

SFB/Transregio 266

ACCOUNTING FOR
TRANSPARENCY

German Business Panel

Version 0.1 (10.05.2021)

German Business Panel

Cost Structure, Accounting Choices, Corona Support Programs, Tax Incidence, Organizational Trust In and Beyond the COVID-19 Crisis

Documentation

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Das German Business Panel ist ein langfristiges Befragungspanel des DFG-geförderten überregionalen Projektes „Accounting for Transparency“

Overview & Example

Brief summary: The COVID-19 crisis is arguably one of the greatest concerns of firms in Germany in these days. Therefore, the German Business Panel developed a survey to ask a representative sample of firms in Germany about their perceived economic uncertainty, their plans for investments, and employment. We also asked about expectations about firm survival, take-up of government support, and managerial strategies to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and firm characteristics.

Variable names: Variable **names** are indicated in the top row of each question summary. In case the question has multiple items, the items are indicated by a **number**. Variable names are provided along with English and German labels.

Coding (incl. missing convention): The **coding** of the variables indicates the variable range.

-9999	dropout	-9996	does not apply	-9997	don't know
-9998	refusal	-9995	recoding		

Variable type: Types of variables indicated include **string (str20)**, **date**, **numeric(int)**, **numeric(float)**.

Filtering: Filters and conditional redirects are highlighted by **Courier**. If questions are posed to all respondents, this is not explicitly stated.

Example:

Variable Names	ccd1-ccd7	
Original survey question	In welchem Ausmaß wurden die folgenden Kennzahlen Ihres Unternehmens durch die Corona-Krise beeinflusst? Bitte vergleichen Sie die aktuellen Kennzahlen mit den Kennzahlen zum Jahresbeginn 2020.	
English translation of survey question	To what extent were the following key figures impacted by the Corona crisis? Please indicate by what percentage the key figures have changed compared to the beginning of 2020.	
Variable names/labels	ccd1	monthly revenue
	ccd2	employees
	ccd3	liquidity
	ccd4	liabilities
	ccd5	outstanding bills
	ccd6	profits
	ccd7	accruals
Variable type	numeric(int)	
Range	[-100, 100]	
Filter	None	

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1 Survey Start

Open- ing	<p>Vielen Dank, dass Sie sich bereiterklärt haben, an unserer Befragung teilzunehmen</p> <p>Ihre Mitarbeit an dieser Befragung ist für die Aussagekraft unserer Studie ausgesprochen wichtig. Die Befragung kann jederzeit unterbrochen werden und durch erneutes Klicken auf Ihren persönlichen Link an derselben Stelle fortgesetzt werden. Bitte beantworten Sie die Fragen aus der Sicht Ihres Unternehmens.</p> <p>Informationen zum Datenschutz</p> <p>Ihre Angaben werden selbstverständlich streng vertraulich nach EU-Datenschutz-Grundverordnung (DSGVO) sowie den weiteren Datenschutzgesetzen behandelt. Die forschungsbezogenen Ergebnisse werden ausschließlich in anonymisierter Form in Veröffentlichungen verwendet. Insbesondere möchten wir auf die folgenden Punkte hinweisen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alle Befragungsdaten werden ausschließlich zu Forschungszwecken benutzt. Ihre Angaben werden selbstverständlich streng vertraulich behandelt.• Ihre Teilnahme an unserer Studie ist freiwillig. Mit Ihrer Teilnahme willigen Sie ein, dass Ihre Daten gespeichert, verarbeitet und weitergegeben werden dürfen.• Sie können ihre Einwilligung jederzeit widerrufen. Durch den Widerruf wird die Rechtmäßigkeit der aufgrund der Einwilligung bis zum Widerruf erfolgten Verarbeitung nicht berührt.• Die forschungsbezogenen Ergebnisse werden ausschließlich in anonymisierte und aggregierter Form in Veröffentlichungen verwendet, so dass keine Rückschlüsse auf Ihre Person sowie Ihr Unternehmen möglich sind• Ausführliche Informationen erhalten Sie in unserer Erklärung zum Datenschutz <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ja, ich habe die Informationen zum Datenschutz gelesen, verstanden und möchte an der Befragung teilnehmen.</p>
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Variable Name	ccgic1
Original survey question	Welche Rechtsform hat ihr Unternehmen?
English translation of survey question	What is the legal form of your company?
Variable label	legal form
Variable type	categorical (int)
Range	<p>[1, 15]</p> <p>1 = Einzelunternehmen 2 = GmbH 3 = GmbH & Co. KG 4 = UG 5 = AG 6 = oHG 7 = GbR 8 = PartG 9 = KG 10 = SE 11 = Verein 12 = KGaA 13 = Genossenschaft 14 = Öffentlich-rechtliches Unternehmen 15 = Andere</p>
Filter	None

Variable Name	ccgic5
Original survey question	Wie viele sozialversicherungspflichtige Mitarbeiter (in vollen Stellen) hat Ihr Unternehmen?
English translation of survey question	How many full-time employees subject to social security does your firm employ?
Variable label	number employees
Variable type	numeric (int)
Range	[0,∞)
Filter	None

Variable Name	ccgic6
Original survey question	Welches der folgenden Intervalle entspricht am ehesten der Zahl der sozialversicherungspflichtigen Mitarbeiter (in vollen Stellen) in Ihrem Unternehmen?
English translation of the survey question	Which of the following intervals corresponds most closely to the number of full-time employees subject to social security that you firm employs?
Variable names/labels	number employees categorical
Variable type	categorical (int)
Description	Number of employees provided in ccgic5 will automatically be translated in the respective category of ccgic6.
Range	[1,9] 1 = No employees 2 = 1-5 3 = 6-9 4 = 10-19 5 = 20-49 6 = 50-249 7 = 250-499 8 = 500-999 9 = More than 1000
Filter	Conditional on ccgic5 being empty

Variable Name	ccgic2
Original survey question	Bitte geben Sie den Jahresumsatz (in EUR) im Jahr 2019 Ihres Unternehmens an.
English translation of survey question	Please indicate the annual revenue (in EUR) of your company in 2019.
Variable label	revenue 2019
Variable type	numeric (int)
Range	[0, ∞)
Filter	None

Variable Name	ccgic3
Original survey question	Welches der folgenden Intervalle entspricht am ehesten dem Jahresumsatz Ihres Unternehmens im Jahr 2019?
English translation of survey question	Which of the following intervals corresponds most closely to the annual revenue of your company in 2019?
Variable label	revenue 2019 categorical
Variable type	categorical (int)
Description	Revenues provided in ccgic2 will automatically be translated in the respective category of ccgic3.
Range	[1,14] 1 = Less than 50.000 EUR 2 = 50.000 – 100.000 EUR 3 = 100.001 – 350.000 EUR 4 = 350.001 – 700.000 EUR 5 = 700.001 – 2.000.000 EUR 6 = 2.000.001 – 6.000.000 EUR 7 = 6.000.001 – 8.000.000 EUR 8 = 8.000.001 – 10.000.000 EUR 9 = 10.000.001 – 12.000.000 EUR 10 = 12.000.001 – 20.000.000 EUR 11 = 20.000.001 – 40.000.000 EUR 12 = 40.000.001 – 50.000.000 EUR 13 = 50.000.001 – 60.000.000 EUR 14 = More than 60.000.000 EUR
Filter	Conditional on ccgic2 being empty

2 Crisis Impact & Cost Structure

Variable Names	ccd1-ccd7	
Original survey question	In welchem Ausmaß wurden die folgenden Kennzahlen Ihres Unternehmens durch die Corona-Krise beeinflusst? Bitte vergleichen Sie die aktuellen Kennzahlen mit den Kennzahlen zum Jahresbeginn 2020.	
English translation of survey question	To what extent were the following key figures impacted by the Corona crisis? Please indicate by what percentage the key figures have changed compared to the beginning of 2020.	
Variable names/labels	ccd1	monthly revenue impact
	ccd2	no. of employees impact
	ccd3	liquidity impact
	ccd4	liabilities impact
	ccd5	accounts receivable impact
	ccd6	net income impact
	ccd7	accruals impact
Variable type	numeric (int)	
Range	[-100,100]	
Filter	None	

Variable Name	cun5
Original survey question	Was schätzen Sie: Wann werden die monatlichen Umsätze Ihres Unternehmens wieder so hoch sein wie zum Zeitpunkt vor der Corona-Krise?
English translation of survey question	Please give an estimate: when will the monthly revenue from your company reach the same level as prior to the corona crisis?
Variable label	Expectation: revenue recovery
Variable type	categorical (int)
Description	If 1 is selected, the date entry is stored in the variable cun5_date.
Range	[1,3] 1 = On (see var cun5_date) 2 = Already recovered 3 = Never
Filter	Conditional on ccd1<0

Variable Name	cun5_date
Original survey question	Was schätzen Sie: Wann werden die monatlichen Umsätze Ihres Unternehmens wieder so hoch sein wie zum Zeitpunkt vor der Corona-Krise?
English translation of survey question	Please give an estimate: when will the monthly revenue from your company reach the same level as prior to the corona crisis?
Variable label	Expectation: date of revenue recovery
Variable type	string ("yyyy-mm-dd")
Description	The earliest possible date entry equals the start date of the survey.
Range	≥ 2020-11-16
Filter	Conditional on cun5=1

Variable Name	cos1
Original survey question	Wie schwierig ist es für Ihr Unternehmen, Ihre Kosten bei sinkender Nachfrage (bspw. bedingt durch die Corona-Krise) innerhalb von 3 Monaten zu verringern?
English translation of survey question	How difficult is it for your company to reduce your costs within 3 months when facing decreasing demand (e.g. due to the Corona crisis)?
Variable label	difficulty cost reduction
Variable type	categorical (int)
Range	11 Point Likert Scale [0,10] 0 = Very easy 5 = Neither easy nor difficult 10 = Very difficult
Filter	None

Variable Names	cos2 - cos9	
Original survey question	Was sind für Ihr Unternehmen die größten Hürden zur Kostensenkung?	
English translation of survey question	What are the biggest hurdles for your company when reducing costs?	
Variable names/labels	cos2	long-term employee contracts
	cos3	know-how retention
	cos4	other long-term commitments
	cos5	legal obligations
	cos6	disposal of operating assets less economical than capacity reduction/shutdowns
	cos7	planning uncertainty
	cos8	other reasons
	cos9	no hurdles
Variable type	binary (int)	
Description	If cos8 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable cos8_text.	
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes	
Filter	None	

Variable Name	cos8_text
Original survey question	Was sind für Ihr Unternehmen die größten Hürden zur Kostensenkung?
English translation of survey question	What are the biggest hurdles for your company when reducing costs?
Variable label	other hurdles text entry
Variable type	string
Filter	Conditional on cos8=1

Variable Name	cos10-cos13	
Original survey question	Sie haben angegeben, dass Sie Umsätze steigern konnten. Was war der Grund dafür?	
English translation of survey question	What are reasons for the revenue increase?	
Variable names/labels	cos10	higher demand
	cos11	higher market prices
	cos12	others
	cos13	I don't know
Variable type	binary (int)	
Description	If cos12 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable cos12_text.	
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes	
Filter	Conditional on ccd1>=5	

Variable Name	cos12_text
Original survey question	Sie haben angegeben, dass Sie Umsätze steigern konnten. Was war der Grund dafür?
English translation of survey question	What are reasons for the revenue increase?
Variable label	other reasons revenue increase text entry
Variable type	string
Filter	Conditional on cos12=1

Variable Name	cos14-cos19	
Original survey question	Wie konnten Sie die höhere Nachfrage bedienen?	
English translation of survey question	How were you able to service the higher demand?	
Variable names/labels	cos14	employment of more personnel
	cos15	additional investments (PP&E, Technologies or other Assets)
	cos16	free capacity
	cos17	price increases to counteract increase in demand
	cos18	other
	cos19	not at all
Variable type	binary (int)	
Description	If cos18 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable cos18_text.	
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes	
Filter	Conditional on cos10=1	

Variable Name	cos18_text
Original survey question	Wie konnten Sie die höhere Nachfrage bedienen?
English translation of survey question	How were you able to service the higher demand?
Variable label	other reasons demand increase text entry
Variable type	string
Filter	Conditional on cos18=1

Variable Name	cos20-cos28	
Original survey question	Was sind für Ihr Unternehmen die größten Hürden zur Kapazitätserhöhung?	
English translation of survey question	What are the biggest hurdles for your company when increasing capacity?	
Variable names/labels	cos20	issues to find qualified personnel
	cos21	contractual regulations
	cos22	legal regulations
	cos23	missing liquidity
	cos24	Corona induced supply chain issues
	cos25	other supply chain issues
	cos26	planning uncertainty
	cos27	other
	cos28	no hurdles
Variable type	binary (int)	
Description	If cos27 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable cos27_text.	
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes	
Filter	Conditional on ccd1>=5	

Variable Name	cos27_text
Original survey question	Was sind für Ihr Unternehmen die größten Hürden zur Kapazitätserhöhung?
English translation of survey question	What are the biggest hurdles for your company when increasing capacity?
Variable label	other reasons hurdle capacity increase text entry
Variable type	string
Filter	Conditional on cos27=1

3 Accounting Choices

Variable Name	em1
Original survey question	<p>Rechnungslegungsvorschriften räumen Unternehmen verschiedene Wahlrechte (bspw. die Wahl der Abschreibungsmethode) und Ermessensspielräume (bspw. bei der Bewertung von Rückstellungen) ein. Mit diesen lässt sich der Gewinn im Zeitablauf in unterschiedliche Richtungen beeinflussen.</p> <p>Welchen Effekt hatten die von Ihrem Unternehmen ausgeübten Wahlrechte und Ermessensspielräume in der aktuellen Periode?</p>
English translation of survey question	<p>Accounting regulations grant companies various options (e.g. the choice of depreciation method) and discretionary powers (e.g. in the evaluation of accruals). These can be used to influence profit in different directions over time.</p> <p>What effect did the options and discretions exercised by your company have in the current period?</p>
Variable label	effect discretionary accounting choices
Variable type	categorical (int)
Range	<p>11 Point Likert Scale [0,10]</p> <p>0 = Strongly profit-reducing 5 = Neutral 10 = Strongly profit-increasing</p>
Filter	None

4 Expectations & Uncertainty (Corona Crisis)

Variable Name	cun1
Original survey question	Was schätzen Sie: An welchem Datum wird das öffentliche Leben in Deutschland aufgrund der Corona-Krise nicht mehr eingeschränkt sein?
English translation of survey question	Please give an estimate: On what date will public life in Germany no longer be restricted due to the Corona crisis?
Variable labels	Expectations: date end of restrictions
Variable type	string ("yyyy-mm-dd")
Range	\geq 2020-11-16
Filter	None

Variable Name	cun2
Original survey question	Wie sicher sind Sie sich bezüglich des von Ihnen angegebenen Datums?
English translation of survey question	How certain are you with respect to the date you provided?
Variable label	Certainty: end of restrictions
Variable type	categorical (int)
Range	11 Point Likert Scale [0,10] 0 = Very unsecure 10 = Very secure
Filter	Conditional on valid entry for cun1

Variable Name	cun10-cun15	
Original survey question	Erwarten Sie, dass Ihr Unternehmen vor dem Ende der Krise von einer Schließung betroffen sein wird?	
English translation of survey question	Do you expect your company to be affected by a closure before the end of the crisis?	
Variable names/labels	cun10	no
	cun11	yes - temporarily
	cun12	yes – permanently
	cun13	already temporarily closed
	cun14	already permanently closed
	cun15	I don't know
Variable type	binary (int)	
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes	
Filter	None	

Variable Name	cun16	
Original survey question	Wie sicher sind Sie sich, dass Ihr Unternehmen von einer Schließung betroffen sein wird?	
English translation of survey question	How certain are you that your company will be affected by a closure?	
Variable label	Certainty: company closure	
Variable type	categorical (int)	
Range	11 Point Likert Scale [0,10] 0 = Uncertain 10 = Very certain	
Filter	Conditional on cun11=1 or cun12=1	

Variable Name	cun9	
Original survey question	Was schätzen Sie: Wieviel Prozent der Unternehmen Ihrer Branche werden die Corona-Krise <u>bis zum 31.12.2021</u> überstehen?	
English translation of survey question	Please give an estimate: What fraction of companies in your industry will survive the Corona crisis until the <u>31st December 2021</u> .	
Variable label	Expectation: industry survival	
Variable type	numeric (int)	
Range	[0,100]	
Filter	None	

5 Federal Government – Corona Emergency Measures

Variable Name	cgm1-cgm10	
Original survey question	Welche der im Frühjahr/Sommer 2020 beschlossenen nicht-steuerlichen staatlichen Mittel/Maßnahmen haben Sie aufgrund der Corona-Krise erhalten? Mehrfachnennungen sind möglich.	
English translation of survey question	Which of the non-tax related government measures from spring/summer 2020 have you received due to the Corona crisis? Multiple answers are possible.	
Variable names/labels	cgm1	Corona emergency relief
	cgm2	interim aid
	cgm3	short time work/allowance
	cgm4	guarantees/sureties
	cgm5	credit authorization
	cgm6	refinancing of existing KfW credits
	cgm7	KfW special program
	cgm8	simplified access security benefits
	cgm9	others
	cgm10	no measures requested/ received
Variable type	binary (int)	
Description	If cgm9 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable cgm9_text.	
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes	
Filter	None	

Variable Name	cgm9_text
Original survey question	Welche der im Frühjahr/Sommer 2020 beschlossenen nicht-steuerlichen staatlichen Mittel/Maßnahmen haben Sie aufgrund der Corona-Krise erhalten? Mehrfachnennungen sind möglich.
English translation of survey question	Which of the non-tax related government measures from spring/summer 2020 have you received due to the Corona crisis? Multiple answers are possible.
Variable label	other non-tax related government measures text entry
Variable type	string
Filter	Conditional on cgm9=1

Variable Name	cgm11-cgm19	
Original survey question	Welche der im Frühjahr/Sommer beschlossenen steuerlichen staatlichen Mittel/Maßnahmen haben Sie aufgrund der Corona-Krise erhalten? Mehrfachnennungen sind möglich.	
English translation of survey question	Which tax related measures passed in the spring/summer have you received due to the Corona crisis? Multiple answers are possible.	
Variable names/labels	cgm11	refund tax prepayment for 2020
	cgm12	immediate loss carryback
	cgm13	deferral tax payments
	cgm14	suspension enforcement measures
	cgm15	taxation corporate tax
	cgm16	deferral of import turnover tax
	cgm17	reintroduction degressive depreciation
	cgm18	others
	cgm19	no measures were requested /received
Variable type	binary (int)	
Description	If cgm18 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable cgm18_text.	
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes	
Filter	cgm15 conditional on ccgic1=1 or ccgic1=3 or ccgic1=6 or ccgic1=7 or ccgic1=9 or ccgic1=15	

Variable Name	cgm18_text
Original survey question	Welche der im Frühjahr/Sommer beschlossenen steuerlichen staatlichen Mittel/Maßnahmen haben Sie aufgrund der Corona-Krise erhalten? Mehrfachnennungen sind möglich.
English translation of survey question	Which tax related measures passed in the spring/summer have you received due to the Corona crisis? Multiple answers are possible.
Variable label	other tax related government measures text entry
Variable type	string
Filter	Conditional on cgm18=1

Variable Name	cgm21-cgm25	
Original survey question	<p>Nahmen oder nehmen Sie Corona-Hilfsmaßnahmen der Bundesregierung im Herbst/Winter 2020 in Anspruch?</p> <p>Mehrfachnennungen sind möglich.</p>	
English translation of survey question	<p>Did you receive or are you receiving Corona assistance from the federal government in the fall/winter of 2020?</p> <p>Multiple answers are possible.</p>	
Variable names/labels	cgm21	extraordinary economic aid
	cgm22	short time work/allowance
	cgm23	interim aid
	cgm24	others
	cgm25	none
Variable type	binary (int)	
Description	If cgm24 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable cgm24_text.	
Range	<p>[0,1]</p> <p>0 = No</p> <p>1 = Yes</p>	
Filter	Conditional on cun14≠1	

Variable Name	cgm24_text
Original survey question	<p>Nahmen oder nehmen Sie Corona-Hilfsmaßnahmen der Bundesregierung im Herbst/Winter 2020 in Anspruch?</p> <p>Mehrfachnennungen sind möglich.</p>
English translation of survey question	<p>Did you receive or are you receiving Corona assistance from the federal government in the fall/winter of 2020?</p> <p>Multiple answers are possible.</p>
Variable label	other government measures fall/winter 2020 text entry
Variable type	string
Filter	Conditional on cgm24=1

Variable Name	cgm26
Original survey question	Wie zufrieden sind Sie mit den aktuellen staatlichen Hilfsmaßnahmen im Vergleich zum Frühjahr 2020?
English translation of survey question	How satisfied are you with the current governmental measures compared to spring 2020?
Variable label	satisfaction governmental measures vs. spring
Variable type	categorical (int)
Range	[0,4] 0 = Very dissatisfied 4 = Very satisfied
Filter	Number of governmental measures claimed or requested ≥ 1

Variable Name	cgm27-cgm30	
Original survey question	Erwarten Sie, dass die staatlichen Mittel oder Maßnahmen ausreichen, damit Ihr Unternehmen die Corona-Krise übersteht?	
English translation of survey question	Do you expect that the governmental measurements are sufficient enough for your company to overcome the Corona crisis?	
Variable names/labels	cgm27	yes
	cgm28	no, additional measures are needed
	cgm29	no, the following other measures are needed:
	cgm30	I don't know
Variable type	binary (int)	
Description	If cgm29 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable cgm29_text.	
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes	
Filter	Number of governmental measures claimed or requested ≥ 1 & cun12 $\neq 1$ & cun14 $\neq 1$	

Variable Name	cgm29_text
Original survey question	Erwarten Sie, dass die staatlichen Mittel oder Maßnahmen ausreichenad, damit Ihr Unternehmen die Corona-Krise übersteht?
English translation of survey question	Do you expect that the governmental measurements are sufficient enough for your company to overcome the Corona crisis?
Variable label	other governmental measurements sufficient text entry
Variable type	string
Filter	Conditional on cgm29=1

Variable Name	cgm31–cgm39	
Original survey question	Sie haben angegeben staatliche Mittel/Maßnahmen zu beanspruchen bzw. beansprucht zu haben. Wofür wären bzw. waren diese am meisten nötig gewesen?	
English translation of survey question	You have stated that you claim or have claimed governmental assistance. For what would these have been (or were they) most needed?	
Variable names/labels	cgm31	short-term liabilities
	cgm32	medium and long-term financing
	cgm33	repair and replacement work
	cgm34	wages and salary
	cgm35	deferred investment
	cgm36	tax payments
	cgm37	entrepreneurial wage
	cgm38	others
	cgm39	I don't know
Variable type	binary (int)	
Description	If cgm38 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable cgm38_text.	
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes	
Filter	Number of governmental measures claimed or requested ≥ 1	

Variable Name	cgm38_text
Original survey question	Sie haben angegeben staatliche Mittel/Maßnahmen zu beanspruchen bzw. beansprucht zu haben. Wofür wären bzw. waren diese am meisten nötig gewesen?
English translation of survey question	You have stated that you claim or have claimed governmental assistance. For what would these have been (or were they) most needed?
Variable label	other use of governmental assistance text entry
Variable type	string
Filter	Conditional on cgm38=1

Variable Name	cgm40-cgm55	
Original survey question	Haben Sie eine der von Ihnen beanspruchten Hilfsmaßnahmen (teilweise) zurückgezahlt?	
English translation of survey question	Have you (partially) repaid any of the aid you claimed?	
Variable names/labels	cgm40	Corona emergency relief
	cgm41	interim aid
	cgm42	short time work/allowance
	cgm43	guarantees/sureties
	cgm44	credit authorization
	cgm45	refinancing of existing KfW credits
	cgm46	KfW special program
	cgm47	simplified access security benefits
	cgm48	others not-tax measures
	cgm49	refund tax prepayment for 2020
	cgm50	immediate loss carryback
	cgm51	deferral tax payments
	cgm52	suspension enforcement measures
	cgm53	deferral import turnover tax
cgm54	others tax measures	
cgm55	no governmental assistance has been repaid	
Variable type	binary (int)	
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes	
Filter	Number of governmental measures claimed or requested ≥ 1	

Variable Name	cgm56
Original survey question	Hatten Sie bei Beantragung erwartet, dass die staatlichen Mittel/Maßnahmen zurückgezahlt werden müssen?
English translation of survey question	When you applied, did you expect that the government measures would have to be repaid?
Variable label	Expectations: repayment of governmental measures
Variable type	binary (int)
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes
Filter	cgm54 ≠ 1

Variable Name	cgm57-cgm62												
Original survey question	Was sind Ihrer Meinung nach die größten Hürden bei der Beantragung und dem Erhalt staatlicher Mittel zur Bewältigung der Corona-Krise? Mehrfachnennungen sind möglich.												
English translation of survey question	What do you think were the biggest hurdles in applying for and receiving government funding to address the Corona crisis? Multiple answers are possible.												
Variable names/labels	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>cgm57</td> <td>too much administrative effort needed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>cgm58</td> <td>requested funds disbursed to late</td> </tr> <tr> <td>cgm59</td> <td>criteria for the application were not met</td> </tr> <tr> <td>cgm60</td> <td>no capacity of tax consultant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>cgm61</td> <td>others</td> </tr> <tr> <td>cgm62</td> <td>I don't know</td> </tr> </table>	cgm57	too much administrative effort needed	cgm58	requested funds disbursed to late	cgm59	criteria for the application were not met	cgm60	no capacity of tax consultant	cgm61	others	cgm62	I don't know
cgm57	too much administrative effort needed												
cgm58	requested funds disbursed to late												
cgm59	criteria for the application were not met												
cgm60	no capacity of tax consultant												
cgm61	others												
cgm62	I don't know												
Variable type	binary (int)												
Description	If cgm61 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable cgm61_text.												
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes												
Filter	None												

Variable Name	cgm61_text
Original survey question	Was waren Ihrer Meinung nach die größten Hürden bei der Beantragung und dem Erhalt staatlicher Mittel zur Bewältigung der Corona-Krise? Mehrfachnennungen sind möglich.
English translation of survey question	What do you think were the biggest hurdles in applying for and receiving government funding to address the Corona crisis? Multiple answers are possible.
Variable label	other hurdles government funding text entry
Variable type	string
Filter	Conditional on cgm61=1

Variable Name	ccm1-ccm11	
Original survey question	Welche Maßnahmen ergreifen Sie kurzfristig (0-12 Monate), um die Mehrbelastung durch die Corona-Krise zu decken? Mehrfachnennungen sind möglich.	
English translation of survey question	What measures are you taking in the short-term (0-12 months) to cope with the burden of the Corona crisis? Multiple answers are possible.	
Variable names/labels	ccm1	decrease wage or bonus
	ccm2	decrease number of employees
	ccm3	decrease disbursement shareholders
	ccm4	reduction retained earnings
	ccm5	price increase
	ccm8	reduction R&D
	ccm10	others
	ccm11	no measures planned
Variable type	binary (int)	
Description	If ccm10 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable ccm10_text.	
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes	
Filter	None	

Variable Name	ccm10_text
Original survey question	Welche Maßnahmen ergreifen Sie kurzfristig (0-12 Monate), um die Mehrbelastung durch die Corona-Krise zu decken? Mehrfachnennungen sind möglich.
English translation of survey question	What measures are you taking in the short-term (0-12 months) to cope with the burden of the Corona crisis? Multiple answers are possible.
Variable label	other firm measures short-term text entry
Variable type	string
Filter	Conditional on ccm10=1

Variable Name	ccm15
Original survey question	Haben Sie Investitionen vorgenommen, damit Ihre Mitarbeiter sowie Kunden die Hygieneregeln einhalten können?
English translation of survey question	Have you made investments so that your employees as well as customers can comply with hygiene rules?
Variable label	hygiene investments (yes/no)
Variable type	binary (int)
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes
Filter	None

Variable Name	ccm16
Original survey question	Wie viel haben Sie für die Maßnahmen zur Einhaltung der Hygieneregeln investiert (in €)?
English translation of survey question	How much have you invested in hygiene compliance measures (in €)?
Variable label	hygiene investment amount
Variable type	numeric (int)
Range	≥ 0
Filter	Conditional on ccm15=1

6 Economic Growth Expectations

Variable Name	cct27-cct28	
Survey question	Was erwarten Sie: Um wieviel Prozent verändert sich das Bruttoinlandsprodukt (BIP) in den Jahren 2020 und 2021 im Vergleich zum jeweiligen Vorjahr?	
English translation of survey question	What do you expect: By what percentage will the gross domestic product (GDP) change in the years 2020 and 2021 compared to the respective previous year?	
Variable names/labels	cct27	Expectation: GDP growth 2020-2021
	cct28	Expectation: GDP growth 2021-2022
Variable type	numeric (int)	
Range	[-30,30]	
Filter	None	

7 Tax Incidence Survey Experiment

Firms are randomly assigned to one of six different treatment groups.

The different treatment groups receive either a permanent 1%, 10%, or 25% decrease in profit tax burden or a 1%, 10% or 25% permanent increase in profit tax burden.

The variable `tax_exp` indicates which treatment has been assigned to each observation.

Variable Name	<code>tax_exp</code>
Original survey question	Nehmen Sie an: Ihr Unternehmen hat durch eine Steuersenkung (<i>Steuererhöhung</i>) eine um (1%/10%/25%) dauerhaft niedrigere (höhere) Gewinnsteuerbelastung.
English translation of survey question	Assume: Your company has a (1%/10%/25%) permanently lower (higher) profit tax burden as a result of a tax cut (<i>increase</i>).
Variable label	indicator tax experiment assignment
Variable type	categorical (int)
Range	[1,6] 1 = 1% permanently lower profit tax burden 2 = 10% permanently lower profit tax burden 3 = 25% permanently lower profit tax burden 4 = 1% permanently higher profit tax burden 5 = 10% permanently higher profit tax burden 6 = 25% permanently higher profit tax burden
Filter	None - Groups are randomly assigned

Variable Name	tax1-tax8																		
Original survey question	Nehmen Sie an: Ihr Unternehmen hat durch eine Steuersenkung eine um (1%/10%/25%) dauerhaft niedrigere Gewinnsteuerbelastung. Wie verteilen Sie die zusätzlichen Mittel? Bitte geben Sie Anteile an, die in der Summe 100 ergeben.																		
English translation of survey question	Assume: Your company has a permanently lower profit tax burden by (1%/10%/25%) due to a tax cut. How do you distribute the additional funds? Please enter shares that add up to 100.																		
Variable names/labels	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>tax1</td> <td>increased payment to employees (wages, variable compensation)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>tax2</td> <td>creation of additional jobs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>tax3</td> <td>increased income for partners</td> </tr> <tr> <td>tax4</td> <td>higher distributions to shareholders</td> </tr> <tr> <td>tax5</td> <td>increase in retained earnings/reserves</td> </tr> <tr> <td>tax6</td> <td>price reductions (for customers)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>tax7</td> <td>higher investments</td> </tr> <tr> <td>tax8</td> <td>less use of tax saving opportunities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>tax9</td> <td>others</td> </tr> </table>	tax1	increased payment to employees (wages, variable compensation)	tax2	creation of additional jobs	tax3	increased income for partners	tax4	higher distributions to shareholders	tax5	increase in retained earnings/reserves	tax6	price reductions (for customers)	tax7	higher investments	tax8	less use of tax saving opportunities	tax9	others
tax1	increased payment to employees (wages, variable compensation)																		
tax2	creation of additional jobs																		
tax3	increased income for partners																		
tax4	higher distributions to shareholders																		
tax5	increase in retained earnings/reserves																		
tax6	price reductions (for customers)																		
tax7	higher investments																		
tax8	less use of tax saving opportunities																		
tax9	others																		
Variable type	numeric (int)																		
Description	If tax9 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable tax9_text.																		
Range	[0,100] Sum of individual fractions cannot exceed 100%																		
Filter	<p>Conditional on tax_exp=1 or tax_exp=2 or tax_exp=3</p> <p>tax3 conditional on ccgic1=1 or ccgic1=3 or ccgic1=4 or ccgic1=6 or ccgic1=7 or ccgic1=8 or ccgic1=9</p> <p>tax 4 conditional on ccgic1=2 or ccgic1=5 or ccgic1=10 or ccgic1=11 or ccgic1=12 or ccgic1=13 or ccgic1=14 or ccgic1=15</p>																		

Variable Name	tax9_text
Original survey question	Nehmen Sie an: Ihr Unternehmen hat durch eine Steuersenkung eine um (1%/10%/25%) dauerhaft niedrigere Gewinnsteuerbelastung. Wie verteilen Sie die zusätzlichen Mittel? Bitte geben Sie Anteile an, die in der Summe 100 ergeben.
English translation of survey question	Assume: Your company has a permanently lower profit tax burden by (1%/10%/25%) due to a tax cut. How do you distribute the additional funds? Please enter shares that add up to 100.
Variable label	other measures tax reduction text entry
Variable type	string
Filter	Conditional on tax9=1

Variable Name	tax10
Original survey question	Warum würden Sie nach einer Steuersenkung mehr investieren? Welcher der zwei folgenden Gründe spielt für Sie eine größere Rolle:
English translation of survey question	Why would you invest more after a tax cut? Which of the following two reasons plays a greater role for you?
Variable label	investment incentive tax reduction
Variable type	numeric (int)
Range	[0,100] 0 = After the tax cut, more funds are available 50 = Both reasons are equally important 100 = After the tax cut, the investment is more worthwhile
Filter	Conditional on tax7 ≥ 5%

Variable Name	tax11-tax20	
Original survey question	<p>Nehmen Sie an: Ihr Unternehmen hat durch eine Steuerhöhung eine um (1%/10%/25%) dauerhaft höhere Gewinnsteuerbelastung.</p> <p>Aus welchen Bereichen finanzieren Sie die zusätzliche Steuerlast? Bitte geben Sie Anteile an, die in der Summe 100 ergeben.</p>	
English translation of survey question	<p>Assume: Your company has a permanently higher profit tax burden by (1%/10%/25%) due to a tax increase.</p> <p>How do you finance the additional burden? Please enter shares that add up to 100.</p>	
Variable names/labels	tax11	decrease payment to employees (wages, variable compensation)
	tax12	reduction of jobs
	tax13	decreased payout to partners
	tax14	lower distributions to shareholders
	tax15	decrease in retained earnings/reserves
	tax16	price increases (for customers)
	tax17	lower investments
	tax18	more use of tax saving opportunities
	tax19	others
	tax20	increase in debt capital
Variable type	numeric (int)	
Description	If tax19 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable tax19_text.	
Range	[0,100]	
	Sum of individual fractions cannot exceed 100%	
Filter	<p>Conditional on tax_exp=4 or tax_exp=5 or tax_exp=6</p> <p>tax13 conditional on ccgic1=1 or ccgic1=3 or ccgic1=4 or ccgic1=6 or ccgic1=7 or ccgic1=8 or ccgic1=9</p> <p>tax14 conditional on ccgic1=2 or ccgic1=5 or ccgic1=10 or ccgic1=11 or ccgic1=12 or ccgic1=13 or ccgic1=14 or ccgic1=15</p>	

Variable Name	tax19_text
Original survey question	Nehmen Sie an: Ihr Unternehmen hat durch eine Steuerhöhung eine um (1%/10%/25%) dauerhaft höhere Gewinnsteuerbelastung. Aus welchen Bereichen finanzieren Sie die zusätzliche Steuerlast? Bitte geben Sie Anteile an, die in der Summe 100 ergeben.
English translation of survey question	Assume: Your company has a permanently higher profit tax burden by (1%/10%/25%) due to a tax increase. How do you finance the additional burden? Please enter shares that add up to 100.
Variable label	other measures tax increase text entry
Variable type	string
Filter	Conditional on tax19=1

Variable Name	tax21
Original survey question	Warum würden Sie nach einer Steuererhöhung weniger investieren? Welcher der zwei folgenden Gründe spielt für Sie eine größere Rolle:
English translation of survey question	Why would you invest less after a tax increase? Which of the following two reasons plays a greater role for you?
Variable label	investment incentive tax increase
Variable type	numeric (int)
Range	[0,100] 0 = After the tax increase, there is less money to invest 50 = Both reasons are equally important 100 = After the tax increase, the investment is less worthwhile
Filter	Conditional on tax17≥5%

8 Overall Uncertainty

Variable Name	cun17
Original survey question	Wie hoch ist die allgemeine Unsicherheit, mit der Ihr Unternehmen momentan konfrontiert ist?
English translation of survey question	How high is the general uncertainty your company is currently facing?
Variable label	Uncertainty: firm-level
Variable type	categorical (int)
Range	[1,5] 1 = Very low: future revenue can be very precisely predicted 2 = Low: future revenue can be precisely predicted 3 = Medium: future revenue can be approximately predicted 4 = High: future revenue is difficult to predict 5 = Very high: future revenue is very difficult to predict
Filter	None

9 Investments

Variable Name	cin1
Original survey Question	Planen Sie derzeit, kurzfristig (0-12 Monate) Investitionen zu tätigen?
English translation of survey question	Are you currently planning to make short-term (0-12 months) investments?
Variable label	investment short-term
Variable type	binary (int)
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes
Filter	None

Variable Name	cin2
Original survey Question	Planen Sie derzeit, mittelfristig (12-24 Monate) Investitionen zu tätigen?
English translation of survey question	Are you currently planning to make medium-term (12-24 months) investments?
Variable label	investment medium-term
Variable type	binary (int)
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes
Filter	None

Variable Name	cin11
Survey question	Welchen Anteil Ihres in 2019 erwirtschafteten Umsatzes (in %) möchten Sie kurzfristig (0-12 Monate) investieren?
English translation of survey question	What percentage of your revenue generated in 2019 would you like to invest in the short term (0-12 months)?
Variable label	investment amount short-term
Variable type	numeric (int)
Description	If firms do not plan any short-term investments, cin11 is automatically set to 0.
Range	[0,100]
Filter	Conditional on cin1=1

Variable Name	cin12
Survey question	Welchen Anteil Ihres in 2019 erwirtschafteten Umsatzes (in %) möchten Sie mittelfristig (12-24 Monate) investieren?
English translation of survey question	What percentage of your revenues generated in 2019 would you like to invest in the medium term (12-24 months)?
Variable label	investment amount medium-term
Variable type	numeric (int)
Description	If firms do not plan any medium-term investments, cin11 is automatically set to zero.
Range	[0,100]
Filter	Conditional on cin2=1

Variable Name	cin13-cin14	
Survey question	Hatten Sie vor der Corona-Krise Investitionen geplant, die Sie nun angesichts der Situation aufschieben oder gänzlich streichen?	
English translation of survey question	Do you intend to postpone or cancel planned investments due to the Corona crisis?	
Variable names/labels	cin13	investment postponement
	cin14	investment cancellation
Variable type	numeric (int)	
Range	[0,100]	
Filter	None	

10 Hiring

Variable Name	chi1
Original survey Question	Planen Sie derzeit, kurzfristig (0-12 Monate) zusätzliche Mitarbeiter einzustellen?
English translation of survey question	Are you currently planning to hire additional employees in the short term (0-12 months)?
Variable label	hiring short-term
Variable type	binary (int)
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes
Filter	None

Variable Name	chi2
Original survey Question	Planen Sie derzeit, mittelfristig (12-24 Monate) zusätzliche Mitarbeiter einzustellen?
English translation of survey question	Are you currently planning to hire additional employees in the medium term (12-24 Monate)?
Variable label	hiring medium-term
Variable type	binary (int)
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes
Filter	None

Variable Name	chi3
Original survey question	Wie viele zusätzliche Mitarbeiter (in vollen Stellen) möchten Sie kurzfristig (0-12 Monate) einstellen?
English translation of survey question	How many additional employees (in full-time positions) are you planning to hire in the short term (0-12 months)?
Variable label	hiring amount short-term
Variable type	numeric (int)
Variable description	If firms do not plan any short-term hires, chi3 is automatically set to zero.
Range	[0,∞)
Filter	Conditional on chi1=1

Variable Name	chi4
Original survey question	Wie viele zusätzliche Mitarbeiter (in vollen Stellen) möchten Sie mittelfristig (12-24 Monate) einstellen?
English translation of survey question	How many additional employees (in full-time positions) are you planning to hire in the medium term (12-24 months)?
Variable names/labels	hiring amount medium-term
Variable type	numeric (int)
Variable description	If firms do not plan any short-term hires, chi3 is automatically set to zero.
Range	[0,∞)
Filter	Conditional on chi2=1

11 Organizational Trust

Variable Name	imp1-imp8	
Original survey question	Inwieweit stimmen Sie folgenden Aussagen zum Einfluss der Corona-Krise auf Ihr Unternehmen im Geschäftsjahr 2020 zu? Die Corona-Krise führte bei der Ermittlung der variablen Vergütung (z.B Boni) zu ...	
English translation of survey question	How far do you agree to the following statement concerning the effect of the corona crisis on your company in 2020? When determining variable payments, the corona crisis led to...	
Variable names/labels	imp1	a change in the Weighting of KPI's
	imp2	the use of new financial KPI's
	imp3	the use of new non-financial KPI's
	imp4	an adjustment of KPI's
	imp5	an adjustment of Objectives
	imp6	other effects
	imp7	no change
	imp8	not relevant
Variable type	binary (int)	
Description	If imp6 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable imp6_text.	
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes	
Filter	Conditional on Number of Employees ≥ 10 & Revenue $\geq 1.000.000\text{€}$	

Variable Name	imp6_text
Original survey question	Inwieweit stimmen Sie folgenden Aussagen zum Einfluss der Corona-Krise auf Ihr Unternehmen im Geschäftsjahr 2020 zu? Die Corona-Krise führte bei der Ermittlung der variablen Vergütung (z.B Boni) zu ...
English translation of survey question	How far do you agree to the following statement concerning the effect of the corona crisis on your company in 2020? When determining variable payments, the corona crisis led to...
Variable label	other effects variable payment text entry
Variable type	string
Filter	Conditional on imp6=1

Variable Name	imp9-imp14	
Original survey question	Inwieweit stimmen Sie folgenden Aussagen zum Einfluss der Corona-Krise auf Ihr Unternehmen im Geschäftsjahr 2020 zu? Die Corona-Krise führte in Kreditverträgen zu...	
English translation of survey question	How far do you agree to the following statement concerning the effect of the corona crisis on your company in 2020? With regard to credit agreements, the corona crisis led to...	
Variable names/labels	imp9	the use of new KPI's
	imp10	an adjustment of existing KPI's
	imp11	the adjustment of KPI thresholds
	imp12	other effects
	imp13	no change
	imp14	not relevant
Variable type	binary (int)	
Description	If imp12 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable imp12_text.	
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes	
Filter	Conditional on Number of Employees ≥ 10 & Revenue $\geq 1.000.000\text{€}$	

Variable Name	imp12_text
Original survey question	Inwieweit stimmen Sie folgenden Aussagen zum Einfluss der Corona-Krise auf Ihr Unternehmen im Geschäftsjahr 2020 zu? Die Corona-Krise führte in Kreditverträgen zu...
English translation of survey question	How far do you agree to the following statement concerning the effect of the corona crisis on your company in 2020? With regard to credit agreements, the corona crisis led to...
Variable label	other effects credit agreements text entry
Variable type	string
Filter	Conditional on imp12=1

Variable Name	imp15-imp20	
Original survey question	<p>Inwieweit stimmen Sie folgenden Aussagen zum Einfluss der Corona-Krise auf Ihr Unternehmen im Geschäftsjahr 2020 zu?</p> <p>Die Corona-Krise führte bei der Kommunikation an andere externe Adressaten (z.B. Kapitalgeber, Kunden, Lieferanten, Staat) zu...</p>	
English translation of survey question	<p>How far do you agree with the following statement concerning the effect of the corona crisis on your company in 2020?</p> <p>The Corona crisis led to the following changes in disclosures to external stakeholders...</p>	
Variable names/labels	imp15	the use of new financial KPI's
	imp16	the use of new non-financial KPI's
	imp17	an adjustment of existing KPI's
	imp18	other effects
	imp19	no change
	imp20	not relevant
Variable type	binary (int)	
Description	If imp18 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable imp18_text.	
Range	<p>[0,1]</p> <p>0 = No 1 = Yes</p>	
Filter	Conditional on Number of Employees ≥ 10 & Revenue $\geq 1.000.000\text{€}$	

Variable Name	imp18_text
Original survey question	<p>Inwieweit stimmen Sie folgenden Aussagen zum Einfluss der Corona-Krise auf Ihr Unternehmen im Geschäftsjahr 2020 zu?</p> <p>Die Corona-Krise führte bei der Kommunikation an andere externe Adressaten (z.B. Kapitalgeber, Kunden, Lieferanten, Staat) zu...</p>
English translation of survey question	<p>How far do you agree with the following statement concerning the effect of the corona crisis on your company in 2020?</p> <p>The Corona crisis led to the following changes in disclosures to external stakeholders...</p>
Variable label	other effects external stakeholders text entry
Variable type	string
Filter	Conditional on imp18=1

Variable Name	imp21-imp26	
Original survey question	Inwieweit stimmen Sie folgenden Aussagen zum Einfluss der Corona-Krise auf Ihr Unternehmen im Geschäftsjahr 2020 zu? Die Corona-Krise führte bei uns zu...	
English translation of survey question	How far do you agree with the following statement concerning the effect of the corona crisis on your company in 2020? The Corona crisis led to...	
Variable names/labels	imp21	discontinuation or interruption of medium- and long-term financial plans
	imp22	greater use of sensitivity and/or scenario analyses
	imp23	more explicit and transparent discussion and communication of our planning assumptions
	imp24	other effects
	imp25	no change
	imp26	not relevant
Variable type	binary (int)	
Description	If imp24 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable imp24_text.	
Range	[0,1] 0 = No 1 = Yes	
Filter	Conditional on Number of Employees ≥ 10 & Revenue $\geq 1.000.000\text{€}$	

Variable Name	imp24_text	
Original survey question	Inwieweit stimmen Sie folgenden Aussagen zum Einfluss der Corona-Krise auf Ihr Unternehmen im Geschäftsjahr 2020 zu? Die Corona-Krise führte bei uns zu...	
English translation of survey question	How far do you agree with the following statement concerning the effect of the corona crisis on your company in 2020? The Corona crisis led to...	
Variable label	other effects general text entry	
Variable type	string	
Filter	Conditional on imp24=1	

Variable Name	imp27-imp30	
Original survey question	Zu welchem Zeitpunkt wurde und/oder wird bei Ihnen die Corona-Krise erstmals berücksichtigt?	
English translation of survey question	At what point in time has and/or is the Corona crisis first been considered within your company?	
Variable names/labels	imp27	in determining variable compensation
	imp28	for internal planning and analyses
	imp29	for credit agreements
	imp30	when communicating to external addressees (e.g. capital providers, customers, suppliers, government)
Variable type	categorical (int)	
Range	[1,4] 1 = In the first half of 2020 2 = In the second half of 2020 3 = After the second half of 2020 4 = Does not apply to us	
Filter	Conditional on Number of Employees ≥ 10 & Revenue $\geq 1.000.000\text{€}$	

Variable Name	tru1-4	
Original survey question	Wie schätzen Sie Ihr Unternehmen ein?	
English translation of survey question	How would you assess your company?	
Variable names/labels	tru1	There is a very high level of trust throughout the company.
	tru2	When someone within the company makes a promise, others in the company almost always trust that person to do his/her best to keep the promise.
	tru3	In this company, employees have a lot of trust in managers.
	tru4	Managers in this company trust their employees to make good decisions.
Variable type	categorical (int)	
Range	11 Point Likert Scale [0,10] 0 = I do not agree at all 5 = Neutral 10 = I strongly agree	
Filter	Conditional on Number of Employees ≥ 10 & Revenue $\geq 1.000.000\text{€}$	

12 Appendix

12.1 Sampling Weights

The dataset also contains survey weights (Variable *survey_weights*). In order to be able to make statements about the economic situation for Germany overall, representativeness on 4 dimensions (1-digit industry level, employees subject to social insurance contributions, revenues, legal form) are taken into account. Although the term representativeness is not defined statistically and is therefore avoided in the scientific debate, systematic distortions of the sample have to be taken into consideration when analysing the data. For this reason, the German Business Panel aims to represent the population of German firms as accurately as possible with the help of random samples of all companies, carefully conducted implementation and scientific weighting procedures.

For the extrapolation to the population of all companies in Germany, the German Business Panel (GBP) uses the MICE algorithm (Multivariate Imputation by Chained Equations) for multiple imputations (replacement values) of multivariate missing data (Kolenikov, 2014) and the raking method for iterative proportional fitting (Van Buuren and Groothuis-Oudshoorn, 2011). For categorical variables with 15 or more categories, the imputation is based on the *pmm* method (*Predictive mean matching*). For categories with less than 15 categories, the imputation uses the *polyreg* method (*Multinomial logit model*). This choice is based on Van Buuren and Groothuis-Oudshoorn (2011, p.41/42, 4.4 *Solving problems with the data*) and on the recommendation of GESIS which consulted the GBP in the process of the preparation of the survey weights. The calculated raking weights are based on the marginal distribution of the 2018 business register of the Federal Statistical Office and takes the following dimensions into account: *1-digit industry level (WZ 2008), legal forms, revenues and employee*.

The figures below show that the economic sections in the business register and in the sample match very well. The weights are calibrated in such a way that the distributions of the variables revenues, legal form and employees subject to social security contributions in the population can also be reproduced very well by the sample.

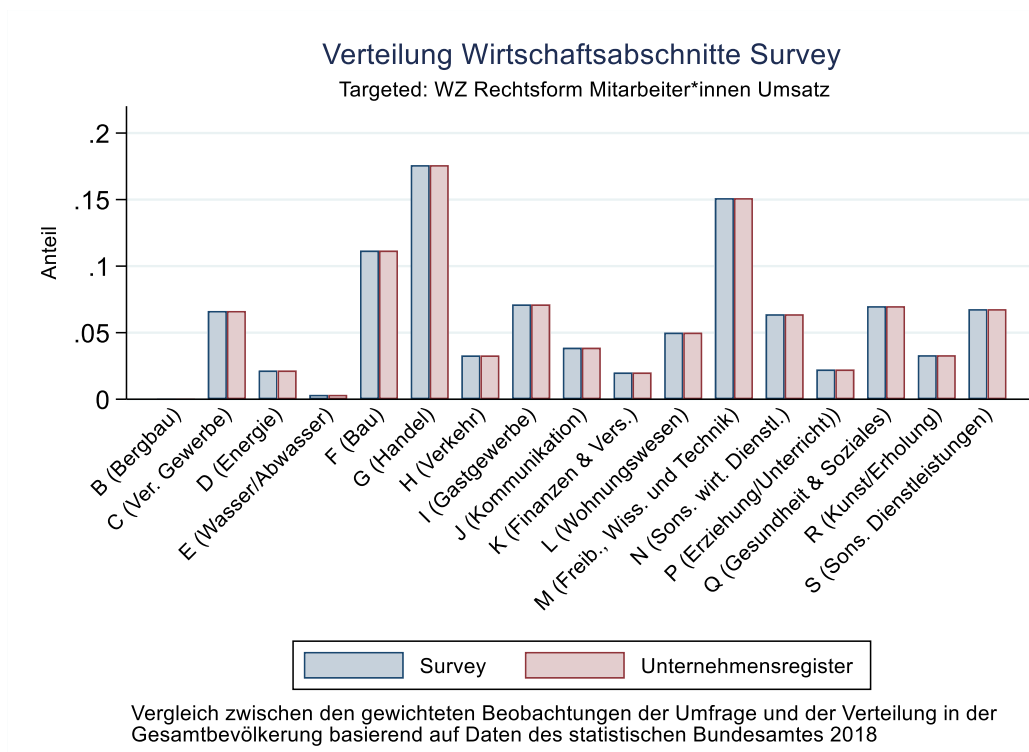


Figure 1: Distribution of companies by industry in Germany (Survey vs. Business Register)

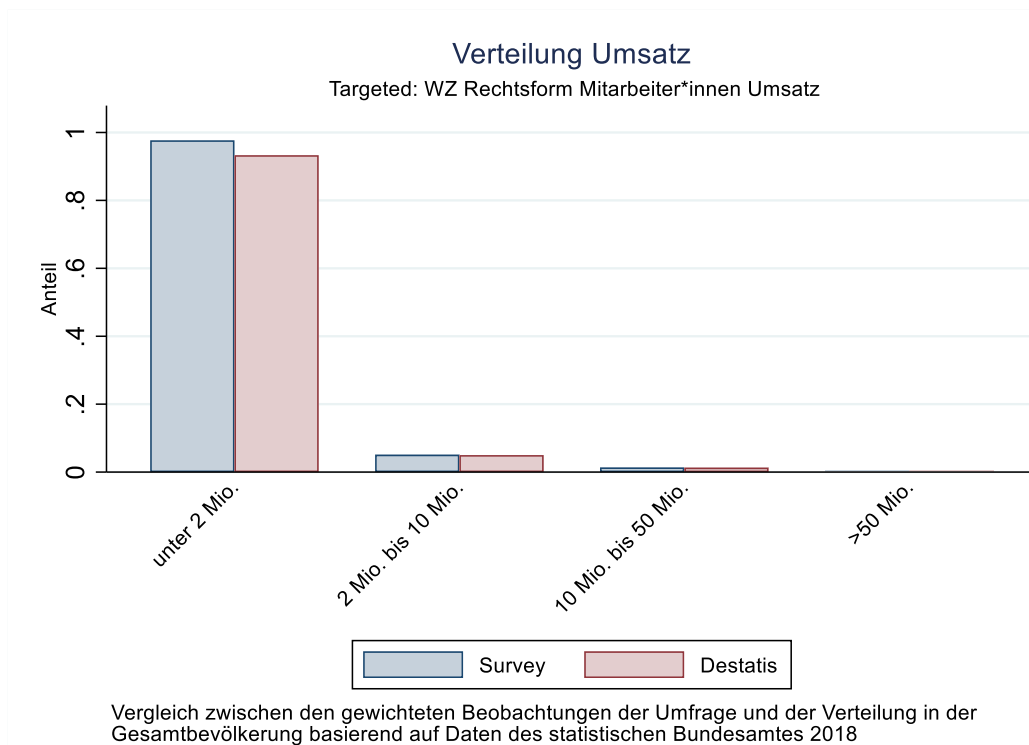


Figure 2: Distribution of companies by revenues in Germany (Survey vs. Business Register)

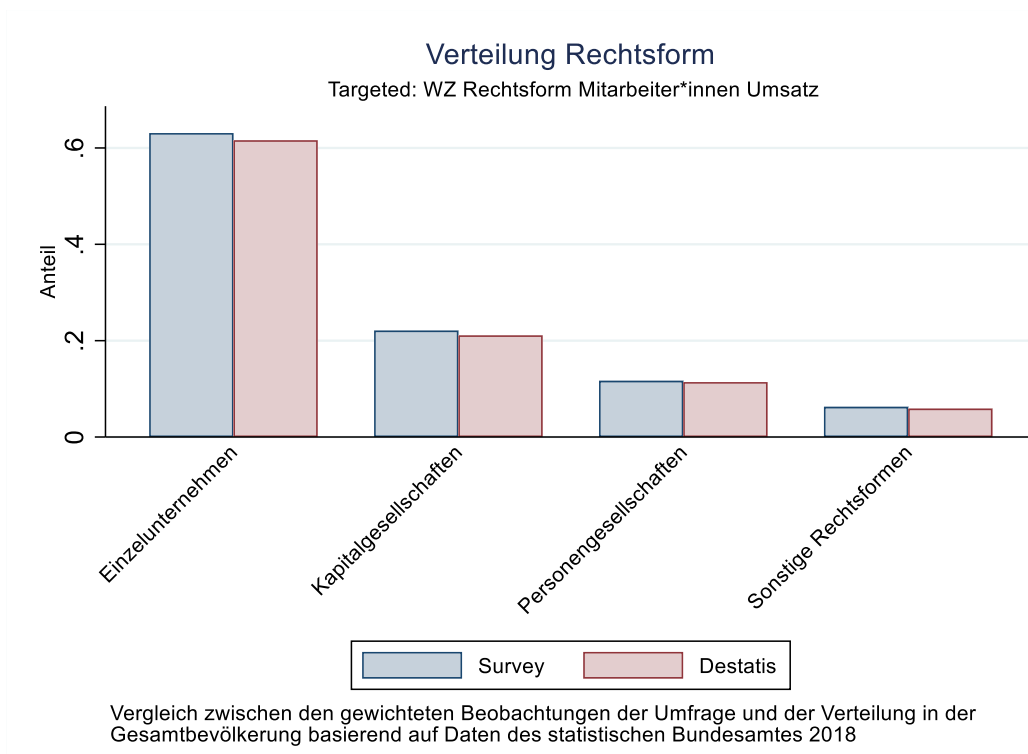


Figure 3: Distribution of companies by legal form in Germany (Survey vs. Business Register)

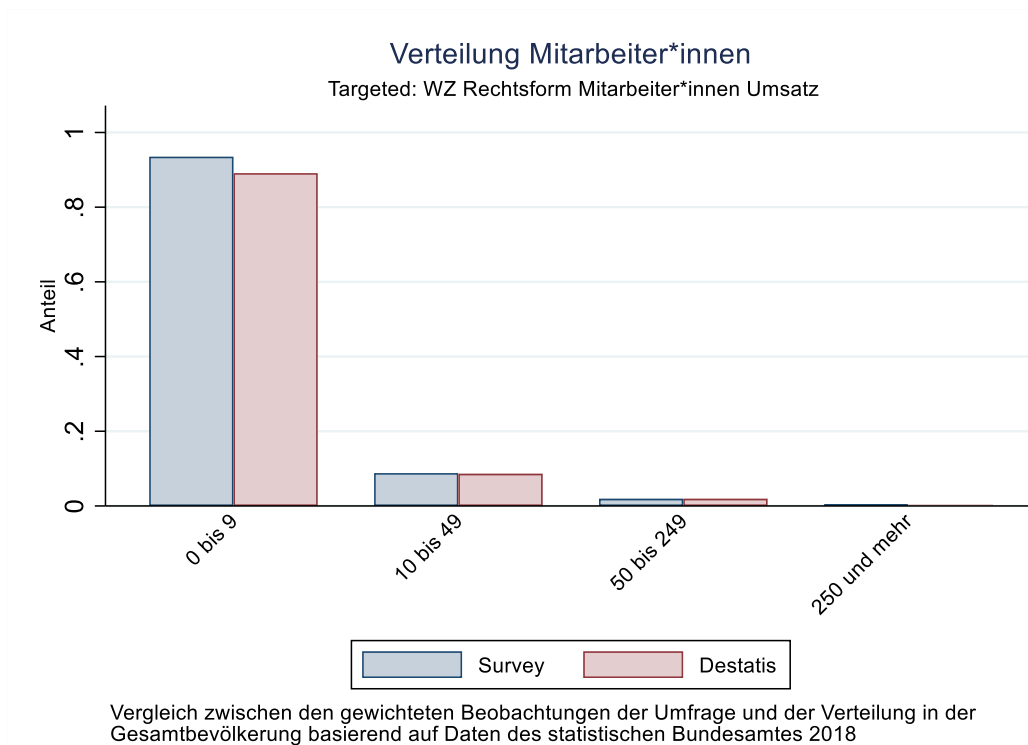


Figure 4: Distribution of companies by employees in Germany (Survey vs. Business Register)

Literature

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Title: German Business Panel Codebook

Questionnaire: Cost Structure, Accounting Choices, Corona Support Programs, Tax Incidence, Organizational Trust In and Beyond the COVID-19 Crisis

Version: 1.0 (05/10/2021)

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Funding: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation): Collaborative Research Center (SFB/TRR) Project-ID 403041268 – TRR 266 Accounting for Transparency