

Integration of micro and macro economic statistics for Australian households: Recent developments and future opportunities

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The paper confronts estimates of the income, expenditure and wealth of Australian households from the Survey of Income and Housing and the Household Expenditure Survey with aggregate data compiled in the Australian System of National Accounts for the periods 2002-03, 2003-04, 2005-06 and 2007-08. Differences in scope and measurement are estimated where they impact on comparability between the data sources. The confrontation will be quantified at the lowest individual component level that is able to be supported by the data.

The paper will illustrate some improvements in the coherence between micro and macro data sources with the implementation of changes to the survey methodology in 2003-04 and with improvements in the coverage of income following the Australian implementation of the 2004 ICLS income standards. The potential for further integration of Australian micro and macro statistics will be explored, as well as potential analytical opportunities where micro and macro data are closely aligned.