



CFM Updates

We have updated the Consumer Finance Monthly data. Updates include cases collected during the field period of January—March 2010 and corresponding created variables. Please log on to the Investigator to select and extract your variables. We have recently made some significant changes.

Please log on to the [Investigator](#) to select and extract your variables.

New Weight Variables

Weights are based on post-stratification on income and race categories, age categories, and home ownership. When applying these weights please use the following survey year variable CV_WEIGHT_YEAR. Weights are based on generalized ranking and all valid weights are non-negative (negative values denote missing values). Valid weights are normed to sum to the number of observations with a positive weight. You may also download the following weight variable, which is a compilation of the weight variables listed by year.

CV_SAMPLE_WEIGHT_2005-2009 (new!)

CV_SAMPLE_WEIGHT_2009

CV_SAMPLE_WEIGHT_2005-2009

CV_SAMPLE_WEIGHT_JAN-MAR_2009

FLAG_HOME (updated)

CV-STATE (updated)

New questions

FORCLOSURE – Last year we added questions whether the respondent was going through foreclosure and whether they thought their foreclosure problems might lead to bankruptcy. To view these questions please select Foreclosure as an “Area of Interest” in the search screen.

CREDIT CARD TERMS CHANGE – We added questions about whether the respondent had experienced a change to their credit card terms by the issuer. To view these questions please select Credit Card Terms Change in the “Area of Interest” search screen.

EMPLOYMENT SERIES – We added some questions on employment status. Please select Employment as an “Area of Interest”. The question EI-1 [R94005.00] “Are you currently employed?”, is now asked of all respondents.

CREDIT STRESS SERIES – Originally we asked about debt stress after other financial questions. Other studies have consistently shown that reported debt stress is reduced when the debt stress items follow the other financial questions compared to when they precede them. We have instituted a randomization to check for question order effects for these questions. We will keep you posted on what we find.

Documentation News - READ the CODEBOOK!

Documentation of our data is an ongoing process. We are currently reviewing old documentation and adding the date we started collecting the item, when it was modified and when we stopped collecting the item. There are, of course, many questions that have always been in the survey. We have also added to the Universe field a short description of which people were asked the item for those months the question was in the survey.

We have targeted the following sections.

Part A Demographics and Expectations

Part FI Financial Institution and Credit Union

Part E CREDIT Stress

Part G Bill Payment

Special Thanks

To Dr. Luis G Dopico for pointing out much needed edits in our Bill Payment section Documentation!!! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are having problems understanding the instrument. We recognize there is plenty of room to improve our documentation and we start with the items users identify as problematic.

Investigator Software News

You may notice our login page is a little different. The new unified login page allows users to more quickly begin searching and allows us to post news and other information.

Investigator Remote Training

As a reminder, please sign up new staff members for a remote 30-minute courtesy demonstration of the Investigator software and its features. If you have any questions regarding the Investigator or the data, please send these to Margaret Lowden (mlowden@chrr.osu.edu) ahead of time and we will focus on these during the demonstration or address them via email.

We Appreciate Your Input

Are you satisfied with the Consumer Finance Monthly data from the Center for Human Resource Research at The Ohio State University? Please let us know if you have any questions or comments. We welcome your suggestions and value your opinion.



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