Reflections on ONS LFS data collection transformation

Discussion Group 1

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Introduction

- The aim of this sessions is to hear your views on the discussion topic.

- To help facilitate discussion, please share your video if you are able, but remain on mute unless you are speaking. You can view the other participants by selecting Gallery View.

- To contribute, please raise your hand in your video or write QUESTION/COMMENT in the chat box before typing your full question. Please wait for the facilitator to invite you to speak.

- We have posed a number of questions to guide the discussion but we do not have to stick to those questions or get through all of them.

- We would like up to 10 key points to feedback after the session. The facilitator will note those as we go along and we will agree them as a group at the end of the session.

- We are not reporting back during the conference, the notes from the session will be available from the UKDS website after the conference

- Session ends promptly at 13:00 (5-minute warning from organiser)

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Summary of Labour Market Survey (LMS) transformation,

- The LMS is a fundamental redesign of the LFS

- Digital by default, but mixed mode online-first

- A lot of similarities to LFS, but a number of big differences

- Respondent centric design aims to get better quality data

- 2019 statistical mixed mode test:

  - Comparable response rate and sample distribution

  - Less proxy data

  - No significant differences in key LM estimates

  - Some differences in sub group analyses

- Online LMS launched in March 2020 – potential alternative to LFS during lockdown – uptake consistently 40%+

- Telephone collection due to be added in 2021

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Discussion points:

1. What might be some of the key issues from this transformation work from a user perspective?

2. What might be some of the opportunities?

3. What might be some of the issues that need to be addressed as part of the development work?

4. What one thing should ONS bear in mind as part of the transformation work?

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Key points from discussion (up to 10 points to feed back)

- Documentation will be needed to show how the variables in LMS link to the equivalent variables in LFS

- LMS might not be the best name from a respondent's point of view (note: LMS doesn't feature on any respondent facing documentation

- We need to make sure that somewhere in the new collection system we pick up information on smaller jobs (second jobs/digital jobs) so that we are not understating the size of the economy

- Could there be a potential to link to personal social media//big data? Need to first establish informed consent. When does that permission stop? Users would encourage ONS to look at wider sources of data, but be wary of ethical issues.

- Users need to understand how LMS fits within the new wider framework of surveys (IPACS – Integrated Population and Characteristics Survey)

- ONS needs to do further work to fully understand user needs.

- How much option is there in the new design for text answers? Thought is needed into how occupation is collected and coded. There will still be a coded list of potential answers for the majority of other questions.

- ONS needs to design bearing in mind that interviewer feedback is not possible with online self completion collection. The qualitative element is lost. Other ways will be explored to counter this.

- Good to see that older age and lower socio-economic groups don't seem to be underrepresented in the online data

- Need to continue to monitor response rates to see if they are artificially inflated at the moment because of the pandemic.

- There should be a public consultation on the content of the questionnaire

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