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About the survey

The Household Income and Expenditure Survey is one of the most important household surveys concerned with the study of the living standards of households, to determine the level of welfare enjoyed by the society through the study of households' spending and income patterns. In the implementation of this survey, SCAD will be using a thoroughly updated frame for withdrawal of the sample, ensuring full coverage of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, as the survey follows the completion of the emirate's general population census of 2011. The forthcoming survey is also distinct from the last survey in the classification of goods and services on the daily and monthly expense tracking forms, and durable goods, using the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) issued by the Statistical Division of the United Nations (UNSTAT). It is the classification used in the International Comparisons Programme (ICP) prepared and adopted by the World Bank. This survey is the third in the emirate and the first since the inception of SCAD. Typically, the HIES is a periodic survey that the majority of countries now intend to conduct once every five years. The income and expenditure survey is known to be one of the largest and most demanding surveys in terms of the cost, effort and time needed to carry it out and to cover as the survey involves seasonal coverage of household spending on goods and services.

Survey Objectives

1. Identify patterns of households' consumption expenditure and calculate the elasticities of spending (demand) on the various items of consumption expenditure, to be used in the calculation of inflation.
2. Calculate average individual and household expenditure, i.e. the share of each individual or household of total spending on the different expenditure groups, and identify the factors affecting spending such as income, education, occupation, nationality, etc.
3. Calculate average individual and household income and correlate results with the factors influencing income, e.g. educational, occupation, economic activity, etc.
4. Distribution of households and individuals into groups by income and expenditure levels, educational attainment, nationality and occupation.
5. Estimate the size of the current demand for goods and services to help predict the population's future needs of goods and services.
6. Measurement of average wages and their impact on household expenditure.
7. Provide data that will help in the evaluation of economic and social development programmes.

By achieving of those goals and through the optimal use of the results obtained, the HIES Pilot Survey can contribute towards:

- Providing a database that reflects the prevailing social and economic trends in consumption expenditure and income for families and individuals.

- Providing the necessary data to build the basket items and relative weights for the compilation of the consumer price index (CPI).
- Change or update of the base years of statistical indicators, which usually takes a full year to ensure seasonal coverage.
- The HIES is one of the key sources of input data in the preparation of GDP components.
- Compilation of the statistical indicators required for the preparation of social development studies and strategies.
- Decision support in the formulation of economic and social policies.
- Facilitate decision making in favour of better living conditions for households and adoption of price policies that appropriately respond to the inflation rates.

The survey sample

Standard scientific methodology was followed in the withdrawal of the sample, which was done by random sampling, with care being taken to ensure accuracy in representation, picking out a sample of citizen, non-citizen and share households that are permanent residents of Abu Dhabi Emirate in 2013, in addition to individuals from labour camps. The survey will cover the three regions of the emirate of Abu Dhabi (Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and Al Gharbia).

The survey timeline

Gearing up for this HIES requires the early formation of technical committees and work teams for designing the survey questionnaire, the pre-project phases, the pilot survey, the operational phase, data, in addition to the editing, processing and analysis of data and dissemination of results. SCAD's HIES Pilot Survey is scheduled to be launched in October 2013 and last for a whole year.

Data confidentiality

Pursuant to the establishing act of Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi, all the individual data provided by the households surveyed will be treated as strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.

A call for cooperation

Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi appeals to all the households targeted for the HIES to cooperate with the Centre's interviewers by providing the information requested with full accuracy and transparency, affirming that the data collected will be used only for the survey purposes, without any legal or undesirable consequences.