

Measuring Consumption Expenditure: IHDS and NSS

India Human Development Survey (IHDS)	National Sample Survey (NSS)
<p><i>Reference Period:</i> Mixed Recall Period (MRP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food items 30 days - Consumables 30 days - Durables and major expenditures 365 days 	<p><i>Reference Period:</i> Modified Mixed Recall Period (MMRP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some food items 7 days - Cereals and other foods 30 days - Consumables 30 days - Durables and major expenditures 365 days <p>In earlier surveys NSS used MRP but now switched to MMRP</p>
<p><i>Consumption Items Included</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 53 items combining many items (e.g. salt and spices) under a single heading - Data on PDS as a source collected, but not other items 	<p><i>Consumption Items Included</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detailed item list - Source information collected
<p><i>Number of Visits</i></p> <p>Single visit, although the interviewer may pause the interview and may return within the next day or so to accommodate respondent time constraints</p>	<p><i>Number of Visits</i></p> <p>In the latest round, data collected over 3 visits, spaced about a month apart. Overall consumption may be influenced by short-term adjustments made in response to sudden expenditures, introducing measurement error.</p>
<p><i>Household Size</i></p> <p>4.5 Rural 4.3 Urban</p> <p>Due to detailed household member follow up, better recording of household size. But may also lead to slight overestimation as some of the non-resident members may get included.</p>	<p><i>Household Size (calculated from unweighted numbers in Appendix Table)</i></p> <p>4.5 Rural 3.8 Urban</p> <p>NSS underestimation of urban household size is well recognized. Compare to the average urban household size of 4.2 recorded by NFHS-5.</p>

<p><i>Comparability over Time:</i> No change in questionnaire, reference period. Designed for comparability across 3 waves.</p>	<p><i>Comparability over Time:</i> Substantial design changes over time in question wording, reference period and number of visits.</p>
<p><i>Sample Representativeness</i> Longitudinal data affected by attrition of panel households. Addition of households from the same block/village to refresh the sample does not make up for the fixed panel of PSU. PSU selection done in Wave 1 excludes some of the peri-urban areas that have grown recently</p>	<p><i>Sample Representativeness</i> Far more representative sample due to inclusion of newly growing areas and larger sample size.</p>
<p><i>Fruitful Use:</i> Understand changes in household living conditions over time, link to other life events and access to diverse public programs such as MGNREGA and AAY</p>	<p><i>Fruitful Use:</i> Obtaining the current estimate of poverty levels, access to certain types of welfare benefits. State level estimates.</p>