

Continuous Household Survey 2022/23

Things users need to know

NISRA suspended all face-to-face household interviews in the middle of March 2020 due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In the reporting periods, April 2020 – March 2021 and April 2021 – March 2022 all interviews carried out on the Continuous Household Survey (CHS) were conducted by telephone. For this reporting year April 2022 - March 2023, face-to-face interviewing was reinstated alongside telephone interviewing in July 2022, thus making the survey dual modality.

There are a number of factors which users should take into consideration when interpreting the 2022-23 results and care should be taken when comparing these to previously published findings from the survey.

1. While survey methodology changed, the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the resultant introduction of new public health regulations, guidance and advice may have also fundamentally changed peoples' behaviour and attitudes. It is difficult to separate out change caused by the methodological adjustments and actual behavioural change at this point in time.
2. The change in data collection mode from telephone to face-to-face may have altered how people responded to the survey.
3. The change in data collection mode also necessitated some streamlining of the questionnaire and changes to how some questions were asked or presented as well as the response categories associated with them. This may also have implications for how people responded to the survey.
4. The achieved CHS2022-23 response rate in telephone mode was 51% and this is a slightly lower response compared to the normal achieved response rate of 55% in face-to-face mode. This has reduced the number of cases at the household and individual levels. The precision of the survey estimates in the 2022-23 year is also reduced compared to previous findings.

NISRA has provided customers with weighting variables to apply to the data. Whilst these weighting variables should reduce bias in the results, they cannot eliminate all forms of bias which may be present in the data.

Any changes within the 2022-23 data compared to previous years should be considered in the context of all of the above.

Care should be taken in reaching any conclusions based on 2022-23 data and especially comparisons to previous 2 years. It would be advisable to look at changes in behaviour or attitudes contained in the 2022-23 results over the next couple of years, particularly when data collection on the survey continues to implement face-to-face mode and society returns to normal, to see if they are part of a permanent changing trend.

For further information contact:

Nicola Shiels

Central Survey Unit

Colby House, Stranmillis Court, BT9 5RR

Tel: 02890 255064

Email: Nicola.Shiels@nisra.gov.uk