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## The Stability of Big-Five Personality Traits

by Deborah A. Cobb-Clark, Stefanie Schurer  
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### Abstract:

We use a large, nationally-representative sample of working-age adults to demonstrate that personality (as measured by the Big Five) is stable over a four-year period. Average personality changes are small and do not vary substantially across age groups. Intra-individual personality change is generally unrelated to experiencing adverse life events and is unlikely to be economically meaningful. Like other non-cognitive traits, personality can be modeled as a stable input into many economic decisions.

**Text:** See [Discussion Paper No. 5943](#)

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