Nicaragua

Sources:
World Bank Poverty Monitoring Database 2002
Gasparini 2003
World Bank, World Development Indicators 2004

Surveys:
Encuesta Nacional de Hogares sobre Medicion de Niveles de Vida 1993, 1998
This is a World Bank Living Standards Measurement Survey. The 1993 survey was carried out from February through June whereas the 1998 survey was administered from April through August. The number of household surveyed were a bit more than 4000 for both years. The sample designs were completely different in the two surveys. In 1993, the country had been divided into nine administrative regions which no longer existed in 1998. In addition, the 7th Population and 3rd Housing Census were administered in 1995 that provided better information on which to build the sample for the 1998 survey. A good frame did not exist in 1993 so the sampling was complicated.

The household questionnaire in the 1998 survey was based on the questionnaire in 1993 with modifications, improvements, and additions.

In 1993, the data was mostly collected in one visit only whereas two visits were paid to the households in 1998. Expenditures were asked on a 7 days, 30 days, 6 months and one year basis and the level of detail is quite good. The consumption aggregate includes items purchased, received as a gift or home produced. Imputed rent is included. Durables do not seem to be very well covered; furniture is included but probably not cars. Taxes and contributions and some lumpy items were included in the questionnaire but are probably excluded form the aggregate. The devaluation of the currency during the collection period resulted in some problems when the aggregation was made.

On the income side the following items were asked in addition to earnings: donations, lotteries, loans, interest on savings, remittances from within country and from abroad, inheritances, insurance and other income. The household were asked whether they received income from any of the sources, the amount received and the frequency with which the amount was received. This module was administered to the head of the household or the spouse. The income questions appear to have played a secondary role.

Gasparini (2003) had access to unit record data.