

Bulgaria Multi-topic Household Survey 2003

Notes for Users of the Data

The 2003 Bulgaria Multi-topic Household Survey was fielded from 15 October to 15 November 2003.

The survey was conducted by the territorial teams of the National Statistical Institute (NSI) involving 28 regional managers and 80 specially trained interviewers. The sample included 3,715 ordinary households in the territory of the country. In the course of the survey households dropped out due to absence from home, refusal or other reasons. The sample design included a rational model of the households in the country based on essential territorial and socio-economic indicators.¹ The final number of households included in the sample is 3,023.

The World Bank has no information on the sample design.

The data are nationally representative.

This is not a panel survey done with any earlier surveys (1995, 1997, 2001).

The income and expenditure aggregates were created by the NSI. They were provided in the form of an Excel worksheet that has been converted to statistical software. The documentation below for the aggregates was provided by the NSI. There appear to be some discrepancies between the documentation and the data as received (see below for documentation).

The base files are only available with Bulgarian labels.

Variables ID1 (Oblast), ID2 (City/village), ID3 (Cluster number within district) and ID4 (Household number within cluster) are used to identify unique households. Within households, variable ID5 identifies individuals.

¹ Bogdanov, Bogdan and Vasil Tsanov. May 2004. "MTHS 2003 Poverty Measurements and Outcomes." Mimeo. National Statistical Institute, Sofia, Bulgaria.

Methodology for Compiling the Aggregate “Net Household Income”²

Definition: By definition, net household income does not include income from sale of property, inheritances, insurance payments, gifts and lottery earnings. It excludes also income tax and social insurance payments. In effect, this is a relatively stable income, which is meant to cover the living needs of the household members.

Core: The purpose is to distinguish the household income that is spent on purchasing goods and services on the market to ensure a certain standard of living.

Need: This aggregate is of key importance for estimating the absolute and relative poverty lines. It can be also assessed independently, bearing in mind the elements and levels based on which it was formed.

Standard: The aggregate was compiled using the Eurostat regulations.

I. Monetary income

Module 5. Household income

Section 1. Regular income

5.2 Regular income in the last 12 months.

Income from main employment – amount (question 1)

Income from secondary employment – amount (question 2)

Unemployment benefits – amount (question 3)

Length of service pension – amount (question 4)

Hereditary pension – amount (question 5)

Disability pension – amount (question 6)

Other pension – amount (question 7)

Family allowances – amount (question 8)

Scholarship – amount (question 9)

Section 2. Non-regular income and social transfers.

Source of income:

Lease of:

1. Non-agricultural land (question 4)
2. Flat, house (question 4)
3. Shop, office or other commercial space (question 4)
4. Car, truck, etc. (question 4)
5. Other movable or real estate property (question 4)

Social transfers:

14. One-time allowances at childbirth (question 4)
15. For medical treatment, sanatorium (question 4)
16. For paying rent (question 4)
17. Social assistance to compensate for low income (question 4)
18. Other support (what kind?) (question 4)

² Data set BG03INC

Module 4. Agricultural activity.

Section 1. Owned/leased land and how is it used by the household – question 11
“What amount have you received for the land you have entered into a cooperative or leased to others?”.

Section 1. Owned/leased land and how is it used by the household – Codes 1 to 24 (question 17).

Section 2. Farm animals and animal produce.

Animal codes 1 to 12 (question 6);

Animal produce codes 1 to 11 (question 12).

II. Natural income

Module 5. Household income

Section 2. Non-regular income and social transfers

Code 13. Heating subsidies (question 4)

Module 7. Household consumption

Section 1. Food and beverages

Food and beverage codes 101 to 175 (questions 11 and 12)

Module 4.

Section 1. Owned/leased land and how is it used by the household. Crops codes 1 to 24 (questions 19 and 22)

Note: Quantities under questions 19 and 22 are multiplied by an average price estimated in the Household Budgets Survey for the period November 2002 – October 2003 and segregated by regions.

The total net household income is calculated as an aggregate of monetary and natural income after deducting income tax and social insurance payments.

The total gross household income is calculated as an aggregate of: total net income; income from sale of property, inheritances, insurance payments; lottery earnings (Module 5, Section 2, Codes 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12); income tax (Module 6, question 16.3); social insurance payments; gifts received by the households in kind and in cash (estimated value of goods and services in Module 7, Section 2, question 5).

Methodology for Compiling the Aggregate “Household Consumption”³

I. Total consumption

Definition: Expenditure that is made by the members of the household for a certain period of time – spending on food, beverages and non-food household items. Expenditure on paying off credits and interest, relief funds, savings, and other transfers is excluded, as are expenses on household production activities (investment).

Core: The purpose is to distinguish those household expenses, which are indeed necessary to ensure a certain level of living standards in the general scale of poor, average or above average.

Need: This aggregate is of key importance for identifying absolute and relative poverty lines. Moreover, it can be analyzed independently with respect to its structure, bearing in mind the levels at which it is formed. Its variations in time can also be monitored, if the elements with which it is compiled remain unchanged in subsequent studies. This should be specifically made clear when instruments for future assessment are developed, so as to achieve reliable comparability of results.

Standard: The aggregate was compiled using the Eurostat regulations for forming “consumption spending (general and monetary)” – HBS/COICOP.

1. Monetary consumption spending

Module 7: Household consumption

Section 1. Food and beverages

The monetary equivalent of data collected under this section was estimated, as follows:

A) Data on codes 101 to 175 in column 3 were multiplied by the average monthly prices registered in the Household Budgets Survey for the period November 2002 – October 2003 and segregated by regions⁴ (as well as by nationwide prices to assess the impact of regional pricing). The estimates thus made were multiplied by 12 to derive data on annual spending.

B) Data on consumed quantities under codes 101 to 175 in column 11 and 12 are subtracted from total annual spending to derive annual monetary spending.

Section 2. Non-food items and services

Data on codes 201 to 239, column 3.

³ Data set BG03EXP

⁴ Price estimates necessary to calculate the monetary equivalent of consumption can also be made using Multipurpose Household Survey data. In this case, data from Module 7, Section 1, questions 4 and 5 (purchased goods in quantity and value for the last 30 days) may be used. The average prices thus derived should be then deflated by the average annual consumer price index for the period November 2002–October 2003, segregated by regions, in order to make a more adequate estimate of annual household consumption. This method, however, is less appropriate because it involves making more iterations of estimates.

Module 8: Education.

The sum of spending under question 21, as follows:

- tuition fees;
- uniform, athletic outfit;
- lodging, dormitory, hotel;
- education-related transportation;
- food in school and pocket money;
- private lessons, courses and schools;
- other expenses: security, gifts for teachers, cultural events, etc.

Module 9: Health status and healthcare.

The sum of spending under question 25, as follows:

- hospital stay and treatment – 25.a;
- medical tests – 25.b;
- medical consultations, examinations and treatment – 25.c;
- gifts for medical staff – 25.d;
- pharmaceuticals and drugs – 25.e;
- medical equipment and consumables – 25.f;
- transportation and treatment – 25.g.

2. Natural spending

Module 7: Household consumption

Section 1: Food and beverages

Food and beverage codes 101 to 175 (questions 11 and 12).

Section 2: Non-food items and services.

Codes for non-food items and services (question 5), as follows:

- heating (208);
- electricity (210);
- wood (213);
- coal (214).

Total household consumption is calculated as a sum of monetary and natural spending.

II. Total spending

Definition: Total household spending include all expenses incurred by its members in a given period of time, regardless of their type and nature.

Total spending is a sum of total household consumption and the following expenses:

Module 6: Loans, credits, savings, taxes, and transfers

Sum of taxes and fees paid in 2002 (question 16)

Total amount of relief funds paid by the household (question 20)

Module 4: Agricultural activity

Provided that the household owns the land (question 6, option 1) and household members cultivate it without external help (question 8, option 1)

Section 1: Owned/leased land and how is it used by the household

Codes 1 to 24, data in columns 20 and 21

Section 2: Farm animals and animal produce.

Codes 1 to 12, data in column 8 (Annex: Household Consumption Aggregate, Table 3)

Section 3: Agricultural activity

Codes 1 to 14, column 4 (Annex: Household Consumption Aggregate, Table 4).

File Descriptions

ns_individual	Modules 1 , 3, 5, 8 and 9. File contains all individuals who were interviewed. Variable names starting with “HH” are from Module 1. Variable names starting with “E” are from Module 8, Education. Variable names starting with “I” are from Module 5, Household income. Variable names starting with “H” are from Module 9, Health. Variable names starting with “L” are from Module 3, Employment.
ns_m10	Module 10: Subjective Poverty
ns_m2	Module 2: Dwelling, Utilities and Durable Goods, Questions 1 - 24
ns_m2_25-27	Module 2: Dwelling, Utilities and Durable Goods, Questions 25-27
ns_m2_29-32	Module 2: Dwelling, Utilities and Durable Goods, Questions 29-32
ns_m3_firm	Module 3: Employment, Unemployment, & Monthly Earnings, Section 4
ns_m4	Module 4: Agriculture, Sections 1 through 4
ns_m4_animals-r2_1-8	Module 4: Agriculture, Section 2, Questions 1-8
ns_m4_animals-r2_9-12	Module 4: Agriculture, Section 2, Questions 9-12
ns_m4_culture-r1_13-24	Module 4: Agriculture, Section 1, Questions 13-24
ns_m4_farm_exp-r4_2-4	Module 4: Agriculture, Section 4, Questions 2-4
ns_m4_land-r1_1-12	Module 4: Agriculture, Section 1, Questions 1-12
ns_m4_technika-r3_2-4	Module 4: Agriculture, Section 3, Questions 2-4
ns_m5_nonreginc-r2-k-4	Module 5: Nonregular Income and Social Transfers, Questions 1-4
ns_m5_nonreginc	Module 5: Nonregular Income and Social Transfers
ns_m6	Module 6: Loans, Credits, Savings, Taxes and Transfers
ns_m6_loans-1-10	Module 6: Loans, Credits, Savings, Taxes and Transfers, Questions 1-10
ns_m7_daily	Module 7: Daily Expenses
ns_m7_food	Module 7: Food Expenditures
ns_m7_nonfood	Module 7: Nonfood Expenditures
ns_member	Modules 1, 3, 5, 8 and 9 (see notes above for ns_individual). File contains only household members.
ns_meta	Interviewer’s Opinions
bg03exp	Expenditure variables as calculated by NSI
bg03inc	Income variables as calculated by NSI
NOTE:	Variables ID1 (Oblast), ID2 (City/village), ID3 (Cluster number within district) and ID4 (Household number within cluster) are used to identify unique households. Within households, variable ID5 identifies individuals.

Oblast Codes

Code	Наименование	Name
01	Благоевград	Blagoevgrad
02	Бургас	Bourgas
03	Варна	Varna
04	Велико Търново	Veliko Tarnovo
05	Видин	Vidin
06	Враца	Vratza
07	Габрово	Gabrovo
08	Кърджали	Kardjali
09	Кюстендил	Kjustendil
10	Ловеч	Lovech
11	Монтана	Montana
12	Пазарджик	Pazardjik
13	Перник	Pernik
14	Плевен	Pleven
15	Пловдив	Plovdiv
16	Разград	Razgrad
17	Русе	Russe
18	Силистра	Silistra
19	Сливен	Sliven
20	Смолян	Smoljan
21	София (столица)	Sofia (city)
22	София	Sofia
23	Стара Загора	Stara Zagora
24	Добрич	Dobrich
25	Търговище	Targovishte
26	Хасково	Haskovo
27	Шумен	Shumen
28	Ямбол	Yambol