

Consumer Expenditure Survey Gemini Project

Current and upcoming research

Wednesday, January 28, 2015

2013	Start Year	End Year
1. CE Redesign Proof-of-Concept Test	2013	2015

2014	Start Year	End Year
1. Composite Burden Index	2014	2015
2. Data Quality Profile Prototype and Initial Requirements	2014	2015
3. Gemini Incentive Structure Review	2014	2015
4. Gemini Recall Interview Development BPA	2014	2016
5. Gemini Records Interview Protocol Testing BPA	2014	2016

2015	Start Year	End Year
1. Data Quality Profile Implementation	2015	2016
2. Electronic Diary Design Improvements	2015	2015
3. Gemini Incentives Feasibility Test	2015	2016
4. Gemini Recall Interview Protocol Testing	2015	2015
5. Gemini Records Interview Global Questions Testing Team	2015	2015
6. Gemini Records Interview Online Records Handling	2015	2016
7. Gemini Records Interview Questionnaire Design Team	2015	2016
8. Gemini Respondent Experience Package	2015	2015
9. Small-Scale Outlets Testing - Diary	2015	2015
10. Small-Scale Outlets Testing - Recall Study	2015	2016

2016

**Start
Year** **End
Year**

1. Gemini Large-Scale Feasibility Test

2016 2019

Project Descriptions

In-Progress

CE Redesign Proof-of-Concept Test

The purpose of this project is to test whether the proposed Gemini redesign, specifically, a single-sample expenditure survey design consisting of 2 personal interviews and individual diaries, is feasible.

The results of the test will be used to decide whether the redesign structure is feasible, in order to make the decision to further research on the proposed design. The results will also be used to inform future development of each of the components.

Composite Burden Index

The purpose of this project is to develop a survey respondent burden index for implementation that can be used to track perceived respondent burden over time.

The burden index score developed from this project will be used to help monitor respondent's perceived burden for future CE interview surveys.

Data Quality Profile Prototype and Initial Requirements

The purpose of this project is to develop a prototype data quality profile and initial requirements for producing an annual Data Quality Profile for internal staff and external data users.

The findings from this project will be used to identify and describe the elements needed to produce an annual Data Quality Profile and a data quality prototype that can be built upon as more data quality indicators are defined.

Gemini Incentive Structure Review

The purpose of this project is to summarize the experiences of incentive use in other household surveys, explore the requirements needed to obtain OMB approval, and document issues associated with the use of incentives at the Census Bureau.

The findings from this project will be used to recommend and implement a protocol for using incentives at the Census Bureau.

Gemini Recall Interview Development BPA

The purpose of this project is to contract with Westat to use the updated CE data requirements and previous BLS work products (e.g., Gemini Content Team report) to design a questionnaire for the Recall Interview of the redesigned CE survey. Westat will then conduct between 20 and 40 cognitive interviews to test various aspects of the questionnaire, including level of aggregation and question wording.

The findings from this study will be used to construct the Recall Interview portion of the redesigned CE survey. These findings will be useful in determining the optimal level of aggregation for expenditure categories as well as the wording used to prompt respondents' memories.

Gemini Records Interview Protocol Testing BPA

The purpose of this project is to manage the process of contracting out work to Westat for data collection for testing Records Interview protocols.

The results of this project will be a report from Westat on the findings from data collection testing of the Records Interview protocols.

Gemini Recall Interview Protocol Testing

The purpose of this project is to design, develop, and pilot test several protocols for the recall-based interview and offer recommendations on which protocols should be further tested.

The findings from this project will lay out a set of protocols to be tested on a larger scale that will inform the ordering of the recall interview and level of flexibility required in the redesigned instrument.

Small-Scale Outlets Testing - Diary

The purpose of this project is to explore the impact of integrating outlets into the CE Diary. The study will test two different designs (organizing the diary by outlet, organizing the diary by item with follow-up questions about outlets) and compare performance and respondent ratings.

The results of this project will inform the decision as to whether to include outlets in the CE and, if outlets are to be included in the diary, the recommended overall approach for integration.

Scheduled

Electronic Diary Design Improvements

The purpose of this project is to incorporate alternative design elements into the web and mobile diaries, independent of the Individual Diary Feasibility Test results.

The results from this project will be used as an input to finalizing the web and mobile diary design for the Large Scale Feasibility Test.

Gemini Records Interview Global Questions Testing Team

The purpose of this project is to cognitively test global questions for records interview expenditure categories that have been recommended to be asked as an aggregated single question.

The findings from this project will be used to validate that respondents consider all relevant subcategories when being asked a global question for a given expenditure category, or to recommend further disaggregation.

Gemini Respondent Experience Package

This project will research the implementation of a post-Wave 1 respondent experience package in addition to a post-Wave 2 respondent experience package, conditional on the ability to mail out the package to a Consumer Unit (CU) fewer than 6 months after Wave 1, established effectiveness as a non-monetary incentive in gaining cooperation and reducing attrition, and established non-impact on Wave 2 spending behaviors.

The results from this project will serve as inputs to a decision on field testing the Respondent Experience Package.

Data Quality Profile Implementation

The purpose of this project is to implement the Data Quality Profile project recommendations into production.

This project will yield a Data Quality Profile published annually for external users, as well as an internal Data Quality dashboard for use by internal stakeholders.

Gemini Incentives Feasibility Test

The purpose of this project is to test and assess alternative incentive structures and amounts for the survey redesign.

The results from this project will be used to either validate the existing proposed incentive structure for the Large Scale Feasibility Test, or to recommend an alternative.

Gemini Records Interview Online Records Handling

The purpose of this project is to investigate the most effective and practical way of handling electronic records during the records interview. The initial protocols that have been developed include having the respondent save electronic records to their desktop or print their electronic records. Feasible alternatives to this protocol should be explored with consideration given to privacy concerns and respondent burden.

The results of this project will be a feasible set of recommendations for the handling of electronic records by respondents and FRs.

Gemini Records Interview Questionnaire Design Team

The purpose of this project is to develop recall questions for expenditure categories for which respondents do not have records available. This project will work in conjunction with the Gemini Records Interview Globals Testing Team and the Records Interview protocol team.

The outcome of this project will provide the recommended questions for each expenditure category for the records interview, considering both the appropriate level of aggregation, and the recommended records protocol.

Small-Scale Outlets Testing - Recall Study

The purpose of this project is to explore the impact of integrating outlets into the CE Recall Interview. The study will test whether outlet information aids accuracy and ease of recall, in an online task.

The results of this project will inform the decision as to whether to include outlets in the CE.

Gemini Large-Scale Feasibility Test

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

Findings from this test will be used in planning the dress rehearsal prior to full implementation of the redesign.