

THE INTENDED NEW LABOUR STATUS QUESTIONS IN THE GERMAN LFS

Pretest results of the new German questionnaire according to the flowcharts being part of the annex of the draft LFS-regulation

Why a pretest?

The change to the new methodological aspects being part of the LFS regulation in a future questionnaire need to be tested as effects on the consequences are expected

Background:

- Sliding reference week since 2005**
- Main status to enter the ILO-employment questions since 2011**
 - 1) Main status (very differentiated)**
 - 2) If not employed in main status: small job**
 - 3) If not employed in main status: Unpaid family worker**
 - 4) Work at least 1 hour in ref-week**

Main aim of the pretest

- **First four questions**
 - how do respondents react?
 - are all subgroups of employed identified?
- **question on small jobs**
 - Are persons with casual jobs covered?
- **comprehensibility of wording / specific terms**
 - Translation of “work” into nouns and verbs
 - “Household” vs “family”
- **reference week/periods**

What and how

- Qualitative pretest via phone (and partly face-to-face)
- 120 persons (60 employed and 60 non-employed)
- Retrospektive probing
- Test questionnaire strictly followed the specifications in the flowcharts and explanatory notes
- PAPI tool used as being the most difficult mode
- Two versions with partly different wording tested


Peculiarities of the pretest



- ✓ Challenge to find all needed subgroups
 - ✓ Very short – only 20 questions
 - ✓ Individual questionnaire
 - ✓ First question = ILO questions
- } not reality in LFS


Unexpected findings

1 Haben Sie in der Berichtswoche mindestens 1 Stunde gegen Bezahlung als Arbeitnehmer/-in oder als Selbstständige/-r gearbeitet ?

Ja  Weiter mit Frage 18

Nein

2 Haben Sie in der Berichtswoche mindestens 1 Stunde unbezahlt im familieneigenen Betrieb gearbeitet ?

Ja  Weiter mit Frage 18

Nein

Filtering:

- Filters often did not work, but not due to visualisation or mistakes
- Many respondents couldn't believe that they have to answer only so few questions!

Main Findings: Questions 1-4

Question 1:

During the ref-week, did you work at least 1 hour for pay as employee or self-employed ?

During the ref-week, did you work at least 1 hour for pay ?

Ihre Arbeitssituation

1 Haben Sie in der Berichtswoche mindestens 1 Stunde gegen Bezahlung als Arbeitnehmer/-in oder als Selbstständige/-r gearbeitet ?

Ja _____

Nein _____

Weiter mit Frage 1

Main Findings: Questions 1-4

Question 1:

During the ref-week, did you work at least 1 hour for pay as employee or self-employed ?

During the ref-week, did you work at least 1 hour for pay ?

79 % of the employed already indicate their employment here

Wording of the question seems to work well

-> Version including self-employed is preferred

- 1) to cover exactly this sub-group
- 2) small jobs are re-covered in question 4

Ihre Arbeitssituation

1 Haben Sie in der Berichtswoche mindestens 1 Stunde gegen Bezahlung als Arbeitnehmer/-in oder als Selbstständige/-r gearbeitet ?

Ja _____

Nein _____

Weiter mit Frage

Main Findings: Questions 1-4

Question 2:

During the ref-week, did you work at least 1 hour unpaid in a family business?

2 Haben Sie in der Berichtswoche mindestens 1 Stunde unbezahlt im familieneigenen Betrieb gearbeitet?

Ja

Nein

Weiter mit Frage 18

Main Findings: Questions 1-4

Question 2:

During the ref-week, did you work at least 1 hour unpaid in a family business?

As only 0.3 % of German employed are unpaid family workers and having only 1 case in the pretest that additionally identified as not employed

-> no specific conclusions can be drawn

-> All probands have been asked about the comprehension of the question and the terms used: The wording and terms used are understood well by all probands

2 Haben Sie in der Berichtswoche mindestens 1 Stunde unbezahlt im familieneigenen Betrieb gearbeitet?

Ja

Nein

Weiter mit Frage 18

Main Findings: Questions 1-4

Question 3 :

Do you usually have a job or work, but did not do it during the ref-week?

Do you usually have a job or work that you did not do during the ref-week?

3 Haben Sie normalerweise eine Arbeit oder einen Job, haben diesen aber in der Berichtswoche nicht ausgeübt?

Ja

Nein

Weiter mit Frage 5

Main Findings: Questions 1-4

Question 3 :

Do you usually have a job or work, but did not do it during the ref-week?

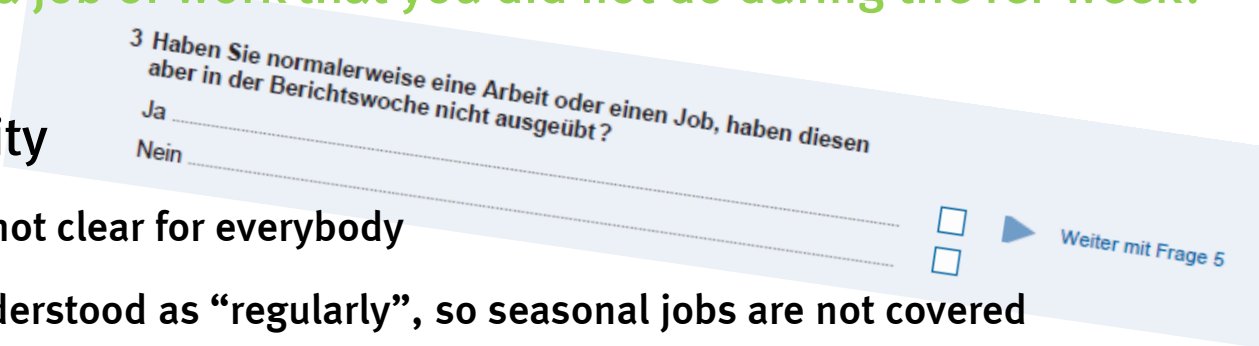
Do you usually have a job or work that you did not do during the ref-week?

Works well for majority

- the term “usually” is not clear for everybody
- Partly “usually” is understood as “regularly”, so seasonal jobs are not covered

-> Conclusion: Explain the term “usually” by using examples

16 % of the employed indicate an absence from employment here



Main Findings: Questions 1-4

Question 4 :

During the ref-week, did you do a small or casual job for pay, as for example mentioned in the list?

Not meant are activities that are carried out for one's own family.

During the ref-week, did you do a small or casual job for pay outside the family as for example mentioned in the list?

The list included the addition „outside family“ where necessary

4 Haben Sie in der Berichtswoche irgendeine Gelegenheitsarbeit oder einen Nebenjob gegen Bezahlung ausgeübt, wie zum Beispiel in der Liste genannt ?

Es geht um Tätigkeiten, die nicht für die eigene Familie ausgeübt werden.

- Bedienung, Servicekraft oder Aushilfe in einer Bar, einem Restaurant oder Hotel
- Fahrer/-in bei einem Lieferservice für Restaurants, Onlineshops oder als Paketbotin/Paketbote
- Babysitter/-in
- Betreuung von Kindern oder pflegebedürftigen Personen
- Nachhilfestunden
- Übersetzer/Übersetzerin
- Gartenarbeiten (Rasenmähen, Hecken- und Baumpflege, etc.)
- Erntehelfer/-in
- Helfer/-in im Renovierungs- oder Baubereich (mit Tätigkeiten wie z.B. Streichen, Tapezieren, Verputzen, Elektrik, Sanitär)
- Analysen oder Berichte erstellen, wissenschaftliche Arbeiten
- Buchhaltungsische Tätigkeiten
- Freiberufler/-in über online-Plattformen
- Artist/-in oder Künstler/-in
- Hostess /Gentleman Host
- Aushilfe im Bereich „Security“ oder im Sicherheitsdienst
- Verteilen von Werbung oder kostenlosen Zeitungen
- Blogger/-in, Influencer/-in oder Erstellen sonstiger Online-Inhalte gegen Bezahlung
- Betreuung von Haustieren
- Trainer/-in in Sportvereinen
- Vorbereitung von Veranstaltungen
- Haushaltshilfe oder Reinigungskraft

Ja _____

Nein _____

Main Findings: Questions 1-4

Question 4 :

During the ref-week, did you do a small or casual job for pay, as for example mentioned in the list?

Not meant are activities that are carried out for one's own family.

During the ref-week, did you do a small or casual job for pay outside the family as for example mentioned in the list?

The list included the addition „outside family“ where necessary

Seems to work well:

- Persons not answering in question 1 are answering here
- Long list of examples is welcome, nothing missing, a different sorting would be welcomed

5 % of the employed indicate an employment here

4 Haben Sie in der Berichtswoche irgendeine Gelegenheitsarbeit oder einen Nebenjob gegen Bezahlung ausgeübt, wie zum Beispiel in der Liste genannt ?

Es geht um Tätigkeiten, die nicht für die eigene Familie ausgeübt werden.

- Bedienung, Servicekraft oder Aushilfe in einer Bar, einem Restaurant oder Hotel
- Fahrer/-in bei einem Lieferservice für Restaurants, Onlineshops oder als Paketbotin/Paketbote
- Babysitter/-in
- Betreuung von Kindern oder pflegebedürftigen Personen
- Nachhilfestunden
- Übersetzer/Übersetzerin
- Gartenarbeiten (Rasenmähen, Hecken- und Baumpflege, etc.)
- Erntehelfer/-in
- Helfer/-in im Renovierungs- oder Baubereich (mit Tätigkeiten wie z.B. Streichen, Tapezieren, Verputzen, Elektrik, Sanitär)
- Analysen oder Berichte erstellen, wissenschaftliche Arbeiten
- Buchhalterische Tätigkeiten
- Freiberufler/-in über online-Plattformen
- Artist/-in oder Künstler/-in
- Hostess /Gentleman Host
- Aushilfe im Bereich „Security“ oder im Sicherheitsdienst
- Verteilen von Werbung oder kostenlosen Zeitungen
- Blogger/-in, Influencer/-in oder Erstellen sonstiger Online-Inhalte gegen Bezahlung
- Betreuung von Haustieren
- Trainer/-in in Sportvereinen
- Vorbereitung von Veranstaltungen
- Haushaltshilfe oder Reinigungskraft

Ja _____

Nein _____

Main Findings: Questions 1-4

- ✓ **Starting with the ILO-question on 1 hour work against pay during ref-week seems to work well**
 - ✓ 79% indicate an employment already in first question
 - ✓ All other questions seem comprehensible and well understood

- ✓ **Still reservations due to the many methodological test and experiences in the past**
 - ✓ Especially people with small jobs don't indicate employment in Q1
 - ✓ Due to the long list many small job holders seem to react here

Comprehensibility of wording: WORK

Comprehensibility of wording: WORK

“WORK“ can be translated into several German words

“Arbeit/ Job“ mostly used, especially in first four questions

“Tätigkeit“ used in the questions on job search seems not misleading

Arbeit

is understood as having an official, main, paid job
(being subject to social security contributions)

Job

is something done aside, i.e. to earn something on top (during education, retirement, being housewife, ...) or as second job

Tätigkeit

is wider and includes unpaid work (voluntarily or within family)
to exclude unpaid work: add „with a few hours“ or „against pay“

Term/concept „family“ and „household“

Term/concept „family“ and „household“

Question on casual work /small jobs uses terms “household” and “family”

➤ In the proposed question itself “**outside the household**”

*“Have you done, from Monday ... to Sunday ..., any casual or small work for payment **outside your household**, such as [add examples appropriate in the national context from the closed list below]?”*

➤ In the list “**...not belonging to your family**”

Findings from pretest:

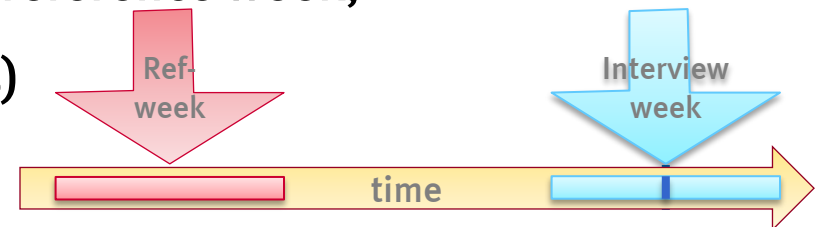
- Family is
 - 1) interpreted differently wide
 - 2) but is a clear term
 - 3) and includes persons living in the same household
 - Household alone is an irritating concept for the test persons
- > Conclusion: only refer to “family” in this question

Comprehension of reference week

Reference week:

Background: Since 2005 the German LFS uses a sliding reference week

About 70% reply corresponding their reference week,
the share of employed is higher (83%)



! future questionnaires will highlight the reference week in tailored ways

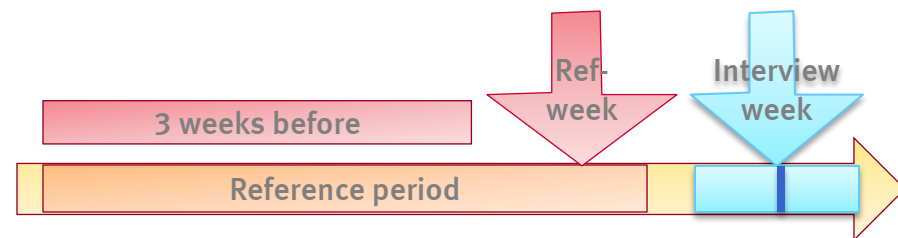
PAPI	fold-out notice
CAWI	appears on the screen
CAPI	notice, openly laid out + Interviewer can intervene
CATI	Interviewer can intervene

Comprehension of reference periods

Changing reference periods create problems:

Job Search:

only 30% refer correctly to ref-week
and 3 weeks before

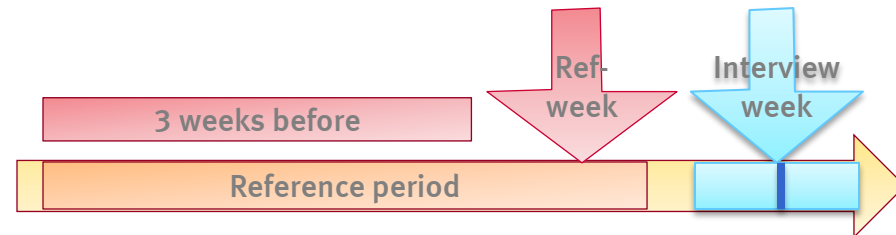


Comprehension of reference periods

Changing reference periods create problems:

Job Search:

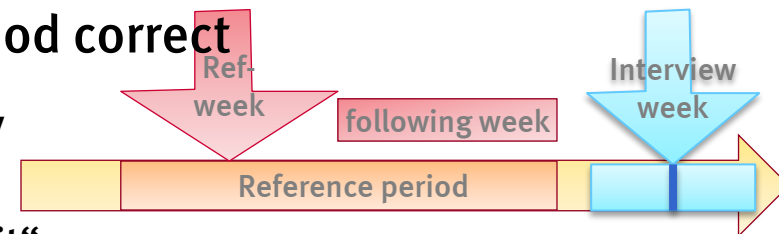
only 30% refer correctly to ref-week and 3 weeks before



Availability:

About 40% interpret the availability-period correct

- “Within two weeks“ is not as precise and widely interpreted by the respondents
- Stick to „in the ref-week and the week following it“



Conclusion

Although reservations concerning the identification of casual job holders are not fully resolved...

... the pretest showed that

- ✓ the new order of questions seems to work quite well**
- ✓ The terms used are comprehensive**
- ✓ Answers regarding reference periods will probably not be exact**
- ✓ PAPI is a really difficult mode**

All in all: It's "just" a cognitive pretest and neither the real interview situation nor the whole LFS questionnaire

But we are happy about the findings and received again more insight into our respondents (and the mode tested) !

Thank you for your attention!

**If you have any questions or suggestions
please don't hesitate to contact me!**

Katharina Marder-Puch
Federal Statistical Office FSO Germany
Labour Market
katharina.marder-puch@destatis.de
+49 611 75-4106

