



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE UNDER THE HOUSEHOLD BUDGET SURVEY IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2021

Since September 2021 the National statistical institute has started work under the ‘Income and Living Conditions (ILC) - Statistical infrastructure under IESS - SILC 2022 module - 2021 and 2022 Infra-annual data collection’ project, the implementation of which is in accordance with Grant Agreement with the European Commission N 101052273 - 2021-BG-ILC-SILC. The project activities include a pilot data collection using additional questionnaire on social inclusion, living conditions and well-being under the Household budget survey. The additional survey was initiated by Eurostat and it is conducted according to a harmonized methodology within the European survey *Infra-annual data collection on living conditions (IALC)*. The objective is to conduct a quarterly monitoring of the changes in the living conditions of households in the country as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and to provide an up-to-date information for harmonized European comparisons.

The first survey was conducted in the period October - December 2021, surveying a total of 3 042 households and 5 692 people aged 16 and over. The results from the additional survey, held in the fourth quarter of 2021, show that an increase in household income over the last 12 months was noted by 29.8% of the households. The main reasons for the increase in the income are the increase of social benefits - for 34.0% of the persons, and indexation/recalculation of wages - for 24.3% of the persons.

8.4% of the persons indicate a decrease in the income for the last 12 months. For 29.7% of the persons with decreased household income, the main reason for the decrease is the reduction of working hours, wages or salaries, and for 20.2% of the persons - job loss/unemployment/own company’ bankruptcy. Among the persons with decreased incomes, the largest share is of those who had to limit their expenditure on food, clothing, travel or other consumer goods and services - 53.9%, and 17.2% used accumulated savings to compensate for the decrease of the income.

The largest share is of persons whose household income has remained almost unchanged in the last 12 months - 61.8%.

More than 2/3 from the Bulgarians claim that they experience difficulties in paying for their usual necessary expenses. 37.1% of the persons experience some difficulties, 26.6% define paying for their usual necessary expenses as difficult, and 11.9% - as great difficult. On the other hand, 20.2% of the persons are able to pay for their usual necessary expenses fairly easily, while barely 4.2% of the persons do not experience difficulties at all.

Despite the changes in the income, almost half of the persons in the households (48.7%) cannot afford to pay through their own resources for unexpected required expense up to BGN 370¹. During the previous quarter, 13.7% of the persons in the households have experienced financial difficulties in paying on time the loan/mortgage/rent/housing costs (heating, electricity, gas, water, etc.) for the main dwelling.

The average satisfaction of the persons aged 16 and over with their households’ financial situation, rated on a scale of 0 to 10, is 4.61. The level of the income affects the overall satisfaction with the financial situation. For the 20 percent of households with the highest net income the average satisfaction of the persons is 6.17, and for the 20 percent of the households with the lowest net income the satisfaction of the persons with the financial situation is 2.89.

The average satisfaction with life per person is 5.85, rated on the same scale of 0 to 10.

¹ National poverty line for 2021, adopted with a Decree No. 265 from 24 September 2020 of the Council of Ministers for setting the national poverty line for 2021.



With regard to the satisfaction with the personal relationships with family, friends, neighbours, colleagues, the respondents give a relatively high rating - 7.18.

Methodological notes

Household Budget Survey is a quarterly sample survey on a sample of 3 060 randomly selected households divided in three sub-samples each containing 1 020 households. Each sub-sample is being monitored for 1 month every quarter. Information from the additional questionnaire is collected every month in the active for the respective month sub-sample, in parallel with the main observation forms of the survey, and it is being aggregated and processed quarterly.

The additional questionnaire includes two groups of questions: household questions that are asked to only one member of the household and individual questions that are asked to each member of the household aged 16 and over.

The household questions aim to monitor on a quarterly basis the reasons for changes in the current income of the households and possible financial difficulties in paying for some of the basic household expenses. The individual questions refer to the subjective judgments of the respondents about the level of their life satisfaction.

During the additional survey, the Household Budget Survey interviewers personally interview persons aged 16 and over and fill out a paper form. To the collected information are added the main socio-economic characteristics of the monitored persons, registered in the regular forms of the Household Budget Survey. Due to the sample nature of the survey, the collected data are weighed and calibrated to obtain the actual number of persons in the country and their structure by sex and age groups (16 - 64 years; 65 years and older).

Annex

Distributions of persons¹ aged 16 and over according to the answers to the survey questions:

<i>In the past 12 months, how has your total household net income changed?</i>	<i>Number of persons</i>	<i>%</i>
Increased	1742543	29.8
Remained the same	3616360	61.8
Decreased	493610	8.4
<i>Total persons</i>	<i>5852513</i>	<i>100.0</i>

<i>What was the reason your household income increased?</i>	<i>Number of persons</i>	<i>%</i>
Indexation/re-evaluation of salary	424295	24.3
Increased working time/wage or salary (same job)	91324	5.2
Come back to job market after illness, parenthood, parental leave, child care or to take care of a person with illness or disability	21288	1.2
Starting or changed job	126794	7.3
Change in household composition	18859	1.1
Increase in social benefits	591776	34.0
Other	468207	26.9
<i>Total persons</i>	<i>1742543</i>	<i>100.0</i>

<i>What was the reason your household income decreased?</i>	<i>Number of persons</i>	<i>%</i>
Reduced working time/ wage or salary (same job), including self-employment (involuntary)	146760	29.7
Parenthood/parental leave/child care/to take care of a person with illness or disability	23770	4.8
Changed job	18189	3.7
Lost job/unemployment/bankruptcy of (own) enterprise	99647	20.2
Became unable to work because of illness or disability	43413	8.8
Divorce/partnership ended/other change to household composition	24413	4.9
Retirement	14117	2.9
Cut in social benefits	12539	2.5
Other	110762	22.4
<i>Total persons</i>	<i>493610</i>	<i>100.0</i>

¹ Data from the survey are weighed and calibrated by gender and age groups to obtain the actual number of all households in the country as of 31.12.2020.



<i>What is the main measure that your household took to cope with reduced income during last twelve months?</i>	<i>Number of persons</i>	<i>%</i>
Used accumulated savings	85008	17.2
Reduced expenditure on food, clothing, travel or other consumer goods and services	265946	53.9
Take loan from bank or other organization	10560	2.1
Borrow money from family or friends	47192	9.6
Renegotiate existing loans	0	0.0
Household has arrears on payments	8061	1.6
Household didn't take any actions	32882	6.7
It wasn't need to take actions	30351	6.1
Other	13610	2.8
<i>Total persons</i>	<i>493610</i>	<i>100.0</i>

<i>Thinking of your household's total net income (the sum of income from all sources of all household members), is your household able to make ends meet, namely, to pay for its usual necessary expenses?</i>	<i>Number of persons</i>	<i>%</i>
With great difficulty	694443	11.9
With difficulty	1556479	26.6
With some difficulty	2172079	37.1
Fairly easily	1181775	20.2
Easily	218346	3.7
Very easily	29391	0.5
<i>Total persons</i>	<i>5852513</i>	<i>100.0</i>

<i>Can your household afford an unexpected required expense of BGN 370 and pay through its own resources?</i>	<i>Number of persons</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	3003894	51.3
No	2848619	48.7
<i>Total persons</i>	<i>5852513</i>	<i>100.0</i>

<i>During the previous quarter, was there a situation that your household has been in arrears, i.e. has been unable to pay on time the loan/mortgage/rent/housing costs for the main dwelling due to financial difficulties?</i>	<i>Number of persons</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	803079	13.7
No	5049434	86.3
<i>Total persons</i>	<i>5852513</i>	<i>100.0</i>



Level of satisfaction on average per person for the persons aged 16 and over on a scale of 0 to 10:

<i>Satisfaction with the financial situation of the household</i>	<i>Average value</i>
<i>Total for the persons aged 16 and over</i>	4.61
<i>Activity status</i>	
Employed	5.09
Unemployed	3.18
Retired	4.26
Other	4.45
<i>Education</i>	
Primary	3.73
Secondary	4.56
Higher	5.56
<i>Quantile income groups</i>	
Q1 20% households	2.89
Q2 20% households	3.88
Q3 20% households	4.44
Q4 20% households	4.92
Q5 20% households	6.17

<i>Satisfaction with life these days</i>	<i>Average value</i>
<i>Total for the persons aged 16 and over</i>	5.85
<i>Gender</i>	
Male	5.96
Female	5.75
<i>Age</i>	
Persons aged 16 - 64	6.09
Persons aged 65 and over	5.17
<i>Activity status</i>	
Employed	6.27
Unemployed	4.94
Retired	5.14
Other	6.34
<i>Education</i>	
Primary	5.31
Secondary	5.79
Higher	6.47



<i>Satisfaction with personal relationships with family, friends, neighbours and other people</i>	<i>Average value</i>
<i>Total for the persons aged 16 and over</i>	7.18
<i>Gender</i>	
Male	7.19
Female	7.17
<i>Age</i>	
Persons aged 16 - 64	7.33
Persons aged 65 and over	6.74
<i>Activity status</i>	
Employed	7.40
Unemployed	6.90
Retired	6.70
Other	7.58
<i>Education</i>	
Primary	6.86
Secondary	7.13
Higher	7.58