Czechoslovakia

Sources:
Jain 1975
Cromwell 1977, Table 1
UN 1981
UN 1985
Atkinson and Micklewright 1992, CSE1, CSI1 and CSI2 from the Statistical Appendix
Milanovic and Ying 1996

The documentation relies heavily on Atkinson and Micklewright (1992).

Surveys:
Czechoslovak Microcensus (income information from 1958, 1965, 1970, 1973, 1976, 1980, 1985, 1988)
Since 1970, 2% (100 000) of all households were sampled. The survey took place in March of each year and collected information about income in the previous calendar year. Random sampling on a territorial basis was used with a two-stage self-weighted selection process designed to ensure each permanently occupied dwelling had an equal selection probability. The Microcensus results refer to "common budget" households, defined as a set of persons in the same dwelling who share the main household expenditures. Information was collected through personal interview based on short and simple questionnaires; details on income not provided at this time could be posted to the statistical office following interview and proxy responses were permitted for other household members. Starting from the second Microcensus in 1958, all information on earnings from employment was collected from employers, members of responding households being asked to supply the name and address of each employer in the previous calendar year. No information on earnings was requested from the respondents themselves. If an employer failed to give the requested data, earnings were imputed (only about 0.1% of cases). All information on social security benefits paid by employers were collected in the same manner, and from 1965 information on pensions was taken from the relevant post-offices making the payments. The total response rates ranges from 95 to 99%. In the event of non-response, some substitution was occasionally carried out despite instructions to the contrary.

The income concept was annual net household income from different sources (requested separately for each household member). Specifically excluded were income from bank account interest, travel allowances for business trips, and income from abroad in the form of remittances. Remuneration for work in agricultural cooperatives was included. Each member was asked to report all other forms of cash income distinguishing "organized" states sources from other sources. Other income could include tips, gratuities and any other form of legal or illegal income. Information was sought on the amounts of each household's agricultural production consumed within the household and on other income in kind such as good received free of charge or at a discount; the former was valued at average official retail prices for the year in question. The estimated cash value of all such income in kind was NOT included in the definition of income which refers to monetary

income (the tabulations show the average value of income in kind in each band of money income).

Atkinson and Micklewright (1992) had to interpolate in order to arrive at values for the median incomes, Gini coefficients and deciles. To do this the authors used the program INEQ written by F.A. Cowell.

Census of Employers 1959, 1961-64, 1966, 1968, 1970, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987 and 1989

Periodic enquiries on the distribution on gross earnings were carried out through a 100 percent census of enterprises in the state sector and the non-agricultural co-operative sector. Enterprises were obliged to provide information. Excluded from the census were members of the armed forces, employees of the Communist Party and affiliated activities (probably about 0.3% of the employed workforce in 1989), those working in the private sector (another 0.3%), and those working in agricultural co-operatives (about 10%). Also part-time employees and employees not working a full month (joined or left the enterprise) were excluded.

The income concept was gross earnings for the month in question and was defined to include overtime, allowances for being away from family and for unhealthy working conditions. No account was taken for annual bonuses. Up until 1979, the reference month for the earnings were May and from 1981, November. Some adjustments were made to make the data from these two different months comparable.

Atkinson and Micklewright (1992) had to interpolate in order to arrive at values for the median incomes and Gini coefficients. To do this the authors used the program INEQ written by F.A. Cowell.

Family Budget Survey 1987, 1991

This survey is used by UN (1981) and UN (1985). It was conducted by the Federal Statistical Office and regional and district statistical offices. In 1981, 5474 households took part in the survey. A diary was kept by the household. The sample also consisted of households voluntarily taking part in the survey (on invitation in the press etc). The survey results are weighted.

The income concept in 1977 was not described in detail to the UN but includes both incomes in-cash and in-kind and own production. It is reported net in the tables. The reference period is the calendar year. The income concept in 1981 includes income in-cash and in-kind from all sources by all household members. The following items are included: income from employment, income from agricultural co-operatives, sale of agricultural produce, income from health and social insurance, donations received, savings withdrawals and loans and credits obtained. In-kind items include: wages and salaries in-kind, consumption of own production, consumption of food items through gathering and hunting, donations received, and the value of free housing.

It is not clear whether all households are covered in the tables presented from 1977 (non-working households might be excluded). From the 1981 survey, pensioners are reported to be excluded. The Gini coefficients were estimated by Deininger & Squire for their old database.