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SOEP Survey Papers
Series A – Survey Instruments (Erhebungsinstrumente)

SOEP-Core – 2023: Residential Environment (with Reference to Variables)

SOEP Group

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

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2025

The variable names mentioned in this document belong to a collection of datasets, which is released with doi:10.5684/soep.core.v40o.

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Reading Aid

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

The diagram illustrates the structure of a questionnaire entry. It shows two questions, Q72 and Q73, with their respective text, instructions, and answer options. Below each question, variables are defined with their identifiers, dataset names, and labels. A legend explains the color coding for these identifiers.

Label	Value
question number	Q72
question text	Now we would like to know something about you personally. Were you born in Germany?
interviewer instruction	This refers to Germany or the Federal Republic of Germany or the German Democratic Republic in the national borders at the time of your birth.
answer options	Yes (1), No (2), No answer (-1)
in blue: identifier for filter	Q72:lsta1
in blue: filter with condition	Q72:lsta1=2
grey bar: open or numeric answer	[Grey bar]
in green: dataset name	bio
in green: variable name	I0013
in green: variable label	born in Germany
question number	Q73
question text	What country were you born in?
interviewer instruction	Please enter the current name!
in blue: identifier for filter	Q73:lsta2
in blue: filter with condition	Q73:lsta2 @ Q73
in green: dataset name	bio
in green: variable name	I0016
in green: variable label	Country Of Birth

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

The *routing by filters* is depicted in blue.

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

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

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

B1 Residential Environment Questions

PL1 Questions are only for the following sub-studies

CORE 1

REF 2

PL1:1 housing pre_study Partial study

PL1:1 housing2023 pre_study [de] Teilstudie

1 Did any language problems arise in making contact with the household?

No, no language problems 1

Yes, some language problems 2

Yes, major language problems 3

No contact 4

1:wum4 housing housing4 Language problems when making contact

1:wum4 housing2023 housing4 [de] Sprachprobleme bei Kontaktaufnahme

2 How would you describe the residential area in general?

Excellent, upscale condition 1

No especially noticeable problems, good condition 2

Mixed impression, partly neglected condition 3

Rather run-down, dilapidated impression 4

2:wum5 housing housing14 Description Residential area

2:wum5 housing2023 housing14 [de] Beschreibung Wohnlage

3 How would you describe the condition of the house in general?

Excellent, upscale condition 1

No especially noticeable problems, good condition 2

Mixed impression, partly neglected condition 3

Rather run-down, dilapidated impression 4

3:wum6 housing housing6 Condition of the house

3:wum6 housing2023 housing6 [de] Zustand des Hauses

4 Were there any particular problems accessing the house?

Yes, due to barriers or a locked entrance to the building 1

Yes, due to the intercom system 1

Yes, other 1

No 1

4:wum701 housing housing701 Access problems: Barrier/ blocked house access

4:wum701 housing2023 housing701 [de] Zugangsprobleme: Absperrung/ verschl. Hauszugang

4:wum702 housing housing702 Access problems: Intercom system

4:wum702 housing2023 housing702 [de] Zugangsprobleme: Sprechanlage

4:wum703 housing housing703 Access problems: Other

4:wum703 housing2023 housing703 [de] Zugangsprobleme: Sonstiges

4:wum704 housing housing704 Access problems: No

4:wum704 housing2023 housing704 [de] Zugangsprobleme: Nein

5 What was your feeling here on this street or in this apartment complex? How did it make you feel?

Very safe and comfortable	1
Mostly safe and comfortable	2
Somewhat unsafe and uncomfortable	3
Very uncomfortable, somewhat threatening	4
5:wum8 housing housing8 Sense of surroundings	
5:wum8 housing2023 housing8 [de] Umgebungsgefühl	

6 How would you describe the residential area here?

Purely residential area with mainly old buildings	1
Purely residential area with mainly new buildings	2
Mixed area with both residential and commercial buildings	3
Commercial area (stores, banks, administrative offices) with few residential buildings	4
Business park or industrial area with few residential buildings	5
Other	6
6:wum3 housing housing13 Neighbourhood description	
6:wum3 housing2023 housing13 [de] Beschreibung Wohngegend	

7 What type of building is it?

Agricultural residence / farmhouse	1
Detached one or two-family house	2
One or two-family row house or semi-detached house	3
Residential building with 3 to 4 apartments	4
Residential building with 5 to 8 apartments	5
Residential building with 9 or more apartments (but no more than 8 floors; not a high-rise building)	6
High-rise building (9 floors or more)	7
Other	8
7:wum1 housing housing1 House type	
7:wum1 housing2023 housing1 [de] Haustyp	

7:wum1=2

7a Would you describe the house as a mansion, palace, or villa?

Yes, as a villa without a park-like yard	1
Yes, as a villa with a park-like yard	2
Yes, as a mansion, palace, or villa	3
No	4
Don't know	5
7a:wum711 housing housing21 House name: large house	
7a:wum711 housing2023 housing21 [de] Hausbezeichnung: großes Haus	

7:wum1=4:7

7b Is the apartment a penthouse (exclusive rooftop apartment) or loft (converted factory space)?

- Yes 1
 No 2
 Don't know 3

7b:wum72 housing housing22 House name: Penthouse/ Loft
 7b:wum72 housing2023 housing22 [de] Hausbezeichnung: Penthouse/ Loft

8 Is it a hostel, dorm, boarding house, or similar accommodation?

- Dorm for university or high school students / teens 1
 Boarding house for professionals 2
 Retirement home / nursing home / senior residence 3
 Refugee accommodation 4
 Other type of home / accommodation 5
 No 6

8:wum2 housing housing23_v2 House name: Residence/ Boarding house
 8:wum2 housing housing23_h House name: Residence/ Boarding house

PL1;prev_studie=2

9 [de] In welcher Art von Unterkunft lebt der befragte Haushalt?

- [de] In einer Gemeinschaftsunterkunft für Geflüchtete 1
 In a private apartment, a private house 2
 [de] andere Unterkunft 3

9:iwu1 housing housing12 Type of accommodation
 9:iwu1 housing2023 housing12 [de] Art der Unterkunft

PL1;prev_studie=2 & 9:iwu1=1

10 [de] Um was für eine Art von Gemeinschaftsunterkunft handelt es sich?

- A tent / camp 1
 A container or fast construction 2
 A hall (e.g. a gym or events hall) 3
 A permanent building with several residential units 4
 Other 5

10:iwu2 housing housing11 Type of shared accommodation
 10:iwu2 housing2023 housing11 [de] Art der Gemeinschaftsunterkunft

PL1;prev_studie=2 & 9;iwu1=1

11 [de] Wie würden Sie allgemein die Gemeinschaftsunterkunft beschreiben?

Excellent, upscale condition	1
No especially noticeable problems, good condition	2
Mixed impression, partly neglected condition	3
Rather run-down, dilapidated impression	4

11:iwu3 housing housing17 Condition of shared accommodation

11:iwu3 housing2023 housing17 [de] Zustand Gemeinschaftsunterkunft

PL1;prev_studie=2 & 9;iwu1=1

12 [de] Gibt es für diese Unterkunft einen Sicherheitsdienst?

Yes	1
No	2
I can not tell	3

12:iwu4 housing housing16 Security service

12:iwu4 housing2023 housing16 [de] Sicherheitsdienst

PL1;prev_studie=2 & 9;iwu1=1

13 [de] Zu welcher Gruppe gehört der Betreiber dieser Unterkunft? Bitte schätzen Sie.

Country / municipality	1
Charitable operators	2
Private owner	3
I can not tell	4

13:iwu5 housing housing15 Operator of shared accommodation

13:iwu5 housing2023 housing15 [de] Betreiber Gemeinschaftsunterkunft

PL1;prev_studie=2 & 9;iwu1=1

14 [de] Wie viele Personen wohnen derzeit in dieser Unterkunft? Bitte schätzen Sie.

under 20	1
20-49	2
50-99	3
100-199	4
200-399	5
400-799	6
800 and more	7
I can not tell	8

14:iwu6 housing housing10 Number of residents in shared accommodation

14:iwu6 housing2023 housing10 [de] Anzahl Bewohner Gemeinschaftsunterkunft

PL1;prev_studie=2 & 9;iwu1=1

15 [de] Wie würden Sie die Wohngegend hier beschreiben?

A residential area with mostly old buildings	1
A residential area with mostly newer buildings	2
A residential and commercial area with flats, houses, shops and businesses	3
A commercial area (shops, banks, offices) with few residential dwellings	4
An industrial area with few residential dwellings	5

15:iwu7 housing housing18 Residential neighbourhood
15:iwu7 housing2023 housing18 [de] Wohngegend