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# Living Conditions Survey

## 2014/15



The South Africa I know, the home I understand

## Living Conditions Survey

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) will be conducting the Living Conditions Survey from October 2014 to October 2015. The information gathered from the survey will provide a picture of the living conditions and poverty levels in South Africa.

### Who is Stats SA?

Stats SA is an organisation in South Africa which collects information that informs policy and will be used for planning, decision-making, monitoring and assessment of policies by other government departments, business and the general public.

Stats SA is mandated in terms of the Statistics Act (Act No.6 of 1999), which allows us to collect household information from the people of South Africa such as yourself.

### What is the LCS?

The Living Conditions Survey (LCS) is a household-based sample survey conducted over a period of 12 months. The purpose of the LCS is to collect information on various factors that have an impact on the living conditions of South African households. Approximately 32 000 dwellings/houses across the country's nine provinces are scientifically selected to participate in the survey.

### The information collected from the LCS is used to:

- Identify and profile the poverty situation in South Africa
- Update the CPI (consumer price index) basket of goods and services. The CPI basket is a representative basket of goods and services bought by the average South African consumer. The changes in the price of this basket are the basis for measuring inflation in the country.

### How the information is collected:

A survey officer will visit your home to administer a questionnaire over a period of four weeks. The survey officer will visit you on a weekly basis to complete the questionnaire. This will take approximately 30 minutes per

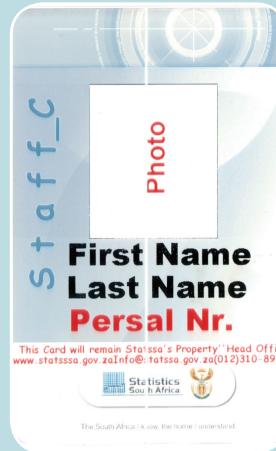
visit. You will also be required to keep a weekly diary of all your expenses for two weeks.

You will be asked questions relating to your household members' education, access to basic household services, health, income and employment.

### Household members' body weight and measurement (anthropometrics) information

It is important to note that – during any of the four visits to the household – all members of the household will be weighed and measured. This is called anthropometrics, which refers to using body measurements such as height and weight, to determine a person's nutritional status. If, for any reason, the time is not suitable for other household members, a separate visit can be arranged with the survey officer to gather this information.

### Identifying a Stats SA fieldworker



All Stats SA fieldworkers have to carry an official Stats SA ID card.

Ask the fieldworker to show you their card when you meet them. You can verify their identity by calling the relevant contact person as listed in this leaflet.

### Need for accurate information

Accurate information allows the government to make informed and evidence-based decisions about how to improve the living conditions of all South Africans.

You are legally obliged to provide Stats SA's survey officers entry to your premises and to answer the questions provided truthfully.

The Statistics Act places a number of obligations on normal citizens, the organisation and our survey officers and also outlines the penalties for non-compliance with the Act.

### The Statistics Act and you

Make sure that you understand your responsibility in terms of the Statistics Act and play your part in building a South Africa that we can all be proud of.

- **Section 16: Duty to answer questions**  
Survey officers may ask you and any other household members questions related to your household and your living conditions. You have a legal obligation to answer these questions truthfully.
- **Section 17: Confidentiality and disclosure**  
Our survey officers have a legal obligation to keep your information confidential, and may not discuss this with any unauthorised person(s). Once your household's information is captured, no one will be able to see where the information came from.
- **Section 18: Offences and penalties**  
Staff found guilty of breach of confidentiality can be fined up to R10 000 or jailed for six months (or both). If you refuse an employee entry to your premises (section 15), or refuse to answer questions (section 16), you can be fined up to R10 000 or jailed for six months (or both).

Stats SA values the trust placed in us by our respondents. Any breach of this trust by our officials will be dealt with seriously.

### Your contribution to a better life for all

Stats SA thanks you for participating in the LCS, which will provide the data needed to improve the lives of all our country's people.