

Original survey information, Italy 2008

Generic information	
Name of survey	Survey of Household Income and Wealth (SHIW) - Indagine sui Bilanci delle Famiglie Italiane
Institution responsible	Bank of Italy - www.bancaditalia.it
Main objective	To provide information on household microeconomic behaviour. Information includes demographic characteristics, income,
Survey structure	Cross-sectional and partly longitudinal
Frequency	Every 2 years
Survey year / Wave	2008 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 equal to 7977 households and is composed of 4,345 panel households interviewed for 2006 survey and 3,632 non-panel households (among them 35 are new households formed by member of 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 nonpanel households were selected randomly from official registers in both panel and non-panel municipalities. Households were interviewed in 359 municipalities
Sampling frame	Municipal registry office records
Final sample size	7,977 households containing 19,907 individuals
Collection	
Collection period	January to September 2009
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 includes all persons normally living in the dwelling on 31 December 2008 who contributed at least part of their income to the household. Any members temporarily absent (e.g. on vacation, away for study, etc.) and any non-relatives living permanently in the home on 31 December 2008 are included but children born in 2009
Household head	The head of the household is the person primarily responsible for the household budget.
Data quality aspects	
Unit response rate	The overall response rate was 56.1% as 14,209 families have been contacted to obtain 7977 interviews. The response rate was higher for panel households (79.3%) than for non-panel ones (41.6%). The most common reason for non-participation was unwillingness on the part of the household, which accounted for 32.4% of failed interviews, while 11.5% of households could not be contacted by telephone and were not at home on any of the three occasions the interviewers called.
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 4% 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 2008, with respect to the situation in most of 2008
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 2008.
Unit of collection	Mostly at the individual level, except for property income and family businesses (household level).
Unit of time	Mostly total annual amounts, some monthly amounts and number of months (pensions).
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 ...).