Albania - Living Standards Measurement Survey 2003 (Wave 2 Panel)

Institute of Statistics of Albania

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Sampling

Sampling Procedure

Sample size is 2,155 households

LSMS Sample Design

The LSMS design consisted of an equal-probability sample of housing units (HUs) within each of 16 explicit strata. These were selected in two stages. The first was to select - within strata - an agreed number of enumeration units (EAs) with probability proportional to number of HUs in the EA (according to 2001 Census data). The second stage was to select 8 HUs systematically from each selected EA. (Substitutes were used where necessary to ensure that 8 households were successfully interviewed in each EA, but I shall ignore that for current purposes.) Although probabilities within strata were (approximately) equal, probabilities varied greatly between the strata. Notably, the mountain region was heavily over-represented and the Central Rural region was under-represented in the sample.

Panel Survey Sample Design

The LSMS was so-designed, partly to enable separate analysis by broad strata (e.g. separate estimates for the mountain region). Regional analysis is much less important for the panel. The sample size will in any case be considerably smaller, so some regional sample sizes would inevitably be too small to permit robust estimation. The prime objective for the panel is to enable national-level estimates with the highest possible precision. To achieve this, the sample was structured in a way that minimises the overall variation in households' selection probabilities. In other words, the sample distribution over strata matched as closely as possible the population distribution.

- Statistical precision for national estimates is greatly improved, compared with the LSMS design. Design effects (under the assumption of equal stratum population variances) can be expected to be around 1.02 for the panel sample, compared with 1.28 for the LSMS sample. In other words, a panel sample of 1500 interviews would give precision equivalent to an equal-probability sample of 1172 households if it followed the LSMS distribution of households over strata, but gives precision equivalent to an equal-probability sample of 1471 households with the panel design. Precision is also further improved by retaining all 450 EAs in the sample, thus reducing the design effect due to the clustering (as mean responding sample size per cluster will reduce from 8.0 to around 3.3);
- The design was simple to implement as, within each stratum, the number of households to select was the same in each EA. (Note that sampling fractions have been expressed as a fraction of 8 for this reason);
- The sample size was set so as to make it likely that the number of achieved interviews would be between 1600 and 1700. Substitute households were not be used in the case of non-response.
Rather, all attempts were made to maximise the response rate. This enables the use of potentially powerful non-response weighting using the LSMS data.

Panel design

The Albanian panel survey sample was selected from households interviewed on the 2002 LSMS conducted by INSTAT with support from the World Bank. The sample size for the panel took approximately half the LSMS households and has re-interviewed these households annually in each of 2003 and 2004. The LSMS data collected in 2002 therefore constitute 'Wave 1' of the panel survey and giving three waves of panel data altogether. The fieldwork for Wave 3 was carried out in the spring of 2004.

The sample selected from the LSMS for the panel was designed to provide a nationally representative sample of households and individuals within Albania (see Appendix B for full description of the sample design and selection procedure). This differs from the LSMS where the sample was designed to be representative of each strata which broadly represented the main regions in Albania so that regional level statistics could be generated (Mountain, Central, Coastal, Tirana).

The panel also has no over-sampling as in the LSMS. This design was adopted as the smaller sample size for the panel would have made it more difficult to produce regionally representative samples and increased sampling error while over-sampling can introduce additional complications for analysis in the context of a panel. The panel data can be used for analysis broken down by strata to assess any differences between areas but should not be used to produce cross-sectional estimates at the regional level. The relatively small sample size for the panel must always be considered as cell sizes which are small have higher levels of error and can produce estimates which are less reliable. Panel surveys have a number of elements of which data users need to be aware when carrying out their analysis. The main features of the panel design are as follows:
- All members of Wave 1 households were designated as original sample members (OSMs) including children aged under 15 years.

- New members living with an OSM become eligible for inclusion in the sample
- All sample members are followed as they move address and any new members found to be living in their household included
- Sample members moving out of Albania are considered to be out of scope for that year of the survey (note that they remain potentially eligible for interview and it is possible they may return to a sample household at a future wave)
- From Wave 2, only household members aged 15 years and over are eligible for interview. As children turn 15, they become eligible for interview (This differs from the LSMS where the individual questionnaire collected some data on children under 15 from the mother or main carer).

The panel is essentially an individual level survey as individuals are followed over time regardless of the household they are living in at a given interview point. This is the key element of the panel design. Households change in composition over time as members move in and out, children are born and others die. New households are formed as people marry or children leave the parental home and households can disappear if all members die or all members move in different directions. The fact that households do not remain constant over time means that it is only possible to follow individuals over time, observing them in their household context at each interview point.

It should also be noted that a 'household' is not equivalent to a current address. A household may move to a new address but maintain the same composition. Similarly, an individual sample member may move between several addresses during the life of the survey. In this design, there is no substitution or recruitment of new households moving into addresses vacated by sample members.

Questionnaires

Overview

Panel questionnaire content

The data for Wave 1 of the panel survey are the LSMS data so contains all the modules carried for the LSMS. To minimise respondent burden and help maintain response rates in the panel survey it was necessary to reduce the length and complexity of the LSMS questionnaire. However, it was also important to maintain comparability in question wording and response categories wherever possible as only variables which are comparable over time can be used for longitudinal analysis. The Wave 2 questionnaire is therefore a reduced version of the LSMS questionnaire with some additional elements that were required for the panel e.g. collecting details of people moving into and out of the household, and some new elements that had not been included on the LSMS. A cross-wave list of variables for Waves 1 and 2 shows which variables have been carried at both waves, which were carried at Wave 1 only and which at Wave 2 only (see 'Variable Reconciliation LSMS_PANEL_final). The most notable changes were that the LSMS detailed consumption module was not collected at Wave 2 and the agriculture module was a reduced form compared to the LSMS.

The Wave 2 individual questionnaire contains some routing depending on whether or not the person is an original sample member interviewed on the LSMS or a new person who had joined the household since Wave 1. This is because some information only needs to be collected once e.g. place of birth and other information only needs to be updated on an annual basis. For example all qualifications were collected on the LSMS so for original members we only need to know if they have gained any new qualifications in the past year but for new members we need to ask about all qualifications. Users of the data need to be aware of this routing and in some cases may need to get information from an earlier wave if it was not collected at the current wave. Users are recommended to use the data in conjunction with the questionnaires so they are aware of the routing for different sample members.

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2003-05	2003-07	N/A

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

Data Processing

No content available

Data Appraisal

No content available

Related Materials

Questionnaires

Albania Panel Survey - Wave 2 - 2003

Title	Albania Panel Survey - Wave 2 - 2003
Author(s)	Institute of Statistics of Albania
Country	Albania
Description	Household Questionnaire: 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	alb03q1.pdf

LSMS 2003: Other Modules Household Questionnaire

Title	LSMS 2003: Other Modules Household Questionnaire
Author(s)	Institute of Statistics of Albania
Country	Albania
Description	Household Questionnaire: 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	alb03q2.pdf

Technical documents

Basic Documentation: Albanian panel survey description Waves 1 and 2 (2002/2003)

Title	Basic Documentation: Albanian panel survey description Waves 1 and 2 (2002/2003)
Author(s)	Albania Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)
Date	2004-12-01
Country	Albania
Description	Basic Information: Describes the design of the survey and its coverage for potential users and provides general information about the general characteristics of the survey.
Filename	alb03bid.pdf

Variable Comparison

Title	Variable Comparison
Country	Albania
Description	This document shows which variables were collected in both waves of the survey and the variable names in the respective data sets.
Filename	VariableReconciliationLSMS_Panel_final.pdf