An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

Standard SIMS Report:

Household Environmental Behaviours Survey

Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report

For

Household Environmental Behaviours Survey

This documentation applies to the reporting period:

Quarter 3, 2021

Last edited: 10th November, 2021

Table of Contents

Table of Contents ... 3
1. Introduction ... 5
2. Contact ... 5
3. Metadata Update ... 5
3.1. Metadata last certified ... 5
3.2. Metadata last posted ... 5
3.3. Metadata last update ... 5
4. Statistical Presentation ... 5
4.1. Data Description ... 5
4.2. Classification System ... 5
4.3. Sector Coverage ... 6
4.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions ... 6
4.5. Statistical Unit ... 6
4.6. Statistical Population ... 6
4.7. Reference Area ... 6
4.8. Time Coverage ... 6
4.9. Base period ... 6
5. Unit of Measure ... 6
6. Reference Period ... 6
7. Institutional Mandate ... 6
7.1. Legal Acts and other agreements ... 6
7.2. Data Sharing ... 6
8. Confidentiality ... 6
8.1. Confidentiality – policy ... 7
8.2. Confidentiality – data treatment ... 7
9. Release Policy ... 7
9.1. Release Calendar ... 7
9.2. Release calendar access ... 7
9.3. User access ... 7
10. Frequency of Dissemination ... 7
11. Accessibility and clarity ... 7
11.1. News release ... 7
11.2. Publications ... 8
11.3. On-line database ... 8
11.3.1. AC 1. Data tables -consultations ... 8
11.4. Micro-data Access ... 8
11.5. Other ... 8
11.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations ... 8
11.6. Documentation on Methodology ... 8
11.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate ... 8
11.7. Quality Documentation ... 8
12. Quality Management ... 8
12.1. Quality Assurance ... 8
12.2. Quality Assessment ... 9
13. Relevance ... 9
13.1.1. Main National Users ... 9
13.1.2. Principal External Users ... 9
13.2. User Satisfaction ... 9
13.3. Data Completeness ... 9
13.3.1. Data Completeness rate ... 9
14. Accuracy and reliability ... 9
14.1. Overall accuracy ... 9
14.2. Sampling Error ... 9
14.2.1. A1.Sampling error indicator ... 9
14.3. Non-sampling Error ... 9

14.3.1. Coverage error 9
14.3.2. Measurement error 10
14.3.3. Non-Response Error 10
14.3.4. Processing error 10
14.3.5. Model assumption error 10
15. Timeliness and punctuality 11
15.1. Timeliness 11
15.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results 11
15.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results 11
15.2. Punctuality 11
15.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication 11
16. Comparability 11
16.1. Comparability – Geographical 11
16.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics 11
16.2. Comparability over time 11
16.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series 11
16.3. Coherence – cross domain 11
16.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics 11
16.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts 11
16.4. Coherence – internal 11
17. Cost and Burden 12
18. Data Revision 12
18.1. Data Revision Policy 12
18.2. Data Revision Practice 12
18.2.1. Data Revision – Average size 12
19. Statistical processing 12
19.1. Source Data 12
19.1.1. Population and sampling frame 12
19.1.2. Sampling design 12
19.1.3. Survey size 12
19.1.4. Survey technique 13
19.2. Frequency of data collection 13
19.3. Data Collection 13
19.3.1. Type of Survey/Process 13
19.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations) 13
19.3.3. Survey Participation 13
19.3.4. Data Capture 13
19.4. Data Validation 13
19.5. Data Compilation 13
19.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets) 13
19.5.2. Grossing and Weighting 14
19.6. Adjustment 14
19.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment 14
20. Comment 14

1. Introduction

The data were collected as part of the CSO General Household Survey (GHS). The GHS is a national survey that takes place three or four times each year and is part of an EU-wide programme. Each survey usually has a specific theme: for example in Quarter 3, 2021 the modules were "Personal and Work-Life Balance" and "Environment". The purpose of the Environment module was to collect information on household environmental behaviours.

2. Contact

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3. Metadata Update

3.1. Metadata last certified

10th November, 2021

3.2. Metadata last posted

10th November, 2021

3.3. Metadata last update

23st January, 2023

4. Statistical Presentation

4.1. Data Description

The data are household responses to survey questions on four topics: opinions on environmental issues; visits to nature areas; waste management and recycling; and energy use. A detailed breakdown by household characteristics is provided.

4.2. Classification System

NUTS 3 Regions
The regional classification used in this release is based on the NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units) classification used by Eurostat. The composition of the regions is set out below.

Border (Cavan, Donegal, Louth, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo)
Dublin (Dublin)
Mid-East (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow, Louth)
Mid-West (Clare, Limerick, Tipperary)
Midland (Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath)
South-East (Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford)
South-West (Cork, Kerry)
West (Galway, Mayo, Roscommon)
Urban/Rural location

Areas are classified as Urban or Rural based on Census of Population 2016. Urban refers to settlements with a total population of 1,500 or more. Rural refers to the population outside urban areas and includes towns with a population of less than 1,500 persons.

4.3. Sector Coverage

Households

4.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions

Household opinions on environmental issues; statistics on household visits to nature areas; household waste and recycling statistics; household energy use statistics.

4.5. Statistical Unit

Private occupied household.

4.6. Statistical Population

All private occupied households in Ireland.

4.7. Reference Area

State with breakdown by NUTS 3 region.

4.8. Time Coverage

Quarter 3, 2021.

4.9. Base period

Not applicable.

5. Unit of Measure

Number of households; number of persons; €.

6. Reference Period

Quarter 3, 2021.

7. Institutional Mandate

7.1. Legal Acts and other agreements

Not applicable.

7.2. Data Sharing

Not applicable.

8. Confidentiality

8.1. Confidentiality – policy

All information supplied to the CSO is treated as strictly confidential. The Statistics Act, 1993 sets stringent confidentiality standards: Information collected may be used only for statistical purposes, and no details that might be related to an identifiable person or business undertaking may be divulged to any other government department or body.
These national statistical confidentiality provisions are reinforced by the following EU legislation: Council Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics for data collected for EU statistical purposes.
Further details are outlined in the CSO's Code of Practice on Statistical Confidentiality.

For more information on the CSO confidentiality policy please visit:
https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/statisticalconfidentiality/

8.2. Confidentiality – data treatment

Data are published at aggregated level such that no confidential data is made available.

9. Release Policy

9.1. Release Calendar

The date of dissemination of all statistics released by CSO can be found in the Release Calendar published in CSO.ie. This calendar is regularly updated.
https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/releasecalendar/

9.2. Release calendar access

The release calendar can be accessed via the CSO website, www.cso.ie, or directly from this link:

9.3. User access

In accordance with Principle 6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice all users of CSO statistics have equal access via the CSO website at the same time of 11 am. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.

The CSO recognises that in very limited circumstances a business need for pre-release access may be substantiated. Any form of pre-release access is a privilege and a strict CSO pre-release access policy is adhered to for these special requests. The full pre-release access policy can be accessed at
https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/csopolicyonpre-releaseaccess/

The various results are published nationally in statistical release format.

10. Frequency of Dissemination

Once-off basis

11. Accessibility and clarity

11.1. News release

A press release was issued with the statistical release.

11.2.Publications

The data were published on the CSO website:
www.cso.ie/en/statistics/environmentstatistics/householdenvironmentalbehaviours

11.3.On-line database

Not applicable.

11.3.1. AC 1. Data tables -consultations

Not calculated.

11.4.Micro-data Access

The microdata are not currently available.

11.5.Other

An infographic was designed for publication with the release.

11.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not calculated.

11.6.Documentation on Methodology

https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/environment/householdenvironmentalbehaviours/

11.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate

Not calculated.

11.7.Quality Documentation

National quality reports are published alongside the national release and can be found at the following link: https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/qualityreports/householdenvironmentalbehaviours/

12. Quality Management

12.1.Quality Assurance

Quality Management Framework
The CSO avails of an office wide Quality Management Framework (QMF). This framework allows all CSO processes and outputs to meet the required standard as set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCOP). The QMF foundations are based on establishing the UNECE's Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) as the operating statistical production model to achieve a standardised approach to Quality Management. All and any changes implemented to CSO processes and outputs require adherence to the QMF.

12.2. Quality Assessment

13. Relevance

13.1.1. Main National Users

Policy-makers and media, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and Inland Fisheries Ireland.

13.1.2. Principal External Users

As above.

13.2. User Satisfaction

The CSO formed a project group consisting of representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, the CSO Environment and Climate Division and the CSO Ecosystem Accounts Division to develop the questionnaire so that it would meet statistical and policy needs.

13.3. Data Completeness

13.3.1. Data Completeness rate

Not calculated.

14. Accuracy and reliability

14.1.Overall accuracy

The sample size was 25,000 households with a usable response rate of 18.6%. Households were stratified by county and type of tenure ensuring representative coverage.

14.2. Sampling Error

A stratified random sample was selected from the Ordinarily Resident Frame. The original sample size was 30,000 in order to enhance Eircode coverage and hence matching to Census of Population data. All records with Eircode coverage were then selected to be part of the final sample of 25,000. As a result the final sample was not perfectly random; however the benefit in terms of improving receipt of letters by the correct households and hence response rates was considered to justify the approach.

14.2.1. A1.Sampling error indicator

Not calculated.

14.3. Non-sampling Error

14.3.1. Coverage error

The ORF is updated annually with LPT data and quarterly with RTB data. The most recent update at the time of the Environment module was Quarter 4, 2020. The LPT data source identifies properties which are principal private residences of tax-resident persons. It is also possible to identify Local Authority (L.A.)-owned rental properties from the LPT. All privately-owned and Approved Housing Board-owned and rental properties are required to be registered with the RTB. Combining the LPT (taking the owner-occupied properties of tax-resident persons, plus the L.A. rental properties) and the RTB (for private rental

properties and AHB rental properties) is considered to make a satisfactory household survey sampling frame.

14.3.1.1. A2. Over coverage rate

Not calculated.

14.3.1.2. A3. Common units – proportion

Not calculated.

14.3.2. Measurement error

The questionnaire repeated a number of questions which had been included in the QHNS Environment module of Quarter 2 of 2014. The majority of the remaining questions were derived from Eurobarometer questionnaires and from the People and Nature Survey (PANS) questionnaire used in England to gather data on people's enjoyment, access, understanding of and attitudes to the natural environment.

All questions were assessed for suitability in an Irish context and for an online survey which was to be completed on a device such as a laptop, smartphone or tablet. Each section of the questionnaire was discussed and reviewed by the relevant members of the project group.

14.3.3. Non-Response Error

The usable response rate for the survey was 18.6%. Three reminders were issued to households in order to increase the response rate. The time taken to fill the questionnaire was kept to approximately ten minutes in order to reduce non-response.

Each table in this release contains figures showing the number of respondent households. The number of households in the population, based on the 2016 Census, was 1,666,266.

While most respondents provided responses to all questions in the questionnaire, some respondents did not answer all questions. The release tables include proportions of non-respondents to specific questions where relevant.

14.3.3.1. Unit non response rate

Not calculated.

14.3.3.2. Item non response rate

Not calculated.

14.3.4. Processing error

Not applicable.

14.3.5. Model assumption error

Not applicable.

15. Timeliness and punctuality

15.1. Timeliness

Data were collected in Quarter 3 2021 and published very shortly after the end of the data collection period.

15.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results

Ten days.

15.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results

Ten days.

15.2. Punctuality

The data were published on time.

15.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication

Zero.

16. Comparability

16.1. Comparability – Geographical

The data can be compared by NUTS 3 region.

16.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics

Not calculated.

16.2. Comparability over time

This is a stand-alone statistical release.

16.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series

Not applicable.

16.3. Coherence – cross domain

Not applicable.

16.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics

Not applicable.

16.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts

Not applicable.

16.4. Coherence – internal

The statistics are internally consistent.

17. Cost and Burden

Estimates of Cost and Burden can be obtained from the Response Burden Barometer
https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/multisectoral/responseburdenbarometer/

18. Data Revision

18.1.Data Revision Policy

Revisions refer to changes made to published statistical data when the information used in its production has been updated or corrected. This information includes all data used in compiling the statistic e.g. respondent data, administrative data, weights and factors, methodology, classifications, definitions, modifications to survey questionnaires, survey scope and data collection methods.
The data revision policy that CSO statistics adheres to can be found via the following link:
https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/quality/treatmentofrevisions/

18.2. Data Revision Practice

No revisions.

18.2.1. Data Revision – Average size

Not calculated.

19. Statistical processing

19.1. Source Data

The GHS Environment module was an online survey of households.

19.1.1. Population and sampling frame

The sample was selected from the Household Sampling Frame, also known as the Ordinarily Resident Frame (ORF). The ORF dataset is produced by combining Local Property Tax (LPT) owner-occupied property data with Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) tenant-occupied property data.

19.1.2. Sampling design

The sample was selected using a Stratified Simple Random Sample, stratified by county and type of occupancy. Type of occupancy consisted of three groups: LPT owner-occupied properties, LPT local authority rental properties, and RTB private rental properties. A sample of 25,000 was selected.

In advance of finalising the sample, a data matching exercise was undertaken to enhance the Eircode coverage in the ORF. This was done in order to aid delivery of letters to correct households, thus potentially increasing response rates and enabling an improved match to Census of Population data to acquire household composition variables.

The data matching exercise was carried out on 30,000 households. Addresses were matched to the GeoDirectory, Census of Population and the Local Property Tax datasets. Eircode coverage was enhanced to 23,435 cases. The remaining 1,565 sample was randomly selected from 6,565 unmatched Eircode records, bringing the total sample to 25,000.

19.1.3. Survey size

The sample size was 25,000 households.

19.1.4. Survey technique

Households that were selected in the sample received a letter in the post providing a link to the survey and a QR code along with an access code.

19.2. Frequency of data collection

Once-off.

19.3. Data Collection

19.3.1. Type of Survey/Process

Sample survey.

19.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)

The questionnaire consisted of a short series of questions on household socio-demographic characteristics and on four topics relating to the environment: opinions on environmental issues; visits to nature areas; waste management and recycling; and energy use. The CSO formed a project group consisting of representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, the CSO Environment and Climate Division and the CSO Ecosystem Accounts Division to develop the questionnaire so that it would meet a broad range of policy needs.

In Quarter 2 of 2014 the CSO collected data on household environment behaviours as part of the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS). The QNHS Environment module questionnaire contained questions on household waste and recycling and on energy use by households. A number of questions from the 2014 survey were repeated in this questionnaire. In addition, new questions on waste and recycling and on energy use were incorporated into the questionnaire, while two new sections, Household Environmental Concerns and Household Visits to Nature Areas, were also added.

www.cse.ie/en/methods/houesholdenvironmentalbehaviours

19.3.3. Survey Participation

Voluntary.

19.3.4. Data Capture

CAWI data collection.

19.4. Data Validation

Comprehensive data checking was carried out.

19.5. Data Compilation

19.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

Not applicable.

19.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate

Not applicable.

19.5.2. Grossing and Weighting

In order to account for unoccupied properties, households were weighted by county and type of tenure to the population totals recorded in the 2016 Census of Population. The total number of households was 1.7 million households. The population of households was defined as occupied private households on Census night 2016.

The module results are based on responses from 4,641 households. These households were weighted by county and type of occupancy (owner-occupied and rented) to represent all occupied households in the State. The data were matched to the Census of Population dataset in order to add certain Census variables such as whether the household is in an urban or a rural area.

19.6. Adjustment

Not applicable.

19.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment

Not applicable.

20. Comment