1. Title
Consumer expectations around COVID-19: Evolution over time

2. Authors and affiliations and contact emails
Fabian Lange, McGill University (Fabian.lange@mcgill.ca)
Lars Vilhuber, Cornell University (lars.vilhuber@cornell.edu)

3. Abstract
Since Apr 24, 2020, we have been collecting direct information on consumers’ expectations about the duration of social distancing rules, including stay-at-home and social-distancing rules, and of business closures, in the United States and Canada. The latest estimate of the median expectation for the duration of restrictions on business closures in the US stands at 32 days, corresponding to June 26. In Canada, the equivalent number is 43 days (representing a median expected end date of July 07). In both countries, the expected duration is declining. Uncertainty (dispersion) remains high, and increasing. The latest estimates of the median expectation for the duration of social distancing rules are increasing in both countries: 65 days (corresponding to an end date of July 29) in the United States, and 92 days (August 25) in Canada. Uncertainty in both countries is very high and increasing, with substantial fractions of respondents in both countries expecting social distancing to persist beyond 6 months.

4. Data description
Ongoing, weekly online survey measuring expectations regarding length of business closures and Social Distancing measures in Canada and the US. For details and results, see here: https://labordynamicsinstitute.github.io/gcs_covid19_expectations/text/analysis_week5/

5. JEL codes for the project
n/a

6. Key-words
Duration of Restrictions, Consumer expectations, Uncertainty