

Consumer Expenditure Survey Gemini Project

Current and upcoming research

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

This research agenda reflects Gemini redesign-related projects that are currently in progress or in the planning stages. Some projects in the Gemini High Level timeline are not at a stage of planning to be included in the detailed research agenda (e.g., the redesign dress rehearsal). Those projects will be added as more details are learned.

2017	Start Year	End Year
1. Gemini Large-Scale Online Diary Feasibility Test	2017	2020
2. Gemini Streamlined CEQ Instrument Team	2017	2018
2018	Start Year	End Year
1. Gemini CE Paper Diary Redesign	2018	2019
2019	Start Year	End Year
1. 2018 Data Quality Profile	2019	2020
2. Assess the Underreporting in Online Expenditures	2019	2019
3. FR Records Focus Training Development	2019	2020
4. Identifying Response Clusters in CEQ data	2019	2019
5. Metric Development for Evaluating the Streamlined Questionnaire	2019	2020
2020	Start Year	End Year
1. Analysis of Large-Scale Online Diary Feasibility Test	2020	2021

2. Gemini Summary of Economic Papers Using CE Data for Analyses of Change	2020	2021
3. Update CEQ Worksheet for the Streamlined Questionnaire	2020	2021

Project Descriptions

In-Progress

Gemini Streamlined CEQ Instrument Team

The purpose of this project is to finalize and cognitively test as needed the Gemini CEQ interview content based on previous work conducted on identifying global questions. This streamlined questionnaire will facilitate the use of records, aggregate questions wherever possible to reduce burden, and reorganize certain sections to improve the flow of the instrument.

The team will create detailed requirements for the CEQ streamlined questionnaire to be implemented into production in 2023.

Gemini Large-Scale Online Diary Feasibility Test

The purpose of this project is to test the design that will closely reflect all of the components of Gemini redesign; incorporating lessons learned from the web and individual diaries test, the proof-of concept test, the incentives test, and cognitive lab studies and additional research.

Findings from this test will be used to make a go/no-go decision on the design plan and, pending that decision, to plan the implementation of the redesign.

Identifying Response Clusters in CEQ data

The purpose of this project is to identify response clusters in CEQ data, such that the response to one interview question (expense or non-expense) is predictive of responses to other questions.

The findings of this project will be used to determine whether the streamlined questionnaire can use screeners based on these clusters to reduce the number of questions asked in a responsive way, while still maintaining data quality.

2018 Data Quality Profile

The purpose of this project is to produce the internal and external 2018 Data Quality Profiles, introducing additional metrics as warranted.

This project will result in an updated external Data Quality Profile that will be released near the time of the 2018 data release and an internal Data Quality Profile for use by internal stakeholders.

Scheduled

Gemini CE Paper Diary Redesign

The purpose of this project is to redesign and usability test the paper CE Diary to coordinate with the design of the online diary and to modernize the cover to reflect current spending habits such as online shopping.

The redesigned Paper Diary will be implemented in production.

Assess the Underreporting in Online Expenditures

With the increase of purchases made online and options to have expenses automatically debited, it would be worthwhile to find out if people are forgetting to report those expenses (especially ones done through subscriptions, through frequently used sites where a payment method can be saved, or on items paid using automatically scheduled payments).

If it can be confirmed that these types of expenditures are being misreported, methods can be proposed to address the problem.

FR Records Focus Training Development

The purpose of this project is to develop training requirements that would address what FRs would need to know related to specific types of records that will be targeted in the streamlined questionnaire.

The findings will be used to train the FRs for the streamlined questionnaire.

Metric Development for Evaluating the Streamlined Questionnaire

The purpose of this project is to create objective metrics to evaluate the design of the streamlined questionnaire. Examples of metrics that may be included are longest and shortest path, number of questions and words.

The results of this project will be a set of metrics that can be used to compare the current CEQ questionnaire to the streamlined questionnaire and can be used as an ongoing baseline when changes to the survey design and content are made.

Analysis of Large-Scale Online Diary Feasibility Test

The purpose of this project is to analyze the results of the large-scale online diary feasibility test including an evaluation of data quality and the effect of token incentives on data and response.

The results of this project will inform the go/no-go decision on the online diary and direct the implementation of token incentives into the survey.

Gemini Summary of Economic Papers Using CE Data for Analyses of Change

The purpose of this project is to summarize economic papers using CE data for year-to-year and within-year change

The results of this project will be used to evaluate the impact of the redesign plan on data users.

Update CEQ Worksheet for the Streamlined Questionnaire

The purpose of this project is to update the CEQ worksheet developed in 2018 to reflect changes from results from the test and to accommodate changes to the streamlined questionnaire.

This project will result in a worksheet that can be implemented with the streamlined questionnaire to facilitate the records-focused interview.