## 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, employment, financial and housing aspects.

**Survey structure**: Cross-sectional and partly longitudinal

**Frequency**: Every 2 years

**Survey year / Wave**: 2010 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**: Initial sample (1987): 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 (self-representing 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. Current sample: The actual sample interviewed is equal to 7,951 households and is composed of 4,625 panel households interviewed for 2008 survey and 3,326 non-panel households (among them 43 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 2008 survey (panel municipalities); resident households that had participated in the earlier 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 387 municipalities.

**Sampling frame**: Municipal registry office records

**Final sample size**: 7,951 households containing 19,836 individuals

### Collection

**Collection period**: January to September 2011

**Instruments and main contents**: Data were collected mainly with the aid of computers, using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing program (CAPI). Interviews were conducted mainly using the CAPI method (84.4%). 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, either on expectations and financial information or on social capital, 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 2010 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 2010 are included but children born in 2011.

**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 52.7% as 15,085 families have been contacted to obtain 7,951 interviews. The response rate was higher for panel households (82.7%) than for non-panel ones (35%). The most common reason for non-participation was unwillingness on the part of the household, which accounted for 38.3% of failed interviews, while 9% 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 2010, with respect to the situation in most of 2010

**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 2010.

**Unit of collection**: Most 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.

**Cross/net**: Incomes are reported net of taxes and social contributions. Data on net personal income taxes and social security contributions were imputed by the Bank of Italy and provided to LIS.