Armenia

Sources:
Atkinson and Micklewright 1992, Tables UE5, UE6, and UI3 from the Statistical Appendix
Alexeev and Gaddy 1993, Tables 3, 4a and 4b
World Bank Poverty During the Transition website 9/2000, Milanovic
Transmonee 2004
Deiniger & Squire, World Bank 2004

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

Surveys:
Family Budget Survey 1988, 1989, 1990
The Family Budget Survey, used by Atkinson and Micklewright (1992) and Alexeev and Gaddy (1993), was a survey of families of persons employed in the state sector and of families of collective farmers (covering the whole USSR). Families have been selected by sampling individuals at their place of work. Sampling appears to have operated principally on a quota basis, with quotas for economic sectors, industrial branches and, within these, republics and oblasts. Beneath this level enterprises were selected on the basis of average age level and within each enterprise individuals were chosen according to their skill level and wage. Once included in the sample, an individual (and his or her family) was asked to participate until they left the enterprise or retired; retirement did not lead to automatic exclusion from the sample but was usually associated with a family dropping out from the survey. Replacement occurred only when a household dropped out from the survey. Participating households were monitored by the survey throughout the year. There were interviews with the whole household twice every month with diary records being maintained continuously. At inception in its post-war form in 1951, the sample size was about 51 000 families, in 1969, 62 000 and in 1988, 90 000. A family was defined as relatives who share a common budget. Approx. one third of the oblasts were not represented in the survey, high wage heavy industrial branches were over-represented in the selection of enterprises and less-skilled workers and those outside the direct production process were less likely to be selected. State farm workers seem also to have been under-represented but the rural population as a whole over-represented. When the sample size was expanded in 1988 it was specifically to correct problems of regional and branch representation.

For the above mentioned reasons the FBF sample was unrepresentative: families of those employed in the co-operative or private sectors and those not employed were in general excluded, old-age pensioners were heavily under-represented since they were originally excluded, the probability of selection was proportional to the number of working members since the sampling unit was the worker and, the panel nature of the survey biased the sample towards families of elder persons with long service records.

No figures of non-response are available but apparently the response rates were very high due to material and moral incentives to participate. Where non-response did occur, the

household concerned was substituted with another household with similar observable characteristics.

When reporting results, figures have been adjusted for the over-sampling of collective farm families.

Annual gross family income was collected, including all money income from employment and from social security benefits. Reported cash income from sales of agricultural produce was included as was the value at state prices of agricultural production for self-consumption. The value of benefits in-kind from the employers such as meals and transport was included. Apparently benefits in-kind from the state are not included. Respondents' information on earnings and pensions were checked with employer records.

In Atkinson and Micklewright (1992) the reference period was one year but the data was divided by twelve in the tables. The authors had to interpolate in order to arrive at values for the mean, median, and the Gini coefficient. To do this, the authors used the program INEQ written by F.A. Cowell. Alexeev and Gaddy (1993) used a simple nonparametric technique based on the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test to fit the data to a lognormal distribution. They report that the estimates for 1990 are more reliable than those for 1988 as incomes were grouped only into 5 categories in 1988 but 7 in 1990.

Earnings Surveys 1986, 1989

Two sources of data have been used for earnings by Atkinson and Micklewright (1992). The first is Goskomstat 100% census of enterprises, held periodically since 1956, and from 1976 every five years (this is called the March Census by the authors). Enterprises were obliged to provide information on earnings for all their employees in a number of discrete earnings bands. The second source relates to data for 1984 and 1989. This is a survey of households of state sector and collective farm employees (this is called the March Household Survey by the authors). The information from this survey should be comparable with the first one. The March census covered only persons working in state enterprises, whereas those about 10% working on collective farms or private agricultural plots were excluded. Those employed by "social organisations", usually taken to mean the Communist Party and its close affiliates, were also excluded. The earnings data used from the household survey 1989 have been selected to include only those employed in state enterprises and farms (i.e. excluding collective farm workers). Employees not working a full month were excluded and only first jobs were considered. Part-time workers were included but are excluded from the tables provided by the authors.

The earnings concept is gross earnings for the month in question. The monthly bonus and the monthly value of any quarterly bonuses were included but annual bonuses or any other rewards based on a period of more than three months were excluded. No account was taken of the value of income in kind provided by enterprises. The reference period was gross earnings in March for both surveys. The authors had to interpolate in order to arrive at values for the mean, median, and the Gini coefficient. To do this the authors used the program INEQ written by F.A. Cowell.

Household Budget Survey 1996

The survey was conducted by the State Department of Statistics with financial assistance from the World Bank. A two stage sampling method was used in all areas except larger urban areas where a one stage procedure was applied. The number of responding households was 4920. Of these, 25% filled in a diary during 30 days for the incomes and expenditures, whereas 75% reported them in a single interview for the past 30 days. The expenditures for the households using a diary were on average one third higher than for those interviewed. For food expenditures the difference was 43% in rural areas and 31% in urban. The reporting errors are in other words huge for those only interviewed.

The income and consumption aggregates are quite complete. The incomes are reported net and includes

a) income from employment and self-employment with subsidies and in-kind payments included
b) transfers and in kind benefits from state, friends and relatives, humanitarian organizations and other source (the state transfers includes a long list of benefits such as pensions, disability benefits, child benefits, single mother benefits, unemployment benefits, student stipend etc)
c) other cash income including property income, remittances, sale of valuables, alimony and some other items.

Unfortunately it seems that the state benefits accidentally were excluded from the calculations of Deiniger & Squire (2004). The consumption aggregate includes food, clothing and footwear, furniture and appliances, housing, health, transport, education, land expenses such as land tax and lease of land, legal/bank/ritual expenditures and business expenditures. Apparently, durables are not asked about (apart from furniture). Imputed rent is not included but, according to the documentation, this does not have a big impact on the results.

What exactly is included in the estimates of the Poverty during the Transition website is unclear.

Armenian Household Living Standard Survey 1998

The survey is a national survey carried out by the Statistics Department of the Republic of Armenia from July 1998 to June 1999 covering 3600 households. No information is available about the sampling. The income and expenditure information was collected through a diary with both daily and retrospective questions. Frequently purchased items were filled in on a daily basis whereas housing and utilities were asked for last month and clothing, household appliances and durables for the last year. Goods and services received free of charge were asked in separate questions. It is unclear how durables and expenditures on health and education were treated (the last mentioned were asked in the interview rather than in the diary). On the income side, items asked were wages and salaries (also in-kind), self-employment income, transfers (pensions, child benefit, benefits for lone mothers and unemployed, scholarships and other benefits), scholarships,

income from production and sale of agricultural products, income from sale of property, cash from relatives, humanitarian aid, credits/loans and other incomes.

Data from Transmonee

Earnings: Seems to be a survey of enterprises. No special comments concerning groups excluded.

Income: The sample size is apparently 1037 households in 1996 and 4634 in 2002. The two years appears not to be comparable but there is no documentation available to clearly confirm this impression. The income concept includes wages and salaries, self-employment income, sick payments, pensions, family/child allowances, unemployment benefits, other social benefits, property income and other incomes. In-kind incomes and production are apparently included in the incomes. Taxes are deducted.