

TIME USE SURVEY

METHODOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS

Sources and methods of data collection

The purpose of the Survey on Time Use is to collect the data on the use of time for population according to different socio-economic characteristics and habits.

The Survey on Time Use was carried out continuously from 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001. The survey for Slovenia is harmonised with Eurostat's recommendations and is to be carried out every 7-10 years.

The data were collected with household questionnaires, personal questionnaires and the time use diaries where the respondents recorded their activities. Time use diaries cover 24-hour periods and are divided into 10-minute intervals. Every person, aged 10 or more, filled in two diaries for two days defined in advance: one weekday (from Monday to Friday) and the other weekend day (Saturday or Sunday). If the person was not present, we postponed the filling of the diaries for seven or fourteen days. In any case the day remained the same. For example, if the originally designated day was Monday, in the case of postponement the diary was also filled in on Monday. All household members filled in the diaries on the same date.

Coverage

The sample included 4,500 households in Slovenia, each quarter 1,122 to 1,128 households. The sample was evenly distributed throughout the survey period, from 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001. In addition to households, the diary days were also randomly selected.

The sampling frame for the survey was the Central Population Register. Thus households were selected with different probability according to their size, which we had to consider in the weighting procedure.

The sample design was stratified two-stage. The sample was stratified according to size of the settlement and percentage of rural population in the settlement. Primary sampling units were clusters of enumeration areas and secondary sampling units were persons. Altogether 750 primary sampling units were selected, and within them six persons per unit were selected.

The data were weighted for unequal probability of selection adjusted for unit non-response and calibrated to the known population values according to region, age, household size and sex of respondents.

The response rate was 54.3% and the refusal rate was 22.6%. In the calculation of the response rate only households with at least one diary were considered.

Observation units were all individuals usually living in the selected households. A household is a single person or a group of persons who live together and share expenses related to common living and eating. Temporarily absent persons, who were not present at the time of survey for more than 3 months, were excluded from the survey, i.e. persons in prisons, persons in hospitals, workers temporarily working in other countries, etc. Persons in armed forces were counted as household members, but they did not answer the survey questionnaire. All persons who were absent (up to 3 months) at the time of the survey were counted as household members, but they did not answer the questionnaire if absent for more than 14 days from the designated date. Children under 10 years of age were also counted as household members, but they did not answer the questions or fill in the diaries.

Definitions and explanations

Average time of all surveyed persons is average time per day spent on individual activity calculated on the basis of all diaries.

Average time of participants is average time per day spent on individual activity calculated on the basis of those diaries in which an individual activity was recorded. In the tables also the share of the diaries is shown in which an individual activity was recorded.

The share of the diaries is not the same as the share of persons, because each person filled in the diaries for two days, and the individual activity could be recorded only in one diary or in two diaries.

Primary activities are the activities that were written down in the time use diaries as the primary activity.

Secondary activities are activities going on besides primary activities.

All activities are the primary and secondary activities together.

Household care and informal help to other households involves activities connected with food preparation, household upkeep, making and care for textiles, gardening, construction and repairs, shopping and services, household management and informal help to other households.

Family care includes activities connected with childcare and help to an adult family member.

All travelling of persons is included in the group **travelling** with the exception of travelling where the principal purpose is sport (walking, cycling, etc).

Spare time is in the Survey on Time Use the time that remains after we take from 24 hours the time for sleeping, eating, employment, household care, care for children and time for education.

As regards **activity** (employed, students, retired persons, etc), the respondents are divided according to their activity during the week before the survey (from Monday to Sunday).

Publishing

Annually, occasionally: Rapid Reports. Time Use Survey