



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
CROATIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS



**QUALITY REPORT FOR STATISTICAL SURVEY
Household Budget Survey (HBS)
for 2022**

Organisation unit: Living Conditions Statistics Unit
Prepared by: Andreja Pajtak

November, 2024

0. Basic information

- Purpose, goal, and subject of the survey

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

Data obtained from the Survey is used for updating and constructing of weights for national consumer price index. Furthermore, the data on the structure of household consumption expenditure is used for the needs of national accounts, i.e. for calculating of final household consumption, for calculating of imputed housing rents and for assessment of data on grey economy.

Survey data are used for analyses and studies on living standards in population, measuring poverty, analyses of consumer habits and so on.

- Reference period

Calendar year

- Legal acts and other agreements

At the national level the Household Budget Survey 2022 is conducted on the basis of the following national legal acts:

- Official Statistics Act (OG, No. 25/20)
- Programme of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia 2021-2027 (OG, No. 29/22)
- Annual Implementation Plan of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia 2022

At the EU level, HBS data collection is carried out on a voluntary basis according to the gentlemen's agreement between the Member States that was reached at the meeting of the Committee for the Statistical Program in 1989, with each country maintaining the aim, purpose, content and frequency of implementation of the Survey according to the national needs. Comparable HBS data by countries are published by Eurostat with a frequency of about every five years according to agreed methodological guidelines and recommendations. National micro data are harmonised according to the list of variables defined by Eurostat which further performs data processing and publishes them in standardised tables. The last wave of HBS data comparison at the EU level was carried out for 2020.

- Classification system

Products and services for the individual consumption of households, in the Survey from 2022 are classified according to international Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose 2018 (COICOP 2018).

Characteristics of economic and educational status of household members are classified according to National Classification of Activities, version 2007 (OG, No. 58/07 and No. 72/07), National Classification of Occupations, 2010 (OG, No. 147/10.) and International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011).

Spatial classifications which are applied in the Survey are National Classification of Statistical regions 2021 (OG, No 125/19), Degree of Urbanisation (DEGURBA), Alphabetical list of countries and their codes - letter codes.

All mentioned classifications are published on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, in the application KLASUS (classification database).

- Statistical concepts and definitions

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

Household consumption expenditures comprise natural and financial consumption of products and services used for meeting existential needs of household members. Monetary household consumption implies the purchase (acquisitions) of products and services in the own country or abroad for personal household needs. Natural consumption refers to value of agricultural food products and beverages that the household has produced on its own farm or in its own business, and have been consumed for the needs of the household.

The structure of consumption expenditures, since 2022 is observed according to the new classification COICOP 2018, by which expenditures are classified into 13 major divisions: 01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages, 02 Alcoholic beverages and tobacco, 03 Clothing and footwear, 04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, 05 Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance, 06 Health, 07 Transport, 08 Information and communication, 09 Recreation, sport and culture, 10 Education services, 11 Restaurants and accommodation services, 12 Insurance and financial services, and 13 Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services. Each division is further divided in the groups, classes and categories.

Reference person that is a head of the household should be designated in each interviewed household. According to the methodology it is a person who contributes most to the household budget, actually it is a person 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 analysis and classification of the households, for estimations of consumption expenditures and for presentations of the results. The determination of the reference person is very important, having in mind that his or her characteristics are taken to represent the household as an entirety.

- Statistical units

The reporting units are private households, selected by random sampling.

- Statistical population

Target population are private households. Household is each family or other community of persons who live together and spend together their income to meet their basic needs (food, housing and so on).

The collective or institutional households (population residing in institutions such as homes for the elderly, hospitals for long-term treatments, prisons, monasteries) as well as the consumption realised by foreign tourists are not included in the Survey.

1. Relevance

1.1 Data users

Users inside the Statistical Office: Price Statistics, National Accounts Statistics.

National users: scientific-research institutes, ministries, media, public.

International users: Eurostat, international organisations and institutions, scientific-research institutes and universities and a like.

1.1.1 User needs

Price Statistics: updating of the weights for the consumer price index.

National Accounts statistics: calculation of final consumption of households, at computing imputed housing rent and for estimating grey economy data.

Government bodies: to monitor 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 first user satisfaction survey of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics was conducted in 2013, the second one in 2015, and the last one at the end of 2022, with a general topic on the work of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics. The survey results can be checked on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics <https://dzs.gov.hr/highlighted-themes/quality/user-satisfactionsurveys/686>

A user satisfaction survey related exclusively to the field of living conditions statistics is not carried out.

1.2. Completeness

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

1.2.1 Data completeness rate

The data completeness rate is: 100%

2. Accuracy and reliability

2.1. Sampling error

The sampling error shows the accuracy of estimating population parameters based on the sample.

As it is a random sample accuracy estimates for the most important variables of consumption expenditures are given in the form of coefficients of variation, standard errors and confidence intervals.

2.1.1 Sampling error indicators

Coefficient of variation for main divisions of consumption expenditures, according to COICOP 2018 classification

Main divisions of consumption expenditures	Domain	Domain value	Value, %
00 Consumption expenditures, total	Republic of Croatia	Annual average per household	2,3
01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages	Republic of Croatia	Annual average per household	2,7
02 Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	Republic of Croatia	Annual average per household	6,0
03 Clothing and footwear	Republic of Croatia	Annual average per household	4,6
04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	Republic of Croatia	Annual average per household	2,1
05 Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	Republic of Croatia	Annual average per household	5,7
06 Health	Republic of Croatia	Annual average per household	5,9
07 Transport	Republic of Croatia	Annual average per household	4,8

Main divisions of consumption expenditures	Domain	Domain value	Value, %
08 Information and communication	Republic of Croatia	Annual average per household	2,4
09 Recreation, sport and culture	Republic of Croatia	Annual average per household	4,9
10 Education services	Republic of Croatia	Annual average per household	13,0
11 Restaurants and accommodation services	Republic of Croatia	Annual average per household	5,7
12 Insurance and financial services	Republic of Croatia	Annual average per household	3,3
13 Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services	Republic of Croatia	Annual average per household	3,7

2.2. Non-sampling error

Non-sampling errors include all other errors not related to the sample selection, such as the coverage error, the measurement error, the data processing error and the non-response error.

2.2.1. Coverage error

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

The sample frame for the 2022 Household Budget Survey was based on the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in 2011 data.

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 error

Measurement errors include all errors that may occur in the process of data collection or data entry into survey forms or questionnaire software applications. Such errors can be minimized by properly defining of the survey questions, regular training of interviewers, implementing of adequate data collection methods, checking built into the electronic questionnaire, checking of the collected data during and after the field work. The checking of collected data includes detailed logical control of data, control of values according to defined ranges, control of minimum and maximum values, logical consistencies between answers and the like.

2.2.4. Non-response error

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 2022, the household non-response rate was 72%.

2.2.5. Unit non-response rate

Unweighted non-response rate is: 72%

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.

Weighted non-response rate is not computed.

2.2.6. Item non-response rate

Indicator was not computed for this survey.

2.2.7. Processing error

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

Indicator was not computed for this survey.

2.2.9. Model assumption error

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.3. Data revision

2.3.1. Data revision – policy

The Household Budget Survey data are published as final data.

The data are published in the first release and other publications of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, and the publication dates are available in the Calendar of Statistical Data Issues. The users of statistical data are informed about revision policy on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, on the link [General Revision Policy of the CBS](#).

2.3.2. Data revision – practice

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

Unplanned revisions that are caused by events that could not be predicted and could not be influenced in advance (for e.g. subsequently identified errors in data processing or in definitions) are disseminated as soon as possible. Each publication of the revised data contains the reasons and explanations for the revision of the data. Users were informed about revision on the web pages of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

2.3.3. Data revision – average size

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.4. Seasonal adjustment

Not applicable.

3. Timeliness and Punctuality

3.1. Timeliness

Timeliness shows the length of time, expressed in number of months, between the end of the reference period to which the data relate and the period of data availability.

3.1.1. Time lag – first results

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

3.1.2. Time lag – final results

Time lag - final results is: T + 16 (number of months after the end of the reference period till the final data release).

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 2022 Survey have been released in line with the Calendar of Statistical Data Issues.

3.2.1. Punctuality – delivery and publication

The Survey results are released 16 months after the end of the reference period to which the data relate. The results of the 2022 HBS survey were published in the First Release of 25 April 2024 according to the Calendar of Statistical Data Issues.

4. Accessibility and clarity

The Survey results are available in printed and electronic form, on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics <https://podaci.dzs.hr/en/statistics/living-conditions-income-and-social-exclusion/>

4.1. News release

First Release: Basic Characteristics of Household Consumption

4.2. On-line database

Not available

4.3. Micro-data access

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics provides scientists and scientific organisations with access to statistical data for the purpose of conducting scientific research activities. Access to data is regulated in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance on Conditions and [Terms of Access and Use of Confidential Statistical Data of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics for Scientific Purposes](#) (NN, No 5/23) and the rules and internal procedures aimed at enabling the application of statistical confidentiality principles.

4.4. Documentation on methodology

Basic methodological explanations are part of every first release, statistical report and series of statistics in line. Detailed description of the national HBS Survey methodology is published in 2013 in the methodological manual for the Household Budget Survey, available on the CBS website, link https://podaci.dzs.hr/media/z33hanpb/metod_72.pdf

Eurostat methodological documents available at link <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/household-budget-surveys/methodology>

More detailed explanations of elements of the COICOP classification (versions COICOP 1999, ECOICOP, COICOP 2018) are available on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, by the KLASUS application.

5. Comparability over time

5.1. Asymmetry for mirror flows statistics

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

5.2. Comparability - over time

The annual series of the HBS data are available for the period from 1998 to 2011. After 2011 the periodicity of the data collection changes from annually to multi-yearly, so accordingly the Survey was conducted in 2014, 2017, 2019 and 2022.

Since 2022, the new COICOP 2018 classification is applied in the Survey so data for 2022 are not directly comparable with the data from previous years.

In addition to changes in the COICOP classification, when comparing HBS data, changes in the sample selection frame should also be taken into account.

5.2.1. Length of comparable time series

The length of comparable time series is the number of reporting periods within time series since the last break. Due to implementation of new COICOP 2018 classification in 2022 which is also the last year for which the Survey was conducted the length of comparable time series is 1.

5.2.2. Reasons for break in time series

The classification COICOP 2018 has been applied in the national HBS survey from 2022. Due to significant changes in the coverage and number of divisions as well as to changes within the groups and classes, data for 2022 are not directly comparable with data from previous years which led to a break in the time series.

5.3. Coherence – subannual and annual statistics

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

5.4. Coherence – national accounts

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

5.5. Coherence – administrative sources

Indicator for this survey 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, data collection costs (external and internal interviewers, incentives for households), 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 405.597,39 kuna (53.832,03 EUR).

Households who participated in the Survey received a monetary incentive of 200 kuna (26,55 EUR) per household. The money is paid by bank transfer to the account of the person who is a member of the surveyed household (head of household or spouse or another adult).

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.