

The Unified Database of Household Budget Surveys 1984/85, 1990/91, 1996/97, 2003, 2009 and 2015/16

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The objective of this paper is the unification of the figures contained in the six Household Budget Surveys (HBS) into one common database. The Surveys are conducted by the Statistical Service of Cyprus (CYSTAT) and were carried out during the years 1984/85, 1990/91, 1996/97, 2003, 2009 and 2015/16. These six surveys are more comprehensive in comparison with the ones conducted in previous years with respect both to the coverage and the objective. This was due to the increased demand of the policy makers for more detailed information concerning the socio-economic conditions on the island.

The 1984/85 HBS was conducted on 3759 household residing in the Government controlled areas which represent 2.52 per cent of the total household population. This survey exhibits some deficiencies concerning both the collection and the processing of the figures.

The second Survey, the 1990/91 Survey, contains 2708 households representing the 1.6 per cent of the total household population. This survey is more comprehensive than the previous one and exhibits a number of similarities with the 1996/97 Survey. This is in fact the first time data was compiled on ownership of immovable property such as housing, non-residential buildings, household indebtedness as well as commuting to urban areas for work. In some cases the figures were collected on a household and not on an individual level; the value of shares or bonds is an example of figures collected on a household level.

Moreover the 1996/97 HBS was based on a sample of 2644 households that is 1.3 per cent of the total household population residing in the Government controlled areas. Undoubtedly this is a more comprehensive Survey than the previous two since it was carried out in accordance with the procedures and recommendations of

³ The consolidation of the data of the 2015/16 Household Budget Survey was based on the previous work carried out by Anastasis Georgiou, Demetra Komodromou and Alexandros Polycarpou for the EAP "Unified database of Household Budget Surveys 1984/85, 1990/91, 1996 / 97 and 2002/03" and by Sofia Andreou, Christos Koutsampelas and Alexandros Polycarpou for the EAP "Unified database of Household Budget Surveys 1984/85, 1990/91, 1996/97, 2003 and 2009".

the European Statistical Office (Eurostat) with respect to content, methodology, and concepts.

The 2003 HBS was based on a sample of 2990 households that is 1.25 per cent of the total household population residing in the Government controlled areas. Even though it exhibits a lot of similarities with the 1996/97 survey, it can be characterized as the most complete and comprehensive survey with data on more specific items than the previous three ones. The figures which are given as totals in the 1996/97 survey are further broken down allowing for a better description of the household income and expenditure.

The 2009 HBS contains a sample of 2707 households that is 1.00 per cent of the total household population residing in the Government controlled areas. The information collected in this survey is the same with the ones contained in the 2003 HBS with only a very few minor improvements.

Finally, the 2015/16 HBS contains a sample of 2876 households that is approximately equal to 1.00 per cent of the total household population residing in the Government controlled areas. The questionnaire and information collected in this survey are the same as the ones in the 2009 HBS with some additions and improvements.

The unified database consists of six different datasets each one containing different qualitative and quantitative variables. The dataset named ALLPERSONS contains variables concerning personal characteristics of the individuals of the household. These variables include among others age, sex, marital status, education level, economic activity, and area of residence. The ALLINCOME dataset includes variables relating to the income of the household members from employment and other sources such as property, non-salaried activities, and benefits. The ALLINCOMEH dataset contains income variables which are available only on household level. The dataset with the name ALLEXPENDITURE contains variables concerning the expenditure of the household on groups of durable and non-durable goods and services. Finally the ALLHHOLDS dataset includes variables relating to some specific characteristics of the household premises.