
ONLINE APPENDIX

“ATTITUDES ON UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS:
IDEOLOGY AND NUMBERS”

Appendix A: Sample Characteristics

TABLE A1: CHARACTERISTICS OF SAMPLES AND DANISH POPULATION

	Experiment 1	Experiment 2	Danish population
	(n=1,058)	(n=2,036)	(ages 18-85) ¹
<i>Gender (female)</i>	52%	51%	50%
<i>Age, years (s.d.)</i>	46 (17)	47 (16)	48 (18)
<i>Education (some college)²</i>	56%	67%	32%
<i>Left-Right Position, 0-10 (s.d.)</i>	5.3 (2.5)	5.1 (2.4)	n.a.

¹ Population data are from Statistics Denmark (www.statistikbanken.dk)

² Data for Educational level of the Danish population is based on ages 20-69.

Appendix B: Survey Question wording

Experiment 1:

[Question 1: Left-Right Position]

“In politics, one often talks about left and right. Where would you place yourself on this scale, where 0 means left and 10 means right? (0:Left; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10:Right; Don’t know)”

Question 2:

<i>[Condition 1]</i>	<i>[Condition 2]</i>	<i>[Condition 3]</i>	<i>[Condition 4]</i>	<i>[Condition 5]</i>
The maximum rate of unemployment benefits is currently 4,135 DKK per week.	The maximum rate of unemployment benefits is currently 17,918 DKK per month.	A political party has proposed that the maximum rate of unemployment benefits should be increased to 6,923 DKK per week.	A political party has proposed that the maximum rate of unemployment benefits should be increased to 7,000 DKK per week.	A political party has proposed that the maximum rate of unemployment benefits should be increased to 30,000 DKK per month.
In your opinion, is a maximum rate of unemployment benefits on 4,135 DKK per week fair?	In your opinion, is a maximum rate of unemployment benefits on 17,918 DKK per month fair?	In your opinion, is a maximum rate of unemployment benefits on 6,923 DKK per week fair?	In your opinion, is a maximum rate of unemployment benefits on 7,000 DKK per week fair?	In your opinion, is a maximum rate of unemployment benefits on 30,000 DKK per month fair?

(1) Yes

(2) No, this amount is too high

(3) No, this amount is too low

Question 3: [not shown to respondents answering "yes" to question 2]

You have answered that a maximum rate of unemployment benefits on 4,135 DKK per week is not fair.	You have answered that a maximum rate of unemployment benefits on 17,918 DKK per month is not fair.	You have answered that a maximum rate of unemployment benefits on 6,923 DKK per week is not fair.	You have answered that a maximum rate of unemployment benefits on 7,000 DKK per week is not fair.	You have answered that a maximum rate of unemployment benefits on 30,000 DKK per month is not fair.
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What do you think that the maximum rate of unemployment benefits should be?

Please enter your answer in the box below.

<input type="text"/> DKK/week	<input type="text"/> DKK/month	<input type="text"/> DKK/week	<input type="text"/> DKK/week	<input type="text"/> DKK/month
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Experiment 2:

[Question 1: Left-Right Position, identical to question 1 in experiment 1]

Question 2:

Imagine the following: A political party has proposed that the maximum rate of unemployment benefits should be increased to 6,923 DKK per week.

In your opinion, is a maximum rate of unemployment benefits on 6,923 DKK per week fair?

Imagine the following: A political party has proposed that the maximum rate of unemployment benefits should be increased to 7,000 DKK per week.

In your opinion, is a maximum rate of unemployment benefits on 7,000 DKK per week fair?

Imagine the following: A political party has proposed that the maximum rate of unemployment benefits should be increased to 7,078 DKK per week.

In your opinion, is a maximum rate of unemployment benefits on 7,078 DKK per week fair?

(1) Yes

(2) No, this amount is too high

(3) No, this amount is too low

Question 3: [not shown to respondents answering "yes" to question 2]

You have answered that a maximum rate of unemployment benefits on 6,923 DKK per week is not fair.	You have answered that a maximum rate of unemployment benefits on 7,000 DKK per week is not fair.	You have answered that a maximum rate of unemployment benefits on 7,078 DKK per week is not fair.
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What do you think that the maximum rate of unemployment benefits should be?

Please enter your answer in the box below.

DKK/week

Question 4:

Here are a number of statements about the political party and the proposal on increased unemployment benefits. How much do you agree with the following statements?

- I think that the party's proposal is based on thorough calculations.
- The party's proposal does not seem to be serious.
- The party's suggestion is completely unrealistic.
- The party cares about the unemployed.
- The party is wasteful with taxpayer money.
- The party is more concerned about getting votes than doing the right thing.

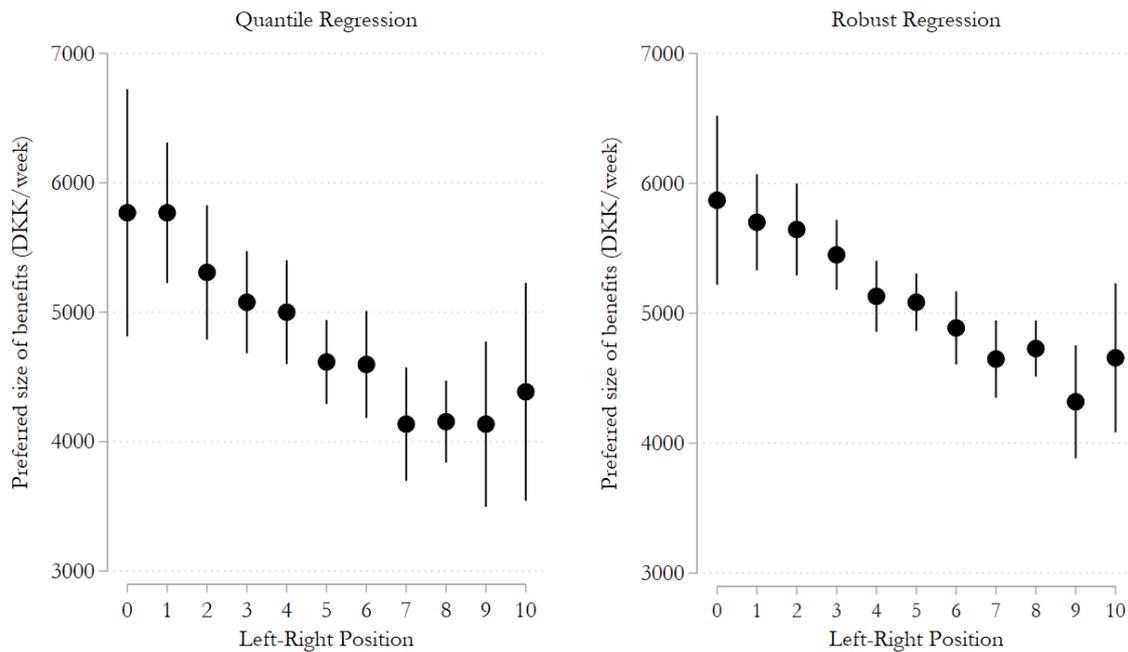
(Strongly agree, Agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, Don't know)

Appendix C: Robustness of results

This appendix reports results based on quantile regression (Koenker, 2005) and robust regression (Hamilton, 1992, 2012). The results are generally similar to the results that are obtained when using trimmed means, with a few exceptions noted below.

As shown in Figure A1 below, using quantile regression (median) or robust regression does not change the relationship between the respondents' position on the left-right scale and their preferred level of unemployment benefits: the preferred size of unemployment benefits decreases in a linear fashion as one moves from the left of the spectrum to the right.

FIGURE A1: PREFERRED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS CONDITIONAL ON LEFT-RIGHT POSITION



Note: Estimates with 95% C.I. (n=1,058 for both graphs).

Next, Table A2 below shows the preferred unemployment benefits from experiment one. The results from quantile regression and robust regression are substantively similar to the results based on trimmed means, with one exception: when using quantile regression, conditions four and five no longer differ

significantly from each other. However, the median of condition four is still (insignificantly) larger than the median in condition five. Furthermore, the estimates from a robust regression show a significant difference between the two conditions, confirming the results of the analyses based on trimmed means. Taken together, these results therefore still strongly indicate that the treatment in condition four does lead to higher preferred unemployment benefits than the treatment in condition five.

TABLE A2: PREFERRED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS CONDITIONAL ON EXPERIMENTAL CONDITION, EXPERIMENT 1 (DKK/WEEK, WITH 95% C.I.)

Experimental Condition		Estimates from Trimmed means	Estimates from quantile regression	Estimates from robust regression
Low anchor	Condition 1: 4.135 DKK/week (precise)	4,352 _A [4,170 – 4,434]	4,135 _A [3,851 – 4,419]	4,320 _A [4,158 – 4,483]
	Condition 2: 17.918 DKK/month (precise)	4,270 _A [4,198 – 4,343]	4,135 _A [3,851 – 4,343]	4,209 _A [4,046 – 4,372]
High anchor	Condition 3: 6,923 DKK/Week (precise)	6,116 _B [5,943 – 6,290]	6,923 _B [6,638 – 7,208]	6,153 _B [5,990 – 6,317]
	Condition 4: 7,000 DKK/Week (rounded)	5,705 _C [5,517 – 5,893]	5,500 _C [5,213 – 5,787]	5,739 _C [5,574 – 5,904]
	Condition 5: 30,000 DKK/Week (rounded)	5,349 _D [5,138 – 5,560]	5,349 _C [5,020 – 5,594]	5,429 _D [5,264 – 5,593]

Note: Within each column, proportions not sharing a subscript letter differ significantly at the 5% level (n=1,058).

Finally, Table A3 shows the results from experiment two. When using quantile regression, conditions one and three have significantly higher values than condition two, confirming the findings from the analyses based on trimmed means. Unlike the analyses based on trimmed means, conditions one and three do not differ significantly from each other. In fact, they have the exact same point estimate (6,000 DKK/week). It is important to note, however, that condition one and three both contained precise numbers, so the

parity between the values in these two conditions does not pose any problem for the conclusion regarding the difference between precise and rounded numbers. A potentially more problematic result is found when using robust regression. Here, conditions one and two are not significantly different ($p=.11$). Still, the difference is not far from significance, the estimate for condition one is still (insignificantly) larger than the estimate for condition two, and results from both quantile regression and regression based on trimmed means both show a significant difference. Thus, this marginally significant difference in the robust regression does not really challenge the conclusion regarding a precision effect.

TABLE A3: PREFERRED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS CONDITIONAL ON EXPERIMENTAL CONDITION, EXPERIMENT 2 (DKK/WEEK, WITH 95% C.I.)

Experimental Condition	Estimates from Trimmed means	Estimates from quantile regression	Estimates from robust regression
Condition 1: 6,923	5,815 _A	6,000 _A	5,807 _A
DKK/Week (precise)	[5,715 – 5,915]	[5,599 – 6,401]	[5,681 – 5,932]
Condition 2: 7,000	5,616 _B	5,250 _B	5,662 _A
DKK/Week (rounded)	[5,516 – 5,715]	[4,850 – 5,650]	[5,536 – 5,787]
Condition 3: 7,078	5,974 _C	6,000 _A	5,953 _B
DKK/Week (precise)	[5,866 – 6,082]	[5,600 – 6,400]	[5,828 - 6,079]

Note: Within each column, proportions not sharing a subscript letter differ significantly at the 5% level ($n=2,094$).

References (Appendix)

- Hamilton, Lawrence C. (1992). How robust is robust regression? *Stata Technical Bulletin*, 1(2).
- Hamilton, Lawrence C. (2012). *Statistics with Stata: version 12*: Cengage Learning.
- Koenker, Roger. (2005). *Quantile regression*: Cambridge university press.