

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background

The National Statistical Office (NSO) first conducted the Household Socio-economic Survey in 1957 and repeatedly organised the survey round every five years. Due to the rapid economic expansion and the social change, during 1987 and 2004 the survey was conducted every two years, and from 2006 onwards NSO has carried out the survey every year. The 2009 survey is the twenty - one round of this kind. By the survey redesigned process, two types of questionnaires were used; the core module (the questionnaire of household members and expenditures) which is used to collect the data every year, and the special module (the questionnaire of household income) which is conducted every two years.

1.2 Objective

The objective of the survey is to collect the detailed information on economics and social matters of the household such as income, expenditures, assets, liabilities, structure of household members, housing characteristics, migration and remittance transfer as well as the information on access to social welfare/government program and public services.

1.3 Scope and Coverage

The survey covered all private, non-institution households residing in all provinces, and also in both municipal and non-municipal areas (excluding households of foreign diplomats and other temporary residents).

1.4 Time Reference

1) During the past 12 months

During the past 12 months refers to the twelve months before the month in which the interview was conducted. For instance, an interview conducted in February 2009, during the past 12 months referred to the period from “February 2008 to January 2009”.

The time reference “during the past 12 months” is used to ask for the information on household income and the expenditure on goods and services, which are occasionally occurred during the year, then calculated for an average expenditure per month.

2) The previous month

The previous month refers to the calendar month before the month in which the interview was conducted. For example, an interview conducted in February 2009, the previous month referred to the period from “1 to 31 January 2009”.

The time reference “the previous month” is used to ask for the information on household income and the expenditure on goods and services, which are regularly occurred during the year.

3) The previous week

The previous week refers to the calendar week before the week in which the interview was conducted. For example, an interview conducted in the second week of the month, the previous week referred to the first week of the month (Monday - Sunday).

The time reference “the previous week” is only used to ask for the information of the expenditure on food, beverages and tobacco.

1.5 Survey Content

1) The questionnaire of household members and expenditures contains the following information:

- Part 1 Household membership
- Part 2 Housing characteristics
- Part 3 Expenditure on goods and services
- Part 4 Expenditure on food, beverages and tobacco

2) The questionnaire of household income contains the following information:

- Part 1 Income from wages and salaries
- Part 2 Income from business, industry or profession other than farming

- Part 3 Income from farm business
- Part 4 Income from other sources
- Part 5 Household asset and debt
- Part 6 Migration and remittance transfers

1.6 Definitions

1. Work Status

Work Status refers to the status of person who works in all kinds of economically activity such as

1) Employer

An employer is defined as a person who operates his own enterprise (or jointly with others in form of a partnership), with an authority to make decision on operating the enterprise and a full responsibility for all risks (their earning depends upon their performance), either for profit or dividends and hires one or more employees, which is on the basis of continuous employment.

2) Own-account worker without employee

An own-account worker is a person who operates an enterprise on his own account (or jointly with others in form of a partnership), with an authority to make decision on operating the enterprise and a full responsibility for all risks (their earning depends upon their performance), either for profit or dividends without engaging any employees (on the basis of continuous employment) but may have family members or apprentices who work without pay.

3) Unpaid family worker

An unpaid family worker is a person who normally works without pay on a farm or in a business enterprise owned or operated by any household member but does not involve as partnership, sometimes compensation has been made but not as for hiring purpose.

4) Employee

An employee is a person who works for pay, which is on the basis of continuous employment, without any authority to make decision on operating the enterprise. Wages can be made in form of per month, per day, per hour, per unit of goods or services, or per contract, of which can be paid either by cash or goods.

5) Producer's cooperative

A producer's cooperative is a group of person who hold a "self-employment" job in a cooperative producing goods and services, in which each member takes part on an equal footing with other members in determining the organization of every production processes, as well as the distribution of the proceeds of the establishment amongst their members. A producer's cooperative can be set up either in form of corporate or non-corporate group.

The work of the establishment can be operated by all members or hiring some members or others outside the group. (Hence, that person who works for pay, either being members of the group or not, is called an "employee" for this enterprise)

For example, a producer's cooperative for farm business (flower planting, frog capturing, etc.), a group for agricultural intermediate products (production of shrimp paste, fish sauce, potato crisp, etc.), and a group for local handicraft products (clothing, bamboo handicrafts, etc.).

2. Household Income

Household income refers to cash or goods/services in which household received as part of pay or produced for own-account or earned from property or received free.

1) Current Income

(1) Income received from employment or own-account working

- Earning from wages and salaries (including employment welfare) (income before any deduction for taxes, provident payment, social insurance, etc.)
- Earning from business, industry or profession other than farming (the revenue plus the value of goods/services, which produced on own-account and consumed for final use, minus the operation cost)
- Earning from farm business (the total value of agricultural products minus the operation cost)

(2) Income received from other sources

- Pensions, annuities or welfare
- Work compensation
- Assistance from other persons outside the household
- Earning from asset/property rental, such as non-agricultural land/house rental, earnings from license and copyright and interests
- Investment (non-participated on business operation) such as interests from shares, bonds, stocks, etc. Include estimated rental for owner-occupied house or for tenant who occupied the household free of charge.

2) Non-current Income

Non-current income refers to other money receipts, such as inheritances bequeaths, gifts, proceeds from insurance company, lottery and gambling winnings, commissions, etc.

3. Household Expenditure

1) Expenditure on goods and services

(1) Consumption expenditure

- Dwelling
- Furniture, household appliances and operation in the household
- Expenditure on servants
- Clothes, clothing, footwear and personal supplies/services
- Medical and health care

- Transportation and communication
- Education
- Recreation, reading and religious activities

(2) Non-consumption expenditure

- Taxes (all kinds), financial charges and fine
- Career Membership Expense
- Contribution to non-household members
- Contribution to charities or religious institutions
- Property/Life/Accidental insurance (non-accumulated insurance)
- Lottery and gambling
- Interest payment/shares and others (moving services etc.)

2) Expenditure on food, beverages and tobacco

The survey questions asked for expenditure on all kinds of food (fresh food, prepared food, preserved food, spices and condiments, etc.) beverages (alcoholic/non-alcoholic) and tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, tobacco, betelnut, etc.)

4. Socio-economic Class of Household

The survey result divided households into socio-economic groups which was based on the major source of household income, work status, type of economically activity and type of occupation.

This classification divided households into 10 groups which are:

- 1) farm operators on crops production, livestock, fresh water/marine capture who mainly owned the land,
- 2) farm operators on crops production, Livestock, fresh water/marine capture who mainly rent the land/public space/free,
- 3) agricultural operators on fishery, forestry, hunting and agricultural service
- 4) non-farm business operators,
- 5) professional, technical and administrative employees,
- 6) farm workers,
- 7) general workers,
- 8) clerical, sales and service workers,
- 9) production workers, and
- 10) economically inactive households