



Uncertainty in times of COVID-19: Raw survey data

Fabian Lange, Lars Vilhuber

2020-05-04

Contents

Description	1
Available data	2
Data description	2
Data sources and methodology	6
Funding	8
License	8
References	8

Data from a survey of consumer expectations

Description

From April 24, 2020, Fabian Lange and Lars Vilhuber will conduct the survey “Uncertainty in COVID-19 times”. The survey is a single-question survey focusing on people’s anticipation about social distancing rules and firm closures during the 2020 COVID-19 health crisis.

We believe that this information is not otherwise available in a reliable and timely fashion. The information should be usable by policy-makers and researchers, to be included in models of future developments of society and the economy.

Citation

Please cite the data as

Lange, Fabian and Lars Vilhuber. 2020. “Uncertainty in times of COVID-19: Raw survey data [dataset].” Available at <https://labordynamicsinstitute.github.io/covid19-expectations-data> (accessed 2020-05-04).

Please cite this document as

Lange, Fabian and Lars Vilhuber. 2020. “Codebook for: Uncertainty in times of COVID-19: Raw survey data.” Available at <https://labordynamicsinstitute.github.io/covid19-expectations-data> (accessed 2020-05-04).

We will be posting the data on Zenodo shortly. Data should be cite via DOI then.

Available data

Final files

Final files are uploaded after each wave is completed. Filenames in `final` tagged with geography, language, the question type, and date downloaded:

`survey-[geography]-[language]-[question]-[date].xlsx`

List of files

Files
<code>survey-canada-en-people-20200503.xlsx</code>
<code>survey-canada-fr-businesses-20200426.xlsx</code>
<code>survey-canada-fr-people-20200426.xlsx</code>
<code>survey-qc-fr-businesses-20200429.xlsx</code>
<code>survey-qc-fr-people-20200429.xlsx</code>
<code>survey-us-en-businesses-20200429.xlsx</code>
<code>survey-us-en-people-20200429.xlsx</code>
<code>survey-n5sfslqzvhfynwm27fzj3l7tu.xlsx</code>

Normalized file (Stata)

We provide a normalized Stata file with all surveys, recoded consistently.

Files
<code>expectations.dta</code>

Temporary files

Temporary files may be made available if a survey has not yet completed, but data are already available.

Temporary files follow

`survey-[surveyid].xlsx`

Data description

Topic	Answer
Geographic Coverage	United States of America, Canada
Time Periods	2020-04-24 - 2020-05-03
Date of Collection	2020-04-24 - 2020-05-03
Unit of Observation	Individual
Description of Variables	User ID, Time (UTC), Survey Completion, Publisher Category, Gender, Age, Geography, Weight, Question #1 Answer, rt_Q1_ms

Reference period

The survey asks about point-in-time expectations. A new wave is launched every Friday. The list provides the dates of collection for each wave. Currently, data are available covering the period between 2020-04-24 and 2020-05-03.

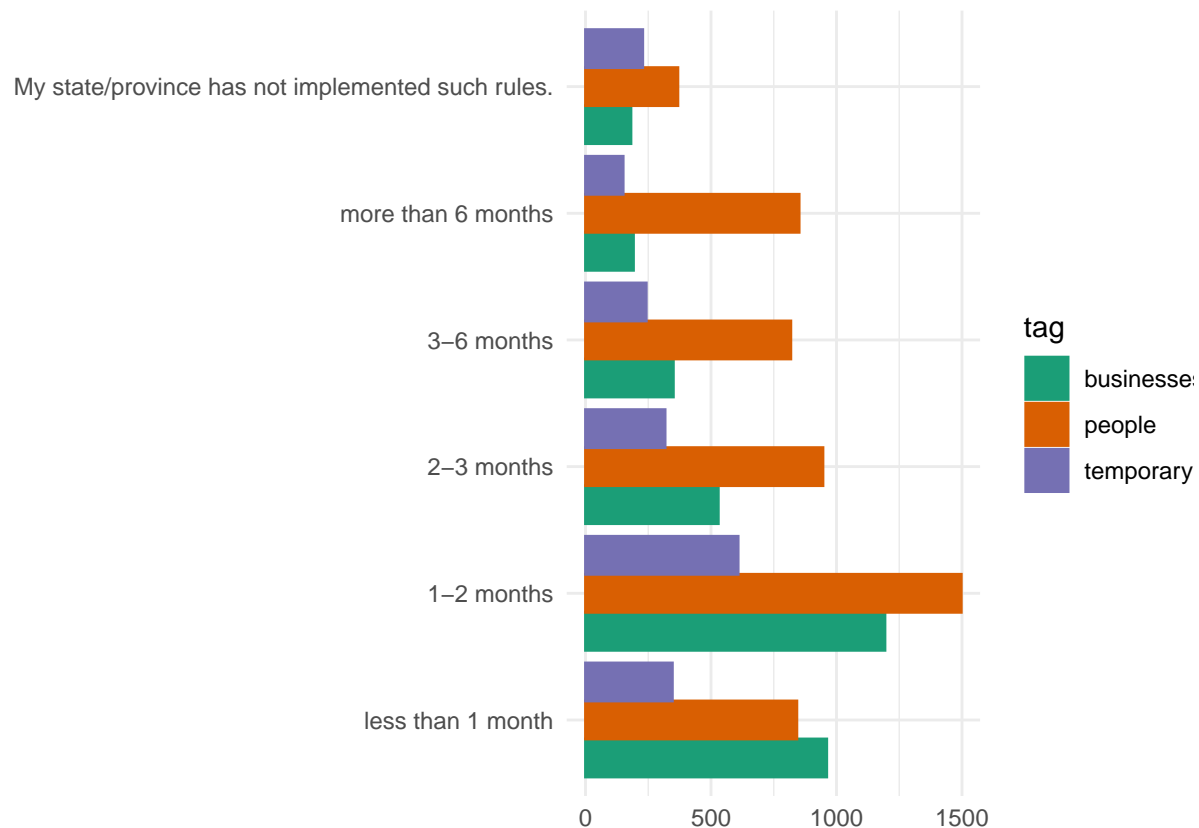
Data Dictionary

Q1: Answer to primary question

This field will differ across the two types of files, geography, and languages. A consolidated (standardized) distribution is shown below, using the standardizer mapping.

Standardized distribution

The following tabulations are of unweighted data.



People, Canada, English

Question #1 Answer	count	percent
1-2 months	511	25.68
2-3 months	390	19.60
3-6 months	313	15.73
less than 1 month	237	11.91
more than 6 months	353	17.74
My province has not implemented such rules.	186	9.35

Business, Canada, French

Question #1 Answer	count	percent
1-2 mois	277	30.64
2-3 mois	250	27.65
3-6 mois	201	22.23
Les entreprises dans ma province ne sont pas fermées	17	1.88
moins d'un mois	104	11.50
plus que 6 mois	55	6.08

People, Canada, French

Question #1 Answer	count	percent
1-2 mois	175	21.06
2-3 mois	212	25.51
3-6 mois	230	27.68
Ma province n'a pas de telles mesures	8	0.96
moins d'un mois	27	3.25
plus que 6 mois	179	21.54

Business, US, English

Question #1 Answer	count	percent
1-2 months	916	36.63
2-3 months	279	11.16
3-6 months	149	5.96
less than 1 month	857	34.27
more than 6 months	136	5.44
My state has not implemented such rules.	164	6.56

People, US, English

Question #1 Answer	count	percent
1-2 months	811	32.43
2-3 months	344	13.75
3-6 months	275	11.00
less than 1 month	578	23.11

Question #1 Answer	count	percent
more than 6 months	319	12.75
My state has not implemented such rules.	174	6.96

Age

Age	count	percent
18-24	1329	12.52
25-34	1669	15.72
35-44	1463	13.78
45-54	1250	11.77
55-64	1309	12.33
65+	1122	10.57
Unknown	2476	23.32

Gender

Gender	count	percent
Female	3859	36.34
Male	4411	41.54
Unknown	2348	22.11

Geography

Geography is as coded by Google Surveys. Precision may vary, having country, region, province, and sometimes city.

Distribution across countries

Regions

Regions may be single states or provinces, or larger collections.

States/Provinces

Cities

In some cases, details is available at the city level.

Detailed geography

Weight

See elsewhere in this document how weights are computed.

Response Time

Publisher Category

Not tabulated

- User ID
- Time (UTC)
- Survey Completion

Data structure

Data files are available for each completed cycle of the survey, in general once a week, and are stored under **final**. Data from the preliminary study (assessing the questionnaire design) is stored under **preliminary**. We may make available data before the survey is completed for each cycle, under **temporary**, however, once the final version from that cycle is available, these are deleted (this directory will be empty on Zenodo).

Data format

Native format is Excel (XLSX).

Files are provided as downloaded from Google Surveys. Each file has 4 tabs.

Overview

Lists the questions asked by the client, in this case Lange and Vilhuber, as well as a survey ID.

Topline

This tab contains a weighted summary of the responses to the questions (similar to the above summary).

Complete responses

This tab contains the actual microdata for any complete responses. Note that for a single-question survey, this is identical to the “All responses”. A complete response might have a weight of zero.

All responses

All responses, whether complete or not, are recorded on this tab. In the case of a single-question survey, this is identical to the “Complete responses” tab.

Data sources and methodology

Target population

- All Canadians aged 18 and older from the ten provinces and three territories are eligible to participate.
- All US residents aged 18 and older are eligible to participate.

Instrument design

Each individual is asked one of two questions: how long they expect “social distancing rules” or “business closures” to remain in effect:

- How much longer do you expect social distancing rules (restrictions on gatherings, stay-at-home rules) to stay in place in your province/state?
- How much longer do you expect the closure of non-essential businesses to stay in place in your province/state?

Five response choices are offered:

- “less than 1 month”,
- “1-2 months”,
- “2-3 months”,
- “3-6 months”,
- “more than 6 months”.

An additional answer allows respondents to affirm that “such measures are not implemented in their province/state”. See questionnaires for visual representation of the questions.

Questionnaires

Data collection

Data is collected via Google Surveys. For English-language surveys, data is collected via a web form. For French-language surveys, the Android Google Survey app is used, as web-collection in French is not possible via Google Surveys. See Sostek and Slatkin (2018) and Google (2020) for more details.

The survey questionnaire was approved by McGill University Research Ethics Board under REB File # 20-04-070. Exemption was issued by Cornell University Institutional Review Board under Protocol ID# 2004009539.

Sampling

Google Surveys is an online non-probability survey. It uses stratified sampling for collection, based (in the US) on the target internet population from the 2017 Current Population Survey (CPS) Computer and Internet Use Supplement (Sostek and Slatkin 2018; Google 2020).

Data are collected directly from survey respondents.

For each country, we plan to collect 2500 responses per question, per week. For Canada, a French-language variant is fielded. In order to determine the split, we use Statistics Canada statistics on “Language spoken most often at home” by other language(s) spoken regularly at home and age” (Statistics Canada 2017),¹ combining responses for “French” and “French and non-official language” (i.e., no English mentioned).

For 2016, 20.4% spoke French and no English as the language spoken most often at home. We thus target 510 responses via the French-language questionnaire, and 1990 in English.

Imputation

All demographics are imputed by Google Surveys, if collected via web. Demographics for respondents via the app are collected through the app.

¹Table can be downloaded from here.

Quality evaluation

A preliminary survey was conducted to allow for choice of either a two-question variant, or a one-question variant that included both social distancing and business closures (“How much longer do you expect social distancing rules (restrictions on gatherings, closure of non-essential businesses, stay-at-home rules) to stay in place in your province?”). See “Uncertainty in times of COVID-19: Choosing whether to ask 1 or 2 questions” for more information.

Privacy and disclosure control

Privacy and disclosure control are described in Google (2020). For most respondents, no direct or indirect identifiers are collected, and are imputed based on other information available to Google, but not the sponsors of the survey.

Response rates

The specific response rates are not known. Google (2020) reports response rates in general for this type of data collection.

Funding

We acknowledge generous funding by Lange’s Canada Research Chair in Labour and Personnel Economics, and by the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability under its “Rapid Response Fund” program.

License

These data are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International license. See citation for attribution.

References

- Google. 2020. “Methodology Google Surveys.” <https://support.google.com/surveys/answer/6189786>.
- Sostek, Katrina, and Brett Slatkin. 2018. “How Google Surveys Works.” Whitepaper. Google. https://services.google.com/fh/files/misc/white_paper_how_google_surveys_works.pdf.
- Statistics Canada. 2017. “Language Highlight Tables, 2016 Census.” Catalogue 98-402-X2016005. Statistics Canada. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/hlt-fst/lang/Table.cfm?Lang=E&T=31&Geo=00>.