

A Comparison of Consumer Expenditure Surveys

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Countries' consumer expenditure surveys summarized:

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|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. United States | 10. Denmark | 19. Italy | 28. Romania |
| 2. Australia | 11. Estonia | 20. Latvia | 29. Singapore |
| 3. Austria | 12. Finland | 21. Lithuania | 30. Slovakia |
| 4. Belgium | 13. France | 22. Luxembourg | 31. Slovenia |
| 5. Bulgaria | 14. Germany | 23. Malta | 32. South Korea |
| 6. Canada | 15. Greece | 24. Netherlands | 33. Spain |
| 7. Croatia | 16. Hong Kong | 25. Norway | 34. Sweden |
| 8. Cyprus | 17. Hungary | 26. Poland | 35. United Kingdom |
| 9. Czech Republic | 18. Ireland | 27. Portugal | |

For each country's survey program, the following characteristics were collected:

- Country and survey
- Achieved sample size and year: The number of completed surveys is provided along with the reference year. All sample sizes indicate the annual number of completed surveys reported except where otherwise specified.
- Data collection method: mode, instrument, and level of data collection
- Reference period
- Response rate and year, if different from that reported for the achieved sample size
- Notable design features: individual diaries, receipts, incentives, administrative records, new technology

COUNTRIES' EXPENDITURE SURVEY CHARACTERISTICS

Country and Survey	Notable Design Features	Achieved Sample Size (year)	Response Rate (%)	Data Collection Method	Reference Period
United States Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE)	Respondents are encouraged to keep records/receipts to aid recall.	Interview: 35,843 (2010)	Interview: 73.4	Household Interview (CAPI)	3 months
	Interview: An accordion file is sometimes given to respondents to store/organize receipts. Diary: A pocket is included on the inside of the back cover for respondents to store receipts. http://bls.gov/cex/	Diary: 14,599 (2010)	Diary: 71.5	Household Diary (Paper)	14 days
Australia Household Expenditure Survey (HES)	The HES sample of 6,957 households is a subsample of the Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) sample of 11,361 households. http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6530.0/	6,957 (2009-10)	75	Household Interview (CAPI)	Not reported
				Individual Diary (Paper)	14 days
Austria Household Budget Survey (HBS)	The Austrian HBS is a rotating panel survey, providing a detailed description of the expenditures of private households by demographic and socio-economic characteristics. A two-week detailed household diary is provided. Separate in-person interviews are conducted with the same household to collect housing and demographic information for each household member. Response is compensated with a 50€ voucher. http://www.statistik.at/web_en/statistics/social_statistics/consuption_expenditures	6,534 (2009-10)	38.1	Household Interview (CAPI)	1 month, and 12 months
				Household Diary (Paper)	14 days

Country and Survey	Notable Design Features	Achieved Sample Size (year)	Response Rate (%)	Data Collection Method	Reference Period
Belgium Household Budget Survey	Involves an in-person household questionnaire filled out with the interviewer, with individual questions to record demographic and income information. A household diary is used to record starting and ending assets, income and daily expenses over a one-month period. Receipts are not collected and there is no panel component. Post-completion incentives range from 74€ to 124€ depending on household size. (Starting in 2012, the survey is conducted biennially but with a larger sample size. Households complete a shorter survey, and respondents can record expenditures via paper or web). http://statbel.fgov.be/fr/statistiques/collecte_donnees/enquetes/budget_des_menages	3,578 (2010)	77.6	Household Interview (Paper)	4 months
				Household Diary (Paper)	1 month
Bulgaria Household Budget Survey (HBS)	The Bulgarian HBS involves a four-wave rotating panel design, with households interviewed one month per quarter. Interviewer visits occur twice per month, providing two diaries. Respondents record (by proxy) prior two months of expenses for non-food items and income. Incentives offered (in 2001). Survey allows substitution of households to bolster response. http://www.nsi.bg/otrasal-metodologiaen.php?otr=44	2,870 (2005)	65.1	Household Interview (Paper)	Not reported
				Household Diary	15 days

Country and Survey	Notable Design Features	Achieved Sample Size (year)	Response Rate (%)	Data Collection Method	Reference Period
Canada Survey of Household Spending (SHS)	To reduce burden, respondents are given the option to provide their receipts. Due to budget constraints, only a sub-sample of households are asked to report their expenditures in the diary.	13,075 (2010)	Interview: 67 Diary: 46	Household Interview (CAPI)	1 month, 3 months, and 12 months
	Respondents are categorized into three groups: those who provided receipts only, those who only provided transcribed expenditures and those who combined the two modes of reporting.			Household Diary (Paper)	14 days
Croatia Household Budget Survey	Croatia's survey does not involve a panel component. Interviewers collect information on income, earnings and most household expenses through in-person interviews. http://www.dzs.hr/default_e.htm	3,461 (2010)	61	Household Interview	Not reported
				Household Diary	14 days
Cyprus Household Budget Survey	Conducted every five years. Interviews are conducted using laptops. Diaries are completed by all household members at least 15 years old. No incentives are provided. http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/pio/pio.nsf/6645bc8e70e73e2cc2257076004d01c1/dd8a213e2dc1ff0ac22574f3003bbeef?OpenDocument	2,990 (2005)	88.9	Interview (CAPI)	1, 2, 3 and 12 months
				Individual Diary	14 days

Country and Survey	Notable Design Features	Achieved Sample Size (year)	Response Rate (%)	Data Collection Method	Reference Period
Czech Republic Family Budget Statistics	Czech Republic uses a quota sampling method. Households keep detailed food and expenditure information for two months, and only report total expenditures in the remaining months of the year. Income and expenditure is reported using a monthly reporting period. http://www.czso.cz/eng/edicniplan.nsf/aktual/ep-3	3,000 (2011)	Unknown	Household interview	Not reported
				Household Diary	2 months
Denmark Household Budget Survey	Interviews are conducted using a laptop. Analysis of diary data has indicated higher reporting in the first week than in the second. Participating households receive a gift and entry into a lottery for participation. http://www.dst.dk/en/Statistik/dokumentation/Declarations/household-budget-survey.aspx	858 (2010) Data for a three-year period are aggregated into one sample of approximately 2,500 households.	38	Household Interview (CAPI)	1 year
				Household Diary (Paper)	14 days
Estonia Household Budget Survey	A 2010 HBS redesign limited data collection to one household questionnaire and one diary, for which the reference period was cut in half to 2 weeks. Respondents are given the option of placing expenditure receipts in an envelope or recording those expenditures in the diary. Data for uncodable expenditure receipts is imputed. Participating households receive a pen for participation, as well as a feedback letter with aggregate expenditure data, if requested. http://www.stat.ee/51932	2,816 (2010)	Interview and Diary: 42 (2011)	Household Interview (CAPI)	1 month, 12 months
				Household Diary (Paper)	14 days

Country and Survey	Notable Design Features	Achieved Sample Size (year)	Response Rate (%)	Data Collection Method	Reference Period
Finland Household Budget Survey	Data is collected via interview (for durable goods, housing and liabilities), diary (with receipts collected), and administrative sources (for income and education) http://www.stat.fi/meta/til/ktutk_en.html	4,007 (2005)	52.6	Household Interview (CATI)	3 months, 12 months
				Household Diary (Paper)	14 days
France Family Budget (BDF)	France's BDF involves two interviews lasting approximately one-hour each, collecting information for broad expenditure groupings (housing, services, insurance, taxes and gifts). The same households are given individual diaries for household members age 14 and older to record expenditures or attach receipts. http://www.insee.fr/fr/methodes/default.asp?page=sources/sou-eng-bdf-2006.htm	~11,000 (Mainland and overseas, 2010-11)	Interview and diary: 75 (mainland) and 82 (overseas)	Household Interview (CAPI)	1 to 12 months depending on question
				Household Diary (Paper)	7 days
				Individual Diary (Paper)	7 days
Germany Sample Survey of Income and Expenditure (EVS)	The EVS is administered every five years, using a quota sampling method. Four components are used: income and expenditures are recorded in a diary for three months, general information (housing and socio-demographics) is collected online in some areas, money and asset information is collected through a questionnaire, and food and beverage expenditures are recorded in a "detailed log book" by a subsample for one month. Households are given a stipend for participation. https://www.destatis.de/EN/Meta/abisz/Einkommens_Verbrauchsstichprobe_e.html	55,110 (2008)	Unknown	Questionnaire (online in some areas)	Not reported
				Household Diary (Paper)	3 months

Country and Survey	Notable Design Features	Achieved Sample Size (year)	Response Rate (%)	Data Collection Method	Reference Period
Greece Family Budget Survey (HBS)	Daily visits by the interviewer are used to prompt reporting to the diary (as of 1999). http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p_param=A0801	6,555 (target, 2009)	60.3 (2005)	Household Questionnaire	1 to 12 months depending on question
				Adult Individual Diary (Paper)	14 days (questions reference last 12 months)
				Individual Diary (Paper)	14 days
Hong Kong Household Expenditure Survey (HES)	The HES is conducted once every five years, for a one-year period which is broken down into 26 cycles (each comprising two weeks). Households supplying required information were given an honorarium of \$150HKD. Consists of 3 parts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Household Schedule – collects housing conditions and household characteristics 2. Expenditure Diary – individuals aged 12 and over each kept the diary 3. Questionnaire on Infrequently Purchased Items A Supplemental Questionnaire is specially designed for non-respondents for analysis of non-response bias http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/major_projects/2009_10_household_expenditure_survey/	5,957 (2009-10)	77	Household Schedule (Paper)	Not reported
				Individual Diary (Paper)	14 days
				Questionnaire on Infrequently Purchased Items (Paper)	3 months
Hungary Household Budget Survey (HBS)	Income and expenditures are recorded by diary for two 15-day periods. A retrospective interview is conducted at the end of the year. http://www.ksh.hu/income_and_living_conditions	9,058 (2005)	50.3	Household Interview (CAPI)	12 months
				Household Diary (Paper)	1 month

Country and Survey	Notable Design Features	Achieved Sample Size (year)	Response Rate (%)	Data Collection Method	Reference Period
Ireland Household Budget Survey (HBS)	Ireland's HBS uses substitute households to obtain a quota of cooperating households. Each person age 16 and older is interviewed. Household members age 16 and older are given individual diaries to record expenses for two one-week periods. Respondents are asked to annotate information provided on receipts to ensure it is comprehensive. Respondents receive a 40€ gift for completing the questionnaires and diary. http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/housingandhouseholds/	5,891 (2010)	40	Household Interview (CAPI)	1 to 12 months depending on question
				Household Diary (Paper)	14 days
				Individual Diary (Paper)	14 days
Italy Household Budget Survey	Households complete two one-week diaries. Household interviews for the 'Family expenditure summary' involve collection of demographic and large-scale purchases. http://www.istat.it/it/archivio/66174	24,107 (2005)	75.2	Household Interview	1 month, 3 months, 12 months
				Household Diary (Paper)	14 days
Latvia Household Budget Survey (HBS)	Interviewers conduct two interviews, a preliminary interview (averaging 32 minutes) to collect demographic information and explain the diary and a Final interview (averaging 35 minutes) to obtain income information. A 'Pocket Individual Diary' is provided for those temporarily absent from the household and for youth. http://www.csb.gov.lv/en/notikumi/household-consumption-expenditure-2010-32044.html	3,798 (2010)	43.1	Household Interview (Paper)	1 month, 12 months
				Household Diary (Paper)	14 days
				Individual Diary (Paper)	14 days

Country and Survey	Notable Design Features	Achieved Sample Size (year)	Response Rate (%)	Data Collection Method	Reference Period
Lithuania Household Budget Survey	In 2008, half of sampled households completed the diary in the first half of the month with the rest completing it in the second half. Households were given a monetary gift of 15.4 LTL (approximately \$6) for participation. In 2012 the HBS questionnaire was simplified and households are no longer remunerated for participating. http://www.stat.gov.lt/en/news/view/?id=7418	6,103 (2008)	55.3	Household Interview (Paper)	1 month, 2 months, 12 months
				Household Diary (Paper)	14 days
Luxembourg Family Budget Survey (BDM)	At the first interviewer visit, the interviewer collects socio-demographic and housing information and provides the diary. Respondents are asked to prepare receipts to assist their reporting at the follow-up visit, where information about income is collected. Participating households are reimbursed 85€. Non-contact is a significant proportion (47 percent) of the high non-response rate, for which solutions are being considered. http://www.statistiques.public.lu/fr/methodologie/methodes/conditions-sociales/Cond-vie/budget-menages/index.html	3,846 (2008-10)	18	Household Interview	3, 6 and 12 months
				Household Diary (Paper)	15 days
Malta Household Budgetary Survey	Interviewers carry out several visits to recruited households to encourage recording of expenditures. A questionnaire collects income and major expenditure information, typically with a 12-month reference period. Households are also given a total of three diaries to complete for the 2-week period. Responding households receive a monetary stipend for participating. http://www.nso.gov.mt/site/page.aspx?pageid=204	3,732 (2008)	57.1	Household Interview (Paper)	1 month, 3 months, 12 months
				Household Diary (Paper)	14 days
				Individual Diary (Paper)	14 days

Country and Survey	Notable Design Features	Achieved Sample Size (year)	Response Rate (%)	Data Collection Method	Reference Period
Netherlands Household Budget Survey (BO)	In 2012, the design of the BO was modernized to collect data by website. One household member reports data for the household for four weeks (with expenses below 20€ recorded for one of those weeks), then collection occurs again 3 months later (when infrequent purchase data is also collected). Response is encouraged through helpdesk support and a 30€ incentive. To compensate for low response rates, administrative data is used for non-response adjustment. http://www.cbs.nl/en-GB/menu/themas/inkomen-bestedingen/nieuws/default.htm	6,000 (2005-10)	25	Household Questionnaire (website)	Not reported
				Household Diary (website)	4 weeks (1 week for small purchases)
Norway The Survey of Consumer Expenditure	Two face-to-face interviews take place before and after diary placement. Individual diaries are provided to household members over 15 years old. Since 1998, Norway has used tax registries to collect information on household income and education. http://www.ssb.no/forbruk_en/	3,420* (2007-09) *represents aggregated sample of households over a 3-year period	50	Household Interview (CAPI)	Not reported
				Household Diary (Paper)	14 days
				Individual Diary (Paper)	14 days
Poland Household Budget Survey	Interviewers visit at least four times per month. Visits are to ensure households correctly record expenditures in the diary and to conduct end-of-month interview collecting housing and regular purchase information. Households are also contacted quarterly to collect rarer expenditures. Survey allows substitution of households to bolster response (response rate represents the initial households contacted prior to substitution). http://www.stat.gov.pl/gus/5840_3467_ENG_HTML.htm	37,375 (2011)	43.7	Household Interview	Not reported
				Individual Diary (Paper)	1 month

Country and Survey	Notable Design Features	Achieved Sample Size (year)	Response Rate (%)	Data Collection Method	Reference Period
Portugal Household Budget Survey (IDEF)	Interviewers make four to six visits to recruit and collect data. Diaries are provided to individuals aged 15 and older (or 10 and older with parental consent), and a household diary is given to the person most knowledgeable about household purchases. http://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine_publicacoes&PUBLICACOESpub_boui=26973702&PUBLICACOESmodo=2&lang=en	10,403 (2005-06)	65	Household Interview (CAPI and Paper)	1 month, 3 months, 12 months
				Household Diary	14 days
				Individual Diary (Paper)	14 days
Romania Family Budgets Survey (ABF)	Interviewers make at least three visits during the month of expenditure data collection. In cases where households cannot complete the diary, interviewers collect the information in person or through receipts. Questionnaires collect data for all household members. http://statistici.insse.ro/shop/index.jsp?page=tempo3&lang=en&ind=BUF115I	37,440 (target, 2011)	81.6	Household Questionnaire (Paper)	1 month
				Household Diary (Paper)	1 month
Singapore Household Expenditure Survey (HES)	PDAs are used in place of hardcopy survey forms to capture remaining information required. Reference period varies based on question (1 month, 3 months, and 12 months). http://www.singstat.gov.sg/stats/themes/people/house.html	7,545 (2007-08)	84.0	Household Interview (CAPI)	1 month, 3 months, and 12 months
				Household Diary (Paper)	14 days
				Individual Diary (Paper)	14 days

Country and Survey	Notable Design Features	Achieved Sample Size (year)	Response Rate (%)	Data Collection Method	Reference Period
Slovakia Household Budget Survey (HBS)	Households are interviewed with retrospective data covering the prior 12 months collected. One household member records expenditures for two months, providing aggregated expenditure information the first month and detailed information the second month. Responding households are paid 43.15€ for completing the HBS. http://portal.statistics.sk/showdoc.do?docid=3025	4,718 (2008)	74.6	Household Interview	12 months
				Household Diary (Paper)	2 months
Slovenia Household Budget Survey (APG)	Slovenia's APG combines data collected during a three-year period to produce estimates for the middle year (e.g., 2010 estimates result from 2009-11 data collection). http://www.stat.si/eng/novica_prikazi.aspx?id=4867	3,725* (2004)	70.7	Household Interview	Not reported
				*represents aggregated sample of households over a 3-year (2003-05) period	Individual Diary (Paper)
South Korea Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)	An Interviewer visits a household during each month for diary distribution, diary collection, and weekly guidance. Households participate for three years before being rotated out. Monthly cash incentives are provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10.00 for regular paper diary • \$40.00 for e-diary • \$50.00 for B-case who have their e-diary connected to their credit accounts or bank records http://www.kostat.go.kr/portal/english/surveyOutlines/4/1/index.static	11,200 (target, 2006)	80	Household Diary (Paper) 60 percent	1 month
				Household E-Diary (Web)	1 month
				Household B-Case (Web) Diary connected to credit/bank record	1 month

Country and Survey	Notable Design Features	Achieved Sample Size (year)	Response Rate (%)	Data Collection Method	Reference Period
Spain Household Budget Survey (EPF)	Spain's EPF underwent a redesign in 2006. Changes included increasing diary collection from one to two weeks, reducing the number of questions in the interview, and reducing the sample size by 25 percent. Households remain in the sample two consecutive years. One person fills out the household diary for two weeks, while other household members age 14 and older complete individual diaries for one week. Analysis of household diary data has indicated under-reporting in the second week. Participating households are reimbursed with a 30€ voucher. The EPF involves a re-interview process for a subsample of households to ensure good data quality. http://www.ine.es/jaxi/menu.do?type=pcaxis&path=/t25/p458&file=inebase	16,299 (2010)	70.8	Household Interview (Paper)	1 month, 3 months, 12 months
				Household Diary (Paper)	14 days
				Individual Diary (Paper)	7 days
Sweden Household Budget Survey (HBS)	HBS data is collected via in-person visit, telephone, diaries and the use of administrative records. Households can choose to send in receipts instead of noting spending in the diary. Property tax, income and taxable benefits are collected from administrative sources. http://www.scb.se/Pages/Product_22952.aspx	4,000 (target, 2009)	51	Household Interview (CATI)	12 months
				Individual Diary (Paper)	14 days
United Kingdom Living Costs and Food Survey (LCF)	The LCF allows household interviews to be carried out by proxy (representing 21 percent of responding households in 2009). Each individual aged 16 or over who keeps a diary (and whose income information is collected) is paid £10, as a token of appreciation. Respondents aged 7-15 who keep a Children's diary are given a £5 payment. http://www.esds.ac.uk/findingData/snDescription.asp?sn=6945	5,320 (2009)	50.4 (Great Britain)	Household Interview (CAPI)	3 months, 12 months
				Individual and Children's' Diary (Paper)	14 days