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Building a “household-sub-categories accounting system”
using French Micro and Macro data

by

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In France, several types of household survey exist, each focusing on different aspects of household behaviour. They provide a vast variety of information on wages, dwellings, property income, consumption expenditure.

At a macro-level, the National Accounts System allows economists to understand relationships between income, consumption and saving within a consistent and integrated framework. The household accounting system also provides a measure of household purchasing power, a crucial indicator for economic policy makers. Nevertheless, information is often too aggregated and National Accounts estimates may be different from survey's results (sometimes because of specific definitions).

In the past few years, there has been an increasing demand for better coherence between micro and macro statistics in France like in many other countries. Some information taken from household survey is already used in National Accounts but further work can be done through a more thorough use of surveys' results by subcategories of household.

As a matter of fact, the European System of Accounts already considers the possibility of establishing national accounts by household categories. The focus on household categories allows better understanding of their economic behaviour and better description of social inequalities.

In this paper, a “household-subcategories accounting system” is presented using French data, focusing on income and consumption expenditure. It is based on National Accounts' framework and figures and uses different surveys to distinguish household categories (depending on the level of income, on the social status, on the age of the family's head, on the type of family).

Estimates of household-subcategories disposable income, adjusted disposable income, consumption expenditure and saving rate will be produced, showing differences between household categories.

The paper includes discussion on the methodologies used to link various surveys and to ensure consistency between social statistics and National Accounts (how to get homogeneous definitions and fields).

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