

HS120: ABILITY TO MAKE ENDS MEET

Topic and detailed topic: Living conditions, including material deprivation, housing, living environment, access to services / Material deprivation

Variable type: Annual

Unit: Household

Reference period: Current

Mode of collection: Household respondent

In use (period): Yes, since first year of EU-SILC data collection

Series' differences: No changes

VALUES AND FORMAT

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | With great difficulty |
| 2 | With difficulty |
| 3 | With some difficulty |
| 4 | Fairly easily |
| 5 | Easily |
| 6 | Very easily |

FLAGS

- | | |
|----|---------|
| 1 | Filled |
| -1 | Missing |

DESCRIPTION

The objective is to assess the respondents' feeling about the level of difficulty experienced by the household in making ends meet.

The respondent's assessment should be based on the household's total income. There should be a reference in the national questionnaires as well as in the interviewers' guidelines that all income sources are to be taken into account (possibly irregular) and that 'more than one household member may contribute to it'. It is however acceptable that this reference is dropped if this question follows other questions on the household's total income and the concept is clear to respondents.

Additionally, in the guidelines for interviewers, it can be specified that income refers to 'net' income i.e. to income after the deduction of tax and social insurance.

As 'making ends meet' does not exist in some languages, it is to be defined as paying usual necessary expenses and should be included both in the national questionnaires and in the guidelines for interviewers.

The usual necessary expenses of the household should include housing related costs but exclude business and farm work costs. This clarification is to be given in the interviewers' guidelines. In order to guarantee the maximum comparability between countries should use the same scale proposed in the given order.

Suggested question:

A household may have different sources of income and more than one household member may contribute to it. Thinking of your household's total income, is your household able to make ends meet, namely, to pay for its usual necessary expenses?