



Metadata to be provided monthly per breakdown for business surveys and Implementation of socio-economic breakdowns in the consumer survey

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Business and consumer surveys and short-term forecast

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Metadata to be provided monthly per breakdown for business surveys

- *Background*
- *Current situation*
- *Possible improvements*
- *Future developments*

Background

- In May 2010 the *Excels templates to be send to DG ECFIN* changed:

CC	YYYY	/	population	sample size	unweighted Response rate	weighted Response rate	/	+	NO	DEM	WEA	LAB	MATERIAL	FINANCIAL
NACE2	MM	/												
Construction of buildings	41	/												
Civil engineering	42	/												
Specialised construction activities	43	/												
TOTAL	TOTF	/												

ratio of the weight of respondents (r') and the weight of the sample (w) for question Q1, on a monthly basis.

ratio of the number of respondents (r) and sample size (n), on a monthly basis.

size of the actual frame list, from where the set of units are selected, on a yearly basis.

survey's sampling size, which is the number of letters, emails... your institute sends, on a monthly basis.

Current situation

- *Most of the institutes send filled-in files with the requested information*

Survey	No information	Partially missing information
Industry	BE, DK, EE, FI, PT, SK	HR
Services	BE, DK, EE, FI, PT, SK	DE, HR
Retail Trade	BE, DK, EE, FI, PT, SK	HR, ME (CBM)
Construction	BE, DK, EE, FI, FR, SK	ME (CBM)

Current situation

All in all

the information are of good quality and useful

Some issues:

- *Confusion between total population and frame*
- *Doubts on the understanding of "weighted response rate"*

Possible improvements

- *Information on actual population*
- *Information on frame coverage*
- *Information on sample representativeness*

Ideally

Population		Frame		Sample		Response rate	
before cut-off	after cut-off	units	weighted coverage %	units	weighted coverage %	unweighted	weighted

weighted by turnover, employment, value added...

Future developments

Practically

In the Excels files that are sent monthly to DG ECFIN:

Frame	Sample		Response rate	
units	units	weighted coverage %	unweighted	weighted

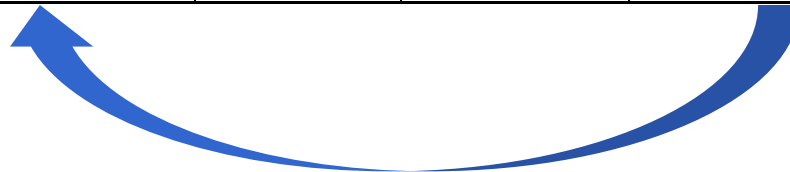


Future developments

Practically

Once a year (with the metadata)

Population		Frame	
before cut-off	after cut-off	units	weighted coverage %

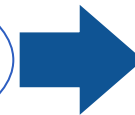


Implementation of socio-economic breakdowns in the consumer survey

- *Background*
- *Current situation*
- *Questions and possible improvements*
- *Conclusions*

Existing categories

- A. Income of the household*
- B. Occupation of respondent*
- C. Working regime of respondent*
- D. Education of respondent*
- E. Age of the respondent*
- F. Gender of respondent*



No problems of
harmonisation!

About the others...

- *Income: how to define the four quartiles?*
 - From an official list?
 - From the respondent replies?

Reply → Generally, from an official list as
Statistics on Income and Living
Conditions

However respondent replies could be better in
some exceptional and specific cases ...

Education

3 categories: Primary – Secondary – Further

Each country had its own educational system and therefore each institutes used its own criteria to decide what title/education level corresponded to each category. This should not cause important differences across countries...

However

We could now consider to follow an harmonised criteria to categorise respondents...

Education

The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) developed by the UNESCO to facilitate comparisons of education statistics and indicators across countries on the basis of uniform and internationally agreed definitions could be used for this purpose:

- primary = level 0-1 ISCED
- secondary = level 2-3 ISCED
- further = level 4-5-6 ISCED

Occupation of respondent

8 categories:

- Self-employed and professional
- Self-employed farmers
- Clerical and office employee
- Skilled manual workers
- Other manual workers
- Total workers
- Other occupations
- Unemployed

Harmonisation?

- No complete description of the occupations
- No clear correspondence with official classifications such as the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)



Need for investigation in order to understand what is done at country level and if it is necessary to harmonise/improve the categories

Survey of surveys...

- DG ECFIN will collect information on:
- How the information on respondents' occupation are collected
- If the institute use or not international classification
- If yes, how they match the results with the current DG ECFIN categories

Conclusions

- Metadata to be provided monthly per breakdown for business surveys
 - **Some additional information will be asked about:**
 - Actual population
 - Frame and sample coverage
- Breakdowns in the consumer survey
 - **Income quartiles should represent actual population**
 - **Education level can be based on International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)**
 - **Occupation of respondents: DG ECFIN will launch a survey of surveys**



Thanks for your attention!

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