



Appendix 16

## **Household Needs Research**

# Household needs measures

## Report on measures available

Dr Jenny Pickerill  
Department of Geography  
Leicester University  
LE1 7RH  
0116 252 3836  
[j.pickerill@le.ac.uk](mailto:j.pickerill@le.ac.uk)



30<sup>th</sup> March 2007

This report briefly summarises the different ways in which household needs have been measured and justified. There is a distinct lack of research and measures available on the topic, and almost nothing available on 'clothing needs'. Most measures have focused on the costs, rather than what might be counted as basic requirements. Here I have summarised two key measures: **The Family Budget Unit** calculations and the Governments **Family Expenditure Survey**.



**at the Social Policy Research Unit University of York**

The Family Budget Unit (FBU) has tried to measure living standard requirements – i.e. to calculate the amount of money a person would require to live a basic standard of living. The FBU was originally set up to contest what the UK government suggested was the minimum income required for living.

The FBU budgets have been formulated at two living standards: Modest but Adequate (MBA) and Low Cost but Acceptable (LCA). The MBA budgets are at a *reasonable* standard, well above poverty but well below luxury. MBA represents a living standard to which many families aspire. LCA represents a minimum income standard that is sustainable indefinitely and a threshold below which health, social integration and satisfactory levels of child development are at risk.

You can go online and calculate what your budget might be at: <http://www.york.ac.uk/res/fbu/budgets.htm>

Looking at the figures for *Low Cost but Acceptable* could give us a reasonable idea of what is required financially to survive. For example, for a single man working part time they have calculated:

Calculated weekly costs for Single part time earner, April 2006 (source: Family Budget Unit)

	<b>Single man, 1 Part time earner (£)</b>
<b>A Budget standard costs</b>	
Food (with alcohol)	30.02
Food (without alcohol)	31.86
Clothing	4.55
Personal care	2.66
Household goods	6.10
Household services	4.52
Leisure	15.43
<b>B Variable costs</b>	
Housing	53.45
Council tax	11.46
Fuel	7.63
Transport (no car)	3.08
NHS charges (adjust for benefits)	1.58
Insurance (Contents)	2.56
Pension contributions	0
Job-related costs standard costs	5.27
Pets	0
Alcohol	6.50
Tobacco	0
Charitable donations	0.96
<b>LCA costs with alcohol/no car</b>	<b>155.76</b>
<b>LCA costs no alcohol/no car</b>	<b>151.09</b>

See the Appendix for some more calculations (LCA SUMMARY BUDGETS SINGLE MAN AGED 22 TO 30 YEARS- UPRATED APRIL 2006).

There are many assumptions to these calculations; (1) that you would be a Local Authority tenant, (2) you would claim benefits, (3) that charges (such as the cost of a car) would not be shared, (4) that all goods would have to be purchased rather than bartered or exchanged, (5) that work is either full time (35 hours) or part time (17 hours), rather than any other variable in time and pay. Moreover, it does not break down some of the components such as food and clothing into what that might actually constitute.

However, what we could take from this is: (1) basic figures with which to compare your own costings, (2) use the categories to justify how your costs will actually be lower and thus your overall household needs will be lower (i.e. take the figures and have another column with Lammas adjusted figures).

### **Family Expenditure Survey**

The UK Family Expenditure Survey (FES) (<http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/fes>) is a continuous survey of household expenditure and income that has been in existence since 1957. Annual samples of around 10,000 households (about 1 in 2000 of all United Kingdom households) are selected each year.

We can use the National Food Survey results as a comparison against averages and thus calculate what each resident might expect to consume:

Household food consumption for Wales and UK, 2000 (Source: National Food Survey Branch, DEFRA), Units: grams per person per week unless otherwise stated

	<b>Wales</b>	<b>ALL UK</b>
<b>CONSUMPTION</b>		
Milk and cream (ml or eq ml)	2176	2081
<i>of which:</i>		
wholemilk (ml)	744	665
skimmed milks (ml)	1162	1138
Cheese	113	110
Carcase meat	240	246
<i>of which:</i>		
beef and veal	105	124
mutton and lamb	79	55
pork	56	68
Other meat and meat products	701	720
<i>of which:</i>		
bacon and ham, uncooked	69	71
bacon and ham cooked, inc canned	53	41
poultry, uncooked	197	214
poultry, cooked, not canned	51	39
Fish	133	143
Eggs (no.)	1.81	1.75
Fats and oils	204	186
<i>of which:</i>		
butter	40	39
margarine	15	21
low fat spreads	20	20
reduced fat spreads	65	48
Sugar and preserves	165	139
Fresh potatoes	722	707
Fresh green vegetables	311	240
Other fresh vegetables	523	492
Processed potatoes	228	202
Other processed vegetables	324	345
Fresh fruit and fruit products	1043	1120
<i>of which:</i>		
fresh fruit	694	745
fruit juices (ml)	264	303
Cereals	1534	1508
<i>of which:</i>		
bread	801	720
cakes and pastries	93	89
buns, scones and teacakes	36	43

biscuits	155	141
cereal convenience foods	155	194
breakfast cereals	157	143
Beverages	60	58
<i>of which:</i>		
tea	39	34
Soft drinks (a)	1375	1523
Alcoholic drinks	415	435
Confectionery	63	64

Other tables of data can be downloaded from the Government website – (<http://www.esds.ac.uk/findingData/fesTitles.asp>)

From 2001, the FES and the National Food Survey (NFS) have been combined and replaced by a new survey, the 'Expenditure and Food Survey' (EFS). This survey thus contains more recent statistics. DEFRA have analysed the findings from this survey in relation to food, and the datasets can be downloaded from: <http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/publications/efs/default.asp>.

They have calculated summary costs of food expenditure:

UK household and eating out expenditure on food and drink, average cost per person per week 2005-6 (source: <http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/publications/efs/datasets/UKexp.xls>)

	2005-06
<b>ALL PURCHASES OF FOOD AND DRINK</b>	
Food and drink	£34.97
Food and non-alcoholic drinks	£28.70
Alcoholic drinks	£6.27
<b>PURCHASES FOR CONSUMPTION OUTSIDE THE HOME</b>	
Food and drink	£11.41
Food and non-alcoholic drinks	£7.79
Alcoholic drinks	£3.62
<b>PURCHASES FOR HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES</b>	
Food and drink	£23.56
Food and non-alcoholic drinks	£20.91
Alcoholic drinks	£2.65
Food and drink, excluding soft drinks, alcoholic drinks and confectionery	£19.36

Thus a weekly budget for 'Food and drink' is £34.97. The same categories of measurement were used as in the table of household food consumption. However, such survey's do not assess 'need' as the Family Budget Unit has tried to do, rather it simply summarises averages for Wales and the UK.