



Estimating Personal Transfers

Planning a Household survey in the UK

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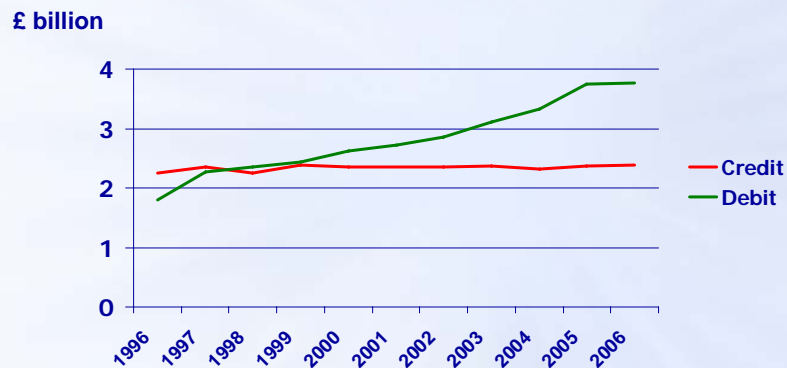
Background in the UK

- personal transfers can be sent and received via
 - banks
 - money transfer companies
 - unofficial channels
- no bank reporting data available
- many money transfer companies
- many communities likely to remit, many corridors
- but not all potential remitters live in communities
- receivers of personal transfers spread throughout UK

Background in the UK

- qualitative research indicates significant use of informal channels
- and larger total amounts sent and received than official figures show
- current estimates not based on robust methodology
- now recognised as important components for BoP statistics and International Development policy

Broad UK figures for personal transfers



UK Household survey

- best approach for UK
- qualitative research
 - help develop a quantitative survey design
 - very useful for broad information on patterns and scale
- national statistics based on statistical surveys
- opportunity offered by a new Integrated Household Survey (IHS)
- IHS will integrate various Government household surveys into one continuous survey
 - integrated and **unclustered** sample and fieldwork design
 - greater harmonisation of concepts, classifications, questions and outputs

Integrated Household Survey

- modular questionnaire design
 - core set of key socio-demographic information collected from *all* responding households (core module)
 - topic modules of questions collected from sub-sets of the sample (topic modules)
 - core and topic modules combined to create a number of different interview types
- core questions include ethnicity, migration and personal transfers

Modular questionnaire design



Design of IHS

Sample Size

- achieved annual household interviews (core): 221,000
- target response rate: 75%

Sample Frame

- Postal Address file: 100% coverage of every address in UK

Sample Design

- addresses stratified geographically by postcode
- systematic, unclustered sample of addresses
- selections assigned to interview/sample types.
- the sample will be expanded to include a number of panels on specific topics

Sample size estimate

Based on very broad estimates from Census and Labour Force surveys:

- 5m foreign-born people in UK
- 55% of these are potential remitters
- qualitative research indicates 25% potential h/holds are likely to remit
- target achieved sampling fraction of IHS is 1 in 120 h/holds
- so aiming for an annual sample size of remitting h/holds of around 2500 h/holds
- should be adequate for reliable aggregate estimates

Sample size estimate continued

- could be fewer: people grouped by h/holds
- could be more: 2nd, 3rd generation remitters born in UK
- similarly for receiving h/holds, but not so clustered
- sample design based on sending population

Questions on Personal Transfers

- limited number of questions on IHS for each topic
 - space on questionnaire is tight: many Gov Depts are sponsoring survey
 - pilot questions on
 - recipient/sender and country
 - frequency and amounts
- also
- channels used
 - proposed use of the funds

Estimating total Personal Transfers

- from IHS we aim to estimate
 - average annual amount sent/received per sending/receiving household, and
 - proportion of total household population sending/receiving
 - apply these to population totals (maybe different for different migrant communities)
- or
- the IHS weighting may include the population data so may be able to use the data direct from the IHS

Timetable and Costs

- 1st half 2008: qualitative research prior to the quantitative evaluation
 - 2nd half 2008: testing of questions developed for IHS
 - January 2009: fieldwork begins in January
 - late 2010: first annual estimates for 2009
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- set up costs: £75K to develop the questions, pilot them and incorporate them into the HIS questionnaire
 - annual running costs: £0.5m for fieldwork, processing and analysis

Longer term plans

- probably benchmark estimates on IHS every 5 years
- update for quarters/years in between using migration figures, population estimates, propensity proportions based on IHS
- ONS programme to improve migration statistics
- investigate any data available from bank systems, money transfer companies, partner countries to validate/update survey estimates