

gesis

Leibniz Institute
for the Social Sciences

GESIS Panel Wave Report

GESIS Panel Wave Report

Wave ff (December 2018 / January 2019)

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Part I: About the GESIS Panel

1. General Overview

The GESIS Panel provides a probability-based mixed-mode access panel infrastructure located at GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences in Mannheim, Germany. The project offers the social science community a unique opportunity to collect survey data from a representative sample of the German population. Submitted study proposals are evaluated based on a scientific peer review process.

Panel members were initially recruited in 2013 in face-to-face interviews followed by a self-administered profile survey. The participants could choose between an online and an offline mail mode. All participants of the profile survey are considered as members of the panel and invited to the regular waves every two months. The starting cohort encompassed 4888 panelist at the beginning of 2014 in wave ba.

In order to compensate for panel attrition, a refreshment sample was drawn in 2016, using the General Social Survey (ALLBUS) interview as vehicle. The initial 2013 cohort encompasses German speaking respondents aged between 18 and 70 years (at the time of recruitment) and permanently residing in Germany, whereas the second cohort includes respondents from the age of 18 without upper restriction. A normalized design weight that enables the integration of the two cohorts is provided in the data set in variable z000011a. The recruitment cohort is indicated by the variable z000006a. For more details, please see the methods reports of the recruitment processes and the GESIS Panel reference paper (Bosnjak et al., 2017). A basic overview of the GESIS Panel can also be found on our [cheatsheet](#).

2. Design of Data Collection

The data collection process employs two self-administered survey modes (online and offline). Data collection and panel maintenance is administered and organized by the GESIS Panel Team.

The GESIS Panel waves take place every two months, each taking about 20 minutes. About two thirds of the panelists participate online (Web-based surveys), about one third of the panelists attend the surveys by mail.

Each survey wave consists of two major parts: About 15 minutes of survey time is reserved for the submitted external studies. Fielded external studies have undergone a peer-review process. The second part of each survey wave (about five minutes of survey time) is reserved for GESIS Panel Longitudinal Core Studies developed by GESIS.

One aim of the Longitudinal Core Studies is to measure frequently demanded characteristics beyond demographics, such as personality and human values, political behavior and orientations, well-being and quality-of-life, environmental attitudes and behavior, and information/communication technology usage. Moreover, a second aim of the GESIS Panel Longitudinal Core Studies is to assess and to control for data quality (i.e., different sources of survey errors) by measuring concepts such as survey participation evaluations, survey mode habits and preferences, and by including selected items from other benchmark surveys (e.g., German Microcensus, ESS, ALLBUS, ISSP).

Independently of the survey mode, all participants are invited by mail and receive an unconditional incentive of five Euros. The online version of the GESIS Panel questionnaires is implemented in the EFS Panel installation by Questback. In addition to the mail invitation, online participants receive an invitation and two reminders by email. The online data collection process is conducted by the GESIS Panel team. The field phase lasts about eight weeks.

Offline data are collected by a mail service provider. They send out all paper questionnaires one day before the start of the online field phase. No reminders are sent out in the offline mode. In-coming

paper questionnaires are processed by the mail provider until one day before the start of the next wave's field phase. The data is entered manually, and all questionnaires are archived electronically.

3. Overview of the GESIS Panel Waves

The GESIS Panel multi-topic survey waves take place every two months, each encompassing about 20 minutes starting with wave aa in August 2013. Each wave includes four to nine different internal and external studies. The first three waves in 2013 (waves aa, ab, ac) were part of the initial recruitment phase and therefore only include a subsample of panelists. The first wave of the GESIS Panel with the full sample is wave ba in February 2014.

The regular field phase lasts until the beginning of the next wave for both modes. In contrast to other waves, the field period of the online part (21.08.2013 - 14.10.2013) in wave aa differed from the field period of the mail part. Further, the field period for respondents who were invited in the mail mode in wave fe was partly extended due to a web-push-experiment (more information about the web-push-experiment can be found in [GESIS Panel Wave Report fe](#)).

Table 1 presents an overview of all waves fielded by the GESIS Panel so far. The first column indicates the year of data collection, the second column indicates the name of the wave. Waves and studies are named after the GESIS Panel naming convention (see [Codebook](#)). Waves are signified by two letters, the first signifying the year and the second the wave of the year, both letters having the potential range from a to z. The third column indicates the study code of the studies that were fielded in the respective wave (see [Study Descriptions](#)). The last columns provide information on the field period.

Table 1: Overview of the GESIS Panel waves

Year	Wave	Studies	Field period	
2013	aa	aa, ab, zq	21.08. - 20.09.	
	ab	ab, ac, ad, zq	16.10. - 10.12.	
	ac	ab, ae, af, zq	11.12. - 19.02.	
2014	ba	zb, ag, ah, ai, zq	27.02. - 15.04.	
	bb	zc, aj, ak, al, ai, zq	16.04. - 17.06.	
	bc	zd, aj, am, an zq	18.06. - 12.08.	
	bd	ze, ao, ap, an, zq	13.08. - 14.10.	
	be	zf, zg, zh, aq, an, zq	15.10. - 16.12.	
	bf	zi, zh, am, ar, zq	17.12. - 17.02.	
	ca	zb, at, av, ar, zq	18.02. - 14.04.	
2015	cb	zc, as, aq, aw, zq	15.04. - 16.06.	
	cc	zd, zc, ax, ay, aw, zq	17.06. - 11.08.	
	cd	ze, as, av, az, aw, zq	12.08. - 13.10.	
	ce	zf, zg, zh, as, az, zy, aw, zq	14.10. - 15.12.	
	cf	zi, ba, zh, bb, zy, aw, zq	16.12. - 16.02.	
	2016	da	zb, at, bc, av, be, zy, bf, aw, zq	17.02. - 19.04.
		db	zc, bg, bh, zy, bd, aw, zq	20.04. - 14.06.
dc		zd, ax, bi, bj, zy, aw, zq	15.06. - 16.08.	
dd		ze, ac, bk, bg, az, aw	17.08. - 18.10.	
de		zf, zg, zh, bd, bh, bl, aw	19.10. - 13.12.	
df		zi, zh, bn, bo, aw	14.12. - 14.02.	
2017		ea	zb, at, bp, bk, zj, zy, zz, aw	15.02. - 18.04.
	eb	zc, bd, bh, bm, aw, zq	19.04. - 13.06.	
	ec	zd, bq, br, bo, zj, zy, zq	14.06. - 15.08.	
	ed	ze, zh, zt, zy, bt, bs, zq	16.08. - 17.10.	
	ed	zc quick poll – voting intention	12.09. - 23.09.	
	ee	zf, zg, zh, bu, bd, zy	18.10. - 12.12.	
	ef	zh, zi, bo, aj, zj	23.12. - 13.02.	
2018	fa	zb, at, bf, bb, bw	14.02. - 17.04.	
	fb	zc, zy, bv, bx, zj	18.04. - 12.06.	
	fc	zd, bz, by, bo, zz	13.06. - 14.08.	
	fd	ze, zt, zy, bw, zz, cb, cc	15.08. - 16.10.	
	fe	zf, zg, zh, by, cb, zz	05.10. - 11.12.	
	ff	zh, zi, ca, cb, cd	12.12. - 12.02.	

4. Access to Data, Documentation, and Data Sharing

The scientific use file of the GESIS Panel is accessible for scientific purposes via the [GESIS Data Archive](#) in Cologne. Along with the data set, all documents are stored centrally in the data catalog. The wave documentation comprises the wave reports, the questionnaires and a codebook that documents all variables in the data set. Additional documents that document the recruitment in 2013 and 2016 and further descriptions of the data are also available.

It is intended to publish an updated edition of the master data set that includes new data from the last wave as well as revisions from previous waves every four to six months. The revisions of earlier data releases are documented in the [errata document](#) that is accessible in the study entry of the GESIS Panel GESIS Data Archive.

We provide two editions of this master data set: a scientific use file accessible for research purposes

(GESIS Panel Standard Edition: ZA5665) and a secure scientific use file that is only available for on-site use at the Secure Data Center in Cologne (GESIS Panel Extended Edition: ZA5664). To access the scientific use file, users have to [register](#) with the data catalog of the Data Archive and apply for access to the GESIS Panel data set. Researchers then need to sign a user contract. Upon approval of the data use request, the data archive will provide researchers with access to the current scientific use file via secure FTP-download.

The integration of the second cohort and the increase of waves made a reorganization of the data set necessary. Initially, the GESIS Panel data were provided as one incremental increasing data set that contained all respondents and all waves. With the integration of the second cohort in the data release of wave ec, the data set will be delivered separated and different types of data sets exist. For a comprehensive overview of the structure of the GESIS Panel data, please refer to GESIS Panel Data manual.

Following the terms and conditions of the GESIS data use agreement, GESIS Panel data cannot be shared on a public repository for reproducible research. Scientific use files of the GESIS Panel are available for research purposes from GESIS. To acquire a copy of the data set, researchers can fill out the [agreement](#).

5. Bibliographic Citation and Notification of Publications

5.1 Bibliographic Citation

Each new data release has its own DOI. Although each release may include changes to older waves, replicability is guaranteed since every variable remains in the data set and new editions of variables are added as new variables. We ask users to always pay attention that they use the correct DOI of the data set they used for publications.

Researchers are required to cite the data set they use in publications with the correct ZA version number and DOI as follows:

German:

GESIS (2018): GESIS Panel Erweiterte Edition. GESIS Datenarchiv, Köln. ZA5664 Datenfile Version 31.0.0, doi: 10.4232/1.13319

GESIS (2018): GESIS Panel Standard Edition. GESIS Datenarchiv, Köln. ZA5665 Datenfile Version 31.0.0, doi: 10.4232/1.13320

English:

GESIS (2018): GESIS Panel Extended Edition. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA5664 Datafile Version 31.0.0, doi: 10.4232/1.13319

GESIS (2018): GESIS Panel Standard Edition. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA5665 Datafile Version 31.0.0, doi: 10.4232/1.13320

Additionally, please refer to the GESIS Panel reference paper in publications that are based on the GESIS Panel data set:

Bosnjak, M., Dannwolf, T., Enderle, T., Schauer, I., Struminskaya, B., Tanner, A., & Weyandt K. W. (2017). Establishing an open probability-based mixed-mode panel of the general population in Germany: The GESIS Panel. *Social Science Computer Review*, 36(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/0894439317697949>

5.2 Notification of Publications

To get an overview of the actual usage of our data, researchers using the GESIS Panel data in their publication are asked to send a notification including bibliographic information and the data set's DOI to info@gesis-panel.de. In accordance with our user contract, we ask researchers to provide us with an electronic or paper copy of their publications. Publications that use GESIS Panel data are included in the official [GESIS Panel bibliography](#) on our homepage.

6. GESIS Panel Team

6.1 Core Team Members

Table 2 provides an overview of the active members of the GESIS Panel project.

Table 2: Members of the Team GESIS Panel

Function	Person
Team Leader	Bernd Weiß
Survey Project Management	David Bretsch Isabella Minderop Katharina Schmidt Mirjan Schulz
Survey Statistics and Data Quality Management	Tobias Heycke Jan-Philipp Kolb Ines Schaurer Kai Weyandt
Panel Management	Gabriele Wahlig
Software Adjustment and Maintenance	Kai Böge

6.2 Quality Assurance Board Members

The members of the GESIS Panel Scientific Quality Assurance Board are Prof. Dr. Jörg Blasius (University of Bonn), Prof. Dr. Annelies Blom (University of Mannheim), Dr. Mario Callegaro (Google UK), Prof. Dr. Mick Couper (University of Michigan), Prof. Dr. Marcel Das (CentERdata and Tilburg University), Prof. Dr. Don Dillman (Washington State University), Prof. Dr. Marek Fuchs (Technical University Darmstadt), Prof. Dr. Arie Kapteyn (University of Southern California), Prof. Dr. Jon Krosnick (Stanford University), Prof. Dr. Peter Lynn (University of Essex), Prof. Dr. Norbert Schwarz (University of Southern California), Ass.-Prof. Dr. Bella Struminskaya (Utrecht University) and Ass.-Prof. Dr. Vera Toepoel (Utrecht University).

7. Acknowledgements

The GESIS Panel thanks the researchers submitting proposals to and fielding studies in the GESIS Panel. We are very grateful to the many anonymous reviewers that provide valuable feedback to the submitted studies.

Part II: Wave ff (December 2018 / January 2019)

1. Wave Preparation

1.1 Responsible GESIS Panel Team Members

Survey project management	Mirjan Schulz, Isabella Minderop, David Bretsch
Data management	Jan-Philipp Kolb
Data archiving	Jan-Philipp Kolb
Panel management	Gabriele Wahlig

1.2 Basic Information

Wave ff is the 31st regular panel wave of the GESIS Panel. Overall, 4182 active panelists were invited to participate in wave ff. 2941 panelists are part of the first cohort that was recruited in 2013, 1241 panelists are part of the second cohort that was recruited in 2016.

All participants were invited by mail and received an unconditional incentive of five Euros. Online participants received an email invitation in addition.

1.3 Fielded Studies and Questionnaire Composition

Wave ff consisted of seven studies that are listed in Table 3. The listed order in the table reflects the order in the questionnaire. For a detailed description of the respective studies, please refer to the study description, the online and offline questionnaire documentation, and the codebook that can be accessed via the study entry in the [GESIS Data Archive](#).

Study zj contains an experiment. The experimental group is indicated by the variable ffzj245a.

Within study zq the online and offline questionnaires differ with respect to two questions: Online respondents were asked about the electronic device they used to fill in the questionnaire (variables ffzq014a and ffzq015a). Offline respondents were asked on which date they filled in the questionnaire (variables ffzq017a and ffzq018a).

Table 3: Overview of GESIS Panel Studies in Wave ff

Study	Waves	Authors	Title
zi	Core study	Bella Struminskaya, Michael Bosnjak, Peter Lugtig, Vera Toepoel, Edith de Leeuw	Panel survey participation evaluation & mode preferences
zh	Core study	Tanja Dannwolf, Silke Schneider, Ines Schaurer	Module Annual Update of Socio-Demography
ca	ff, ga, gd, gf	Eike Mark Rinke, Patricia Moy,	Political Disagreement, Listening, and Participation
cd	ff	Jale Tosun, Julia Weiß, Anne-Marie Parth, Bettina Schuck	Change through Crisis? Solidarity and Desolidarization in Germany and Europe (SoliKris) - Public service delivery and political attitude formation
cb	fd, fe, ff	Christina Ewert, Anabel Büchner, Michela Schröder-Abé	Dispositional self-compassion
zj	ea, ec, ef, fb, ff	Ulrich Wagner, Patrick Kotzur, Simon Greipl, Peter Schmidt, Steffen Pöttschke	Attitude towards refugees scale
zq	Core study	Bella Struminskaya, Michael Bosnjak, Lars Kaczmirek	Monitoring quality: survey experience & mode characteristics

1.4 Paradata

Paradata can be easily identified in the data set by the third and fourth digit in the variable name. The letters *zr* indicate information on relative time stamps, collected by the online survey software, *zs* indicate client-side paradata, and *zp* are additional paradata collected by the online software. In general, more paradata are available for respondents of the online mode.

For the online mode, relative time stamps (variables *ffzr001a* to *ffzr072a*) for each page are available. These time variables report the time difference in seconds between pressing the forward button of the respective page and the absolute time stamp. The absolute time stamp variable (*ffzp207a*) signifies the time in seconds which is past since 01-01-1970 when loading the first page of the survey.

The connected page id is mentioned in the label. The page id for each question can be found in the codebook or on the screenshots of the online questionnaire. For technical details about the logic of the provided time stamp variables please see the EFS manual.

In wave *ff*, several client-side based paradata are collected in page-based string variables (*ffzs001a* to *ffzs072a*). The connected page id is mentioned in the label. The page id for each question can be found in the codebook or on the screenshots of the online questionnaire.

For detailed information, please see the separate paradata documentation ([ZA5664-65_Online-Paradata.pdf](#)).

2. Fielding and Outcome Rates

2.1 Fielding Phase

The invitation was sent out by mail on 11.12.2018 for all respondents (online and offline). The invitation letter included an unconditional incentive of five Euros. The letter for the offline respondents additionally included the paper questionnaire. Online respondents additionally received an invitation by email on 12.12.2018. The fieldwork for wave *ff* ended on 12.02.2019.

Overall, 4182 active members of the GESIS Panel were invited, 2941 are members of the first recruitment cohort, and 1241 are members of the second recruitment cohort. 1168 respondents were invited in the offline mode and 3014 in the online mode. The online participants who have not participated in the survey received two reminders on 20.12.2018 and 10.01.2019. The respondents invited in the offline mode did not receive any reminder letters. The text of the invitation letters (online and offline) and the email reminder can be found in the Appendix.

Figure 1 shows the cumulative participation over the field period. Figure 2 gives insights into the daily return of online and paper questionnaires. A detailed table can be found in the Appendix (see Table 6).

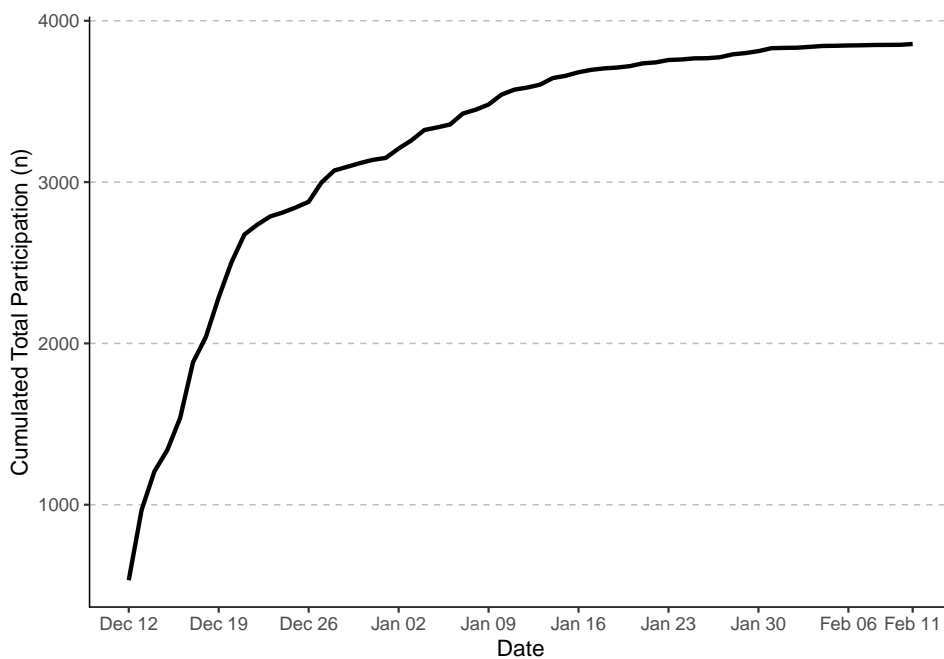


Figure 1: Cumulative participation of the GESIS Panel (wave ff, fielding period 12.12.2018 to 12.02.2019)

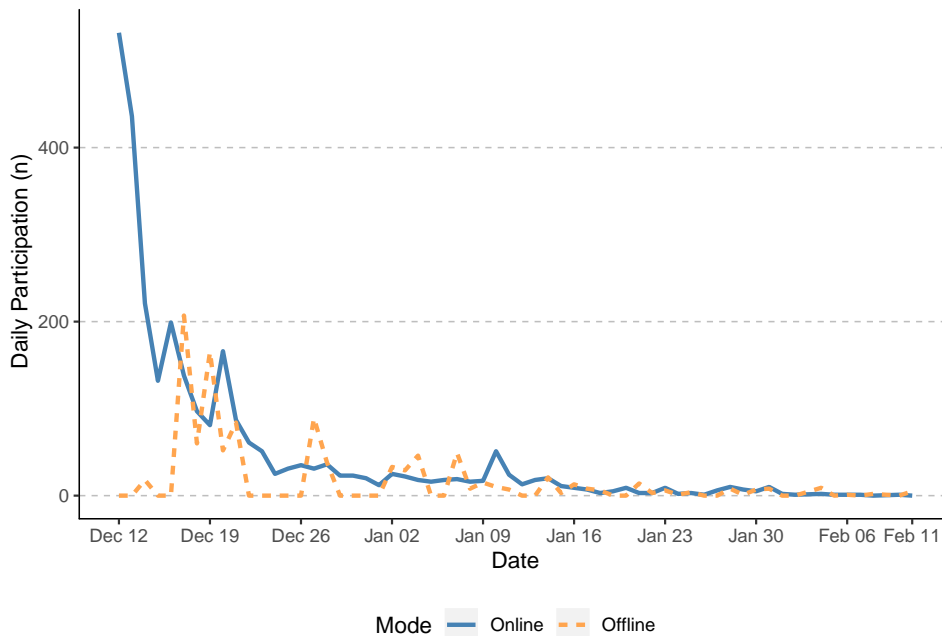


Figure 2: Daily return of questionnaires by mode of the GESIS Panel (wave ff, fielding period 12.12.2018 to 12.02.2019)

2.2 Outcome Rates

The response rates calculation for the recruitment process of the GESIS Panel are based on Final Disposition Codes for In-Person Household Surveys (American Association for Public Opinion Research, 2011) and are adapted for register-based samples in Germany.

The wave-specific response metrics are presented separately for the two recruitment cohorts. GP2013 indicates the first cohort that was recruited in 2013, GP2016 indicates the second cohort that was recruited in 2016.

The completion rate (COMR) is the proportion of those who completed or partially completed the survey over eligible panel members who were invited to the survey. All active panel members are eligible for the wave. Active panel members are those who do not sign off from the panel. The eligibility for the wave surveys is defined as the returned profile questionnaire: All invited panelists who returned the profile questionnaire and did not sign off from the panel afterwards, were invited to the wave. The completion rate is computed separately for two modes and as an overall rate with counting the response to the mode the respondent was originally invited to.

$$\text{Completion Rate COMR} = \frac{\text{Interview} + \text{Partial}}{\text{Interview} + \text{Partial} + \text{Refusal} + \text{Noncontact} + \text{Other}}$$

	Overall COMR	COMR Online	COMR Offline
GP2013	$\frac{2657+36}{2657+36+40+8+200} \equiv 91.57\%$	$\frac{1970+18}{1970+18+26+0+125} \equiv 92.94\%$	$\frac{687+18}{687+18+14+8+75} \equiv 87.91\%$
GP2016	$\frac{1098+20}{1098+20+16+5+102} \equiv 90.09\%$	$\frac{795+7}{795+7+10+0+63} \equiv 91.66\%$	$\frac{303+13}{303+13+6+5+39} \equiv 86.34\%$

The absorption rate indicates the quality of address lists of active panel members. This estimate is a proportion of non-contacts among the active panelists.

$$\text{Absorption Rate} = \frac{\text{Invitations Sent} - \text{Undeliverable Invitations}}{\text{Invitations Sent}}$$

	Overall Absorption Rate	Absorption Rate Online	Absorption Rate Offline
GP2013	$\frac{2941-8}{2941} \equiv 99.73\%$	$\frac{2139-0}{2139} \equiv 100.00\%$	$\frac{802-8}{802} \equiv 99.00\%$
GP2016	$\frac{1241-5}{1241} \equiv 99.60\%$	$\frac{875-0}{875} \equiv 100.00\%$	$\frac{366-5}{366} \equiv 98.63\%$

The cumulative response rate 1 (CUMR1) is obtained by multiplication of the recruitment rate, profile rate, and the completion rate for each wave. For detailed information about the calculation of the recruitment rate and the profile rate see the recruitment reports of the respective cohorts.

$$\text{Cumulative Response Rate 1 (CUMR1)} = \text{RECR} \times \text{PROR} \times \text{COMR}$$

	Overall CUMR1 Wave ff	CUMR1 Wave ff Online	CUMR1 Wave ff Offline
GP2013	$0.2898 \times 0.7942 \times 0.9157 \equiv 21.08\%$	$0.2898 \times 0.7878 \times 0.9294 \equiv 21.22\%$	$0.2898 \times 0.8067 \times 0.8791 \equiv 20.56\%$
GP2016	$0.2022 \times 0.8051 \times 0.9009 \equiv 14.66\%$	$0.2022 \times 0.8059 \times 0.9166 \equiv 14.94\%$	$0.2022 \times 0.8036 \times 0.8634 \equiv 14.03\%$

The cumulative response rate 2 (CUMR2) takes the retention rate (RETR) into account, that is, the number of active panel members at the time of this wave out of all active panel members (i.e., the panelists who returned the profile survey). It is advisable to report this indicator when using the data from a single wave.

$$\text{Retention Rate} = \frac{\text{Overall Active Panel@Recent Wave}}{\text{Overall Active Panel@Profile Survey}}$$

	Overall Retention Rate	Retention Rate Online	Retention Rate Offline
GP2013	$\frac{2941}{4938} \equiv 59.56\%$	$\frac{2139}{3068} \equiv 69.72\%$	$\frac{802}{1870} \equiv 42.89\%$
GP2016	$\frac{1241}{1710} \equiv 72.57\%$	$\frac{875}{1095} \equiv 79.91\%$	$\frac{366}{615} \equiv 59.51\%$

$$\text{Cumulative Response Rate 2 (CUMR2)} = \text{RECR} \times \text{PROR} \times \text{COMR} \times \text{RETR}$$

	Overall CUMR2 Wave ff	CUMR2 Wave ff Online	CUMR2 Wave ff Offline
GP2013	$0.2898 \times 0.7942 \times 0.9157 \times 0.5956 \equiv 12.55\%$	$0.2898 \times 0.7878 \times 0.9294 \times 0.6972 \equiv 14.80\%$	$0.2898 \times 0.8067 \times 0.8791 \times 0.4289 \equiv 8.82\%$
GP2016	$0.2022 \times 0.8051 \times 0.9009 \times 0.7257 \equiv 10.64\%$	$0.2022 \times 0.8059 \times 0.9166 \times 0.7991 \equiv 11.93\%$	$0.2022 \times 0.8036 \times 0.8634 \times 0.5951 \equiv 8.35\%$

The break-off rate is a proportion of those who answered less than 50 % of the substantial questions over those who started the interview (answered at least one question).

$$\text{Break-Off rate} = \frac{\text{Break-Off}}{\text{Interview} + \text{Partial} + \text{Break-Off}}$$

	Overall Break-Off rate	Break-off rate Online	Break-off rate Offline
GP2013	$\frac{21}{2657+36+21} \equiv 0.77\%$	$\frac{16}{1970+18+16} \equiv 0.80\%$	$\frac{5}{687+18+5} \equiv 0.70\%$
GP2016	$\frac{10}{1098+20+10} \equiv 0.89\%$	$\frac{7}{795+7+7} \equiv 0.87\%$	$\frac{3}{303+13+3} \equiv 0.94\%$

The attrition rate in this wave report is defined as the proportion of the panel members who drop out between the profile survey that was the first self-administered survey of the GESIS Panel and the current wave. According to the definition of the active panel (returned the questionnaire of the profile survey), the active panel after the profile survey was 4938 panel members. During the recruitment phase, 50 panel members have signed off from the panel.

Attrition can occur voluntarily and involuntarily (DiSogra and Callegaro, 2016). In the GESIS Panel, voluntary attrition is a result of panel members contacting the GESIS Panel team and requesting to be removed from the panel. Cases in which inability to participate due to health reasons or death of a panel member were communicated to the GESIS Panel by other persons (such as panel members' relatives) were treated as voluntarily attrition and removed from the panel.

If panel members do not respond to three consecutive waves or cannot be reached for three consecutive waves, they are excluded from the GESIS Panel (involuntary attrition). Removal of panel members due to prolonged nonresponse or prolonged noncontact was done before wave bd for the first time and is done before each wave. The attrition rate reported below includes cases for which a request has been made to be removed as well as cases removed by the GESIS Panel.

$$\text{Attrition rate} = \frac{\text{Overall Active Panel@Profile Survey} - \text{Overall Active Panel@Recent Wave}}{\text{Overall Active Panel@Profile Survey}}$$

	Overall Attrition rate	Attrition rate Online	Attrition rate Offline
GP2013	$\frac{4938-2941}{4938} \equiv 40.44\%$	$\frac{3068-2139}{3068} \equiv 30.28\%$	$\frac{1870-802}{1870} \equiv 57.11\%$
GP2016	$\frac{1710-1241}{1710} \equiv 27.43\%$	$\frac{1095-875}{1095} \equiv 20.09\%$	$\frac{615-366}{615} \equiv 40.49\%$

3. Post-Processing

In this section, we provide a brief overview of measures of data cleaning and quality control (see section 3.1) and peculiarities of the paper mode (section 3.2). In section 3.3, variables that are generated in the process of data preparation are listed. Section 3.4 provides an overview of variables that are exclusively available in the Extended Edition of the data set.

3.1 Data Cleaning and Quality Control

During the data preparation process, the data undergo several steps of data preparation and validation. The recoding is in line with the GESIS Panel missing value scheme. The GESIS Panel disseminates the data in a quite raw format. This means the data are not validated with respect to previous statements of the respondents within the questionnaire (e.g., filter questions) or within data collection waves (e.g., differences in demographic variables). Usually, this becomes apparent in the offline mode, where respondents can ignore routing and fill in filtered questions anyway.

Due to data privacy, specific variables undergo an anonymization process and are either categorized (see 3.3) or are only accessible in the GESIS Panel Extended Edition (see 3.4). This is primarily the case for demographic variables but also relates to sensitive topics as well as spatial information.

The panel itself is subject to cleaning processes. Panelists are removed from the panel after three subsequent waves of non-response or non-contact.

3.2 Handling of Ambiguous Cases in the Paper Questionnaire

Variable `ffza002a` indicates the mode in which a respondent answered the questionnaire. In general, paper questionnaires offer less guidance to respondents on how to answer a question than online questionnaires. This might even cause questions to be answered in an unintended manner. The paper questionnaires are entered manually by a field institute. Any problems and unclear responses are marked by the person entering the data and marked as -111. The main incidences are cases in which the person entering the data was uncertain of how to interpret the information provided by the respondent in the questionnaire. Examples are multiple answers where only one answer is allowed, crosses between checkboxes, and answers that are crossed-out.

In contrast to previous wave publications, recoding of the ambiguous cases has not been done since wave `cf`.

3.3 Generated Variables

Table 4 lists the variable(s) generated in the process of data preparation. In wave `ff` 14 variables had to be generated due to privacy reasons and data protection. The text responses with comments about the questionnaire in variable `ffzq016a` are not published. Only a variable indicating whether the respondent left comments on the survey or not (`ffzq016b`) is published. Generated variables that are published in a later release of the data set are listed in the errata document that is accessible in the study entry of the GESIS Panel in the GESIS Data Archive.

Table 4: Overview of generated Variables in Wave `ff`

Variable	Variable Label
<code>ffzi011b</code>	Zweitwichtigster Grund Umfrageteilnahme
<code>ffzh032b</code>	Geburtsjahr, aus o.A.
<code>ffzh032c</code>	Geburtsjahr, aus o.A., Extremwerte zusammengefasst
<code>ffzh035b</code>	Familienstand, Kategorien zusammengefasst
<code>ffzh040b</code>	Anderer beruflicher Abschluss - offen
<code>ffzh043b</code>	Anderer Abschluss - offen
<code>ffzh046b</code>	Haushaltsgröße, mehr als eine Person
<code>ffzh046c</code>	Haushaltsgröße, mehr als eine Person, 5 Kategorien
<code>ffzh047b</code>	Persönliches Einkommen, 15 Kategorien
<code>ffzh048b</code>	Haushaltseinkommen, 10 Kategorien
<code>ffzh048c</code>	Haushaltseinkommen, 9 Kategorien
<code>ffzh050b</code>	Anzahl Kinder
<code>ffzh050c</code>	Anzahl Kinder, 3 Kategorien
<code>ffzq016b</code>	Comment, dichotomous

Note: English labels can be found in the codebook.

3.4 Variables not Available in the Standard Edition

In order to secure the anonymity of the panel members, not all variables are available in the standard edition as they were collected. Answers to open-ended questions, for instance, are not included in the Standard Edition. They are available in the Extended Edition. Table 5 gives an overview on the variables that are additionally available in the Extended Edition.

Table 5: Overview of Variables only available in the Extended Edition

Variable	Variable.Label
ffzi010a	Wichtigster Grund Umfrageteilnahme
ffzi011b	Zweitwichtigster Grund Umfrageteilnahme
ffzi012a	Drittwichtigster Grund Umfrageteilnahme
ffzh032b	Geburtsjahr, aus o.A.
ffzh035a	Familienstand
ffzh040b	Anderer beruflicher Abschluss - offen
ffzh043b	Anderer Abschluss - offen
ffzh046b	Haushaltsgröße, mehr als eine Person
ffzh047a	Persönliches Einkommen, 17 Kategorien
ffzh048a	Haushaltseinkommen, 11 Kategorien
ffzh048b	Haushaltseinkommen, 10 Kategorien
ffzp209a	Javascript version
ffzp210a	Flash version

Note: English labels can be found in the codebook.

Appendix

I. Field Phase

Table 6: Daily returns by mode



Date	Online		Offline		Total	
	No.	% (cum.)	No.	% (cum.)	No.	% (cum.)
2018-12-12	532	18.83	0	0.00	532	13.80
2018-12-13	436	34.25	0	0.00	436	25.10
2018-12-14	221	42.07	18	1.75	239	31.30
2018-12-15	132	46.74	0	1.75	132	34.73
2018-12-16	199	53.79	0	1.75	199	39.89
2018-12-17	138	58.67	207	21.84	345	48.83
2018-12-18	97	62.10	60	27.67	157	52.90
2018-12-19	81	64.97	165	43.69	246	59.28
2018-12-20	166	70.84	52	48.74	218	64.94
2018-12-21	87	73.92	84	56.89	171	69.37
2018-12-22	61	76.08	0	56.89	61	70.95
2018-12-23	51	77.88	0	56.89	51	72.28
2018-12-24	25	78.77	0	56.89	25	72.93
2018-12-25	31	79.87	0	56.89	31	73.73
2018-12-26	35	81.10	0	56.89	35	74.64
2018-12-27	31	82.20	89	65.53	120	77.75
2018-12-28	36	83.47	38	69.22	74	79.67
2018-12-29	23	84.29	0	69.22	23	80.26
2018-12-30	23	85.10	0	69.22	23	80.86
2018-12-31	20	85.81	0	69.22	20	81.38
2019-01-01	12	86.23	0	69.22	12	81.69
2019-01-02	25	87.12	33	72.43	58	83.20
2019-01-03	22	87.90	29	75.24	51	84.52
2019-01-04	18	88.54	46	79.71	64	86.18
2019-01-05	16	89.10	0	79.71	16	86.59
2019-01-06	18	89.74	0	79.71	18	87.06
2019-01-07	19	90.41	49	84.47	68	88.82
2019-01-08	16	90.98	8	85.24	24	89.45
2019-01-09	17	91.58	15	86.70	32	90.27
2019-01-10	51	93.38	10	87.67	61	91.86
2019-01-11	24	94.23	7	88.35	31	92.66
2019-01-12	13	94.69	0	88.35	13	93.00
2019-01-13	18	95.33	0	88.35	18	93.46
2019-01-14	20	96.04	21	90.39	41	94.53
2019-01-15	11	96.43	3	90.68	14	94.89
2019-01-16	9	96.74	13	91.94	22	95.46
2019-01-17	7	96.99	8	92.72	15	95.85
2019-01-18	3	97.10	6	93.30	9	96.08
2019-01-19	5	97.28	0	93.30	5	96.21
2019-01-20	9	97.59	0	93.30	9	96.45

Table 6: Daily returns by mode (*continued*)


Date	Online		Offline		Total	
	No.	% (cum.)	No.	% (cum.)	No.	% (cum.)
2019-01-21	3	97.70	14	94.66	17	96.89
2019-01-22	3	97.81	3	94.95	6	97.04
2019-01-23	9	98.12	6	95.53	15	97.43
2019-01-24	2	98.20	1	95.63	3	97.51
2019-01-25	3	98.30	4	96.02	7	97.69
2019-01-26	1	98.34	0	96.02	1	97.72
2019-01-27	6	98.55	0	96.02	6	97.87
2019-01-28	10	98.90	8	96.80	18	98.34
2019-01-29	7	99.15	1	96.89	8	98.55
2019-01-30	5	99.33	7	97.57	12	98.86
2019-01-31	10	99.68	8	98.35	18	99.33
2019-02-01	2	99.75	0	98.35	2	99.38
2019-02-02	1	99.79	0	98.35	1	99.40
2019-02-04	2	99.86	9	99.22	11	99.69
2019-02-05	1	99.89	0	99.22	1	99.71
2019-02-06	1	99.93	1	99.32	2	99.77
2019-02-07	1	99.96	0	99.32	1	99.79
2019-02-08	0	99.96	2	99.51	2	99.84
2019-02-10	1	100.00	0	99.51	1	99.87
2019-02-11	0	100.00	5	100.00	5	100.00

II. Documents

a. Invitation Letter for Offline Participants sent by mail

		Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften
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GESIS · Postfach 10 28 36 · 68028 Mannheim



GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor
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Telefax 0621 – 1246 – 577
www.gesis-gesellschaftsmonitor.de

Mannheim, 11. Dezember 2018

Einladung zu unserer Dezember-/Januar-Umfrage

Sehr geehrter 

herzlichen Dank für Ihre Teilnahme am GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor. Heute möchten wir Sie gerne einladen, an unserer aktuellen Dezember-/Januar-Umfrage teilzunehmen. Die Beantwortung der Fragen wird etwa 20 Minuten in Anspruch nehmen. Bitte schicken Sie uns den ausgefüllten Fragebogen wieder mit dem beiliegenden frankierten Rückumschlag zu.

Wir wünschen Ihnen viel Spaß beim Ausfüllen der Umfrage. Als Dankeschön für Ihre Teilnahme haben wir Ihnen in diesem Schreiben wieder 5 Euro beigelegt.

Hat sich Ihre Adresse geändert oder ziehen Sie in Kürze um? Bei Adressänderungen oder sonstigen Rückfragen erreichen Sie uns telefonisch zu den üblichen Bürozeiten unter 0621-1246564 oder per E-Mail an info@gesis-gesellschaftsmonitor.de. Wir freuen uns über Ihr Interesse und beantworten gerne alle Fragen.

Wir wünschen Ihnen und Ihrer Familie frohe Festtage und einen guten Start ins neue Jahr.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen




Dr. Bernd Weiß und das gesamte Projektteam

P.S.: Informationen zum Datenschutz finden Sie auf der Rückseite dieses Briefes.

GESIS e.V. Vereinsregister Amtsgericht Mannheim Registernummer VR 1449 Steuer-Nr. 38145/01607 USt-Id.Nr. DE814839735	BW-Bank Stuttgart BLZ 600 501 01 Konto-Nr. 749 650 43 33 BIC/SWIFT-Code SOLADEST600 IBAN DE31 6005 0101 7496 5043 33	GESIS e.V. ist Mitglied der Leibniz-Gemeinschaft Präsident und Vorstand Prof. Dr. Christof Wolf Postfach 12 21 55 68072 Mannheim
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b. Invitation Letter for Online Participants sent by mail



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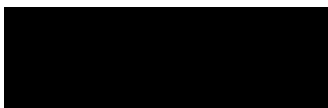
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c. Data Privacy Statement sent by mail (for Online and Offline Participants)

Erklärung zum Datenschutz und zur absoluten Vertraulichkeit Ihrer Angaben beim GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor

GESIS – Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften und alle beauftragten Dienstleister arbeiten nach den Vorschriften der EU-Datenschutz-Grundverordnung und allen anderen in Deutschland gültigen datenschutzrechtlichen Bestimmungen.

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d. Invitation Email

Ihre neue Dezember/Januar-Umfrage 2018/2019

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Ihr GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor Team

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e. First Email Reminder

Erinnerung: Ihre Dezember/Januar-Umfrage 2018/2019

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f. Second Email Reminder

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GESIS Panel Wave Report

GESIS – Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften

Survey Design and Methodology

GESIS Panel

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