



December 9, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: BLS QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN ADVISORY  
CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

FROM : CATHRYN S. DIPPO *CS*  
Senior Mathematical Statistician  
Office of Research and Evaluation

SUBJECT : Conference Preparation

The attached materials for the BLS Questionnaire Design Advisory Conference are as follows:

Agenda  
List of Materials Sent to Advisors  
List of Advisors and Participants

Please review the list of materials sent to the advisors. If you would like a copy of any items, please contact Eva Jacobs (272-5156) for items related to CE and Jack Bregger (523-1944) for those related to CPS.

Although meeting participation is separate for the two days, everyone is invited to the reception Thursday evening.

Attachments

**QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN ADVISORY CONFERENCE**

**AGENDA**

**JANUARY 15-16, 1987**

Hyatt Regency Washington (on Capitol Hill)  
400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202-737-1234

Thursday, January 15

8:30 a.m. Continental breakfast

9:00 a.m. Introductory remarks J. Norwood

9:15 a.m. Consumer Expenditure Survey K. Dalton  
Moderator

Introduction E. Jacobs  
(description, users, materials)

Diary attitude questionnaire and C. Tucker  
alternative diary design test

Internal evidence of reporting weakness A. Silberstein

Concerns about particular kinds of questions S. Groves  
(Interview survey)

Questions

(Break around 10:30 a.m.)

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:45 p.m. Potential research topics C. Jacobs

Discussion

(Break around 3:00 p.m.)

4:15 p.m. Discussion of research plans and concerns K. Dalton  
for other surveys

4:45 p.m. Closing remarks

5:00 p.m. Reception

Questionnaire Design Advisory Conference Agenda--2  
January 15-16, 1987

Friday, January 16

8:30 a.m. Continental breakfast

9:00 a.m. Current Population Survey J. Bregger  
Moderator

Introduction H. Hamel  
(description, history of questionnaire)

Potential research topics C. Dippo

Discussion

(Break around 10:30 a.m.)

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:45 p.m. Discussion of research plans and concerns G. Werking  
for other surveys

2:30 p.m. Closing remarks

## List of Materials Sent to Advisors

### Consumer Expenditure Survey

1. Chapter 6 of BLS Handbook of Methods
2. Diary and interview questionnaires
3. 1982-83 Interview and Diary Bulletins  
(contains discussion of PCE comparisons--external evidence of possible reporting error)
4. Gieseeman, Raymond W. "The Consumer Expenditure Survey: Results Compared With Data From Other Sources."
5. Brief description of "Methodological Research and the Consumer Expenditure Diary Survey"
6. Brief description of "Reporting Quality in the Diary Survey"
7. Brief description of "Conditioning and Recall Effects in the Interview Survey"
8. Diary attitude questionnaire
9. Set of suggested questions to be addressed

### Current Population Survey

1. Bregger, John E. 1984. "The Current Population Survey: a historical perspective and BLS role," Monthly Labor Review, Vol. 107 No. 6, pp. 8-14.
2. Report of the BLS-Census CPS Questionnaire Design Research Planning Committee (contains the current questionnaire as an appendix)
3. Roman, Anthony. 1981. "Results from the Methods Development Survey (Phase 1)," ASA Proceedings of the Survey Research Methods Section, pp. 232-237.
4. Stein, Robert L. 1967. "New Definitions for Employment and Unemployment," Employment and Earnings and Monthly Report on the Labor Force. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Feb. 1967.
5. Stein, Robert L. and Levine, Daniel B. "Research in Labor Force Concepts."
6. Brief description of plan for laboratory research to improve within household coverage in CPS

## ADVISORS

George Bishop  
Associate Professor of Political  
Science and Senior Research  
Associate  
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Institute for Policy Research  
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PARTICIPANTS

Thursday, January 15

Consumer Expenditure Survey

Barbara Bailar (Census)  
Tony Burkume  
Larry Cahoon (Census)  
Mike Carlson  
Ken Dalton  
Cathy Dippo  
Thesia Garner  
Sue Groves  
Gail Hoff (Census)  
Paul Hsen  
Eva Jacobs  
Marilyn Manser  
Charles Mason  
Janet Norwood  
Wes Schaible  
Norbert Schwarz  
Stephanie Shipp  
Adriana Silberstein  
Clyde Tucker

Friday, January 16

Current Population Survey

Barbara Bailar (Census)  
Jack Bregger  
Dave Christopher (Census)  
Ken Copeland  
Kathy Creighton (Census)  
Cathy Dippo  
Paul Flaim  
Harvey Hamel  
Easley Hoy  
Debbie Klein  
Marilyn Manser  
Betsy Martin (Census)  
Janet Norwood  
Flora Peitzmeier  
Phil Rones  
Wes Schaible  
Norbert Schwarz  
George Stelluto  
George Werking

## Potential Research Topics for CE

- I. Introduction - Our View
  - A. Purposes of Survey - CPI Cost Weights and Expenditure/Income
  - B. Basic Goal of Research
    1. Address the issue of the differential underreporting of it
    2. Increase levels of Expenditure Reporting in General.
- II. Questions Addressed by Research So Far.
  - A. Diary Operations Test
    1. Level of Specificity Interviewers
    2. Diary Specific Interviewers
  - B. Interview Data Analysis
    1. Time in Sample Effects
    2. Recall Effects
    3. *Retention - RCT*
- III. Constraints
  - A. Aiming for Redesign in 1996; Need final decision in 1994
  - B. Small Number of Variables in any Test
  - C. Budget
- IV. Current Proposed Plan

Purpose - Address Issues of future Structural Redesign

  - A. Interview Test 1988 - 1992
    1. Purpose
      - a) Reduced recall length - one month
      - b) Split Questionnaire - Reduce Respondent Burden
    2. Design Description
      - a) Control Panel- All sections-quarterly interview
      - b) Test Panel I- One half of Sections -quarterly
      - c) Test Panel II- One half of Sections- monthly
      - d) Test Panel III- Second half of Sections- quarterly
      - e) Test Panel IV- Second half of Sections- Monthly

**B. Diary "Apparel" Test 1992-1994**

**1. Purpose**

- a) One Month Length
- b) Coverage would be Non-Food and Items not on Quarterly
- c) Items where shorter recall period is beneficial

**2. Design**

To be determined.