

Second Meeting of the 2011/2012 Bureau
Geneva, Switzerland, 2-3 November 2011

For discussion and recommendations

Item 2(c) of the Provisional
Agenda

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY METHODS IN UKRAINE

Prepared by the State Statistical Service of Ukraine

1. The State Statistical Service of Ukraine regularly conducts three sample surveys of population (households): household living conditions survey (HLCS), survey of economic activity of population (SEAP), and survey of agricultural activity of population in rural areas (SAAP). They include specially tailored survey modules carried out either with a fixed periodicity or on a one-off basis.
2. Over the past 15 years, the State Statistical Service of Ukraine has intensively developed sample methods for household surveys. Since 2004, there has been a system-wide approach to conducting such surveys in Ukraine. The system provides the statisticians with a common methodological framework and coordinates the technique of producing regional and household samples. It guides the use of the common framework for regional samples and the activity of the network of the trained full-time interviewers. It also coordinates other matters pertaining to survey methodology, harmonization of selected indicators and quality control of the work of interviewers during all surveys, etc.
3. To undertake a household survey the system produces several types of samples, including the probable, stratified, multi-staged and regional samples. In cities, a three-staged sample is produced, while in rural areas, a two-staged one.
4. The regional sampling frame is updated every five years. As a sampling frame, the most updated information base, i.e. either data from the population census or data from election campaigns, is used. Stratification takes into account the administrative and territorial division of the country. When producing the primary and secondary stages of selection (PSU) the selection with probability proportional to size (PPS) method is used; when producing samples of household addresses the method of systematic selection is employed.
5. Each of the three basic surveys uses independent samples of respondents. The sample frame of household addresses is updated annually prior to launching the selection procedure. The HLCS and SAAP apply full annual rotation of households, while SEAP uses a partial rotation of households according to a schedule 3-9-3. This means that the household participates in survey for three months, then there is a break of nine months and again it participates for three months. The size of the household survey is as follows: 13 thousand per year for HLCS, 29.2 thousand per year for SAAP and 16.6 thousand per month for SEAP.
6. The missing information is imputed by mathematical methods. Also, to minimize the refusals of respondents from participating in the household surveys, the State Statistical

Service holds regular training seminars for interviewers on techniques which facilitate the motivation of respondents and increase the response rate in surveys. In HLCS, in order to raise the motivation in selected surveys, the respondents receive a small money compensation for the time spent. The participation rate of households in surveys is rather high and reaches (using the example of 2010) 81.4 per cent for HLCS, 94.5 per cent for SAAP and 84.3 per cent for SEAP.

7. The household living conditions survey is the main information base for the comprehensive research of living standards of different social groups of the population. It measures issues related to poverty and differences among the population groups by the level of wellbeing. Data derived from this survey are used by the national accounts, to compile the consumer price index, for the programme for social protection of the population, etc.

8. For this survey, a household is surveyed each quarter of a year. All together five interviews are conducted; the first one is the initial interview which is complemented by four quarterly interviews. All interviews are conducted by personal visits of the interviewer to the respondents. In addition, the respondent records the current household expenses into a diary brought by the interviewer. The interviewer instructs the respondent in filling in the diary and, afterwards verifies it with the respondent and then transfers it to the regional office of the State Statistical Service. Each household fills in two weekly diaries of current household expenses for each quarter, which makes eight diaries per year for each participating household.

9. The collection of information is carried out using paper forms: diaries, questionnaires and enquiry forms. Until recently, introduction of other data collection methods has been a problem due to the insufficient rate of telephone and Internet penetration, especially in the rural areas. Currently, 15 per cent of households have stationary telephones in villages and six per cent of them have access to the Internet.

10. The applied survey methodology and programme are harmonized with the Eurostat recommendations for the household budget survey, Household Budget Surveys in the EU. Methodology and Recommendation for Harmonization (2003).

11. The HLCS is a platform for continuous thematic modules which are based on special questionnaires on:

(a) Access to selected goods and services: This module is conducted once every two years. It measures how the general public perceives the characteristics of poverty, and collects information on deprivation among households relating to the possibilities to satisfy not only the minimum physiological needs but also the needs for personal development and a certain level of amenities;

(b) Self-assessment of household members' health and access to selected types of medical services: The module collects data on the rate of access to medicine, medical equipment and services as well as on the reasons for which they may be inaccessible. It also measures the subjective perceptions of health, frequency of getting sick and its impact on daily working capacity and vitality, incidences of chronic diseases, cases and causes for seeking medical advice and treatment. Furthermore, it collects the number of births to women aged 15 and more and, for instance, data on smoking prevalence;

(c) Availability and characteristics of household durables is measured once every two years. This module collects data on household appliances, cultural goods, transportation means, etc.;

(d) Self-assessment of income: This module is included in the survey each year. It collects information on the personal assessment of the sufficiency of the income level of the household. The respondents are asked to estimate the household poverty line and the income level which in their opinion corresponds to the middle class. Then they should identify the income class to which the respondents' household belongs to (the wealthy, middle class, not poor but not middle class, poor), etc. It also addresses the possible issues of restricted consumption possibilities;

(e) Access to the Internet: This module is included in the survey each year. The purpose of this module is to provide the users with data on the penetration rate of the Internet services, the access point to the Internet and the main purposes of using the Internet during the last 12 months.

12. Within a World Bank Project on the Improvements to System for Social Aid, in 2009-2010, a module was conducted, as part of the HLCS, to estimate the effectiveness of the social aid system in Ukraine. This module is planned to be carried out regularly, once every three years.

13. To reduce the burden on the respondents the thematic modules are rotated and alternated among the different quarterly interviews.

14. To generalize the obtained results over the total population, i.e. to all households, a statistical weighting system is applied. This system is designed to compensate for non-response and reconcile the results derived from the sample survey with external information. This includes data from demographic statistics on the total population and its distribution by region as well as by sex and age. To this end, the statistical weights reflecting the sample design apply a calibration procedure. The system of weights for households and persons is a result of this calibration.

15. In the future, the State Statistical Service aims to introduce statistical and mathematical methods in order to raise the reliability of poverty indicators by regions in Ukraine.

16. To get a comprehensive idea of the economic activity rate of population the labor force survey is carried out as a sample survey of the population (households). It collects data on matters pertaining to economic activity, including employment, unemployment and the economic activity rate.

17. The methodology of the survey is based on the main concepts and definitions of the International Labor Organization of the 13th international conference of labor statisticians on 29 October 1982, the provisions of the EU Regulation 577 on Organizing Labor Force Survey in the Community of 9 March 1998. The survey takes into account the details of the national legislation and legal environment in general.

18. The survey targets the population aged 15-70 who reside in the households selected to the sample.

19. Information is filled in on paper forms and collected during the reference week which includes the 15th day of the month.
20. A statistical weighting system is applied to get an estimate of the basic indicators of economic activity and its characteristics over the total population. This system takes into account the sample design, corrects for non-response and harmonizes the results with data from demographic statistics on the number and sex and age composition of the population.
21. The labor force survey also provides a platform for conducting thematic module surveys. The ILO has several times involved the State Statistical Service of Ukraine in developing the methodology for statistical measurement of the following issues:
 - (a) Employment in the informal sector (1997);
 - (b) Measuring child labor (1999);
 - (c) Decent labor indicators (2003).
22. In addition, a national module to measure labor migration was carried out in 2008. The survey measured the qualitative and quantitative characteristics of labor migrants. It aimed at developing new national methodology for measuring labor migration.
23. The plans for improving the information base of the labor force survey include:
 - (a) Using statistical and mathematical methods to improve the reliability of estimates of employment and unemployment at sub-regional level by using additional data sources;
 - (b) Developing methodology to estimate labor migration on the basis of the thematic survey module, including improved measurement of informal employment;
 - (c) Conducting thematic survey modules within the framework of labor force surveys according to Eurostat recommendations.
24. Since 2000, the State Statistical Service has carried out a national sample survey of the agricultural activity of the population (SAAP). Its objective is to estimate the volume of production and sales of agricultural products produced by households and the availability of selected types of products.
25. This survey covers all administrative rural districts in Ukraine. The total population consists of households that have land and reside on the territory of the rural communities.
26. The annual cycle of the survey covers 12 months starting from May of the current year. The households are approached by trained staff who carries out the personal interviews. The interviews make use of two paper questionnaires: the base interview, which is conducted once to know about the potential for agricultural production in the household, and the monthly interview which collects the actual data on the current agricultural activity.
27. To gross-up the results to the total population a statistical weighting system is applied. It takes into account the probability of inclusion of households into the sample, the actual level of their participation in the survey and reconciles the results with external information. The procedure of calibrating weights is used.