

User oriented quality report

Household Budget Survey, year 2012

The **Household Budget Survey - HBS** is carried out annually, upon the Decision of the Minister of Finance, with a view to collecting data on households' composition, members' employment status, and living conditions, while, mainly, focusing on their members' expenditure on goods and services as well as on their income. The HBS was conducted first during the years 1957 – 1958 and at five-year intervals thereafter; while from 2008 it is conducted on an annual basis.

The main purpose of the HBS is to determine in detail the household expenditure pattern in order to revise the Consumer Price Index, compiled by the Hellenic Statistical Authority. Moreover, the HBS is the most appropriate source in order to complete the available statistical data for the estimation of the total private consumption, to study the households' expenditures and their structure in relation to their income and other economic, social and demographic characteristics, to analyze the changes in the living conditions of the households in comparison with the previous surveys, to study the relationship between households purchases and receipts in kind, to study low income limits in the different socio-economic categories and population groups, as well as to Study the changes in the nutritional habits of the country households.

The survey is a simple rotational design survey, which was selected as the most suitable for single cross – sectional and longitudinal survey. The sample for any year consists of 4 replications, which have been in the survey for 1 – 4 years. With the exception of the first three years of the survey, any particular replication remains in the survey for 4 years. Each year, one of the 4 replications from the previous year is dropped and a new one is added. In order to have a complete sample the first year of survey, the four panels began simultaneously. For the HBS longitudinal component the people who were selected initially are interviewed for a period of four years, equal to the duration of each panel.

The HBS survey is based on a two-stage stratified sampling of households from a frame of sampling which has been created on the basis of the results of the 2001 population census. The first level of stratification is the geographical stratification based on the division of the total country area into thirteen (13) standard administrative regions corresponding to the European NUTS 2 level. The two major city agglomerations of Greater Athens area and Greater Thessalonica area constitute two separate major geographical strata. The second level of stratification entails grouping municipalities and communes within each NUTS 2 Regions by degree of urbanization. i.e. according to their population size. The scaling of urbanization was finally designed in four groups:

- ≥ 30.000 inhabitants
- 5.000 – 29.999 inhabitants
- 1.000 – 4.999 inhabitants
- 0 – 999 inhabitants

The former Greater Athens Area was divided into 31 household strata of about equal size on the basis of the social and economic characteristics of the Municipalities / Municipal Units where the households belong. Similarly, the former Greater Thessaloniki Area was divided into 9 equally sized household strata. The two Major City Agglomerations account for 40% of total population.

The sampling covers completely the reference population. The sampling units are the households and their members. The survey is conducted on a representative random sample of all private households of the Country, which have members aged between 16-74 years old, irrespective of their size or socio-economic characteristics. The survey does not cover the institutional households of all types (hotels, hospitals, boarding houses, elderly homes, prisons, rehabilitation centers, camps, etc.), the households with more than five lodgers and the households with foreigners serving in diplomatic missions.

The household expenses are classified on the basis of the COICOP-HBS 1997 classification (Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose), which is structured into 12 main categories (Food and non-alcoholic beverages, Alcoholic beverages and tobacco, Clothing and footwear, Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels of main and secondary residence, Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house, Health, Transport, Communications, Recreation and culture, Education, Hotels, cafes and restaurants, Miscellaneous goods and services).

In 2012, the survey was conducted on a final sample of 3,572 households (sampling fraction 0.08% of the estimated total number of households in the country). The non-response rate was 36,40% (1.300 households refused, were absent or unable to communicate due to illness etc). Standard errors for the main 12 categories of goods and services (on the basis of the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose - COICOP) were calculated in the form of coefficients of variation (CV) and they are illustrated in the following Table.

Coefficients of variation of the 12 main categories of goods and services: 2012 HBS

Goods and services	Coefficient of variation %
Total	2.6
Food	1.6
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	3.3
Clothing and footwear	4.7
Housing	2.0
Durables	5.4
Health	4.6
Transport	5.0
Communications	1.9
Recreation and culture	6.4
Education	8.2
Hotels, cafes and restaurants	3.6
Miscellaneous goods and services	3.8

More information (tables, charts, methodology notes) regarding the Household Budget Survey can be found on the website of the Hellenic Statistical Authority, http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p_param=A0801, following the link "*Statistical Themes> Household Income and Expenditure > Family Budget*".