

DB050: STRATUM

Topic and detailed topic: Technical items/Data collection information

Variable type: Annual

Unit: Household

Reference period: At selection

Mode of collection: Frame, register or sample design

In use (period): Yes, since 2008

Series' differences: Yes (2014) (description and flags applied changes from 2014), the variable label slightly changed in 2021 based on standardised variable names

VALUES AND FORMAT

1 – 99999 Stratum identifier

FLAGS

From 2014 onwards

- 1 Filled
- 2 Self-representing primary sampling unit (PSU)
- 3 Collapsed stratum due to single PSU (only for households selected in the stratum with the single PSU)
- 2 Not applicable (no stratification)

Before 2014

- 1 Filled
- 2 Not applicable (no stratification)

DESCRIPTION

DB050 reports on the primary stratum corresponding to each observation unit (individual or household) in case the target population (or a part thereof) is stratified at the first stage of the sample design, providing identification codes for the different strata. The information on the variable should be filled in for all waves, and it should always refer to the situation at the time the concerned unit (individual or household) is selected; it consequently does not refer to the strata used for post-stratification. DB050 collects information about primary strata, the strata used in selecting the sample. The variable label is changed from 'Primary strata' [*Primary strata as used in the selection of the sample*] used before, to 'Stratum' used from 2021 onwards, harmonised with social standardised variables.

Stratifying a population means dividing it into non-overlapping subpopulations called strata. Independent samples are then selected within each stratum.

The variable contains sampling information that is needed to calculate measures of spread (e.g., variance and standard deviation) and to observe changes over time.

The category 'stratum identifier' provides the identification code of the stratum each observation unit (individual or household) belongs to. Stratum identification codes are to be used in case the target population has been stratified, or in case self-representing primary sampling units (PSUs) have been considered²⁴.

The category 'not applicable' is to be used in case the target population has not been stratified at the first stage of the sampling process (e.g., when the sample has been drawn by simple random sampling or by cluster random sampling), and self-representing PSUs have not been considered.

Information on the variable should be filled in for all waves (and/or panels), and it should always refer to the situation at the time the concerned unit (individual or household) is selected.

In case the target population is stratified at the first stage of the sampling design (or in case of comparable sample design), all primary strata receive a unique identification code which remains the same for the entire period in which the observation units (individual or household) that receive this identification code remain in

²⁴ Self-representing PSUs are PSUs selected with a probability of 1, which must be considered to be a stratum rather than a PSU.