

Developing Household Social Accounts In Ireland

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Paper Abstract: In common with other statistical institutes, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) is examining ways of leveraging the Irish statistical infrastructure to respond to the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report on ‘Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress’. Irish GDP is currently based on independent estimates using the income and expenditure methods, and reliance on administrative data for the income method may prove to be a strength in relation to the Stiglitz agenda. Transmission of incomes from corporates to households in the ‘allocation of primary income account’ is a by-product of the Irish administrative system at microdata level. There are some weaknesses in the available administrative data in relation to household identification, but there are also cross-Government strategic data initiatives in place to potentially resolve these issues. Much of the analysis in this paper is a proposal to build microdata-based Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE) estimates based on HBS expenditure data to facilitate granularity on both the uses and resources sides of the household sector. While many of the additional consumption data items to HBS expenditures are both uses and resources of households, or otherwise cancel each other out in savings calculations, there is merit in having accurate separate income and consumption profiles as risk groups appear to be different based on an initial analysis of these profiles.