

# Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

## Household Budget Survey 2009/10

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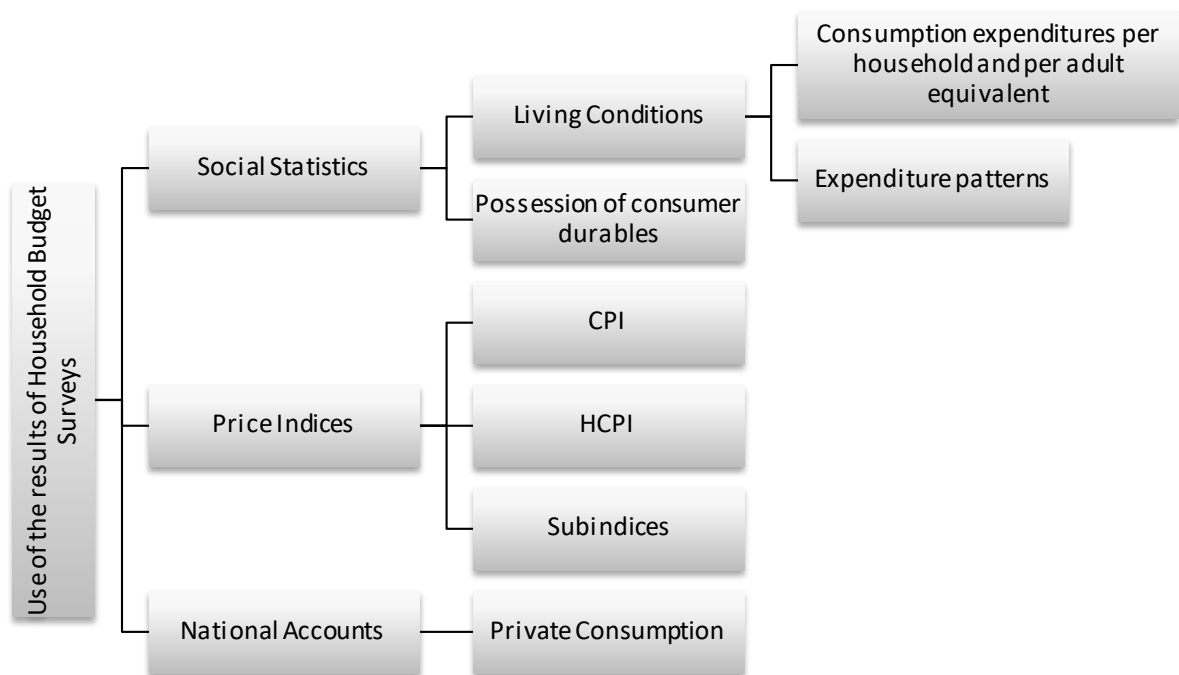
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## Executive Summary

The results of the household budget survey provide information on consumption expenditure, income and equipment of private households in Austria. They present an insight into the consumption behaviour of private households and inform about the standard and conditions of living prevalent in different social groups. Expenditure patterns can be displayed with regard to the different stages of life as well as relating to specific household conditions. Thus, the results are used as basis for analyses on the distribution of consumption expenditure in different household types and sizes as, e.g., households including children, single households or special subpopulations as, e.g. households of the working population or those of retired persons.

Moreover, consumption expenditures and their distribution to individual expenditure groups represent a key source for the weighting of the consumer price index basket of both the national and the European version (ICP/HICP). In National Accounts (SNA), as well, the expenditure data of the household budget survey are used for validating the calculation results of private consumption.



Household budget surveys have a long tradition in Austria. From 1954 to 1993/94 they were carried out in 10-year intervals. In the course of the implementation of European standards, intervals were reduced to 5 years as of the 1999/00 survey. In spite of the continuous performance of the surveys, comparisons with significantly longer periods back into the past are difficult due to considerable methodological differences between the individual surveys.

The current Household Budget Survey 2009/10 was carried out as a private household sample survey from end of April 2009 to the beginning of May 2010. Survey periods were determined at 52 overlapping accounting periods of a fortnight each. Households were randomly selected on the basis of stratified probability samples taken from the Central Register of Residents. Co-operation in the household budget survey was voluntary with every usable survey set being rewarded with an incentive. The net sample comprised 6 534 households, which corresponded to a response rate of 38.1%.

It was the aim of the survey to acquire in detail the expenditure of private households in Austria. For this reason, the selected households were requested to keep diary over their household expenses for a period of two weeks, and to enter into it all the expenses on goods as well as on services received independent of their use or actual utilisation. On the occasion of the

Household Budget Survey 2009/10, households for the first time were in a position to choose between a paper diary and an online diary.

Before and after the two weeks' bookkeeping, information was gathered face to face on the persons living in the household, on the dwelling and its equipment and on the household income. Moreover, in these interviews certain data on expenditure were collected which, on the one hand, were positions indispensable for the calculation of the overall consumption expenditure as, for example, housing expenditure; on the other hand, there were those expenses which usually are paid continuously but at irregular intervals throughout the year (e.g. insurances). In addition, this questionnaire collected expenditure on major purchases as, for example, a car or holiday travels in retrospect for the past twelve months.

All in all, not only current expenses were included in the calculations of the overall consumption expenditure but they also comprised expenditure on major purchases. Furthermore, the annual survey period guaranteed the coverage of seasonally dependent expenses as well as expenditure on certain occasions as, for example, Christmas or the beginning of the school year.

The analyses display consumption expenditure as well as their breakdown into individual expenditure groups according to different criteria, namely according to income groups, according to socio-demographic characteristics of the reference person or according to household types. In this connection, the average monthly household expenditure as well as equivalent expenditure are shown.

Equivalent expenditure ("expenditures weighted per-capita") represent a mathematical value used to compare the expenditure of households varying in size and structure. For the purpose of calculation, weights are assigned to the individual household members before dividing household expenditure by the sum of these weights. Weighting is performed according to the so-called EU-scale (modified OECD-scale) assigning to the first adult person in the household a weight of 1.0, to every further person older than 14 a 0.5 and to every child under 14 years of age a 0.3.

<b>Household Budget Survey 2009/10 - Main Features</b>	
<b>Subject Matter</b>	Survey of household expenditures, possession of consumer durables and household income of private households
<b>Population</b>	Private households in Austria (about 3.6 Mio.)
<b>Type of statistics</b>	Primary statistical survey
<b>Data sources/Survey techniques</b>	Sample survey of 6,000 households CAPI-Interviews carried out by the survey infrastructure of Statistics Austria; Filling in a household diary by the respondents
<b>Reference period or due day</b>	End of April 2009 until the beginning of Mai 2010
<b>Periodicity</b>	Every five years
<b>Survey participation (in case of a survey)</b>	Voluntary
<b>Main legal acts</b>	Federal Statistics Act 2000 (in the respective current version), Council Regulation (EC) No 2494/1995 (Oct 1995) concerning harmonised indices of consumer prices, Regulation concerning the compilation of indices of consumer prices (Erstellung von Verbraucherpreisindizes vom Juli 2003 (BGBl. II Nr. 351/2003)
<b>Most detailed regional breakdown</b>	Austrian provinces (NUTS2)
<b>Availability of results</b>	First results: Survey year + 11 months Final data: t + 13 months (t = end of survey period)
<b>Other</b>	