

Standard documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Household Budget Survey 2019/20

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Executive Summary

The Household Budget Survey (HBS) 2019/20 was carried out as a private household sample survey from end of May 2019 to mid-June 2020. Survey periods were determined as 53 overlapping accounting periods of two weeks. Households were randomly selected on the basis of stratified probability samples taken from the Central Register of Residents. Participation in the HBS was voluntary.

The primary aim of the survey was to record all expenditures of private households in Austria in a detailed way. Therefore, the selected households were asked to record their expenditure in a diary for a period of two weeks. This included all expenses on goods as well as on services received, irrespective of their use or actual utilisation.

Before and after the two weeks of diary keeping, households answered questions about housing, the possession of consumer durables and household income, while providing basic demographic information about each household member. Moreover, within these interviews certain data on expenditures were collected which, on the one hand were positions indispensable for the calculation of the overall consumption expenditure such as housing expenditure and on the other hand expenses which are usually paid continuously but at irregular intervals throughout the year (e.g. insurances). In addition, the questionnaire collected expenditure on major purchases, such as a car or a dishwasher in retrospect for the past twelve months. Furthermore, the annual survey period guaranteed the coverage of seasonally dependent expenses as well as expenditure on certain occasions, such as Christmas or the beginning of the school year.

For the Household Budget Survey 2019/20 a mobile version of the diary was developed. Households now were able to record their expenditure either in the mobile version, or via the desktop version or to use both in parallel. Alongside, a paper version of the diary was also available.

Chart 1 Participation by mode

Mode	1 st Interview	Diary keeping	2 nd Interview	Number of households absolute	Number of households in %
Mode 1 (CAPI*)	Face-to-Face	Paper diary	Face-to-Face	4 276	59.9
Mode 2 (CAPI/CAWI*)	Face-to-Face	online	online	2 678	37.5
Mode 3 (CAWI*)	online	online	online	185	2.6

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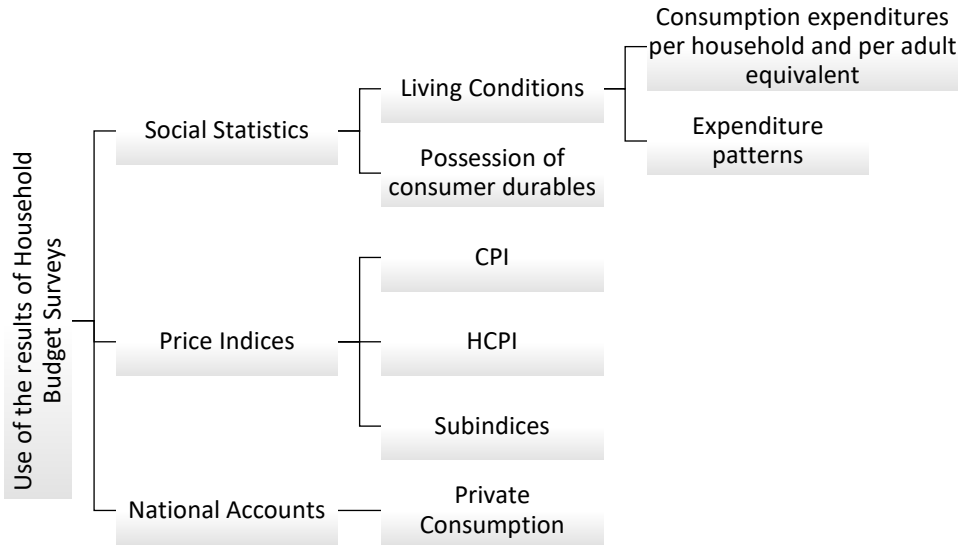
*CAPI: Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing. CAWI: Computer Assisted Web Interviewing.

The results of the Household Budget Survey provide information on consumption expenditure, income and the possession of consumer durables of private households in Austria. They shed light on the consumption habits of households in Austria and provide information on living standard and living conditions of different social groups. Expenditure patterns can be displayed with regard to the different stages of life as well as relating to specific household conditions. Thus, the results are used as basis for

analyses on the distribution of consumption expenditure in different household types and sizes, e.g., households including children, single households or special subpopulations, e.g. households of the working or of the retired population.

Moreover, consumption expenditures and their distribution among individual expenditure groups represent a key source for the weighting of the Consumer Price Index basket of both the national and the European version (ICP/HICP). Expenditure data from the HBS is also used in the System of National Accounts (SNA) to validate the results of calculations relating to private consumption.

Chart 2 Usage of HBS data



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Household Budget Surveys have a long tradition in Austria. From 1954 to 1993/94 they were carried out in 10-year intervals. In the course of the implementation of European standards, the intervals were reduced to 5 years as of the 1999/00 survey. Despite the frequent collection of data on consumption expenditure, comparisons with significantly longer periods back in the past are difficult due to considerable methodological differences between the individual surveys.

The analyses display consumption expenditure and their breakdown by individual expenditure groups according to different criteria, namely income groups, according to socio-demographic characteristics of the reference person or according to household types. In this context, the average monthly household expenditure and the equivalent expenditure are shown.

Equivalent expenditure (=expenditure weighted per-capita) represent a mathematical value used to compare the expenditure of households varying in size and structure. For the purpose of calculation, weights are assigned to the individual household members before dividing household expenditure by the sum of these weights. The weighting of equivalence expenditure is based on the EU-scale (modified OECD-scale): first adult person in the household equals 1.0; every other person aged 14 years or above equals 0.5; every child under 14 years equals 0.3.

Household Budget Survey 2019/20 – Main Key Points

Subject matter	Survey of household expenditure, possession of consumer durables and household income of private households
Population	Private households in Austria (2019/20: about 4.0 Mio.)
Type of statistics	Primary statistical survey
Data sources/Survey techniques	Sample survey, supplemented by register data for income
Reference period or due day	End of May 2019 until mid-June 2020
Periodicity	Every five years
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Voluntary
Main legal acts	Federal Statistics Act 2000 (in the respective current version), Council Regulation (EC) No 2494/1995 (Oct 1995) concerning harmonised indices of consumer prices, Regulation concerning the compilation of Indices of Consumer Prices (Erstellung von Verbraucherpreisindizes vom Juli 2003 (BGBl. II Nr. 351/2003))
Most detailed regional breakdown	Austrian provinces (NUTS2)
Availability of results	Austrian provinces (NUTS2)
Other	The Household Budget Survey 2019/20 was the first household survey that used a survey tool that could be used on mobile devices. Therefore Statistics Austria developed a new online version of the diary.