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Outcome of the in-depth review of household survey methods

Household survey methods in selected countries

**Note by Statistics Canada, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the
Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom and Statistics
Netherlands**

Summary

The present note includes an overview of household survey methods in selected countries, to support the in-depth review paper on household survey methods provided in document ECE/CES/2012/4.

I. Canada

1. Statistics Canada's household survey program consists of a mix of regular and ad hoc surveys, using a variety of frames, with varying degrees of frequency and timeliness.

2. One of Statistics Canada's most important household surveys is the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) (Statistics Canada 2008). It is selected using an area frame that is newly-created following each decennial census, and uses PSUs and dwellings as its two stages of sampling. Since 2004, the Address Register, which was originally developed for the Census, has been used to replace or supplement field listing in most sample PSUs. The sample size is approximately 60,000 dwellings each month; a dwelling stays in the LFS sample for six consecutive months and is then rotated out. In urban areas the first month's interview is conducted by telephone where possible; otherwise it is conducted in person using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). Subsequent months' interviews are generally conducted by telephone using a Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) capacity located in Statistics Canada's Regional Offices. The LFS is Statistics Canada's only household survey to which response is legally required, although proxy response is accepted. Estimation takes account of the sample design and non-response, and employs auxiliary information for individuals and households, as well as making use of composite estimation. The survey reference period is usually the week containing the 15th of the month, and the results are normally published on the first Friday of the following month.

3. The LFS is also used as a platform to conduct supplementary surveys. Once the interviewer has completed the LFS interview, the respondent may be asked additional questions. Some of these supplementary surveys may occur regularly, such as the Travel Survey of Residents of Canada, while others are conducted on an ad hoc basis, for example a Survey of Older Workers. As few as one or as many as five of the six panels of the survey may be included in a supplementary survey; households in their first month in the LFS sample are excluded. Surveys may also be conducted using panels of households that have rotated out of the LFS. Because contact information for these households is already available and they have cooperated in the past, they tend to be less expensive to use than a completely new sample. However it is important to manage the respondent burden on them carefully.

4. Another major household survey is the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS). Approximately half of the sample is selected from the LFS frame, often in the same PSUs in which the LFS is active, but consisting of different dwellings. Interviews for this portion of the sample are generally conducted by CAPI. The other half of the sample is selected from lists of telephone numbers, and interviews are conducted by CATI. The data from the two samples are combined during estimation. This dual frame approach is a compromise between the higher coverage of the area frame portion and the less expensive telephone collection approach in the CATI portion. The total sample size is approximately 65,000 households each year. The annual sample is allocated to two-month collection periods, and for most estimates one or two years of data are accumulated.¹ Like the LFS, the CCHS serves as the basis for supplementary surveys, usually on a health-related topic.

5. The Survey of Household Spending (SHS) collects detailed household-level expenditures as well as information on dwelling characteristics and household equipment. Results are used to calculate the basket for the Consumer Price Index and for the System of

¹ In a few cases estimates may be based on periods of less than a year.

National Accounts. The SHS sample of approximately 20,000 households is selected from the LFS frame, and is separate from the active LFS sample (although often in the same PSUs). Data are collected monthly using a combination of personal interviews and respondent-completed diaries, with the collection method and reference period for expenditures dependent on the type of expenditure.

6. The Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) is a longitudinal household survey that measures the economic well-being of Canadians over time, by producing information on labour market experience, income and its sources, educational activity, family status and related factors. A new panel of approximately 17,000 households, selected from the LFS frame, is introduced every three years. A panel is in the survey for six years, so that two panels are active in any given year. The survey collects data by CATI during the January to March period, with the reference period being the previous calendar year. SLID is also the official source of household income data. Respondents are asked for approval to access their tax returns for this purpose, and over 80% of respondents give permission to do so. When the original household composition changes or the household moves, the original longitudinal respondents are traced to their new household(s) and any additional persons they are living with (e.g., a new spouse) are also surveyed.

7. In addition to these four regular surveys, other surveys make use of the LFS frame, sometimes in combination with other frames. For example, the 2007-2009 Canadian Health Measures Survey (Cycle 1) used the LFS frame to delineate collection sites, which had to be compact enough for respondents to travel from their homes to a mobile clinic where the physical measures were taken. Within each of the sampled collection sites, the list of dwellings from the 2006 Census was used as a frame for the second stage of sampling. Dwellings were stratified according to the age groups of the occupants in the 2006 Census to increase the chances of obtaining sufficient numbers of persons by age group when the survey was actually conducted.

8. Several surveys make use of telephone frames. The most regular is the General Social Survey (GSS), which employs a sampling method known as “RDD with the elimination of non-working banks.”² The GSS is conducted annually, with a sample size of approximately 25,000. It serves as a platform for regularly-recurring topics, such as criminal victimization, time use and social networks, as well as for ad hoc data needs. Another regular survey using RDD is the Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey.

II. Australia

9. The Household Survey Program (HSP) of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) consists of three parts – the Monthly Population Survey (MPS), the Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS) and a program of Special Social Surveys (SSSs). The MPS is monthly and ongoing, with a rotating panel design, respondents included in sample for eight consecutive months, and the omnibus MPHS given to those in their eighth month. The SSS program includes both regular and ad hoc surveys, with selected respondents included in just the one survey.

10. The ABS has the legislated ability to direct people to respond to all its surveys, including household surveys, and achieves high response rates (97% for MPS, 80-85% for MPHS and 85-90% for most SSSs) after sample loss (ineligible/vacant households). Samples for all household surveys are selected via a multi-stage area-based approach.

² Telephone company files are used to identify “banks” of 100 numbers that do not contain any working telephone numbers; empty banks are then eliminated from the RDD process.

Following every five-yearly Census, a master sample of areas is selected, and household lists created for sampled areas using field- or office-based processes. Households are then sub-sampled from these lists in further stages of selection. Currently the one set of areas provides the household samples for the MPS/MPHS and program of SSSs. There are separate frames for selecting households from private (i.e., residential) dwellings, special (i.e., non-residential) dwellings and Indigenous communities.

11. The main purpose of the MPS is as a vehicle for the Australian Labour Force Survey (LFS), however it also includes short monthly supplementary surveys, and in their last time in sample, respondents are included in the MPHS. The MPS is a monthly survey with approximately 27,000 fully responding households per month. Computer Aided Interviewing (CAI) is used, with first-time households generally enumerated via Face-to-Face (F2F) and all other households over the telephone.

12. The LFS, focussed on establishing unemployment and labour force participation rates, is conducted on all eight rotation groups in a particular month. Every in-scope person within a selected household is enumerated via the Any Responsible Adult (ARA) method, where one adult self-nominates to respond on behalf of everybody in the household (i.e., a proxy response). Total interview time is approximately 13 minutes per household (6-7 minutes clerical/administrative information, 6-7 minutes actual interview), and slightly longer in quarter months due to the collection of occupation and industry information. Composite estimation is used in conjunction with Generalised Regression Estimation (GREG), to gain efficiencies from use of overlapping sample correlations and independent population estimates by age and sex. The survey reference period relates to the week prior to the interview, with interviews conducted in the middle two weeks of the month. Results are generally published on the second Thursday of the following month.

13. MPS supplementary surveys can be run in any calendar month (except typically December and January), and are almost always run on all rotation groups except the outgoing rotation group (which is reserved for MPHS). Like the LFS, data are generally collected via ARA on all persons in a household, though a Personal Interview (PI) on one randomly selected person is allowed. Subject matter varies widely, from labour market (earnings, job search experience, and labour mobility), education and work, and environment among others. Interview time is normally around three to five minutes, but sometimes up to seven minutes.

14. The MPHS is given to only the outgoing rotation group with data collected over a 12 month period (maximum) to build sample size. It is a PI survey on one randomly selected person per household, and contains a number of different topics ranging from one to six minutes in length. The total MPHS interview currently lasts 16-20 minutes on average, and the PI nature of this survey lends itself to different (and sometimes more sensitive) subject matter, including crime victimisation, patient experience and barriers to labour force participation.

15. SSSs are large scale, and individually more expensive, surveys. SSSs have fully responding sample sizes ranging from 4,300 up to 35,000 households, with recent SSSs being at the higher end of this scale, driven by needs for improved jurisdictional estimates. SSSs are generally run on all in-scope persons in a household or one randomly selected person per household, with F2F interview times ranging from 45-90 minutes, and in one instance up to 103 minutes. Much more detailed information can be collected via a SSS compared to the MPS, and other sophisticated enumeration techniques (such as biomedical collection, skills testing on laptop computers, diaries) are sometimes needed.

16. A range of subject matter areas are covered by SSSs. Some surveys repeat regularly, for example every 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 10 years, with survey content including a fixed core to

support comparisons over time, and sometimes a flexible component. Some of these surveys are described in the following paragraphs.

17. The General Social Survey (GSS) is run every four years, and measures basic demographic information (age, sex, household composition, income, education etc.) as part of a core with rotating/changing additional content each cycle. The 2006 GSS focussed on family support networks, crime and safety, stressors and information technology. The 2010 GSS had a strong focus on social inclusion indicators. This focus was supported by a sample design that targeted areas likely to include high numbers of people living with multiple social disadvantages, based on an index created using proxy indicators such as Indigenous status, single parent families, low income, etc. New content for the 2010 survey included items related to homelessness, financial resilience and exclusion, social disorder and health care delays. The 2010 survey had an effective sample size of 15,000 households.

18. The National Health Survey (NHS) collects information on the prevalence of health conditions and risk factors and is run every three years. In 2011, the sample size was increased and two new components were added to the NHS, namely a nutrition/physical activity survey and a biomedical survey, the latter involving pathological blood and urine testing. The new survey is referred to as the Australian Health Survey (AHS) and is 26,000 fully responding households altogether; 16,000 receive the standard NHS, 10,000 receive the nutrition/physical activity component, and the biomedical survey is run as a voluntary subsample.

19. The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) is conducted every three years and focuses on people requiring or providing care, with the last cycle in 2009 involving 27,000 fully responding households, which resulted in 64,000 people due to selecting multiple people per household. The next cycle in 2012 is expected to be of a similar size.

20. The Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) is conducted every two years, and collects detailed information about household income, housing and characteristics from persons aged 15 years and over resident in private dwellings. The SIH also collects detailed information about household wealth and additional housing data in some cycles. The sample size of the SIH is approximately 15,000 fully responding households (containing about 29,000 persons aged 15 years and over), and is designed to produce reliable income and housing estimates for both capital city and non capital city households. The Household Expenditure Survey (HES) is currently conducted every six years, and is enumerated as a subsample of the SIH to collect detailed information about household expenditure (using a self-enumerated diary in addition to the interview) along with the SIH income, housing, wealth and characteristics information. The sample size of the HES is approximately 6,800 fully responding households (containing about 13,000 persons aged 15 years and over), and is designed to produce reliable expenditure estimates for capital city households to support updates of the products and weights in the basket of goods used in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The most recent SIH and HES were conducted in 2009-10, and included the SIH wealth topic. The 2009-10 SIH and HES also collected information from an additional 3,000 HES households whose main source of income was a government pension, benefit or allowance, to improve estimates for the pensioner beneficiary households used in the Pensioner Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI).

21. The Work, Life and Family Survey (WoLFS) is conducted every six years, and collects detailed information about employment arrangements, working patterns, work and caring, retirement and retirement intentions, superannuation, paid and unpaid work, care arrangements, time use (using a self-enumerated diary in addition to the interview) and other characteristics from persons aged 15 years and over resident in private dwellings. The WoLFS sample size is 13,750 fully responding households (containing about 26,500 persons aged 15 years and over), with a subsample of 4,000 fully responding households

(containing about 7,500 persons aged 15 years and over) who complete the time use diaries. WoLFS is next being conducted over the calendar year 2013.

22. The Survey of Education and Training (SET) is run every four years and collects information on how education relates to employment outcomes. All in-scope people in a household are selected, with fully responding sample sizes around 11,000 households and 22,000 persons.

23. Two SSSs, the Indigenous Health Survey (IHS) and the Indigenous Social Survey (ISS), relate specifically to the Indigenous population in Australia. The surveys are conducted every three years on an alternating basis and each survey aims for an effective sample size of 13,500 Indigenous persons. The surveys use area-based targeted samples due to the rarity of the population and the need to use special enumeration techniques for remote Indigenous communities.

24. The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) is a non-ABS survey, where the ABS provides strategic and methodological input into the design of the study. The ABS' role in the study includes developing survey instruments and fieldwork protocols, establishing relationships with study families as part of collecting information from those families and input and output processing of the data collected by the ABS for another government department.

25. In recent years the ABS has faced excess demand for topics on the MPHS, and this survey has grown in length, leading to unsustainable MPHS interview times. The question of what is the best way to increase ABS survey capacity into the future, in a cost effective way, has triggered an internal strategic review of household surveys. This review, together with recent experience, has highlighted the following drivers for change at the ABS: the need to improve responsiveness to new user needs; finding cost efficiencies, particularly in relation to contacting respondents; providing small area/population data; providing longitudinal data; fostering coherence across different sources; maintaining response rates; maintaining a skilled interviewer workforce; and maximising the use made of survey data through effective dissemination of micro-data and analytic outputs.

26. In line with these drivers, some developments underway in the ABS include: the development of web-based data collection for household surveys; testing of the use of Telephone Interviewing (TI) in the MPS for first-time households; testing of the impact of extending the number of times in survey for the MPS, to allow social data collection in later months; and investigation of the use of an address register to replace the current area sample approach that has traditionally been used by the ABS to select sample. In addition the ABS has been developing the Remote Execution Environment for Micro-data (REEM) as a tool for external users to gain better value out of ABS micro-data by creating a flexible yet confidential way for users to explore such data. Ensuring that the data are fully analysed and exploited by external users is important; micro-data are a standard output, but at present the data are not as extensively used by external analysts as one would hope.

27. Given the very high costs of household surveys, particularly if high response rates are to be achieved, another issue for the ABS is ensuring that the national program of surveys provides information to government and the public in key areas of policy concern, provides coherent information, manages respondent load and privacy concerns, and makes effective use of statistical and technical infrastructure. Influencing the efforts of both the government and non-government organisations engaged in undertaking household surveys to coordinate efforts and optimise outcomes is an area of concern for the ABS.

III. United Kingdom

28. The United Kingdom's statistical system is decentralised, so some of the main social surveys are run by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), while others are undertaken by other Government departments. There is a mix of continuous surveys, surveys which are undertaken periodically several years apart, and ad hoc surveys. Most of these surveys use the Postcode Address File (PAF) as a sampling frame – the PAF is a list of small areas maintained for postal delivery purposes, but which has been extended to act as a list of addresses for sampling purposes.

29. The main continuous surveys covering the whole United Kingdom are the Labour Force Survey (LFS), supplemented by additional samples in some areas to form the Annual Population Survey (APS), the Living Costs and Food Survey (LCF) and the General Lifestyle Survey (GLF) (which does not cover Northern Ireland). These three surveys have included a set of common questions since April 2009 and responses to these have been processed together as the Integrated Household Survey (IHS), providing an increased sample size and slightly wider topic coverage. Other surveys³ have also included the same questions and been part of the IHS, but have moved in or out of the sample. IHS outputs are currently experimental, which means that they are available publicly, but are still under development and primarily provided to enable users to help with their quality assurance. The production of IHS outputs is complicated by the inclusion of both clustered and unclustered samples.

30. The LFS is an unclustered survey with an achieved sample size of approximately 55,000 households each quarter. A selected household is surveyed each quarter for five quarters, and surveying is continuous, with 13 areas ("stints") covered one by one by an interviewer in each week of a quarter. The first interview is face to face (CAPI), but follow up interviews are preferably by telephone using a CATI unit based in ONS's Titchfield office. The reference week is the week before the interview should take place, and monthly estimates are produced using a rolling average of three months' data. Estimation takes account of the non-response through calibration to population totals by age, sex and region. As well as its primary purpose for collecting labour market data, the large sample size of the LFS has made it attractive to users and it contains additional questions on a range of topics.

31. The APS provides annual outputs and consists of all the wave 1 and wave 5 LFS cases, and a supplementary survey which provides a minimum number of achieved interviews each year in each Local Authority (with the exception of Local Authorities in London where a similar supplementary sample was discontinued some years ago on financial grounds). The supplementary surveys have a different rotation pattern, returning to the same address each year for four years. The total annual sample size is around 160,000 households. The primary purpose of the APS is to provide a more detailed geographical breakdown of variables collected in the LFS.

32. The General Lifestyle Survey (GLF) is a clustered survey of around 8,000 households per year collecting information on a range of topics including smoking and drinking, health and income. It has recently been used to collect information to meet the European Union (EU)'s Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC) regulation, for which purpose it was made longitudinal in 2005. Currently wave 1 is in the process of being merged with the Family Resources Survey (which is run by a different department, the Department for Work and Pensions). The longitudinal follow up at annual intervals (each household is interviewed four times in total) will remain in ONS. There are some

³ Opinions Survey (OPN), English Housing Survey (EHS), Life Opportunities Survey (LOS).

remaining topics which need to be transferred to another survey, probably a version of the Opinions Survey (OPN) which is a regular survey carrying ad hoc questions on a repayment basis.

33. The third of the main continuous household surveys is the Living Costs and Food Survey (LCF) which collects detailed information on household expenditure, including the completion of a diary of expenditure for one week. The LCF has a clustered sample of around 6,000 households per year, and provides the information on spending patterns and the cost of living that reflects household budgets across the country and from which the basket of goods and weights of the Consumer Price Index are derived. It also provides information about food consumption and nutrition.

34. There is then a series of continuous surveys on a variety of topics commissioned by different departments or sometimes consortia of departments and undertaken sometimes by ONS or sometimes by other organisations as the result of competitive tendering processes. These include Housing Surveys separately for England, Wales and Scotland which cover information on home ownership, renting and house conditions. In England there is an occasional supplementary survey of landlords. There is a Wealth and Assets Survey (WAS) which has two-year waves, and is a longitudinal panel survey; the third wave is in the field from 2010 to 2012, and results from the two-wave longitudinal dataset are in preparation. WAS has a design which oversamples households that are likely to be more wealthy, to improve the accuracy of the results. The British Crime Survey (which despite its name covers only England) is commissioned by the Home Office (but is due to transfer to the ONS on 1 April 2012), and is a continuous survey of around 46,000 households per year collecting information on experiences of crime and victimisation. There is also a National Travel Survey, run by the Department of Transport and collecting information by personal interview and self-completion diary on personal travel patterns from around 8,000 households a year.

35. There are also occasional surveys on Dental Health, Psychiatric Morbidity and other specific topics which come around every 5 to 10 years on fairly regular cycles depending on when funding is available. A longitudinal survey collecting information on disability, the Life Opportunities Survey is also underway, with wave 2 in the field; it is not yet known whether this survey will continue into a third wave. There is an ongoing Opinions Survey (OPN), which carries questions on particular topics funded by other departments; this survey is unusual among official household surveys in the UK in sampling only one person in a household.

36. All household surveys have the same basic fieldwork approach, with the first contact normally face-to-face by CAPI and follow-up interviews by telephone using a CATI system wherever possible. Financial pressures are however causing the ONS to adopt cost saving measures, which currently include making the first approach by telephone where a telephone number can be identified, and pilots of collecting some information over the Internet. For the LFS the ONS has stopped following up households where all the inhabitants are aged 75 or over, who are now included in the survey only once.

37. Some survey editing is built into the data collection instruments, and there are further checks and processes to calculate derived variables which take place after collection. All surveys use some form of weighting to compensate for differential non-response and to provide consistency with published population totals, though there are differences in the level of aggregation by age, sex and geography depending on the size of the sample available. Some surveys (particularly the LFS) have more than one weight to allow estimates to be produced from different types of cases. For example there is a separate "income weight", used with only wave 1 and 5 cases, which are the only interviews at which a question on income is asked.

IV. Netherlands

38. In general, Statistics Netherlands' household survey program consists of a mix of regular and ad hoc surveys, using a variety of frames, with varying degrees of frequency and timeliness.

39. One of Statistics Netherlands' most important household surveys is the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The target population of the LFS consists of the non-institutionalised population aged 15 years and over residing in the Netherlands. The sampling frame is a list of all known occupied addresses in the Netherlands, which is derived from the municipal basic registration of population data. The LFS is based on a stratified two-stage cluster design of addresses. Strata are formed by geographical regions. Municipalities are considered as primary sampling units and addresses as secondary sampling units. All households residing at an address, up to a maximum of three, are included in the sample (in the Netherlands, there is generally one household per address). Since most target parameters of the LFS concern people aged 15 through 64 years, addresses with only persons aged 65 years and over are under-sampled. Addresses with at least one person between 15-26 years of age, addresses with at least one person of non-national origin and addresses with at least one person who is registered at the job search administration, are oversampled.

40. The LFS is based on a rotating panel design. Each month a sample of addresses is drawn and data are collected of the residing households. The sampled households are re-interviewed by telephone four times at quarterly intervals. The sample size is approximately 6,000 dwellings each month; a dwelling stays in the LFS sample for four subsequent waves and is then rotated out. The first interview is conducted by telephone using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) where possible (if there is a telephone number available). Otherwise it is conducted in person using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). Interviews in subsequent waves are conducted by telephone using CATI. Responding to the LFS is, as to all Dutch surveys, voluntary. Proxy response is accepted. The survey reference period is the respondent's situation at the moment of interviewing.

41. The monthly results are normally published on the third Thursday of the following month. Monthly figures are estimated using a structural time series model. Quarterly figures are published six weeks after the end of each quarter.

42. The Dutch LFS is also used to gather information for the European LFS. All European countries are obliged to deliver a database to Eurostat every quarter. In the quarterly datasets a fixed number of variables is demanded. To be able to deliver enough data for publication on a quarterly basis, the LFS is conducted as a rotating panel survey with five waves. The time between subsequent waves is three months (a quarter) for each respondent for each wave. Besides the quarterly data, Eurostat also demands a set of variables which only need to be published every year. The variables that are needed for the yearly publications are asked in the second wave of the LFS only. There is also a so called ad hoc module, which changes subject every year; Eurostat determines the subject for this ad hoc module.

43. The Dutch LFS is also used as a platform to conduct supplementary surveys. The respondent may be asked additional questions, for example at the request of the Dutch ministry of labour and social affairs. Most of these supplementary surveys occur regularly, every year or every two years. Examples are a yearly module in the LFS on membership of trade unions and a two yearly module on combining labour and family care. These modules are all integrated in the third wave of the Dutch LFS. The European survey of household and living conditions (EU-SILC) is a survey which is conducted using panels of households

that have rotated out of the LFS. Because contact information for these households is already available and they have cooperated in the past, they tend to be less expensive to use than a completely new sample. Furthermore there is a lot of overlap in the questions for the LFS and for EU-SILC.

44. The objective of the Dutch Travel Survey is to describe the travel patterns of specific groups of the Dutch population. To this aim respondents are asked to describe their trips for one predefined day. For each trip respondents are asked to fill in the origin and destination locations, the distance travelled, the purpose of the trip, the time of departure, travel time and the mode(s) of transport used. The survey is conducted continuously, so that information from more than 42,000 respondents is gathered, spread over all days in a year. Since 2010 the survey has been conducted by using a mixed mode design. The survey starts with web interviewing, but if respondents are not willing or not able to respond by web, they are re-approached by telephone if the respondent's phone number is known; otherwise it is done by a face-to-face interview.

45. Statistics Netherlands conducts an annual Health Interview Survey (HIS) to collect data about health, care use and life style. The target population of the survey is the total Dutch population, aged 0 and above, living in private households. The survey interviews approximately 10,000 respondents each year, with collection taking place throughout the year. To avoid an overly-long interview duration, the survey consists of two sub-surveys. Since 2010 the HIS is conducted in a mixed mode design, starting with web interviewing. Non-respondents are re-approached by telephone if the respondent's phone number is known; otherwise a face-to-face interview is conducted. Sub-survey two is conducted partly by web interviewing and partly by a paper questionnaire.

46. The aim of the Dutch continuous Holiday Survey is to collect information on the holiday behaviour of the Dutch population⁴, in particular the amount of spending on holidays. Every year about 6,500 panel respondents complete a questionnaire on a quarterly basis (January, April, July and October) reporting on their holiday behaviour during the three months prior to the interview. Respondents use their own personal computer (Computer Assisted Web Interviewing) to fill out the questionnaire. In order to reduce memory effects, respondents are asked to fill out a short form with some core information, such as spending, to be completed directly after the ending of the holiday. A distinction is made between short term (up to 4 nights) and long term (at least 4 nights) holidays and between domestic holidays and outbound holidays. Panel attrition is about 25% per year. The sample is reweighted to a number of population characteristics such as age, sex, urbanization and region. Furthermore the sample is also reweighted in order to correct for the exclusion of persons without a personal computer.

47. In the Netherlands, the former Safety Monitor (SM) survey measured actual and perceived safety. Respondents were asked to answer questions related to feelings of safety, opinions about police performance and crime victimization. Between 2006 and 2008 the SM was conducted with a national annual sample size of about 20,000 respondents aged 15 years of age or over, or roughly 750 respondents in each of the 25 police districts in the Netherlands. In the past, however, local parties conducted their own independent surveys in order to produce reliable figures on a local level. Because of this independence, the local figures could not be compared, nor could they be aggregated consistently on a national level.

48. To overcome these issues, a new Integrated Safety Monitor (ISM) was introduced in the last quarter of 2008. The ISM has a nationwide component, with about 20,000

⁴ Persons with a non-Dutch nationality and institutionalized persons are excluded from the survey.

respondents aged 15 years of age and over, but to allow police districts and other local parties such as municipalities to participate on a larger scale, the ISM has the flexibility to add both sample and customized content. Local parties can increase sampling fractions among specific regional and local areas, such police districts or neighbourhoods. In 2008, 2009 and 2010 approximately 60,000, 200,000 and 40,000 respondents respectively took part in the ISM. The ISM questionnaire has a modular design, consisting of obligatory and optional questionnaire blocks on specific themes, in a fixed order. In the nationwide sample, all respondents are presented with all questions; in the local samples, local authorities are free to choose optional blocks. ISM respondents are first asked to complete a questionnaire via a web survey, or can respond via a self completion paper questionnaire. If neither of these modes is responded, the respondent is approached via CATI (if the phone number is known) or else via CAPI (for the national sample only).

49. In the Netherlands the Survey on ICT usage by households and individuals has been carried out since 2005, using telephone interviews. Only people aged 12-74 are interviewed and the net sample size of the ICT survey is about 4,400 individuals. In prior years (2002-2004) ICT outcomes were taken from the former Integrated System of Social Survey (POLS), which used face-to-face interviews.

50. The ICT survey is carried out within a European framework, in which all European member states ask comparable questions. The main reference period of this survey is the first quarter of the year. The international results cover households with at least one person aged 16-74, and individuals aged 16-74. Households are asked about computer and internet access by any member of the household at home. Individuals are asked about frequency of computer and internet use and about activities they had carried out on the internet in the last three months prior to the survey for private purposes, or in the last twelve months for e-government and e-commerce activities, at home or at any other location. The survey includes additional questions on one of the regular internet topics each year.

51. One of Statistics Netherlands' new survey modules concerns social cohesion. It includes various indicators for measuring social capital, such as volunteering, social contacts and informal help, political participation, social trust, trust in institutions and political trust. Based on these indicators a social capital index has been constructed. Furthermore, indicators measuring both 'bonding' and 'bridging' capital were introduced, such as resources for getting help by others. In 2010 the module was linked as a follow up to the Health Interview Survey, with a sample size of about 9,000, in the setting of a mixed-mode design (Web/CATI/CAPI). In parallel, in order to define mode and other design effects, a traditional smaller CAPI-based survey was conducted, with a sample size of about 3,500. In 2012 the module will be implemented in the mixed-mode design, among some 10,000 people. In addition the survey will be linked to the Social Statistical Database (SSD) in which information based on the whole Dutch population is available, such as disposable household income, concentrations of ethnic minority groups, rented houses, and social benefits.

52. The Household Budget Survey (HBS) has been conducted yearly since 1978, with exceptions in 2001, 2002 and 2011. The HBS collects detailed information on expenditures, dwelling and household characteristics. The results are used, among other things, for the Consumer Price Index, the System of National Accounts and Eurostat publications.

53. The HBS consists of two modules. In Module 1, the households keep a paper diary for three months in which they record expenses of 20 Euros or more, as well as holiday expenditures. In addition, meter readings of gas, electricity and water are recorded at the beginning and the end of the period. Each household is contacted seven times by CATI to report the expenses; in one of these contacts the household characteristics are recorded. Every calendar month a new sample of 450 households participates in the module, for a

total net sample of about 5,500 households over 12 periods. The households are recruited by telephone or by letter if no telephone number is known.

54. In Module 2, households keep a paper diary for half a month in which they record all expenses. In addition, periodic expenses are recorded in a special paper questionnaire. Each household is visited three times by an interviewer. Each half month a new group of net 65 households participates in the module, for a total of 1560 households over 24 periods. The recruitment of households that have already participated in Module 1 is done by telephone, and if necessary new households are recruited by telephone (or face-to-face when no telephone number is known). For this additional recruitment a sample of addresses is drawn. The results of the two modules are combined to make consumption patterns for different household types.

55. Statistics Netherlands (CBS) conducts a number of other surveys for third public parties. Requests for surveys by third parties can be accepted if certain criteria are met: the survey does not conflict with CBS policy; the resources to conduct the fieldwork and to develop the survey are available and can be allocated to the survey without conflicting with the 'regular' surveys; and there are no negative effects on CBS surveys that are involved in the new survey. Most of the third party surveys are conducted in close collaboration with the organization that has commissioned the survey; such cooperation may extend to the publication of articles. Among the third party surveys currently conducted by the CBS, most are completely independent surveys, with a sample that is designed especially for the survey. However CBS also conducts third party surveys that use existing surveys as a platform. Once the respondent has finished a survey, he may be approached for additional questioning. This method is used in the Dutch Travel Survey.

56. A large current third party survey is the Time-budget survey (TBO). For this survey about 5.000 individuals are selected from the Dutch Municipal Population Register and asked to participate in a CAPI survey. When the respondent has finished this interview he is asked to complete a one-week paper diary, in which he is asked to record his activities for each 10-minute period for a week. If the respondent has an adult partner living in the same household, this partner is also asked to complete a diary. During the diary week the respondent is contacted by telephone about the progress of the survey and is motivated to continue. After the completion of the diary there is another CAPI interview. Because the TBO is a demanding survey for the respondents, CBS offers an incentive that consists of a 10 Euro voucher to be used at selected outlets in the Netherlands. Other third party surveys that CBS currently conducts are, among others, on the subjects of the informal economy, youth and housing.
