Albania - Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005

Institute of Statistics of Albania

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Sampling

Sampling Procedure

The Republic of Albania is divided geographically into 12 Prefectures (Prefekturat). The latter are divided into Districts (Rrethet) which are, in turn, divided into Cities (Qyteti) and Communes (Komunat). The Communes contain all the rural villages and the very small cities. For census purposes, the cities and the villages have been divided into enumeration areas (EAs).

1. Sampling frame

The Enumeration Areas (EA) that make up the sampling frame come from the April 2001 General Census of Population and Housing. The EAs in the frame are classified by Prefecture, District, City or Commune. The frame also contains, for every EA, the number of Housing Units (HU), the number of occupied HUs, the number of unoccupied HUs, the number of households, and the population. We are using occupied dwellings and not total number of dwellings since many EAs contain a large number of empty dwellings.

A detailed study of the list of census EAs shows that many have zero population. In order to obtain EAs with the minimum of 50 and the maximum of 120 occupied housing units, the EAs with zero population have been taken off the sampling frame. Since the sizes of the EAs varied from 0 to 395 HUs, the smaller EAs (with less than 50 HU) have been collapsed with geographically adjacent ones and the largest EAs (with more than 120 HU) have been split into two or more EAs. Subsequently, maps identifying the boundaries of every split and collapsed EA were prepared. Given that the 2002 LSMS has been conducted less than a year after the April 2001 census, a listing operation to update the sample EAs was not conducted in the field. However, since the level of construction is very high in the city of Tirana and its suburbs, a quick count of the 75 sample EAs selected in Tirana was carried out followed by a listing operation. The check of the listing based on the Census data revealed two types of discrepancies:
- HUs had become invalid, i.e. vacant, nonresidential, demolished, seasonally occupied, etc.
- Instead of one small building (with one or two HU), a new one with 15 HUs was identified.

During of the listing update process, HUs identified as invalid were taken off the frame. In the case of a new building, these new HUs were entered with a new sequential code. The listing sheets prepared during the listing operation in Tirana, become the sampling frame for the final stage of selection of 12 HU which has to be interviewed. The unit of analysis and the unit of observation is the household. The universe under study consists of all the households in the Republic of Albania. We have used the Housing Unit (defined as the space occupied by one household) as the sampling unit, instead of the household, because the HU is more permanent and easier to identify in the field.

2. Sample Size

In the LSMS the sample size is 450 EA and in each EA 8 households were selected. So the total sample size of the LSMS is 3600 households. In addition, since a certain level of nonresponse is expected, 4 reserve units were selected in each sample EA.

3. Stratification

The sampling frame has been divided in three regions (strata)
1. Coastal Area
2. Central Area
3. Mountain Area
and Tirana (urban and other urban) is consider as a separate strata.

The first three strata were divided into major cities (the most important cities in the region), other urban (the rest of cities in the region), and rural. In each more importance was given to the major cities and rural areas. We have selected 10 EA for each major city and 65 EAs (75 EAs for Mountain Area) for each region. In the city of Tirana and its suburbs, implicit stratification was used to improve the efficiency of the sample design.

4. Procedure for the Selection of Housing Units

A fixed number of valid dwelling units (12) was selected systematically and with equal probability from the Listing Form pertaining to Tirana and from the Census forms for the other areas. Once the 12 HUs were selected, 4 of them were chosen at random and kept as reserve units. The selected HUs were numbered within the EA and identified with a circle around the number in the listing form, as well as a circle on the maps. The reserve sample (units 9 to 12) were identified from R1 to R4

during data collection to emphasize the fact that they were reserve units.

Two copies of the sample listing sheets and two copies of maps for each EA were printed. The first copy of the listing sheet and the map were given to the supervisor and included the 12 HU, the second copy was given to the enumerator. The enumerator only received the 8 dwelling units, not the reserve ones. Each time the enumerator needed a reserve HU, he/she had to ask the supervisor and explain the reason why a reserve unit was needed. This process helped determine the reason why reserve units were used and provided more control on their use.

In the field the enumerator registered the occupancy status of every unit:
- occupied as principal residence
- vacant
- under construction (not occupied)
- demolished or abandoned (not occupied)
- seasonally occupied

In the case that one HU was found to be invalid, the enumerator used the first reserve unit (identified with the code R1). In the case that in one EA more than 4 DU selected were invalid, other units from that EA chosen at random by headquarter (in Tirana) were selected as replacement units to keep the enumerator load constant and maintain a uniform sample size in each EA. Before identifying the invalid HUs, the interviewer had to note the interview status of each visit for all the units for which an interview was attempted, whether these are original units or reserve units. This was done to determine the interview status: interview completed, nonresponse, refusal, etc. In other words, this will allow identifying: the completed interviews (responses obtained), the incomplete but usable ones (responses obtained), the incomplete ones but not usable (nonresponse), the refusals (nonresponse) and the "not at home" (nonresponse). Subsequently, the invalid units identified were substituted with the available reserves, always maintaining the sample of 8 HUs.

Questionnaires

Overview

Four survey instruments were used to collect information for the 2005 Albania LSMS: a household questionnaire, a diary for recording household food consumption, a community questionnaire, and a price questionnaire.

The household questionnaire included all the core LSMS modules as defined in Grosh and Glewwe (2000)1, plus additional modules on migration, fertility, subjective poverty, agriculture, non-farm enterprises, and social capital. Geographical referencing data on the longitude and latitude of each household were also recorded using portable GPS devices. Geo-referencing will enable a more efficient spatial link among the different surveys of the system, as well as between the survey households and other geo-referenced information.

The choice of the modules was aimed at matching as much as possible the specificity of Albania in terms of data needs, as driven by pressing policy questions. Their design (e.g. questions asked, their sequence, units and time-frames used) was also adapted to fit the Albanian reality.

Household membership in this survey is defined as being away from the household for less than six months. Deceased individuals, lodgers, hired workers and servants are never considered household members. Guests who stay with the household for six months and over, infants of less than six months, new arrivals (such as newly weds) are considered household members. The head of the household is always considered a member of the household irrespective of the time s/he spent away from it.

The questionnaire was divided in two sections, and was administered to households in two visits, one section per visit. During the second visit the interviewer would also collect additional information of use for the eventual tracking of the household in the next waves of the panel.

The Diary for Recording Daily Household Consumption (also known as the booklet) was left with the household by the interviewer during the first visit for the household to compile, and collected during the second visit. Upon collection, interviewers took care of checking the entries (also with the help of a checklist provided at the end of the booklet) and correct them as appropriate with the help of the most knowledgeable person in the household.

The diary consists of:
A. A cover page (for metadata information);
B. Instructions for the household on how to record consumption;
C. Fourteen (i.e. one per day) three-part sections for the recording of (1) food products purchased daily; (2) non-purchased food products consumed by the household (e.g. from own production or payments in kind); (3) food eaten outside the home (e.g. at work, in restaurants);
D. A checklist for use by the interviewer with a list of the 14 main food products consumed in Albania.
E. Bread Questionnaire

A specific column was provided for the household to record the ‘reference period’ for any purchases of food. The checklist was compiled by the interviewer, with the help of the most knowledgeable person in the household, upon collection of the diary. Interviewers were instructed to check, for 14 main food staples, whether any consumption of the item had been recorded in the diary. Whenever an item had not been recorded the interviewer would ask the respondent to report whether the item (a) had not been used in the 14 day period, or (b) had been consumed but the household had forgotten to record its consumption, or else (c) had been consumed by the household drawing on stocks purchased or produced outside the 14 day period. If the inclusion of an item had simply been forgotten the interviewer would then fill the appropriate section of the diary by asking the household to recall the details of that consumption. If the household reported consuming an item purchased before the beginning of the 14 day period, then information on the frequency of purchase, quantity, unit of measure and value of the purchase were recorded in the columns provided to this end in the checklist.

Data users should therefore make sure of using the checklist, as well as column 7 in the table on daily purchases, to supplement the food consumption information included in the main part of the food diary. The rest of the questionnaire was filled in two stages. One half of the questionnaire was filled at the initial visit to the household and the other half at the second visit. In order to allow for completion of the cropping season, and the identification of agricultural households, the agricultural module was sent out in the Fall 2005 (to be precise October), only to the households that claimed to have any plots of land or livestock.

The Community Questionnaire Information was collected in the Fall of 2005 for Tirana, Urban (other than Tirana), and Rural areas with a few slightly different questions for each. When using data from these questions the analyst should make sure of

integrating information that appears in different variables in the dataset. In a few cases in which a question did not make sense in an urban context the question was only asked in rural communities.

In rural areas the community was normally defined as a village and the inhabited area surrounding it. In urban areas the definition was less straightforward, and it was decided on a case by case basis by the core team and the supervisors with the objective of selecting areas that would be understood as communities by the respondents, from time to time adopting boundaries matching those of administrative partitions of the urban areas, the neighborhood or sector. In Tirana the community was identified with the minibashkia level of the administrative partition of the city.

The supervisors were instructed to administer the questionnaire to a group of persons reputed to be best informed about each module within a community (e.g. teachers for the education questions, doctors or hospital managers for health related ones). Whenever possible, the questionnaire was administered in groups and the prevailing response (in case of differing views) was recorded. When this was not possible, respondents were interviewed separately. In a majority of cases, however, the questionnaire was in practice administered to only one respondent, generally an elected or appointed community leader.

The fourth survey instrument used was the price questionnaire. The price questionnaire was sent out at the same time as the core questionnaire, that is, during May-July 2005, in order to obtain the prices faced by households at the same time that the field work was going on.

Data for 96 different items were collected in each community. Prices were generally collected in only one outlet, except for urban communities for which two or three price observations are available. Thirteen of the latter are urban areas in which the monthly price data collection regularly is done by INSTAT for the consumer price index was used.

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2005-05	2005-07	N/A

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

Pilot Testing, Training, Organization, and Fieldwork Procedures

Pilot Test

The updated or additional modules of the questionnaire were field tested in March-April 2005 in the urban and rural areas of Tirana, Elbasan, Lushnje and Durres by the core INSTAT team and the local teams, with the assistance of international consultants and World Bank staff. The pilot of the agricultural module was done in September 2005, the rural areas of Durres, Elbasan, and Lushnje. The questionnaire was then updated following the results of the testing

Training

The enumerator and supervisor training was conducted in April for two weeks near Durres. Approximately 100 people took part in the training. The training also covered logistics, the use of the GPS devices, and the plans for the fieldwork, including replacements, the numbering of PSUs and households, instructions on revisiting households. Preliminary training was done with the new enumerators that did not work in the previous LSMS. Training for the data entry operators (DEOs) was conducted for a week at the beginning of May. DEOs were trained on the use of the custom data entry program developed in CS-Pro for this survey.

Fieldwork

The field staff was organized into 20 teams, four of which were in Tirana. Each team had one supervisor and, generally, three enumerators. Some remote districts had one enumerator in each area of the district, while other districts that have a particularly large number of PSUs also employed a greater number of enumerators. Supervisors from within the regional INSTAT offices were identified for the 16 teams outside Tirana, and each regional office then identified enumerators from those who had successfully worked on the previous LSMS surveys. The four Tirana teams each had a supervisor, and they in turn were supervised by a Tirana head supervisor. Each team also included a data entry operator and a driver.
The supervisors were given the list of PSUs to be completed, and then were free to schedule the visits to each household as they wished. For each PSU the supervisors were given a large envelope with the 8 questionnaires, a tracking sheet listing the households to be interviewed, with one reserve household listed on the tracking form, a listing sheet for the supervisor of the 12 selected families including the 4 reserve households, and a map of the corresponding census EA.

Each listing sheet for a selected EA included the following information:
1. Name of the district
2. Name of the commune
3. Name of the city
4. Identification of the EA based on the 2001 Census Frame
5. Cartographic address (building, entrance, apartment, nr. of family inside the apartment)
6. Postal address (building, entrance, apartment)
7. Code identifying a selected HU or a reserve unit

Each tracking form included the following information:
1. PSU number
2. Name of the commune
3. Identification of EA based on 2001 Census Frame
4. Names of the heads of households for the selected dwelling units
5. Age of the household head
6. Number of the building where the household resides
7. Space for explanation by the enumerator of the reason why it was not possible to complete any of the household interviews

In order to control more closely the number of reserve households that were used, the enumerators received only the name of the first reserve household on the tracking sheets. If the enumerator needed more than one replacement household, he had to return to the supervisor to explain why more than one replacement was needed. The enumerator had to write a full reason on the tracking sheet for the replacement – and these reasons were verified and kept in the central office in Tirana in a continuously updated Excel sheet (itself kept at central office of INSTAT). This process helped ensure the reason for using a re-serve unit was documented and provided more control on their use.

The only exception to this practice was for remote mountain villages, where the access was difficult, and it was decided to provide all four replacement names to the enumerator before the first visit. Identification of the selected households in the field was made by using the head of household names for all the rural PSUs, because this was the only reliable method to identify the selected dwelling units when there were no street addresses. For the urban PSUs, the addresses and the name of the household head for the selected dwellings was used for the identification.. In the case when the originally selected household was not found in the dwelling, the current residing household was instead interviewed, since the dwelling rather than the household is considered as the sampling unit. The fieldwork started on May 3, with close supervision from the core team at INSTAT Tirana head office.

The enumeration was completed in two visits – the first, to complete Part 1 of the questionnaire, and to explain the food booklet that was left with the household, and the second visit at least two weeks later to collect the food booklet and to complete Part 2 of the questionnaire. The core team also paid additional visits to those enumerators whose questionnaire seemed to contain a higher number of errors - but overall the enumerators seemed to be willing and diligent.

In Tirana if some families accepted to have the main questionnaire administered, but did not want to complete the 14 day food diary. In some cases these were families with only elderly people who did not feel they could properly keep the diary. In these cases the enumerators were instructed to try and obtain information or assistance from neighbors. Supervisors discussed personally with the households all cases where there was a refusal. The food diaries were sent to Tirana as soon as they were completed in the field. Data coders began coding the food booklets. The coding of all the food booklets was completed by a small staff in Tirana to guarantee consistency. All of the enumeration was finished by July 2005. The supervisors completed the price questionnaires in parallel with the household enumeration. The community and agriculture questionnaires were sent in the field during the month of October. The supervisors were involved in the completion of the community questionnaire.

SUPERVISION

The monitoring of the entire fieldwork process was ensured by the core team in Tirana, maintaining constant contact with the supervisors by telephone, tracking the progress and keeping apprised of any problems, and traveling to the field as necessary. Household replacements, were also constantly monitored as the fieldwork continued, to make sure that replacements be kept at a minimum. In Tirana, where the refusal rate was higher than elsewhere, one of the field supervisors revisited with the supervisor many of the households who had refused.

Data Processing

Data Editing

Besides the checks built-in in the DE program and those performed on the preliminary versions of the dataset as it was building up, and additional round of in depth checks on the household questionnaire and the food diary was performed in November in Tirana. Wherever possible data entry errors or inconsistencies in the dataset were spotted, the original questionnaires or diary were retrieved and the information contained therein checked.

Other Processing

The coding for the survey made use of ISCO 88 and NACE codes for occupations and industry activities respectively, and of COICOP codes for the food item recorded in the 14 day diary.

Data Entry Operations

Data entry for all the survey instruments was performed using custom made applications developed in CS-Pro. Data entry for the household questionnaire was performed in a decentralized fashion in parallel with the enumeration, so as to allow for 'real-time' checking of the data collected. This allowed a further tier of quality control checks on the data. Where errors in the data were spotted during data entry, it was possible to instruct enumerators and supervisors to correct the information, if necessary revisiting the household, when the teams were still in the field. A further round of checks was performed by the core team in Tirana and the Bank staff, in Washington, DC as the data were gathered from the field and the entire dataset started building up.

All but two of the 16 teams in the districts had one DEO, the Fier and Kukes team had two, and there were five DEOs for Tirana. Each DEO in the districts worked with a laptop computer, and was given office space in the regional Statistics Offices, or in INSTAT headquarters for the Tirana teams.

The DEOs received Part 1 of the household questionnaire from the supervisor once the supervisor had checked the enumerator's work, within a few days of the enumeration in the field. The DEO then entered the questionnaire on the custom program, noting from the error messages of the program where there were errors or omissions. These errors were then to be detailed on the appropriate page of the questionnaire so that the enumerator could correct them when they returned for the second visit to the household.

Once the DE of 8 questionnaires for a PSU was completed for Part 1, the questionnaires were returned to the supervisor who gave them to the enumerator for administering Part 2 in the field. After Part 2 was completed, and the errors or omissions noted from Part 1, the enumerator turned the questionnaires back to the supervisor, who in turn gave them to the DE operator for entering Part 2. If there were errors found in Part 2, the supervisor was then told and they either solved the problem, or sent the enumerator back to the household.

The data entry of the household questionnaires was completed by July 2005 and the data was all delivered to Tirana by the teams. The data entry of the food booklets was done on a separate data-entry program by DEOs in Tirana. The data entry was completed on 15 August. The questionnaires were all brought to Tirana and stored in INSTAT headquarters.

The data entry for the price questionnaires took place in July 2005. The data entry for the community and agriculture questionnaires took place in November.

Data Appraisal

No content available

Related Materials

Questionnaires

Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Household Questionnaire

Title	Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Household Questionnaire
Author(s)	Institute of Statistics of Albania
Country	Albania
Description	This questionnaire is an essential tool for using the household and individual level data. It contains all of the questions included in the data and the codes for the responses and skip patterns where applicable.
Filename	alb05hhqeng.pdf

Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Household Questionnaire (in Albanian)

Title	Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Household Questionnaire (in Albanian)
Author(s)	Institute of Statistics of Albania
Country	Albania
Description	This questionnaire is an essential tool for using the household and individual level data. It contains all of the questions included in the data and the codes for the responses and skip patterns where applicable.
Filename	alb05hhqalb.pdf

Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Agriculture Module Questionnaire

Title	Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Agriculture Module Questionnaire
Author(s)	Institute of Statistics of Albania
Date	2005-10-01
Country	Albania
Description	This questionnaire was used to collect information on household plots, annual crops, tree crops, livestock, agricultural byproducts, agricultural machinery and equipment, extension services, agricultural expenditures, capital investments and the rural pension system.
Filename	alb05hhqengagr.pdf

Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Agriculture Module Questionnaire (in Albanian)

Title	Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Agriculture Module Questionnaire (in Albanian)
Author(s)	Institute of Statistics of Albania
Date	2005-10-01
Country	Albania
Description	This questionnaire was used to collect information on household plots, annual crops, tree crops, livestock, agricultural byproducts, agricultural machinery and equipment, extension services, agricultural expenditures, capital investments and the rural pension system.
Filename	alb05hhqagralb.pdf

Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Food Diary Questionnaire

Title	Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Food Diary Questionnaire

Author(s)	Institute of Statistics of Albania
Country	Albania
Description	This questionnaire was used for the recording of daily household consumption.
Filename	alb05foode.pdf

Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Food Diary Questionnaire (in Albanian)

Title	Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Food Diary Questionnaire (in Albanian)
Author(s)	Institute of Statistics of Albania
Country	Albania
Description	This questionnaire was used for the recording of daily household consumption.
Filename	alb05fooda.pdf

Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Price Questionnaire

Title	Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Price Questionnaire
Author(s)	Institute of Statistics of Albania
Country	Albania
Description	This questionnaire includes price information for 96 items, including both food and non-food items.
Filename	alb05pricee.pdf

Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Price Questionnaire (in Albanian)

Title	Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Price Questionnaire (in Albanian)
Author(s)	Institute of Statistics of Albania
Country	Albania
Description	This questionnaire includes price information for 96 items, including both food and non-food items.
Filename	alb05pricea.pdf

Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Community Questionnaire

Title	Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Community Questionnaire
Author(s)	Institute of Statistics of Albania
Country	Albania
Description	This questionnaire contains the information collected at the community level that can be used in conjunction with the household level data. It contains codes and skip patterns.
Filename	alb05comqeng.pdf

Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Community Questionnaire (in Albanian)

Title	Living Standards Measurement Survey 2005: Community Questionnaire (in Albanian)
Author(s)	Institute of Statistics of Albania
Country	Albania
Description	This questionnaire contains the information collected at the community level that can be used in conjunction with the household level data. It contains codes and skip patterns.
Filename	alb05comqalb.pdf

Reports

LSMS 2005: Trends Poverty and Inequality 2002-2005

Title	LSMS 2005: Trends Poverty and Inequality 2002-2005
Author(s)	The World Bank and Albania Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)
Date	2006-12-01
Country	Albania
Description	A brief report on the changes over time in growth and poverty in Albania.
Filename	alb05povtrends.pdf

Technical documents

Basic Information Document: Living Standard Measurement Survey 2005

Title	Basic Information Document: Living Standard Measurement Survey 2005
Author(s)	The World Bank and Albania Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)
Date	2006-07-01
Country	Albania
Description	Describes the design of the survey and its coverage for potential users and provides general information about the general characteristics of the survey.
Filename	alb05bid.pdf

LSMS 2005: Interviewer Instructions (in Albanian)

Title	LSMS 2005: Interviewer Instructions (in Albanian)
Author(s)	Albania Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)
Country	Albania
Description	This document contains the instructions given to the interviewers for how to conduct the survey. This document is only available in Albanian.
Filename	alb05intmana.pdf

LSMS 2005: Community Questionnaire Supervisor Instructions (in Albanian)

Title	LSMS 2005: Community Questionnaire Supervisor Instructions (in Albanian)
Author(s)	Albania Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)
Country	Albania
Description	This document contains the instructions given to the supervisors for how to conduct the community survey. This document is only available in Albanian.
Filename	alb05mancomma.pdf

Construction of the Consumption Aggregate and Estimation of the Poverty Line

Title	Construction of the Consumption Aggregate and Estimation of the Poverty Line
Country	Albania
Description	This document explains the methodology used to compute the consumption aggregate and estimating the poverty lines. It also reports the results of sensitivity analyses on some crucial hypotheses.
Filename	alb05cameth.pdf

LSMS 2005: Variable Label Lists

Title	LSMS 2005: Variable Label Lists
Country	Albania
Description	Organized by Questionnaire, Module and Variables.

Filename	Varlablists.ZIP

Other materials

LSMS 2005: Program Files

Title	LSMS 2005: Program Files
Country	Albania
Description	The STATA files used to calculate the consumption aggregate.
Filename	syntaxfiles.zip