

The 2009-10 Household Expenditure Survey on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Households

Introduction

In order to update the weighting system of the Social Security Assistance Index of Prices (SSAIP)¹, a Household Expenditure Survey (HES) on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Households will be conducted between October 2009 and September 2010.

Scope of survey

2. The HES on CSSA Households has been conducted every five years since 1974-75 (formerly known as the Household Expenditure Survey on Public Assistance Recipients). The objective of the survey is to collect up-to-date expenditure patterns of CSSA recipients so as to update the weighting system of the SSAIP, i.e. rebasing. Through regular rebasing, the SSAIP can more accurately reflect the impact of price changes experienced by CSSA households. The last round of survey was conducted between October 2004 and September 2005 and the survey findings were published in August 2006.

Justification for conducting the Survey

3. Reviewing the weighting system of SSAIP once every five years is also in line with the established practice adopted by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) in rebasing the Consumer Price Index (which measures general inflation/deflation) based on results of the Household Expenditure Survey (covering only non-CSSA households) conducted once every five years.

¹ The SSAIP is compiled by the C&SD to reflect the price changes in respect of goods and services covered under the standard rates of the CSSA Scheme. It is used as a reference for making regular adjustments of standard rates under the CSSA and SSA Schemes.

Work plan

4. Preparatory work for the HES on CSSA Households has already started and major survey activities include –

<u>Survey activities</u>	<u>Period</u>
(a) Development of computer system	Jun 2008-Feb 2010
(b) Design of survey questionnaire	Apr-Jun 2009
(c) Sample selection	Jul 2009-Aug 2010
(d) Data collection (survey reference period Oct 2009 – Sep 2010)	Sep 2009-Sep 2010
(e) Data processing	Oct 2009-Feb 2011
(f) Preparation of report and rebasing SSAIP	Mar-Oct 2011

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