



# The Tasmania Project Food Survey Variable List

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## Introduction

The Tasmania Project was established to understand how Tasmanians are experiencing and adjusting to the social, political and economic responses to COVID-19, with findings made available publicly to inform decisions and responses during the crisis and through recovery, and to support sound long-term social, economic and cultural policy development.

For a detailed overview of the Project's aims, methods and samples, please refer to the Project Details report available [online](#).

We are keen to share our data with other researchers at the University of Tasmania to support our analysis and harness your expertise. Please contact the research team for further information on the dataset and survey variables.

Initially, we will request that you provide summaries to publish on The Tasmania Project website as feedback to our study participants and to provide directly to government, industry and community stakeholders.

We also ask that any media releases or coverage is discussed and agreed prior to circulation with the research team, and that The Tasmania Project is acknowledged if the data is used in other ways, including in research publications.

To contact us, please email us at [thetasmaniaproject@utas.edu.au](mailto:thetasmaniaproject@utas.edu.au).

## Part 1: Access to food

Part/Question	Variable name	Response Categories	Notes
<p>1.1. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the food you have bought and consumed since March 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is less variety in the food available to me</li> <li>2. Food is more expensive</li> <li>3. The food available is poorer quality</li> <li>4. I am growing more of my own food</li> <li>5. I am consuming less fresh food</li> <li>6. I have increased the amount of food I have bought</li> <li>7. I have bought different types of food</li> <li>8. I am buying food from different shops</li> <li>9. I have caught less of my own food (i.e. fish)</li> <li>10. I am buying more food online</li> <li>11. I have become more interested in how to grow or catch/hunt food</li> </ol>	p1q1_1 – p1q1_20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strongly agree</li> <li>2. Agree</li> <li>3. Neither agree nor disagree</li> <li>4. Disagree</li> <li>5. Strongly disagree</li> </ol>	5-point Likert scale.

<p>12. I am buying more food imported from overseas</p> <p>13. It is more difficult to get to shops (i.e. transport)</p> <p>14. I am buying food more often</p> <p>15. I have less money available to buy food</p> <p>16. I am preparing/cooking food differently</p> <p>17. I am storing food differently</p> <p>18. Some foods are not as safe</p> <p>19. More food is wasted in my household</p> <p>20. I have NOT changed the food I buy and consume</p>			
<p>1.2. Approximately, how many days would the food you currently have stored in your house last your household?</p>	p1q2	<p>1. 1-3 days</p> <p>2. 4-7 days</p> <p>3. 8-10 days</p> <p>4. 11-14 days</p> <p>5. 14+ days</p>	
<p>1.3. "The food I/we bought just didn't last, and there wasn't enough money to buy more." In the last 30 days, was this...</p>	p1q3	<p>1. Often true</p> <p>2. Sometimes true</p> <p>3. Rarely true</p> <p>4. Never true</p> <p>5. Don't know</p>	4-point Likert scale.
<p>1.4. "I/we couldn't afford to eat balanced meals." In the last 30 days, was this...</p>	p1q4	<p>1. Often true</p> <p>2. Sometimes true</p> <p>3. Rarely true</p> <p>4. Never true</p> <p>5. Don't know</p>	4-point Likert scale.
<p>1.5. In the last 30 days did you or other adults in your household</p>	p1q5	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. No</p>	

ever cut the size of your meals, or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?		3. Don't know	
1.6. If yes, how many days did this happen?	p1q6		Free-text response.
1.7. In the last 30 days, did you ever eat less than you wanted to because there wasn't enough money for food?	p1q7	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know	
1.8. In the last 30 days, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?	p1q8	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know	
1.9. In the last 30 days, have you wanted to buy an item in these food types but it has not been available in the shops?	p1q9_1 – p1q9_7	1. Fruit 2. Vegetables 3. Grain-based foods (bread, pasta, rice) 4. Meat, seafood or other protein foods (chicken, eggs, tofu) 5. Dairy foods (milk, yoghurt, cheese) 6. Junk foods (pizza, confectionery) 7. N/A, everything I wanted was available 8. Other (please specify)	Select all that apply. 'Other' category with free text responses.

## Part 2: Tasmanian produce

Part/Question	Variable name	Response Categories	Notes
2.1. How important do you believe buying Tasmanian produce is?	p2q1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Extremely important</li> <li>2. Very important</li> <li>3. Somewhat important</li> <li>4. Not so important</li> <li>5. Not at all important</li> </ol>	5-point Likert scale.
2.2 Has your opinion about the importance of Tasmanian produce changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?	p2q2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I think it is more important</li> <li>2. I think it is less important</li> <li>3. My opinion hasn't changed</li> <li>4. I don't have an opinion</li> </ol>	
2.3 Have you bought more or less Tasmanian produce as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?	p2q3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A lot more</li> <li>2. Somewhat more</li> <li>3. About the same</li> <li>4. Somewhat less</li> <li>5. A lot less</li> <li>6. Not sure</li> <li>7. N/A</li> </ol>	
2.4. What types of Tasmanian produced foods have you bought in the last 30 days?	p2q4_1 – p2q4_8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fruit</li> <li>2. Vegetables</li> <li>3. Meat</li> <li>4. Seafood</li> <li>5. Chicken</li> <li>6. Eggs</li> <li>7. Dairy Foods</li> <li>8. Other (please specify)</li> </ol>	Select all that apply. 'Other' category with free text responses.
2.5. Where have you bought Tasmanian produce in the last 30 days?	p2q5_1 – p2q5_10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unsure</li> <li>2. I have not bought Tasmanian produce</li> <li>3. Major supermarkets (e.g. Coles or Woolworths)</li> </ol>	Select all that apply.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Independent supermarkets (e.g. IGA, Hill Street or Salamanca Fresh)</li> <li>5. Butcher</li> <li>6. Fruit and vegetable shops</li> <li>7. Specialty shops</li> <li>8. Local farmers markets</li> <li>9. Farm gate or wharf sales</li> <li>10. Home delivery/box scheme</li> </ul>	
2.6. In the last 30 days, have you eaten food sourced from the following (regardless of where is was produced)	p2q6_1 – p2q6_13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Major supermarkets (e.g. Woolworths or Coles) instore</li> <li>2. Tasmanian independent supermarkets (e.g. Hill Street, Salamanca Fresh) instore</li> <li>3. Own garden</li> <li>4. Others' gardens</li> <li>5. Butcher</li> <li>6. Fruit and vegetable shop</li> <li>7. Farm gate or wharf sales</li> <li>8. Home delivery</li> <li>9. Takeaway</li> <li>10. Fast food chain</li> <li>11. Direct from the producer</li> <li>12. Supermarket delivery</li> <li>13. Other (please specify):</li> </ul>	Select all that apply. 'Other' category with free text responses.

### Part 3. Seafood consumption

Part/Question	Variable name	Response Categories	Notes
3.1.1. How much seafood are you eating compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic?	p3q1_1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A lot more</li> <li>2. Somewhat more</li> <li>3. About the same</li> <li>4. Somewhat less</li> <li>5. A lot less</li> <li>6. Not sure</li> <li>7. I don't eat fish</li> </ol>	Skip logic to Part 4 for non-seafood eaters.
3.1.2. During the COVID-19 pandemic have you been able to access the same seafood you normally eat?	p3q1_2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	
3.2. If not, what types of seafood have you been unable to access and why?	p3q2		Free text response.
3.3. How important is seafood as a source of nutrition in your diet?	p3q3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Very important</li> <li>2. Fairly important</li> <li>3. Neither important nor unimportant</li> <li>4. Not so important</li> <li>5. Not at all important</li> </ol>	5-point Likert scale.
3.4. How important to you is having a reliable supply of seafood during the COVID-19 pandemic?	p3q4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Very important</li> <li>2. Fairly important</li> <li>3. Neither important nor unimportant</li> <li>4. Not so important</li> <li>5. Not at all important</li> </ol>	5-point Likert scale.
3.5. Commercial fishers were impacted by the loss of their export markets in late January and started	p3q5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. Yes, but only at the same reduced prices</li> <li>3. No</li> </ol>	



<p>selling lobsters locally at reduced prices. If you or any members of your household bought lobsters directly from the fishers during this time (e.g. at a jetty or wharf) do you expect to continue to do so after the COVID-19 pandemic impacts on exports lift?</p>		<p>4. N/A, I have NOT bought lobsters directly from fishers during this time.</p>	
<p>3.6. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic were there other types of Tasmanian seafood you or members of your household regularly purchased?</p>	<p>p3q6_1 – p3q6_11</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. None</li> <li>2. Lobster</li> <li>3. Abalone</li> <li>4. Farmed salmon</li> <li>5. Pacific Oysters</li> <li>6. Tuna</li> <li>7. Squid</li> <li>8. Octopus</li> <li>9. Blue Eye</li> <li>10. Flathead</li> <li>11. Scallops</li> </ol>	<p>Select all that apply.</p>

## Part 4: Food supply

Part/Question	Variable name	Response Categories	Notes
<p>4.1. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tasmania exports too much of its best quality food</li> <li>2. Tasmanian produce is cheaper than imported produce</li> <li>3. Tasmania's produce is only available in expensive restaurants and specialty shops</li> <li>4. Tasmania should attract more foreign investment in food production</li> <li>5. It is important to know <b>where</b> your food is produced</li> <li>6. It is important to know <b>how</b> your food is produced</li> <li>7. It is important to know <b>who</b> produces your food</li> <li>8. It is important to buy produce that is certified organic or biodynamic</li> <li>9. It is important to reduce the distance your food travels (i.e., 'food</li> </ol>	<p>p4q1_1 – p4q1_10</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strongly agree</li> <li>2. Agree</li> <li>3. Neither agree nor disagree</li> <li>4. Disagree</li> <li>5. Strongly disagree</li> </ol>	<p>5-point Likert scale.</p>

miles')? 10. Food production in Tasmania is 'clean and green'			
4.2. In your opinion, has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted Australia's food supply?	p4q2	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know	
4.3. If yes, in what ways has the food supply been impacted?	p4q3		Free text response.
4.4. Have you noticed any businesses changing the way they sell food as a result of COVID-19? If so, how have they changed?	p4q4		Free text response.
4.5. How could Tasmania's food system be better prepared for a disaster in the future?	p4q5		Free text response.

## Part 5: Demographic information

Question	Variable name	Response Categories	Notes
5.1. Are you the main shopper for your household?	mainshopper	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	
5.2. In which Tasmanian Local Government Area do you live?	LGA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Break O'Day</li> <li>2. Brighton</li> <li>3. Burnie</li> <li>4. Central Coast</li> <li>5. Central Highlands</li> <li>6. Circular Head</li> <li>7. Clarence</li> <li>8. Derwent Valley</li> <li>9. Devonport</li> <li>10. Dorset</li> <li>11. Flinders Island</li> <li>12. George Town</li> <li>13. Glamorgan/Spring Bay</li> <li>14. Glenorchy</li> <li>15. Hobart</li> <li>16. Huon Valley</li> <li>17. Kentish</li> <li>18. King Island</li> <li>19. Kingborough</li> <li>20. Latrobe</li> <li>21. Launceston</li> <li>22. Meander Valley</li> <li>23. Northern Midlands</li> <li>24. Sorell</li> <li>25. Southern Midlands</li> <li>26. Tasman</li> <li>27. Waratah/Wynyard</li> <li>28. West Coast</li> <li>29. West Tamar</li> </ol>	Recoded into another variable. Main region (region): 1. South. 2. North. 3. North West and West.

5.3. What is your suburb/town name?	suburb		Free text response.
5.4. What gender do you identify as?	gender	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Female</li> <li>2. Male</li> <li>3. Other</li> </ol>	
5.5. Do you identify yourself as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?	indigenous	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	
5.6. What is your age in years?	age		Numeric response. Recoded into another variable. Age categories (agecat): 1. 18-24 years. 2. 25-44 years. 3. 45-64 years. 4. 65+.
5.7. Do you have a health condition or disability that limits your activity?	disability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes, a little</li> <li>2. Yes, a lot</li> <li>3. No</li> </ol>	Recoded into another variable. Disability? (disability2): 0. No. 1. Yes.
5.8. Which best describes you?	placeofbirth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Born in Australia</li> <li>2. Born overseas, Australian citizen</li> <li>3. Born overseas, permanent resident</li> <li>4. Born overseas, temporary resident</li> </ol>	
5.9. What is the highest level of education you have completed?	education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Postgraduate Degree</li> <li>2. Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate</li> <li>3. Bachelor Degree</li> <li>4. Advanced Diploma or Diploma</li> <li>5. Certificate III or Certificate IV</li> <li>6. Secondary education – year 10 or above</li> <li>7. Certificate I or II</li> <li>8. Secondary education – year 9 or below</li> </ol>	Recoded into another variable (education2): 1. University. 2. Diploma/Tafe. 3. High school.

5.10. As at 19 March 2020, what was your relationship status?	relationship	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Married</li> <li>2. Defacto</li> <li>3. Never married, single</li> <li>4. Widowed</li> <li>5. Divorced</li> <li>6. Separated</li> <li>7. Partnered, living apart</li> <li>8. Other (please specify)</li> </ol>	'Other' category with free text responses.
5.11. Who makes up your household?	household	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Couple with no children</li> <li>2. Couple family with one or more children under 15</li> <li>3. Couple family with one or more dependent children aged 15-24 years</li> <li>4. One parent family with one or more children under 15</li> <li>5. One parent family with one or more dependent children aged 15-24 years</li> <li>6. Family with non-dependent children (e.g., adult children living at home)</li> <li>7. Lone person</li> <li>8. Group household</li> <li>9. Multiple family household</li> <li>10. Other (please specify)</li> </ol>	'Other' category with free text responses.
5.12. As at 19 March 2020, which of the following describe your personal situation:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Employed</li> <li>2. Self-employed</li> <li>3. Unemployed</li> <li>4. Retired</li> <li>5. A homemaker / family carer</li> <li>6. A student</li> <li>7. A volunteer</li> <li>8. Other (please specify)</li> </ol>	Select all that apply. 'Other' category with free text responses. Recoded into another variable (employment): 1. Employed. 2. Unemployed. 3. Other.

5.13. Has your job situation changed since 19 March 2020 (when Tasmania declared a state of emergency)?	jobchange	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	
5.14. If yes, what is your current job situation?	jobsituation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Now working no paid hours (but still have a job)</li> <li>2. Now working less paid hours</li> <li>3. Now working more paid hours</li> <li>4. Now have a job, and working paid hours</li> <li>5. Now have a job, but not currently working any paid hours</li> <li>6. I now do not have a paid job</li> <li>7. Now working more unpaid hours</li> <li>8. Other (please specify)</li> </ol>	'Other' category with free text responses.
5.15. Has COVID-19 contributed to the change in your job situation?	jobchangeccovid	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>	
5.16. Are you currently receiving JobKeeper or JobSeeker payments?	jobkeeper	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No</li> <li>2. I am employed, with JobKeeper payments</li> <li>3. I am unemployed, with JobSeeker payments</li> <li>4. I am unemployed, but not eligible for JobKeeper / JobSeeker payments</li> <li>5. I am unemployed, but not claiming any support payments</li> <li>6. Other (please specify):</li> </ol>	'Other' category with free text responses.

5.17. What is your household income?	income	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. &lt;\$20,000</li> <li>2. \$20,000-\$40,000</li> <li>3. \$40,000 – \$60,000</li> <li>4. \$60,000 – \$80,000</li> <li>5. \$80,000 – \$100,000</li> <li>6. \$100,000-\$150,000</li> <li>7. \$150,000+</li> <li>8. Don't know/prefer not to say</li> </ol>	
5.18. Has your household experienced a drop in income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?	incomedecrease	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No loss in income</li> <li>2. Up to a 24% drop in income</li> <li>3. 25% to 49% drop in income</li> <li>4. 50% to 74% drop in income</li> <li>5. 75% to 99% drop in income</li> <li>6. We have lost all of our income</li> <li>7. Don't know/prefer not to say</li> </ol>	
5.19. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as Liberal, Labor, Greens or other?	politicalparty	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Liberal Party</li> <li>2. Labor Party (ALP)</li> <li>3. Greens</li> <li>4. No party affiliation</li> <li>5. Other (please specify)</li> </ol>	'Other' category with free text responses.