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Data Collection Using a Diary: The Experience of the Survey of Household Spending

The Survey of Household Spending collects household expenditure data using a personal interview as well as an expenditure diary. While the diary gives us detailed expenditure information, it comes with a set of challenges that are unique to this collection mode. For example, respondents' fatigue increases with the use of diaries, which may lead to under-reporting of certain key expenditures, thus requiring further adjustments. In this talk, we discuss challenges and present the strategies we have implemented so far as well as potential strategies we seek to pursue in the future.