

12th Séminaire ACN, June 2008, Session 5 (Friday June 6 morning)

Session 5 : Macro-economic Modeling and National Accounts

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

Maryse Fesseau, Emilie Raynaud, Sylvie Le Laidier, Jacques Bournay (INSEE)

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 or wealth.

At a macro-level, the National Accounts System allows economists to understand relationships between income, consumption and saving within a consistent and integrated framework. 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. Research on the integration of micro-data in the macro statistical system has developed in recent years (e.g. the Camberra Group, expert group on household Income Statistics (1996-2000) ; in Europe, the Leadership Group on Social Accounting Matrices (1999-2001)). But yet, no country is actually presenting a national accounting system by household-sub-categories.

In the proposed paper, a “household-sub-categories accounting system” will be presented using French data, focusing on income and consumption expenditure data. It is based on National Accounts' framework and figures and uses different surveys to distinguish household categories. Estimates of household-sub-categories disposable income and saving rate will be produced. The paper will include discussion on the methodologies used to link various surveys (variable definitions, field,...) and to ensure consistency between social statistics and National Accounts.