

AmericasBarometer Weighting Scheme

Weighting of individual country datasets: Most of the 2010 AmericasBarometer samples are self-weighted except for Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Haiti, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and the United States. Each country data set contains a variable called “WT” which should be activated to produce representative national results.

In the SPSS version of these data sets, the weight variable should be activated. In STATA the weight variable can be activated through the svy setting: svyset upm [pw=wt], strata (estratopri). In this case, all STATA commands should use the pre-fix svy (for example svy: mean q2 or svy: tab etid ur). This is preferable since this takes into account the complex nature of our samples, that is, the use of stratification, clustering, and weighting. Because of this, it is necessary to take into account the design effect when analysing our surveys to have better precision and to not incorrectly assume that the data have been collected using simple random samples knowing that the design effect can increase or decrease the standard error of a variable, which will then make the confidence intervals either increase or decrease.

Another way to activate the weight in STATA is to specify the weight variable for each command. We recommend to use iweight when running frequency distributions, for example, tab q1 [iw=wt].

The technical report for each of the country gives a brief explanation for the weighting scheme. More information can be found in the detailed description of the samples included in the back of the country reports available through a link on the LAPOP website: www.AmericasBarometer.org.

Syntax for creating the weight variable (weight1500) in the Stata Merged data

```
gen weight1500=.
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1562 if pais==1
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1504 if pais==2
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1550 if pais==3
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1596 if pais==4
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1540 if pais==5
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1500 if pais==6
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1536 if pais==7
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1506 if pais==8
replace weight1500=wt*1500/3000 if pais==9
replace weight1500=wt*1500/3018 if pais==10
```

```
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1500 if pais==11
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1502 if pais==12
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1965 if pais==13
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1500 if pais==14
replace weight1500=wt*1500/2482 if pais==15
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1500 if pais==16
replace weight1500=wt*1410/1500 if pais==17
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1500 if pais==21
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1752 if pais==22
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1504 if pais==23
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1540 if pais==24
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1503 if pais==25
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1504 if pais==26
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1514 if pais==27
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1500 if pais==40
replace weight1500=wt*1500/1500 if pais==41
```

Syntax for creating the weight variable (weight1500) in the SPSS Merged data

```
compute weight1500=0.
If (pais=1) weight1500=(wt*1500/1562).
If (pais=2) weight1500=(wt*1500/1504).
If (pais=3) weight1500=(wt*1500/1550).
If (pais=4) weight1500=(wt*1500/1596).
If (pais=5) weight1500=(wt*1500/1540).
If (pais=6) weight1500=(wt*1500/1500).
If (pais=7) weight1500=(wt*1500/1536).
If (pais=8) weight1500=(wt*1500/1506).
If (pais=9) weight1500=(wt*1500/3000).
If (pais=10) weight1500=(wt*1500/3018).
If (pais=11) weight1500=(wt*1500/1500).
If (pais=12) weight1500=(wt*1500/1502).
If (pais=13) weight1500=(wt*1500/1965).
If (pais=14) weight1500=(wt*1500/1500).
If (pais=15) weight1500=(wt*1500/2482).
If (pais=16) weight1500=(wt*1500/1500).
If (pais=17) weight1500=(wt*1410/1500).
If (pais=21) weight1500=(wt*1500/1500).
If (pais=22) weight1500=(wt*1500/1752).
If (pais=23) weight1500=(wt*1500/1504).
If (pais=24) weight1500=(wt*1500/1540).
If (pais=25) weight1500=(wt*1500/1503).
If (pais=26) weight1500=(wt*1500/1504).
If (pais=27) weight1500=(wt*1500/1516).
If (pais=40) weight1500=(wt*1500/1500).
If (pais=41) weight1500=(wt*1500/1500).
```