

Household surveys programme 2018–22

Third edition



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Purpose

Household surveys programme 2018–22 outlines our plans for a coordinated programme of supplementary content across our three household surveys: Household Labour Force Survey, New Zealand General Social Survey, and Household Economic Survey. The aim of this programme is to ensure that our household surveys are flexible and responsive in meeting New Zealand’s enduring and emerging information needs.

This document also provides the planned schedule for the Household surveys programme. Knowing what information we intend to collect and when we are going to collect this information will help data users determine whether their information needs will be met, and help them plan programmes of analysis and research.

We welcome your feedback on whether the programme meets your needs and whether you are satisfied with the proposed content and schedule.

The programme, which covers the five years from 2018 to 2022, includes both full supplements and, in the case of the Household Labour Force Survey, smaller sets of questions that will be attached to one of the three surveys on rotating schedules. The programme is designed to capture information that complements or enhances the regular content of the three surveys. It also aims to respond to the needs identified as priorities during consultation with our customers.

What's new in the third edition

This section summarises the significant changes to the *Household surveys programme* for the third edition.

We extended the Household surveys programme by two years, to 2022.

Changes to the Household Labour Force Survey programme are listed below.

- Education and Training Survey has been rescheduled for the March 2020 quarter.
- Rotating topic on volunteer work has been brought forward to the June 2018 quarter.
- Rotating topic on redundancies (now called displaced workers) has been rescheduled for the September 2019 quarter.
- Rotating topic on employment transitions has been rescheduled for the September 2020 quarter.
- Rotating topic on skill-related underemployment is now being considered for inclusion in the Education and Training Survey.
- Rotating topic on types of self-employment has been deferred, pending the review of the International Classification of Status in Employment.

The programme for the New Zealand General Social Survey now includes the supplement on social capital, scheduled for 2022. This will merge content from previous supplements on social networks and support, and civic and cultural participation.

The programme for the Household Economic Survey is unchanged, but the sample size of the survey has been substantially increased to enable better measurement of child poverty.

Integrated household surveys model

Background

Since 2011 we have been working towards a more integrated approach to our household surveys. This work involves consolidating the household survey programme around three surveys: Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS), New Zealand General Social Survey (NZGSS), and Household Economic Survey (HES).

The three surveys include a recurring set of questions each time they are run. They also act as vehicles for supplementary content included on either a rotating or ad hoc basis. This reduces the need for stand-alone surveys, making the survey process more efficient and flexible, while enhancing the scope and timeliness of the information we produce.

The advantages are outlined in more detail by Bycroft (2011a), who summarises the objectives as follows:

- minimise development time and costs for new content, given that content for official statistics should be sufficiently substantive and coherent
- maximise information collected, within constraints imposed by keeping respondent burden reasonable and limits on collection costs
- maximise information used and reduce content overlap across surveys while responding more quickly to new requests.

The integrated approach forms an important part of the Tomorrow's Official Population and Social Statistics (TOPSS) programme. Stats NZ's 2012 business case for TOPSS funding undertook to provide for future flexibility by converting household survey systems into generic vehicles that can support producing further high value information at relatively low marginal cost.

Since TOPSS funding was approved, we have made significant progress towards this goal, including:

- developing shared collection and processing infrastructures across the household surveys
- standardising core demographic and socio-economic questions asked in each of the surveys
- building significant flexibility into the HLFS questionnaire as part of the redevelopment of that survey
- adding rotating modules on disability and volunteer work to the HLFS
- starting a programme of rotating supplements attached to the NZGSS
- commencing development of a time use supplement to the NZGSS to replace what was previously a stand-alone time use survey
- introducing savings modules within HES to replace what was previously a stand-alone survey

This work continues with the programme of supplementary content outlined in this report, which adds to the breadth and depth of information collected by the survey vehicles.

What is supplementary content?

The structure of the household surveys is illustrated in figure 1. Each survey consists of a household questionnaire and a personal questionnaire. The household questionnaire collects information about all people living at the address, including their eligibility for the survey and core demographic

variables common to all the household surveys. The personal questionnaire collects information that is specifically related to the objectives of each particular survey.

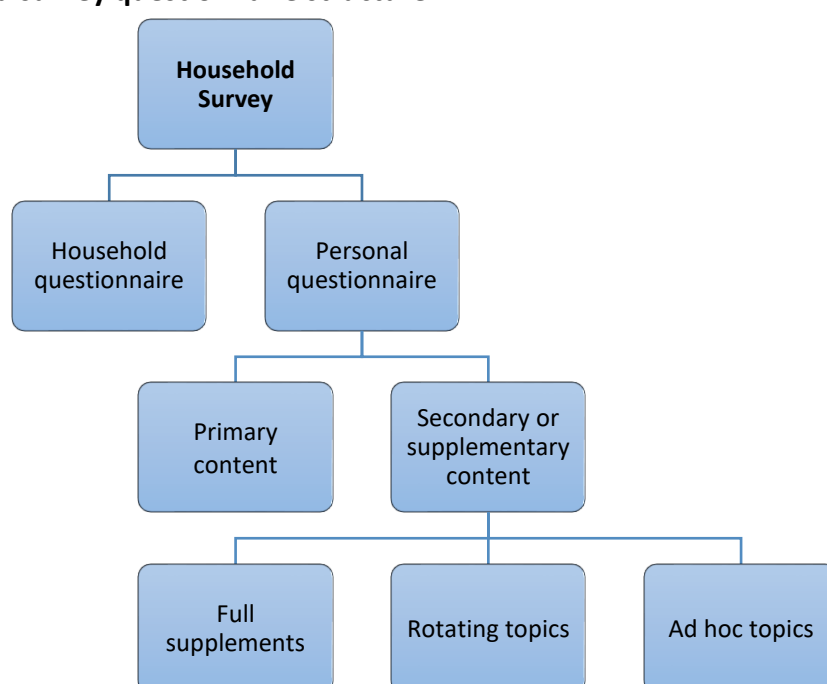
The information collected in the personal questionnaire may be primary content or secondary content. The primary content consists of those questions that are asked each time the survey is run. The secondary content (or supplementary content) consists of questions that are asked less frequently, either because the information is a lower priority than the primary content, is required less frequently, or is burdensome to respondents.

The three different types of secondary content are: full supplements, rotating topics, and ad hoc topics. Full supplements typically consist of a series of question modules on a broad topic (eg income) or related topics (eg social networks and support). Rotating and ad hoc topics are shorter in length and narrower in scope, restricted to a single and more concisely defined topic (eg volunteer work). Rotating topics are repeated at regular intervals, while ad hoc topics gather data relevant to topical information needs on a one-off or infrequent basis.

Until recently, secondary content was attached to the end of the personal questionnaire as an ‘add-on’ to the main survey. With advances in technology and questionnaire design, we are now able to integrate secondary content into the main body of the personal questionnaire so that it can be placed with related questions and turned on and off as required. This improves the experience for respondents and interviewers, as well as allowing greater flexibility in terms of survey content.

Figure 1

Household survey questionnaire structure



How we select supplementary content

We developed the programme of supplements and rotating topics outlined in this report based on ongoing consultation with customers, and our understanding of the enduring and emerging information needs within the domains of each of the household surveys. We consult widely in the

course of developing and redeveloping our surveys, to help us identify and prioritise information needs that are not currently met by the household surveys or other data sources.

We assessed topics considered for inclusion in the supplementary content programme against the following criteria.

- Have stakeholders identified a strong need for the information for policy, research, or monitoring purposes?
- Is there currently a lack of good information on the topic from other surveys or administrative data sources?
- Is it Stats NZ's role to collect this data?
- Will the information contribute to Tier 1 statistics? These are the most important statistics, essential for understanding how well New Zealand is performing and for informing critical decisions.
- Will the data help us meet international reporting obligations or follow international practice?
- Is the topic related to the objectives of any of the three household surveys and will it help to further those objectives?
- Can the topic be accommodated by the relevant survey vehicle without adding significantly to respondent burden in terms of the number of questions or sensitivity of the information required?
- Is the sample size of the survey vehicle sufficient to provide robust data on the topic?

We will also use these criteria to assess any new proposals for supplementary content. There is some capacity for adding new topics to the programme or reprioritising scheduled topics if more compelling information needs emerge. We welcome proposals on topics that meet all or most of the above criteria (see [Responding to our customers](#)). With a busy programme already planned, we will be constrained by the availability of resources and the need to manage respondent burden.

The integrated household surveys are not intended to be the comprehensive and exclusive source of information on social and population statistics. The household surveys form one part of the broader social and population statistics architecture (Bycroft, 2011b), which also includes the Census of Population and Dwellings, post-censal surveys (Te Kupenga and the Disability Survey), surveys run by other government agencies, and a wide range of administrative data sources. These various data sources are increasingly being added to the Integrated Data Infrastructure, which enables innovative research and analysis by linking different data collections.

The remainder of this report outlines the proposed programme of supplementary content for each of the three household surveys from 2018 to 2022. Some of these supplements or rotating topics have been run previously or are currently being run, some are under development, and others are still proposals. As parts of the programme are not yet confirmed, there may be some changes due to resourcing issues and reprioritisation of information needs.

Household Labour Force Survey

Here is a description of the HLFS and our proposed programme of supplementary content for the survey.

See:

- About the HLFS
- Timetable for supplementary content
- Full supplements
- Rotating topics.

About the HLFS

Frequency: Quarterly

Target population: Working-age population (all people aged 15 and over)

Achieved sample size: 15,000 households (approximately 30,000 individuals)

The HLFS is a continuous national survey of households that aims to produce a timely, relevant, and comprehensive range of statistics relating to the employed, unemployed, underutilisation, and those not in the labour force. Information from the HLFS is used to develop and monitor labour market and social policy, support research, and to help inform on the quality of employment and the health of New Zealand's economy. Since 1985, the HLFS has provided quarterly measures of:

- the number of employed and unemployed people
- the number of people who are not in the labour force
- hours worked
- occupations and industries people work in
- duration of unemployment
- steps people take to find work
- steps people take to find more work hours
- the number of people in formal study.

The survey also collects demographic information, such as age, gender, locality, and ethnicity to provide estimates for different population groups.

Following a major redevelopment, a new version of the HLFS went into the field in April 2016. See [Household Labour Force Survey – summary of 2016 redevelopment](#) (Statistics NZ, 2016a) for details.

One strand of the redevelopment was to add new primary content to the survey, including the following topics:

- employment relationships (whether people are in permanent or temporary jobs and what types of temporary jobs)
- length of job tenure
- additional hours of work wanted
- whether people have more than one job

- industry, occupation, and employment status of second jobs
- type of employment agreements
- union membership.

Timetable for supplementary content

As part of the HLFS redevelopment project we expanded the scope of the survey by including more secondary content. In addition to the full supplements periodically added to the survey (such as the Survey of Working Life and the Childcare Survey), we are now able to add shorter supplementary topics to the main questionnaire on a rotating or ad hoc basis. This enables the HLFS to be more flexible and responsive to the needs of customers, and to collect a wider range of information without adding significantly to respondent burden. Potential topics are identified through consultation with customers, monitoring of emerging information needs, and recommendations of international bodies such as the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Table 1 shows our proposed schedule for the HLFS supplements and rotating topics up to 2022. Both the scheduling and content of the programme are subject to possible revision, due to resourcing issues or changing information needs. We will consult with customers over any changes.

Table 1

Planned content for Household Labour Force Survey 2018–22																					
Survey content	Quarter																				
	2018				2019				2020				2021				2022				
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
HLFS																					
Supplements																					
Income																					
Childcare ¹																					
Working life																					
Education and training																					
Rotating topics																					
Disability																					
Volunteer work																					
Displaced workers																					
Employment transitions																					

1. The Childcare Survey will be run again in Q3 2023 under this schedule.

Full supplements

Income

Status:	Integrated in the redeveloped HLFS in 2016
Frequency:	Annual
Quarter collected:	June
Subject population:	All people aged 15 and over

The New Zealand Income Survey, which was formerly a supplement to the HLFS, has been replaced by a set of income questions integrated into the HLFS and run every June quarter. The questions collect information about income from wages and salaries, self-employment income, and government transfers. The information is used to inform policy decisions on economic and social issues affecting all New Zealanders, including retirement, education, income tax, minimum wage, and infrastructure developments.

Childcare

Status:	Last run in 2017; next scheduled for 2023
Frequency:	Proposed six-yearly
Quarter collected:	September
Subject population:	Parents of children aged 0–13

The Childcare Survey collects information about the use of formal and informal childcare in New Zealand. This includes the use of government childcare subsidies, and the relationship between childcare, work, and study arrangements. It identifies patterns in the use of childcare for different population groups and difficulties they have in using childcare services. The data helps inform government agencies on how childcare-related policies affect caregivers' abilities to get jobs and training.

Working life

Status:	Last run in 2012; next running in the December quarter of 2018
Frequency:	Proposed four-yearly from 2018
Quarter collected:	December
Subject population:	Employed people aged 15 and over

The Survey of Working Life (SoWL) collects information about people's work arrangements, working conditions, and job satisfaction. The objective of this survey is to provide data that can be used to monitor changes in the working life and job quality of employed New Zealanders, and to better understand the reasons for and implications of these employment patterns. The 2018 SoWL includes several new topics which have been added after some of the content of earlier surveys was included in the quarterly HLFS.

Education and training

Status:	Previously run in 1996; under redevelopment to run in the March quarter of 2020
Frequency:	Proposed ten-yearly from 2020
Quarter collected:	Proposed March
Subject population:	All people aged 15–64

We last ran an education and training survey as a supplement to the HLFS in 1996. We will update the supplement to reflect changes in information needs and the emergence of alternative data sources since the last survey. Topics are likely to include recent participation in study or training (both formal and informal), any study or training people would like to do, any barriers to doing so, and overall length of time in education. The objective will be to provide a more complete picture of participation in and demand for education and training programmes, which will help inform policy decisions and the provision of education and training services.

Note: In a previous edition of the Household surveys programme, we proposed running a rotating topic on skill-related underemployment (situations where a person’s occupational skills are underutilised in their job). We will now investigate the feasibility of collecting data on skills mismatches as part of the education and training supplement. This would cover situations where people are either underskilled or overskilled. If it is not feasible to do this as part of the education and training supplement, we may schedule it as a rotating topic at a later date.

Rotating topics

Disability

Status:	First collected in the HLFS in 2017
Frequency:	Annual
Quarter collected:	June
Subject population:	All people aged 15 and over

Disability status is a demographic characteristic of increasing policy relevance, as efforts are made to reduce the gap in social and economic outcomes between disabled and non-disabled people. To produce estimates of labour market characteristics disaggregated by disability status, we include the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WGSS-F) questions in the HLFS once a year. These questions aim to identify people who are more likely than others to be disadvantaged by the limiting effects of an impairment in combination with their environment. The WGSS-F is recommended for use by the United Nations and is increasingly used by statistical agencies worldwide to produce internationally comparable data.

Volunteer work

Status:	First included in the HLFS in the June quarter of 2018
Frequency:	Two-yearly from 2018
Quarter collected:	June
Subject population:	All people aged 15 and over

The volunteer work topic includes questions on people’s participation in unpaid work for other households, individuals, or organisations over a four-week period. It asks whether people did such work, the number of hours worked, the type of work, and the type of organisation or setting in which it was performed. The information will allow more frequent estimation of the economic value of unpaid work and will help us provide a more complete picture of the volume and type of productive work carried out in New Zealand and the characteristics of the volunteer workforce. It follows ILO guidelines, which seek to encourage more standardised and frequent collection of data on volunteer work by member nations.

Displaced workers

Status:	Proposed for inclusion in HLFS during 2019
Frequency:	Proposed four-yearly
Quarter collected:	September
Subject population:	All people aged 15 and over

The displaced workers topic will attempt to fill some information gaps around the incidence and experience of involuntary job losses. We previously referred to this as a redundancies topic, but this has now been broadened to include all job displacement due to economic or technological reasons or structural change. We are yet to develop the content for this topic, but it is likely to collect information such as whether people have been displaced from jobs over a given period, the characteristics of the job they lost, whether they received redundancy payments or other support, and experiences in finding subsequent employment. Job displacement is a topic of interest, given the effects of business closures, technological change and restructuring on levels of unemployment and on the lives of those affected. At present, there is limited information on this topic.

Employment transitions

Status:	Proposed for inclusion in HLFS during 2020
Frequency:	Proposed four-yearly
Quarter collected:	September
Subject population:	To be decided

This topic will provide information on the transition of young people from education into employment, and of older people from employment into retirement. We want to better understand the trajectories people follow in making these transitions, including intermediate steps through different types of work, such as unpaid, part-time, temporary, and low-skilled work, and the difficulties and barriers they encounter in making those transitions. Given high rates of unemployment among young people and increasing levels of labour force participation among the growing population of older people, both these groups are of considerable policy interest.

Note: There is also interest among users in related topics, such as job-to-job transitions; transitions due to migration; and transitions following periods on benefits or parental leave. This has raised the possibility of expanding the proposed topic to a full-scale supplement covering a broader range of transitions. We will consider this option closer to the scheduled time, once we have fully assessed the information needs and development issues.

Deferred topic: types of self-employment

In the second edition of the Household surveys programme, we proposed a rotating topic that would distinguish between different types of self-employment, such as business ownership, independent contracting, or dependent contracting. These distinctions have become increasingly important due to changes in the nature of employment relationships and are not currently captured well in our employment statistics.

Since the previous programme was published, we have included some questions about contracting relationships in the SoWL. We are also awaiting the outcome of the ILO's review of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE), which is due in October 2018. Given this, we intend to defer this topic until the ICSE review is complete and we have a better idea of how we can implement it in the HLFS. It may become a regular part of the quarterly HLFS rather than a rotating topic.

New Zealand General Social Survey

Here is a description of the NZGSS and our proposed programme of supplementary content for the survey.

See:

- About the NZGSS
- Timetable for supplementary content
- Full supplements.

About the NZGSS

Frequency: Two-yearly (collection spans 12 months)
Target population: Adult population aged 15 and over
Achieved sample size: 8,000 to 9,000 individuals (one respondent per household)

The NZGSS is New Zealand's official national multi-dimensional survey of well-being. The survey is biennial, aligned with international measures, and was first run in 2008. Face-to-face interviews are conducted with over 8,000 randomly selected people aged 15 years and over, living in private dwellings throughout New Zealand. The data is collected over 12 months from the June quarter to the March quarter.

The objectives of the NZGSS are to:

- complement existing measures of well-being by providing a picture of the well-being of individuals in New Zealand society across a range of domains and over time
- understand and monitor the distribution of well-being across population groups of interest
- understand the interrelationships between different aspects of well-being and how they relate to overall well-being.

Data gathered includes objective information about circumstances such as labour force status and income, as well as personal self-assessments of different aspects of people's lives. Subjective measures of well-being complement objective measures by giving people the ability to voice what life is like from their own perspective. There is substantial interest in the measurement and use of subjective well-being for policy purposes.

By measuring multiple aspects of individuals' lives at one point in time, the survey helps us understand the interrelationships of outcomes across different aspects of life – for example, how health, employment, and sense of identity are interlinked – and the impact of multiple good or bad outcomes on people's lives. The survey also shows us how well-being outcomes vary across different population groups and produces statistics to inform decision-making by government agencies and the wider community.

The primary content of the NZGSS collects information across 10 core aspects of well-being, or domains:

1. overall subjective well-being
2. health
3. culture and identity
4. social connectedness
5. civic and human rights

6. material standard of living
7. safety and security
8. housing
9. paid work
10. knowledge and skills.

Timetable for supplementary content

In addition to the primary content, the NZGSS includes rotating supplements that enable the survey to collect in-depth information on topics of interest related to well-being. So far, the NZGSS has included three supplements: Social Networks and Support (2014), Civic and Cultural Participation (2016), and Housing and Physical Environment (2018). The supplement programme is designed to increase the breadth of information we capture across the domains that are unique to the NZGSS, covering existing topics in more depth or additional topics that are required less frequently than the primary survey content.

While NZGSS supplements are targeted at enduring information needs, there is also some scope for adding ad hoc topics or ‘mini supplements’ to meet ‘one-off’ information needs. An example of this is the ad hoc module on emergency preparedness included in the 2014 NZGSS.

See table 2 for the proposed schedule for the NZGSS supplements up to 2022. The extended schedule leaves a gap every 12 years for new or additional content to be included, the first gap being in 2026. We currently have no plans to include any shorter topics in the NZGSS, but this may be considered if information needs arise and the topics meet the selection criteria. See [How we select supplementary content](#).

Table 2

Planned content for New Zealand General Social Survey 2018–22																				
Survey content	Quarter																			
	2018				2019				2020				2021				2022			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
NZGSS																				
Supplements																				
Housing and physical environment																				
Time use																				
Social capital																				

Full supplements

Housing and physical environment

Status: Running for the first time in the 2018 NZGSS
Future frequency: Proposed six-yearly
Subject population: All people aged 15 and over

Housing fulfils a physical need for shelter and provides social functions of individual respite and the basis for family life. Access to adequate housing is a cornerstone of individual well-being, and overcrowded or inadequate housing has been linked to negative health and social outcomes. Aspects of the natural and built physical environment can also influence people's well-being, for example through access to clean air and water; opportunities for recreation and socialising; and access to local facilities and services, transport, and natural surroundings. The housing and physical environment supplement will collect information on people's housing and their natural and built environment in relation to their broader well-being outcomes. The supplement is being run in 2018 and we propose conducting it every six years.

See [New Zealand General Social Survey 2018: Objectives of the Housing and Physical Environment supplement](#) (Statistics NZ, 2016b) for more detail.

Time use

Status: Under development for the 2020 NZGSS
Future frequency: Proposed 12-yearly
Subject population: To be decided

Stats NZ has previously conducted stand-alone time use surveys in 1998/99 and in 2009/10. To capture time use data in the future, we propose adding a shortened survey as a rotating supplement to the NZGSS, based on a similar survey piloted recently by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The primary objectives of surveying time use patterns are to gain insight into the contribution of unpaid work to the economy and to identify patterns in time use and their relation to collective and individual well-being. Adding time use questions to the NZGSS as a rotating supplement will mean time use data can be analysed in relation to other key components of people's well-being. The content of this supplement is yet to be determined. We propose that it will be run every 12 years from 2020.

Social capital

Status: Separate supplements were previously run on social networks and support (2014) and civic and cultural participation (2016). Content from these will be merged in 2022.
Future frequency: Proposed six-yearly
Subject population: All people aged 15 and over

The proposed social capital supplement will collect information about social relationships, norms and values, and participation in civic and cultural activities. Together, these can contribute to social cohesion, personal well-being, and positive social outcomes.

This supplement will merge selected high-priority content from two previous NZGSS supplements: social networks and support, and civic and cultural participation. The social networks and support supplement conducted in 2014 collected information about people's social networks and relationships, and how they used them to get the support they needed. The civic and cultural participation supplement run in 2016 collected information about the cultural expressions, norms, and values that underpin New Zealand society, along with information about engagement in cultural activities, group membership, volunteering, and political activities. We propose to combine these topics in the social capital supplement in 2022, and to run it every six years.

Household Economic Survey

Here is a description of HES and our proposed programme of supplementary content for the survey.

See:

- About HES
- Timetable for supplementary content
- Full supplements

About HES

Frequency:	Annual (collection spans 12 months)
Target population:	Adult population aged 15 years and over
Achieved sample size:	Increased to 20,000 households (achieved) from 2018/19 onwards

HES provides a comprehensive range of statistics on personal and household income, housing costs, and material living standards. It also collects demographic information that allows breakdowns by personal characteristics, such as sex, age, ethnicity, and labour force status.

The core HES survey (sometimes referred to as HES (Income)) is a shortened version of the full HES survey, which began in 1972/73. The shortened HES survey first went into the field in 2007/08. It does not collect as extensive a range of expenditure information as the full HES – this is now collected in an Expenditure supplement run every three years.

HES data is collected over 12 months from the September quarter to the June quarter. In 2018/19, the sample size for HES was substantially increased to enable better measurement of child poverty.

Information from HES is used in research, policy development, and decision-making by government agencies. The data is used to provide advice on income inequality and poverty, and to determine the success of programmes such as Working for Families. It also informs decisions such as how changes to tax thresholds affect different types of households (eg family and one-person households).

HES collects information on annual income from all sources at both the individual and household levels, showing the contribution of each source of income to overall household income. The emphasis on households within HES is useful for assessing living standards, as it shows the number of individuals an income needs to support.

While the core survey (or HES (Income)) does not collect comprehensive expenditure data, it does collect information on housing costs, including rent, mortgages, rates, and building-related insurance. This enables analysis of the relationship between housing costs and household income.

The survey also includes a set of non-monetary indicator questions about people's material standard of living. This includes questions about ownership of certain essential items; affordability of certain activities; and the extent to which people economise. We also ask respondents how they rate their overall life satisfaction. From these questions, we publish selected results for life satisfaction levels, and adequacy of income to meet everyday needs.

Timetable for supplementary content

HES is the vehicle for two regular supplements that rotate on three-year cycles. The first is the detailed expenditure questionnaire and diary, which together with the main survey is sometimes

referred to as the full HES or HES (Expenditure). The other supplement collects information on assets and liabilities and is sometimes known as HES (Savings). This was conducted for the first time in 2014/15 and is now run every three years.

As with the HLFS and NZGSS, there is potential for including smaller rotating or ad hoc topics in HES, but none are currently scheduled. We may consider this if topics are identified that meet compelling information needs without adding significantly to respondent burden. The latter is an important constraint with HES, particularly in years when we include the expenditure and savings modules, given the level of detail and sensitivity of the information required from respondents.

Table 3

Planned content for Household Economic Survey 2018–22																				
Survey content	Year and quarter of collection																			
	2018				2019				2020				2021				2022			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
HES survey																				
Supplements																				
Expenditure																				
Savings																				
Note: While HES is in the field all year, it is an annual rather than a quarterly survey. The survey period runs from the start of July to the end of the following June.																				

Full supplements

Expenditure

Status:	Run in its current form since 2006/07; currently running in 2018/19
Future frequency:	Three-yearly
Subject population:	All people aged 15 years and over
Achieved sample size:	Approximately 3,500 households (a sub-sample of the 20,000 households for HES (Income))

The expenditure supplement is conducted every three years and collects more comprehensive and detailed information on spending than the main survey. In addition to housing costs, it includes purchases of goods, such as food, clothing, and household items, as well as spending on services, such as electricity, telecommunications, and health. The detailed expenditure information is collected via a combination of interview questions and expenditure diaries, and covers periods of up to 12 months, depending on the type of expenditure.

The three main objectives of the expenditure supplement are to:

- contribute to the reweighting of the Consumers Price Index (CPI)
- supply expenditure statistics for use in estimating gross domestic product (GDP)
- provide an indication of the overall living standards of New Zealanders.

Savings

Status:	First run in 2014/15; most recently run in 2017/18
Future frequency:	Three-yearly
Subject population:	All people aged 15 years and over
Achieved sample size:	Approximately 5,500 households (a sub-sample of the 20,000 households for HES Income)

The savings supplement collects information on the assets and liabilities of households in order to determine their net worth. A household's net worth is the total value of their assets minus the total value of their liabilities. Assets asked about in the savings supplement include: houses, consumer durables, superannuation funds, other financial assets, and any assets held in businesses or trusts. Liabilities include: mortgages, credit card debt, student loans, and any liabilities of businesses or trusts.

Data from this supplement helps inform retirement, social, economic, and savings policy in New Zealand. It allows better understanding of our social and economic well-being, household savings patterns, and the effectiveness of the current tax structure and income support programmes.

The savings supplement replaced the Household Savings Survey, which was a stand-alone survey conducted in 2001. The savings supplement was first run in 2014/15 and now runs every three years.

Responding to our customers

The programme of supplementary content outlined in *Household surveys programme 2018–22* is a critical part of the integrated household surveys strategy and an important step towards achieving the vision of Tomorrow's Official Population and Social Statistics. We are responding to the information needs identified by our customers during the course of wide-ranging consultation, and will continue to consult as we develop or redevelop the supplementary content.

Given the wide range of information needs that exist among users of official statistics, we have had to prioritise topics on the basis of need, relevance, and feasibility. This inevitably means that not all needs will be met by the programme as it currently stands. However, we have some flexibility in the programme for adding new topics or reprioritising proposed topics if the need arises, particularly if there is a strong need for ad hoc topics that respond to topical information needs.

We welcome proposals from users if they have important information needs not met by the proposed programme and that meet the criteria outlined in [How we select supplementary content](#), although as noted earlier there are constraints on our capacity to add to the programme in the immediate future. We also welcome any feedback on the proposed content and scheduling of the supplements and rotating topics currently included in the programme.

If you wish to provide feedback or discuss the supplementary content programme, please contact:

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References

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Appendix 1: Combined programme

Appendix table 1

Combined programme for integrated household surveys content 2018–22																				
Survey content	Year and quarter of collection																			
	2018				2019				2020				2021				2022			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
HLFS⁽¹⁾																				
Main survey																				
Supplements																				
Income																				
Childcare ⁽²⁾																				
Working life																				
Education and training																				
Rotating topics																				
Disability																				
Volunteer work																				
Displaced workers																				
Employment transitions																				
NZGSS																				
Main survey																				
Supplements																				
Housing and physical environment																				
Time use																				
Social capital																				
HES⁽¹⁾																				
Main survey																				
Supplements																				
HES (Expenditure)																				
HES (Savings)																				
<p>1. While the HLFS and HES are both in the field year-round, the HLFS is a quarterly survey (ie results are produced for every quarter) and HES is an annual survey (ie results are produced for each year to the end of June).</p> <p>2. The Childcare Survey will be run again in Q3 of 2023 under this schedule.</p>																				