

the Survey Statistician

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Institutional Members

Letter from the President

By the time you read this the ISI Session in Lisbon will be almost upon us. Plans both for our sponsored meetings during the Session, and for our short courses to be held before and after the Session seem well-advanced. We are looking forward to stimulating meetings and well-attended courses. Our Program Chair, David Steel, and our Scientific Secretary, Lilli Japac, deserve our gratitude for all the work they have put into these preparations, as well as all those involved in organizing the individual meetings and presenting the courses. I hope many of you will be able to attend the ISI Session, benefit from the scientific programme, enjoy Portuguese hospitality, and also attend the IASS General Assembly to be held during the Session (see schedule below). You might also take in one or other of the two satellite conferences that IASS is sponsoring.

I was pleased to hear that our efforts to generate more interest in the Cochran-Hansen prize for young statisticians this year have paid off. Thanks in large part to the work of Sarah Nusser in advertising and encouraging entries for the prize we had a strong slate of entries this year. The 2007 Cochran-Hansen Prize has been awarded to Marcel Vieira for his contribution on "Estimating Models for Panel Survey Data under Complex Sampling". Sarah chaired the jury assembled to assess submissions for the prize and I wish to thank her and the other jury members for their efforts. The winning paper will be presented at the Lisbon Session during a meeting scheduled to take place on August 28th, 13:15-15:30.

As mentioned in previous Letters, I have, with the advice of the IASS Executive and Council, been commenting on proposals coming

from ISI on possible membership restructuring that could affect all sections and their members. Generally there has been broad support for an expanded ISI membership embracing all section members, but at the same time a concern that prospective fee levels could lead to a loss of membership among those currently section, but not ISI, members. The ISI Executive has considered our comments, along with those of many others, and now plans to provide additional policy papers for discussion at the ISI Council meeting in Lisbon, and for publication in the next ISI Newsletter. I welcome you to review these papers when published and let me know if you have any views you think need to be conveyed from an IASS perspective.

Looking beyond 2007, we will have a new Executive and Council in place following the recent IASS elections, the results of which can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter. Our thanks go out to Beverley Carlson and the Nominations Committee for their devoted work in developing an excellent slate of candidates, and to all those members who consented to stand.

We are also well-advanced in the development of our Program proposals for ISI 2009 thanks to the enthusiastic work of Leyla Mohadjer and her committee. We will be submitting our preliminary list of session topics to the ISI Program Coordinating Committee in preparation for discussions in that Committee during the Lisbon Session.

Unfortunately this may be the last issue of the *Survey Statistician* edited by Steven Heeringa. Steven has been the Editor since 2003 and has decided it is time to hand on this responsibility. On your behalf I would like to thank Steven for his valuable work on our Newsletter over this period. Aply assisted by Production Editor Gail Arnold, he has ensured that it remains

a valuable and timely source of information for members. The appointment of a new Editor is always an apposite time to consider whether any new directions should be pursued by a publication – in terms of content, distribution or in relation to our website. If you have any views to share on this, please let me know.

Perhaps less unfortunately, this will also be my last President's Letter in the *Survey Statistician*. It has been an honour to serve as your President for the past two years and I would like to thank all those who have helped me to muddle through. I wish my successor, Pedro Silva, every success and full support as his term as President starts during the Lisbon session.

Gordon Brackstone

IASS Administrative Meetings during the ISI Lisbon Session

Note: These are tentative times so please check the schedule to confirm times and locations on registration in Lisbon.

- IASS Council:
Thursday, August 23, 11:45-13:15
- IASS Executive:
Tuesday, August 28, 07.45-09.15
- IASS General Assembly:
Wednesday, August 29, 07.45-09.15
- IASS Program Committee:
Friday, August 24, 11:45-13:15

Retiring (2003-07), continuing (2005-09), and newly-elected (2007-11) Council members are all welcome at the IASS Council meeting.

IASS Program for the 57th ISI Session, Durban 2009

The IASS 2009 Program Committee is currently in the process of compiling a list of topics for the Invited Paper Meetings to be held during the 57th ISI session in Durban.

The committee came up with an initial list of about 80 topics for the 2009 Invited Program Meetings. In addition, suggestions were solicited from the IASS membership through announcements in this newsletter. The initial list was first reduced to about 35 topics by consolidating similar topics, and eliminating topics that were covered in recent ISI meetings. The committee is currently working on creating a final prioritized list of about 20 to 25 topics to submit to John Kovar, the Chair of the ISI 2009 Program Coordinating Committee. The Program Coordinating Committee will meet during the Lisbon ISI session in August to reach the final decisions on the 2009 Invited Program Meetings. The main subject areas currently under consideration include:

- Strategies for minimizing and managing response burden,
- Nonresponse bias in surveys,
- Measurement challenges for the millennium development goals of the united nations,
- Use of registers or other rich auxiliary data sources in surveys,
- Issues in price index methodology and measurement,
- Integrated household survey designs,
- New developments in survey methodology including issues related to sample design, estimation, monitoring field activities, and statistical analysis of data from complex samples,
- Sampling and estimation issues in health surveys (with focus on AIDS),
- Sampling rare and elusive populations: design and estimation,
- Outliers in complex sample surveys,
- New developments in measuring census coverage and adjustment methods,
- New developments in the upcoming censuses,
- Designing and conducting surveys in adverse conditions,
- Energy and environmental statistics,
- Issues in labor force surveys,
- The evolution of business surveys
- Sampling and estimation issues in internet surveys

- Disseminating survey results to public (data quality, data confidentiality, and methods of dissemination), and
- Small area estimation.

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IASS Election Results

Results of the recent IASS Elections were as follows:

President Elect, 2007-2009:
 Susan Linacre (Australia)
 (to serve as President, 2009-2011)

Vice-Presidents, 2007-2009:
 Seppo Laaksonen (Finland)
 Pierre Lavallée (Canada)

Scientific Secretary, 2007-2009:
 Steven Heeringa (United States)

Council Members, 2007-2011:
 Jairo Arrow (South Africa)
 Louise Bourque (Canada)
 Kathryn Inglis-Clark (Australia)
 Dalisay Maligalig (Philippines)
 Paul-André Salamin (Switzerland)
 Shyam Upadhaya (Nepal)

These members will serve with President, 2007-2009, Pedro Silva, and the six Council members previously elected for 2005-2009.

Congratulations to the successful candidates and thanks to all those who stood for office.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Members are encouraged to inform the IASS Secretariat of changes of address as soon as possible. Mailings of the proceedings of the IASS papers presented at the ISI sessions, and "The Survey Statistician" will be delayed and may be lost if the Secretariat does not have your correct address.

You may notify Ms. Claude Olivier of your change of address by completing and mailing the Change of Address form given at the end of this newsletter. Alternatively, you can provide the same information to Ms. Olivier by email to claudes.olivier@insee.fr.



Country Reports



Australia

Paul Sutcliffe

The **Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey** (WAACHS) was a large-scale epidemiological study of the health, development and wellbeing of Aboriginal children and their families in Western Australia (WA). The survey was conducted by the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research (TICHR). The survey selected a 1 in 6 sample of families with Aboriginal children under 18 years of age. In total, 2,000 families with 5,300 children participated in the survey. Interviews were conducted with both primary and secondary caregivers where possible, and with young people aged 12-17 years. For children attending school, schools were contacted to obtain information on academic performance and emotional and behavioural problems.

Four volumes of survey results have been published covering physical health; social and emotional wellbeing; education; and families and communities.

The survey design was an area-based clustered design with three levels: census collection districts (CDs), families and children. All children within selected families were included in the survey. The number of families per CD varied widely due to the distribution of Aboriginal families in Western Australia. While some CDs represent discrete Aboriginal communities, many Aboriginal children live in CDs that contain only a handful of Aboriginal families. Aboriginal people represent around 3% of the population of WA, and 130,000 dwellings were screened to find the 2,000 participating families.

There were several challenges that needed to be addressed to account for the design in the analysis of the data. Because the number of families per CD varied widely (of necessity, due to the geographic distribution of Aboriginal families), standard SAS and Stata variance estimation routines could not be used. The Ultimate Cluster and Jack-knife variance estimation techniques were modified for unequal cluster sizes for standard error and confidence interval estimation. To facilitate modelling of the survey data, the Probability Weighted Iterative Generalised Least Squares (PWIGLS) technique was extended to three level hierarchies and to fit logistic regression models using 2nd order Taylor Series expansions. Special purpose software was written in SAS to implement these techniques for the survey. This technique proved effective in simulations at extracting the underlying population model from informative samples. The method was applied extensively in the analysis of the survey data and the resulting models provided new insights into the development and wellbeing of Aboriginal children.

The WAACHS is the first major survey of Aboriginal children and families conducted in Australia, and the results of the survey are already influencing policy and practise in a range of areas including health, education and family and community services. More information about the survey, including the survey publications, is available from the web site <http://www.ichr.uwa.edu.au/waachs>

Canada

John Kovar

Canada's most recent **Census** was conducted on May 16, 2006. The first release

of results took place on March 13, 2007 with the publication of population and dwelling counts. For Canada the population count was 31,612,897 persons in 12,435,520 dwellings. Over the ensuing fourteen months, this is followed by a series of releases on other topics covered in the census questionnaire. For more information please see www.statcan.ca.

For the 2006 Census, Statistics Canada implemented the most significant changes to its census methodology in 30 years. Questionnaires were mailed out to about 70% of addresses and dropped off to the remainder. They could be returned either by mail or by Internet and in fact about 18% of households have responded via the Internet response channel. Numerous steps in data collection, processing, editing and follow-up were automated with the effect that the requirement for field collection staff was reduced by over 50% compared to past censuses. For more information please contact David Dolson at ddolson@statcan.ca.

The **2005 Survey of Financial Security (SFS)** is the most recent in a series of surveys conducted to collect data on the assets, debts, and net worth of Canadians. The survey has been conducted on a semi-regular basis since 1955. The sample size of the 2005 SFS was small relative to samples in other years. With a responding sample of only 5,200 households, the focus of the survey was estimation at the national level.

As in 1999, the 2005 SFS employed a dual frame methodology. An area sample was selected from a frame created for the Labour Force Survey which ensured 100 percent population coverage. Additionally a list sample was selected to increase the representation of high income households in the sample. This list sample was selected from a frame of addresses within postal codes that had been identified as having high concentrations of high income families. Personal interviews were conducted on paper questionnaires. The response rate for the area sample was 71 percent, while the rate for the list sample was substantially lower at 51 percent, giving an overall survey response rate of 68 percent.

A new method was implemented in the weighting of the 2005 SFS sample. Along with the usual nonresponse weighting adjustments and calibration of weights to known population controls, regression estimators from the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) and SFS were combined and used to adjust survey weights. SFS, as the smaller sample survey, was able to borrow strength from SLID, the larger sample survey, to improve the efficiency of SFS estimates. Besides this improvement in efficiency, the method also brought estimates of variables common to the two surveys more in line with each other.

Survey results were released in December 2006. A major survey finding was that while the wealth of Canadian families increased substantially between 1999 and 2005, the debt load of families was also much higher as a result of growing demand for mortgages and consumer credit. For more information, please contact Barbara Armstrong at Barbara.Armstron@statcan.ca

Balance of payments surveys (BoP) are an integral part of Statistics Canada's national accounts. They measure transactions and Canada's investment position with non-residents. Governments count on these statistics to formulate, implement and monitor fiscal and trade policy. Balance of payment data come from many sources: administrative records, foreign data, and various Statistics Canada surveys. Among others, 31 surveys are specifically dedicated to collecting international transaction and investment data from 10,000 respondents on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.

BoP surveys have recently started using Statistics Canada's Business Register. Although the international investments sector is dominated by a small group of businesses, using this centralized register makes it possible to improve the coverage of these surveys. The exercise of reconciling with the Business Register also made it possible to restructure and regroup survey designs and to select a birth sample.

As for international trade transactions, annual and quarterly surveys are presently being redesigned. This redesign will make it

possible to use the reconciliation with the centralized Business Register to improve coverage and stratification. It will also examine ways to make the most effective possible use of all external data sources available from administrative records and other Statistics Canada service surveys.

For further information, please contact Danielle Lalande or Nathalie Hamel at danielle.lalande@statcan.ca or nathalie.hamel@statcan.ca.

To provide more detailed information on the environment, Statistics Canada has revised its **program of environmental surveys**. First, two surveys have been reactivated, namely, the Households and the Environment Survey (HES) and the Industrial Water Use Survey (IWUS). The HES measures the practices, habits and behaviour of Canadian households in relation to the environment to see to what extent these habits may impact the environment. A sample of 36,000 households was selected from the sample of the Labour Force Survey and the initial results of the HES were released in November 2006. The IWUS is an economic survey that collects data on the volume of water used and the costs, sources, treatment and discharge of the water used by the manufacturing, mining and energy production industries. These three types of industries used different survey designs adapted to water use for a total sample of 7,000 establishments. The data were collected in 2006 for the 2005 reference year and the initial results have been available since spring 2007.

These two biannual surveys gather data in support of the three main environmental indicators: air quality, water quality and greenhouse gas emissions. These indicators are part of the publication, "Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators," which is a joint effort between Statistics Canada, Environment Canada and Health Canada.

Two existing surveys are also at the planning or redesign stages: the Survey of Environmental Protection Expenditures and the Environment Industry Survey. These biannual surveys will use the centralized Business Register and Statistics Canada's

generalized systems to enhance their comparability with the Agency's other programs.

Statistics Canada is also working to develop two additional surveys, one on agricultural water use and the other on municipal source water quality. These surveys will enable Statistics Canada to expand the scope of its environmental statistics program.

For further information, please contact Danielle Lalande or Nathalie Hamel at danielle.lalande@statcan.ca or nathalie.hamel@statcan.ca.

Malaysia

Aziz Mohammad

In October 2006, the Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM) launched the **Domestic Tourism Survey** (DTS). DTS will serve as an important source of data for estimating domestic tourism consumption. This is the first time that such a survey has been carried out in Malaysia. This survey, together with the inbound survey carried out regularly by another agency (Tourism Malaysia), will provide relevant inputs in compiling the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA).

The sampling is based on a two-stage stratified sampling process. The total sample for the 12-month period is comprised of independent samples of 2000 households enumerated every month. The data collection operation involves visiting the selected household before the beginning of the reference month. A booklet is provided for household members to report their trips, particularly the expenditures incurred within or in relation to each of these trips. Further details about the survey can be obtained from Zainol Othman at zainol@stats.gov.my

DOSM is carrying out a survey on **Malaysian residents' expenditure in border towns** in 2007. The survey is undertaken once every five years, with the year 2002 as a kick-off year. The objective of the 2007 survey is to update the 2002 estimates of the average expenditure of Malaysian residents travelling via sea and land modes to border towns on

leisure and pleasure trips. The estimates are used to improve the compilation of travel debit of the current account in the balance of payments (BOP).

At the start, nine exit points or stations are covered and selection of respondents is based on quota sampling. It is envisaged that a probabilistic sampling design will be adopted for the 2012 survey. For further information, please contact Ismail Abdullah at ismail_abdullah@stats.gov.my

Philippines

Gervacio G. Selda, Jr.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) of the Philippines will conduct a mid-decade **census of population** in August 2007. Improvement in data processing will be one of the main concerns of the upcoming census. In both 1990 and 1995 censuses, the conventional method of data capture, i.e., data entry, was employed to convert the data from the census forms into an electronic format. In 2000 CPH, the NSO departed from the traditional method of capturing census data by employing the Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR). With this technology, the 2000 CPH was able to capture the images of census forms and interpret the mark fields and written entries through an ICR interpretation engine to convert data into digital format. However, this method of data capturing had many drawbacks to consider such as the quality of printing, quality of entries in the questionnaires, maintenance of scanners, and acquiring licenses for ICR software interpretation. For the 2007 Census of Population (POPCEN 2007), the same processing method will be used but with some modifications in the procedure; namely, a combination of mark field interpretation and a 100 percent key verification for write-in entries.

In the coming months, the NSO will start with the mapping activities for POPCEN 2007, which will include updating of available area maps for new significant landmarks and other features, ocular inspection of the areas, preparation of sketch maps, and reproduction of maps to be used for the actual census. Map

archiving of paper maps will then be established at NSO Regional and Provincial Offices to ensure the completeness of submitted maps from POPCEN 2007 and to facilitate retrieval of these maps. All maps will then be digitized in preparation for the 2010 CPH. These maps will be scanned to produce images, which will be used as input to the Geographic Information System (GIS). This plan will include the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) in order to plot important landmarks. For more details on the census, please contact Dr. Socorro D. Abejo, Director of the Household Statistics Department, NSO at S.Abejo@census.gov.ph.

Also, the NSO will conduct the nationwide **2006 Census of Philippine Business and Industry (CPBI)**. The nationwide undertaking aims to collect and to compile benchmark information on economic activities of establishments in the entire Philippines for the year 2006. The 2006 CPBI will cover establishments engaged in agriculture, hunting and forestry; fishing; mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas and water supply; construction; wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods; hotels and restaurants; transport, storage and communications; financial intermediation; real estate, renting and business activities; private education; health and social work; and, other community, social and personal service activities as defined in the 1994 Philippine Standard Industrial Classification.

Along with the conduct of the 2006 CPBI is the **2006 Input-Output Survey of Philippine Business and Industry (IOSPBI)**, a survey of establishments designed to collect detailed information on the production, revenues, cost and inventories of products and services rendered. Training of personnel who will be involved in the conduct of the CPBI and the IOSPBI has begun and will continue until the end of April 2007 in time for the distribution of questionnaires which will be from May 7 - June 2. Collection period will be from July to September 2007. A preliminary result for the undertaking with analysis is targeted for release next year. For more information on these activities, please contact Ms. Estela T. de Guzman, Director of the Industry and

Trade Statistics Department, NSO at E.deGuzman@census.gov.ph or visit the website at <http://www.census.gov.ph>.

On the other hand, the Statistical Research and Training Center (SRTC) of the Philippines and NSO are jointly developing an alternative sampling design and survey strategies for the conduct of the 2010 Census of Agriculture and Fisheries (CAF). CAF is a comprehensive enumeration of agriculture characteristics. Conducted every ten (10) years, the CAF provides benchmark statistics on the size of farms, tenure of farms, land use, area planted to crops, production of agricultural crops, types of fishing vessels/gears used and fish catch. The project will evaluate the sampling design and strategies utilized in the previous censuses of agriculture and fisheries. The ultimate goal is to recommend alternative survey designs and census methodologies for the conduct of the CAF that will provide rather reliable data with the least possible cost. For more information, please contact Ms. Mercedita E. Tia, Chief of the Census Planning and Operations Division (CPOD), NSO at M.Tia@census.gov.ph or Ms. Lilia V. Elloso, OIC of Research Division, SRTC at lvelloso@srtc.gov.ph

Poland

Tomasz Zadło

The 55th anniversary of the founding of the **Polish Institute of Labour and Social Studies** is celebrated this year. The Institute has a long tradition in Poland in conducting surveys of the Polish labour market. Life conditions and poverty issues are also studied. The Institute has inter alia participated in the LAW project – Labour Market Changes and Welfare Perspectives in Europe, which aims at investigating the connections between the recent structural changes of the labour market in the “Information Society” and the welfare system evolution. Since Poland joined the EU, the Institute includes the European Commission and Eurostat proposals to modify the definition of poverty to include the problem of social exclusion and to study new indicators. More information is available at www.ipiss.com.pl

The **Regional labour market survey** is conducted by the Lower Silesian Agency of Regional Development. It is supported both by EU (European Social Fund) and the Polish budget within the Integrated Operating Program of Regional Development. The aim of the survey is to investigate Polish labour market of professions and expectations of employers with regard to employees' competencies in different professional groups. The website of the project is www.rynek-pracy.darr.pl

The first **Polish Meeting of Statisticians** will take place in Wrocław on 10-12 October 2007 on the occasion of the 95 Anniversary of the Polish Statistical Association. To obtain more details please contact Dr. Cyprian Kozyra at cyprian.kozyra@ae.wroc.pl On 5-7 November 2007 in Łódź two conferences will take place that are being organized by the Institute of Econometrics and Statistics and the Department of Statistical Methods of Łódź University: XXVI Conference Multivariate Statistical Analysis (email: msa@uni.lodz.pl) and Statistics in Socio-Economic Practice (email: swpsq2007@uni.lodz.pl).

Spain

Dolores Lorca

The main goal of the **Energy Consumption Survey** (ECS) is to provide information on consumption (in value) of the different types of energy products (coal, oil products, gas, electricity...) used by industrial companies. It includes all purchases of energy products on the condition that they have been used as fuels. Products purchased as raw material or for resale are excluded. The ECS is carried out in order to comply with European Union Regulation 58/97 on Structural Business Statistics. This Regulation includes a module that establishes the compulsory nature of providing information on energy consumption referring to industrial companies every two years. The survey results are disseminated on a national level and by geographical regions (autonomous communities).

The observation unit used for the survey is the industrial company. The target population consists of all companies whose main activity

appears in sections C and D of the NACE-93 Rev 1.1 (extractive and manufacturing industries) and which have at least 20 employees. For the design of the sample, the population is stratified according to the industrial sectors, and company size is measured by the number of employees. The survey investigates companies with 200 or more employees exhaustively, while companies with 20 to 199 employees are investigated by sampling. The ECS's sample size is about 6000 companies, which represents a global sampling fraction of 26%.

The survey frame is not stratified by geographical region in order to reduce the sample size. But in order to obtain representative results to level of autonomous communities, auxiliary information from the Structural Industrial Business Survey (SIBS) is used. The SIBS annually investigates companies with 20 or more employees exhaustively and the companies with 1 to 19 employees are investigated by sampling. Thus, the ECS sample can be considered as a sub-sample of the SIBS sample.

The ECS uses a composite estimator for estimating totals, combining a stratified estimator and a synthetic estimator. For further information on results, methodology, and questionnaire, please contact Gonzalo Parada at goparada@ine.es or Jose Manuel Feito at jmfeito@ine.es

Turkey
H. Öztas Ayhan

The Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) conducts the **Life Satisfaction Survey**, which is designed to measure the happiness perception of individuals, their satisfaction with public services (health and social security, education, work, income, personal security, justice services, personal development and personal support network), and to follow up the changes of this satisfaction in time. More details about the survey can be obtained from Mr. Enver Tasti at enver.tasti@tuik.gov.tr.

TURKSTAT and the General Directorate of Family and Social Research conduct the

Family Structure Survey, which is designed to measure household composition and family types, attitudes of individuals towards family life, the lifestyles of families and attitudes towards old age life. Further information about the survey can be obtained from Mr. Enver Tasti at enver.tasti@tuik.gov.tr.

An **Address Based Population Registration System** was established by TURKSTAT and General Directorate of Population and Citizenship Affairs in order to develop existing administrative records based on addresses. The purposes of the Address Based Population Registration System project are

- to establish a "National Address Database" that will store all address information in Turkey,
- to determine personal information of Turkish citizens and foreigners residing in the standardized addresses that were defined in the "National Address Database," and
- to match usual residence addresses and the MERNIS registers by using the Turkish Republic person identification numbers.

All persons living in Turkey will be covered by this study. The system includes persons residing in households, persons living in institutions, nomads, homeless persons, and foreign citizens residing in Turkey. More details about the registry can be obtained from Mr. Enver Tasti at enver.tasti@tuik.gov.tr.

A **Turkish National Maternal Mortality Study** is being organised by Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies (HUIPS), ICON/INSTITUT Public Sector GmbH, BNB Consulting, Ministry of Health, General Directorate of Mother and Child Health and Family Planning, and Delegation of European Commission to Turkey. The project objectives include both estimating maternal mortality rates and ratios, and providing information on improving the existing recording and reporting systems. The research strategy rested on estimating the numbers of maternal deaths (numerators of the indicators) through *de novo* data collection, and on estimating the

denominators using supplementary information from other sources. In particular, existing but unused data sources were thus articulated to the planned system for reporting maternal deaths. The sample design was a weighted, stratified probability sample. The organizational requirements of the fieldwork meant that the work had to be carried out at the province level and that once a province was selected, all districts within the province and all settlements within these districts were part of the sample. Unlike the standard multistage sampling approach, which is often used in household surveys, the only sampling unit was the province, and the sampling challenge was to select a representative sample among the 81 provinces that could yield national, urban/rural and 12 NUTS -1 level regional estimates. Further information about this study can be obtained from the Project Director Prof. Sabahat Tezcan at sabahatt@hacettepe.edu.tr and Survey Statistician Dr. A. Sinan Turkyilmaz at aturkyil@hacettepe.edu.tr.

A Graduate Summer School Program on Recent Advances in Statistics will be taking place during 11 – 24 August 2007 at the Department of Statistics, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey (<http://www.stat.metu.edu.tr>). The Graduate Summer School will host many international expert teachers who will cover recent advances in; *generalized linear models, insurance, categorical data analysis, bioinformatics, survey sampling and research methodology, time series and panel data, robust statistical techniques, biostatistics, and data mining*. More details can be obtained from the Coordinator Assoc. Prof. Inci Batmaz at ibatmaz@metu.edu.tr.

United Kingdom
Peter Lynn

The UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is launching an ambitious new household panel survey, which will be based upon a sample of 40,000 households and is provisionally known as **UK Households: A Longitudinal Study** (UKHLS). Each member of a wave 1 household will be followed and interviewed

annually, along with any non-sample members of their current household. The main sample will be an unclustered national sample of households. There will also be a boost sample of around 3,500 ethnic minority households. Plans include the collection of health measures, biomarkers, qualitative data and linked register data, as well as a wide range of socio-economic interview data. Wave 1 will be carried out face-to-face but subsequent waves are likely to involve a mixed-mode strategy including web and telephone interviews. In 2006 the ESRC commissioned four “Expert Reports” to inform the design of the UKHLS. These, along with a report of a consultation workshop and other background documents are available at <http://tinyurl.com/2r72s2>. The study will include an “Innovation Panel” of at least 1,000 households, to be used for developing and testing various aspects of methodology. Field work is expected to begin in 2008 for the Innovation Panel and in January 2009 for the main survey.

The **Wealth and Assets Survey (WAS)** is a major new UK government survey for which field work began in July 2006 after a 15-month period of development and testing. WAS collects information on financial and non-financial household assets, with detailed information on wealth components such as savings, pensions, investments, mortgages and debt. All adults in a sample of 32,000 households will be interviewed over a 24-month period (2006-08). A second wave will then take place (2008-10) in which each person interviewed in wave 1 will be re-interviewed approximately 24 months after the first interview. Also, households identified as having particularly high debt will receive an additional interview 12 months after the first. First results from the first 12 months of interviews are due to appear in autumn 2007. For further information, contact Charles Lound (charles.lound@ons.gov.uk).

The **International Passenger Survey (IPS)** has recently undergone some design changes to improve efficiency. Extra “filter shifts” have been added to the sample to identify larger numbers of emigrants from the UK. These shifts mainly take place at Heathrow and Gatwick airports and involve screening out large numbers of departing passengers in

order to identify those who are emigrating and carry out a longer interview with them. Meanwhile, the number of questions asked of departing UK residents and arriving non-UK residents has been reduced. Also, the weighting scheme for the IPS is currently

undergoing a thorough review. Further details of the IPS can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/27qhks> or from ips@ons.gov.uk.



SOFTWARE REVIEW



Software reviews over the last several years have presented summaries of the features of a number of systems or components of systems that deal directly with survey estimation issues, particularly sampling error and weighting procedures. They have addressed such systems as Epilinfo, Wesvar, SUDAAN, SAS sampling error PROCedures, Stata, IVEware, and software for generalized regression weighting. Some of this software is available for free over the internet, and others require payment of a licensing fee.

We are considering additional reviews, and we would like to get reader advice about software that has not been reviewed to date,

or for updated reviews on some software. We also would like to hear from you about whether there are software systems that address other survey sampling issues that you'd like us to review. Please keep in mind that we review only software that is available for purchase or for free download. We do not review proprietary or other software that our readers cannot purchase or access through a download.

Please send your advice and ideas to Jim Lepkowski, the review editor, at jimlep@umich.edu.

To All Members

- ◆ The IASS needs your contribution.
- ◆ Please do not forget to renew your membership.
- ◆ As of January 2002, French Francs are no longer accepted. As a consequence, the payment of dues and subscriptions must be made in either Euros or U.S. dollars.



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	<p>Association Internationale des Statisticiens d'Enquête (AISE)</p>

Important Notices

A PDF file of the newsletter is available on the IASS web site. Currently, a few members prefer to be notified only when a new issue is posted, instead of receiving the hard copy. At this point we do not have a process in place to support this option. A process will be developed when an adequate number of members choose the above. Until that time, all members will continue to receive hard copies of the newsletter. Please send an e-mail to sheering@isr.umich.edu if you would like to take advantage of this option.

Members are encouraged to view the IASS website (<http://isi.cbs.nl/iass/index.htm>) and provide comments or suggestions to Eric Rancourt: eric.rancourt@statcan.ca.

In Other Journals



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Journal of Official Statistics
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JOS is a scholarly quarterly that specializes in statistical methodology and applications. Survey methodology and other issues pertinent to the production of statistics at national offices and other statistical organizations are emphasized. All manuscripts are rigorously reviewed by independent referees and members of the Editorial Board.

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Not only are new fields emerging, but there are also exciting new methodological developments in traditional areas. Advances would like to offer researchers in these fields a forum to both act as an introduction to and promote the active discussion of their research. To ensure that each topic receives due individual attention, proposals involving emerging topics are particularly welcome. They should include a description of the prospective field and its principal sources of research, together with a selection of authors who may be willing to contribute.

Authors should submit a pdf file of their manuscripts electronically to the Editor:

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Once a paper is accepted, authors will be requested to submit the source files including suitable figure files. Authors should prepare their manuscripts with LaTeX (preferred) or Word.

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