

GII Survey Report

Selection: Norway.

1) Norway, 1906 - 1907 (Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå)

Survey ID: 721

12 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: 12 household budgets for a year for working families in Kristiania. Includes the value of home produce. The survey-takers were conscious they were part of the process of developing social statistics and saw this as a methodological intervention as much as anything. The survey-takers were particularly concerned with how taxation rates impacted working families.

Ref ID: 719

Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå, 'Skatternes fordeling efter indtægt og forsørgelsesbyrde Kristiania', *Socialstatistik* (1909)

Income broken down by income and family size, in Krisitania.

2) Norway, 1912 - 1912 (Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå)

Survey ID: 723

19 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: 19 household budgets for a year for lower middle-class people in business/trade including such professions as bank clerk and shopkeeper. To get the data, the survey-takers wrote to 600 households, then liaised with those who expressed interest in participating. 32 households were selected to take part, of which the published 19 were the households which completed the survey.

Ref ID: 721

Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå, 'Husholdningsregnskaper for handelsfunktionærer' (1913)

Budgets for Families in Commerce

Selection: Norway.

3) **Norway, 1912 - 1913 (Christiania, Municipal Bureau of Statistics)**

Survey ID: 724

174 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: The introduction to this survey explicitly refers to the household budget surveys which have been conducted in Britain, France, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and the US, and says that the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics was now trying to produce similar research. Participants were paid 25 Kroner for their participation (20 Kroner in Hamar). The survey takers felt the sample was too small to be able to draw any definitive conclusions but the overall aim was to inform a government-led improvement in living conditions.

Included 171 fully completed annual accounts, of which 103 were from Oslo, 32 from Bergen, 11, from Trondheim, 12 from Drammen, Kristiansand 9 and 4 from Hamar. Almost two thirds of the accounts - a total of 109 - were kept by working families, while 59 were the families of 'officials' and 3 were 'self-employed'. Half (85 families) of accounts fell into expenditure groups from 1750 to 2000 and 2000-2500 respectively.

Ref ID: 722

Christiania Municipal Bureau of Statistics, Husholdningsregnskaper fort au endel mindre bemidlede familier I Kristiania, Bergen, Trondhjem, Drammen, Kristianssand, Og Hamar I Aaret 1912-13 (1915)

Household accounts of less well-to-do families in Kristiania...and Hamar, 1912-13

4) **Norway, 1916 - 1916 (Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå)**

Survey ID: 725

651 households

Sample Duration: 1 Month(s)

Notes: 651 families in 15 Norwegian districts. Some towns and also some rural areas. Wanted to take a monthly snapshot of nutrition to compare to 1912/13, and real efforts were made towards getting a representative sample. The focus is mostly on nutrition and food prices, amid concerns over food shortages during the war, hence somewhat limited budget data despite it being a large survey. However, this means it is possible to extract more detailed nutritional information from this survey.

Ref ID: 723

Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå, 'Dyrtidens Virkninger Paa Levevilkaarene', Norges officielle statistik, Vol. 6, No. 105 (1917)

effects of the high cost of living on the standard of living

Selection: Norway.

5) **Norway, 1916 - 1917 (Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå)**

Survey ID: 726

483 households

Sample Duration: 1 Month(s)

Notes: A continuation of the 1916 survey with the same methodology and approach. Good regional distribution from 15 different towns and rural municipalities. Range of different employment sectors as well including teachers, small business owners. The aim was to continue to compare nutrition and food prices to 1912.

Ref ID: 724

Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå, 'Dyrtidens Virkninger Paa Levevilkaarene', *Norges officielle statistik.*, Vol. 6, No. 124 (1918)

effects of the high cost of living on the standard of living

6) **Norway, 1918 - 1918 (Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå)**

Survey ID: 727

82 households

Sample Duration: 1 Month(s)

Notes: Family budgets. Idea was to compare nutrition to the 1912/13 survey, amid concerns about food shortages caused by the war. Initially, the families approached to take part were those which had taken part in the 1916 and 1917 surveys, although the survey-takers had to broaden the remit and ask some different families. 51 of the families were from Kristiania and 31 from Bergen. All received 50 Kroner as a fee for taking part in the bookkeeping. This survey was split into three parts; one for working class families PART A; one for lower middle class PART B, and one for upper middle-class families PART C.

Ref ID: 725

Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå, 'Husholdningsregnskap 1918', *Norges officielle statistik*, Vol. 7, No. 13 (1921)

Family Expense Accounts 1918

Selection: Norway.

7) **Norway, 1927 - 1928 (Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå)**

Survey ID: 728

159 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: This survey differentiated between working families and managerial families. The 135 working families were chosen from Oslo, Bergen, Trondhjem, Drammen, Stavanger. The 24 managerial class workers were nearly all from Oslo, which was the wealthiest city in the sample. The methodology of this survey was explicitly influenced by the proceedings of the Second Conference of Labour Statisticians which had been held in the Spring of 1925. During this conference, a resolution was made to take a comprehensive household survey of working families in all the participant countries no later than 1928. Extensive talks on methodology for conducting household surveys also took place, leading to an improved code of practice. The main methodological interventions adopted by the Norwegian survey takers were:

1. The use of Unions (in this case, the Worker's Academic Federation) to recruit participants for the survey.
2. The adoption of what they deem 'forced book-keeping', that is, to provide tables and categories with which to record expenditure rather than, as had been done previously, simply providing a notebook and categorising expenditures when drawing up tables of results.
3. Households were told to follow the model of the 1922 Danish and Swedish surveys by recording the price of items bought in credit at the moment of acquisition rather than the moment of payment.
4. Households were visited by a statistical officer at the beginning of the survey to give guidance, and then visited twice in the first month. They were also provided with the telephone number of a local statistical official who could help them with any queries.

It was felt that these methodological interventions resulted in good quality data.

Ref ID: 726

Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå, 'Husholdningsregnskap, 1927-28', *Norges offisielle statistik*, Vol. 8, No. 103 (1929), pp. 1-174.

Family expense accounts, 1927-28

8) **Norway, 1933 - 1933 (Academic - Individual, Evang and Hansen)**

Survey ID: 729

301 households

Sample Duration: 4 Week(s)

Notes: The analysis is based on diet schedules kept by housewives for 4 weeks in May-June 1933. Most of the families were in the country or small industrial districts in the South East of Norway. Most of the breadwinners were forestry workers, smallholders, craftsmen or industrial workers. 65 families were self-supporting, 132 lived partly by their own labour but additionally received some kind of support from the municipal poor law authorities during the period under investigation, and 104 were entirely dependent on poor law funds for their subsistence. On average there were 2.95 children aged under 14 years per family.

Selection: Norway.

Ref ID: 727

Karl Evang and Otto Galtung Hansen, *An Inquiry into the Diet of 301 Poorly Situated Families in Norway: Acta Medica Scandinavica Supplement CIII* (Helsingfors: Mercators Tryckeri, 1939)

9) **Norway, 1945 - 1945 (Private - Group, Arbeidernes faglige Landsorganisasjons)**

Survey ID: 731

2,267 households

Sample Duration: 1 Month(s)

Notes: This is a trade union survey (the only non-NOS sample) of 2267 family accounts for the month of November 1945.

Ref ID: 729

Arbeidernes faglige Landsorganisasjons, *Arbeidernes faglige Landsorganisasjons husholdningsregnskapsundersokelse (November 1945) (1946)*

Workers academic union household accounting survey, Nov 1945

10) **Norway, 1947 - 1948 (Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå)**

Survey ID: 732

496 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: The government wished to get a representative peacetime sample of living conditions. Acknowledged in the methodology was that, by relying on families to keep income books, only results from stable and well-organised families was likely. Interviews were used alongside detailed accounting books to try to ameliorate this issue. The survey looks at the consumption patterns of families of workers in 18 towns (sourced through the Worker's Academic Federation) and 13 industrial areas PART A, and 52 families of forestry workers PART B. It attempts to draw comparisons with 1927-28 survey, particularly on nutrition. It includes home produce and also required families to note meals eaten outside the home, periods of sickness and absence from the home. The report notes that during this period some goods (meat, butter, margarine, eggs, cheese, sugar, coffee, chocolate, clothing and footwear) were still rationed. The aim was to develop an understanding of the material conditions of working families to help fix prices when rationing ended.

Ref ID: 730

Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå, 'Husholdningsregnsaper mai 1947 - april 1948', *Norges offisielle statistik, Vol. 11, No. 23* (1950)

Selection: Norway.

11) **Norway, 1951 - 1952 (Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå)**

Survey ID: 733

100 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: Proposed as a follow-up to the 1948 survey to help assess and improve cost of living calculations. As such, 100 of the 452 families from the previous survey were re-surveyed. Namely, husbands and wives in 17 cities and 10 industrial towns either without children or with children under 16. As the survey-takers wanted 100 families, they started with 112 as they factored in a drop-out rate. Furthermore, families were selected whose income rise from 1948 was considered 'normal' in line with national statistics, to try to get a representative working class. Accounting books were kept of all purchases made throughout the year (including those made on credit, and payments made for those bought on credit in previous years). The year was 1 October 1951-30 September 1952. At the end of each month, the section was submitted to the NOS for processing.

Ref ID: 731

Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå, 'Husholdningsregnskap 1951', *Norges offisielle statistik*, Vol. 11, No. 128 (1953)

Family Expense Accounts 1951

12) **Norway, 1952 - 1952 (Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå)**

Survey ID: 735

197 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: In this survey, the NOS were conscious that the previous survey had, by requiring accounting books to be kept for a year, created a bias towards particularly sober and industrious working class families. They were, rather endearingly, concerned that this, 'exaggerated natural virtues' (p. 8). This survey, therefore, was conducted by interview and took place for a month and results were extrapolated. For this survey they decided to follow the methods which had been recently used by Danish and Swedish researchers to interview randomly selected working class families. Practical reasons meant this had to be restricted to Oslo and Bergen, and 200 families were selected from an initial list of 600 who were randomly approached. The 'normal' families selected for the sample were those with a healthy working husband and wife (they excluded those who were absent e.g. in hospital/prison/armed forces), either with no children or children under 15. 197 of the interviews were from working families in work, and 6 from insured families (i.e. pensioners). 158 in Oslo and 39 in Bergen. The interviews were carried out by 'socioeconomic' students who had been on a two day training course and given a manual in how to conduct interviews. The interviews (between 1-7 per family with an average of 1.9) had the purpose of explaining the detailed questionnaires which families had to fill out and corroborating details given.

Selection: Norway.

Ref ID: 732

Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå, 'Forbruksundersøkelse etter intervjumetoden 1952', *Norges offisielle statistik*, Vol. 11, No. 131 (1953)

Consumer survey by Interview Method 1952

13) **Norway, 1952 - 1953 (Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå)**

Survey ID: 736

74 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: Recognised that until this point, NOS surveys had been mostly limited to working families in cities and industrial areas, with only the inclusion of some lower-level managerial employees. This is the first in a series of 4 surveys designed to rectify that by examining the budgets of 74 high-income households. Each month for a year, families who took part were required to keep a detailed accounting book which also included such information as meals taken outside the home, guests being present for meals, and if any family member was away. As in other surveys, the selection was limited to husbands and wives without children or with children under 15. The survey was held in Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim and Stavanger. Of the professions of the heads of household (note: these were all assumed to be the husband of the family, even if the wife also worked), 15 householders belonged to the police (two inspectors, one police adjutant and 12 senior police officers), 13 were engineers, 10 lecturers, nine doctors, agency managers or office managers, four consultants, three civil servants, five architects. Of the other nine, one was a director, one district attorney, an educational leader, laboratory chief, one assistant professor, a psychologist, an actuary, one department and one a chemist manager. The survey-takers had hoped to get more than 74 results, and acknowledged that this did not provide a nationally representative sample, but hoped it would still provide some use.

Ref ID: 733

Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå, 'Husholdningsregnskaper for høyere funksjonærer [1954] ', *Norges offisielle statistik*, Vol. 11, No. 157 (1954)

Family Budget Studies for Salaried Employees in the Higher Income Groups (1954)

14) **Norway, 1954 - 1954 (Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå)**

Survey ID: 737

585 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: This is the second in the series of four surveys designed to get information about groups which had not been represented in previous working-class, industrial samples. Interestingly, in the introduction the NOS mention they had also sought permission to carry out a fifth survey on single wage earners in cities, but this had not been granted. Contact was made with volunteer families through two groups, 'Norges Bondekvinneag' [Norwegian Farmer's Wives] and 'Norsk Bonde-og Smaabrukarlags kvinnegruppe' [Norwegian Smallholders Women's Group]. A random sample could not be selected for this survey for logistical reasons. Despite the previous successful experiment (1952) with taking interview data rather than relying on accounting books, the NOS decided to return to the latter methodology. The rationale was given thus:
Interviews – Shorter period and supported means one can get a more representative sample of households. But the data tends to be less accurate.
Accounting – More accurate data, but the long commitment required means a bias towards more stable households.
For this survey, it was decided that because a large sample was needed, accounting books over a year would be the best way, especially as they needed to take agricultural seasonal variations and the value of produce into account. The survey started with 728 families with 585 completing. Families were from all areas of rural Norway and were chosen to be geographically representative, and also representative in terms of size of farm.

Ref ID: 734

Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå, 'Husholdningsregnskaper for jordbrukerfamilier, 1957', *Norges offisielle statistik*, Vol. 11, No. 274 (1957)

Family Budgets for Farmers' Families, 1957

15) **Norway, 1954 - 1954 (Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå)**

Survey ID: 738

293 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: The third in the series of four surveys designed to get information about groups which had not been represented in previous working-class, industrial samples. As such, the methodology of this survey was similar to the previous ones. This time, contact was made through 'Noregs Fiskarlag' [Norway Fishermen] , fylkesfiskarlagene [county level fishing organisations] and 'Fiskarorganisasjonenes Kvinneag' [Fishermen's Wives]. This covers 293 families for whom fishing was a main or primary occupation. 130 had fishing as the only profession and 163 as a supplementary profession. Includes estimated costs of own produced products. It seems to be particularly concerned about nutrition in these families as most of the tables are about what they eat. The methodology reports that fishermen's families are generally on very low incomes relative to the national average and much of their consumption is through unofficial channels.

Selection: Norway.

Ref ID: 735

Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå, 'Husholdningsregnskaper for fiskerfamilier (1957) ', *Norges offisielle statistik*, Vol. 11, No. 250 (1957)

Family Budgets for Fishermen's Families

16) **Norway, 1955 - 1956 (Norges offisielle statistik)**

Survey ID: 739

140 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: It was argued by the NOS that there was a great public interest in knowing what pensioners got out of their pensions in terms of food, clothing, fuel etc. and whether this was sufficient. The government agreed, and this investigation began on 1 May 1955. Aware of high drop-out rates caused by the detailed accounting required, the NOS started with a sample of 240 households.
Pensions in Norway at this time were allocated municipally, and part of the rationale of the survey was to differentiate between different pension rates in Oslo, Bergen, Narvik, Sarpsborg, Kristiansand, Stavanger, Hamar, Bodø and Harstad.
Only pensioners on a full retirement pension living in cities in their own households were included. They could have a small amount of their own income as long as this fell within municipal limited amounts. Those living with families, in care homes, or who were not in receipt of a full pension were not included.

Ref ID: 736

Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå, 'Husholdningsregnskaper for alderstrygdede (1958) ', *Norges offisielle statistik*, Vol. 11, No. 274 (1958)

Family Budgets for Old Age Pensioners

17) **Norway, 1958 - 1958 (Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå)**

Survey ID: 740

3,301 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: The introduction reflects on the fact that it was only in the 1950s it could begin to be said that the consumer surveys taken by the NOS were in any way representative, with the earlier surveys nearly all being focused on the living conditions of the urban poor. This Survey of Consumer Expenditure, undertaken as part of the effort to monitor national economic growth and affordability, was the first example of a modern, representative sample survey in Norway. It relied on accounting books being kept by householders and was overseen by local district authorities to get a comprehensive regional spread then fed back to central admin. One in twelve households in selected districts (which included the fifty richest districts then a random sample of the rest) were required by the local authority to keep detailed accounts. The survey differentiates between groups of employees and the regions.

Selection: Norway.

Ref ID: 737

Norges Statistisk Sentralbyrå, 'Forbruksundersøkelsen 1958', *Norges offisielle statistik*, Vol. A7 (1960)

Survey of Consumer Expenditure 1958

Report Stats:

Selection: Norway.

Surveys: 17

Reference instances: 17

Total Households: 9,334