

Use of Register Data in Latvian Household Finance and Consumption Survey

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Abstract

The Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS) is a statistical survey conducted in the euro area countries by collecting and compiling data on the real assets, financial assets, debt, income and consumption of households. The HFCS is carried out by the European Central Bank and the national central banks of the European Union Member States. The HFCS is conducted at the national level. To obtain comparable data, the participating countries follow common methodological guidelines (Household Finance and Consumption Network 2016), but do not necessarily use identical questionnaires.

The Latvian HFCS for the second time was conducted by the Bank of Latvia in 2017, again in a close cooperation with the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia (CSB). CSB ensured the collection of the HFCS data and the adding of respondents' data from several administrative data sources to the survey data. These administrative data, as well as the comments and the paradata provided by interviewers at the conclusion of each interview, are used at the Bank of Latvia during the data editing phase to detect and correct possible mistakes in the survey data. Such quality checks aim to correct various kinds of inconsistencies, such as mistyped or erroneous answers.

The quality of the survey data on the participation of household members in the first and second level pension scheme collected in the previous HFCS wave, in 2014, was very poor. Therefore, in the current survey wave, it was decided to exclude the questions related to the first and second level pension scheme from the questionnaire, and to obtain the necessary data from the State Social Insurance Agency. This decision allowed to obtain high quality data on persons' participation in public pension schemes, as well as to reduce respondents burden, too.

Among administrative data sources that we use for editing of the HFCS data are:

- the State Revenue Service (SRS) data on all type of persons' income in 2016,

- SRS data on persons' participation in the voluntary (third level) pension schemes,
- the Land Cadastre's data on real estate properties that belong to the household members,
- the Credit Register data on persons' mortgages, loans and/or leasing contracts.

Data editing is one of the most important, intensive and time-consuming task of HFCS. For the current survey wave it is still ongoing. In our presentation we plan to report some first results showing usefulness of administrative data for editing of the HFCS data.

References

Household Finance and Consumption Network (2016) The Household Finance and Consumption Survey: methodological report for the second wave. ECB Statistical Paper Series, 17.