

2012 Module: Housing conditions

The Commission Regulation 1157/2010 presents the list of target secondary variables relating to housing conditions. Module 2012 includes questions relating to housing conditions in which the respondent live now. The majority of the questions of the module are asked at household level and in these cases individual interviews with the household respondent are conducted. Two questions related to changing of dwelling are asked at individual level and all persons in the household aged 16 years and over answered them.

The main characteristics of the 2012 Module are the following:

- Units: The target variables relate to two types of units:
 - Household: all variables except for the ones related to the “change of the dwelling”.
 - Individual: variables related to the “change of the dwelling”
- Mode of data collection: Only personal interviews are held. Proxy interviews are allowed as an exception for persons temporarily absent or incapacitated.
- Reference period: The target variables relate to four types of reference periods:
 - Usual: an ordinary winter/summer, in the area where the dwelling is located (for the variables ‘dwelling comfortably warm during winter time’ and ‘dwelling comfortably cool during summer time’).
 - Last five years (for the variables related to the ‘change of the dwelling’). It refers to the five years prior to the date of the interview.
 - Next six months (for the variables related to ‘risk of changing the dwelling’). It refers to the six months succeeding to the date of the interview.
 - Current (for all other variables).
- Definitions:

1) Dwelling installations and facilities

(a) Electrical installations: wiring, contacts, sockets and other permanent electrical installations in the dwelling.

(b) Plumbing/water installations: pipes, taps, drainage and outlets.

(c) Central heating or similar: a housing unit is considered ‘centrally heated’ if heating is provided either from a community heating center or from an installation built in the building or in the housing unit, established for heating purposes, without attention paid to the source of energy. Fixed electrical radiators, fixed gas heaters and similar are included. The heating shall be available in most rooms.

(d) Other fixed heating: a housing unit is considered heated by ‘other fixed heating’ when the heating is not considered as ‘central heating/or similar’. It includes stoves, heaters, fireplaces and similar (‘fixed’ air conditioning appliances used as a heating facility included).

(e) Other non-fixed heating: no fixed heating system or heating device. The dwelling could however be equipped with portable heating, including portable air conditioning appliances used as a heating facility.

(f) Adequate: sufficient to satisfy the general requirements/needs of the household. An installation which is permanently out of order is considered as no installation. Inadequate installations can be: installations in bad condition, dangerous installations, installations which are regularly out of order, where there is not enough electrical

power/pressure for the water to be used, the water is not drinkable, or there is limited availability. Minor temporary problems such as a blockage in the outlet do not mean that the installation is inadequate.

2) **Accessibility of basic needs**

(a) Accessibility: this shall relate to the services used by the household having regard to the financial, physical, technical and health conditions.

(b) Accessibility of services is to be assessed in terms of physical and technical access, and opening hours, but not in terms of quality, price and similar aspects. Consequently, the access should refer to an objective and physical reality. It should not be based on a subjective feeling.

(c) The access should be determined in relation to the services actually used by the household. If the household does not use the service, flag -2 'Not applicable' should be used.

(d) The physical access has to be assessed in terms of distance but also of infrastructure and equipment for example for respondents with a physical disability.

(e) Accessibility in terms of phone-banking and PC-banking should also be part of the assessment, if these ways are actually used by the household.

(f) The services provided at home should also be taken into account, if they are actually used by the household. The accessibility has thus to be evaluated regardless the way(s) the household access to the service.

(g) The accessibility should be considered at the level of the household, the difficulty to access has to be evaluated for the household as a whole. If the respondent doesn't use a service but other household member(s) do, the respondent should assess the accessibility according to this (these) other household member(s).

(h) If one member of the household has a disability, but if another member can access easily to the service for him/her and the access to the service does not cause any problems for the household in the sense that it doesn't represent any burden for the household, then the service would be considered as easily accessible by the household.

(i) On the other hand, if one member of the household has a disability and can hardly access a service (which he needs as an individual) and the household has no resource available to provide him support (e.g. if no other member can access easily to the service for him/her), or really represents a burden for the household, in this case the access to the service would be considered as difficult for the household.

(j) Grocery services: services which can provide most of the daily needs.

(k) Banking services: withdraw cash, transfer money and pay bills.

(l) Postal services: send and receive ordinary and parcel post.

(m) Public transport: bus, metro, tram and similar.

(n) Primary health care services: general practitioner, primary health center or similar.

(o) Compulsory schools: if more than one child in the household is in compulsory school the respondent should refer to the one with the most difficulty.

- Target variables: The 2012 Module consists of 18 variables to be asked at household level.

The variables are the following:

- **Space in the dwelling**

- HC010 Shortage of space in the dwelling
- HC020 Size of the dwelling in square meters
- HC030 Adequate electrical installations
- HC040 Adequate plumbing/water installations
- HC050 Dwelling equipped with heating facilities –The four categories are defined as follows:
 1. Central heating or similar
 2. Other fixed heating
 3. Non-fixed heating
 4. No heating at all
- HC060 Dwelling comfortably warm during winter time
- HC070 Dwelling comfortably cool during summer time
- **Overall satisfaction with the dwelling**
 - HC080 Overall satisfaction with the dwelling. There are four possible values for this variable: Very dissatisfied, Dissatisfied, Satisfied, Very satisfied
 - HC090 Accessibility of grocery services. There are four possible values for this variable: With great difficulty, With some difficulty, Easily, Very easily.
 - HC100 Accessibility of banking services. There are four possible values for this variable: With great difficulty, With some difficulty, Easily, Very easily.
 - HC110 Accessibility of postal services. There are four possible values for this variable: With great difficulty, With some difficulty, Easily, Very easily.
 - HC120 Accessibility of public transport. There are four possible values for this variable: With great difficulty, With some difficulty, Easily, Very easily.
 - HC130 Accessibility of primary health care services. There are four possible values for this variable: With great difficulty, With some difficulty, Easily, Very easily.
 - HC140 Accessibility of compulsory school. There are four possible values for this variable: With great difficulty, With some difficulty, Easily, Very easily.
- **Risk of changing the dwelling**
 - HC150 Immediate risk of changing the dwelling. There are three possible values for this variable:
 - Yes – household will be forced to leave the dwelling;
 - Yes – household plans to change the dwelling;
 - No – household does not expect any change of the dwelling.
 - HC160 Main reason for the expectation to be forced to leave the dwelling:
 - Household will be forced to leave, since notice has been/will be given by the landlord on termination of the contract
 - Household will be forced to leave, since notice has been/will be given by the landlord in the absence of a formal contract
 - Household will be forced to leave because of eviction
 - Household will be forced to leave for financial difficulties
 - Household will be forced to leave for some other reasons

○ **Change of the dwelling**

- HC170 Change of the dwelling
- HC180 Main reason for the change of the dwelling
 - Family-related reasons
 - Employment-related reasons
 - Education-related reasons
 - Eviction
 - Landlord did not prolong the contract
 - Desire to change tenure status
 - Dwelling-related reasons
 - Neighborhood -related reasons
 - Financial reasons
 - Other reasons