Harmonisation of the breakdown by occupation in the consumer survey

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Business and consumer surveys and short-term forecast

JOINT EC/OECD WORKSHOP
Paris, 30 November - 1 December 2015
Breakdown by occupation in the consumer survey

- Background
- Survey of surveys
- First proposal
- Comments and concerns
- Conclusions/way forward
Occupation of respondent (status quo)

8 categories:

- Self-employed and professional
- Self-employed farmers
- Clerical and office employee
- Skilled manual workers
- Other manual workers
- Total workers
- Other occupations
- Unemployed
In 2014 we highlighted that:

- 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 collected information on:
  - How the information on respondents' occupation is collected
  - If the institute use or not international classification
  - If yes, how they match the results with the current DG ECFIN categories
Results of the survey of surveys...

- Most of the institutes ask for the occupation of the respondent (only in 3 cases of the main earner of the household);
- In most of the cases respondents are asked to choose between a list of categories, but in 24% of the cases they are asked to describe their work;
- Most of the institutes have a first filter question;
- In 36% of the cases, the breakdown corresponds to an official nomenclature.
Results of the survey of surveys...

- Only in 7 institutes the breakdown exactly the same as EC.
- The other institutes use their own breakdown and then aggregate their categories to match EC breakdown.

➢ Confirmation of complete absence of harmonisation
Proposal for a new breakdown

➤ Introducing a first filter question:
   Do you have a job? Yes or No

➤ If Yes:
   Occupation breakdown based on ISCO-08 nomenclature
If "Yes":

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cat.</th>
<th>Short description</th>
<th>ISCO 08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Managers and professionals, technicians and associate professionals</td>
<td>11 to 14, 21 to 26 and 31 to 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Clerical and support workers, services and sales workers</td>
<td>41 to 44 and 51 to 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; craft and related trade workers</td>
<td>61 to 63 and 71 to 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Plant and machine operators, assemblers and elementary occupations</td>
<td>81 to 83 and 91 to 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Armed forces occupations</td>
<td>01 to 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Total employed (1 to 5)</td>
<td>Sum of all (from 01 to 96)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If "No":

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Unemployed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>In retirement or early retirement/widow/widower receiving pension after partner died / permanently disabled or chronically ill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Other occupations (Student or further training experience or unpaid work experience/ Fulfilling domestic task/housekeeper or child care/<em>maternity or paternity leave</em>/ In compulsory military or community service/ Other)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Total unemployed and other occupations (7 to 9)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Main comments/concerns

- Armed forces represent very small percentage of working population
- Create a "self-employed" group (they are generally more optimistic?)
- Actually, people on paternity/maternity leave have a job
- Have a separate category for "Professional and technicians and associate professionals"
- How to treat "unpaid family workers"
- Add a "prefer not to answer" possibility
- Need to test the changes before implementing them?
- Translation/implementation of ISCO-08 in the different countries is not exactly the same
- Current breakdown does not correspond to ISCO-08
Conclusions/Ways forward

- General agreement on:
  - Adding a first filter question
  - Base the occupation on ISCO-08

- A new version taking into account your comments/suggestions will be circulated at the beginning of 2016

- The aim is to start to use the new breakdown by May 2016
Thanks for your attention!

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