

VIETNAM LIVING STANDARDS SURVEY: HOUSEHOLD PER CAPITA

Overview:

In 1986, the Vietnamese government began a policy of *textitdoi moi* (renovation), and decided to move from a centrally planned command economy to a "market economy with socialist direction". As a result, Vietnam was able to evolve from near famine conditions in 1986 to a position as the world's third larger exporter of rice in the mid nineties. Between 1992 and 1997 Vietnam's GDP rose by 8.9% annually (World Bank, 1999).

The first Vietnam Living Standards Survey (VLSS) was conducted in 1992-93 by the State Planning Committee (SPC) (now Ministry of Planning and Investment) along with the General Statistical Office (GSO). The second VLSS was conducted by the GSO in 1997-98. The survey was part of the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) household surveys conducted in a number of developing countries with technical assistance from the World Bank.

The second VLSS was designed to provide an up-to-date source of data on households to be used in policy design, monitoring of living standards and evaluation of policies and programs. One part of the evaluation was whether the policies and programs that were currently available were age appropriate for the population. For example, if a country has a higher proportion of older people, then there needs to be programs available that appeal to that sector of the population.

Source:

The data come from World Bank (1999). *World Development Indicators 1999*. CD-ROM. Washington DC.

Sample Size/Contents

The data consist of 5,999 randomly sampled households.

- ID: ID Number
- Dollars: Expenditure per capita of surveyed household. This was calculated by taking the expenditure on food and non-food (e.g., value of house, insurance, etc.) and dividing by the total number of persons living in the household.
- Area: Is the household in an urban or rural area?
- Region: Region of Vietnam that the household is in (1 = Central Coast; 2 = Central Highlands; 3 = Mekong Delta; 4 = North Coast; 5 = Northern Uplands; 6 = Red River Delta; 7 = South East)