



Household Budget Survey

Description

Conducting the Household Budget Survey each year allows the following objectives to be reached:

- regular updates of the basket of commodities listed in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in line with current consumer behaviour in order to adjust market trends accordingly
- regular reporting on consumer behaviour and the income of private households in Switzerland
- highly detailed presentation of the various aspects of the household budget such as expenditure, income and savings.

Available since 1990

Two major Household Budget Surveys were conducted in 1990 and 1998. Since 2000, the survey is conducted on a continuous basis.

Features registered:

The statistical population is made up of the permanent resident population in Switzerland. The survey unit is the private household.

Detailed record of the household's expenditure and income. The results are published annually in the form of standard tables. By grouping three years together, the number of observations and the quality of estimators are sufficient to show data by sub-group as well

[02–04] geographical units: major region, linguistic region and large cantons

[11–13] by individual aspects: age group, income and household type and also the following cross-referenced tables

[21–23] persons living alone, by age and income group

[31–33] couples without children, by age and income group

[41–43] couples with children, by age group of eldest child, income group and number of children.

Methodology

Survey based on a random sample stratified by Switzerland's seven major regions. About 3000 households take part each year. They are chosen randomly from the FSO random sample register. The Household Budget Survey is conducted by means of telephone interviews and written questionnaires.

Degree of regionalisation:

Major regions

Periodicity:

Annual

Reference period:

Calendar year

Statistical quality of data:

To determine the average income and expenditure of all private households resident in Switzerland, data for the households in the sample are weighted to take the following into account:

first, the probability of being included (probability of a household being selected in the FSO's sampling register),
 second, the probability of response according to certain household characteristics, and
 third, a calibration process to correct the weight of responding households so that the distribution of the people who make up these households reflects their actual distribution in the population. This calibration also ensures that the estimated volume of household income corresponds to the volume of income of the household population inferred from the registers.

This three-tier weighting method offsets most of the distortion associated with the non-response of households. The EBM results extrapolated using this weighting are therefore based on a realistic private household structure that is representative of the population permanently residing in Switzerland.

Response rate: Around 30%

Revision policy

Routine revision

None

Revision to methodology

Revisions to the methodology are carried out as necessary.

2021: Revision of data collection and processing in the health care sector

The paper questionnaires are adapted to incorporate all information relevant to the health care in a single chapter.

In addition, from 2021 onwards, all medical prescription expenditure and reimbursements are collected over a six-month period (the month of the survey and the previous five months), regardless of the amount, and a monthly average is calculated.

2019: Revision of the weighting model 20

The new model uses important additional variables to correct for non-response, such as household composition and income. The results have been recalculated with the new weighting up until 2015.

2008: Change of name to "Household Budget Survey (HBS)"

2006: Revision of content and process improvement

With this revision, it is possible to calculate the amounts saved by adding household incomes and deducting expenditure.

2003: Revision of the weighting model

A new weighting model is introduced, which includes a correction stage to ensure that the structure of the weighted sample is as close as possible to that of the population. This provides a significant gain in terms of quality for the estimated expenditure and income. This new method also makes it possible to group data from several years together to analyse population groups whose size - when only one year is considered - is insufficient to obtain reliable results.

2000: Annual income and consumption survey (ICS)

Legal bases

Swiss Federal Ordinance of 30 June 1993 on Federal Statistical Surveys (SR 431.012.1)

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office (FSO), Income, Consumption and Living Conditions Section, and Population Section, in cooperation with DemoSCOPE Adligenswil

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