

# Methodological aspects of Own Children Method applied to the Italian Labour Force Survey (ISTAT) for the period 2012-2020

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## Abstract:

The OCM is an indirect procedure to derive age-specific fertility rates and total fertility in the years preceding a census or a survey. The OCM requires the data to be organized at the household level, and, for each household member, needs information about age, gender, and relationship with the householder. This information allows to link children and mothers.

I applied OCM to the Labour Force Survey data, which meets the basic requirements, in every year between 2012 and 2020. I computed the fertility rates over the 19 years preceding the survey. In order to link children to mothers, I selected subjects aged 0-19 and looked for their mother among other family members on the basis of the within-family relation, sex and age distance from the child, which had to be between 15 and 49 years. The linkage performance is very satisfactory (2,4% of children were linked to their mother).

I organized the results into a table, where children are classified by year of birth and mother's age, comparing the estimated fertility rates to the ones computed by ISTAT using Population Registers.

For the years immediately preceding the survey, fertility rates are slightly overestimated, while fertility rates for women younger than 30 years old are slightly underestimated. Nevertheless, the general results confirm the validity of applying the OCM to the Labour Forces data to compute fertility over the two decades preceding the surveys, both at the national and at the regional level. Next step will be to apply OCM to these data to analyze differential fertility and for studying fertility by parity.

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