



SFB/Transregio 266

**ACCOUNTING FOR
TRANSPARENCY**

German Business Panel

Version 1.0 (15.01.2024)

German Business Panel

Degree of Transparency, Earnings Management, Company Trust, and Contracting

Codebook: Round 7

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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 German Business Panel (GBP) is a comprehensive survey of decision-makers in companies of all sizes, legal forms and industry sectors from all over Germany. The project is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) as part of the Collaborative Research Centre (Transregio) TRR 266 "Accounting for Transparency". The aim is to provide timely information on expectations and assessments of companies for science, business and politics. The included questionnaires in this round are named CA5 and CA7.

Variable name

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 labels.

Coding (incl. missing convention):

The **coding** of the variables indicates the variable range.

-9999	dropout	-9998	refusal
-9997	don't know	-9996	does not apply
-9994	not in questionnaire		

Variable type

Types of variables can be **string** or **numeric**.

Filtering

Filters and conditional redirects are provided. If questions are presented to all respondents, this is not explicitly stated.

Example

Variable name	discl1
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	Gelten für Ihr Unternehmen Offenlegungspflichten (z.B. Veröffentlichung des Jahresabschlusses im Bundesanzeiger)?
English translation of survey question	Do disclosure obligations apply to your company (e.g. publication of the annual financial statements in the Federal Gazette)?
Variable label	disclosure obligation
Variable type	numeric
Range	[0,1]
	0 = No 1 = Yes
Filter	None

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Introduction

Variable name	cdat1
Original survey question	Ihre personenbezogenen Angaben werden selbstverständlich streng geschützt nach der EU-Datenschutz-Grundverordnung (DSGVO) verarbeitet. Ergebnisse werden ausschließlich in anonymisierter Form in forschungsbezogenen Veröffentlichungen verwendet. Die Teilnahme an der Umfrage ist freiwillig und kann jederzeit abgebrochen werden.
Variable label	data protection agreement
Variable type	numeric
Range	[0,1]
	0 = No 1 = Yes
Filter	None
Variable name	gbpid
Comment	Researchers may use gbpid as the unique identifier to construct a panel dataset.
Variable label	gbp identification number
Variable type	string
Variable name	BvDID
Comment	Researchers may use BvDID for matching purposes.
Variable label	bvdid
Variable type	string
Variable name	startDate
Comment	This variable indicates the time when the recipient starts the survey. Example: 24sep2021 11:46:11
Variable label	survey start date
Variable type	date in Stata %tc format
Variable name	endDate
Comment	This variable indicates the time when the recipient finishes the survey. Example: 24sep2021 11:46:11
Variable label	survey end date
Variable type	date in Stata %tc format

Variable name	recordedDate
Comment	This variable implies the time when the answers are uploaded to the server. Example: 24sep2021 11:46:11
Variable label	recorded date
Variable type	date in Stata %tc format

Demographics

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	numeric
Comment	If "Other" is selected, the corresponding text entry is stored in variable ccgic1_text (accessible under restrictive conditions).
	Additional options (15 = Personengesellschaft, 16 = Limited, 17 = Stiftung) are only available in Round 1 and 2.
Range	[1, 18]
	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 18 = Other
Filter	None
Variable name	ccgic2
Original survey question	Bitte geben Sie den Jahresumsatz (in EUR) Ihres Unternehmens im vergangenen Kalenderjahr an.
English translation of survey question	Please indicate the annual revenue (in EUR) of your company in the previous calendar year.
Variable label	revenue previous calendar
Variable type	numeric
Range	[0, ∞)
Filter	None

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

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

Variable name	ccgic6
Original survey question	Welches der folgenden Intervalle entspricht der aktuellen Zahl der sozialversicherungspflichtigen Mitarbeiter (in vollen Stellen) in Ihrem Unternehmen?
English translation of the survey question	Which of the following intervals corresponds to the current number of full-time employees subject to social security in your company?
Variable label	number employees categorical
Variable type	numeric
Comment	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	ccgic11
Variable label	salutation
Variable type	string
Filter	None

Variable name	ccgic13
Variable label	highest level of education
Variable type	string
Filter	None

Variable name	ccgic14
Variable label	position in the company
Variable type	string
Filter	None

Variable name	ccgic15
Variable label	division in the company
Variable type	string
Filter	None

Variable name	industry_WZ08
Original survey question	Bitte wählen Sie den für Ihr Unternehmen bedeutendsten Wirtschaftszweig, in dem Sie aktiv sind, durch die Wahl der zutreffenden Kategorie.
English translation of survey question	Please select the most important industry sector in which your company is active, by selecting the corresponding category.
Variable label	industry classification
Variable type	string
Comment	The variable indicates the most important industry in which the firm is active according to the classification scheme by the German Statistical Office. The level of detail stored corresponds to the specification by the respondents.
Filter	None

Variable name	cdat2
Original survey question	Folgekontakt
	<p>Bei Interesse würden wir Ihnen gerne die Ergebnisse unserer Umfrage zur Verfügung stellen. Des weiteren würden wir Sie gerne - in einem Abstand von etwa 6 Monaten - zur Befragung kontaktieren, um zu erfahren, wie staatliche Regulierung auf Unternehmen wirkt und wie sie verbessert werden kann. Dafür benötigen wir Ihre Zustimmung, um Ihre Kontaktdaten für den Zweck einer weiteren Kontaktaufnahme speichern zu dürfen. Die Kontaktdaten werden getrennt von Ihrem Fragebogen gespeichert, sodass keinerlei Verbindung zwischen Ihren Kontaktdaten und Ihren Antworten hergestellt werden kann. Sie werden niemals mit den von Ihnen angegebenen Antworten in Verbindung gebracht. Ihre Kontaktdaten werden niemals an Dritte weitergegeben. Wir wären sehr dankbar, wenn wir Sie für das weitere Mitwirken an unserem Forschungsprojekt gewinnen könnten. Selbstverständlich ist dies freiwillig und Sie können die Einwilligung jederzeit widerrufen. Durch den Widerruf wird die Rechtmäßigkeit, der aufgrund der Einwilligung bis zum Widerruf erfolgten Verarbeitung, nicht.</p>
Variable label	contact agreement
Variable type	numeric
Range	[0,1]
	<p>0 = No 1 = Yes</p>
Filter	None

Variable name	cdat3
Original survey question	Datenverknüpfung
	Um die Befragung so kurz wie möglich zu halten, aber dennoch ein vollständiges Bild der Unternehmenslandschaft in Deutschland zu bekommen, möchten wir Ihre Umfragedaten mit Daten aus Unternehmensdatenbanken oder von frei zugänglichen Webseiten verknüpfen. Dies können beispielsweise Informationen zum Wirtschaftszweig und zu weiteren Strukturinformationen Ihres Unternehmens sein. Dabei wird stets sichergestellt, dass aus öffentlichen Forschungsergebnissen keinerlei Rückschlüsse auf Ihre Person oder Ihr Unternehmen möglich sind. Wir freuen uns sehr, wenn Sie uns dabei unterstützen, die Erwartungen und Einschätzungen der Unternehmen in Deutschland besser zu verstehen.
Variable label	data linking agreement
Variable type	numeric
Range	[0,1]
	0 = No 1 = Yes
Filter	None
Variable name	AGS
Variable label	official municipality code
Variable type	string
Comment	The AGS (amtlicher Gemeindeschlüssel), issued by the statistics offices, identifies the municipality of the company. This variable is saved in 8 digits.
Filter	None
Variable name	PLZ
Variable label	postal code
Variable type	string
Comment	This variable is saved in 5 digits.
Filter	None
Variable name	wave
Variable label	survey wave
Variable type	string
Comment	This variable indicates the survey wave.
Filter	None
Variable name	questionnaire
Variable label	questionnaire
Variable type	string
Comment	This variable indicates the questionnaire the respondent has answered to.
Filter	None

Common Part Questions

Variable name	ccd1, ccd2, ccd9, ccd6
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	Welche Veränderung (in %) der folgenden Kennzahlen erwarten Sie für das laufende Kalenderjahr für Ihr Unternehmen im Vergleich zum vorangegangenen Kalenderjahr?
English translation of survey question	What change (in %) in the following key figures do you expect for your company for the current calendar year compared to the previous calendar year?
Variable name/label	ccd1 annual revenue change ccd2 annual employee number change ccd9 annual investments change ccd6 annual profit change
Variable type	numeric
Range	[-100,100]
Filter	None

Variable name	ccd0
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	Wir erwarten, das aktuelle Kalenderjahr mit einem Verlust abzuschließen.
English translation of survey question	We expect to close the current calendar year with a loss.
Variable label	loss in current year
Variable type	numeric
Range	[0,1]
	0 = No 1 = Yes
Filter	None

Variable name	cun9
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	Was schätzen Sie: Wie viel Prozent der Unternehmen Ihrer Branche werden ihr Geschäft in den nächsten 12 Monaten aufgeben?
English translation of survey question	What do you estimate: what percentage of companies in your industry will go out of business in the next 12 months?
Variable label	Expectation: industry survival
Variable type	numeric
Range	[0,100]
Filter	None

Variable name	cgm302 – cgm308
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	Welche Entscheidungen planen Sie in den nächsten 12 Monaten?
English translation of survey question	What decisions are you planning to make in the next 12 months?
Variable name/label	cgm302 research and development cgm303 fixed costs (e.g. permanent staff, rent) cgm304 bonus payments cgm305 withdrawals from entrepreneurs / shareholders cgm306 distribution to shareholders cgm307 sales prices cgm308 other measures cgm309 equity ratio
Variable type	numeric
Comment	If cgm308 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable cgm308_text (accessible under restrictive conditions). cgm309 is a new option category in Wave 4. cgm307 is not asked in CA6.
Range	[1,3] 1 = no change 2 = decrease 3 = increase
Filter	cgm305 is displayed if ccgic1 = 1 or ccgic1 = 3 or ccgic1 = 6 or ccgic1 = 7 or ccgic1 = 8 or ccgic1 = 9 or ccgic1 = 11 or ccgic1 = 14 or ccgic1 = 18 cgm306 is displayed if ccgic1 = 2 or ccgic1 = 4 or ccgic1 = 5 or ccgic1 = 10 or ccgic1 = 12 or ccgic1 = 13
Variable name	cep1
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	Wie zufrieden sind Sie mit der Wirtschaftspolitik in Deutschland?
English translation of survey question	How satisfied are you with economic policy in Germany?
Variable label	economic policy satisfaction
Variable type	numeric
Range	11 Point Likert Scale [0,10] 0 = Very unsatisfied 10 = Very satisfied
Filter	None

Degree of Transparency, Organization of Accounting and Finance Activities

If not indicated otherwise, this section of questions is randomized. Each survey participant receives one of the following questions.

Variable name	discl1
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	Gelten für Ihr Unternehmen Offenlegungspflichten (z.B. Veröffentlichung des Jahresabschlusses im Bundesanzeiger)?
English translation of survey question	Do disclosure obligations apply to your company (e.g. publication of the annual financial statements in the Federal Gazette)?
Variable label	disclosure obligation
Variable type	numeric
Range	[0,1]
	0 = No 1 = Yes
Filter	None

Variable name	discl2
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	In welchem Umfang gewinnt Ihr Unternehmen wertvolle Informationen über Wettbewerber anhand der Offenlegungen anderer Unternehmen in Ihrer Branche (z.B. der Veröffentlichung des Jahresabschlusses im Bundesanzeiger)?
English translation of survey question	To what extent does your company gain valuable information about competitors from disclosures by other companies in your industry (e.g. the publication of the annual financial statements in the Federal Gazette)?
Variable label	competitor disclosure information
Variable type	numeric
Range	11 Point Likert Scale [0,10]
	0 = No information 10 = Very much information
Filter	None

Variable name	accorg1 – accorg6	
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7	
Original survey question	Wie sind Rechnungswesen und Finanzen in Ihrem Unternehmen organisiert?	
English translation of survey question	How are accounting and finances organized in your company?	
Variable name/label	accorg1	in the area of responsibility of sole managing director
	accorg2	our company has its own CFO which is part of the management
	accorg3	our company has its own CFO which is not part of the management
	accorg4	some functions are outsourced (e.g. to the tax advisor or an accounting firm)
	accorg5	all functions are outsourced (e.g. to the tax advisor or an accounting firm)
	accorg6	other organization form
Variable type	numeric	
Comment	If accorg6 is selected, the text entry is stored in the variable accorg6_text (accessible under restrictive conditions).	
Range	[0,1]	
	0 = Not selected 1 = Selected	
Filter	accorg2 is displayed if ccgic5 >= 20 or ccgic6 >= 5 accorg3 is displayed if ccgic5 >= 20 or ccgic6 >= 5	

Variable name	kpi1 – kpi8
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	Mit Hilfe welcher Kennzahlen legt Ihr Unternehmen die Jahresziele fest?
English translation of survey question	With the help of which key figures does your company set annual targets?
Variable name/label	<p>kpi1 key figures of the profit and loss account</p> <p>kpi2 liquidity key figures/key figures from the cash flow statement</p> <p>kpi3 profitability indicators</p> <p>kpi4 residual profits</p> <p>kpi5 bank balance</p> <p>kpi6 non-financial performance indicators</p> <p>kpi8 other key figures</p> <p>kpi7 we do not set annual targets</p>
Variable type	numeric
Comment	If kpi8 is selected, the text entry is stored in kpi8_text (accessible under restrictive conditions).
Range	[0,1]
	<p>0 = Not selected</p> <p>1 = Selected</p>
Filter	kpi1, kpi2, kpi3, kpi4 are displayed if (ccgic1 ≠ 1 and ccgic1 ≠ 11) or (ccgic1 = 1 and (ccgic2 >= 600000 or ccgic3 > 4)) or (ccgic1 = 11 and (ccgic2 >= 600000 or ccgic3 > 4))

Selection and Assessment of Key Financial Performance Indicators

Variable name	finp
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	Wie viele Personen sind in Ihrem Unternehmen im Finanzbereich beschäftigt?
English translation of survey question	How many people are employed in your company in the finance sector?
Variable label	finance sector employee
Variable type	numeric
Comment	The filtering condition is adapted for wave 5.
Range	[0, ∞)
Filter	Conditional on accorg1 = 1 or accorg2 = 1 or accorg3 = 1 or accorg4 = 1 or accorg6 = 1
Variable name	task_cfo1 – task_cfo8
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	Welche Aufgabenbereiche liegen in Ihrem Unternehmen im Verantwortungsbereich des Finanzchefs?
English translation of survey question	What are the areas of responsibility of the Chief Financial Officer in your company?
Variable name/label	task_cfo1 controlling
	task_cfo2 taxation
	task_cfo3 treasury or liquidity management
	task_cfo4 risk management
	task_cfo5 financial communication (with board, lenders, owners, investors, etc.)
	task_cfo6 strategic planning
	task_cfo7 internal audit
	task_cfo8 other responsibility
Variable type	numeric
Comment	If task_cfo8 is selected, the corresponding text entry is stored in the variable task_cfo8_text (accessible under restrictive conditions).
Range	[0,1]
	0 = Not Selected 1 = Selected
Filter	Conditional on accorg5 ≠ 1

Variable name	kpi9 – kpi14
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	Welche Kennzahlen der Gewinn- und Verlustrechnung werden in Ihrem Unternehmen zur Festlegung der Jahresziele verwendet?
English translation of survey question	Which key figures from the profit and loss account does your company use to set annual targets?
Variable name/label	kpi9 sales kpi10 earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) kpi11 earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) kpi12 profit before tax kpi13 annual surplus kpi14 other income statement key figure
Variable type	numeric
Comment	If kpi14 is selected, the text entry is stored in kpi14_text (accessible under restrictive conditions).
Range	[0,1] 0 = Not selected 1 = Selected
Filter	Conditional on kpi1 = 1

Variable name	kpi15 – kpi17
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	Welche Liquiditätskennzahlen / Kennzahlen der Kapitalflussrechnung (Cash-Flow) werden in Ihrem Unternehmen zur Festlegung der Jahresziele verwendet?
English translation of survey question	Which liquidity key figures / key figures of the cash flow statement does your company use to set annual targets?
Variable name/label	kpi15 operating cash flow kpi16 free cash flow kpi17 other cash flow key figures
Variable type	numeric
Comment	If kpi17 is selected, the text entry is stored in variable kpi17_text (accessible under restrictive conditions).
Range	[0,1] 0 = Not selected 1 = Selected
Filter	Conditional on kpi2 = 1

Variable name	kpi18 – kpi21
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	Welche Rentabilitätskennzahlen werden in Ihrem Unternehmen zur Festlegung der Jahresziele verwendet?
English translation of survey question	Which profitability indicators does your company use to set annual targets?
Variable name/label	kpi18 return on equity kpi19 return on sales kpi20 return on assets kpi21 other profitability key figures
Variable type	numeric
Comment	If kpi21 is selected, the text entry is stored in variable kpi21_text (accessible under restrictive conditions).
Range	[0,1]
	0 = Not selected 1 = Selected
Filter	Conditional on kpi3 = 1

Variable name	kpi22 – kpi29
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	Welche nicht-finanziellen Leistungsindikatoren werden in Ihrem Unternehmen zur Festlegung der Jahresziele verwendet?
English translation of survey question	Which non-financial performance indicators are being used in your company to set annual targets?
Variable name/label	kpi22 employee satisfaction kpi23 gender quota/diversity kpi24 social investment/social engagement kpi25 water consumption/energy consumption kpi26 environmental pollution/CO2 emissions kpi27 product returns & recycling kpi28 corporate reputation kpi29 other non-financial indicators
Variable type	numeric
Comment	If kpi29 is selected, the text entry is stored in variable kpi29_text (accessible under restrictive conditions).
Range	[0,1]
	0 = Not selected 1 = Selected
Filter	Conditional on kpi6 = 1

Variable name	exp_targ
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	Im aktuellen wirtschaftlichen Umfeld ist die Erreichung der finanziellen Ergebnisziele für das laufende Geschäftsjahr...
English translation of survey question	In the current economic environment, the achievement of the financial targets for the current fiscal year is...
Variable label	target expectation
Variable type	numeric
Range	11 Point Likert Scale [0,10]
	0 = Very uncertain 5 = Neither certain nor uncertain 10 = Very certain
Filter	None

Variable name	kpi1_up – kpi7_up
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	In welcher Regelmäßigkeit werden intern Ihre Erfolgskennzahlen aktualisiert und an die Führungskräfte berichtet?
English translation of survey question	How often are the key performance indicators updated internally and reported to the executives?
Variable name/label	kpi1_up key figures of the profit and loss account
	kpi2_up liquidity indicators (e.g. bank balances)
	kpi3_up profitability metrics
	kpi4_up residual profits
	kpi5_up balance sheet figures (e.g. equity)
	kpi6_up non-financial performance indicators
	kpi7_up forward-looking information (forecasts, budgets, etc.)
Variable type	numeric
Comment	The filtering condition is adapted for wave 5.
Range	[1,7]
	1 = Never 2 = Every day 3 = Weekly 4 = Monthly 5 = Quarterly 6 = Biannually 7 = Annually
Filter	Conditional on ccgic5 >= 20 or ccgic6 >= 5 and if kpi1 = 1 or kpi2 = 1 or kpi3 = 1 or kpi4 = 1 or kpi5 = 1 or kpi6 = 1 or kpi8 = 1
	kpi3_up is displayed if kpi3 = 1 kpi4_up is displayed if kpi4 = 1 kpi6_up is displayed if kpi6 = 1

Variable name	cons_inex
Questionnaire	CA5, CA7
Original survey question	In welchem Umfang stimmt die interne Kosten- und Erfolgsrechnung Ihres Unternehmens mit der externen Berichterstattung überein?
English translation of survey question	To what extent does the internal cost and income statement of your company correspond with the external reporting?
Variable label	internal and external reporting consistency
Variable type	numeric
Comment	The filtering condition is adapted for wave 5.
Range	11 Point Likert Scale [0,10]
	0 = Independent from each other 10 = Completely consistent with each other
Filter	Conditional on discl1 = 1 or (ccgic5 >= 20 or ccgic6 >= 5)

Earnings Management

Variable name	em_pers1 - em_pers7
Questionnaire	CA5
Original survey question	Welche der folgenden Maßnahmen fallen Ihrer Ansicht nach unter legale Ausübung von Bilanzpolitik? Hinweis: Bitte wählen Sie alle relevanten Optionen aus.
English translation of survey question	Which of the following do you think belong to legal earnings management practices? Hint: Please choose all options that apply.
Variable name/label	em_pers1 Over - or understating of costs em_pers2 Delay or acceleration of sales and expenses em_pers3 Choice between different depreciation methods em_pers4 Backdating invoices em_pers5 Unplanned depreciation when an unexpected permanent reduction in the value of an asset em_pers6 Transferring funds from personal to company bank account em_pers7 Others
Variable type	numeric
Comment	This question is launched on Dec. 9 th , 2022.
Range	[0,1] 0 = Not selected 1 = Selected
Filter	None

Variable name	em_reas1 - em_reas6
Questionnaire	CA5
Original survey question	Es gibt verschiedene Gründe, warum ein Unternehmen Wahlrechte und Ermessensspielräume bei der Gewinnermittlung ausübt, um den Unternehmensgewinn zum eigenen Nutzen zu verzerren. Welche der folgenden Gründe sind relevant für Unternehmen Ihrer Branche?
English translation of survey question	There are several potential reasons why a company might take advantage of accounting choices and managers' discretion for its own benefit to misrepresent earnings. Which of the following reasons are most relevant for such practices in your industry?
Variable name/label	em_reas1 Better lending opportunities em_reas2 Higher compensation for employees (e.g., higher bonuses) em_reas3 Giving customers/suppliers more certainty about the stable development of business em_reas4 To give the owners or investors more security about the stable development of business em_reas5 To save taxes em_reas6 Others
Variable type	numeric
Comment	This question is launched on Dec 9th, 2022.
Range	[0,1]
	0 = Not selected 1 = Selected
Filter	None

Variable name	em_group
Questionnaire	CA5
Variable label	Treatment group
Variable type	numeric
Comment	Survey participants are randomly assigned to one of six groups, which contain different combinations of questions.
Range	[1,6]
	1 = Survey participant is assigned to group 1 and receives questions em_list1T, em_list2 2 = Survey participant is assigned to group 2 and receives questions em_list1, emlist2T 3 = Survey participant is assigned to group 3 and receives questions direct, em_list1 4 = Survey participant is assigned to group 4 and receives questions direct, em_list2 5 = Survey participant is assigned to group 5 and receives questions indirect, em_list1 6 = Survey participant is assigned to group 6 and receives questions indirect, em_list2
Filter	None

Variable name	list_order
Questionnaire	CA5
Variable label	list order
Variable type	string
Comment	This variable indicates the order of the answer options in the lists. For em_group = 1, the order is indicated by a five and a four-digit number, separated by a comma. If em_group = 2, the order is indicated by a four and a five-digit number, separated by a comma. If em_group > 2, the order is indicated by a four-digit number.
Filter	None

Variable name	em_list1
Questionnaire	CA5
Original survey question	Aus Sicht Ihres Unternehmens: Wie viele der folgenden Maßnahmen haben Sie in den letzten Jahren ergriffen? Wir haben Tätigkeiten an externe Dienstleister ausgelagert, um Kosten zu reduzieren. Wir haben ausgelagerte Tätigkeiten wieder eingegliedert, um Lieferrisiken zu reduzieren. Wir haben in Risikomanagement investiert, um interne Effizienz zu erhöhen. Wir haben intensiv mit unseren Kunden kommuniziert, um die Umsätze zu verbessern.
English translation of survey question	From your company's point of view: How many of the following measures have you taken in recent years? We have outsourced activities to external service providers to reduce costs. We have reintegrated outsourced activities to reduce delivery risks. We have invested in risk management to increase internal efficiency. We have communicated intensively with our customers to improve sales.
Variable label	how many of the measures have been taken in control list 1
Variable type	numeric
Range	[0,4]
Filter	None

Variable name	em_list1T
Questionnaire	CA5
Original survey question	<p>Aus Sicht Ihres Unternehmens: Wie viele der folgenden Maßnahmen haben Sie in den letzten Jahren ergriffen?</p> <p>Tätigkeiten an externe Dienstleister ausgelagert, um Kosten zu reduzieren.</p> <p>Ausgelagerte Tätigkeiten wieder eingegliedert, um Lieferrisiken zu reduzieren.</p> <p>In Risikomanagement investiert, um interne Effizienz zu erhöhen.</p> <p>Intensiv mit unseren Kunden kommuniziert, um die Umsätze zu verbessern.</p> <p>Wahlrechte und Ermessensspielräume bei der Gewinnermittlung ausgeübt, um den Unternehmensgewinn zum eigenen Nutzen zu verzerren.</p>
English translation of survey question	<p>From your company's point of view: How many of the following measures have you taken in recent years?</p> <p>Outsourced activities to external service providers to reduce costs.</p> <p>Reintegrated outsourced activities to reduce delivery risks.</p> <p>Invested in risk management to increase internal efficiency.</p> <p>Communicated intensively with our customers to improve sales.</p> <p>Taken advantage of available accounting choices and managers' discretion for own benefit to misrepresent earnings.</p>
Variable label	how many of the measures have been taken in treatment list 1
Variable type	numeric
Range	[0,5]
Filter	None

Variable name	em_list2
Questionnaire	CA5
Original survey question	<p>Aus Sicht Ihres Unternehmens: Wie viele der folgenden Maßnahmen haben Sie in den letzten Jahren ergriffen?</p> <p>Wir haben Geschäftseinheiten umstrukturiert, um Kosten zu reduzieren.</p> <p>Wir haben die Zahl der Lieferanten reduziert, um Lieferrisiken zu reduzieren.</p> <p>Wir haben unser Projektmanagement angepasst, um interne Effizienz zu erhöhen.</p> <p>Wir haben in Marketing von Produkten investiert, um die Umsätze zu verbessern.</p>
English translation of survey question	<p>From your company's perspective, how many of the following measures have you taken in recent years?</p> <p>We have restructured business units to reduce costs.</p> <p>We have reduced the number of suppliers to reduce delivery risks.</p> <p>We have adjusted our project management to increase internal efficiency.</p> <p>We have invested in product marketing to improve sales.</p>
Variable label	how many of the measures have been taken in control list 2
Variable type	numeric
Range	[0,4]
Filter	None

Variable name	em_list2T
Questionnaire	CA5
Original survey question	Aus Sicht Ihres Unternehmens: Wie viele der folgenden Maßnahmen haben Sie in den letzten Jahren ergriffen? Geschäftseinheiten umstrukturiert, um Kosten zu reduzieren. Die Zahl der Lieferanten reduziert, um Lieferrisiken zu reduzieren. Unser Projektmanagement angepasst, um interne Effizienz zu erhöhen. In Marketing von Produkten investiert, um die Umsätze zu verbessern. Wahlrechte und Ermessensspielräume bei der Gewinnermittlung ausgeübt, um den Unternehmensgewinn zum eigenen Nutzen zu verzerren.
English translation of survey question	From your company's perspective, how many of the following measures have you taken in recent years? Restructured business units to reduce costs. Reduced the number of suppliers to reduce delivery risks. Adjusted our project management to increase internal efficiency. Invested in product marketing to improve sales. Taken advantage of available accounting choices and managers' discretion for own benefit to misrepresent earnings.
Variable label	how many of the measures have been taken in treatment list 2
Variable type	numeric
Range	[0,5]
Filter	None

Variable name	direct_v2
Questionnaire	CA5
Original survey question	Hat Ihr Unternehmen in den letzten Jahren Wahlrechte und Ermessensspielräume bei der Gewinnermittlung ausgeübt, um den Unternehmensgewinn zum eigenen Nutzen zu verzerren?
English translation of survey question	In past years, has your company taken advantage of accounting choices and discretion for own benefit to misrepresent earnings?
Variable label	direct profit steering
Variable type	numeric
Range	[0,1]
	0 = No 1 = Yes
Filter	None

Variable name	indirect_share
Questionnaire	CA5
Original survey question	Was schätzen Sie: Welcher Anteil der Unternehmen Ihrer Branche (in %) haben in den letzten Jahren Wahlrechte und Ermessensspielräume bei der Gewinnermittlung ausgeübt, um den Unternehmensgewinn zum eigenen Nutzen zu verzerren?
English translation of survey question	What do you estimate: What percentage of companies in your industry (in %) have exercised profit election rights and discretion in recent years to distort company profits for their own benefit?
Variable label	indirect profit steering
Variable type	numeric
Range	[0,100], in %
Filter	None

Variable name	em_dir_p, em_dir_c
Questionnaire	CA5
Original survey question	Im Vergleich zum wahren Gewinn Ihres Unternehmens, in welche Richtung wirkten die ausgeübten Wahlrechte und Ermessensspielräume bei der Gewinnermittlung überwiegend?
English translation of survey question	Compared to the real financial performance of your company, in which direction did the exercised accounting options and managers' discretion in the past years influence your company's earnings?
Variable name/label	em_dir_p direction past em_dir_c direction current
Variable type	numeric
Comment	This question is launched on Dec 9 th , 2022.
Range	[-2,1]
	1 = Earnings increase 0 = Neutral -1 = Earnings decrease -2 = No options and discretions used
Filter	None

COVID-19, Trust, and Contracting

Variable name	contract1
Questionnaire	CA7
Original survey question	Was meinen Sie: Wie spezifisch sind die Klauseln zu Kreditsicherheiten in den Kreditverträgen Ihres Unternehmens definiert?
	Hinweis: Kreditverträge enthalten häufig Klauseln zu Sicherheiten (etwa Grundstücke oder Bürgschaften). Eine Kreditsicherheit erlaubt es dem Kreditgeber, sich bei Zahlungsausfall des Kreditnehmers aus dessen Vermögen zu befriedigen.
English translation of survey question	How specifically are the clauses on loan collateral defined in your company's loan agreements?
Variable label	credit agreement specification
Variable type	numeric
Range	11 Point Likert Scale [0,10]
	0 = Very general 10 = Very specific
Filter	None

Variable name	contract2
Questionnaire	CA7
Original survey question	Was meinen Sie: Wie spezifisch sind die Klauseln zu Kreditbedingungen ("Debt Covenants") in den Kreditverträgen Ihres Unternehmens definiert?
	Hinweis: Kreditverträge können Klauseln zu Kreditbedingungen ("Debt Covenants") enthalten. Beispiele sind die Vereinbarung von Zielwerten bei bestimmten Kennzahlen (etwa ein maximaler Verschuldungsgrad) oder das Bereitstellen zusätzlicher testierter Berichte.
English translation of survey question	How specific are the debt covenants in your company's loan agreements?
Variable label	Debt covenants specification
Variable type	numeric
Range	11 Point Likert Scale [0,10]
	0 = Very general 10 = Very specific
Filter	None

Variable name	contract3
Questionnaire	CA7
Original survey question	Was meinen Sie: Wie stark haben sich die Klauseln zu Kreditsicherheiten und Kreditbedingungen ("Debt Covenants") in den Kreditverträgen Ihres Unternehmens infolge der Corona-Pandemie verändert?
English translation of survey question	To what extent have the clauses on loan collateral and debt covenants in your company's loan agreements changed as a result of the pandemic?
Variable label	Debt covenants after pandemic
Variable type	numeric
Range	11 Point Likert Scale [0,10]
	0 = Much more general 10 = Much more specific
Filter	None

Variable name	contract4
Questionnaire	CA7
Original survey question	Was meinen Sie: Wie stark haben sich die Klauseln zu Kreditsicherheiten und Kreditbedingungen ("Debt Covenants") in den Kreditverträgen Ihres Unternehmens infolge der Corona-Pandemie verändert?
English translation of survey question	These changes to the clauses still apply today...
Variable label	Debt covenants after pandemic 2
Variable type	numeric
Range	11 Point Likert Scale [0,10]
	0 = Not any more 10 = To a great extent
Filter	None

Variable name	contract5
Questionnaire	CA7
Original survey question	Was meinen Sie: Wie stark hängt die variable Vergütung in ihrem Unternehmen von der persönlichen Beurteilung der Leistung durch den Vorgesetzten ab?
English translation of survey question	To what extent does the variable remuneration in your company depend on the personal assessment of performance by the manager?
Variable label	Compensation assessment
Variable type	numeric
Range	11 Point Likert Scale [0,10]
	0 = Not at all 10 = To a great extent
Filter	None

Variable name	contract6
Questionnaire	CA7
Original survey question	Was meinen Sie: Wie stark hat sich infolge der Corona-Pandemie der Einfluss der persönlichen Beurteilung des Vorgesetzten auf die variable Vergütung in Ihrem Unternehmen verändert?
	Der Einfluss wurde...
English translation of survey question	To what extent has the influence of a line manager's personal assessment on variable remuneration changed in your company as a result of the pandemic?
Variable label	Compensation assessment after pandemic
Variable type	numeric
Range	11 Point Likert Scale [0,10]
	0 = Much weaker 10 = Much stronger
Filter	None

Variable name	contract7
Questionnaire	CA7
Original survey question	Was meinen Sie: Wie stark hat sich infolge der Corona-Pandemie der Einfluss der persönlichen Beurteilung des Vorgesetzten auf die variable Vergütung in Ihrem Unternehmen verändert?
English translation of survey question	Diese Änderungen bestehen bis heute fort ... To what extent has the influence of a line manager's personal assessment on variable remuneration changed in your company as a result of the pandemic? These changes to the clauses still apply today...
Variable label	Compensation assessment after pandemic 2
Variable type	numeric
Range	11 Point Likert Scale [0,10] 0 = not any more 10 = to a great extent
Filter	None

Variable name	contract8
Questionnaire	CA7
Original survey question	Was meinen Sie: Durch die Corona-Pandemie hat Ihr Unternehmen gelernt, seine Verträge flexibel an krisenhafte Entwicklungen anzupassen und ist dadurch insgesamt krisenfester geworden (zum Beispiel gegenüber der Energiekrise).
English translation of survey question	The coronavirus pandemic has taught your company to adapt its contracts flexibly to crisis-related developments and has made it more resilient overall (for example, to the energy crisis).
Variable label	Contract adjustment
Variable type	numeric
Range	11 Point Likert Scale [0,10] 0 = Completely disagree 10 = Completely agree
Filter	None

Variable name	tru1-tru4	
Questionnaire	CA7	
Original survey question	Wie schätzen Sie Ihr Unternehmen ein?	
English translation of survey question	How would you assess your company?	
Variable label	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	numeric	
Range	11 Point Likert Scale	
	[0,10]	
	0 = Completely disagree 5 = Neutral 10 = Completely agree	
Filter	None	

Title: German Business Panel Codebook: Round 7

Questionnaire: Degree of Transparency, Earnings Management, Company Trust, and Contracting

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