

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL STATISTICS BELGIUM

Formerly known as NIS-INS, Directorate-General Statistics Belgium is part of the Federal Public Service Economy. Our mission is to deliver timely, reliable and relevant figures to international, European and Belgian authorities, to Belgian and foreign enterprises, to education, research and development and finally to civil society. Statistics Belgium collects data and statistics, transforms them into statistics and statistical products and disseminates the statistics, statistical products and the explanations.

Hereby we would like to present some of the surveys carried out by Statistics Belgium. The selected surveys are collected in households and regulated by the European Commission (EUROSTAT), with exception of the GGPS which is regulated by UNECE. This general framework gives the opportunity to compare results among different member states. Mostly, the national statistical institutes are responsible for selecting the sample, preparing the questionnaires, conducting the direct interviews among households, and forwarding the results to EUROSTAT in accordance with the common coding scheme. Further information on those surveys and other surveys can be found on the website <http://www.statbel.fgov.be/>.

SILC

The European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions is an instrument aiming at collecting timely and comparable cross-sectional and longitudinal multidimensional microdata on income, poverty, social exclusion and living conditions. The instrument aims to provide two types of data: Cross-sectional data pertaining to a given time or a certain time period with variables on income, poverty, social exclusion and other living conditions; Longitudinal data pertaining to individual-level changes over time, observed periodically over, typically, a four year period.

Social exclusion and housing condition information is collected at household level while labour, education and health information is obtained for persons aged 16 and over. The core of the instrument, income at very detailed component level, is mainly collected at personal level but a few components are included in the household part of SILC.

LFS

The European Union Labour Force Survey is a large household sample survey providing quarterly results on labour participation of people aged 15 and over as well as on persons outside the labour force. Some of the questions are the occupation and industry details of main and second job, the hours worked, the length of time in main job or the length of unemployment, the methods used to look for work, the type of employment sought, the participation to education, the highest level of completed education and so on. Main indicators resulting from the survey are the employment, the activity and the unemployment rate (by sex, age group, level of education,...). In all of the countries providing quarterly data the quarterly sample is spread uniformly over all weeks of the quarter.

HBS

The Household Budget Survey produces annual data on the expenditure structure and incomes of the average household at the national and the regional level. The Household Budget Survey produces information about the consumption expenditure of households for consumables, investments goods, energy, services, savings and debt. The survey gives also information about characteristics of the household as activity, age, education level, etc.

The possession of durable consumer goods, living conditions, rental value of the occupied accommodation, charges paid in relation to housing, periodic payments,...are collected data of households by interviews or diaries.

ISS

The Information Society Statistics aims at collecting harmonised and comparable information on the Europeans citizens' access to and use of computers and the Internet. Data are collected on the available ICT devices as well as the frequency and location of computer and Internet use. Users are asked for the purpose and nature of their activities (including e-shopping) while non-users are asked to report their main barriers to the e-society.

The scope of the survey was broadened over the years by introducing questions on ICT skills and security related issues. To make detailed and policy-relevant analysis of the data collected possible, information is also collected on the socio-economic background of the respondents. The

statistics produced are broken down by age groups, gender, education and employment situation.

GGPS

The Generations and Gender Panel Study proposed by UNECE (PAU) is a periodical survey concerning relationships between partners (marital, cohabitant,...) and between generations (parent-child, child-parent, fertility, care of previous and future generations). Moreover, information is gathered about the economical and social consequences of hazing (denatality) and population senescence, as well as about the impact of demographic developments on the labour market status and the pension climate. Finally, data are collected concerning the impact of the social, economical and political environment on demographic developments and the intentions of the population.

The GGPS consists of three waves. This three-wave approach makes it possible to follow, over a period of time, the intentions of the persons interviewed and the acting out, in the event, of these intentions, as well as the interfering and stimulating factors to realise those intentions. The interviews are face-to-face and conducted in all Belgian regions. In the first wave which will take place in 2007, we aim to have 10.000 respondents aged 18 to 79. The second and third wave will follow in 2010 and 2013. In each wave, the standard international questionnaire will be translated and adjusted to the Belgian situation.

Guy Brys
Directorate-General Statistics Belgium