

Essential phases of register-based survey processing concerning timeliness

EU-SILC workshop on best practices for EU-SILC revision: timeliness

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The Finnish SILC

- **Synergy from integrating** with the national [IDS/TIDS](#) production processes, **expertise involved** from Data Collection and Statistical Methods Units of Statistics Finland
- 4-year rotating panel design since 2010
- **Efficient sampling and weighting design** for output measures: up-to-date and complete sampling frame, 2-phase stratified sampling, 13 socio-economic strata, non-proportional allocation, about 11 000 sample persons
- **Advanced and systematised standard production**
- **Extensive use of registers** from the coherent register system
- **Interview fieldwork:** from the beginning of the survey year
- **CATI of the S-R persons with the Blaise questionnaire**

Timing of the Finnish SILC production

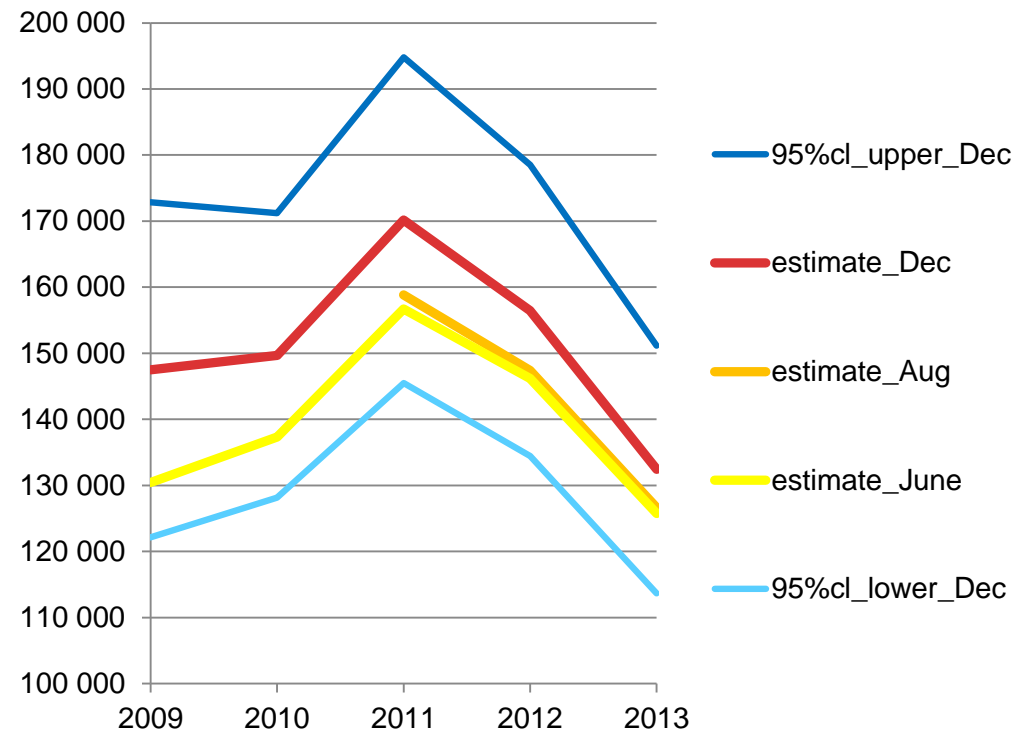
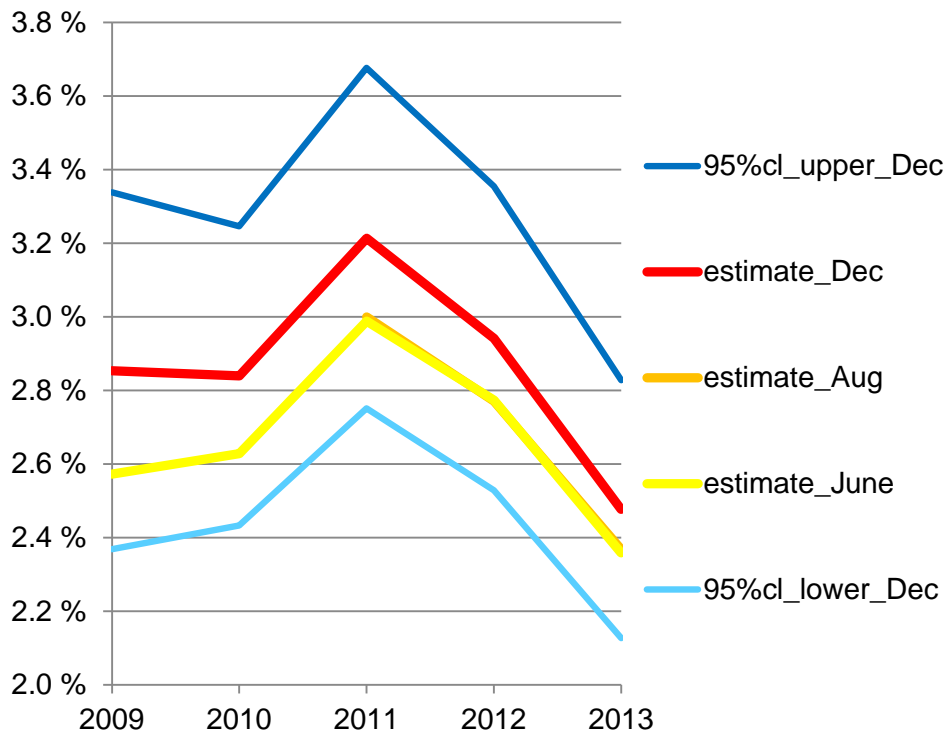
10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4
														Publishing Dec–April, disseminating final data in March–April				
										Early estimates				Preliminary estimates				Final estimates
								Accepted sample, unit non-response corrected design weights	Early weights				Preliminary weights					Final weights
						Register data collection, latest registers received in November. Interviewed and register data are processed for most C-variables by December, for some C- and L-variables further ahead by Jan-Apr.								Corrections due to register updates are very rare ! Preliminary = Final estimates				
		CATI-fieldwork Jan–April, automatic editing by pre-filled data and checks, filtering and routing of questions built into the Blaise questionnaire																
		Updated sampling frame, sampling																
Quality analysis, assessment, testing, training, preparing incl. Blaise-programming etc., pre-setting exact release dates.					M	o	n	i	t	o	r	i	n	g				

The Finnish SILC: Reliability is prioritised to still earlier data

- Unit non-response corrected design weights by strata, adjusted further by the total HH-number
- Early weights (C-data, \approx Final weights in L-data):
+ calibrated by total demographic and region distributions
- Preliminary/final weights (C-data): + calibrated by total income component and income receiver sums

The latest registers received in November are used for income variables and for the preliminary/final weights. As output of income calibration, the FI-SILC weights give more accurate C-estimates on income level, structure and distribution being in line with the Total Income Distribution Statistics (TIDS) figures.

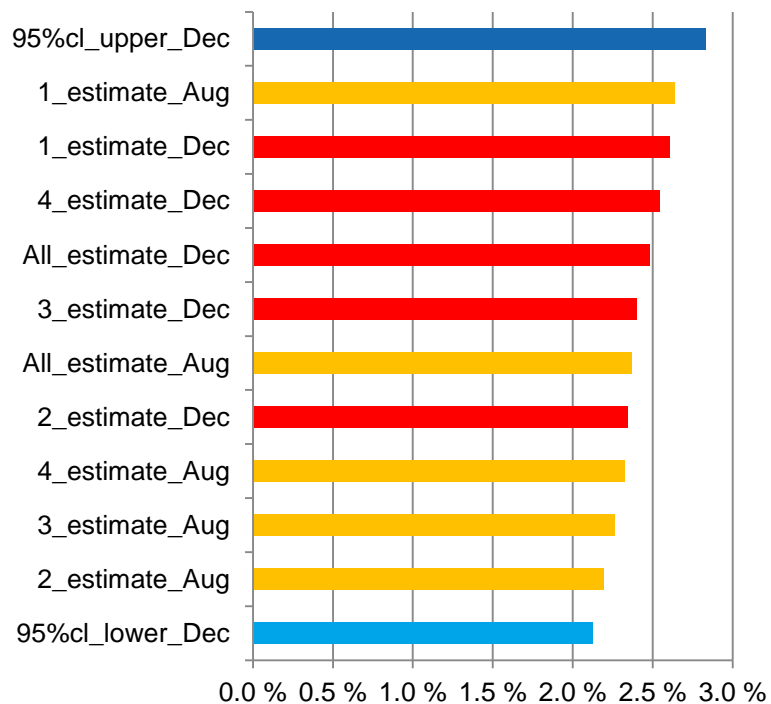
Severely materially deprived (MD) persons by early and final weights, incl. 95 % cl. of the final estimates



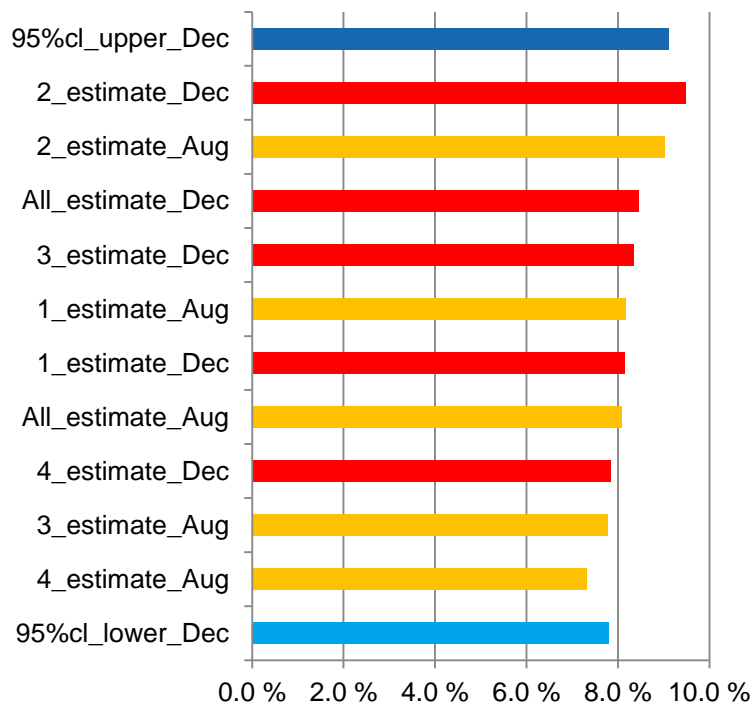
Source: FI-SILC/IDS 2009-2013, early estimates of August are since 2011

Materially deprived (MD) according to the panels (1– 4) by early and final weights, incl. 95 % cl. of the final estimates in the whole sample

Severely materially deprived, deprived_4



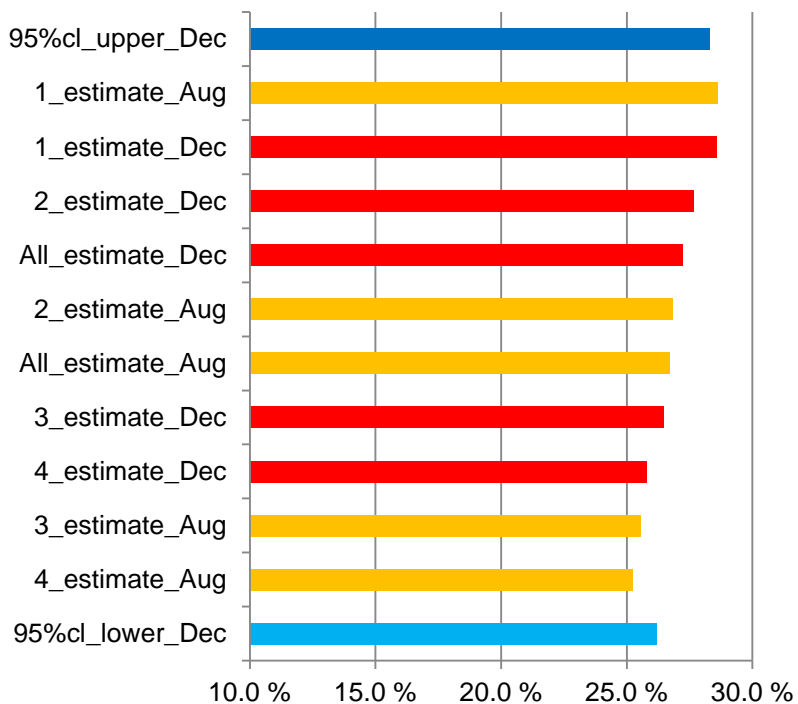
Materially deprived, deprived_3



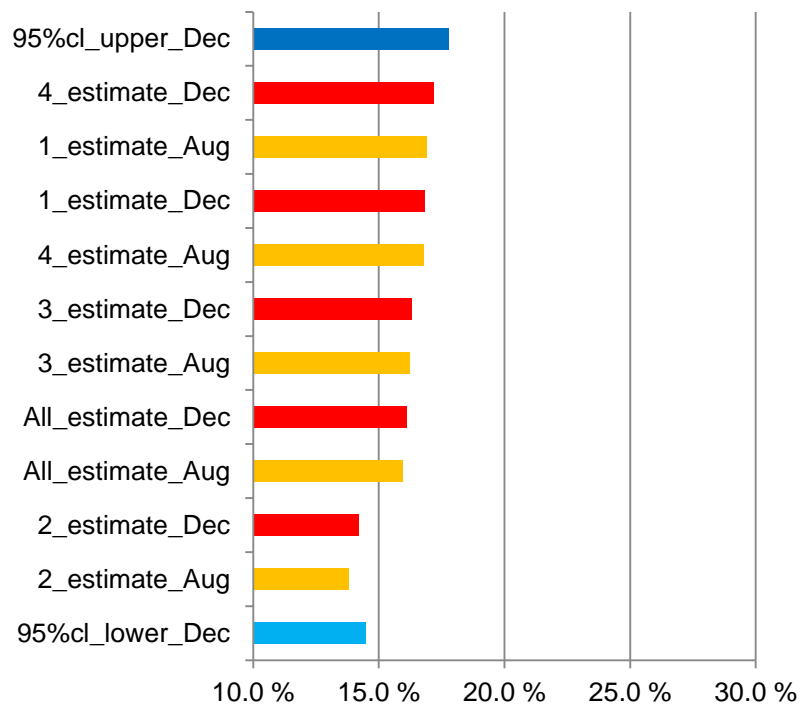
Source: FI-SILC/IDS 2013, separate panel weights from IDS are used for the panel estimates

Incapacity to face unexpected financial expenses (HS060) according to the panels (1– 4) by early and final weights, incl. 95 % cl. of the final estimates in the whole sample

All persons



Persons, aged 65+



Source: FI-SILC/IDS 2013, separate panel weights from IDS are used for the panel estimates

- Figures on MD and other non-monetary variables' level (N,%) based on very early weights are rather reliable (accuracy) compared to final estimates (closer to true values), panel differences exist
- Information about movements is revealed consistently by early and final estimates: e.g. decline of severe MD in 2011–2013 is statistically significant both by early and final weights
- ✓ Standard and advanced sampling and weighting methods optimised for the survey design and output (revised, initially Income Distribution Statistics (IDS) 2-year rotating panel design) ensure handling annual changes, e.g. biased unit non-responses
- When (MD) figures are rather stable over consecutive years, different estimates, although close to each other, matter
- Early information on movements might still have relevance

The Finnish SILC: Accessibility and clarity are provided

- Total Income Distribution Statistics (TIDS) is published a little bit earlier than the SILC/IDS preliminary estimates
- Adequate data comparisons are important
- More and more reliable statistical data are safer to release, e.g. improves figures interpretation
- Many updated versions of statistical figures aren't preferred in official statistics
- In addition to timeliness and reliability, quality criteria like accessibility and clarity are followed
- Current timeliness (preliminary estimates in December of the survey year, final estimates in March-April of the subsequent year) is moderate, no reason for acceleration by weakening quality and credibility.

Thanks for your attention !