

Online appendix A

Alternative consensus measures

Most of the consensus measures in our article rely on somewhat arbitrary (but consistent) thresholds to determine whether a proposition meets the definition of consensus according to that metric (having a relative entropy index equal or less than 0.8 or a share of responses for AG/DG equal or greater than $\frac{2}{3}$). In this online appendix, we test the robustness of the greater level of consensus in 2020 that we find.

We computed two alternative measures for consensus using shared economic propositions from 2020 and previous survey rounds (37 from the 2011 survey, 33 from 2000, and 22 from 1990). The first measure is the average relative entropy index for those common propositions. The second measure is the average percentage of respondents that chose the modal response in those shared propositions. If consensus increases, we should expect a lower average relative entropy index and a higher average percentage choosing the modal response. Results are shown in tables A.1.1–A.2.2.

[Insert tables A.1.1–A2.2 about here]

The results are consistent with a significant increase in consensus in our latest round.

The average entropy index for comparable propositions is lower in 2020 than in all previous rounds. For example, the 37 propositions that appeared in the 2020 and the 2011 surveys had an average entropy index of 0.844 and 0.8992, respectively. The difference is statistically significant at the 5 percent significance level. Given the limited number of shared propositions over time, sometimes the differences in the average relative entropy index are not significant at the conventional levels (e.g. when comparing the 33 shared propositions between

the 2020 and the 2000 questionnaires). The average relative entropy index is virtually identical across surveys when comparing common propositions across past surveys (see Table A.1.2).

The average modal response for shared propositions also experienced increases of 5 percentage points or more in 2020 with respect to earlier rounds. In 2020, around 55 percent of respondents chose, on average, the modal response for the shared propositions, whereas, in the earlier surveys, the average hovered around 50 percent or less. The difference is typically significant at either the 5 or 10 percent significance levels (see table A.2.1). The comparison between earlier survey rounds reveals average modal responses typically within 1 to 2 percentage points of each other (see table A.2.2.).

APPENDIX TABLES

Tables A.1. Average relative entropy index

TABLE A.1.1: Comparison between the
2020 survey and earlier
surveys

Panel A	2020	2011	<i>p-value</i>
$N = 37$	0.844	0.8992	0.035
$N = 33$	0.8436	0.899	0.052
$N = 22$	0.8541	0.9077	0.115
Panel B	2020	2000	<i>p-value</i>
$N = 33$	0.8436	0.8955	0.115
$N = 22$	0.8541	0.9132	0.072
Panel C	2020	1990	<i>p-value</i>
$N = 22$	0.8541	0.9177	0.064

TABLE A.1.2: Comparison between earlier
surveys

Panel A	2011	2000	<i>p-value</i>
$N = 33$	0.8991	0.8955	0.907
$N = 22$	0.9077	0.9132	0.857
Panel B	2000	1990	<i>p-value</i>
$N = 22$	0.9131	0.9177	0.882
Panel C	2011	1990	<i>p-value</i>
$N = 22$	0.9077	0.9177	0.753

Tables A.2. Average modal response

TABLE A.2.1: Comparison between the
2020 survey and earlier
surveys

Panel A	2020	2011	<i>p-value</i>
$N = 37$	56.24	50.89	0.056
$N = 33$	56.41	50.85	0.064
$N = 22$	54.73	49.43	0.141
Panel B	2020	2000	<i>p-value</i>
$N = 33$	56.41	49.92	0.042
$N = 22$	54.73	48.69	0.088s
Panel C	2020	1990	<i>p-value</i>
$N = 22$	54.73	47.81	0.062

TABLE A.2.2: Comparisons between earlier
surveys

Panel A	2011	2000	<i>p-value</i>
$N = 33$	50.85	49.92	0.752
$N = 22$	49.43	48.69	0.812
Panel B	2000	1990	<i>p-value</i>
$N = 22$	48.69	47.81	0.785
Panel C	2011	1990	<i>p-value</i>
$N = 22$	49.43	47.81	0.623