The total set from which the sample for the survey is formed is all the households in the country.

When forming the sample a two stage random sampling on territorial principle is implemented as follows:

- for the first stage the census enumeration districts are sampled;

- at the second stage the households to be surveyed are defined.

From 1984 to 1993 the sample for the study of household budgets included 2508 households in 418 clusters, of which 270 in urban and 148 in rural settlements. Since 1.07.1994 the size of the sample was increased by another 3600 households. From 1995 to July, 1997 the size of the sample was 6000 households selected from 1000 clusters, of which 676 in the towns and 324 in the villages. Since 1.08.1997 the number of the observed households is reduced to 3000. During 1998 and 1999 the size of the sample was 3000. From the beginning of 2000 the sample size has been enlarged to 6000 households.

Information

The total income of households includes all monetary income and those in kind irrespective of their sources.

The cash income of households comprises all monetary receipts from wages and salaries, individual economic activity, property, sales of agricultural products, animals and other property, money benefits from social security funds and insurance, pensions, family allowances, sick and birth payments and others, scholarships, gratuitously received money from relatives and friends and others.

The income in kind of households comprises the value of food and non-food products, obtained from the household plots, agricultural enterprises, friends and relatives as well as the value of the increase of farm products and animals.

The evaluation of the income in kind is based on retail prices.

The total expenditure of the households includes all monetary and in kind expenditure made during the year for food and non-food goods and services.

The income, expenditure and consumption of households are represented by income decile groups, i.e. ten groups, which include equal number of persons in an ascending range by the personal income per capita (Tables 3, 8 and 12).

International classifications used

Since 1999 the household expenditures are structured in a new way according to the requirements of the Eurostat adopted international classification of consumers expenditures --COICOP. Groups of consumer's expenditures are formed according to the COICOP definitions and the expenditures which are not of a consumer character such as expenditures for taxes, private farm, purchase, building and capital overhaul of the home, fines, personal insurance – are shown separately.

Stochastic errors

The data on income and expenditure entail a certain stochastic error deriving from the sample character of the survey.

The estimation of the errors is based on the method of mutually infiltrating sub-samples.

Maximal Errors of Household Total Income and Expenditure for Some Months of 1999

(Per cent)

	January	July	December
Total Income	3.4	3.3	1.9
of which:			
Wages and salaries	5.7	2.6	4.0
Entrepreneurship	29.3	14.0	12.9
Unemployment benefits	17.1	14.5	18.8
Pensions	4.0	3.8	3.2
Family allowances	5.9	5.7	6.4
Household plot	25.9	6.7	4.5
Total Expenditure	2.9	5.3	1.4
of which:			
Foods	2.8	1.0	1.7
Clothing and footwear	12.3	6.8	3.7
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	4.4	4.4	3.4
Furnishing and maintenance of the house	21.6	12.9	11.0
Health	7.7	9.9	5.9
Transport	6.7	6.9	7.5
Communications	5.8	5.2	7.9
Recreation, culture and education	11.0	10.1	8.2
Taxes	14.8	7.9	10.4
Household plot	25.6	8.9	16.6

The formula used in the errors estimation is as follows:

$$\Delta_i \% = \frac{\Delta_i}{\overline{X}_i} \cdot 100,$$

where:

Δ_i and $\Delta_i \%$ are the absolute and relative maximum errors, respectively, of i-indicator x_i.

$$\Delta_i = 2.262 \frac{\sigma a_i}{\sqrt{a}} \sqrt{1 - \frac{n}{N}},$$

where:

a - number of sub-samples (10);
n - volume of the sample;
N - volume of the general population;
σa_i - standard deviation of estimates, calculated by the formula:

$$\sigma a_i = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{j=1}^{a}(X_{ij} - \overline{X}_i)^2}{a-1}} ; \overline{X}_i = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{a} X_{ij}}{a}.$$

2.262 - Student-Fisher coefficient for 0.95 probability and k = a - 1.

The IMF General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) incorporates metadata (in the category 'Poverty') from the survey of the household budgets that render the possibility to investigate household differentiation according to income and also to compute different rates to characterise the limits of poverty.

More information on households income, expenditure and consumption can be found in the NSI publications 'Household Budgets' (annual) and 'Statistical Journal' (monthly) well as on the NSI WEB site.