South Africa - OHS-LFS Consistent Series Weights 1994-2007

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Visit our data catalog at: http://www.datafirst.uct.ac.za/dataportal/index.php

Overview

Identification

ID NUMBER
zaf-datafirst-olcs-1994-2007-v0411

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION
Version 0411: Edited, anonymised dataset for public distribution

Version 0410 was provided to DataFirst by Nicola Branson in 2010.

Version 0411 is this dataset, with cross-entropy weights for OHS 1996 included. These were not in the original set of weights created by Nicola Branson, but have been created subsequently by DataFirst.

PRODUCTION DATE
2010

NOTES
Version 0410 was provided to DataFirst by Nicola Branson in 2010.

Version 0411 is this dataset, with cross-entropy weights for OHS 1996 included. These were not in the original set of weights created by Nicola Branson, but have been created subsequently by DataFirst.

Overview

ABSTRACT
One focus of post apartheid research in South Africa is change. Questions include the progress of South Africa in the economic, social and political arena. National datasets such as the October Household Surveys (OHS) and Labour Force Surveys (LFS) provide a rich source of information on both economic and social variables in a cross sectional framework. These datasets are repeated annually or biannually and therefore have the potential to highlight

changes over time. Yet to treat the cross sectional national data as a time series requires that, when stacked side by side, the data produce realistic trends. Since these data were not designed to be used as a time series, there are changes in sample design, the interview process and shifts in the sampling frame which can cause unrealistic changes in aggregates over a short period of time. This raises concerns about the validity of using these datasets as a time

series to examine change.

The aggregate trends calculated from the OHS and LFS show the data to be both temporally and internally inconsistent. Examining the weights given in the datasets, in addition to the public documentation, it is clear that the Statistics South Africa (StatsSA) household and person weights are not simple design weights i.e. inverse inclusion probability weights. StatsSA poststratifies the person design weight to external population totals. Since the data are cross sectional the intention of the post-stratification adjustment is to produce best estimates of the population given the information available at the time and temporal consistency is not considered. This creates problems when the data is used as a time series.

A project was thus undertaken by Nicola Branson at the University of Cape Town, with a scholarship from DataFirst as part of DataFirst's Data Quality Project, funded by the Mellon Foundation. to design a new set of person and household weights for the OHS 1994-1999 and the LFS 2000-2007. These weights are generated using an entropy estimation technique. The new weights result in consistent demographic and geographic trends and greater consistency between person and household level analysis.

This dataset consists of the cross-entrophy weights and the research resources used to construct them, including the syntax files, as well as background documentation on the project, and other research output. These should be used with the OHS and LFS data available from the data portal

KIND OF DATA
Sample survey data [ssd]

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE
The OHS and LFS had national coverage

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
Branson, Nicola	University of Cape Town

FUNDING

Name	Abbreviation	Role
Mellon Foundation		

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
DataFirst		University of Cape Town	Metadata producer

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION
2013-06-12

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION
version 1.1

DDI DOCUMENT ID
ddi-zaf-datafirst-olcs-1994-2007-v1.1

Sampling

No content available

Questionnaires

No content available

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
1994	2007	N/A

Time Periods

Start	End	Cycle

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

Data Processing

No content available

Data Appraisal

Other forms of Data Appraisal

The purpose of survey weights is to inflate the sample to represent the entire population. These weights therefore play an important role in creating consistent aggregates over time. Statistics South Africa's (StatsSA) household and person weights are not simple design weights i.e. inverse inclusion probability weights. The weights presented in the StatsSA National Household surveys are the design weight post-stratified to external population totals. Since the data are cross sectional the intention of the post-stratification adjustment is to produce best estimates of the population given the information available at the time and temporal consistency is not considered. These cross entropy weights have been provided to render the OHS and LFS series consistent over time.

The original cross entropy weights created by Nicola Branson did not include weights for OHS 1996. These have now been created by DataFirst, using a later version of the OHS 1996 data provided by Statistics South Africa.

Documentation

Technical documents

Calibrating StatsSA's National Household Survey weights to a consistent

Title	Calibrating StatsSA's National Household Survey weights to a consistent
Author(s)	Branson, Nicola
Date	2008-01-01
Country	South Africa
Language	English
Description	This paper describes the project to design cross-entropy weights for the OHS and LFS
Filename	Calibrating StatsSA's Survey Weights-v2.pdf

Re-weighting South African National Household Survey Data to create a consistent series over time

Title	Re-weighting South African National Household Survey Data to create a consistent series over time
Author(s)	Branson, Nicola
Country	South Africa
Language	English
Description	This is a paper detailing the project undertaken by Nicola Branson to design weight to make the OHS and LFS a more consistent series
Filename	2008-princeton-paper-81360.pdf

Other materials

[Provincial Output_051129]

Title	[Provincial Output_051129]
Date	2005-01-01
Country	South Africa
Language	English
Description	This is a zipped excel file of provincial tables used in the project
Filename	ProvOutput_051129.zip

Cross Entropy Weights-do files-v1.1

Title	Cross Entropy Weights-do files-v1.1
Author(s)	Branson, Nicola
Date	2010-01-01
Country	South Africa
Language	English
Description	This is a zipped folder containing the syntax files for the cross-entropy weights
Filename	Cross Entropy Weights-do files-v1.1.zip