

Original survey information, *United Kingdom 2007*

Generic information	
Name of survey	Family Resources Survey (FRS)
Responsible institution	Commissioned by Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen).
Main objective	Modelling Social Security benefit entitlement is central to many of the DWP uses of FRS information. The data collected reflects this, focusing on income, including receipt of social security benefits, housing costs and circumstances of household members, such as whether someone gives or receives care or has childcare costs.
Structure of data source	Cross-sectional.
Frequency	Yearly
Survey year / Wave	2007-2008 survey
Coverage	Private households in the United Kingdom (incl. area to the North of the Caledonian Canal and all of the Scottish Highlands and Islands, as well as Northern Ireland).
Sampling	
Sampling procedure	Great Britain: stratified two-phase clustered probability sample: first, postcode sectors (PSU), stratified according to region, socio-economic group, economic activity rate and male unemployment rate, are selected (one half of the PSUs are retained from one sample year to the other to ensure comparability); then, addresses selected from each sector using Royal Mail's small users Postcode Address File (PAF). Northern Ireland: simple random sample drawn from all private addresses included in the Valuation and Lands Agency (VLA) property database, stratified into three regions (Belfast, East of Northern Ireland and West of Northern Ireland).
Sample size	24,977 households
Collection	
Collection period	Between April 2007 and March 2008.
Collection mode	CAPI
Description of instruments	The questionnaire is divided into three parts: (1) <i>Household Questionnaire</i> : household schedule (addressed to one person in the household - usually the household reference person, although other members are encouraged to be present) for household level information such as relationships of individuals to each other, tenure and housing costs. (2) <i>Benefit Unit questionnaire</i> : individual schedule (addressed to each adult) about employment, benefits and tax credits, pensions, investments and other income; information on children in the household is collected by proxy from a responsible adult. (3) <i>Assets Questionnaire</i> : value of investments for relevant respondents. Separate questionnaires exist for Northern Ireland.
Definitions	
Household	A single person or group of people living at the same address who either share one meal a day or share the living accommodation, i.e. a living room.
Household head	Main income earner.
Data quality aspects	
Non-response error	42%.
Item non-response / imputation	Total imputation (closing down routes, hotdecking, algorithms, mopping-up) for variables, which are components of key derived variables, such as total household income and housing costs, and areas key to the work of the Department, such as benefit receipt.
Weighting	Grossing factor that yields estimates for the overall population (with controls for variables at both household level and benefit unit level).
Labour market information	
Eligibility	Individuals aged 16 or more.
Employment	Any work or any attachment to a job during the last week.
Income	
Reference period	Different reference periods: for most regular incomes it is the period covering the last payment received, for less regular ones it is either the last 6 or the last 12 months.
Unit of time	Any period between one week and last 12 months. All amounts delivered by the data provider are weekly amounts. Lump sums are separately marked.
Unit of collection	Individual for most income sources (pension, job, type of benefit, accounts, etc.). Household mostly for items relating to the dwelling (rent, Council Tax, etc.).
Taxes and contributions	Amounts are collected gross of taxes and contributions together with detailed info on taxes and contributions.
Restrictions	-
Additional remarks	
Additional remarks	-

Source: [1] Department for work and Pensions (2009) *Family Resources Survey - United Kingdom 2007-08*.