

Solomon Islands - Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2005-2006

**Solomon Islands Statistics Office (SISO) - Ministry of Finance, Government of
Solomon Islands**

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Overview

Identification

ID NUMBER
SLB_2005_HIES_v01_M

Overview

ABSTRACT

The 2005/6 Household Income and Expenditure Survey is the second nationwide survey of households undertaken by Solomon Islands Statistics Office (SISO) since 1992.

The primary objectives of the HIES includes:

- Re-basing of the weights of the current basket of goods and services in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The survey also aimed to provide data on the behavior of household consumption expenditure patterns that will help form the weights that would reflect the relative importance that consumers attach to commodities and services;
- Obtaining relevant data for purposes of updating the series of national accounts aggregates particularly the Gross Domestic Product.

The secondary objectives of the HIES were to:

- Obtain data on housing and general demographic characteristics of households;
- Obtain data on poverty measures, income and income inequality measures;
- Obtain relevant data for the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), particularly health and education; and
- Obtain other relevant data where necessary

The field data collecting exercise was undertaken from October 2005 to March 2006 and that seasonality effects on expenditure was not fully considered.

KIND OF DATA

Sample survey data [ssd]

UNITS OF ANALYSIS

- Households

- Individuals

Scope

NOTES

The 2005-06 Solomon Islands Household Income and Expenditure Survey covered the following topics:

- Household Identification Particular and Geographic Area Identification
- Dwelling Characteristics
- Dwelling Tenure
- Mortgages and Loans for Purchase of Dwellings

- Insurance Policies
- Construction of New Dwellings
- Major Home Improvements
- Household Operation
- Transportation
- Travel – Domestic & Overseas
- Education, Recreation, Sport and Culture
- Loans
- Contribution to Benefit Schemes
- Medical and Health Services
- Miscellaneous Payments
- Agricultural Assets
- Household Diary (weekly diary - period of 14 days)
- o Items Bought
- o Consumption of Items Produced by the Household
- o Gifts
- o Winnings from Betting, Raffles and Lotteries

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National. The HIES operation covered both the Urban and Rural areas focusing on Honiara, Other Urban Areas and the Rural Areas of the ten (9) provinces, and aimed to produce estimates at the country national and provincial levels only.

UNIVERSE

The survey targeted private households whilst collective households in hospital, hotels, prison and educational institutions were excluded. A household is considered in the scope for the survey if the household have resided in the Solomon Islands for the last 12 months or more, or if not, they intend to live in Solomon Islands for the next 12 months.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
Solomon Islands Statistics Office (SISO)	Ministry of Finance, Government of Solomon Islands

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
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Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Development Economics Data Group	DECDG	The World Bank	Documentation of the DDI

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Sampling

Sampling Procedure

Survey Design

The survey was based on a two-stage sampling strategy using probability proportional to size (PPS) selection and random selection. The strategy for selection of each area type is slightly different depending also on enumerator workload schedule and the need to accommodate estimates at the National and Provincial level as well as Urban and Rural splits.

The Survey was designed to collect data for national and provincial level estimates and covered both urban and rural areas. The survey covered Honiara, provincial centers and rural areas within these provinces.

The sampling scheme used was a stratified two stage design with the Enumeration Areas (EA) as the Primary Sampling Unit (PSU) and the households within the sample areas as the secondary sampling unit (SSU). In the first stage the EAs were selected with probability proportional to their population size based on the 1999 population census. In the second stage households were selected using systematic sampling with a random start. The next stage was allocating the sample to each provinces proportional to the square-root of the population. This should mean that estimates of each province would roughly have the same level of accuracy. The sample was then split for each province between the provincial centers (considered to be urban) and the remaining rural population. Given the need for urban and rural estimates the sample was split between the two areas proportional to the square-root of the population based on the 1999 census. The last stage in the process involved modifying the final counts to accommodate the workloads for interviewers during the fieldwork. The interviewers were expected in the field for six months and could accommodate 10 households per month (60 household in total). It was desirable to have the total workloads for each province divisible by 60 to give each interviewer an even sized workload and have the sample spread out evenly across each month.

Since Honiara (capital of Solomon Islands) consists of a mix of areas which covers high income, middle income and low income areas, it was advisable that the EAs be grouped based on the class best suited to their situation. Thus for Honiara the EA list was sorted by the income group category for selection. The number of EAs to select from Honiara is simply the desirable sample size (480 households) divided by the number of households to be selected for each EA. It was decided that 10 households should be selected from each selected EA. Therefore the number of EAs that were selected was equivalent to $(480 / 10) = 48$ EAs.

Response Rate

Response Rates

A sample of 4,320 households was planned for the country and about 3,822 households (88.5%) responded favorably satisfying the survey requirements.

Non-Response

Despite efforts made by the enumerators and follow up attempts by the supervisors in most of the cases, there was non-response encountered during the survey.

The reasons for non response by the household were due mainly to the following:

- The household was out of scope of the survey
- Dwelling was vacant or not being lived in
- The household could not be contacted after a number of attempts
- Household excluded for other reasons like death in the family, refusals, customary reasons etc

Weighting

A weight indicates how many people in the population a person represents. The weight assigned to each EA and or household was based on the sampling technique used as mentioned in the survey design. For the HIES, each household carried two weights:

- A Strata weight - representing the weight of the household within the geography or locality strata, that is within Honiara, the provincial centers and the rural areas;
- A National weight - representing the weight of the household within the whole of the Solomon Islands.

The EAs as the primary sample unit were initially stratified according to respective localities in rural and urban areas and a total 18 strata was derived. The strata are as follows;

Strata 1: Choiseul- Urban
 Strata 2: Choiseul-Rural
 Strata 3: Western- Urban
 Strata 4: Western-Rural
 Strata 5: Isabel- Urban
 Strata 6: Isabel-Rural
 Strata 7: Central-Urban
 Strata 8: Central-Rural
 Strata 9: Rennel-Rural
 Strata 10: Guadalcanal-Urban
 Strata 11: Guadacanal- Rural
 Strata 12: Malaita-Urban
 Strata 13: Malaita-Rural
 Strata 14: Makira- Urban
 Strata 15: Makira-Rural
 Strata 16: Temotu-Urban
 Strata 17: Temotu-Rural
 Strata 18: Honiara-Urban

The sample selection scheme used the standard method of selecting the primary sampling units (EAs) probability proportional to size (the size being the latest household count for each EA), and then selecting a fixed number of households within each selected EA. So the sample weight for a household would be:

$$\text{Weight} = 1 / P(\text{selection})$$

where,

P = probability

$P(\text{selection}) = P(\text{selected stage 1}) * P(\text{selected stage 2})$

$P(\text{selected stage 1}) = (\# \text{ hholds in EA on frame}) / (\text{skip for that province})$

$P(\text{selected stage 2}) = (\# \text{ hholds responded in EA}) / (\text{actual } \# \text{ hholds in EA})$

Questionnaires

Overview

The HIES is a relatively complex survey and the instruments to collect data was implemented through the following questionnaires and associated sections:

- Household Control Form - household composition and particulars;
- Household Expenditure Form - housing amenities, facilities and major household, expenditure on tenure, fixed capital, land, property etc;
- Personal Income Form - Income pattern of household members and other income earning activities;
- Household Dairy - Daily expenditure by type of goods and services • An additional health module was included - health facility utilization, immunization, motherhood, mortality, breast feeding & family planning, Malaria and miscellaneous

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2005-10	2006-03	N/A

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

Data Collection Notes

The method of collection was via face to face interview. This is where the interviewer personally visits the household and asks the household (usually the household head) to respond to the questions on the four main questionnaires including the health module.

A total of 85 trained interviewers and 15 supervisors were assigned full time to complete the field operation. Each supervisor was assigned to over-see four enumerators although in some provinces, depending on the locality and distance to cover, there were more enumerators. Each interviewer had to interview at least 60 households during the 6 month period. This comprise of 6 workloads of 10 households each. Each workload took four (4) weeks in total and is outlined below:

Week 1: Prior to household listing the interviewers travel around the EA and list all the households located in the area. A sample of 20 households is selected from each EA using a systematic skip, 10 if the EA is urban. The interviewer visited all the selected households and introduced the survey, fill the Control Form and drop off the first diary.

Week 2 and 3: Interviewer visits all the selected households each day to assist with filling out the diary. Conduct the expenditure, income and health questionnaires for each selected households during the 2 weeks.

Week 4: Interviewers confirm that all survey questionnaires are complete and the collection of all diaries from all selected households. The completed forms are passed on to the supervisor who spot checks for completeness and deal with any problems that might have arise in the field and is responsible to dispatch the completed forms.

Reference Period

The survey data collection phase was undertaken for a period of 6 months from October 2005 to March 2006.

The reference period of two weeks was sufficient also for recording data particularly expenditure data from the diary although diaries are usually scheduled for one month. This was not necessarily a calendar month but a period of four weeks preferably to cover seasonality on household expenditures. Most households particularly in provincial and rural areas usually earn a two weekly income whilst a few earn on a monthly basis and thus it was seen as the appropriate timeframe to capture data particularly household expenses from the diary where data was collected for a period of two weeks.

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Data Processing

Data Editing

The Statistics Programme at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) provided the assistance in data processing. A HIES data entry program was setup in CSPro version 2.6 and data entry started soon after the first workload was registered in the Statistics Office in November 2005 until May 2006. Logic procedures for data editing are prepared in Microsoft Access and data editing for all questionnaires were done in CSPro, except for the Diary where the editing is done in Microsoft Excel. Data management queries are done in Microsoft Access and the production of tables was done in Microsoft Excel. This report was prepared in Microsoft Word. Data verification of 5 per cent is done to check the accuracy of data input, though data edit checks are carried out for completeness, consistency and accuracy including the outliers. Anomalies of data were amended appropriately.

Data Appraisal

Estimates of Sampling Error

Error Measurements

No formal measures of sample errors have been calculated for the survey results.

Non sampling errors cannot be readily measured. These included:

- o A response difficulty caused by misunderstanding of what was required from the survey and survey instruments by both households and interviewers.
- o The questionnaires were in English, which is at least a second language for interviewers and respondents.
- o The fact that some expenditure are seasonal and would not have been picked up in the survey period.
- o The exclusion of remote areas and institutions from the sampling frame.