

1664²⁰²⁶

SOEP Survey Papers
Series A – Survey Instruments (Erhebungsinstrumente)

SOEP-Core – 2025: Introductory Questionnaire (with Reference to Variables)

SOEP Group

Running since 1984, the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) is a wide-ranging representative longitudinal study of private households, located at the German Institute for Economic Research, DIW Berlin.

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Editors:

Dr. Jan Goebel, DIW Berlin
Dr. Christian Hunkler, DIW Berlin
Prof. Dr. Philipp Lersch, DIW Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Dr. Levent Neyse, DIW Berlin and Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)
Prof. Dr. Carsten Schröder, DIW Berlin and Freie Universität Berlin
Prof. Dr. Sabine Zinn, DIW Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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DIW Berlin
German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP)
Anton-Wilhelm-Amo-Straße 58
10117 Berlin
Germany

soeppapers@diw.de

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2026

The variable names mentioned in this document belong to a collection of datasets, which is released with doi:10.5684/soep.core.v42o.

Reading Aid

This representation of the questionnaire contains the same information as the portal paneldata.org.

The diagram illustrates the structure of a questionnaire entry. It shows two questions, Q72 and Q73, with their respective components labeled on the left:

- question number:** Q72, Q73
- question text:** "Now we would like to know something about you personally. Were you born in Germany?", "What country were you born in?"
- interviewer instruction:** "This refers to Germany or the Federal Republic of Germany or the German Democratic Republic in the national borders at the time of your birth.", "Please enter the current name!"
- answer options:** Yes (1), No (2), No answer (-1)
- in blue: identifier for filter:** Q72:lsta1, Q73:lsta2
- in blue: filter with condition:** bio, l0013, l0016
- grey bar: open or numeric answer:** born in Germany, Country Of Birth

On the right, a legend indicates that green text represents the dataset name, variable name, and variable label.

Here, in addition to the *question number*, *question text*, *interviewer instructions*, and *answer options*, you find printed in green the *file name* and the *variable name* with the *variable label*, which contains information from the question. If you see rows of green lines below the answer option, the questionnaire defines several variables or information is stored in more than one dataset.

The *routing by filters* is depicted in blue.

Each variable is preceded by an identifier, which usually contains the question number and which is used when the variable is used in filters in subsequent questions. Such filters are usually placed as input filters (gatekeepers) at the beginning of a question. An identifier that is referred to in the input filter of a subsequent question is marked yellow as an example.

This reading aid does not cover a few exceptional cases: If the filter (as gatekeeper) only affects one of several variables for a question, the filter is printed in blue behind the variable. There you will also find a "go to" command in the form 2 @ Q73. Here, the questionnaire skips to question 73 if answer 2 was given.

Phrases that are not already translated in English are displayed in German and preceded by [de].

PL_year Survey year=2025

PL_year

PL_year:currentyear intro2025 bpintro_PL_year Preload: Survey year

PL1 Questions are only for the following sub-studies

Core 1

REF 2

PL1:coreref intro2025 bpintro_PL1 Preload: Sub-studies

PL2 Grip force test to be tested

Grip force test should be tested 1

Grip force test should not be tested 2

completed 3

missing due to design 4

PL2:greif_ja intro2025 bpintro_PL2 Preload: Grip strength test

PL3 Survey method

CAPI 1

CATI 2

CAWI 4

CASI 5

PL3:qmethod intro2025 bpintro_PL3 Preload: Mode

PL4 Preload birth year

[PL_year-125]:[PL_year]

PL4:gebjahr intro2025 bpintro_PL4 Preload: Respondent's year of birth from household matrix

PL5 Preload: Status of the person

Panel 1

Moved out deceased 2

New 3

Temporarily absent 4

PL5:status intro2025 bpintro_PL5 Preload: Panel status

PL3;qmethod=1

1

INT (do not read out): If the interviewee does not wish to conduct the interview with you on site (CAPI/CASI), please initiate the switch here.

continue on location as CAPI/CASI

1

Respondent would like to participate online

2

[(PL1;coreref=1)&(PL4;gebjahr<=(PL_year;currentyear-18))] Respondent would like to participate on paper

3

1:bp_switch intro2025 bpintro_01 Prefer to switch mode

1:bp_switch intro1 bp_switch Requested mode switch

1;bp_switch=2

2

We will be happy to send you the access data for the online survey by e-mail. To ensure that we send them to the correct e-mail address, I would now like to check whether we have your current contact details.

1;bp_switch=2

3

[Call OAT]

1;bp_switch=3

4

I will now compile and prepare your questionnaires.

INT (do not read out): Start packing module for the paper questionnaires

1;bp_switch=1

5

[PL4;gebjahr<=(PL_year;currentyear-18)] In the following, we would like to find out what is important to you in your everyday life and what moves you. We therefore ask questions about family, health, housing, employment and income, among other things. [PL5;status = 1] You have received the information on data protection from us. Have you taken note of this information? [PL5;status = 3] We have already contacted other members of your household for the "Living in Germany" study. In addition to general information about the study, we also provided information about data protection. Did this perhaps give you the opportunity to find out about data protection in the study?

[PL4;year>=(PL_year;currentyear-17)] In the following, we would like to find out from you what is important to you in your everyday life and what moves you. That's why we ask you questions about school, leisure activities and relationships with your friends and other important people. We have already contacted other members of your household for the "Living in Germany" study. In addition to general information about the study, we also provided information about data protection. Have you perhaps already had the opportunity to find out about data protection for the study?

Hand over data protection sheet

1

Respondent wishes to be sent by post

2

5:intro intro2025 bpintro_05 Aware of privacy information

5:intro intro1 intro Aware of data protection information

5;intro=2

6 I can give you the data protection sheet now so that you can read through it, or send it to you by post. Then we can arrange a new date for the interview. Which do you prefer?

Hand over data protection sheet ☐ 1

Respondent wishes to be sent by post ☐ 2

6:intro_dsb intro2025 bpintro_06 Read privacy policy or receive by mail

6:intro_dsb intro intro_dsb Read data protection sheet or receive by post

(5;intro=1)|(6;intro_dsb=1)

7 Do you agree to participate in the study under these conditions and may I start the survey now?

Yes, continue ☐ 1

No, person does not agree to be interviewed ☐ 2

7:intro_ev intro2025 bpintro_07 Consent given

7:intro_ev intro intro_ev Consent to participate

(PL3;qmethod=1)&(7;intro_ev=1)

B1 Switch CASI

(PL3;qmethod=1)&(7;intro_ev=1)

8 [de]

INT (do not read out): If you still have the CASI tablet available and several people in the household are to be interviewed at the same time, you can now also hand over the CASI tablet to the person.

continue as CAPI interview ☐ 1

continue as CASI interview on tablet ☐ 2

8:casi_1 intro2025 bpintro_08 Switch to CASI

8:casi_1 intro cas_i_1 Switch to CASI

8;casi_1=2

9

INT (do not read out): Now scan the QR code with the tablet.

Scan QR code ☐ 1

9:casi_3 intro2025 bpintro_09 Scan QR code for CASI

9:casi_3 intro cas_i_3 Scan QR code for CASI

8;casi_1=2

10

INT (do not read out): Was the QR code scan successful?

Yes, scan was successful ☐ 1

No, QR code could not be scanned or respondent would like to be interviewed in person after all (interview is started as CAPI) ☐ 2

10:casi_4 intro2025 bpintro_10 Successful scan

10:casi_4 intro cas_i_4 Successful scan

(10;casi_4=1)&(PL2;greif_ja!=1)

11 I will give you the tablet right away so that you can answer the questions yourself. If you have any questions or problems, I will be happy to help you at any time. If necessary, I can briefly explain how to use the tablet in advance. So that we can send you our thank you for your participation and reach you again for the next survey, I would first like to check whether we have your current contact details.

Continue to address recording

Respondent doesn't want to give any information

11:casi_5 intro2025 bpintro_11 Verify contact information

11:casi_5 introl casi_5 Verify contact details

11;casi_5=1

12 [Call OAT]

PL3;qmethod=2,4

B2 Validation questions on date of birth and gender (CATI, CAWI)

PL3;qmethod=2,4

13 Please enter your date of birth.

Day:

Month:

Year:

13:bp_day intro2025 bpintro_13_01 Birthday (reported by the respondent)

13:bp_day introl bp_day Day of birth as reported by respondent

13:bp_month intro2025 bpintro_13_02 Birth month (reported by the respondent)

13:bp_month introl bp_month Month of birth as reported by respondent

13:bp_year intro2025 bpintro_13_03 Birth year (reported by the respondent)

13:bp_year introl bp_year Year of birth as reported by respondent

PL3;qmethod=2,4

14 What gender do you identify as?

Male

Female

Another gender not listed here

No gender

Can't / don't want to answer

14:pla0047_v2 intro2025 bpintro_14_01 Self-assigned gender

14:pla0047_v2 introl pla0047_v2 Gender: self-identification

[Another gender not listed here], specifically:

14:psubjsexso intro2025 bpintro_14_02 Self-assigned gender (open text field) 15:pla0047_v2=3

Can't / don't want to answer