Release Note on Phase 3.6 Collection of the Household Pulse Survey

On September 14, 2022, the Household Pulse Survey (HPS) entered Phase 3.6 data collection. There have been multiple changes to the questionnaire, including the addition of new questions, the adjustment of existing questions, and the removal of certain survey items from earlier collection periods (see Release Note on New Content and Updated Questionnaire below).

Phase 3.6 is currently scheduled to collect data into November 2022 and will continue the two-weeks on, two-weeks off collection and dissemination approach that began with Phase 3.3 of the survey. This latest phase of the survey is scheduled to have three distinct collection cycles and data releases.

Week 49: September 14 – September 26, 2022 (data released on October 5, 2022)
Week 50: October 5 – October 17, 2022 (data released October 26, 2022)
Week 51: November 2 – November 14, 2022 (data released November 29, 2022)

Users can access the Phase 3.6 questionnaire on the Measuring Household Experiences during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic website, and all previous questionnaires from the survey are available on the Technical Documentation webpage.

Release Note on New Content and Updated Questionnaire

New Questions for Phase 3.6

Beginning with Week 49 (collection period September 14 – September 26, 2022), the Household Pulse Survey questionnaire changed to include the following new items:

- Respondents who report currently having long COVID symptoms (Universe PASC2 = yes and PASC3 = yes) are now asked a question about the impact of these symptoms on daily activities (PASC4).

  **PASC4 question wording:** Do these long-term symptoms reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities compared with the time before you had COVID-19?

  **Response options:**
  1. Yes, a lot
  2. Yes, a little
  3. Not at all
A series of three new conditional questions about childcare arrangements have been added for households with children under the age of 18 (CCARE1, CCARE2, and CCARE3).

**CCARE1 question wording:** In the last 7 days, did your household use any of the following individuals or arrangements to look after the children in the household (select all that apply).

**Response options:**

- Family day care provider caring for 2 or more children outside of your home
- Child care or day care center
- Nursery or preschool
- Before care, aftercare, or summer camp
- Federally supported Head Start program
- Non-relative such as a friend, neighbor, sitter, nanny, or au pair
- Relative other than the parent, such as sibling, or grandparent
- None of these

**CCARE2 question wording** (*universe: households selecting a category other than “none of these” on CCARE1*): Did you or anyone in the household PAY for that childcare? Select only one answer.

1. Yes
2. No

**CCARE3 question wording** (*universe: CCARE2=1*): In the last 7 days, how much did your household pay for all the childcare together?

A series of four inflation questions have been added as well (INFLATE1, INFLATE2, INFLATE3, and INFLATE4)

**INFLATE1 question wording:** In the area where you live and shop, do you think the prices for goods and services have changed in the last two months? Select only one answer.

1. I think prices have increased
2. I do not think prices have changed
3. I think prices have decreased
4. I do not know

**INFLATE2 question wording** (*universe: INFLATE1=1*): How stressful, if at all, has the increase in prices in the last two months been for you? Select only one answer.

**Response options:**

1. Very stressful
2. Moderately stressful
3. A little stressful
4. Not at all stressful
INFLATE3 question wording (universe: INFLATE1=1): What changes, if any, have you made to cope with the increase in prices? (Select all that apply).

Response options:

- Shop at stores that offer lower prices, look for sales, and/or use coupons
- Switch from name brand to generic products
- Purchase less fresh produce and/or meat
- Go out to eat less often or order food for delivery less often
- Cancel or reduce subscription services (e.g., streaming services, meal delivery services, cell phone plan)
- Cancel or decrease plans to attend events
- Drive less or change mode of transportation (e.g., bike or take metro instead of drive)
- Delay major purchases (e.g., home repair/renovation, vacations, vehicles, home appliances, cell phone or computer)
- Delay medical treatment (e.g., refill prescription, surgery)
- Work additional job(s)/shift(s) to supplement income
- Contribute less to savings and/or retirement accounts
- Increase use of credit cards, loans, and/or pawnshops
- Decrease use of utilities (e.g., cooling, heating, water, electricity)
- Move to less expensive housing
- Ask friends and/or family for help
- Change or reduce plans for childcare arrangements to save money
- Utilize benefits from charities
- Other
- I have not made any changes

INFLATE4 question wording (universe: all respondents): In the area you live and shop, how concerned are you, if at all, that prices will increase in the next six months? Select only one answer.

Response options:

1. Very concerned
2. Somewhat concerned
3. A little concerned
4. Not at all concerned

- A series of eight new baby formula questions have been added as well (INF1, INF2, INF3, INF4, INF5, INF6, INF7, and INF8):

INF1 question wording (Universe: KIDS_LT5Y = 1): Are there any babies or infants under the age of 1 year in your household?

Response options:
INF2 question wording (Universe: INF1 = 1): How many months old is the baby or infant in your household? If there are more than one, please report the age of the youngest.

Response options:

1. Yes
2. No

INF3 question wording (Universe: INF1 = 1): Was your household affected by the Infant Formula shortage this year?

Response options:

1. Yes
2. No

INF4 question wording (Universe: INF1 = 1 AND INF3 = 1): Please state how you dealt with the infant formula shortage this year (Select all that apply):

Response options:

- Increased breastfeeding
- Changed from powder to liquid (i.e., liquid concentrate or ready-to-feed (RTF))
- Got Infant Formula at a different store than where I usually shop
- Got Infant Formula online (e.g., Instacart, Amazon, Google Market, secondary market, or other)
- Received direct shipment of Infant Formula from the Infant Formula company
- Changed to a different brand of Infant Formula (any form, powder or liquid)
- Changed from Infant Formula to something else (for example: Cow milk, Goat milk, Soy milk, Almond milk, Oat milk, or Toddler Drink/Formula)
- Stopped offering Infant Formula
- Watering down formula or “making your own” formula
- Other, specify

INF5 question wording (Universe: INF1 = 1 AND INF3 = 1): Does the baby typically use Infant Formula?

Response options:
1. Yes
2. No

INF6 question wording (Universe: INF1 = 1 AND INF3 = 2 and INF5 = 1): In the last 7 days, did you have difficulty obtaining Infant Formula?

Response options:

1. Yes
2. No

INF7 question wording (Universe: INF1 = 1 and INF5 = 1): Currently, how much Infant Formula do you have on hand?

Response options:

1. None
2. Formula for less than a week
3. Formula for about a week
4. Formula for more than a week but less than two weeks
5. Formula for more than two weeks

INF8 question wording (Universe: INF1 = 1 and INF5 = 1): What type of Infant Formula does your infant typically use? (Select all that apply):

Response options:

- Regular or Routine Infant Formula (e.g. Similac, Enfamil, Enfagrow, Pregestimil, Enfaport, NAN, Good Start, NIDO, KLIM, Earths Best, Happy Baby, Burts Bees, Kabrita, Babys Only, Else, Lil Mixins, Babys Choice, Kendamil, J&J Sunrise, PediaSmart, Family Wellness, Happy Tot, Store Label, Private Label)
- Extensively Hydrolyzed Infant Formula (e.g., Alimentum, Alimentum Liquid, Gerber Extensive, Nutramigen)
- Amino Acid Based Infant Formula (e.g., Alfamino, EleCare, Neocate, Puramino)
- Metabolic Infant Formulas (e.g., Calcilo, Cyclinex-1, Glutarex-1, Hominex-1, L-Valex-1, Ketonex-1, Phenex-1, Pro-Phree, Propimex-1, RCF, Tyrex-1)
- Other
- Don’t know

- There is also now a new question asking about the impact of gas prices on driving behavior:

GAS1 question wording: Has the cost of gas in the last 7 days caused you to: Select all that apply.
Response options:

- Choose not to take a trip (i.e. chose not to visit a friend/restaurant/park etc., change a task from in-person to online to reduce gas use)
- Combine trips
- Take alternative modes of transportation (i.e. transit, ridesharing, bike, etc.)
- None of these, the cost of gas has not affected my driving behavior

- A question about summer school activities has also been returned to the questionnaire:

ED1 question wording: After the end of the normal school year in the Spring of 2022, did any of the Kindergarten through 12th grade students in your household do any of the following: Please select all that apply.

Response options:

- Attend a traditional summer school program because of poor grades?
- Attend a summer school program to help students catch up with lost learning time during the pandemic?
- Attend school-led summer camps for subjects like math, science or reading?
- Work with private tutors to help students catch up with lost learning time during the pandemic?
- None of these

Updated Questions for Phase 3.6

Additionally, adjusted questionnaire items include:

- The response options for the question about receiving a COVID-19 vaccine have been reversed (VAC2).

Updated response options:

1. I received 2 doses of a two-shot series like Moderna or Pfizer or a single dose vaccine like Johnson & Johnson
2. I received one dose of a two-shot series like Moderna or Pfizer

Previous response options:

1. I received one dose of a two-shot series like Moderna or Pfizer
2. I received 2 doses of a two-shot series or a single dose vaccine like Johnson & Johnson

- The question universe for EMP6 has been updated to reflect the removal of question about volunteering outside the home (EMP5). Question now focuses exclusively on the workplace setting for respondents who reported being paid for work in the last 7 days.
• The reference periods for questions asking about applying for unemployment insurance (EMPUI1) and receiving these benefits (EMPUI2) have been updated.

  **Previous reference period:** “Since January 1, 2022…”

  **Updated reference period:** “Since June 1, 2022…”

• The wording of the question asking about household teleworking has been slightly adjusted to focus on household members (SPN5_DAYSTW):

  **Previous question wording:** In the last 7 days, have you or any of the people in your household teleworked or worked from home?

  **Updated question wording:** In the last 7 days, have any of the people in your household teleworked or worked from home?

A separate new question now asks specifically about whether the respondent recently teleworked (SPN5_DAYSTW_2).

  **SPN5_DAYSTW_2 wording:** In the last 7 days, have you teleworked or worked from home?

  **Response options:**
  1. Yes, for 1-2 days
  2. Yes, for 3-4 days
  3. Yes, for 5 or more days
  4. No

• Response options for the question asking about methods used to meet spending needs has also been updated (SPN6). This change impacts most the stubs throughout the table package:

  **Updated response options (select all that apply):**
  - Regular income sources like those received before the pandemic
  - Credit cards or loans
  - Money from savings or selling assets or possessions (including withdrawals from retirement accounts)
  - Borrowing from friends or family
  - Unemployment insurance (UI) benefit payments
  - Money saved from deferred or forgiven payments (to meet your spending needs)
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
  - School meal debit/EBT cards
  - Government rental assistance
  - Other, specify
The questions asking about household food spending (Q28 and Q29) have been moved in the questionnaire. In the last version of the questionnaire these questions were asked after SPN6 (spending methods), but they are now located directly after FD6 (household SNAP benefits).

Removed Questions for Phase 3.6

Finally, a number of questions have been removed for this latest phase of the survey:

- ED2, ED3, and ED4 (postsecondary education)
- EMP5 (volunteering outside the home)
- EMP7 (childcare disruptions)
- EMP8 (impact of childcare disruptions)
- HLTH9-HLTH10 (telehealth appointments for respondents)
- HLTh11-HLTH12 (telehealth appointments for children in household)
- KID12ED2 (hybrid learning) and KID12ED3 (live contact with teachers)
- SPN1, SPN1_refund, SPN2, and SPN3 (battery of questions about child tax credits)
- RIDE1 (method of transportation before pandemic) and RIDE2 (frequency of recent trips)

Release Note on Updated Phase 3.6 Table Specifications

Data users can find the most updated table specifications on the main Technical Documentation webpage. Changes to the tables include:

Child Tax Credit Table

- This table has been removed since the battery of questions about the child tax credit have been taken off the questionnaire.

Education Table 1

- Content from deleted question about childcare disruptions (EMP7) has been removed from this table and replaced with content from new question about childcare arrangements (CCARE1).

Education Table 2

- Content from deleted question about impact of childcare disruptions (EMP8) has been removed from this table and replaced with content from new question about paying for childcare (CCARE2).
- Content from new question asking about the amount paid for childcare (CCARE3) has been added to this table.

Education Tables 3-4

- Based on the removal of questions about post-secondary education, these tables have been changed to show different education related content.
- Education Table 4 includes content from the returned question about summer school activities.
Education Tables 5-6
- As the result of the removal of questions about hybrid learning (K12ED2) and frequency of live contact with teachers (K12ED3), these tables have been removed from the table package.

Employment Table 4
- Table has been updated to reflect the removal of question about volunteering outside the home (EMP5)

Employment Table 5
- Table reference period has been updated to reflect changes to question asking about applying for unemployment insurance (EMPUI1).

Employment Table 6
- Table reference period has been updated to reflect changes to question asking about receiving unemployment insurance (EMPUI2).

Employment Table 7a
- Table header has been adjusted to reflect change in telework question wording (SPNS_DAYSTW).

Employment Table 7b
- New table sourcing content from added question focused on respondent telework behavior (SPNS_DAYSTW2).

Food Table 7
- New table that sources content from added questions about baby formula (INF1-INF8).

Health Table 1a
- Table previously sourced content about telehealth appointments for respondents that has been removed (HLTH9-HLTH10). After renumbering the remaining tables, this table now sources questions about symptoms of anxiety.

Health Table 1b
- This table previously sourced content about telehealth appointments for children in household that has been removed (HLTH11-HLTH12). After renumbering the remaining health tables, this table now sources questions about symptoms of depression.
Health Table 5a
- The column headers for this table have been updated to reflect response options being reversed for VAC2.

Health Tables 7a, 7b, and 7c
- The tables that source questions related to the vaccination status of children have been updated to account for kids between the ages of 0-4.

Health Table 9
- Content from question asking about whether respondent is currently experiencing long COVID symptoms (PASC3) has been moved to the bottom of the table stub.

Health Table 11
- Table has been modified to include content from new question asking about impact of long COVID symptoms on daily activities (PASC4).
- Content from question asking about whether respondent is currently experiencing long COVID symptoms (PASC3) has been moved to the bottom of the table stub.

Spending Table 3
- New table that sources new inflation variables asking about recent price increases (INFLATE1), related stress (INFLATE2), and concern about future prices increases (INFLATE4).

Spending Table 4
- New table that sources recently added inflation variable asking about inflation related behavioral changes (INFLATE3).

Spending Table 5
- New table that sources recently added question about the impact of gas prices on driving behavior (GAS1).

Standard Table Stubs
- Most of the stubs throughout the table package have been updated to reflect changes to response options for the question asking about methods used to meet spending needs (SPN6).

Transportation Table
- Due to the removal of transportation content (Ride1 and Ride2), this table has been removed from the table package.
Release Note on Updated Phase 3.6 Interactive Data Tool

Based on changes to the questionnaire, the HPS Interactive Data Tool has added three new indicators and removed four previous measures.

New Indicators:

*Price Increases for Goods and Services*- Percentage of adults who think prices have increased in the area where they live and shop in the last two months.

*Concerned About Price Increases in the Future*- Percentage of adults who are somewhat or very concerned that prices will increase in the next six months.

*Impact of Cost of Gas on Driving Behavior*- Percentage of adults who changed driving behavior in the last 7 days due to the cost of gas.

Removed Indicators:

*Childcare Disruptions for Kids Under 5*- Percentage of adults in households where children under 5 were unable to attend daycare or another childcare arrangement in the last 4 weeks.

*Household Telehealth*- Percentage of adults who had an appointment with a doctor, nurse, or other health professional by video or by phone in the last 4 weeks.

*Children's Telehealth*- Percentage of adults living in households where children had an appointment with a doctor, nurse, or other health professional by video or by phone in the last 4 weeks.

*Child Tax Credit Spending (Received from 2021 Tax Return)*- Percentage of adults living in households that received the Child Tax Credit on their 2021 Federal tax return in the last 4 weeks who either mostly spent it or used it.

Release Note on Absent Interactive Data Tool Indicators

Data users should also note than in certain collection cycles, there may not be enough survey responses to calculate all indicators for all geographic entities.

For example, in Week 49, the indicator “Likelihood of Eviction or Foreclosure” shows no data for the state of Vermont. This is due to having no respondents reporting not being current on their rent or mortgage and not selecting “very likely” or “somewhat likely” when asked a follow-up question about the likelihood of eviction or foreclosure. Should this occur, the relevant estimates should not appear in this tool. However, the tool currently shows these estimates with negative values for the state of Vermont. A future update to the tool will fix this issue.