



Economic and Social Data Service

ONS Opinions Survey, Well-Being Module, April 2011: Unrestricted Access Teaching Dataset (SN7146)

ESDS Government

User Guide

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About this Guide

This is a user guide for the ONS Opinions Survey (OPN), Well-Being Module, April 2011: Unrestricted Access Teaching Dataset. This teaching dataset has been created for teaching related purposes only such as for teaching basic statistics or for students to write report for coursework. Those wishing to use the OPN for research purposes are advised to use the original SN 6893 ONS Opinions Survey, Well-Being Module, April, June, July, August and September 2011. The OPN Unrestricted Access Teaching Dataset contains a reduced number of variables from the original OPN 2011. It gives students the opportunity to gain experience of using nationally representative UK data.

Introduction to the ONS Opinions Survey

The ONS Opinions Survey¹ is a multipurpose social survey which provides quick and reliable information about topics of immediate interest. The survey has a monthly cycle and specialises in asking pertinent research questions on topics too brief to warrant full surveys of their own. Government organisations, academic institutions and charities can commission questions on the ONS Opinions Survey and use the survey in a variety of different ways. This is mostly to provide answers to questions of immediate policy interest but also to help assess public awareness of new policies, initiatives and publicity campaigns; to develop, test and pilot new survey questions; or to obtain samples of respondents for follow-up research projects.

The survey is run by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Data from each ONS Opinions Survey module is anonymised and deposited with the UK Data Archive at the University of Essex and is distributed through the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS).

Main Topics

Each month's questionnaire consists of two elements: core questions that cover demographic information, are asked each month, together with non-core questions that vary from month to month. The non-core questions for April, June, July, August and September 2011 were on well-

¹ From April 2012 the *ONS Opinions Survey* changed its name to the *Opinions and Lifestyle Survey* following the merger of the non-EU-SILC questions from the General Lifestyle Survey.

being (Module MCZ). All questions ask respondents to rate their well-being on a scale of 0-10, where 0=low and 10=high.

The Sample Design

The Opinions Survey uses a random probability sample drawn from the Royal Mail's Postcode Address File (PAF). It covers Great Britain, excluding the Isles of Scilly and the Scottish Highlands and Islands. One person per household aged 16 and over is selected to answer the Opinions module questions. Interviews are carried out face-to-face (except for telephone reissues).

The achieved sample size for this data set is 1,124 individuals.

Other Useful Sources of Information

The [ESDS webpage](#)² for the ONS Opinions Survey includes some additional information, including an overview of the main datasets and documentation. The SN 6893 -ONS Opinions Survey, Well-Being Module, April, June, July, August and September, 2011 contains summary information about the data and links to the [user guide](#).³

There is also a series of [ESDS guides](#)⁴, including introductory guides to using the large scale government surveys and to the analysis packages SPSS and Stata.

Additional information about ONS Opinion Survey, including background, content, results and technical report, is available on the [ONS webpage](#)⁵.

Introduction to the OPN, Well-Being Module, April 2011: Unrestricted Access Teaching Dataset

The OPN, Well-Being Module, April 2011: Unlimited Access Teaching Dataset contains 24 variables; 13 well-being questions and some standard socio-demographic variables. The

² <http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/omnibus/>

³ <http://www.esds.ac.uk/doc/6893%5Cmrdoc%5Cpdf%5C6893userguide.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/resources/>

⁵ <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/who-we-are/services/opinions-and-lifestyle-survey/index.html>

variables have been chosen to enable new users to explore the data and apply some basic data reduction techniques such as Principal Component Analysis or Factor Analysis.

Details of the variables selected for the Unrestricted Access Teaching Dataset are given below, including a data dictionary which lists information about variable names, values, labels, missing values and frequency. The name of the variables and their labels remain the same or very close to the original OPN dataset. However, due to concerns about statistical disclosure, some variables have been recoded and their level of detail reduced. Variables that differ from the original OPN have been suffixed "r". The syntax for how these variables were recoded is in Appendix II. In addition, a new ID variable was created in order to avoid linking the Unrestricted Access Teaching Dataset with the original dataset. The wording of the questions on the well-being module is listed in Appendix III. A copy of the questionnaire showing the exact question wording can be found on the [ESDS webpage](#).⁶

The Dataset

The OPN Unrestricted Access Teaching Dataset is based on the f1104_mcz (April 2011 – Module MCZ) file, which is drawn from the questions asked in April 2011. It includes core subjective well-being questions (MCZ_1 to 4) and a range of other subjective wellbeing questions that ask about different domains of peoples' lives (MCZ_5a - 5g). In addition, it also includes a question for parents with dependent children living at home which asks them to rate the wellbeing of their children (MCZ_5h).

Weighting the Dataset

Respondents to the survey did not have an equal chance of selection. There were also differences in response rates between groups. Weights were calculated for the Opinion Survey to correct for this. For individual level analysis, users are advised to use the final individual weight (*indwgt*). This is the product of the individual calibration factor (which is produced to represent the ONS population totals) and the design weight (*wta*) which corrects for unequal probability of selection caused by interviewing only one adult per household, or restricting the eligibility of the module to certain types of respondent.

⁶ <http://www.esds.ac.uk/doc/6893%5Cmrdoc%5Cpdf%5C6893userguide.pdf>

Missing values

Missing values occur when a respondent does not answer a particular question. This may happen for a number of reasons, including refusal or inability to answer a question, or where it does not apply to them. It is common practice to exclude missing values from analyses, although they may occasionally be of interest. Both SPSS and Stata have different conventions for missing values:

	SPSS dataset	Stata dataset
Refusal	98	.a
Don't know	99	.b
System missing	.	.

Downloading the Data

Unlike other government surveys the OPN 2011: Unrestricted Access Teaching Dataset does not require any registration and can be downloaded via the ESDS website:

<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/esds/data/>.

The dataset is available in two formats: SPSS and STATA.

List of Variables

Observations: 1,124

Variables: 24

Variable	Label	Type
casenew ⁷	New random ID number	Scalar
Indwgt	Calibration weight	Scalar
mcz_1	Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?	Scalar
mcz_2	Overall, to what extent feel things you do in your life are worthwhile?	Scalar
mcz_3	Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?	Scalar
mcz_4	Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?	Scalar
mcz_5a	Overall, how satisfied are you with your personal relationships?	Scalar
mcz_5b	Overall, how satisfied are you with your physical health?	Scalar
mcz_5c	Overall, how satisfied are you with your mental wellbeing?	Scalar
mcz_5d	Overall, how satisfied are you with your work situation?	Scalar
mcz_5e	Overall, how satisfied are you with your financial situation?	Scalar
mcz_5f	Overall, how satisfied are you with the area where you live?	Scalar
mcz_5g	Overall, how satisfied with amount of time have to do things like doing?	Scalar
mcz_5h	Overall, how satisfied are you with the wellbeing of your child/children?	Scalar
qhealthr ⁸	How is your health in general?	Ordinal
rsex	Sex of respondent	Nominal
agex	Grouped age	Ordinal
marstat3r ⁹	Marital status – 3 categories (recoded)	Nominal
highed4	What is the highest level of qualification?	Nominal
ethnicity2r ¹⁰	Ethnicity White/Other (recoded)	Nominal
dvilo3a	DV for International Labour Organisation (ILO) in employment	Nominal
ftptwk	Full-time or part-time work	Nominal
nsecac3	NS-SEC 3 categories	Nominal
gora	Government Office Region	Nominal

⁷ New computed variable

⁸ Recoded to assign values 8 (No answer) and 9 (Don't know) to 98 and 99 and declare them as discrete missing values. Original name of variable "qhealth", all other values remain the same.

⁹ Derived from "DeFact1" (4 categories)

¹⁰ Derived from "Ethnicity" (18 categories)

Data Dictionary

casenew

New random ID number

type: numeric (double)

range: [15,14972] units: 1
unique values: 1084 missing .: 0/1124

mean: 7357.92
std. dev: 4322.96

percentiles: 10% 25% 50% 75% 90%
 1472 3545 7386 10997.5 13373

INDWGT

Calibration Weight

type: numeric (double)

range: [13525.816,224736.67] units: .00001
unique values: 381 missing .: 0/1124

mean: 43134.9
std. dev: 24080.1

percentiles: 10% 25% 50% 75% 90%
 19498.2 25017.5 39155.9 52555.7 72786.5

MCZ_1

Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?

type: numeric (double)

label: MCZ_1, but 11 nonmissing values are not labeled

range: [0,10] units: 1
unique values: 11 missing .: 0/1124
unique mv codes: 1 missing .*: 9/1124

examples: 6
 7
 8
 9

MCZ_2

Overall, to what extent feel things you do in your life are worthwhile?

type: numeric (double)

label: MCZ_2, but 11 nonmissing values are not labeled

range: [0,10] units: 1
unique values: 11 missing .: 0/1124
unique mv codes: 2 missing .*: 10/1124

examples: 6

8

8

9

MCZ_3

Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?

type: numeric (double)

label: MCZ_3, but 11 nonmissing values are not labeled

range: [0,10] units: 1
unique values: 11 missing .: 0/1124
unique mv codes: 1 missing .*: 9/1124

examples: 6

7

8

9

MCZ_4

Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?

type: numeric (double)

label: MCZ_4, but 11 nonmissing values are not labeled

range: [0,10] units: 1
unique values: 11 missing .: 0/1124
unique mv codes: 2 missing .*: 10/1124

examples: 0

2

4

7

MCZ_5a Overall, how satisfied are you with your personal relationships?

type: numeric (double)
label: MCZ_5a, but 11 nonmissing values are not labeled

range: [0,10] units: 1
unique values: 11 missing .: 0/1124
unique mv codes: 2 missing .*: 11/1124

examples: 7
 8
 9
 10

MCZ_5b Overall, how satisfied are you with your physical health?

type: numeric (double)
label: MCZ_5b, but 11 nonmissing values are not labeled

range: [0,10] units: 1
unique values: 11 missing .: 0/1124
unique mv codes: 1 missing .*: 9/1124

examples: 6
 7
 8
 9

MCZ_5c Overall, how satisfied are you with your mental wellbeing?

type: numeric (double)
label: MCZ_5c, but 11 nonmissing values are not labeled

range: [0,10] units: 1
unique values: 11 missing .: 0/1124
unique mv codes: 1 missing .*: 9/1124

examples: 7
 8
 9
 10

MCZ_5d

Overall, how satisfied are you with your work situation?

type: numeric (double)

label: MCZ_5d, but 11 nonmissing values are not labeled

range: [0,10] units: 1
unique values: 11 missing .: 0/1124
unique mv codes: 2 missing .*: 77/1124

examples: 5

7

8

10

MCZ_5e

Overall, how satisfied are you with your financial situation?

type: numeric (double)

label: MCZ_5e, but 11 nonmissing values are not labeled

range: [0,10] units: 1
unique values: 11 missing .: 0/1124
unique mv codes: 2 missing .*: 11/1124

examples: 4

6

7

9

MCZ_5f

Overall, how satisfied are you with the area where you live?

type: numeric (double)

label: MCZ_5f, but 11 nonmissing values are not labeled

range: [0,10] units: 1
unique values: 11 missing .: 0/1124
unique mv codes: 1 missing .*: 9/1124

examples: 7

8

9

10

MCZ_5g
doing?

Overall, how satisfied with amount of time have to do things like

type: numeric (double)
label: MCZ_5g, but 11 nonmissing values are not labeled

range: [0,10] units: 1
unique values: 11 missing .: 0/1124
unique mv codes: 2 missing .*: 10/1124

examples: 5
 7
 8
 9

MCZ_5h
child/children?

Overall, how satisfied are you with the wellbeing of your

type: numeric (double)
label: MCZ_5h, but 8 nonmissing values are not labeled

range: [2,10] units: 1
unique values: 8 missing .: 866/1124
unique mv codes: 2 missing .*: 5/1124

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	1	2	
	2	4	
	6	5	
	10	6	
	16	7	
	52	8	
	79	9	
	87	10	
	866	.	
	5	.a	

QHealthr

How is your health in general

type: numeric (double)
label: QHealthr

range: [1,5] units: 1
unique values: 5 missing .: 0/1124
unique mv codes: 1 missing .*: 5/1124

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	442	1	Very good
	433	2	Good
	171	3	Fair
	59	4	Bad
	14	5	Very bad
	5	.a	

RSEX

Sex of Respondent

type: numeric (double)
label: RSEX

range: [1,2] units: 1
unique values: 2 missing .: 0/1124

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	516	1	Male
	608	2	Female

AGEX

Grouped age

type: numeric (double)
label: AGEX

range: [1,6] units: 1
unique values: 6 missing .: 0/1124

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	89	1	16 to 24
	388	2	25 to 44
	169	3	45 to 54
	184	4	55 to 64
	151	5	65 to 74
	143	6	75 and over

marstat3r Marital status 3 cat. (recoded)

type: numeric (double)
label: marstat3r

range: [1,3] units: 1
unique values: 3 missing .: 0/1124

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	609	1	Married/Cohabiting (incl. same sex couples)/Civil Partner
	243	2	Single
	272	3	Widowed/ Divorced/ Separated (incl. same sex couples)

highed4 What is the highest level of qualification?

type: numeric (double)
label: highed4

range: [1,4] units: 1
unique values: 4 missing .: 0/1124

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	242	1	Degree or equivalent
	494	2	Below degree level
	134	3	Other
	254	4	None (no qualifications)

Ethnicity2r Ethnicity White/Other (recoded)

type: numeric (double)
label: Ethnicity2r

range: [1,2] units: 1
unique values: 2 missing .: 0/1124
unique mv codes: 1 missing .*: 1/1124

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	1018	1	White
	105	2	Other
	1	.a	

DVILO3a

DV for ILO in employment - 3 categories

type: numeric (double)
label: DVILO3a

range: [1,3] units: 1
unique values: 3 missing .: 0/1124

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	627	1	In Employment
	55	2	ILO Unemployed
	442	3	Economically Inactive

FtPtWk

Full or part time work?

type: numeric (double)
label: FtPtWk

range: [1,2] units: 1
unique values: 2 missing .: 316/1124

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	576	1	Full-time
	232	2	Part-time
	316	.	

NSECAC3

NS-SEC 3 categories

type: numeric (double)
label: NSECAC3

range: [1,4] units: 1
unique values: 4 missing .: 1/1124

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	384	1	Managerial and professional occupations
	255	2	Intermediate occupations
	380	3	Routine and manual occupations
	104	4	Not classified
	1	.	

GorA

Government Office Region

type: numeric (double)
label: GorA

range: [1,11] units: 1
unique values: 11 missing .: 0/1124

tabulation:	Freq.	Numeric	Label
	46	1	North East
	152	2	North West
	125	3	Yorkshire and the Humber
	87	4	East Midlands
	102	5	West Midlands
	107	6	Easter of England
	104	7	London
	151	8	South East
	83	9	South West
	57	10	Wales
	110	11	Scotland

Appendix II: SPSS Syntax for variables derived for the OPN 2011: Unrestricted Access Teaching Dataset

Creating a new marital status variable with 3 categories only: recode “DeFact1” (marital status) into “marstat3”

```
RECODE DeFact1 (1=1) (2=2) (3 thru 4=3) (8=98) (9=99) INTO marstat3r.  
VARIABLE LABELS marstat3r 'Marital status 3 cat. (recoded)'.  
VALUE LABELS marstat3r 1 'Married/Cohabiting (incl. same sex couples)/Civil  
Partner' 2 'Single' 3 'Widowed/ Divorced/ Separated (incl. same sex couples)'  
98 'Refusal' 99 'D/K'.  
EXECUTE.
```

Creating a new ethnicity variable with two categories only: Recoding “Ethnicity” into “Ethnicity2”

```
RECODE Ethnicity (1 thru 4=1) (5 thru 18=2) (98=98) (99=99) (SYSMIS=SYSMIS)  
INTO Ethnicity2.  
VARIABLE LABELS Ethnicity2 'Ethnicity White/Other'.  
EXECUTE.  
VALUE LABELS Ethnicity2 1'White' 2 'Other' 98'Refusal' 99'Don't know'.  
EXECUTE.
```

Variables have been recoded to assign the values 8 'Refusal' 9 'D/K' to 98 and 99 and declare them as discrete missing values.

```
RECODE QHealth (1=1) (2=2) (3=3) (4=4) (5=5) (8=98) (9=99) INTO QHealthr.  
VARIABLE LABELS QHealthr 'How is your health in general'.  
VALUE LABELS QHealthr 1'Very good' 2'Good' 3'Fair' 4'Bad' 5'Very bad' 98 'Refusal'  
99 'D/K'.  
EXECUTE.
```

Compute a new ID variable with random numbers (from 0-15000) and then sort dataset by the new ID variable ascending

```
COMPUTE casenew=TRUNC (UNIFORM(15000)) +1.  
VARIABLE LABELS casenew 'New random ID number'.  
EXECUTE.  
SORT CASES BY casenew (A).  
EXECUTE.
```

Appendix III: Questionnaire on the well-being module

The questions below are taken from the interview questionnaire included in the [guidebook](#)¹¹.

Intro1

The following questions are about wellbeing and are asked on behalf of the Office for National Statistics.

I would like to ask you four questions about your feelings on aspects of your life. There are no right or wrong answers. For each of these questions I'd like you to give an answer on a scale of nought to 10, where nought is 'not at all' and 10 is 'completely'.

Please answer the next questions using the laptop. Read each question and follow the instructions on the screen. Please ask me if you need any help in using the laptop.

Interviewer, please hand the laptop to the respondent

MCZ_1s

Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays? Where nought is 'not at all satisfied' and 10 is 'completely satisfied'.

- (0) 0
- (1) 1
- (2) 2
- (3) 3
- (4) 4
- (5) 5
- (6) 6
- (7) 7
- (8) 8
- (9) 9
- (10) 10

MCZ_2s

Overall, to what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile? Where nought is 'not at all worthwhile' and 10 is 'completely worthwhile'.

MCZ_3s

Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday? Where nought is 'not at all happy' and 10 is 'completely happy'.

MCZ_4s

¹¹ <http://www.esds.ac.uk/doc/6893%5Cmrdoc%5Cpdf%5C6893userguide.pdf>

On a scale where nought is 'not at all anxious' and 10 is 'completely anxious', overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?

Intro2

The following questions are about your wellbeing in different areas of your life.

MCZ_5as

On a nought to 10 scale where nought is 'not at all satisfied' and 10 is 'completely satisfied', overall, how satisfied are you with your personal relationships?

MCZ_5bs

On a nought to 10 scale where nought is 'not at all satisfied' and 10 is 'completely satisfied', overall, how satisfied are you with your physical health?

MCZ_5cs

On a nought to 10 scale where nought is 'not at all satisfied' and 10 is 'completely satisfied', overall, how satisfied are you with your mental wellbeing?

MCZ_5ds

On a nought to 10 scale where nought is 'not at all satisfied' and 10 is 'completely satisfied', overall, how satisfied are you with your work situation?

MCZ_5es

On a nought to 10 scale where nought is 'not at all satisfied' and 10 is 'completely satisfied', overall, how satisfied are you with your financial situation?

MCZ_5fs

On a nought to 10 scale where nought is 'not at all satisfied' and 10 is 'completely satisfied', overall, how satisfied are you with the area where you live?

MCZ_5gs

On a nought to 10 scale where nought is 'not at all satisfied' and 10 is 'completely satisfied', overall, how satisfied are you with the amount of time you have to do things you like doing?

[Asked only to parents]

MCZ_5hs

On a nought to 10 scale where nought is 'not at all satisfied' and 10 is 'completely satisfied', overall, how satisfied are you with the wellbeing of your child/children?