Sampling

The final sample is composed of the 'main' sample and the 'complementary' samples. The 'main' sample had two phases: in the first phase, a sample of localities was selected; and in the second phase, dwellings were sampled from the chosen localities. The loca sample was extracted from a list of localities belonging to the sample population. Then sampling strata was created on the basis of the similarities between localities, such as their type, socio-economic characteristics, and geographic proximity to one another. Interviewing quotas were allocated to each sampling stratum in accordance with its size. Further, a random-systematic sample of localities was drawn in accordance with their size. In each locality the dwellings in the sample were sorted, when possible, within the sampling frame according to geographic characteristics in the property tax files, before the sample was drawn. Afterwards, a random-systematic sample of dwellings was drawn. Since the property tax files and household lists in small localities do not cover all dwellings inhabited by households that belong to the survey population, the complementary samples were taken from additio sampling frames to reduce this non-coverage. Sampling frames were prepared from local municipal property tax files of local authorities, or from lists of households obtained from municipal secretariats (usually in small localities).

Achieved sample size

6,272 households (including 21,046 individuals) were successfully interviewed.

Collection

Collection period

January 2005 to January 2006. Investigation of the sample was spread across the entire survey period, so that all weeks in the investigation period would be represented.

Collection mode

Direct interview (face-to-face) and diaries.

Description of instruments

The survey instruments include:

- a bi-weekly diary, in which the household recorded each member’s daily expenditures over a period of two weeks;
- two household questionnaires filled out by the interviewer, including: i) A questionnaire on household structure, which record basic demographic and economic data on each member of the household (e.g., age, sex, country of birth, year of immigration, etc.); ii) A questionnaire on large or exceptional expenditures and on income, which is based on the household record related to the 3-month or 12-month period preceding the interview date (depending on the rarity of expenditures for the income investigated).

Definitions

Household

A group of people who live together permanently in one dwelling most of the week and have shared food budget.

Household head

The economic head of household. The economic head of household is the main earner of the household; i.e. the employed person (including a member of the permanent army) who usually works the most hours per week. If there is more than one person in the household who fits the definition of head of household or if the household has no earner, the person whom the respondent considers to be head of household is defined as the head of household. Note: the head of household is aged 18+ (except in households consisting solely of persons aged 15-17, and households where the only employed person is aged 15-17).

Data quality aspects

Non-response error

Out of 7,707 sampled dwellings, 6,990 households met the investigation criteria. Out of 6,990 households, 9.6% did not end up in the final sample size due to refusal, absence, communication and other difficulties. Additionally, 0.7% out of 6,990 households were disqualified in the editing process.

Item non-response / imputation

Data concerning compulsory payments were calculated on the basis of the various tax regulations. No imputation was made for income that originates in the use of one’s dwelling and for various types of in-kind income (non-financial income).

Weighting

All members of a given household have the same weighting coefficient that reflects the number of households and persons in the survey population, which that household represents. The weighting coefficients for the various groups of households determined in a way that would also assure full correspondence between the survey estimates and the distribution of the survey population by sex and age groups, and geographic crosssections based on the current demographic data of the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Labour market information

Eligibility

Each household member aged 15 or over.

Definition of employment

The employed comprise persons who worked at least one hour in the last three-month period.

Income

Reference period

Last 3 months.

Unit of time

Monthly amounts.

Unit of collection

Household for all income sources (plus individual incomes for income from employed work, self-employed work and work pensions).

Taxes and contributions

Incomes are reported gross of taxes and social contributions. Household level microsimulation was conducted to obtain data on taxes and social contributions.

Restrictions

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Additional remarks