LFS & APS User Update

London, 20 November 2017

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Coverage

1. Recent developments?
2. What’s happening in 2018?
3. What’s on the longer term horizon?
1. Recent Developments
Recent developments

• Annual Reweighting Programme Complete (PWT17 based on 2015 MYE and 2014 SNPPs)
  ➢ LFS Person micro data published in May
  ➢ APS Person micro data published in June
  ➢ LFS and APS Household micro data published in Autumn (flexible)
  ➢ Longitudinal micro data published in June

• Published 3 year dataset (J14D16) on 17th Aug. Plan to publish this annually
  ➢ January to December basis
  ➢ Contains all possible APS variables (i.e. that have been in survey for those 3 years)
  ➢ Requires usage of specific ‘pooled’ weight
  ➢ Sample size around 550,000 respondents (compared to 300,000 in single year)

• Added more granularity to the Country of birth and Nationality variables on the EUL dataset

• Bias research
  ➢ Ongoing work into potential bias on the LFS. Paper due to be published in the near future.
Recent work

• Dress rehearsal
  ➢ 2017 Dress Rehearsal complete
  ➢ Areas for improvement for some modules identified e.g. social mobility and the Gig economy - to be taken forward in 2018

• IESS investigations
  ➢ Various consultations with Eurostat over proposed changes due to IESS
  ➢ Uncertainty over compliance requirements after Brexit

• Actions to improve response
  ➢ Through November testing a shortened LFS with same model as current LFS to inform future discussions.
  ➢ Working with the field team to improve calling patterns, provide additional training around avoiding refusals
  ➢ Moved Wave 1 cases out of the TO into the field from January
  ➢ Restinting
  ➢ Commissioned a Behavioural Insights Team to experiment with respondent materials for the LFS and Census e.g. envelope design
  ➢ Incentives testing – monetary and non-monetary
2. What’s happening in 2018?
Work in 2018

• **Change to reweighting based on the SNPP data very other year**
  - Reweighting will begin after availability of Sub-National Population Projection data and the latest Mid-Year Estimates (around July)
  - Re-weighted LFS microdata and aggregates published 6 months later towards the end of the year.
  - Next re-weighting exercise to begin in July 2018, and re-weighted LFS microdata and aggregates published at the end of 2018.
  - Investigations into a ‘trigger’ for decisions on re-weighting in the intermediate year.

• **Incentive trial continues**
  - Half the sample to receive £5 and half to receive £10
  - Analysis work ongoing

• **Restinting**
  - Work underway to restructure field collection geographies to be more efficient
  - No impact to data geographies
  - Potential to improve response
Work in 2018

• **Eurostat carry out ‘Ad hoc Modules’ once a year on specific topics**
  - Range of additional questions and derived variables on the LFS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Theme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Labour market situation of migrants and the immediate descendents of migrants</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Transition from school to work life</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Reconciliation between work and family life</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Employment of disabled people</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Transition from work into retirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Accidents at work and other work-related health problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Labour market situation of migrants and their descendents</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Young people on the Labour Market</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Self employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Reconciling between work and family life</td>
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  - Range of additional questions only asked in wave 1 of the LFS

• **Both these variable types to be added to APS person EUL**
  - Added to January to December periods
  - Need to use specific weight (EWEIGH**)
  - Added to UKDS along with APS reweighting micro data (June’17)
3. Longer term horizon
Transformation of Social Survey Data Collection

- **Financial challenges imposed by last Spending Review**
  - Office wide programme to ‘transform’ Business & Social survey data collection
  - Savings from the LFS is key given its size and cost

- **Various strands to ‘transformation’ of the LFS**
  - Information from ‘Admin’ data ?
  - Improvements in methodology and logistic approaches
  - Making LFS questionnaire ‘online’ ready
  - Improving respondent engagement

- **‘Online’ Questionnaire design challenges**
  - Transformation, not translation
  - Prioritise core requirements of the survey, maintaining quality
  - Rationale design of the questionnaire content and flow
  - Make it a better respondent experience

- **Coincides with other related challenges for the LFS**
  - Improving response rates
  - Impact of Eurostat’s IESS project
Thank you

- Please use lfs@ons.gsi.gov.uk for queries