

Overview of Gemini Project

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Survey Methods Symposium

Presentation Overview

1. Project overview
2. Motivation for redesign
3. Project tasks
4. Current teams
5. Activities to date
6. Upcoming activities
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Project Overview

Mission

- ▶ Improve data quality through a verifiable reduction in measurement error, with a particular focus on under-reporting.

Objective

- ▶ Develop a detailed research plan for implementing a redesign of the CE surveys, including piloting, evaluation, and transition.

Motivation for Redesign (1)

■ Evidence of measurement error

- ▶ Declining ratios of aggregate expenditure estimates from the CE compared with Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE)
- ▶ The 2008 CE Program Review Report cites item nonresponse and measurement error as areas of concern
- ▶ Subgroup comparisons show differences in expenditure reporting by mode of interview and use of recall aids
- ▶ Possibly due to complexity, conditioning, proxy reporting, recall error, survey length, mode effects

Motivation for Redesign (2)

- Technological advances
 - ▶ Transformation of respondent behavior
 - ▶ Emergence of new data collection options
- Need for more flexibility
 - ▶ Allow for faster implementation of questionnaire changes
 - ▶ Allow for mixed-mode interviewing
- Same basic design for past 30 years

Overview of Project Tasks (1)

1. *Produce database of CE research
2. *Refine data requirements and priorities
3. *Define data quality for CE
4. *Sponsor internal and external events for information gathering and expert review

*completed

Overview of Project Tasks (2)

5. Conduct research
6. Recommend a survey redesign
7. Assess user impact of design alternatives
8. Propose a transition roadmap

Project Tasks by Year

Year	Tasks
2009-10	(1) Research database (2) Data requirements and priorities (3) Data quality definition
2010-12	(4) Hold research events, produce reports
2010-13	(5) Conduct ongoing supporting research
2013	(6) Recommend survey redesign (7) Assess user impact of design alternatives (8) Propose transition roadmap
2014+	Piloting Evaluation Transition

Current Gemini Teams

- Gemini Design Team
 - ▶ Joint Census-BLS, Kick-off this week
- Gemini Sampling Team I
- Gemini Technology Team
 - ▶ Joint Census-BLS, Just finished
- OPLC (Office of Prices and Living Conditions) Requirements Team
 - ▶ Joint CE-Consumer Price Index (CPI) plus Division of Price and Index Number Research (DPINR)
- Small-scale Redesign Team

Activities To Date: Reports (1)

Date	Report
Oct 2009	Data Quality Definition Report
Mar 2010	Research Project Tracking System Report
Jun 2010	CPI Requirements Paper
Aug 2010	Conference Team Report
Aug 2010	Data User Needs Report

Activities To Date:

Reports (2)

Date	Report
Mar 2010	Methods Workshop Report
May 2011	Revised Vision Document
May 2011	CE Data Requirements Report
Aug 2011	Household Survey Producers Workshop Assessment
Dec 2011	Redesign Options Workshop papers

Activities To Date: Reports (3)

Date	Report
Jun 2012	Gemini Technology Team Report
July 2012	Revised Vision Document

Activities To Date: Events and Contracts (1)

Date	Event
Jan 2010	Survey Redesign Panel
Mar 2010	Data Capture Technology Forum
May 2010	Panel on Respondent Record Use
Jun 2010	Data User Needs Forum
Sept 2010	Contract with the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) Expert Panel awarded
Dec 2010	Methods Workshop

Activities To Date:

Events and Contracts (2)

Date	Event
Feb 2011	CNSTAT Expert Panel First Meeting
Jun 2011	Household Survey Producers Workshop
Oct 2011	Redesign Options Workshop
Jan 2012	CNSTAT Expert Panel Fourth Meeting
Jun 2012	Contract for Independent Redesign Proposals II awarded
Jul 2012	Survey Methods Symposium (this event)

Upcoming Activities

Date	Event
Aug 2012	CNSTAT Panel Recommendations (pre-pub report)
Fall 2012	OPLC Requirements Team Report; Gemini Sampling Team II Report; CNSTAT presentation of recommendations
Win 2012	Independent Redesign Proposals II presentations
Spr 2013	Independent Redesign Proposals II Report
Spr 2013	Gemini Design Team proposal

Related Research

- Already covered by Adam in previous presentation
- Joint efforts
 - ▶ BLS Division of Consumer Expenditure Survey
 - ▶ BLS Office of Survey Methods Research
 - ▶ Census Bureau
- Mostly the same people involved in research projects and Gemini
- 30+ completed projects since ~2009 and 17 ongoing

Project Website

<http://www.bls.gov/cex/geminimaterials.htm>

Information available on:

- ▶ Gemini overview
- ▶ Gemini events
- ▶ Gemini presentations
- ▶ CE survey methods research
- ▶ CE methods and survey forms
- ▶ Other redesign related events and studies

Contact Information

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