

Glossary

Administrative burdens/costs

The costs involved in obtaining, reading and understanding regulations, developing compliance strategies and meeting mandated reporting requirements, including data collection, processing, reporting and storage, but not including the capital costs of measures taken to comply with the regulations (see compliance costs), the general economic costs, or the costs to the public sector of administering the regulations.

Compliance costs

“All the costs of complying with regulation, with the exception of direct financial costs [e.g. administrative charges or taxes] and long-term structural consequences” (Standard Cost Model Network, 2005, p. 6). Compliance costs can be divided into “substantive compliance costs” (e.g. the costs of new machinery that has been bought to comply with new environmental standards) and “administrative costs” (e.g. the costs for reporting the installation of this new machinery to the administration).

Focus group

An interviewing technique whereby respondents are interviewed in a group setting.

Irritation (costs)

An individual’s sense of hassle or irritation.

Non-respondents

All individuals or businesses from a *sample* that do not provide responses to a survey.

Question priming

“Priming occurs when prior items (primes) in a questionnaire affect subsequent items” (Van de Walle / Van Ryzin, 2011, p. 2). This means that previous questions affect responses to subsequent questions. For a concrete example, see Box 2.1.

Regulatory reform

Changes in the capacity of institutions and systems for regulatory management that improve regulatory quality, that is, enhance the performance, cost-effectiveness, or legal quality of regulation and formalities.

The term is also associated with measures targeted at a specific sector with a view to improve economic performance.

Sample

“A subset of a [target] population” (Lohr 2010, p. 3). Here synonymous with the people receiving the survey.

Sample size

“The number of sampling units which are to be included in the sample” (International Statistical Institute, 2003, p. 358). Here synonymous with the number of people receiving the survey.

Sampling error

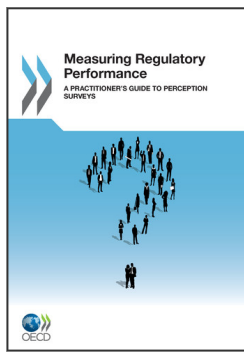
“The error that results from taking one sample instead of examining the whole [target] population” (Lohr, 2010, p. 16).

Screening question

Questions asked in different ways in order to identify consistent respondents and meaningful responses.

Target population

“The complete collection of observations we want to study” (Lohr, 2010, p. 3). Here synonymous with the group(s) of people or businesses we would like to know more about.



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