

# Living Conditions Survey (LCS) - Fact Sheet

- Introduction:** The Living Conditions Survey (LCS) is a household survey that is conducted every five years by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). The last full-scale survey was conducted during the 2008/2009 period. The survey was introduced to determine the level of poverty in the country and to measure poverty in its multiple dimensions over time.
  
- Type of survey:** Household-based sample survey
  
- Frequency:** The survey is conducted on a periodic basis every 5 years, with the report being published roughly a year after the completion of the survey.
  
- Latest report:** The last LCS report was published in 2011 (P0310), with an additional three reports released on poverty profiles gathered from data of the LCS 2008/2009.
  
- Survey objectives:**
  - Identify and profile poverty in South Africa
  - Update the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of goods and services
  
- Importance of survey:**
  - The LCS assists in determining who, where and why people are poor.
  
- Sample:**
  - Approximately 32 000 dwellings, including workers' hostels and family units across all nine provinces.
  
- Survey instruments:**
  - The LCS uses multiple instruments listed below:
    - A household questionnaire that consists of four modules with 24 sections (see outline below) that is completed through face-to-face interviews with members of households in selected dwelling units.
    - Two weekly diaries that will be completed during the second and third week.
    - A summary questionnaire where information is transferred from the weekly diaries, that is completed by the survey officer.
  - Selected dwelling units are in the sample for four weeks with weekly visits scheduled.

Information collected on:	Modules	Section	Number of questions	Details of each section
		Cover page		Household information, response details, field staff information, result codes, etc.
	Module 1	Section 1	18	Household composition and particulars of each person in the household
		Section 2	11	Education
		Section 3	10	Employment
	Module 2	Section 4	6	Welfare
		Section 5	35	Information regarding dwellings and services
		Section 6	10	Housing
Section 7		2	Crime	

Information collected on:	Modules	Section	Number of questions	Details of each section
	Module 3	Section 8	2	Swimming pool and gardening during the 12 months prior to the survey period
		Section 9	3	Accommodation and transport when away from home during the 12 months prior to the survey period
		Section 10	2	Domestic worker's services during the month prior to the survey period
		Section 11	2	Input costs for home production during the 12 months prior to the survey period
		Section 12	3	Clothing and footwear during the 3 months and the 12 months prior to the survey period
		Section 13	2	Household textiles for household use
		Section 14	6	Furniture and equipment during the 12 months prior to the survey period
		Section 15	3	Recreation, entertainment and sport during the 12 months prior to the survey period
		Section 16	4	Expenditure for education and training for public and private educational institutions during the 12 months prior to the survey period
		Section 17	1	Reading material and stationery during the 12 months prior to the survey period
		Section 18	4	Expenditure on health
		Section 19	2	Transport during the 12 months prior to the survey period
		Section 20	2	Computer and telecommunication equipment during the 12 months prior to the survey period
	Module 4	Section 21	10	Subsistence
		Section 22	10	Living circumstances and food security
		Section 23	9	Finance and banking
		Section 24	2	Particulars of income
	Health Section	Section 25	4	Health
		Section 26		All members of the household will be weighed and measured twice. This is called anthropometrics, which uses body measurements, such as height and weight, to determine a person's nutritional status.