Data collection methods in Latvian Household Finance and Consumption Survey

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Abstract

The Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS) is a statistical survey conducted in the euro area countries by collecting and compiling data on the real assets, financial assets, debt, income, and consumption of households. The HFCS is carried out by the European Central Bank and the national central banks of the European Union Member States. The HFCS is conducted at the national level. To obtain comparable data, the participating countries follow common methodological guidelines (Household Finance and Consumption Network 2019), but do not necessarily use identical questionnaires.

The Latvian HFCS for the third time was conducted in 2020 by the Bank of Latvia, again in a close cooperation with the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia (CSB). CSB ensured the collection of the HFCS data by two types of interview mode. In 2020, the Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) method was introduced in the survey.

The recommended survey method by the ECB has been Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI), because there are some questions where the interviewer evaluates the visual appearance of the dwelling being present on site and as well as questions where the answer is selected from the displayed card. However, 2020 brought changes throughout the world and changes in the survey. Most countries were forced to change the method of survey data collection. Thus, Latvia also switched to CATI. CSB already had extensive experience in conducting surveys using the CATI method and even established a special CATI service for this purpose. Therefore, a joint decision was made that for those addresses with available phone numbers, they will be surveyed using the CATI method.

In my work, I will examine whether there have been differences between these data collection methods and what the differences are in specific question groups. Part of the survey consists of administrative data; therefore, I will focus more on those questions that were not affected by the editing of administrative data.

These administrative data, as well as the comments and the paradata provided by interviewers at the conclusion of each interview, are used at the Bank of Latvia during the data editing phase to detect and correct possible mistakes in the survey data. Such quality checks aim to correct various kinds of inconsistencies, such as mistyped or erroneous answers, and it is possible to identify the quality differences between CAPI and CATI methods.

For the current survey wave, all editing has already been done. In my poster, I plan to show some results to demonstrate if there are any differences between these two methods for HFCS data.

Keywords: CAPI, CATI, survey.

References

The Household Finance and Consumption Survey: Methodological report for the 2021 wave. ECB Statistical Paper Series, 28