

Key Facts of the HFCS in Austria

Methodological Framework at a Glance

Questionnaire

The HFCS in Austria is based on an internationally harmonized questionnaire that covers the entire balance sheet of households (including all stock and flow positions) together with socioeconomic characteristics. The sampling unit was the household.

Reference Period

The information about all stock positions and socioeconomic characteristics was collected at the date of the survey (survey period: September 2010 to May 2011). Income-related data refer to the 2009 calendar year.

Geographical Scope

Austria

Sampling

Target population

All households in Austria (irrespective of nationality).

Frame population

Postal addresses of all households in Austria.

Sample design

Stratified two-stage cluster sample design

- Stratification: NUTS 3 regions divided into 8 classes by municipality size
- Primary sampling unit (PSU): Enumeration districts („Zählsprenkel“)
- Secondary sampling unit (SSU): Postal addresses

The gross sample comprised a total of 422 PSUs and 4,436 SSUs in 170 strata.

Survey Company

Institut für Empirische Sozialforschung GmbH – IFES

Field Work

General information

Period:	September 2010 to May 2011
Number of interviewers:	85
Method of data collection:	Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI)

Interviewer training

Number of interviewer training units:	5
Duration of an interviewer training unit:	1 day

Trial field phase

Number of trial interviews:	50
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Contact strategy

All households received a personalized letter from the governor of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB) and an information brochure distributed by IFES before they were contacted by the interviewers. The interviewers had instructions to make up to five contact attempts per household over a period of at least three weeks, if required. At least two of these attempts were to be made in person, at least one attempt was to be made on a weekend and another outside regular working hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

Incentives for participation

Participation in the HFCS was voluntary.

Each household that successfully completed an interview received a silver coin with a face value of EUR 5 (the actual value during the field phase was around EUR 15).

In addition, each household had the chance to win travel vouchers (one worth EUR 1,000, five vouchers worth EUR 200 each).

Documents used during interviews

Catalogue of show cards, interviewer handbook, glossary

Interviewer monitoring

The survey company monitored the correct conduct of the interviews by checking (by telephone) around every one in six interviews.

The (anonymized) data from the completed household interviews were forwarded to the OeNB in seven batches during the field phase. Each interview and interviewer was monitored closely. The OeNB had the possibility to withdraw interviewers. Three interviewers who were found to have delivered seriously flawed interviews were withdrawn from the survey.

Follow-up investigations by telephone

Outliers and inconsistent responses were looked into again after the interviews. These follow-up investigations resulted in the confirmation or correction of the respective values (for 400 households).

Editing and Consistency Checks

Number and type of edits

Number of observations:	around 841,000
Thereof edited observations:	around 22,000 (around two-thirds on the basis of verbatim records)
Share of edited observations:	2.6%

Checks for consistency during the interviews

Number of programmed consistency checks during the interviews:	more than 150
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Post-interview checks for consistency

Analysis of the data by experts for each interview, follow-up investigations by telephone to clarify uncertainties, investigation of outliers and checks on the consistency of the information collected, technical review of filters.

Documentation

Flag variables are used to document all edits and imputations.

Imputations

Method: Multiple imputation by chained equations (broad conditioning approach)	
Number of multiple imputation samples:	5
Number of iterations per imputation sample:	6
Median of the variables with missing values per household:	8
Mean of the variables with missing values per household:	17.3

Sample Size and Response Rate

Number of households in the sample (gross sample):	4,436
Number of successfully interviewed households (net sample):	2,380
Number of households that could not be reached (despite five contact attempts):	75
Number of households that refused to participate:	1,693
Number of households that did not participate for other reasons:	120
Number of addresses whose eligibility was unknown:	6
Number of ineligible addresses:	162
Response rate:	around 56%

Weighting

Adjustments for design weights to obtain final weights: nonresponse and poststratification adjustment

- Method of nonresponse adjustment: weighting class adjustment combined with model-based adjustment
- Method of poststratification adjustment: poststratification cell adjustment

Smallest final weight:	169
Median final weights:	1,429
Mean of final weights:	1,586
Highest final weight:	9,054
Sum of final weights (target population):	3,773,956
Unequal weighting effect:	1.28
No trimming and no normalization of weights	

Variance Estimation

Method: rescaling bootstrap procedure	
Number of resamples:	1,000
Number of pseudo-strata:	81
Adjustment of the design weights to obtain the resampling weights: identical to the adjustment of the design weights to obtain the final weights	
Finite population corrections were applied to all resampling weights.	