

**Documentation of the  
Bundesbank Consumer Expectations Survey**

**Wave 7**

Deutsche Bundesbank  
Research Centre

Version: 1.6 (23 July 2020)  
Contact: [online-pilot@bundesbank.de](mailto:online-pilot@bundesbank.de)

## Notes

### 1. General coding:

For all questions, the following codes apply.

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| -9999 | Dropout: The respondent did not answer the question due to dropout  |
| -9998 | No answer: The respondent clicked "No answer" instead of answering the question   |
| -9997 | Don't know: The respondent clicked "Don't know" instead of answering the question   |
| -6666 | Does not apply: The question or response option was not shown to the respondent due to filters or prior item non-response |
| -5555 | Recoded by BBk: A coding or data error that was recorded by the Bundesbank  |

### 2. Legend for question header:

Each question header includes information on the name of the question, whether it was part of the core questionnaire ("CORE") or was specifically included for a research project ("PRO"), the broad topic and the variable name(s).

| Legend    | Question name | Question source | Topic                | Variable name           |
|-----------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Example 1 | 001           | CORE            | Current policy issue | currsit                 |
| Example 2 | 101           | Pro             | Risks owning/renting | rentorbuy_[a-i, _other] |

### 3. Question filtering and coding:

Coding details, filters and conditional redirects are highlighted by [Courier](#). If questions are posed to all respondents, this is not explicitly stated. For filtered questions, the filter is at the top and refers to the question name, e.g.:

|                                       |             |                                  |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>003B</b>                           | <b>CORE</b> | <b>Intention to buy property</b> | <b>intbuyprop_owner</b> |
| <i>Input filter: 002 == 2   3   4</i> |             |                                  |                         |

#### 4. Variable names

Variable **names** are indicated in the top right corner. If the question has multiple items, the items are indicated by underscores and a **letter**. Enumeration letters correspond to variable names. The **coding** of the variables is numeric and indicates the scale.

| 004   | CORE | Expectations qualitative | expmacroquali_ <b>[a-f]</b> |
|---|------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| After the term "inflation rate", an info box (i) with the following definition is shown: "Inflation is the percentage increase in the general price level. It is mostly measured using the consumer price index."   |      |                          |                             |
| Order of items a-f is generated randomly for each respondent.   |      |                          |                             |
| <p>Now we would like to ask you about your assessment of general economic developments in Germany over the next twelve months.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> What developments do you expect in the following areas over the next twelve months?<br/>Will ...</p> <p>1 = decrease significantly?<br/>2 = decrease slightly?<br/>3 = stay roughly the same?<br/>4 = increase slightly?<br/>5 = increase significantly?</p> <p>For more information, please click on the (i) button.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>a</b> the unemployment rate in Germany</li><li><b>b</b> rents in your area</li><li><b>c</b> lending rates</li><li><b>d</b> interest rates on savings accounts</li><li><b>e</b> the inflation rate (i)</li><li><b>f</b> property prices in your area</li></ul> |      |                          |                             |

## Structure of the questionnaires and the dataset

| Variable name            | Topic                                    | Wave7        | Origin     |
|--------------------------|--|--------------|------------|
| currsit_text             | Current policy issue                     | 001          | Core       |
| expmacroquali_[a-h]      | Expectations qualitative                 | 004          | Core       |
| homeown                  | Home ownership                           | 002          | Core       |
| exphp_point              | House price expectations quantitative    | 701          | Core       |
| infdef                   | Inflation expectations qualitative       | 005A         | Core       |
| inflexppoint             | Inflation expectations quantitative      | 005B         | Core       |
| infexprob_[a-j]          | Inflation expectations probabilistic     | 702          | Core       |
| payment_behav_[a-g]      | Typical payment behaviour                | 703          | Z          |
| spend_amount_[a-d]       | Spending plans non-durable               | 704A         | PRO o1     |
| spend_dur_[a-c]          | Spending plans durable                   | 704B         | PRO o1     |
| spend_dur_euro_[a-c]     | Spending plans durable amounts           | 704C         | PRO o1     |
| spendintent_[a-i]        | Planned expenditure_6m20                 | 705          | CORE       |
| spendintent2_[a-i]       | Planned expenditure_6m21                 | 706          | CORE       |
| constr_a                 | Liquidity and credit constraints         | 707          | CORE Covid |
| constr_b                 | Liquidity and credit constraints         | 708          | CORE Covid |
| incexp_[a-l]             | Income expectations probability          | 709          | CORE Covid |
| percprob_[a-e]           | Perceived problems                       | 710          | CORE Covid |
| restr_corona_[a-b]       | Restriction public life                  | 711          | CORE Covid |
| netwealth_[a-k]          | Total net wealth                         | 712          | PRO o1     |
| spendintent_post_[a-b]   | Planned expenditure euro – POST          | 713A         | PRO o1     |
| spend_dur_post_[a-c]     | Spending plans durable                   | 713B         | PRO o1     |
| spend_dur_post_euro[a-c] | Spending plans durable amounts           | 713C         | PRO o1     |
| spend_qual1_[a-i]        | Planned expenditure qualitative – POST 1 | 714          | PRO o1     |
| spend_qual2_[a-i]        | Planned expenditure qualitative – POST 2 | 715          | PRO o1     |
| info_treatment_[a-e]     | Informed about treatment 1               | 716          | PRO o1     |
| info_learn[a-g]          | Informed about treatment 2               | 717          | PRO o1     |
| demand_adj1_[a-h]        | Demand adjustment                        | 718A         | PRO o1     |
| demand_adj2_[a-h]        | Demand adjustment                        | 718B         | PRO o1     |
| qinterest                | Feedback questions 1                     | 009          | CORE       |
| qeasy                    | Feedback questions 2                     | 009          | CORE       |
| qlong                    | Feedback questions 3                     | 009          | CORE       |
| feedbackopen             | Open feedback question                   | 010          | CORE       |
| feedbackhelp_[a,b]       | Feedback on aids used                    | 011          | CORE       |
| eastwest1989             | RESIDENCE IN 1989                        | eastwest1989 | SOZ        |
| eduschool                | EDUCATION SCHOOL                         | eduschool    | SOZ        |
| eduwork                  | PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION                   | eduwork      | SOZ        |
| employ                   | EMPLOYMENT STATUS 1                      | employ       | SOZ        |
| employ2                  | EMPLOYMENT STATUS 2                      | employ2      | SOZ        |
| profession               | PROFESSION                               | profession   | SOZ        |
| hhsize                   | HOUSEHOLD SIZE                           | hhsize       | SOZ        |
| hhchildren               | HOUSEHOLD CHILDREN                       | hhchildnum   | SOZ        |
| agechild[1-...]          | CHILDREN AGE                             | agechild     | SOZ        |
| hhinc                    | HOUSEHOLD INCOME                         | hhinc        | SOZ        |
| pinc                     | PERSONAL INCOME                          | pinc         | SOZ        |

| 000  | CORE | OPENING 1 |
|--|------|-----------|
| <p>Welcome to a new survey in forsa.omninet.</p> <p><b>Important information concerning the study:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To navigate through the survey, please only use the “Continue” button at the bottom of the screen. Please do <u>not</u> use the buttons in your browser or the back button on your phone or tablet.</li> <li>▪ To ensure that the individual questions are displayed correctly, use an up-to-date browser such as Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox (version 12 or later), Apple Safari (version 6 or later), Opera (version 20 or later) or Microsoft Edge. Using older browsers, particularly Internet Explorer 8 and earlier, can result in limited functionality in terms of design and ease of use.</li> </ul> <p>If you have any questions, problems or comments concerning the content, operability or look of the survey, you can contact the forsa.omninet Support Team Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 18:00 on the free telephone number <u>0800 3677 201</u> or by email at <u>omninet@forsa.de</u>.</p> |      |           |

| 000  | CORE | OPENING 2 |
|--|------|-----------|
| <p>Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey that we are conducting on behalf of the Deutsche Bundesbank.</p> <p>It will take roughly 20 minutes to complete. We would like to ask you about your expectations regarding economic developments. There is no right or wrong answer for most of the questions – we are interested in your views and opinions. Your answers will be treated in a confidential manner. It helps us a great deal if you answer the questions as carefully as possible.</p> <p>If you are unable or do not want to answer a question, simply click CONTINUE until the next question appears.</p> |      |           |

| 000  | CORE | OPENING 3            |              |
|--|------|----------------------|--------------|
| <p>We assure you that the data we collect will be used only in anonymised form to assist the Deutsche Bundesbank in fulfilling its tasks as part of the European System of Central Banks. This includes, for example, use of the data for monetary policy and financial stability purposes, including research.</p> <p>Likewise, the data will only be shared in anonymised form and on a project-by-project basis with research bodies for non-commercial research purposes. The data we collect are stored, processed and shared in such a way as to prevent them being linked to you personally. The data are therefore anonymous. By participating in this survey, you give your consent for your data to be stored, processed and shared for the purposes stated above.</p> <p>You will find more information, details of contact persons for technical issues and selected results of the survey on the Bundesbank’s website:<br/> <a href="https://www.bundesbank.de/en/bundesbank/research/pilot-survey-on-consumer-expectations">https://www.bundesbank.de/en/bundesbank/research/pilot-survey-on-consumer-expectations</a></p> |      |                      |              |
| 001  | CORE | Current policy issue | currsit_text |
| Variable is not included in the scientific use file.   |      |                      |              |

**QUESTION:** To begin with, we would like to ask you a general question: what, in your opinion, are the three most important problems in Germany at present?

Please type your answer in the text field.

[Input field]

| 004   | CORE | Expectations qualitative | expmacroquali_[a-h] |
|---|------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| After the term "inflation rate", an info box (i) with the following definition is shown: "Inflation is the percentage increase in the general price level. It is mostly measured using the consumer price index."   |      |                          |                     |
| Order of the eight categories is generated randomly for each respondent.  |      |                          |                     |
| <p>Now we would like to ask you about your assessment of general economic developments in Germany over the next twelve months.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> What developments do you expect in the following metrics over the next twelve months? Will ...</p> <p>1 = decrease significantly?<br/>           2 = decrease slightly?<br/>           3 = stay roughly the same?<br/>           4 = increase slightly?<br/>           5 = increase significantly?</p> <p>For more information, please click on the (i) button.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a the unemployment rate in Germany</li> <li>b rents in your area</li> <li>c lending rates</li> <li>d interest rates on savings accounts</li> <li>e the inflation rate</li> <li>f property prices in your area</li> <li>g economic growth in Germany</li> <li>h fuel prices</li> </ul> |      |                          |                     |

| 002  | CORE | Home ownership | homeown |
|--|------|----------------|---------|
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Does your household live in a rented property or an owner-occupied apartment or house?</p> <p>Please select one answer.</p> <p>1 = Rent and do not own any other home(s)<br/>           2 = Rent but own other home(s)<br/>           3 = Occupy own apartment<br/>           4 = Occupy own house</p> |      |                |         |

|  |             |  |                    |
|--|-------------|--|--------------------|
| <b>701</b>   | <b>CORE</b> | <b>House price expectations quantitative</b> | <b>exphp_point</b> |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> By what percentage do you think property prices in your area will change <u>over the next twelve months</u>?</p> <p>Please enter a value in the input field (up to one decimal place may be used). Please use a full stop rather than a comma as the decimal separator. If it is assumed that property prices will fall, please enter a negative value.</p> <p>[Input field] percent</p> |             |  |                    |

|  |     |                                   |  |
|--|-----|-----------------------------------|--|
| ---  | --- | <b>THE INFLATION RATE – INTRO</b> |  |
| <p>Now we would like you to think more carefully about the inflation rate.</p> <p><b><u>The inflation rate</u></b></p> <p><b>Inflation is the percentage increase in the general price level. It is mostly measured using the consumer price index. A decrease in the price level is generally described as “deflation”.</b></p> |     |                                   |  |

|  |             |   |              |
|--|-------------|---|--------------|
| <b>005A</b>  | <b>CORE</b> | <b>Inflation expectations qualitative</b> | <b>indef</b> |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Do you think inflation or deflation is more likely <u>over the next twelve months</u>?</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Inflation is the percentage increase in the general price level. It is mostly measured using the consumer price index. A decrease in the price level is generally described as “deflation”.</p> <p>Please select one answer.</p> <p>1 = Inflation more likely<br/>2 = Deflation more likely</p> |             |   |              |

|  |             |  |                     |
|--|-------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>005B</b>  | <b>CORE</b> | <b>Inflation expectations quantitative</b> | <b>inflexppoint</b> |
| <p>Both the inflation and deflation rates are entered and stored as positive values. The value of 005A indicates whether the respondent’s input describes an inflation or deflation rate.</p> <p>If 005A = 1   -9997   -9998</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> What do you expect the rate of inflation to roughly be <u>over the next twelve months</u>?</p> <p>If 005A = 2</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> What do you expect the rate of deflation to roughly be <u>over the next twelve months</u>?</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Inflation is the percentage increase in the general price level. It is mostly measured using the consumer price index. A decrease in the price level is generally described as “deflation”.</p> <p>Please enter a value in the input field (up to one decimal place may be used).</p> <p>[Input field] percent</p> |             |  |                     |

|  |             |   |                        |
|--|-------------|---|------------------------|
| <b>702</b>   | <b>CORE</b> | <b>Inflation expectations probabilistic</b> | <b>infexprob_[a-j]</b> |
| <p>The programming of the question requires the sum of the 10 variables to be 100. The current sum of all entered points is shown to the respondent when answering the question. Respondents are asked to correct their responses if the sum does not equal 100.</p> |             |   |                        |

**QUESTION:** In your opinion, how likely is it that the rate of inflation will change as follows over the next twelve months?

**Note:** The aim of this question is to determine how likely you think it is that something specific will happen in the future. You can rate the likelihood on a scale from 0 to 100, with 0 meaning that an event is completely unlikely and 100 meaning that you are absolutely certain it will happen. Use values between the two extremes to moderate the strength of your opinion. Please note that your answers to the categories must add up to 100.

- a The rate of deflation (opposite of inflation) will be 12% or higher.
- b The rate of deflation (opposite of inflation) will be between 8% and 12%.
- c The rate of deflation (opposite of inflation) will be between 4% and 8%.
- d The rate of deflation (opposite of inflation) will be between 2% and 4%.
- e The rate of deflation (opposite of inflation) will be between 0% and 2%.
- f The rate of inflation will be between 0% and 2%.
- g The rate of inflation will be between 2% and 4%.
- h The rate of inflation will be between 4% and 8%.
- i The rate of inflation will be between 8% and 12%.
- j The rate of inflation will be 12% or higher.

| 703  | Core Z | Typical payment behaviour | payment_behav_[a-g] |
|--|--------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| The programming of the question requires the sum of the 7 variables to be 10. Respondents are asked to correct their responses if the sum does not equal 10.   |        |                           |                     |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Think for a moment about how you pay for essential goods, e.g. at the supermarket, bakery or drugstores. What means of payment have you used for your <u>last 10 payments</u>? Please allocate these payments to the following means of payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a Cash</li> <li>b Contactless with a girocard (previously EC card) or other debit card</li> <li>c Inserting a girocard (previously EC card) or other debit card into the terminal plus PIN or signature</li> <li>d Contactless with a credit card</li> <li>e Inserting a credit card into the terminal plus PIN or signature</li> <li>f Mobile payment using a smartphone</li> <li>g Other means of payment</li> </ul> |        |                           |                     |



| 704A   | PRO o1 | Spending plans non-durable | spend_amount_[a-d] |
|--|--------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> How much, as a rough figure, do you spend or are you planning to spend on average on <u>everyday consumer goods</u> (food, clothing, entertainment/recreation including restaurant visits, petrol and the like) per month?</p> <p>Please enter an amount in every field. If you are not quite sure, give a rough estimate.</p> <p>a In the second half of the year (July to the end of December), I normally spend [input field] euro per month. [Range of valid values: 0 to 100,000]</p> <p>b In the second half of 2020 (July to the end of December), I plan to spend [input field] euro per month. [Range of valid values: 0 to 100,000]</p> <p>c In the first half of the year (January to the end of June), I normally spend [input field] euro per month. [Range of valid values: 0 to 100,000]</p> <p>d In the first half of 2021 (January to the end of June), I plan to spend [input field] euro per month. [Range of valid values: 0 to 100,000]</p> |        |                            |                    |

| 704B   | PRO o1 | Spending plans durable | spend_dur_[a-c] |
|--|--------|------------------------|-----------------|
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Are you planning to purchase an apartment or house, a car or other durable consumer goods such as furniture, a television or a refrigerator in the second half of 2020 (July to December)?</p> <p>Please select one answer for each row.</p> <p>1 = Yes<br/>2 = No</p> <p>a Apartment/house<br/>b Car<br/>c Other durable consumer goods</p> |        |                        |                 |

| 704C  | PRO o1 | Spending plans durable amounts | spend_dur_euro_[a-c] |
|---|--------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| <p>Input filter: spend_dur_a=1   spend_dur_b=1   spend_dur_c=1</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> And how much do you plan to spend on each of the following consumer goods?</p> <p>a If spend_dur_a=1 Apartment/house [input field] euro [Range of valid values: 1 to 10 million]</p> <p>b If spend_dur_b=1 Car [input field] euro [Range of valid values: 1 to 100,000]</p> <p>c If spend_dur_c=1 Other durable consumer goods [input field] euro [Range of valid values: 1 to 10,000]</p> |        |                                |                      |

| 705   | CORE | Planned expenditure_6m20 | spendintent_[a-i] |
|---|------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <p>You will now be shown some everyday items that you can or need to buy.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Please indicate in each case whether you are planning to probably <u>spend more or less</u> on the following items <u>between July and the end of December 2020 than you would normally do</u> in the second half of the year, i.e. as you did between July and December 2019? Will you spend more or less on ...</p> <p>1 = Plan to spend more<br/>2 = Plan to spend roughly the same<br/>3 = Plan to spend less</p> <p>Please select one answer for each row.</p> <p>a major purchases (e.g. car, furniture, electrical devices, etc.)?<br/>b daily essentials (e.g. food and beverages, non-food items such as cleaning products or similar)?<br/>c clothing and footwear?<br/>d entertainment/recreation and mobility (e.g. restaurant visits, gym, bus and train tickets, fuel)?<br/>e services (e.g. hairdresser, childcare, medical costs)?<br/>f travel, holidays?<br/>g housing costs (e.g. rent, mortgage, ancillary costs)?<br/>h financial reserves?<br/>i repayment of loans or debts?</p> |      |                          |                   |

| 706  | CORE | Planned expenditure_6m21 | spendintent2_[a-i] |
|--|------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Please indicate in each case whether you are planning to probably <u>spend more or less</u> on the following items <u>between January and the end of June 2021 than you would normally do</u> in the first half of the year? Will you spend more or less on ...</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Please use a normal year as a reference year and not the first half of 2020, which was atypical due to the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>Please select one answer for each row.</p> <p>1 = Plan to spend more<br/>2 = Plan to spend roughly the same<br/>3 = Plan to spend less</p> <p>a major purchases (e.g. car, furniture, electrical devices, etc.)?<br/>b daily essentials (e.g. food and beverages, non-food items such as cleaning products or similar)?<br/>c clothing and footwear?<br/>d entertainment/recreation and mobility (e.g. restaurant visits, gym, bus and train tickets, fuel)?<br/>e services (e.g. hairdresser, childcare, medical costs)?<br/>f travel, holidays?<br/>g housing costs (e.g. rent, mortgage, ancillary costs)?<br/>h financial reserves?<br/>i repayment of loans or debts?</p> |      |                          |                    |

| 707   | CORE Covid | Liquidity and credit constraints | constr_a |
|---|------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Do you anticipate difficulties in covering your current expenditure <u>next month</u>?</p> <p>Please select one answer.</p> <p>1 = <u>No</u> difficulties as my household's income will be sufficient<br/> 2 = <u>No</u> difficulties as I can draw on savings<br/> 3 = Some difficulties, but I can borrow money or take out a loan if needed<br/> 4 = Some difficulties and I am probably unable to borrow money or take out a loan</p> |            |                                  |          |

| 708   | CORE Covid | Liquidity and credit constraints | constr_b |
|---|------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> And do you anticipate difficulties in covering your current expenditure <u>over the next six months</u>?</p> <p>Please select one answer.</p> <p>1 = <u>No</u> difficulties as my household's income will be sufficient<br/> 2 = <u>No</u> difficulties as I can draw on savings<br/> 3 = Some difficulties, but I can borrow money or take out a loan if needed<br/> 4 = Some difficulties and I am probably unable to borrow money or take out a loan</p> |            |                                  |          |

| 709   | CORE Covid | Income expectations probability | incexp_[a-l] |
|---|------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| <p>The programming of the question requires the sum of the 10 variables to be 100. The current sum of all entered points is shown to the respondent when answering the question. Respondents are asked to correct their responses if the sum does not equal 100.</p>  |            |                                 |              |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> In your opinion, how likely is it that your household's average monthly net income will change as follows over the next twelve months?</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The aim of this question is to determine how likely you think it is that something specific will happen in the future. You can rate the likelihood on a scale from 0 to 100, with 0 meaning that an event is completely unlikely and 100 meaning that you are absolutely certain it will happen. Use values between the two extremes to moderate the strength of your opinion. Please note that the your answers to the categories must add up to 100.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a Fall by €2,000 or more</li> <li>b Fall by between €1,500 and less than €2,000</li> <li>c Fall by between €1,000 and less than €1,500</li> <li>d Fall by between €500 and less than €1,000</li> <li>e Fall by between €250 and less than €500</li> <li>f Fall by between €0 and less than €250</li> <li>g Increase by between €0 and less than €250</li> <li>h Increase by between €250 and less than €500</li> <li>i Increase by between €500 and less than €1,000</li> <li>j Increase by between €1000 and less than €1,500</li> <li>k Increase by between €1,500 and less than €2,000</li> <li>l Increase by €2,000 or more</li> </ul> |            |                                 |              |

| 710  | CORE Covid | Perceived problems | percprob_[a-e] |
|--|------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Order of the six categories is generated randomly for each respondent  |            |                    |                |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> To what extent do you think the following developments/matters are a serious problem at present?</p> <p>1 = No problem at all<br/> 2 -&gt; 9 [no label]<br/> 10 = An extremely serious problem</p> <p>Please select the answers that apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a Climate change</li> <li>b Brexit</li> <li>c Coronavirus pandemic</li> <li>d Refugee situation in Greece, Syria and Turkey</li> <li>e The economy</li> </ul> |            |                    |                |

| 711   | CORE Covid | Restriction public life | restr_corona_[a-b] |
|---|------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Respondents are only allowed to fill in the input field. The variable restr_corona_a indicates the selected unit (day, week, or month) and the variable restr_corona_b indicates the value given for the selected unit.   |            |                         |                    |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> How long do you think the restrictions on events and gatherings in response to the coronavirus pandemic will last? For a further ...</p> <p>Please enter the number that you think is most likely. You can enter the information either in days, weeks or months. Please select one of the three fields.</p> <p>Please select whether you wish to specify the information in days, weeks or months:</p> <p>1 = days [Range of valid values: 0 to 730]<br/> 2 = weeks [Range of valid values: 0 to 106]<br/> 3 = months [Range of valid values: 0 to 24]</p> <p>[Input field] [if restr_corona_a = 1: days; if restr_corona_a = 2: weeks; if restr_corona_a = 3: months]</p> |            |                         |                    |

| 712   | PRO o1 | Total net wealth | netwealth_[a-k] |
|---|--------|------------------|-----------------|
| <p>At the end of the question, an info box (i) with the following text is shown:<br/>           "Assets include real estate, vehicles, holdings in undertakings, financial assets and balances with insurance companies. Liabilities include mortgage debt, consumer credit, overdrawn current accounts and other debt or liabilities."</p>   |        |                  |                 |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> How high do you estimate the total (net) wealth of your household to be? Total (net) wealth is the value of everything that the household members have less all debt and liabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a Less than €0</li> <li>b €0 and more, but less than €2,500</li> <li>c €2,500 and more, but less than €5,000</li> <li>d €5,000 and more, but less than €10,000</li> <li>e €10,000 and more, but less than €25,000</li> <li>f €25,000 and more, but less than €50,000</li> <li>g €50,000 and more, but less than €75,000</li> <li>h €75,000 and more, but less than €100,000</li> <li>i €100,000 and more, but less than €250,000</li> <li>j €250,000 and more, but less than €500,000</li> <li>k More than €500,000</li> </ul> |        |                  |                 |

|     |     |                             |
|-----|-----|-----------------------------|
| --- | --- | <b>START SPLIT SAMPLE 1</b> |
|-----|-----|-----------------------------|

|   |                       |                        |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|
| ---   | <b>Split sample 1</b> | <b>RANDOMISATION 1</b> |
| <p>The entire sample is split randomly into four groups. A randomisation dummy (drandom1) is used for questions 713A-718B.</p>  |                       |                        |
| <p>One factor variable: drandom1</p> <p>1 = group A - 350 respondents</p> <p>2 = group B - 550 respondents</p> <p>3 = group C - 550 respondents</p> <p>4 = group D - 550 respondents</p>  |                       |                        |
| <p>[if drandom1 = 1]</p> <p><b>We will now show you an activity that the Federal Government undertook recently.</b></p> <p>On 1 July 2020, the German Federal Government assumed the EU presidency.</p>   |                       |                        |
| <p>[if drandom1 = 2]</p> <p><b>We will now show you an activity that the Federal Government undertook recently</b></p> <p>On 1 July 2020, the economic stimulus package adopted by the German Federal Government, including an immediate change in VAT, entered into force.</p>   |                       |                        |
| <p>[if drandom1 = 3]</p> <p><b>We will now show you an activity that the Federal Government undertook recently</b></p> <p>On 1 July 2020, the economic stimulus package adopted by the German Federal Government, including an immediate 3% reduction in VAT from 19% to 16%, entered into force.</p>   |                       |                        |
| <p>[if drandom1 = 4]</p> <p><b>We will now show you an activity that the Federal Government undertook recently</b></p> <p>On 1 July 2020, the economic stimulus package adopted by the German Federal Government, including an immediate 3% reduction in VAT from 19% to 16%, entered into force. From 1 January 2021, VAT will return to its original rate of 19%.</p> |                       |                        |

| 713A   | PRO o1 | Planned expenditure euro – POST | spendintent_post_[a-b] |
|--|--------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> How much would you say are you planning to roughly spend on average per month <u>on everyday consumer goods</u> (food, clothing, entertainment/recreation including restaurant visits, fuel and the like) in the second half of 2020 and in the first half of 2021?</p> <p>Please enter an amount in every field. If you are not quite sure, give a rough estimate.</p> <p>a In the second half of 2020 (July to the end of December), I plan to spend on average per month:<br/> <input type="text"/> euro [Range of valid values: 0 to 10,000]</p> <p>b In the first half of 2021 (January to the end of June), I plan to spend on average per month:<br/> <input type="text"/> euro [Range of valid values: 0 to 100,000]</p> |        |                                 |                        |

| 713B  | PRO o1 | Spending plans durables – POST | spend_dur_post_[a-c], |
|---|--------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Are you planning to purchase an apartment or house, a car or other durable consumer goods such as furniture, a television or a refrigerator in the second half of 2020 (July to December)?</p> <p>Please select an answer for each row.</p> <p>1 = Yes<br/>2 = No</p> <p>a Apartment/house<br/>b Car<br/>c Other durable consumer goods</p> |        |                                |                       |

| 713C   | PRO o1 | Spending plans durables amounts – POST | spend_dur_post_euro_[a-c] |
|--|--------|--|---------------------------|
| <p><code>Input filter: spend_dur_a=1   spend_dur_b=1   spend_dur_c=1</code></p>  |        |  |                           |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> And how much do you plan to spend on each of the following consumer goods?</p> <p>a <code>If spend_dur_post_a=1</code> Apartment/house <code>[Input field]</code> euro <code>[Range of valid values: 1 to 10,000,000]</code></p> <p>b <code>If spend_dur_post_b=1</code> Car <code>[Input field]</code> euro <code>[Range of valid values: 1 to 100,000]</code></p> <p>c <code>If spend_dur_post_c=1</code> Other durable consumer goods <code>[Input field]</code> euro <code>[Range of valid values: 1 to 10,000]</code></p> |        |  |                           |

| 714  | PRO o1 | Planned expenditure qualitative –<br>POST 1 | spend_qual1_[a-i] |
|--|--------|---|-------------------|
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Please indicate in each case whether you are planning to probably <u>spend more or less</u> on the following items <u>between July and the end of December 2020 than you would normally do in the second half of the year</u>. Will you spend more or less on ...</p> <p>Please select an answer for each row.</p> <p>1 = Plan to spend more<br/>2 = Plan to spend roughly the same<br/>3 = Plan to spend less</p> <p>a major purchases (e.g. car, furniture, electrical devices, etc.)?<br/>b daily essentials (e.g. food and beverages, non-food items such as cleaning products or similar)?<br/>c clothing and footwear?<br/>d entertainment/recreation and mobility (e.g. restaurant visits, gym, bus and train tickets, fuel)?<br/>e services (e.g. hairdresser, childcare, medical costs)?<br/>f travel, holidays?<br/>g housing costs (e.g. rent, mortgage, ancillary costs)?<br/>h financial reserves?<br/>i repayment of loans or debts?</p> |        |   |                   |

| 715   | PRO o1 | Planned expenditure qualitative –<br>– POST 2 | spend_qual2_[a-i] |
|---|--------|---|-------------------|
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Please indicate in each case whether you are planning to probably <u>spend more or less</u> on the following items <u>between January and the end of June 2021 than you would normally do in the first half of the year</u>. Will you spend more or less on ...</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Please use a normal year as a reference year and not the first half of 2020, which was atypical due to the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>Please select an answer for each row.</p> <p>1 = Plan to spend more<br/>2 = Plan to spend roughly the same<br/>3 = Plan to spend less</p> <p>a major purchases (e.g. car, furniture, electrical devices, etc.)?<br/>b daily essentials (e.g. food and beverages, non-food items such as cleaning products or similar)?<br/>c clothing and footwear?<br/>d entertainment/recreation and mobility (e.g. restaurant visits, gym, bus and train tickets, fuel)?<br/>e services (e.g. hairdresser, childcare, medical costs)?<br/>f travel, holidays?<br/>g housing costs (e.g. rent, mortgage, ancillary costs)?<br/>h financial reserves?<br/>i repayment of loans or debts?</p> |        |   |                   |



|   |               |                                   |                             |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>716</b>  | <b>PRO o1</b> | <b>Informed about treatment 1</b> | <b>info_treatment_[a-e]</b> |
| Multiple choice question. More than one category is possible for selection.   |               |                                   |                             |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Had you heard or read anything about the Federal Government's activities before this survey?</p> <p>Please select all answers that apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The change in VAT</li> <li>b. The reduction in VAT on 1 July 2020</li> <li>c. The increase in VAT on 1 January 2021</li> <li>d. Germany's assumption of the EU presidency in 2020</li> </ul> <p>SINGLE RESPONSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. None of the above activities</li> </ul> |               |                                   |                             |

|   |               |                                   |                        |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>717</b>  | <b>PRO o1</b> | <b>Informed about treatment 2</b> | <b>info_learn[a-g]</b> |
| Order of the categories is generated randomly for each respondent.  |               |                                   |                        |
| Input filter: info_treatment_a=1   info_treatment_b=1   info_treatment_c=1  |               |                                   |                        |
| More than one category can be selected.   |               |                                   |                        |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Where or from whom did you hear about the VAT change?</p> <p>Please select all answers that apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a Advertising or business announcements</li> <li>b Traditional media or related websites</li> <li>c Social networks, blogs, posts or other online media</li> <li>d Announcements by the Federal Government</li> <li>e Family, friends and acquaintances</li> <li>f Colleagues</li> <li>g Other sources [Input field]</li> </ul> |               |                                   |                        |

| 718A  | PRO o1 | Demand Adjustment | demand_adj1_[a-h] |
|---|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Input filter: spend_qual1_a=1   spend_qual1_b=1   spend_qual1_c=1   spend_qual1_d=1   |        |                   |                   |
| Order of the categories is generated randomly for each respondent.  |        |                   |                   |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> You indicated that you are planning to probably <u>spend more</u> on certain items <u>between July and the end of December 2020</u> than you would normally do in the second half of the year, such as in the second half of 2019. Could you please tell us to what extent the following reasons do or do not apply to your planned additional expenditure?</p> <p>1 = Applies in full<br/> 2 = Applies generally<br/> 3 = Does not apply generally<br/> 4 = Does not apply at all</p> <p>a Need to catch up on expenditure<br/> b Due to actual or expected increases in income<br/> c It was planned anyway.<br/> d Due to actual or prospective increases in the value of my financial assets<br/> e I expect prices to decline over this period.<br/> f Due to the change in VAT<br/> g Because of the child bonus<br/> h Because I expect prices to rise from January 2021</p> |        |                   |                   |

| 718B   | PRO o1 | Demand Adjustment | demand_adj2_[a-h] |
|--|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Input filter: spend_qual1_a != 1 & spend_qual1_b != 1 & spend_qual1_c != 1 & spend_qual1_d != 1  |        |                   |                   |
| <p>Order of the categories is generated randomly for each respondent.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> You indicated that you are planning to probably <u>spend less or just as much between July and the end of December 2020 compared to your normal spending patterns in the second half of the year</u>, such as in the second half of 2019. Could you please tell us to what extent the following reasons do or do not apply to your planned reduced or unchanged expenditure?</p> <p>1 = Applies in full<br/>           2 = Applies generally<br/>           3 = Does not apply generally<br/>           4 = Does not apply at all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a Due to actual or feared losses in income</li> <li>b Because I expect prices to rise or stay the same over this period</li> <li>c Because a member of my household has lost or could lose their job</li> <li>d I am concerned about future expenditure.</li> <li>e I spend less time shopping because of the social distancing rules introduced in response to the coronavirus.</li> <li>f I had already spent fairly large amounts before July 2020.</li> <li>g Due to actual or feared losses in the value of my financial assets</li> <li>h Because I expect prices to fall or stay the same from January 2021</li> </ul> |        |                   |                   |

|     |     |                           |  |
|-----|-----|---------------------------|--|
| --- | --- | <b>END SPLIT SAMPLE 1</b> |  |
|-----|-----|---------------------------|--|

| 009   | CORE | Feedback questions | qinterest, qeasy, qlong |
|---|------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| <p>We would now like you to answer a few questions regarding your assessment of the survey.</p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> How interesting did you find the survey overall?</p> <p>Please select one answer.</p> <p>1 = Very interesting<br/> 2 = Interesting<br/> 3 = Partly interesting/partly uninteresting<br/> 4 = Not so interesting<br/> 5 = Not interesting at all</p> |      |                    |                         |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> How <u>easy or difficult</u> was it to answer the questions overall?</p> <p>Please select one answer.</p> <p>1 = Very difficult<br/> 2 = Somewhat difficult<br/> 3 = Partly difficult/partly easy<br/> 4 = Somewhat easy<br/> 5 = Very easy</p>   |      |                    |                         |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> How did you find <u>the length</u> of the survey?</p> <p>Please select one answer.</p> <p>1 = Far too long<br/> 2 = Somewhat too long<br/> 3 = Just right<br/> 4 = Somewhat too short<br/> 5 = Far too short</p>  |      |                    |                         |

| 010  | CORE | Open feedback question | feedbackopen |
|--|------|------------------------|--------------|
| <p><i>Variable is not included in the scientific use file.</i></p>   |      |                        |              |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Did you have problems answering any of the questions?</p> <p>Please select one answer.</p> <p>1 = Yes: which questions or topics? <i>[Input field]</i><br/> 2 = No</p> |      |                        |              |

| 011  | CORE | Feedback on aids used | feedbackhelp_[a,b] |
|--|------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <p><i>The input field for feedbackhelp_b is activated if feedbackhelp_a=1. Variable feedbackhelp_b is not included in the scientific use file.</i></p> |      |                       |                    |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Did you use any resources to answer the questions and, if so, what were they?</p> <p>1 = Yes, <i>[Input field]</i><br/> 2 = No</p> |      |                       |                    |

| eastwest1989  | CORE | RESIDENCE IN 1989 | eastwest1989 |
|---|------|-------------------|--------------|
| Input filter: age > 28  |      |                   |              |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Which part of Germany were you living in shortly before the fall of the Berlin Wall on 9 November 1989?</p> <p>1 = In eastern Germany, the former GDR<br/> 2 = In western Germany, the Federal Republic of Germany<br/> 3 = I moved to Germany after 1989</p> |      |                   |              |

| eduschool  | SOZ | SCHOOL EDUCATION | eduschool |
|--|-----|------------------|-----------|
| Note: Categories are different from those in waves 1 to 3.   |     |                  |           |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> What is your highest level of educational attainment?</p> <p>1 = Still at school<br/> 2 = Completed lower secondary school<br/> 3 = Completed higher secondary school<br/> 4 = Polytechnical secondary school certificate, 10th grade<br/> 5 = University of applied sciences entrance diploma/completed technical school<br/> 6 = General or subject-specific university entrance diploma/senior school-leaving certificate (from a grammar school)/East German secondary school up to 12th grade (also with apprenticeship)<br/> 7 = Other school-leaving certificate<br/> 8 = No school-leaving certificate (and currently not a student)</p> |     |                  |           |

| eduwork  | SOZ | PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION | eduwork |
|--|-----|------------------------|---------|
| Input filter: eduschool > 1  |     |                        |         |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> What level of vocational training or university degree do you have? Please think of your highest qualification here.</p> <p>1 = Currently in training or studying (bachelor's degree not yet completed)<br/> 2 = Completed vocational training (apprenticeship)<br/> 3 = Completed vocational training (vocational school or commercial college)<br/> 4 = Completed training at a technical or commercial college, school for master craftsmen or engineers or university of cooperative education with short preparation time (up to 880 hours)<br/> 5 = Completed training at a university of cooperative education with long preparation time (more than 880 hours)<br/> 6 = Bachelor's degree, applied sciences degree, completed training at an engineering college<br/> 7 = Diploma or master's degree, completed teacher training course<br/> 8 = Doctorate/postdoctoral qualification obtained<br/> 9 = Other professional qualification<br/> 10 = No vocational training completed (and currently not in training/studying)</p> |     |                        |         |

| employ   | SOZ | EMPLOYMENT STATUS 1 | employ |
|--|-----|---------------------|--------|
| Note: Categories are different from those in waves 1 to 3.   |     |                     |        |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Which of the following best describes your employment status?</p> <p>1 = In full-time employment (including apprenticeship)</p> <p>2 = In part-time employment (including phased retirement)</p> <p>3 = In casual or irregular employment (including paid internship and integration measures)</p> <p>4 = On maternity leave/parental leave/longer-term sick leave/other leave. Planning to return to work.</p> <p>5 = Unemployed (officially registered)</p> <p>6 = At school, university or in an unpaid internship</p> <p>7 = Retiree or pensioner</p> <p>8 = Retired early or about to retire (including unfit for work or reduced ability to work)</p> <p>9 = Federal volunteer service/voluntary year</p> <p>10 = Homemaker</p> <p>11 = Other form of non-employment</p> |     |                     |        |

| employ2   | SOZ | EMPLOYMENT STATUS 2 | employ2 |
|---|-----|---------------------|---------|
| Input filter: employ = 1   2   3   4. Note: Categories are different from those in waves 1 to 3.              |     |                     |         |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Are you currently receiving short-time working benefits?</p> <p>1 = Yes</p> <p>2 = No</p> |     |                     |         |

| profession  | SOZ | PROFESSION | profession |
|---|-----|------------|------------|
| Input filter: employ = 1   2   3   4. Note: Categories are different from those in waves 1 to 3.  |     |            |            |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Which professional status currently applies to you?</p> <p>1 = Non-salaried employee, including in agriculture</p> <p>2 = Salaried employee</p> <p>3 = Civil servant, including judge, career soldier and regular soldier</p> <p>4 = Self-employed or entrepreneur (including self-employed farmer) without employees</p> <p>5 = Self-employed or entrepreneur (including self-employed farmer) with employees</p> <p>6 = Trainee/intern</p> <p>7 = Unpaid family worker</p> <p>8 = Other</p> |     |            |            |

| hhsize  | SOZ | HOUSEHOLD SIZE | hhsize |
|---|-----|----------------|--------|
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> How many persons live permanently in your household, including yourself? Please also consider all children living in your household.</p> <p>[Input field]</p> |     |                |        |

| hhchildnum  | SOZ | HOUSEHOLD CHILDREN | hhchildren |
|---|-----|--------------------|------------|
| If hhchildnum > hhsize, both hhsize and hhchildnum are asked again.     |     |                    |            |
| <b>QUESTION:</b> And how many children under 18 live in your household? |     |                    |            |
| [Input field]   |     |                    |            |

| agechild  | SOZ | CHILDREN AGE | agechild[1-...] |
|---|-----|--------------|-----------------|
| If hhchildnum > 0. Respondents are asked to answer this question for each child.        |     |              |                 |
| <b>QUESTION:</b> Please state the age of your children, starting with the oldest child. |     |              |                 |
| Oldest child [Input field]  |     |              |                 |
| Second-oldest child [Input field]   |     |              |                 |
| -oldest child [Input field]   |     |              |                 |

| hhinc  | SOZ | HOUSEHOLD INCOME | hhinc |
|--|-----|------------------|-------|
| Note: Categories are different from those in waves 1 to 3.   |     |                  |       |
| <b>QUESTION:</b> How high is the total monthly net income of your household?   |     |                  |       |
| This refers to the total amount, comprising wages, salaries, income from self-employment and pensions, in each case after deducting tax and social security contributions. |     |                  |       |
| In this amount, please include any income received through public aid, earnings from rental or leasing, housing allowance, child benefits and any other sources of income. |     |                  |       |
| 1 = Less than €500   |     |                  |       |
| 2 = €500 to €999   |     |                  |       |
| 3 = €1,000 to €1,499   |     |                  |       |
| 4 = €1,500 to €1,999   |     |                  |       |
| 5 = €2,000 to €2,499   |     |                  |       |
| 6 = €2,500 to €2,999   |     |                  |       |
| 7 = €3,000 to €3,499   |     |                  |       |
| 8 = €3,500 to €3,999   |     |                  |       |
| 9 = €4,000 to €4,999   |     |                  |       |
| 10 = €5,000 to €5,999  |     |                  |       |
| 11 = €6,000 to €7,999  |     |                  |       |
| 12 = €8,000 to €9,999  |     |                  |       |
| 13 = €10,000 or more   |     |                  |       |

| pinc  | SOZ | PERSONAL INCOME | pinc |
|---|-----|-----------------|------|
| Input filter: hhsize > 1. Note: Categories are different from those in waves 1 to 3.  |     |                 |      |
| <p><b>QUESTION:</b> And how high is your total personal monthly net income?</p> <p>1 = Less than €500<br/> 2 = €500 to €999<br/> 3 = €1,000 to €1,499<br/> 4 = €1,500 to €1,999<br/> 5 = €2,000 to €2,499<br/> 6 = €2,500 to €2,999<br/> 7 = €3,000 to €3,499<br/> 8 = €3,500 to €3,999<br/> 9 = €4,000 to €4,999<br/> 10 = €5,000 to €5,999<br/> 11 = €6,000 or more</p> |     |                 |      |



|   | <b>FORSA</b> | <b>Automatically recorded</b> |  |
|---|--------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <a href="#">Information that is included by forsa.</a>                        |              |                               |  |
| Description   |              | Variable name                 |  |
| Age of respondent   |              | age                           |  |
| Gender of respondent  |              | gender                        |  |
| 1 = Male  |              |                               |  |
| 2 = Female  |              |                               |  |
| 3 = Other   |              |                               |  |
| Sampling weights  |              | weights                       |  |
| Federal state   |              | state                         |  |
| Size of town where respondent lives   |              | citysize                      |  |
| Regional classification according to bik                                      |              | bik                           |  |
| Official municipality key   |              | ags                           |  |
| Date (day/month/year) and time (start and end, hour and minute) of interview. |              |                               |  |
| Duration of interview in seconds  |              | duration                      |  |
| Number of interruptions   |              | interruptions                 |  |
| Type of device used   |              | device                        |  |
| 1 = desktop computer  |              |                               |  |
| 2 = smartphone  |              |                               |  |
| 3 = tablet  |              |                               |  |
| Name and version of browser used  |              | browser                       |  |
| Height and width of browser window  |              |                               |  |
| Name and version of operating system  |              | os                            |  |