The Integrated Household Survey: The next instalment

Alessio Fiacco
Office for National Statistics (ONS), UK
Outline

• Background
• Implementation plan
• Survey instrument strategy
• Future developments
## Introduction

- **ONS Integrated Household Survey (IHS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IHS components</th>
<th>IHS Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Labour Force Survey (LFS)</td>
<td>• Work (WRK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• General Household Survey (GHS)</td>
<td>• Lifestyles (GLF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS)</td>
<td>• Living Costs and Food (LCF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National Statistics Omnibus Survey (OMN)</td>
<td>• Opinions (OPN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• English House Conditions Survey (EHC) / Survey of English Housing (SEH)</td>
<td>• Housing (HSG)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IHS implementation plan

- **WRK (Wave 2)**
  - Sept-Oct. 07

- **Pilot 2**
  - June-Jul. 07

- **GLF/LCF/OPN**
  - January 08

- **WRK/HSG**
  - Apr. 08
  - Unclustered IHS sample
    - Oct. 08

- **Disability Survey of GB**
  - Apr. 09

We are here

- **2007**
- **2008**
- **2009**
Survey instrument strategy

• Pilot 1 (Feb.-Mar. 06):
  ➢ Single Blaise instrument
• Pilot 2 (Jun.-Jul. 07):
  ➢ Multiple Blaise instruments
• Common code blocks (the ‘Core’)
  – Census-type socio-demographic variables
  – New statistical outputs
  – Avoiding duplication of effort
  – Obtaining consistency of data
• Mode Library
• Question-by-Question Help files
Issues and constraints

• Field management
  – monitoring response

• Business organisation

• Legacy/structural factors
  – primary key fields

• Time series
  – Continue to produce current outputs

• Data processing
## Data processing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WRK</th>
<th>GLF</th>
<th>LCF</th>
<th>OPN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Survey cycle</strong></td>
<td>Continuous (weekly)</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outputs</strong></td>
<td>Monthly, quarterly, annual</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Monthly, quarterly</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northern Ireland (NI) data</strong></td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✗ (GB only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Derived Variables (DVs)</strong></td>
<td>Blaise and SIR</td>
<td>Blaise and SPSS</td>
<td>Manipula</td>
<td>Blaise and SPSS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key considerations

• Data transfer system / Download times
  – Context
  – One big download vs. five smaller ones
  – Staggered transmission

• Handling of errors
  – Opinion survey stream
## Handling of errors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th><strong>Blaise instrument approach</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Single IHS instrument</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Error in the common Core section</td>
<td>Rescatter once (impact: every stream affected)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Error in the survey-specific question blocks</td>
<td>Rescatter once (impact: every stream affected)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Future developments

• New English Housing survey
  – April 2008
• New Longitudinal Disability Survey of GB
  – fieldwork starts in April 2009
• Unclustered IHS sample design
• Survey Case Management System
• Core IHS team
  – Version control and managing change
Conclusions

• The IHS is still evolving
  ➢ Five datamodels built around a common Core

• End-to-end processing
  ➢ Constraints and legacy systems

• Minimising the impact of change
  ➢ Phased-implementation instead of ‘big bang’ approach
  ➢ Integrity of key time series

• Longer term: Harmonisation of topic-specific questions

• New surveys are brought into scope of the IHS
Any questions?