

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Time Use Survey 2008/09

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Executive Summary

24 hours or 1440 minutes has every person per day. But the use of this time varies between different persons. Age, sex, occupation, income are influencing the personal time use.

With the aid of a time use survey it is possible to see how much time is spent by different groups in society on different activities each day. It is also possible to obtain information about the time of the day the surveyed activities are performed.

The time use survey was conducted on behalf of the Federal Chancellery/Minister for Women and Public Services from end of March 2008 to April 2009. Around 8 200 individuals aged 10 and over were asked to keep a diary for a day in which they entered any activities lasting longer than 15 minutes. Participation in the survey was voluntary and the survey methodology was based on the European HETUS-Guidelines from EUROSTAT. Die Grundgesamtheit ist durch die in Privathaushalten lebende österreichische Wohnbevölkerung ab zehn Jahren definiert. Die Zeitverwendungserhebung selbst war eine Substichprobe der Mikrozensus-Erstbefragten. Die Auswahl der Haushalte erfolgte zufällig.

Die Population is defined by persons living in private households aged ten years and older. The Time Use Survey was a subsample of the first wave of the micro census. The households were selected randomly. The participation on the first wave of the micro census is obligatory and done with the CAPI-Method. Participation on the time use survey was voluntary and the specifications are orientated on HETUS-Guidelines of Eurostat. The distribution of the weekdays was balanced and over the hole year.

The diary had 84 timeslots to enter different activities. The respondents could use their own words to describe the activities and were not fixed to given codes. This method is the most accurate and international recommended form of measuring time for activities.

The results of the time use survey are relevant for different subject areas. Time use surveys are an efficient method to measure unpaid work, like housework, care, voluntary work and child care and allow an monetary evaluation of these activities.

Beyond that mobility, time for traveling and physical activities can be recorded with the diaries. The results give information about the person`s life quality, leisure time, gender equality and the use of the social space. The data helps to answer social questions and to take specific target-orientated actions.

Only time use surveys complete the picture how the diversity of activities come together in people`s life. The results can be seen as a relevant snap-shot of a society especially compared to a historical or international view.

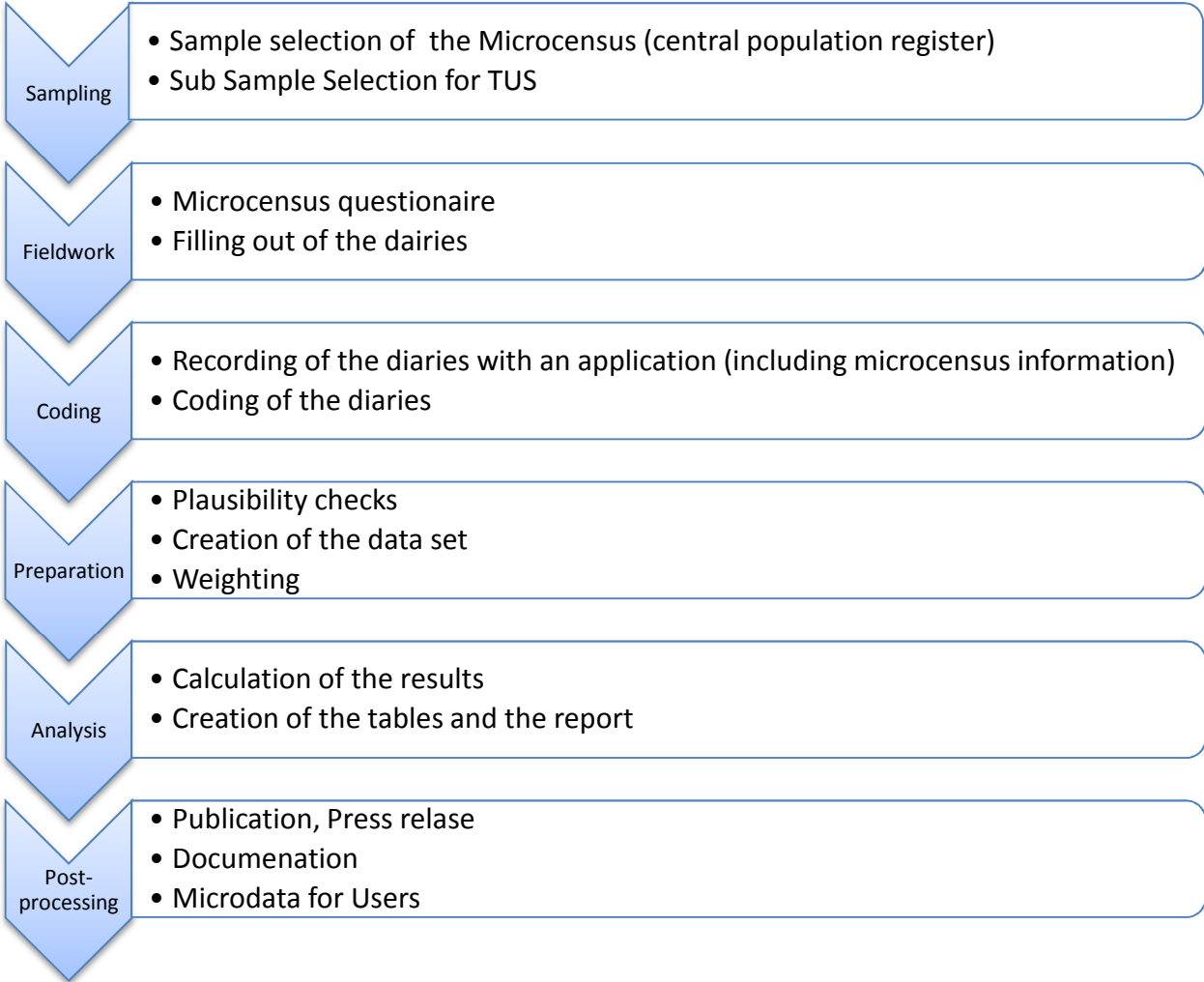
Time use surveys have a long tradition and were already used for social studies in the time of the technical revolution in the 1900. In Austria time use surveys have been conducted by the official statistics in irregular intervals – before 2008/09 there has been as survey in the year 1992 and 1981.

A challenge of this survey is on the one side for the respondents to keep accurate handwritten recordings of the whole day, and on the other side to later on code the very detailed activities.

The tables differ between the average time used of all persons for an activities and the average of persons who did this activity. Another table informs about the percentage of person who did different activities during the day. So the temporal placement of the activities can be shown.

The following figure shows the process of the time use survey 2008/09. It starts with sampling, goes to the fieldwork and the phase of coding, checking and analysing.

Figure: workflow of the TUS 2008/09



Time Use Survey 2008/09 – Main Features	
Subject Matter	Presentation of the average duration of different activities per day, presentable after weekdays and weekends and different demographic group, information about the time of day the surveyed activities are performed
Population	Austrian cohabitants 10 years and older, about 7,4 mio persons
Type of statistics	Primary data collection
Data sources/Survey techniques	Random sample at private households (without institutional households) Subsample of the Microcensus
Reference period or due day	End of March 2008 – Beginning of April 2009
Periodicity	Irregular, the third survey after 1981 and 1992
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Voluntary
Main legal acts	Contract with Federal Chancellery/ Minister for Women and Public Services
Most detailed regional breakdown	Austria
Availability of results	Final results: t+3,5 months
Other	Survey with a diary based on the HETUS-Guidelines 2000