

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Household Budget Survey 2014/15

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Executive Summary

The current Household Budget Survey 2014/15 was carried out as a private household sample survey from end of October 2014 to the beginning of November 2015. 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.

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.

Before and after the two weeks' bookkeeping, information was gathered on the persons living in the household, on the dwelling and its equipment and on the household income. Moreover, within 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 a dishwasher in retrospect for the past twelve months.

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 Household Budget Survey 2014/15 was the first survey which was conducted within the survey software "STATsurv". This means households had the choice to participate either online (diary and questionnaire) or supported by an interviewer.

Participation by mode

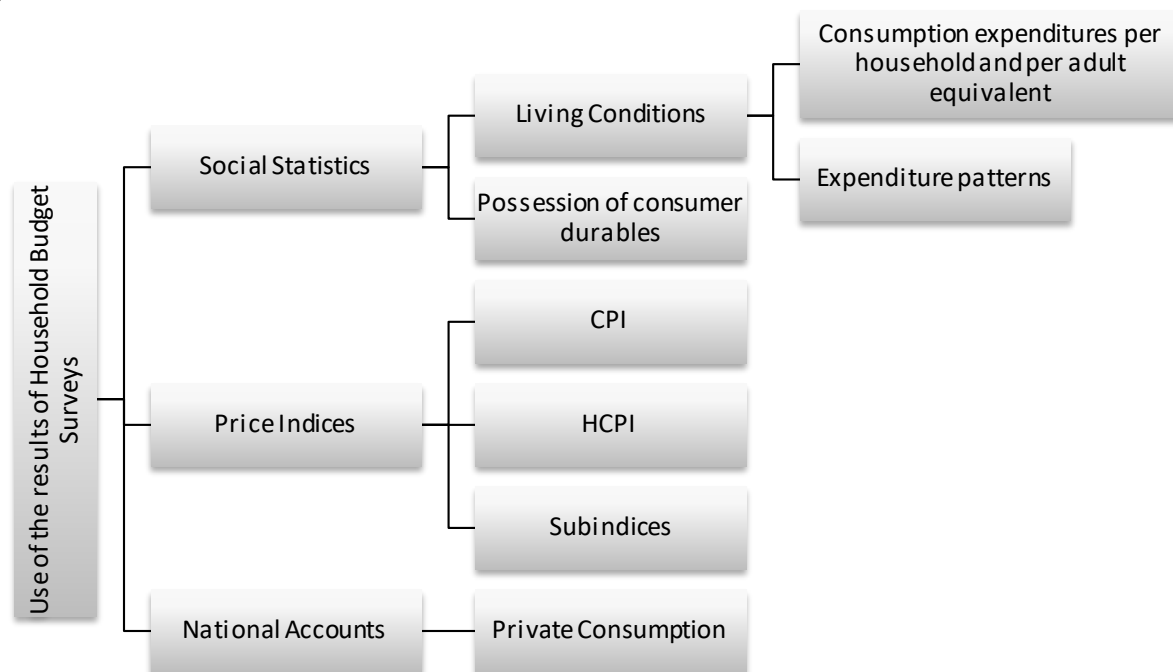
Mode	1. Interview	Diary keeping	2. Interview	Number of households	
				absolut	in %
Possibility 1 CAWI*	Online	Online	Online	1 230	17.2
Possibility 2a CAPI*	Face-to-face	Online	Face-to-face	2 509	35.0
Possibility 2b	Face-to-face	Paper diary	Face-to-face	3 423	47.8

* CAWI: Computer Assisted Web Interviewing. CAPI: Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing.

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.

Usage of HBS data



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 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.

Household Budget Survey 2014/15 - Main Features	
Subject Matter	Survey of household expenditures, possession of consumer durables and household income of private households
Population	Private households in Austria (2014/15: about 3.8 Mio.)
Type of statistics	Primary statistical survey
Data sources/Survey techniques	Sample survey, supplemented by register data for income
Reference period or due day	End of October 2014 until the beginning of November 2015
Periodicity	Every five years
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Voluntary
Main legal acts	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)
Most detailed regional breakdown	Austrian provinces (NUTS2)
Availability of results	First results: Survey year + 11 months Final data: t + 16 months (t = end of survey period)
Other	The Household Budget Survey 2014/15 was the first household survey using the new survey software "STATsurv", which was developed by Statistics Austria.