

Original survey information, *United Kingdom 1995*

<b>Generic information</b>	
Name of survey	Family Expenditure Survey (FES)
Responsible institution	Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS).
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	1995-1996 survey
Coverage	Private households in the United Kingdom: population of United Kingdom, with the exception of: Scottish Islands and northern Highlands (i.e. <0.3% of population), homeless people, people in care or nursing homes; or in hospital for > 1 month; people in hostels/halls of residence (students, nurses etc.); children's homes; military, police, their families, civilians living in military installations; foreign armed forces, diplomats etc; prisoners.
<b>Sampling</b>	
Sampling procedure	Great Britain: multi-stage stratified clustered random sample (with clustering at the final stage) drawn from the small users file of the Postcode Address File - the Post Office's list of addresses. Northern Ireland: random sample from addresses from Rating and Valuation lists (these are local government property registers).
Sample size	6,797 households.
<b>Collection</b>	
Collection period	For the first time in 1995/96, the FES is conducted on a financial year basis (April 1995 to March 1996).
Collection mode	Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI)
Description of instruments	There are three questionnaires: - <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. Children aged between 7 and 15 were also asked to complete simplified diaries of their daily expenditure.
<b>Definitions</b>	
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. Resident domestic servants are included.
Household head	Person, or the husband of the person who: a. owns the household accommodation, or b. is legally responsible for the rent of the accommodation, or c. has the household accommodation as an emolument or perquisite, or d. 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.
<b>Data quality aspects</b>	
Non-response error	The response rate was 48.4% in Great Britain and 60.6% in Northern Ireland.
Item non-response / imputation	-
Weighting	The initial set of weights is derived from the Census nonresponse study. The population controls are by five-year age bands, except for young people where the bands are 10-15, 16-17 and 18-19, and for the 85 and over who are consolidated into one band. The control totals are the Government Actuary's Department's estimates for the mid-year population, adjusted to allow for the nonhousehold population. The adjustment factors are calculated from the proportion living in private households for each age/sex band in the 1991 Census.
<b>Labour market information</b>	
Eligibility	Individuals aged 16 and older.
Employment	ILO employment definition.
<b>Income</b>	
Reference period	Financial year 1995-96. Income data are mainly current. Self-employment income is based on the most recent period for which figures are available; in some cases this may be several years prior to the interview.
Unit of time	Information on earnings, pensions and benefits is asked for referring to the last pay period (week, 4-week, month, etc.). Information collected allows calculation of both 'current' and 'usual' earnings and an estimate of annual earnings. Investment income and self-employment income are typically measured over a 12-month retrospective period.
Unit of collection	Individual for most income sources (household for those items strictly relating to the dwelling, such as rent, Council Tax, charges, income from subletting)
Taxes and contributions	Amounts are collected gross of taxes and contributions together with detailed info on taxes and contributions.
Restrictions	-
<b>Additional remarks</b>	
Additional remarks	-

Source: [1] Robustness Assessment Report on Income Distribution Data for the United Kingdom. Margaret Frosztega, Social Security Department DSS. [2] Family Expenditure Survey User Documentation 1995/96.