownership, tenure, housing costs, insurance, value of the dwelling, secondary residential property, the ad-hoc module on debt and social exclusion. - <i>Individual register</i>: demographic characteristics, nationality, country of birth, citizenship and relationship with other household members; additionally, time of movement and main activity in reference year for those who moved out of the household. - <i>Under 16 questionnaire</i> (children 3 to 16 years old): level of education attended, education grants, child care, pre-school education, (private) medical insurance, independent income received in reference year. - <i>Individual questionnaire</i> (asked from everyone over 16 years of age or from 15 years old if there is no-one over 16 years of age in the household): labour market activities, education, health, marital status, incomes, taxation, social insurance benefits, pension contributions, life insurance, health insurance, expenditures, social welfare, material deprivation, self-employment activity and income. - <i>Farm questionnaire</i> (asked from those who own or rent a farm/market garden over 15 years of age/16 years of age): ownership, surface, rent for land, types of crops and live stocks, special farm assistance funds, hours spent in farming activities, taxation, off farm jobs for farmers; consumption from own production.
Definitions	
Household	The household is defined as an individual/a group of people occupying in common a main family address or a part of it, and consuming and/or sharing food or other goods paid for out of a common budget. Resident boarders, lodgers, tenants, visitors or domestic servants present at the place of interview are not considered household members if they have other address they treat as their usual residence and do not have close ties to household even if they share expenses and their actual or intended length of stay is six months or more.
Household head	The head of the household is considered to be the person who supplies the answers to the household questionnaire.
Data quality aspects	
Non-response error	Household non-response rate for the panel sample was 23.75%. There was no individual non-response (in case of absence, the questionnaire was filled in by a proxy).
Item non-response / imputation	Most of the item non-responses were imputed by the data provider.
Weighting	Household cross-sectional weight (the same one is used as a personal weight by the data provider). Non-response has been taken into consideration in the design of the weights.
Labour market information	
Eligibility	Individuals aged more than 16 years of age or those more than 15 years of age if there is no-one older than 16 in the household.
Employment	Information available from three sources: (1) Self-assessed current labour market status. (2) Worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit during the previous week or was not working but had a job or business from which was absent during the previous week (ILO employed). (3) Calendar of activities available for each the last 18 months. Information on job characteristics is available for everyone who worked at least 1 hour in the previous week, for those who defined themselves as working even if they did not work last week. Job characteristics refer to the main job during the last 12 months (which is not necessarily the current one).
Income	
Reference period	Different reference periods: for most regular incomes it is the period covering the last payment received, for less regular ones and many benefits is the last 12 months.
Unit of time	Any period between one week and last 12 months, amounts are annualized by the data provider for many incomes in the derived variables.
Unit of collection	Individual level for most income sources. Household level for certain social benefits and inter-household transfers in addition to investment income and profits. Individual level information on incomes collected from all household members aged 16 and older.
Taxes and contributions	Amounts are collected gross of taxes and contributions together with detailed info on taxes and contributions
Restrictions	
Additional remarks	
	The national Irish SILC data is much more detailed in information than the EU-SILC for which it serves as an input.

Source: [1] Data provider. [2] Eurostat (2010), 2008 Comparative EU Intermediate Quality Report: Version 2 – June 2010 (ESTAT/F3/GRG D(2010)),