LFS and COVID

Discussion Group 2

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24 November 2020

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

- There is no externally validated data source to measure levels of migration so LFS grossing weights used in 2020 do not take negative migration into account. ONS cannot estimate population changes without relevant information and in particular data about how migration breaks down by sub-groups.

- Tenure weighting uses tenure across the country so it might not be perfect, particularly in London. However, adding tenure into the weighting should have reduced the level of bias in the estimates of economically inactive and the unemployed.

- Why aren't the new variables about COVID on the LFS data at the UK Data Service? There was no time to test the new questions so the collected data resulting from some of these questions is still considered experimental. Once ONS is confident about the reliability of the data collected through these new COVID variables, these can be released for the UKDS and SRS datasets.

- Can ONS provide a 1 page list of all the new COVID variables with the documentation to the data, once it is available? Yes, this information can be provided together with the usual documentation.

- Can ONS provide code so that users can recreate analyses i.e. a code library? there is no wider policy about sharing code at the ONS. The ONS Labour Market team can supply code for tables on request, but can't answer large numbers of queries about this (contact: labour.market@ons.gov.uk). ONS will consider providing the code for derived variables if this is deemed practical but it is not straightforward to provide code for tables.

- See more detail in Word document: Jbaway, Working variables; home variable; weekly estimates; and incentives.

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