

Original survey information, *United Kingdom 1979*

Generic information	
Name of survey	Family Expenditure Survey (FES)
Responsible institution	Department of Employment and Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, Social Survey Division.
Main objective	The original purpose was to collect expenditure data for weights for the (consumer) retail price index; and for national accounts estimates of consumers' expenditure. Income data are used to identify "Index households" for the retail price index. To provide information on spending patterns for the Retail Prices Index, for analysis of expenditure and income distributions, characteristics of individuals at various positions in the distribution, tax benefit modelling, effects of taxes and benefits.
Structure of data source	Continuous cross-sectional survey.
Frequency	Annual (since 1957).
Survey year / Wave	1979 survey
Coverage	Private households in the United Kingdom. Resident domestic servants are included.
Sampling	
Sampling procedure	Great Britain: a four stage, stratified, rotating sample design is employed. The primary sampling units (PSU) are administrative areas of Great Britain; the secondary units are wards; and the third stage units are addresses within selected wards which are drawn from electoral registers maintained for Parliamentary and Local Government elections. For the fourth and final stage the interviewer uses the selected addresses to obtain the desired sample of households. Northern Ireland: three stage sample design.
Sample size	6,777 households.
Collection	
Collection period	Calendar year 1979; interviews are spread evenly throughout the year.
Collection mode	PAPI
Description of instruments	Three survey instruments are used in the FES: - <i>Household Schedule</i> : Information for most of the questions obtained from the head of household or housewife, but certain questions of a more individual character put to every spender aged 16 or over. Information collected about the household, the sex and age of each member, and also details about the type and size of the household accommodation. The main part of the questionnaire related to expenditure both of a household and individual nature, but the questions were mainly confined to expenses of a recurring nature. - <i>Income Schedule</i> : Data collected for each household spender. The schedule concerned with income, national insurance contributions and income tax. Income of a child not classed as a spender obtained from one or other of his parents and entered on the parent's questionnaire. Information collected included: employment status and recent absences from work, earnings of an employee, self-employed earnings, National Insurance contributions, pensions and other regular allowances, occasional benefits - social security benefits and other types, investment income, miscellaneous earnings of a 'once-only' character, tax paid directly to Inland Revenue or refunded, income of a child. - <i>Diary Records</i> : The diary covered 14 days. Each household member aged 16 or over was asked to record all expenditure made during the 14 days.
Definitions	
Household	A household comprises one person living alone; or a group of people living at the same address having meals prepared together and with common housekeeping.
Household head	The head of household must be a member of that household. He or she is the person, or the husband of the person, who: 1. owns the household accommodation, or 2. is legally responsible for the rent of the accommodation, or 3. has the household accommodation as an emolument or perquisite, or 4. has the household accommodation by virtue of some relationship to the owner who is not a member of the household. When two members of different sex have equal claim, the male is taken as head of household. When two members of the same sex have equal claim, the elder is taken as head of household.
Data quality aspects	
Non-response error	The overall response rate to the survey was approximately 68%.
Item non-response / imputation	-
Weighting	Survey weights have not been assigned in the FES. However, the sample design is theoretically intended to be selfweighting, but in practice this is not completely realized due to deficiencies in the data available for units listed in the sampling frames.
Labour market information	
Eligibility	Individuals aged 16 and older.
Employment	ILO employment status, and some job characteristics of the main job.
Income	
Reference period	1979
Unit of time	Sources and amounts of income are recorded for a two week period. The amounts recorded were the actual amounts received.
Unit of collection	Income sources and amounts are recorded for all persons receiving income.
Taxes and contributions	Income tax information is available.
Restrictions	-
Additional remarks	
Additional remarks	-

Source: [1] Department of Employment, Family Expenditure Survey, 1979. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive [distributor], August 1993. SN: 3056, <http://dx.doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-3056-1>.