



German Council for Social  
and Economic Data (RatSWD)

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# RatSWD

## *Working Paper Series*

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### Overview of International Household Panel Studies

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## Working Paper Series of the Council for Social and Economic Data (RatSWD)

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The *RatSWD Working Papers* series was launched at the end of 2007. Since 2009, the series has been publishing exclusively conceptual and historical works dealing with the organization of the German statistical infrastructure and research infrastructure in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences. Papers that have appeared in the series deal primarily with the organization of Germany's official statistical system, government agency research, and academic research infrastructure, as well as directly with the work of the RatSWD. Papers addressing the aforementioned topics in other countries as well as supranational aspects are particularly welcome.

*RatSWD Working Papers* are non-exclusive, which means that there is nothing to prevent you from publishing your work in another venue as well: all papers can and should also appear in professionally, institutionally, and locally specialized journals. The *RatSWD Working Papers* are not available in bookstores but can be ordered online through the RatSWD.

In order to make the series more accessible to readers not fluent in German, the English section of the *RatSWD Working Papers* website presents only those papers published in English, while the German section lists the complete contents of all issues in the series in chronological order.

Starting in 2009, some of the empirical research papers that originally appeared in the *RatSWD Working Papers* series will be published in the series *RatSWD Research Notes*.

The views expressed in the *RatSWD Working Papers* are exclusively the opinions of their authors and not those of the RatSWD.

The RatSWD Working Paper Series is edited by:

Chair of the RatSWD (2007/2008 Heike Solga; since 2009 Gert G. Wagner)

Managing Director of the RatSWD (Denis Huschka)

## **Overview of International Household Panel Studies**

Statement of the German Council of Science and Humanities on the Status and Future  
Development of the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP). November 13, 2009.  
Appendix 6

*German Council of Science and Humanities*

## **Foreword**

In July 2007, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) requested that the German Council of Science and Humanities (Wissenschaftsrat) develop recommendations on improving Germany's scientific infrastructure in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Before the publication of the responsible working group's report, as a first step, the German Council of Science and Humanities called upon its evaluation committee to conduct an appraisal of the current status and future prospects of the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP). This Panel is an integral part of Germany's scientific infrastructure.

Accordingly, over the course of 2009, the German Council of Science and Humanities evaluated the SOEP. This assessment, which was released in November 2009 as a report containing recommendations (see <http://www.wissenschaftsrat.de/texte/9503-09.pdf>), was partly based on an international comparison of household panel studies.

The German Council for Social and Economic Data (RatSWD) believes that the overview of these international household panel studies produced by the German Council of Science and Humanities is of such a high standard that it is deserving of being published as a document in itself. The RatSWD is thus delighted that the German Council of Science and Humanities has agreed to allow publication of this overview as part of the RatSWD Working Paper Series.

Claudia Oellers  
RatSWD Office

## Overview of International Household Panel Studies

Reference date: 11 August 2009

### BHPS

<i>Range:</i>	UK
<i>Name:</i>	British Household Panel Survey
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/survey/bhps">http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/survey/bhps</a>
<i>Profile:</i>	<p>The main objective of the BHPS is to further the understanding of social and economic change at the individual and household level in Britain and the UK.</p> <p>The BHPS is conducted at the University of Essex.</p> <p>The survey consists of a nationally representative sample of about 5,500 households recruited in 1991, containing a total of approximately 10,000 interviewed individuals. Extension samples of 1,500 households in each of Scotland and Wales were added to the main BHPS sample in 1999 to enable independent analysis of each country. In 2001 a sample of 2,000 households was added in Northern Ireland (NIHPS, see p. 114). The total sample size for the BHPS including the extension samples is now around 10,000 households in the UK.</p> <p>The BHPS will be replaced by and included in the UKLHS (see p. 119). The BHPS is part of the CNEF (<i>Cross-National Equivalent File</i>).</p>
<i>Sampling unit:</i>	Households
<i>Status:</i>	The BHPS is conducted annually. The first 17 waves of data for the years 1991-2007 are currently available to researchers. The fieldwork of wave 18 is approaching completion and associated data will be released in early 2010. The data are released through the UK Data Archive at the University of Essex in a variety of formats.

### DHS

<i>Range:</i>	Netherlands
<i>Name:</i>	DNB Household Survey
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://www.centerdata.nl/en/TopMenu/Projecten/DNB_household_study/">http://www.centerdata.nl/en/TopMenu/Projecten/DNB_household_study/</a>
<i>Profile:</i>	<p>The DHS is a longitudinal household panel on psychological and economic aspects of financial behaviour with a sample size of 2,000 households.</p> <p>It is realised by CentERdata and comprises information on work, pensions, housing, mortgages, income, assets, loans, health, economic and psychological concepts, and personal characteristics.</p>
<i>Sampling unit:</i>	Households
<i>Status:</i>	The DHS was launched in 1993.

## ECHP

<i>Range:</i>	EU
<i>Name:</i>	European Community Household Panel
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/microdata/echp">http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/microdata/echp</a>
<i>Profile:</i>	<p>The ECHP is an annual panel survey covering a wide range of topics concerning living conditions. They include information on income, the financial situation in a wide sense, working life, the housing situation, social relations, and health and biographical information of the interviewee. The SOEP Study data from 1994 to 2001 have been integrated into the ECHP.</p>
<i>Sampling unit:</i>	Households and individuals
<i>Status:</i>	The ECHP was run from 1994 to 2001. It consists of eight waves.

## HILDA

<i>Range:</i>	Australia
<i>Name:</i>	Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/hilda/">http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/hilda/</a>
<i>Profile:</i>	<p>HILDA is a household-based panel study collecting data on participants' economic and subjective well-being, on their work situation and family life.</p> <p>It was initiated and is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). Responsibility for the design and management of the survey rests with the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research (University of Melbourne). Data collection for waves 1 to 8 has been sub-contracted to The Nielsen Company, a private market research company. Data collection for waves 9 to 12 will be undertaken by Roy Morgan Research.</p> <p>The sample consisted of 7,682 households and 19,914 individuals in wave 1.</p> <p>HILDA is part of the CNEF (<i>Cross-National Equivalent File</i>).</p>
<i>Sampling unit:</i>	Households
<i>Status:</i>	Since the beginning in 2001, interviews have been conducted annually with all adult household members. Currently the data of waves 1 to 7 are available.

## HUS

<i>Range:</i>	Sweden
<i>Name:</i>	The Swedish Panel Study Market and Nonmarket Activities
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://www.nek.uu.se/faculty/klevmark/hus.htm">http://www.nek.uu.se/faculty/klevmark/hus.htm</a>
<i>Profile:</i>	<p>The study was conducted by the Department of Economics, Göteborg University. The fieldwork was contracted out to Sifo AB.</p> <p>All respondents were non-institutionalised residents of Sweden aged 18 to 74. On average 1.7 individuals were interviewed per household.</p> <p>The sample size was 2,619 persons in 1984.</p>
<i>Sampling unit:</i>	Sampling units are individuals. A household is identified as the household to which this individual belongs. In each household one to three members were selected depending on household composition.
<i>Status:</i>	HUS was initiated in 1980. In 1982 a pilot study with several hundred respondents was conducted. The following waves took place in the years 1984, 1986, 1988, 1991, 1993, 1996, 1998. The waves in 1988 and 1991 did not cover all topics.

## MESS/LISS

<i>Range:</i>	Netherlands
<i>Name:</i>	Measurement and Experimentation in the Social Sciences/Longitudinal Internet Studies for the Social Sciences
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://www.centerdata.nl/en/MESS">http://www.centerdata.nl/en/MESS</a>
<i>Profile:</i>	<p>The MESS project aims at promoting the Dutch knowledge society and the innovation climate in the Netherlands.</p> <p>The LISS online panel consists of 5,000 Dutch households. It is conducted by CentERdata and is based on a true probability sample of households drawn from the population register by Statistics Netherlands. Households that could otherwise not participate are provided with a computer and Internet connection. Universities, research schools, and individual academics are invited to submit research proposals.</p>
<i>Sampling unit:</i>	Households
<i>Status:</i>	The LISS panel started data collection in autumn 2007.

## MxFLS

<i>Range:</i>	Mexico
<i>Name:</i>	Mexican Family Life Survey
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://www.ennvih-mxfls.org">http://www.ennvih-mxfls.org</a>
<i>Profile:</i>	<p>The Mexican Family Life Survey (MxFLS) is a multi-thematic and longitudinal database which collects a wide range of information on socio-economic indicators, demographics, and health indicators on the Mexican population.</p> <p>On the individual and household level, MxFLS provides information about the financial situation, education, employment, time use, recreational activities, health status, habits relating to health, biological indicators, retrospective health information, crime and victimisation, and others.</p> <p>Wave 2 also included a module measuring risk preferences, inter-temporary and altruistic preferences; a module on individual expectations, information on paternity and day-care centres, and additional biomarkers.</p> <p>Similar to the fieldwork conducted on households, MxFLS-1 carried out a community operative collecting data on schools, health centres, social programmes, economic and physical infrastructure, and level of local prices.</p> <p>The base-line sampling design was undertaken by the National Institute of Geography Statistics and Information (INEGI).</p> <p>The approximate sample size is 8,440 households with approximately 35,000 individual interviews.</p>
<i>Sampling unit:</i>	Households
<i>Status:</i>	Wave 1 was conducted in 2002, wave 2 in 2005/2006. Waves 3 and 4 are scheduled for 2009 and 2012.

## NIHPS

<i>Range:</i>	North Ireland
<i>Name:</i>	Northern Ireland Household Panel Survey
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://www.ark.ac.uk/nihps/">http://www.ark.ac.uk/nihps/</a>
<i>Profile:</i>	<p>The NIHPS is an extension of the long-running British Household Panel Survey.</p> <p>Wave 1 consisted of around 2,000 households and 3,500 individuals drawn from across Northern Ireland.</p>
<i>Sampling unit:</i>	Households
<i>Status:</i>	The fieldwork for wave 1 of the NIHPS and wave 11 of the BHPS (of which it forms a part) took place in 2001.



## NLC

<i>Range:</i>	Australia
<i>Name:</i>	Negotiating the Life Course Survey, Australia
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://lifecourse.anu.edu.au/">http://lifecourse.anu.edu.au/</a>
<i>Profile:</i>	<p>Negotiating the Life Course is a longitudinal study undertaken by the Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute (ANU) und School of Social Science (UQ) and funded by the Australian Research Council.</p> <p>NLC is designed to study the changing life courses and decision-making processes of Australian men and women as the family and society move from male breadwinner orientation in the direction of higher levels of gender equity.</p>
<i>Sampling unit:</i>	Households and individuals
<i>Status:</i>	Waves 1 to 4 took place in 1997, 2000, 2003, and 2006.

## PSELL

<i>Range:</i>	Luxembourg
<i>Name:</i>	Panel Socio-Economique „Liewen zu Lëtzeburg“ (The Luxembourg Household Panel Study)
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://www.ceps.lu">http://www.ceps.lu</a>
<i>Profile:</i>	<p>The Luxembourg Household Panel (PSELL), sponsored by the Luxembourg Government, is conducted by the Centre d'Études de Populations, de Pauvreté et de Politiques Socio-Économiques/International Networks for Studies in Technology, Environment, Alternatives, Development (CEPS/INSTEAD).</p> <p>The reference population covers anyone living in the Grand Duchy who is protected by social security; the basic sample represents 97 % of the population living in the country.</p> <p>The main purpose of the survey is to measure unemployment, poverty, labour force participation, income and family expenditure.</p>
<i>Sampling unit:</i>	Households and individuals
<i>Status:</i>	PSELL has been conducted every year since 1985.

## PSFD

<i>Range:</i>	Taiwan
<i>Name:</i>	Panel Study of Family Dynamics
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://psfd.sinica.edu.tw/">http://psfd.sinica.edu.tw/</a>
<i>Profile:</i>	<p>The PSFD is hosted by the Institute of Economics, Institute of Sociology and Office of Survey Research of Academia Sinica.</p> <p>Topics include education experience, work experience, interaction among family members, family resource allocation, living arrangement and power division among family members.</p>
<i>Sampling unit:</i>	PSFD collects information on the core respondents and their families (parents, in-laws, children and siblings). Data collection of the other family members is through soliciting the information from the core respondents as well as directly interviewing their children.
<i>Status:</i>	Wave 1 of the PSFD was conducted in 1999. The sample of wave 1 consisted of a nationally representative sample of individuals aged 36 to 45. In the latest wave (wave 2), implemented in 2000, a nationally representative sample of individuals aged 46 to 65 was added.

## PSID

<i>Range:</i>	USA
<i>Name:</i>	Panel Study of Income Dynamics
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/">http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/</a>
<i>Profile:</i>	<p>PSID is a longitudinal study realised by the Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan.</p> <p>The central focus of the study is in the areas of economy and demographics, with substantial detail on income, employment, family composition, and residential location. Content of a more sociological or psychological nature is also included in some waves of the study. Beginning in 1985, comprehensive retrospective fertility and marriage histories of individuals in the households have been assembled.</p> <p>The sample size has grown from 4,800 families in 1968 to more than 7,000 families in 2001.</p> <p>PSID is part of the CNEF (<i>Cross-National Equivalent File</i>).</p>
<i>Sampling unit:</i>	U. S. individuals (men, women and children) and the family units in which they reside
<i>Status:</i>	From 1968 to 1996, the PSID interviewed and reinterviewed individuals from families in the core sample every year. In 1997 annual interviewing was changed to biannual data collection. There also was a reduction of the core sample and introduction of a refresher sample of post-1968 immigrant families and their adult children.

## RLMS

<i>Range:</i>	Russia
<i>Name:</i>	Russia Longitudinal Monitoring Study <sup>1</sup>
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/rlms">http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/rlms</a>
<i>Profile:</i>	The RLMS is a series of nationally representative surveys conducted by the Carolina Population Center and the Russian Institute of Sociology. It is designed to monitor the effects of Russian reforms on the health and economic welfare of households and individuals in the Russian Federation. These effects are measured by detailed monitoring of individuals' health status and dietary intake, measurement of household-level expenditures and service utilisation as well as collection of relevant community-level data, including region-specific prices and community infrastructure data.
<i>Sampling unit:</i>	Households and individuals
<i>Status:</i>	16 waves of data have been collected since 1992.

## SHP

<i>Range:</i>	Switzerland
<i>Name:</i>	Swiss Household Panel (Schweizer Haushalts-Panel)
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://www.swisspanel.ch/">http://www.swisspanel.ch/</a>
<i>Profile:</i>	The SHP aims to observe the social change and the living conditions of the population in Switzerland. Information based on indicators such as income, living conditions, events in life, social status, societal participation, etc. are supplemented by subjective judgements (satisfaction with various aspects of life, values, life style, etc.) The sample size of the wave 1 (1999) was 5,074 households and 7,799 persons. Wave 8 (2006) covered 2,537 households and 4,091 persons.
<i>Sampling unit:</i>	Households
<i>Status:</i>	The SHP was established between 1998 and 2003 as a structural measure of the focus programme SPP <i>Zukunft Schweiz</i> . It was first (from 1998 to 2007) a joint-venture project between the Swiss National Fund for Scientific Research, the Swiss Federal Agency for Statistics and Neuenburg University. It is now run by FORS, the Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences.

<sup>1</sup> Information on a former Russian Study, the Russian Socio-Economic Transition Panel (RUSSET), can be found at <http://users.fmg.uva.nl/wsaris/>.

## SLID

<i>Range:</i>	Canada
<i>Name:</i>	Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://www.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&amp;SDDS=3889&amp;lang=en&amp;db=imdb&amp;adm=8&amp;dis=2">http://www.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&amp;SDDS=3889&amp;lang=en&amp;db=imdb&amp;adm=8&amp;dis=2</a>
<i>Profile:</i>	<p>The SLID is a longitudinal study on how the economic well-being of Canadians is related to the employment and family situation and to social transfers.</p> <p>The SLID sample is composed of two panels. Each panel consists of two LFS rotation groups and includes roughly 15,000 households. A panel is surveyed for a period of six consecutive years. A new panel is introduced every three years, so two panels always overlap.</p> <p>SLID is part of the CNEF (<i>Cross-National Equivalent File</i>).</p>
<i>Sampling unit:</i>	Households and individuals
<i>Status:</i>	SLID has been conducted annually since 1993.

## SoFIE

<i>Range:</i>	New Zealand
<i>Name:</i>	Survey of Family, Income and Employment
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://www.stats.govt.nz/methods_and_services/completing-a-survey/individual-and-household-surveys/survey-of-family-income-and-employment.aspx">http://www.stats.govt.nz/methods_and_services/completing-a-survey/individual-and-household-surveys/survey-of-family-income-and-employment.aspx</a>
<i>Profile:</i>	<p>SoFIE is a longitudinal survey that has been running for eight years. It has been collecting information on New Zealander's living conditions and lifestyles and the factors that influence these aspects of people's lives.</p> <p>The primary focus of SoFIE is to investigate the changes in individual, family, and household income and the factors that influence these changes, such as involvement in the labour force and family composition.</p> <p>The household questionnaire contains two sets of questions on the household and the standard of living. The personal questionnaire contains eight standard modules (demographics, child, education, family, labour market situation, income, contact).</p> <p>Data are collected from 22,200 individuals in 11,500 households and 7,500 children aged under 15 years.</p>
<i>Sampling unit:</i>	Households and individuals
<i>Status:</i>	SoFIE started in October 2002 and is scheduled to run for eight years (until 2010).

## UKHLS

<i>Range:</i>	UK
<i>Name:</i>	UK Household Longitudinal Study („Understanding Society“)
<i>URL:</i>	<a href="http://www.understandingsociety.org.uk/">http://www.understandingsociety.org.uk/</a>
<i>Profile:</i>	<p>The UKHLS was launched by the Economic and Social Research Council. It is based at the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex. The fieldwork is conducted by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen).</p> <p>The UKHLS gathers information from all members over ten years of age of the 40,000 sample households. Additional data are collected from 3,000 ethnic minority households.</p> <p>The questionnaire for wave 1 of interviews (starting in 2009) will cover topics including demographic characteristics and changes, income and earnings, health, disability, education, origins and nationality, family and partnership history, wealth and savings, expenditures, current employment characteristics, transport and communication access, child care and other care responsibilities, life satisfaction, community, leisure activities, and political participation. These general core topics will be repeated annually but supplemented by additional modules of topical questions asked on a rotating or intermittent basis.</p> <p>UKHLS will include data on health indicators and biomarkers of health status (such as body measurements, blood pressure, and heart rate).</p> <p>UKHLS replaces and includes the smaller BHPS, as well as NIHPS, which is included in BHPS. UKHLS will become part of the CNEF (<i>Cross-National Equivalent File</i>).</p>
<i>Sampling unit:</i>	Households
<i>Status:</i>	The UKHLS is an annual study. The publication of the data of the wave 1 (2009) is planned for 2010.