

Distributional Information on Income and Wealth Using French Households Micro Data and National Accounts Data

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At a macro level, National Accounts allow economists to understand relationships between income, saving and wealth within a consistent and integrated framework. But they lack distributional information to better understand the economic behaviour of households and to get a better description of social inequalities. At a micro level, measures of distribution on income, consumption and wealth are provided by micro data (surveys, and censuses) collected from French households or administrative records or matching between surveys and administrative data. Micro data concerning households estimates may be different from National Accounts results, sometimes because of specific definitions or specific scope. In France, an important work has been realised to reconcile the macro and micro approaches using the National Accounts framework. As a first step, income, consumption and saving have been studied : a “household-subcategories accounting system” has been published in 2009 using French data, focusing on income and consumption expenditure. As a second step, in this paper, we carry on the analysis towards the Balance Sheet in order to explain differences between households categories especially about saving disparities. We use the French National survey about Wealth “Enquête Patrimoine 2004”. The paper also includes discussion on the methodologies used to ensure consistency between wealth surveys and National Accounts and how to get homogeneous definitions and scope.

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