

Collecting Measures of Subjective Well-being in Time Use Surveys

Layla Ricroch*

French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, France, layla.ricroch@insee.fr

In 2010, following the recommendations of the *Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress* (2009), France decided to add a new column in the time use survey (TUS) diaries for a sub sample of 1 000 households to measure the affective state of the respondent. The column asked : “was that moment pleasant or unpleasant ?”. The respondent had to give each moment a mark between minus 3 and plus 3. The presentation will focus on the consequences of the addition of a new column : because respondents had to fill a supplementary column, it is possible that the additional response burden had an impact on the response rate and number of activities in a diary. We will then have a look at the way respondents answered the question. For example, the negative side of the scale is not very often used: just 4 % of time spent is marked negatively. On the contrary, more than 40 % of time spent is rated +3. Then, some results will be presented : the least pleasant activities are work, commuting and housework. While French people spend half of their leisure time watching television, it is one of the least pleasant leisure types. We finally show that some activities are more pleasant when they are done with other persons.

Key words : subjective well-being, France TUS, pleasantness index