



Draft

<Using new techniques and new digital data in the time of the Covid-19 pandemic >

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Abstract:

First of all, we have to state that statistical offices and macroeconomic statisticians especially are affected and challenged by the Covid19 crisis starting in the beginning of last year (in Europe). The problems encountered were manifold, ranging from data collection over data production/processes until data dissemination. Furthermore, demands from stakeholders required convincing answers and re-prioritisation. Given that the end of the pandemic is still unclear, although vaccines become increasingly available, it seems useful to present measures developed at the statistical level and to exchange experience to learn from and discuss with each other in the sense of developing good practices. As an input to such a discussion the papers intend to share solutions and experience mainly from the national accounts and price statistics directorate of the German Federal Statistical Office:

Our main priority since March 2020 has been to secure our statistics production in a statistical system with various actors. For instance, the feasibility of using new data sources like transaction-based scanner data from supermarkets was addressed. At the same time, the use of new methods such as web scraping in price statistics was investigated, implying also to solve various methodological and conceptual challenges. During the crisis, short-term data have received particular attention, like Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and other highly relevant economic short-term data and information. Therefore, the provision of experimental statistics to meet the increasing demand for short-term/high frequent data needs was one strand followed.

Another strand to find solutions meeting the new challenges during the pandemic was to develop innovative new statistical products. For instance, the daily truck toll mileage index provides an early approximation of the development of industrial production in Germany. It is calculated from digital process data of the truck toll collection system and updated every working day. Furthermore, in cooperation with a commercial German financial information provider short-term evaluations of loan agreements are published. As a response to the user demand for a quickly available but nevertheless reliable GDP figure, since the second quarter of 2020 quarterly GDP is published 30 days after the end of a quarter.

Our new interactive and flexible [Dashboard Germany](#) is providing comprehensive open data information. It addresses the general public, policy makers, public authorities, the media, business and the scientific community. At the moment our Dashboard is only available in German, but the English version will be available during 2021.

Additionally, for the so-called experimental data a new format called « [EXDAT](#) » started where all experimental data are presented to all users (administration, analysts, enterprises, broader public). These experimental data are taken from new administrative and private data

sources to meet short-term data needs. EXDAT could be distinguished from « official » data by design and special explanatory texts. At the moment, new quality reports for EXDAT are designed and will be added in future.

Internationally, Destatis 2020 hosted a high level conference with the title: « [Lessons Learned from COVID-19 – Short-term Data Requirements for Long-term Decision-making](#) » where a lot of the described points have been discussed in an European context, too.

Keywords:

<Macroeconomics>; <Experimental Data>; <Dashboard>; <New digital data>; <GDP>

1. Introduction:

<Introduction>

2. Methodology:

<Methodology>

3. Result:

<Result>

4. Discussion and Conclusion:

<Discussion and Conclusion>

References:

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FOR THE PAPER IS SIX PAGES**