



time-pieces

news on time use research in the
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New developments in time technology – projects, data, computing and services

THE 2001 JAPANESE SURVEY ON TIME USE AND THE COMING 2006 SURVEY

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The Statistics Bureau of Japan (SBJ) has conducted time use surveys every five years since 1976, collecting a sample of 200,000 people in each survey. The survey was conducted by asking people to choose activities out of 20 categories which they did over 15 minute intervals on two successive days.

In 2001, prompted by the Harmonized European Time Use Surveys (HETUS), the SBJ also began to carry out time use survey in diary form, in which diarists are asked to record their activities in their own words, to be analyzed by the researchers afterwards.

The SBJ published the results of the 2001 free diary form survey in 2002 (SBJ, 2002). The English translation is available both in paper form and on our website. However, categorization in this survey was based on Japanese understanding of life activities: for example, caring for pets or baking cakes is considered as "leisure" in Japan, not as "housework", and having breaks between tasks is counted as "rests".

To lessen such cultural gaps which may lead to misunderstanding of results, the SBJ recategorized the 2001 survey based on HETUS standards and published the results at the end of March 2006 (SBJ, 2006). The English translation may be available on our homepage by September 2006. It is notable that in Japan both working men and women have longer working/studying time than in European countries, and that working women's activities feature long hours of mealtime and personal care, while working men do very short hours of housework.

The SBJ also published a study of unpaid work (SBJ, 2006). This shows that the working couple's working time including unpaid work is two hours more than that of the couples in which the wife has no paid job. However, the former spend about 3.5 hours less time on unpaid work than the latter, apparently by seeking outside services to lessen unpaid work such as cooking or childcare. There are some interesting phenomena, such as an increase in the working time of wives as children grow older, due to an increase of expenses for education (Ohta, 2006).

In the coming 2006 Survey, the SBJ is planning to supply information on people's average schedulings of life-activities such as getting up, having breakfast and going to bed. It also plans to supply summary data comparing different groups of people, whether or not they have a partner or children in the same household.

The 2001 survey collected data on primary and secondary activities. The 2006 survey will add a cross table of both.

Website: <http://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/shakai/index.htm>. Email: tsatou5@stat.go.jp

REFERENCES

- EUROSTAT (2004), How Europeans spend their time. Everyday Life of Women and Men. Data 1998-2002, Luxembourg.
- Ohta, M. (2006), Coming 2006 Survey on time use and leisure activities, and Special Tabulation on the 2001 Survey (Japanese), Tokei, 57-7.
- Statistics Bureau of Japan (2002), 2001 Survey on time use and leisure activities, Tokyo.
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AMERICAN HERITAGE TIME USE SURVEY (AHTUS)

The Centre for Time Use Research (CTUR), presently based at the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex in the UK, is pleased to announce the pre-release of the American Heritage Time Use Study (AHTUS). The AHTUS includes harmonised main activity, secondary activity, location, mode of transport, and who else was present variables at the episode level for national time use surveys collected in the USA in 1965-66, 1975-76, 1985, 1992-94, and 2003. This dataset is the first cross-time harmonised episode-level time use dataset available to users to download for free over the internet. The AHTUS features data enhancement, whereby information the diarist recorded at any point in the diary for an episode is recorded in all relevant diary columns. The activity "outdoor cleaning and maintenance", for example, is used both to code the activity of household maintenance and cleaning and the location of outside; and mode of transport column entry "drive to work" is recorded as both main activity "commute" and mode of transport "car". AHTUS weights 0-weight cases where the sex or age of the diarist or the day of the week when the diary was completed is missing as well as

cases of low quality diaries (missing in excess of 90 minutes main activity time; or including fewer than 7 episodes; or missing two or more of four broad categories of activities which most people do daily: 1) some form of rest, sleep or time out; 2) eating or drinking; 3) some form of personal care; 4) travel). CTUR developed the AHTUS for the Yale University Program on Non-Market Accounts with funding from the Glaser Progress Foundation. The data and documentation are presently under review, but users can explore the near final documentation and download the test data from: <http://www.timeuse.org/ahtus/>.

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Book notes

by Kimberly Fisher

**DESA (United Nations Department of
Economic and Social Affairs)
Guide to producing statistics on time use
measuring paid and unpaid work (2005)**

Publisher: United Nations Department of
Economic and Social Affairs, New York
Website: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd>
Languages Available: English

This publication presents an overview of different approaches in the design of time-use surveys. The publication provides further impetus to the development of time-use statistics and assistance to countries interested in undertaking time-use surveys. It reviews methods and practices in collecting, processing and disseminating time-use statistics through compilation of country experiences. It is also aimed at facilitating the harmonization of methods and practices in collecting, processing and disseminating time-use statistics. In addition, the publication is meant to solicit comments and suggestions on the trial International Classification of Activities for Time-Use statistics (ICATUS) which will subsequently be revised.

Kramer, C. Zeit für Mobilität – Räumliche Disparitäten der individuellen Zeitverwendung für Mobilität in Deutschland (2005)

Publisher: Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart
Website: <http://www.gesis.org/ZUMA/neue%20Buecher/2005/kramer.htm>
Languages Available: German

This book is about daily time use for mobility in a modern society and is discussing a „speedy standstill“ where space is without further meaning. Theoretically based on classical „Time Geography“ the question about social and spatial unequal distributed time for mobility is analyzed. Based on the two German Time Budget Studies 1991/92 and 2001/02 it is shown that there are still different mobility patterns between West and East Germany and that there is not yet a reduction of real mobility in favour for a new virtual spatial mobility.

**McGinnity, F., Russell H., Williams J.
and S. Blackwell**
**Time-use in Ireland 2005: survey report
(2005)**

Publisher: Economic and Social Research
Institute, Dublin

Website: [http://www.esri.ie/advsearch.cfm?
t=Find%20Publications&mId=2&detail=1&
id=2293](http://www.esri.ie/advsearch.cfm?t=Find%20Publications&mId=2&detail=1&id=2293)

Languages Available: English

This book summarises the methodology of the first national time diary study in Ireland. The report also presents basic findings of time use in Ireland on the topics of the distribution of paid and unpaid work and the differences in time use of: women and men; age groups; people with different employment statuses and people with different family and household structures. The report notes many similar trends observed in other European countries also appear in Ireland. The report concludes with discussion of future plans for time use research in Ireland.

Varjonen J. and Aalto K.
**Household production and consumption
in Finland 2001: household satellite ac-
counts (2006)**

Publisher: National Consumer Research
Centre, Helsinki

Website:
[http://www.kuluttajatutkimuskeskus.fi/files/
4919/2006_household_satellite_account.pdf](http://www.kuluttajatutkimuskeskus.fi/files/4919/2006_household_satellite_account.pdf)

Languages Available: English

This book builds from the Eurostat and SNA93 guidelines to develop satellite accounts for Finland to measure the value of

unpaid household production. The report makes use of the 1999-2000 Time Use Survey, the 2000-2001 Household Budget Survey, Statistics Finland salary statistics, and 2001 National Accounts figures. The authors estimate that only 13% of the 62.8 billion Euros of gross value added by unpaid household production appears in the national accounts. Housing, followed by meals and snacks, account for the greatest portion of household production.