



Household Budget Survey

Description

Conducting the Household Budget Survey each year allows:

- 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
- yearly publications on consumer behaviour and the income of private households in Switzerland

Available since:

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

Features registered:

Permanent resident population in Switzerland. The survey unit is the private household.

Details relating to households and income. Standard assessments based on the following variables:

- socio-economic category of reference person
- size and type of household
- major region and linguistic region
- income bracket
- age and gender of reference person
- status of household occupants (tenant, owner)

Methodology

Random survey, spread out across the seven major regions of Switzerland. 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:

Weighting: Household data is weighted according to the including probability as well as taking into account certain other variables which may lead to a household not taking part in the survey. Finally, a calibration method based on the known distribution of the Swiss population is applied. These three levels of weighting enable us to compensate for a possible bias in the selection of households. The HBS results are therefore based on a household structure which accurately represents the permanent resident population in Switzerland. Response rate: about 30%.

Revision:

1990: Consumer expenditure survey (VE)

1998: Income and consumer expenditure survey (EVE)

2000: Annual income and consumer expenditure survey (EVE)

2003: Revision of weighting model

2006: Revision of contents and process optimisation

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

Legal bases

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

Organization

Federal Statistical Office (FSO), field work carried out by DemoSCOPE Adligenswil

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Information on FSO surveys for science and research:
http://compass.unil.ch/FORS_COMPASS/spip.php?lang=en
Communication Portal for Accessing Social Statistics (COMPASS)
