

**University of Michigan  
Institute for Social Research  
Survey Research Center**

**Surveys of Consumers**  
**STANDARD DATASET**  
**PUBLIC**  
**Codebook**

VARIABLE NAME

ID	<u>Interview ID</u> Code actual number
REGION	<u>Region of Residence</u> 1. West 2. North Central 3. Northeast 4. South . DK/NA
YYYYMM	<u>Survey Year &amp; Month</u> First four digits YEAR Last two digits MONTH
YYYYQ	<u>Survey Year &amp; Quarter</u> First four digits YEAR Last digit QUARTER
YYYY	<u>Survey Year</u> Four digit YEAR
WT	<u>Household Head Weight (Mean=1)</u>
SEX	<u>Sex of Respondent</u> 1. Male 2. Female . NA
AGE	<u>Age of Respondent</u> Code age (18-96) 97. Ninety-seven or older . DK/NA

# Surveys of Consumers

# University of Michigan

## VARIABLE NAME

EDUC	<u>Education of Respondent</u> 1. Grades 0-8 and no high school diploma 2. Grades 9-12 and no high school diploma 3. Grades 0-12 with high school diploma 4. Grades 13-17 with no college degree 5. Grades 13-16 with college degree 6. Grade 17 with college degree . DK/NA
EGRADE	<u>What is the highest grade of school or year of college you completed?</u> Code Grade of School (01-17) . DK/NA
EHSGRD	<u>Did you get a high school graduation diploma or pass a high school equivalency test?</u> 1. Yes 5. No . DK/NA
ECLGRD	<u>Do you have a college degree?</u> 1. Yes 5. No . DK/NA
BIRTHM	<u>What is the month and year of your birth?--MONTH</u> 01. January 02. February 03. March 04. April 05. May 06. June 07. July 08. August 09. September 10. October 11. November 12. December . DK/NA
BIRTHY	<u>What is the month and year of your birth?--YEAR</u> Code 4-digit year . DK/NA

VARIABLE NAME

MARRY	Are you currently married, (living with a partner), separated, divorced, widowed, or have you never been Married? <hr/> 1. Married (living with a partner) 3. Divorced 4. Widowed 5. Never married . DK/NA
INCOME	To get a picture of people's financial situation we need to know the general range of income of all people we interview. Now, thinking about (your/your family's) total income from all sources (including your job), how much did (you/your family) receive in the previous year? <hr/> Code Dollars (000 001 - 999 995) 000 001 - 999 995 999 995. \$999,995 or more . DK/NA
INCQFM	The INCOME question was coded in: <hr/> 1. Open Format 2. Bracket Format: assigned midpoint of bracket
YTL50	<u>Income Percentiles (Above/below Median)</u> <hr/> 1. Bottom 50 Percent 5. Top 50 Percent . DK/NA
YTL3	<u>Income Percentiles (Terciles)</u> <hr/> 1. Bottom 33 Percent 2. Middle 33 Percent 3. Top 33 Percent . DK/NA
YTL4	<u>Income Percentiles (Quartiles)</u> <hr/> 1. Bottom 25 Percent 2. 25-50 Percent 3. 50-75 Percent 4. Top 25 Percent . DK/NA

VARIABLE NAME

YTL5	<u>Income Percentiles (Quintiles)</u> 1. Bottom 20 Percent 2. 20-40 Percent 3. 40-60 Percent 4. 60-80 Percent 5. Top 20 Percent . DK/NA
YTL10	<u>Income Percentiles (Bottom 10 Percent)</u> 1. Bottom 10 Percent 5. Top 90 Percent . DK/NA
YTL90	<u>Income Percentiles (Top 10 Percent)</u> 1. Top 10 Percent 5. Bottom 90 Percent . DK/NA
VEHOWN	Because automobiles are an important purchase for individuals and families and an important part of the entire economy, I would like to ask some specific questions about the vehicles that you (or anyone in your family living there) own or lease, and any company cars provided for your personal use. First, do you (or anyone in your family living there) own a car, pick-up, van, sport utility vehicle, or motorhome? <hr/> 1. Yes 5. No 8. DK 9. NA . Inap
VEHNUM	Altogether, how many cars or other vehicles do you (and your family living there) own, lease, or have provided by an employer for personal use? <hr/> Code actual number (01-20) 98. DK 99. NA . Inap

VARIABLE NAME

NUMKID	<u>How many members of your household are 17 years of age or younger?</u> Code number (1-5) 0. NONE . DK/NA
NUMADT	<u>Counting yourself, how many members of your household are 18 or older?</u> Code number (1-5) . DK/NA
RACE	<u>Would you mind telling me your race or ethnic origin? Are you white, black or African American, Hispanic, American Indian or Alaskan native, Asian or Pacific Islander?</u> 1. White except Hispanic 2. Black except Hispanic 3. Hispanic 4. American Indian or Alaskan Native 5. Asian or Pacific Islander . DK/NA

VARIABLE NAME

PAGO We are interested in how people are getting along financially these days. Would you say that you (and your family living there) are better off or worse off financially than you were a year ago?

1. Better now
3. Same
5. Worse now
8. DK
9. NA

PAGOR1 Why do you say so? (Are there any other reasons?)

PAGOR2

**REASONS FOR MAKING FU BETTER OFF**

10. Better pay: raise in wages or salary on present job, promotions, higher commissions, change to higher paying job (include Armed Forces induction or discharge) (Any family member who gets a raise is coded 10); increased tips, bonuses
11. Higher income from self-employment or property: higher business profits or farm income, higher dividends, royalties or rents, more income from professional practice or trade
12. More work, hence more income: Head (or wife) started working (again), more members of family working; higher income, NA why, MORE MONEY (if self-employed, code 11)
13. Increased contributions from outside FU: (from private individuals, government pension, relief or welfare, gifts); inheritance
14. Lower prices: decrease in cost of living; low or reasonable prices
15. Lower taxes; low or unchanged taxes
16. Decreased expenses: fewer people to be supported by FU; spending less, NA whether 14 or 16; thrift
18. Higher interest rates; tight credit
19. Better asset position: more savings; business or farm worth more; has more business/farm assets; stocks went up; investments
20. Debt, interest or debt payments low or lower: have paid, is paying bills; interest rates lower
21. Change in family composition means higher income or better off (except 16 or 12); got MARRY, etc. (no inheritance factor)
23. Good times, no recession (not codeable above) -- refers to the general situation as being good
27. Other reasons for making FU better off: great security (job more permanent, psychological security), greater opportunities, higher standard of living, have more things, future outlook improved, got insurance; bought house, additions and repairs to house
38. Reference to government economic policy
39. Income tax refund

VARIABLE NAME

PAGOR1  
PAGOR2

(Continued)

REASONS FOR MAKING FU WORSE OFF

- 
- 50. Lower pay: decrease in wages or salary on present job, change to lower paying job (including Armed Forces induction or discharge) (Any family member who has a decrease in wages or salary is coded 50); no increase in pay; decreased tips, bonuses
  - 51. Lower income from self-employment or property: lower business profits or farm income, lower dividends, royalties or rents, less income from professional practice or trade
  - 52. Less work, hence less income: unemployed (refers to any unemployed family member) laid off, sick, retired, on strike, unsteady work, less overtime, fewer members of FU working, back to student status, lower income NA why (if self-employed, code 51); WORSE off because R/family member is/has been sick
  - 53. Decreased/Unchanged contributions from outside FU, "worse because Social Security hasn't gone up" (if "same" because Social Security hasn't gone up, DO NOT USE THIS CODE); "worse because on a fixed income"
  - 54. High(er) prices: increase in cost of living; prices rise faster than income; inflation; worse because raises have been too small --code "no raise" or decrease in pay in 50
  - 55. Higher interest rates; tight credit
  - 56. High, higher taxes (except 57)
  - 57. Income taxes
  - 58. Increased expenses; more people to be supported by FU; spending more, NA whether 54, 55, 56, or 58
  - 59. Worse asset position: savings used up wholly or partially; less business, farm or personal assets; stocks declined in value; interest rates lower
  
  - 60. Debt: interest, debt, or debt payments high or higher
  - 61. Change in family composition means lower income or worse off (except 58); divorced, death, etc.
  - 63. Bad times, recession (not codeable above--refers to the general situation as being bad)
  - 64. Strike(s)--not codeable in 52
  - 67. Other reasons for making FU worse off: less security (job less secure); lower standard of living
  
  - 78. Reference to government economic policy
  
  - 98. DK
  - 99. NA
  - 0. No second mention

VARIABLE NAME

PEXP Now looking ahead--do you think that a year from now you (and your family living there) will be better off financially, or worse off, or just about the same as now?

---

1. Will be better off  
 3. Same  
 5. Will be worse off  
 8. DK  
 9. NA

BUS12 Now turning to business conditions in the country as a whole--do you think that during the next 12 months we'll have good times financially, or bad times, or what?

---

1. Good times  
 2. Good with qualifications  
 3. Pro-con  
 4. Bad with qualifications  
 5. Bad times  
 8. DK  
 9. NA

BAGO Would you say that at the present time business conditions are better or worse than they were a year ago?

---

1. Better now  
 3. About the same  
 5. Worse now  
 8. DK  
 9. NA

NEWS1 During the last few months, have you heard of any favorable or  
 NEWS2 unfavorable changes in business conditions?  
 What did you hear? (Have you heard of any other favorable or  
unfavorable changes in business conditions?

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**FAVORABLE CHANGES**

GOVERNMENT, DEFENSE (any reference to defense, code 11 or 12)

10. Recent or upcoming elections; new administration/Congress/President
11. More defense/military spending or production; worsening international situation/prospects; acceleration of war/tensions; more uncertainty about world peace
12. Less defense/military spending or production; better international prospects; fewer international tensions; less uncertainty about world peace
13. Specific government spending programs reformed/changed/improved--NA whether increase or decrease in spending
14. Specific government spending programs, begun or increased/continued (other than defense) (e.g., employment, foreign aid, space, welfare) (incl. programs "modified"/"improved" if increased spending is stated or implied--otherwise code 13)

VARIABLE NAMENEWS1  
NEWS2

(Continued)

FAVORABLE CHANGES continued

15. Specific government spending programs eliminated or decreased (other than defense) (e.g., employment, foreign aid, space, welfare) government facilities/bases closed
16. Taxes: tax changes/reforms; tax rebates
18. Fiscal policy general; budgets; deficits; government spending in general
19. Government/Congress/Administration/President is taking steps to improve business conditions/is taking right/helpful actions (not codeable above)
17. Other references to government

EMPLOYMENT AND PURCHASING POWER

20. Opening of plants and factories (government facilities, code 14); opening of stores (e.g., Meijer's)
21. Consumer or auto demand is (will be) high; people want to buy; are buying
22. Purchasing power is (will be) high; people have money to spend; wages high/will go up; any kind of personal income high or higher
23. Employment has risen/is rising; more overtime; plenty of jobs or work around; unemployment declining
24. Population increase; more people to buy/use goods and services
25. Low (lower) debts; high (higher) assets/savings; people/business investing; investments up
27. Other references to employment and purchasing power
28. Production is increasing/is high; GNP is up
29. Unemployment has risen/will rise (and that's good or necessary for the economy)

PRICES

31. Lower or stable prices; prices won't rise; lower prices; less inflation; price rebates
32. High(er) prices; inflation; prices will rise (incl. specific prices) (and that's good)
30. Tight money; interest rates high; credit harder to get
33. Easier money; credit easy to get; lower interest rates
35. Profits high/rising
36. Stock market; rise in price of stocks
38. Balance of payments; world monetary situation; foreign competition; dollar devaluation
39. Controls (price and/or wage)
37. Other references to prices/credit

MISCELLANEOUS

40. Better race relations; less racial unrest; few urban social problems; less crime
41. Union disputes/strikes have been (will be) settled; labor-management relations good
42. Times are (business is) good now and won't change (much) in the next year

VARIABLE NAMENEWS1  
NEWS2

(Continued)

FAVORABLE CHANGES continued

43. Bad times can't last; we are due for good times
44. R sees signs of improvement already; R has heard or read that) business is improving/good
45. Improvements in specific industries; prospects good (favorable changes) in R's line of work (except farming, code 46) or in R's locality
46. Farm situation good; crops good
48. Economy in general more stable/under control; confidence, optimism on part of consumers in general (not individual)
49. Energy crisis, depletion of natural resources; control of pollution; shortages; energy crisis lessened
47. Other good factors or favorable references (include R has heard or read that business will improve--no specific reason) (hasn't happened yet)

UNFAVORABLE CHANGESGOVERNMENT, DEFENSE

50. Recent or upcoming elections; new administration/President
51. More defense/military spending or production; worsening international situation/prospects; acceleration of war/tensions; more uncertainty about world peace
52. Less defense/military spending or production; better international prospects; fewer tensions; disarmament; less uncertainty about world peace; military bases closed
53. Specific government spending programs reformed/changed--NA whether increase or decrease in spending
54. Specific government spending programs eliminated or decreased (other than defense) (e.g., employment, foreign aid, space, welfare); government facilities closed (include programs "modified" if decreased spending is stated or implied--otherwise code 53)
55. Specific government spending programs begun or increased/continued (other than defense)(e.g., employment, foreign aid, space, welfare)
56. Taxes: tax changes/reforms; tax rebates
58. Fiscal policy general; budgets; deficits; government spending in general
59. Government/Congress/Administration/President is not taking steps to improve business conditions/is taking wrong/harmful actions (not codeable above)
57. Other references to government

EMPLOYMENT AND PURCHASING POWER

60. Closing of plants and factories (general or specific) (if government facilities, code 54); closing of stores (e.g., Grant's)
61. Consumer or auto demand is (will be) low; people don't want/need to buy, aren't buying; people are saving their money; inventories high; sales down

VARIABLE NAMENEWS1  
NEWS2

(Continued)

UNFAVORABLE CHANGES continued

62. Lack of purchasing power; people don't have money to spend; low wages; any kind of personal income low or lower
63. Drop in employment (except 60); high or higher unemployment; layoffs; less overtime; short hours; automation
64. Population increase; immigration
65. High (higher) debts; lower assets/savings; people/business not investing; investments down
68. Production decreasing; production is low; GNP is down
67. Other references to employment and purchasing power, not codeable above
69. All Chrysler mentions

PRICES

71. Prices are falling/will fall/are too low; deflation
72. Prices are high, are rising, inflation; wages lag behind prices
73. Tight money; credit hard to get; interest rates too high, rising
74. Profits low, falling
75. Profits high; too high
76. Stock market references; decline in price of stocks
78. Balance of payments; foreign competition; world monetary situation; dollar devaluation; international trade
79. Controls (price and/or wage)
77. Other price/credit references

MISCELLANEOUS

80. Bad race relations; racial unrest; riots, civil disorders; urban social problems; (more) crime
81. Excessive wage or other demands by unions; strikes; labor unrest; labor-management relations bad
82. Times are (business is) bad now and won't change (much) in next year
83. Good times can't last--we are due for a fall
84. R sees signs of downward trend in business already; (R has heard or read that) business is bad/worsening
85. Decline in specific industries; problem in R's line of work (excl. farming, code 86) or in R's locality
86. Farm situation is bad; drought; low farm prices
88. Economy in general less stable/not under control; lack of confidence on the part of consumers in general
89. Energy crisis; depletion of natural resources; pollution; shortages
87. Other unfavorable or bad factors (include R has heard or read that business will decline--no specific reason) (hasn't happened yet)
97. Change mentioned but NA whether favorable or unfavorable
98. DK
99. NA
0. No second mention

VARIABLE NAME

BEXP	<p>And how about a year from now, do you expect that in the country as a whole business conditions will be <u>better</u>, or <u>worse</u> than they are at <u>present, or just about the same?</u></p> <hr/> <p>1. Better a year from now  3. About the same  5. Worse a year from now  8. DK  9. NA</p>
BUS5	<p>Looking ahead, which would you say is more likely -- that in the country as a whole we'll have continuous <u>good times during the next 5 years</u> or so, or that we will have periods of widespread unemployment or depression, or what?</p> <hr/> <p>01. <u>(Continuous) good times; boom; prosperity; no recession</u>  02. <u>Good times, qualified (not bad); pretty good, no unemployment, no depression</u>  03. <u>Pro-con; depends; some recession, some unemployment, periods of unemployment</u>  04. <u>Bad times, qualified (not good); recession; bad at some times but not most of the time; periods of widespread unemployment; some depression; unemployment</u>  05. <u>Bad times, depression; widespread unemployment</u></p> <p>98. DK  99. NA</p>
GOVT	<p>As to the economic policy of the government -- I mean steps taken to fight inflation or <u>unemployment</u> -- would you say the government is <u>doing a good job, only fair, or a poor job?</u></p> <hr/> <p>1. Good job  3. Only fair  5. Poor job  8. DK  9. NA</p>
UNEMP	<p>How about people out of work during the coming 12 months -- do you think that there will be more unemployment than now, about the same, or less?</p> <hr/> <p>1. More unemployment  3. About the same  5. Less unemployment  8. DK  9. NA</p>

VARIABLE NAME

RATEX	<p>No one can say for sure, but what do you think will happen to <u>interest rates</u> for borrowing money during the next 12 months--will they go up, stay the same, or go down?</p> <hr/> <p>1. Go up  3. Stay the same  5. Go down  8. DK  9. NA</p>
PX1Q1	<p>During the <u>next 12 months</u>, do you think that <u>prices in general</u> will go up, or go down, or stay where they are now?</p> <p>FROM MARCH 1982 TO PRESENT PROBE "SAME" RESPONSE:  Do you mean that prices will go up at the same rate as now, or that <u>prices in general will not go up during the next 12 months?</u></p> <hr/> <p>1-2. Go up  3. Stay the same  5. Go down  8. DK  9. NA</p>
PX1Q2	<p>By about what percent do you expect prices to go (up/down) on the average, during the next 12 months?</p> <p><u>NOTE: % DOWN NOT ASKED PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 1980</u></p> <hr/> <p>Code percent (01-95)  95. 95 percent or more  98. DK  99. NA  . Inap</p>
PX1	<p><u>Price expectations for next 12 months recoded</u></p> <hr/> <p>Percents (or Cents) Prices Up/Down  -95 to +95  -97. DK how much down  96. DK how much up  98. DK whether up or down  99. NA</p>

VARIABLE NAME

PX5Q1	<p>What about the outlook for prices over the <u>next 5 to 10 years</u>? Do you think prices will be higher, about the same, or lower, 5 to 10 years from now?</p> <p>FROM MARCH 1982 TO PRESENT PROBE "SAME" RESPONSE: Do you mean that prices will go up at the same rate as now, or that prices in general will not go up during the next 5 to 10 years?</p> <hr/> <p>1-2. Go up 3. Stay the same 5. Go down 8. DK 9. NA</p>
PX5Q2	<p>By about what percent <u>per year</u> do you expect prices to go (up/down) on the average, during the next 5 to 10 years?</p> <p>NOTE: % DOWN NOT ASKED PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 1980</p> <hr/> <p>Code percent (01-95) 95. 95 percent or more 98. DK 99. NA . Inap</p>
PX5	<p><u>Price expectations for next 5 years recoded</u></p> <hr/> <p>Percents (or Cents) Prices Up/Down -95 to +95 -97. DK how much down 96. DK how much up 98. DK whether up or down 99. NA</p>
RINC	<p>During the next year or two, do you expect that your (family) income will go up <u>more than prices</u> will go up, <u>about the same</u>, or <u>less than prices will go up</u>?</p> <hr/> <p>1. Income up <u>more</u> than prices 3. Income up <u>same</u> as prices 5. Income up <u>less</u> than prices 8. DK 9. NA</p>
INEX	<p><u>Income expectations</u></p> <hr/> <p>Percents (or Cents) Prices Up/Down -95 to +95 -97. DK how much down 96. DK how much up 98. DK whether up or down 99. NA</p>

VARIABLE NAME

INEXQ1	During the <u>next 12 months</u> , do you expect your (family) income to be <u>higher or lower than during the past year?</u> 1. Higher 3. Same 5. Lower 8. DK 9. NA . Inap
INEXQ2	By about what percent do you expect your (family) income to <u>(increase/decrease) during the next 12 months?</u> Code percent (01-95) 95. 95 percent or more 98. DK 99. NA . Inap
HOM	Generally speaking, do you think now is a good time or a bad time to <u>buy a house?</u> 1. Good 3. Pro-con 5. Bad 8. DK 9. NA
HOMRN1 HOMRN2	Why do you say so? (Are there any other reasons?) <hr/> <b><u>REASONS WHY NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO BUY A HOUSE</u></b> <u>PRICES; CREDIT</u> 11. <u>Prices are low/lower/reasonable/stable/not too high</u> 12. <u>Good buys available; buyer's market (oversupply of houses); difficult for sellers to find buyers; hard for other buyers to get credit</u> 13. <u>Prices are going up; buy before prices are higher; future uncertainty about prices</u> 14. <u>Prices won't get any lower</u> (not codeable 13) 15. <u>Lower down payment</u> 16. <u>Interest rates are low</u> (now) 17. <u>Credit easy to get; easy money</u> , NA if 15, 16, 17, or 18 18. <u>Credit will be tighter later</u> ; interest rates will go up 19. <u>Lower taxes; taxes will be higher later</u> 10. <u>Interest rate won't get any lower</u> (not codeable elsewhere)  <u>EMPLOYMENT; TIMES</u> 21. <u>People can afford to buy now, purchasing power available; high employment; prosperity; people have money to spend; times are good</u> 23. <u>Buying makes for good times/prosperity/high employment</u>

VARIABLE NAMEHOMRN1  
HOMRN2

(Continued)

SUPPLY AND QUALITY

31. Supply adequate, not shortages now; there may be shortages later; many houses on market (no reference to influence on prices, deals)
32. Quality is good, better, may get worse
33. New models have improvements/new features; new models are attractive
34. Good selection; variety

OTHER GOOD REASONS

41. Seasonal references only
42. R only says: If you need it and have the money this is as good a time as any; if people need things, they will buy regardless of the times
43. Low sales won't last; will pick up soon
44. Renting is unfavorable because of high rents, apartment shortage, etc., specific answer
45. Owning is always a good idea (because of investment or sentimental reasons); renting is (always) a bad idea
46. Capital appreciation: buying a home is a good investment these days (because the value of houses will increase); reference to special or temporary circumstances which make houses a good investment (code 45 reasons which imply that house ownership is always a good investment)
48. Variable mortgage rate
49. Economic policy; references to government/new president
47. Other good reasons (miscellaneous)

REASONS WHY NOW IS A BAD TIME TO BUY A HOUSEPRICES; CREDIT

51. Prices are (too) high; prices going up; houses cost more than they're worth; prices won't get any lower
52. Seller's market, few sales or discounts, hard to get good deal, prices up more than costs
53. Prices will fall later; will come down, are falling; will not rise; future uncertainty about prices
54. Debt or credit bad (NA why)
55. Higher/Larger down payment required
56. Interest rate too high; will go up
57. Credit hard to get; financing is difficult; point system; tight money, NA if 55, 56, 57 or 58
58. Interest rates will come down later; credit will be easier later
50. Interest rates won't get any lower (not codeable elsewhere)
59. Tax increase; (property) taxes too high; going higher

VARIABLE NAMEHOMRN1  
HOMRN2

(Continued)

EMPLOYMENT; TIMES

61. People can't afford to buy now (unemployment; times are bad; don't have money to spend; people are too far in debt); recession; inflation (no mention of house prices)
62. People should save money; uncertainty of future; bad times ahead; employment too uncertain
63. Buying contributes to inflation/makes for bad times
65. Energy crisis; shortages of fuels; high price of utilities;

SUPPLY AND QUALITY

71. Supply inadequate; few houses on market; poor selection; lack of variety (no reference to prices or deals)
72. Quality is poor; quality may be better later
73. Poor designs; unattractive styling; new features or improvements will come later

OTHER BAD REASONS

81. R mentions only seasonal factors
82. Difficult to get rid of present house
83. Better return on alternative investments
84. Renting favorable because of low rents or apartment surplus (specific)
85. Renting is always better than owning
86. Capital depreciation: buying a house now is a bad investment (because the value of homes will decrease); references to special or temporary circumstances which make houses a bad investment (code 85 responses that imply that home ownership is always a bad investment)
87. Other reasons why now is a bad time to buy
88. Variable mortgage rate
89. Economic policy; references to government/new president
98. DK
99. NA
0. No second mention
- . Inap

DUR

About the big things people buy for their homes -- such as furniture, a refrigerator stove, television, and things like that. Generally speaking, do you think now is a good or a bad time for people to buy major household items?

1. Good
3. Pro-con
5. Bad
8. DK
9. NA

VARIABLE NAMEDURRN1  
DURRN2Why do you say so? (Are there any other reasons?)

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REASONS WHY NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO BUY MAJOR HOUSEHOLD ITEMSPRICES; CREDIT

- 11. Prices are low(er); prices are reasonably stable/not too high
- 12. Good buys available; sales, discounts; discount houses, buyer's market (oversupply of goods); high inventories; demand/sales rate low
- 13. Prices are going up; buy before prices are higher; future uncertainty about prices
- 14. Prices won't get any lower (not codeable 13)
- 15. Lower down payment
- 16. Interest rates low
- 17. Credit easy to get; easy money, NA if 15, 16, 17, or 18
- 18. Interest rates going up; credit getting tighter
- 19. Low taxes; tax changes
- 10. Interest rates won't get any lower (not codeable elsewhere)

EMPLOYMENT; TIMES

- 21. People can afford to buy now; purchasing power available; high employment; prosperity; people have money to spend; times are good, better
- 23. Buying makes for good times/prosperity/high employment

SUPPLY AND QUALITY

- 31. Supply adequate; no shortages now; there may be shortages later (no reference to price, deals)
- 32. Quality is good/better/may get worse
- 33. New models have improvements/new features/are attractive
- 34. Good selection, variety

OTHER GOOD REASONS

- 41. Seasonal references only
- 42. R only says that if you need it and/or have the money, this is as good a time as any; if people need things they will buy them regardless of the times
- 43. Low sales won't last; will pick up soon
- 47. Other good reasons
- 49. Economic policy; references to government/new president

VARIABLE NAMEDURRN1  
DURRN2

(Continued)

REASONS WHY NOW IS A BAD TIME TO BUY MAJOR HOUSEHOLD ITEMSPRICES; CREDIT

51. Prices are (too) high: prices going up; items cost more than they're worth; prices won't get any lower
52. Seller's market; few sales or discounts; hard to get good deal; prices up more than costs
53. Prices will fall later, will come down, are falling, will not rise; future uncertainty about prices
56. Interest rates high/going up
58. Interest rates will fall later, credit will be easier later
50. Interest rates won't get any lower (not codeable elsewhere)
57. Credit/Financing hard to get; tight money (NA whether 55, 56, 57, or 58)
55. Larger/Higher down payment required
54. Debt or credit is bad (NA why)
59. Taxes high, going higher

EMPLOYMENT; TIMES

61. People can't afford to buy now; low levels of employment; times are bad; don't have money to spend; recession; inflation (no mention of prices of household items)
62. People should save money; uncertainty of future, bad times ahead, employment too uncertain
63. Buying contributes to inflation, makes for bad times
65. Energy crisis; shortages of fuels

SUPPLY AND QUALITY

71. Supply inadequate; poor selection (no reference to prices or deals)
72. Quality is poor; quality may be better later
73. Poor designs; unattractive styling; new features or improvements will come later

OTHER BAD REASONS

81. R mentions only seasonal factors
82. International references
87. Other reasons why now is a bad time to buy
89. Economic policy; references to government/new president
98. DK
99. NA
0. No second mention

VARIABLE NAME

CAR	Speaking now of the automobile market -- do you think the next 12 months or so will be a good time or a bad time to buy a car? <hr/> 1. Good 3. Pro-con 5. Bad 8. DK 9. NA
CARRN1 CARRN2	Why do you say so? (Are there any other reasons?) <hr/> <u>REASONS WHY NEXT 12 MONTHS IS A GOOD TIME TO BUY A CAR</u> <u>PRICES; CREDIT</u> 11. <u>Prices are low</u> , lower; prices are reasonable/stable/not too high ("small economy cars available," code 35) 12. <u>Good buys</u> available; sales, discounts; high trade-in allowances; buyer's market (oversupply), inventories high; demand, sales rate low 13. <u>Prices are going up</u> ; buy before prices are higher; future uncertainty about prices 14. Prices won't get any lower (not codeable 13) 15. Lower down payment 16. Interest rates low 17. <u>Credit easy</u> to get; easy money, NA if 15, 16, 17, or 18 18. Interest rates are going higher; credit will be tighter later 19. <u>Taxes</u> low; will be higher (include excise tax) 10. Interest rates won't get any lower (not codeable elsewhere)  <u>EMPLOYMENT; TIMES</u> 21. People can afford to buy now; <u>purchasing power</u> available; existence of <u>high employment</u> ; prosperity; have money to spend; times are good 23. Buying makes for good times/prosperity/high employment 20. Rebate/Bonus program 25. Energy crisis lessened; availability of gas; price of gas; gasohol mentions (except 30)

VARIABLE NAMECARRN1  
CARRN2

(Continued)

SUPPLY AND QUALITY

30. New cars get better mileage; better mileage due to gasahol
31. Supply adequate; no shortages now (no references to prices, deals, high inventories)
32. Quality is good/better/may get worse
33. New models have improvements; new features; are attractive
34. Great variety of models and sizes to choose from; good selection
35. (New) Small (economy) cars
36. Safety; new models are safer
37. Safety devices will be on and that's bad; buy before they are on
38. Anti-pollution devices (are or will be on and that's good); add less pollution due to gasahol
39. Anti-pollution devices will be on and that's bad; buy before they are on
44. NA whether 36 or 38, or both
45. NA whether 37 or 39, or both
46. New models are little changed from old models

OTHER GOOD REASONS

40. Strikes: labor situation (problems), union demands
41. Seasonal reference only
42. R only says that if you need it and have the money, this is as good a time as any; if people need things they will buy them regardless of the times
43. Low sales won't last, will pick up soon
49. Economic policy; references to government/new president
47. Other good reasons (miscellaneous)

REASONS WHY NEXT 12 MONTHS IS A BAD TIME TO BUY A CARPRICES; CREDIT

51. Prices are (too) high; prices going up; cars cost more than they're worth; prices won't get any lower
52. Seller's market; few sales or discounts; companies making excessive profits; prices up more than costs
53. Prices will fall later; are falling; will not rise; future uncertainty about prices
54. Debt or credit is bad (NA why)
55. Larger/Higher down payment required
56. Interest rates are high; will go up
57. Credit hard to get; tight money, NA if 55, 56, 57, or 58
58. Interest rates will fall later; credit will be easier later
59. Taxes high; going higher
50. Interest rates won't get any lower
60. Because rebate/bonus program will be over

VARIABLE NAMECARRN1  
CARRN2

(Continued)

EMPLOYMENT; TIMES

61. People can't afford to buy now (unemployment; times are bad; don't have money to spend; people have too much debt); recession; inflation (no mention of car prices)
62. People should save money; uncertainty of future; bad times ahead; employment too uncertain
63. Buying contributes to inflation, makes for bad times
65. Energy crisis; gas shortage; price of gas; gasahol mentions (except 67 or 70)
67. Environmental/Ecology reasons; pollution, congestion; should be fewer cars/more public transportation; more pollution due to gasahol
69. All Chrysler mentions

SUPPLY AND QUALITY

70. Poor mileage (include poor mileage due to gasahol)
71. Supply inadequate; few cars on market; poor selection; what I want is not available (no reference to prices or deals)
72. Quality is poor; quality may be better later
73. Poor designs; unattractive styling; new features or improvements will come later (style) (except safety or pollution features)
74. New types of cars will be introduced soon (safer cars should be coded 76)
75. New smaller cars
76. Safety; later models will be safer or crash resistant
77. Too many safety items (unneeded, expensive, etc.)
78. Later models will pollute less; pollution devices will be better later
79. Anti-pollution devices (are or will be on and that's bad); new types of gasoline; catalytic converters
84. NA whether 76, or 78, or both
85. NA whether 77, or 79, or both
86. Poor performance, not clear whether due to poor quality in general or due to pollution/safety equipment

OTHER BAD REASONS

80. Strikes; labor situation (problems), union demands
81. R mentions only seasonal factors
82. Imported car market; international references
83. High sales can't last, change is due; saturation
87. Other reasons why now is a bad time to buy; cost of insurance; gasahol is bad for car engine
88. Cost of insurance
89. Economic policy; references to government/new president

VARIABLE NAMECARRN1  
CARRN2

(Continued)

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91. Good time for new car, bad time for used cars  
 92. Good time for used cars, bad time for new cars  
 93. Depends on whether new or used; other combinations, or NA which good and which bad  
 94. Good time for small cars, bad for big cars  
 95. Good time for big cars, bad for small cars  
 96. Good for domestic cars, bad for imported cars  
 90. Good for imported cars, bad for domestic cars
98. DK  
 99. NA  
 0. No second mention

ICS

The Index of Consumer Sentiment


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The Index of Consumer Sentiment (ICS) is calculated using the following formula, in which the component questions ( $x_1 \dots x_5$ ) are listed below. The relative scores of the 5 component questions are used in the equation and are defined as the percent giving favorable replies minus the percent giving unfavorable replies, plus 100. Each relative score is rounded to the nearest whole number. The denominator of the formula is the 1966 base period total of 6.7558, and the added constant ( $n$ ) is to correct for sample design changes from the 1950s. Prior to December 1981,  $n=2.7$ ; for December 1981 and after,  $n=2.0$ .

$$ICS = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4 + X_5}{6.7558} + n$$

The Index of Consumer Sentiment is derived from the following five questions:

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- $x_1$  = "We are interested in how people are getting along financially these days. Would you say that you (and your family living there) are better off or worse off financially than you were a year ago?"
- $x_2$  = "Now looking ahead--do you think that a year from now you (and your family living there) will be better off financially, or worse off, or just about the same as now?"
- $x_3$  = "Now turning to business conditions in the country as a whole--do you think that during the next twelve months we'll have good times financially, or bad times, or what?"
- $x_4$  = "Looking ahead, which would you say is more likely--that in the country as a whole we'll have continuous good times during the next five years or so, or that we will have periods of widespread unemployment or depression, or what?"
- $x_5$  = "About the big things people buy for their homes--such as furniture, a refrigerator, stove, television, and things like that. Generally speaking, do you think now is a good or bad time for people to buy major household items?"

VARIABLE NAME

ICC The Index of Current Economic Conditions

ICE The Index of Consumer Expectations

Using the same procedures given above, the Index of Current Economic Conditions (ICC) and the Index of Consumer Expectations (ICE) are calculated as follows.

$$ICC = \frac{X_1 + X_5}{2.6424} + n$$

$$ICE = \frac{X_2 + X_3 + X_4}{4.1134} + n$$

VARIABLE NAME

The next few questions ask about your views of the chances that various events will happen. Your answers can range from zero to one hundred, where zero means there is absolutely no chance, and one hundred means that it is absolutely certain. For example, when weather forecasters report the chance of rain, a number like 20 percent means "a small chance" of rain, a number around 50 percent means "a pretty even chance," and a number like 80 percent means "a very good chance."

225           What do you think the chances are that your (family) income will increase by more than the rate of inflation in the next five years or so?

---

CODE PERCENT, except:

996. Zero percent

998. DK

999. NA

226           During the next 5 years, what do you think the chances are that you (or your husband/wife) will lose a job you wanted to keep?

---

CODE PERCENT, except:

996. Zero percent

998. DK

999. NA

227           What do you think the chances are that [IF R UNDER AGE 65] (when you retire,) your income from Social Security and job pensions will be adequate to maintain your living standards?

---

CODE PERCENT, except:

996. Zero percent

998. DK

999. NA

228           Compared with 5 years ago, do you think the chances that you (and your husband/wife) will have a comfortable retirement have gone up, gone down, or remained the same?

---

1. GONE UP

3. SAME

5. GONE DOWN

8. DK

9. NA

VARIABLE NAME

The next question is about investing in the stock market. Please think about the type of mutual fund known as a diversified stock fund. This type of mutual fund holds stock in many different companies engaged in a wide variety of business activities. Suppose that tomorrow someone were to invest one thousand dollars in such a mutual fund. Please think about how much money this investment would be worth one year from now.

- 250           What do you think is the percent chance that this one thousand dollar investment will increase in value in the year ahead, so that it is worth more than one thousand dollars one year from now?  
 CODE PERCENT (0-100)  
 998. DK  
 999. NA
- 251           What do you think is the percent chance that this one thousand dollar investment will increase in value by more than ten percent in the year ahead, so that is it worth more than eleven hundred dollars one year from now?  
 CODE PERCENT (0-100)  
 998. DK  
 999. NA
- 252           Next I would like to ask you about your OWN (personal) income prospects in the next twelve months. What do you think is the percent chance that your income in the next twelve months will be higher than your income in the past twelve months?  
 CODE PERCENT (0-100)  
 996. Volunteered "No personal income"  
 998. DK  
 999. NA
- 253           What do you think is the percent chance that your OWN (personal) income in the next twelve months will be more than ten percent higher than your income in the past twelve months?  
 CODE PERCENT (0-100)  
 996. Volunteered "No personal income"  
 998. DK  
 999. NA
- 254           Did you work for pay during the past week, were you temporarily absent from work, or were you unemployed, retired, a student, a homemaker, or what?  
 1. Working; temporarily absent from work  
 2. Unemployed  
 3. Retired  
 4. Student  
 5. Homemaker  
 7. Other  
 8. DK  
 9. NA

VARIABLE NAME

255                   What do you think is the percent chance that you will lose your job  
during the next twelve months?  
CODE PERCENT (0-100)  
998. DK  
999. NA  
.       Inap

256                   If you were to lose your job during the next twelve months, what do  
you think is the percent chance that the job you eventually find and  
accept would be at least as good as your current job in terms of  
wages and benefits?  
CODE PERCENT (0-100)  
998. DK  
999. NA  
.       Inap