

QUALITY REPORT FOR STATISTICAL SURVEY
Household Budget Survey (HBS)
for 2019

Organisational unit: Living conditions and Economic Activity of Population Statistics
Department, Living Conditions Statistics Unit

Prepared by: Andreja Pajtak

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0. Basic information

- Purpose, goal, and subject of the survey

The goal of the Household Budget Survey is to obtain data on the amount and structure of household consumption expenditures.

The data obtained in the Survey are used to update and construct weights for the national consumer price index. Furthermore, data on the structure of household consumption expenditure are used for the needs of the National Accounts Department, in the calculation of final household consumption, in the calculation of imputed housing rent and for the assessment of data on the grey economy.

Survey data are used in the preparation of analyses and studies on the living standard of the population, in measuring poverty, in the analysis of consumer habits of the population, etc.

- Reference period

Calendar year

- Legal acts and other agreements

The Household Budget Survey is carried out on the basis of the following national legal acts:

- Official Statistics Act (OG, Nos 103/03, 75/09, 59/12 and 12/13 – consolidated text)
- Programme of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia 2018 – 2020 (OG, No. 31/18)
- Annual Implementation Plan of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia.

At the European level, the Survey is conducted on the basis of the Gentlemen's agreement between the Member States of the European Union and Eurostat. Eurostat prepares methodological recommendations for the conduct of the survey and implementation of harmonised definition of variables and international classifications in order to make the survey data comparable at the level of EU Member States.

- Classification system

Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose 2012

National Classification of Activities, 2007 version (OG, Nos 58/07 and 72/07)

National Classification of Occupations, 2010 version (OG, No. 147/10)

Classification of Spatial Units for Statistics 2012 (OG, Nos 96/12 and 102/12)

International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011)

- Concepts and definitions

The reporting unit for which data are collected and published is a household. Household is every family or other community of individuals who live together and spend their income together in order to meet the basic existential needs (food, accommodation, etc.).

Household consumption expenditures refer to financial and natural consumption of products and services used for meeting existential needs of household members. Consumption in cash means the purchase of goods and services in the country or abroad for the personal needs of

the household. Consumption in kind refers to the value of agricultural food products and beverages produced by a household on its farm or in an enterprise and consumed for its own needs.

The structure of the household consumption expenditures is observed according to the international classification COICOP, which classifies them into 12 main divisions: 01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages, 02 Alcoholic beverages and tobacco, 03 Clothing and footwear, 04 Housing and energy consumption, 05 Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house, 06 Health, 07 Transport, 08 Communication, 09 Recreation and culture, 10 Education, 11 Restaurants and hotels, 12 Miscellaneous goods and services. Each division is further broken down into groups, classes and categories.

A reference person is designated in each interviewed household. According to the methodology, it is a person who contributes the most to the household budget, that is, whose income is used for paying the majority of household expenditures. The socio-economic characteristics, activity status, sex, age and other characteristics of the reference person are used for the analysis and classification of households, for estimations of consumption expenditures and for the presentation of results. Therefore, the designation of the reference person is very important because his or her characteristics are taken to represent the household as a whole.

- Statistical units

Reporting units are private households, selected by using the random sample method.

- Statistical population

The target population is private households.

Household is every family or other community of individuals who live together and spend their income together in order to meet the basic existential needs (food, accommodation, etc.).

The survey does not cover collective or institutional households (such as retirement homes, hospitals for long-term treatment, prisons, monasteries, etc.), and neither does it cover expenditure of foreign tourists.

1. Relevance

1.1. Data users

Users of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics: Price Statistics Department, National Accounts Department

National users: scientific research institutes, ministries, institutions, the media, legal entities and public

International users: Eurostat, other international organisations and institutions, scientific research institutes and universities, etc.

1.1.1. User needs

Price Statistics Department: for computing and updating weights for the consumer price index

National Accounts Department: for calculation of the final household consumption, at computing imputed housing rent and for estimating grey economy data

State authorities: for monitoring the economic and social living conditions of households; for forming various measures in the domains of economy and social policy

Scientists: for preparing analyses and studies on the living standard of the population, measuring poverty, monitoring consumer habits, etc.

1.1.2. User satisfaction

The user satisfaction survey is not carried out.

1.2. Completeness

The Survey is in line with the Eurostat's methodological recommendations and international standards and classifications, and covers all recommended household consumption expenditure variables.

1.2.1. Data completeness rate

Data completeness rate is 100%.

2. Accuracy and reliability

2.1. Sampling error

The sampling error shows the precision of estimates of sample-based population parameters. As it is a random sample, the assessment of the accuracy of estimate is given in the form of coefficients of variation, standard errors and confidence intervals for the most important variables.

2.1.1. Sampling error indicators

Sampling error indicators for selected variables:

Statistic	Domain	Domain value	Notice	Value
Consumption expenditure, total	Republic of Croatia	Republic of Croatia	Coefficient of variation, %	2.1
01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages	Republic of Croatia	Republic of Croatia		2.0
02 Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	Republic of Croatia	Republic of Croatia		4.6
03 Clothing and footwear	Republic of Croatia	Republic of Croatia		4.5
04 Housing and energy consumption	Republic of Croatia	Republic of Croatia		1.9
05 Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	Republic of Croatia	Republic of Croatia		5.4
06 Health	Republic of Croatia	Republic of Croatia		6.3
07 Transport	Republic of Croatia	Republic of Croatia		4.9
08 Communication	Republic of Croatia	Republic of Croatia		2.1
09 Recreation and culture	Republic of Croatia	Republic of Croatia		3.8
10 Education	Republic of Croatia	Republic of Croatia		11.7
11 Restaurants and hotels	Republic of Croatia	Republic of Croatia		5.0
12 Miscellaneous goods and services	Republic of Croatia	Republic of Croatia		3.0

2.2. Non-sampling error

Non-sampling errors include all other errors, which are not related to a sample selection, such as coverage errors, measurement errors, processing errors and non-response errors.

2.2.1. Coverage error

Coverage errors occur by aberrations from the sample frame, which was based in carrying out the 2019 Survey on the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Croatia in 2011 data.

Coverage errors are measured by the over-coverage rate, which represents a share of sample units that are not a part of the target population.

2.2.2. Over-coverage rate

Over-coverage rate is 13%

The over-coverage rate is a share of sample units that are not a part of the target population (occupied dwellings). It means that these units do not exist anymore, they are not occupied or they are not intended for permanent residence (business spaces, summer houses, etc.).

2.2.3. Measurement errors

Measurement errors are considered all errors that can emerge during the collection or entering data into survey forms or in programme application of the questionnaire. There is a tendency to minimise such errors by correctly defining the survey questionnaire, by regular training of interviewers, by applying adequate data collection method and by checking the collected survey data during and after fieldwork. The checking of collected survey data includes a detailed accounting and logical data checks, value checks by ranges, checks of minimum and maximum values, checks of possible answers, logical links between individual answers, and the like.

2.2.4. Non-response errors

Non-response errors refer to information on how many statistical units did not respond to the questionnaire, i.e. on the number of households that did not accept participation in the Survey.

In 2019, the non-response rate at the household level was 62%.

2.2.5. Unit non-response rate

Unweighted non-response rate is 62%.

Non-response rate represents how many statistical units did not respond to the questionnaire, while in this case it represents the number of households that did not accept participation in the Survey.

The weighted non-response rate is not computed.

2.2.6. Item non-response rate

The indicator is not computed.

2.2.7. Processing errors

During data processing, detailed logical and accounting check of all responses is done, such as logical and accounting checks of all expenditure input values, checks of input values by ranges, checks of possible answers, logical checks of economic activity of persons, as well as codes of activities and occupations, logical checks of data on educational status of persons, etc.

2.2.8. Imputation rate

The indicator is not computed.

2.2.9. Model assumption error

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.3. Data revision

2.3.1. Data revision – policy

The users are informed about revision of statistical data (e.g., preliminary, final data) on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

2.3.2. Data revision – practice

Provisional figures are not published for the HBS survey and therefore, there are no data revisions.

2.3.3. Data revision – average size

The indicator is not applicable.

2.4. Seasonal adjustment

Not applicable.

3. Timeliness and punctuality

3.1. Timeliness

The Survey results are released 15 months after the end of the reference period to which the data relate.

According to the Calendar of Statistical Data Issues, the results for the HBS 2019 survey were published in the First Release of 31 March 2021.

3.1.1. Timeliness – first results

The indicator is not applicable.

3.1.2. Timeliness – final results

Timeliness of final results is T + 15 (number of months after the end of the reference period).

3.2. Punctuality

Punctuality is defined as a period from the actual publishing date and the target publishing date according to the Calendar of Statistical Data Issues.

All publications planned for the HBS 2019 Survey have been released in line with the Calendar of Statistical Data Issues.

3.2.1. Punctuality – delivery and publication

Punctuality – delivery and publication is 1.

4. Accessibility and clarity

Survey results are available in paper and electronic form as well as on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

4.1. News release

Title of the First Release: Basic Characteristics of Household Consumption

4.2. Online database

Not available.

4.3. Microdata access

Conditions under which certain users can have access to microdata are regulated by the Ordinance on the Conditions and Manner of Use of Statistical Data for Scientific Purposes.

4.4. Documentation on methodology

Basic notes on methodology make part of every First Release and Statistical Report, while detailed information on the survey methodology are issued in the methodological handbook for the Household Budget Survey, which is available on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, on the link https://web.dzs.hr/Hrv/publication/metodologije/metod_72.pdf

Eurostat's methodological publications are available on the link <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/household-budget-surveys/overview>

5. Coherence and comparability

5.1. Asymmetry for mirror flows statistics

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

5.2. Comparability over time

Time series are available from 1998 to 2011, 2014, 2017 and 2019, bearing in mind that, while comparing data, there were changes in the sample frame and in the international Classification of individual consumption by purpose.

5.2.1. Length of comparable time series

Length of comparable time series is 17.

The HBS data series is available for the years from 1998 to 2011, 2014, 2017 and 2019.

5.2.2. Reasons for break in time series

Due to the changes in the HBS data collection periodicity from annual to multiannual, annual data series is available for the period from 1998 to 2011. After that, the Survey was carried out in 2014, 2017 and 2019. Consequently, the data are available for these years. In the course of years, the sample frame has changed and also there were minor changes within groups of the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose. Data collection methods have also changed in that, until 2014, data were collected by using the PAPI method – printed questionnaires and diaries, while, since 2017, the CAPI and PAPI methods have been combined – a part of the data is collected using laptops and the other part by using printed diaries. Users are informed about these changes in the notes on methodology.

5.3. Coherence – short-term and structural data

The indicator is not applicable.

5.4. Coherence – national accounts

The indicator is not applicable.

5.5. Coherence – administrative sources

The indicator is not applicable.

6. Cost and burden

6.1. Cost

The costs related to the collection and production of statistics include costs of methodological and technical preparation for the survey, IT equipment, training of interviewers, costs of external and internal interviewers, costs of data processing and releasing of results. All costs are financed from the state budget.

Costs for external interviewers, engaged on the basis of a contractual agreement, amounted to about 373 000 kuna.

Households that accepted to participate in the Survey were awarded with a token cash compensation. Household costs amounted to 271 350 kuna.

6.2. Burden

The collection of survey data was conducted by a combination of the following two methods:

- 1) Interviewing – conducted by an interviewer, who uses a laptop to record information
- 2) Self-recording of information – the respondent records information into a diary.

The interview conducted by the interviewer collects information on the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of household members, detailed information on the amount and structure of expenditure by purpose and information on housing conditions. The interview lasts an average of 45 minutes per household.

The diary collects information on daily household expenditure on food, beverages, tobacco and consumer goods (e.g., newspapers and magazines, personal hygiene products and regular cleaning products). Households keep the diary for a period of fourteen days.

Given that questions in the interview are very extensive as well as that the household's obligation to record daily expenses, participation in the Survey is a heavy burden and extremely demanding for households.