

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY AT THE HSCO

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The new Labour Force Survey started at the Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO) in January 1992. This study will describe the data collection and field management system of this survey.

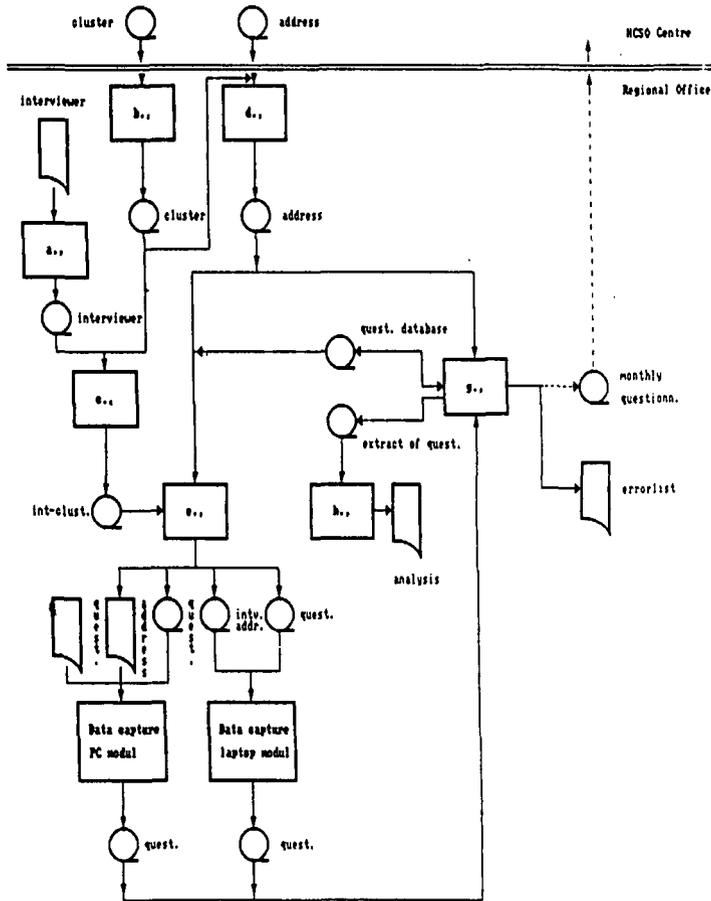
The Labour Force is a quarterly survey. The sample consists of 30.000 households divided into 3 groups. These groups are visited monthly and the quarterly results are calculated from the monthly results. Every household is in the sample up to 6 months. Quarterly 1/6 of the households will be rotated from the sample and will be replaced by new ones. The addresses are taken from the Census address database. In the selection of the addresses we use our traditional cluster system.

The data collection is organized by our 20 regional offices. We have 600 interviewers taking part in this survey. 150 interviewers have laptop computers.

The data stream of the survey is shown in figure 1 on the next page.

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Figure 1. Data stream of the HCSO Labour Force Survey



Figures:



The functions of the system

1. Preparation
 - a. Data of interviewers
 - b. Regional cluster file handling
 - c. Interviewer-cluster relation
 - d. Address file handling
 - e. Address and questionnaire disseminating based on c.
2. Data collection and capture
PC and laptop programs
3. Field management control and analysis
 - g. Completeness checking for addresses and questionnaire database update
 - h. Field management analysis from questionnaire extracts

Our questionnaire consists of three parts. One household part, one or more persons and one or more economical activity parts (subfile structure). Because of the returning visits to the households we must handle the questionnaires. We decided to give them back to the capturing staff to overwrite them but before that we erased the information from the economical records (except the last occupation and workplace fields). We do not keep all the questionnaires in the database only the ones for the next quarter. The questionnaires of the rotated addresses are always deleted. So our questionnaire databases in the regional offices are compact: 2 to 6 MByte.

The Census address database is on a Novell-LAN in the HCSO Center in Budapest and maintained with Clipper programs. This database is an extract from the whole Census database. The department responsible for these data sends the addresses to the regional offices every month.

For data capture we use Blaise.

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The field management software is written in Paradox and works on stand-alone PC's. On the laptops a C language program with the Paradox Engine makes the connection between the addresses and the Blaise questionnaires. The monthly addresses and the questionnaires of the previous interview are disseminated on floppy disks.

The reasons to use Paradox instead of Clipper were:

- a. The graphical possibilities;
- b. The Paradox Engine for our special 1 MByte disk laptop;
- c. The SQL Link.

The field management software is disseminated with Paradox Runtime.

One of the main goals of making this system was to hand over most of the daily tasks (monthly preparation of the questionnaires, disseminating of the laptop questionnaire and address files) from the Computer Department to the Data Collection Department of the regional offices. These tasks were making utilities with Blaise (done before by the Computer Department). Now we can connect the interviewer administration with the data collection. The Data Collection Department has even the necessary tools to analyze the efficiency of the survey and the interviewers.