

Appendix A: Expenditure questions

In the table below, the second column shows the question wording for each target global category being tested. Each item follows after the question stem: “Since the first of April, have you or any members of your household had any expenses for ...”, unless otherwise noted. The third column shows any context information that will be shown to the participant. The context information attempts to compensate for the single-question nature of the task, whereby participants do not experience the full survey and all of the survey questions that appear before the target question. Many items are listed with exclusion instructions due to there being questions collecting expenditures for those items appearing earlier in the full survey (e.g., #5 below targets disposal of recreational vehicles; the context information will instruct participants to exclude disposal of automobiles). Other items are listed with consideration instructions for a similar but different reason: the context information will instruct participants to consider related expenses that appear earlier in the survey and may cue them to remember target expenses (e.g., #17 below targets computer repairs; the context information will instruct participants to think about any computers they may have purchased).

Item #	Question Wording	Context Items
1	Rental or leasing of any car, truck, motorcycle, or plane excluding any employer paid vehicles	
2	Rental or leasing of any RV, camper, trailer, ATV or other recreational vehicle	Rental or leasing of any car, truck, motorcycle, or plane excluding any employer paid vehicles
3	Rental or leasing of any boat with or without a motor	Rental or leasing of any RV, camper, trailer, ATV or other recreational vehicle
4	Purchase of any RV, boat, trailer, or plane	Rental or leasing of any RV, camper, trailer, ATV or other recreational vehicle
5	Have you or anyone in your household disposed of any recreational vehicles such as motor homes or boats? How much did you receive from selling the vehicle or getting reimbursed for it?	Disposal of any automobiles, trucks, minivans, vans or SUVs
6	Vehicle maintenance or repair that includes labor, such as oil change, tune-up, brake work, repair, or replacement services	Tire purchases or mounting
7	Vehicle registration fees	Driver’s licenses, Vehicle inspections
8	Premiums for any commercial health insurance plan such as a PPO, HMO, dental	Medicare, Medicare Part D

	or vision plan	
9	Daycare, nursery, or preschool tuition and fees;	Recreational lessons or other instruction
10	Any window coverings, including curtains, drapes, blinds, or shades? Do NOT include cost of hardware purchased separately.	
11	Indoor lamps, ceiling or wall lighting, or ceiling fans? Do NOT include light bulbs	
12	Household decorative items such as artificial flowers or plants, clocks, art, mirrors, or seasonal decorations	Fresh flowers or potted plants
13	Living, family, or recreation room furniture? Do not include TV or sound equipment.	Kitchen or dining room furniture; infant furniture; office furniture for home use; renting or leasing of any furniture
14	Any bedroom furniture, mattresses or box springs;	Bedroom linens
15	Rental or repair of outdoor equipment or tools, including motorized, electric, or manual	Gardening or lawn care services
16	Power or non-power tools, their accessories, or hardware	Barbeque grills; lawn or yard tools
17	Repairs or warranties for computers, phones, tablets, or digital book readers. Do NOT include repairs or warranties for TVs.	Consider: Computer, computer systems, or related hardware; Computer software including computer games; Computer accessories; Digital book readers or tablets; Apps, games, or ringtones for devices
18	Rental or repair of any audio or video electronic equipment	Consider: Televisions, all types including those installed in vehicles; DVD players, VCRs, DVRs, or video cameras; Handheld personal music players; Stereos, radios, speakers, and sound components, including those installed in vehicles; Other sound or video equipment, including accessories
19	Rental of computer, telephone, or office machines for non-business use	
20	Rental of small household equipment such as a toaster, space heater, or vacuum cleaner	Purchase or installation of household appliances such as

		refrigerator or home freezer, clothes washer or dryer, cooking stove, range, or oven, or dishwasher; Purchase or installation of small kitchen appliances, window air conditioners, or portable heating or cooling equipment
21	Men's suits, sportcoats, or tailored jackets	men's outerwear
22	Women's suits, sportcoats, or tailored jackets	women's outerwear
23	Boys' suits, sportcoats, or vests	boy's outerwear
24	Girls' dresses, or suits	girl's outerwear
25	Jewelry or watches, for men, women, or children	
26	Purchase of exercise equipment, sport, and recreational goods excluding clothing and athletic shoes	
27	Maintenance or repairs for any exercise equipment, sport, or recreational goods including warranties or service contracts	
28	Photography equipment, professional services, or products including printed photos. Do not include phones or picture frames.	
29	Pet medical care or pet services	Pet food; Purchase of pets' Pet supplies and medicines
30	Public transportation including taxis, limousine service, and car rides book through an app	taxis, cabs, limousine service, or car rides booked through an app
31	[Did you go on an out of town trip?] ... alcoholic beverages at restaurants, bars, or fast food places while on the out of town trip	
32	[Did you go on an out of town trip?] ... alcoholic beverages at grocery stores, convenience stores, or liquor stores while on the out of town trip	

Appendix B: Protocol

Welcome! Thanks for your interest in our survey. You're here because we have asked you to participate in our research to improve survey questions. We are asking you and hundreds of other people to tell us about what they think.

Unlike some surveys or online tasks you may be familiar with, we ask that you complete this survey all at one time and that you only start once you are in a quiet place where you won't be disturbed. The survey takes about 5 minutes, on average. Only share information you're comfortable with - nothing too personal - but please be honest and follow the instructions.

Please do not use your browser's back button.

This voluntary study is being collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics under OMB No. 1220-0141 (Expiration Date: April 30, 2018). You are not required to respond to this collection unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. We will use the information you provide for statistical purposes only. Your participation is voluntary, and you have the right to stop at any time. This survey is being administered by Qualtrics and resides on a server outside of the BLS domain. The BLS cannot guarantee the protection of survey responses and advises against the inclusion of sensitive personal information in any response. By proceeding, you give your consent to participate in this study.

---page break---

We are asking for your help to improve our survey questions. We are adding new questions to our survey and we need to learn whether they make sense to respondents.

On the following pages, you'll be asked to answer questions about expenditures your household may or may not have had over the last three months. What you will see is just one question out of a long survey so you may see some additional context information as well. We will then ask you some additional questions to better understand your answers.

Let's get started!

---page break---

We'll start by asking a few questions about you.

What is your age in years?

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- Grades 1-12/No Diploma
- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- Some College
- Associate's Degree
- Bachelor's Degree

- Master's Degree
- Doctorate or Professional Degree

Are you Hispanic or Latino?

- Yes
- No

What is your race? (Can select more than one race)

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African-American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

---page break---

Now we'll ask you about your recent expenses:

[When answering the question below, please [consider/exclude] any [FILL]].

Since the first of April, have you or any members of your household had any expenses for [FILL]?

- Yes
- No

---page break---

If Yes to the expense question:

What was the total expense?

[numeric text entry]

---page break---

If Yes to the expense question:

Please tell us what individual expenses went into that total expense that you just reported.

[table with 5 rows and columns for Item/Service and Amount Paid]

---page break---

If Yes to the expense question:

Were there any items or services that your household had expenses for that you considered might fit into this category (FILL), but that you decided to exclude from your initial response?

[5 text-entry boxes]

---page break---

We are trying to understand what kinds of expenses the phrase “(FILL)” makes people think of. What are the FIRST five expenses that would fit into this category that come to mind? Even if you have never had that expense yourself, please include it.

[5 text-entry boxes]

---page break---

Please look through the items listed below and mark whether you would consider the item as part of the category “(FILL)”. If you are not sure, mark “not sure”.

	Definitely YES	Definitely NO	Not sure
[Item]			
[Item]			
[Item]			

---page break---

Thanks so much for your participation! Your unique completion code for mTurk is: [FILL].