

Improving the Quality of EU-SILC Survey Estimates

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Abstract

We propose a revision in the procedures for non-response adjustment and calibration used in the EU-SILC survey, with the double aim of correcting for income-dependent unit non-response and of meeting the standard error thresholds required by Eurostat at the NUTS-2 level. The revision of the set of calibration constraints leads to a substantial simplification of the process, allowing a shift from the previous two-step calibration—necessary because a single step did not converge—to a single convergent calibration step. This simplification makes it possible to include new constraints on tax-filers and income aggregates, improving the efficiency of the estimates and reducing standard errors. The impact of the new weighting procedure on key EU-SILC survey is also noticeable, with an increase in household net income and a slight reduction in inequality measures.

Keywords: Calibration techniques; Non-response adjustment; Unit-nonresponse bias; Administrative data.

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