



AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY



MEPS-HC Jobs File

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Employment Section Design

- **Variables in the Jobs file come from the Employment section of the HC.**
- **Emphasis is on having a continuous timeline of employment history over the panel for each person.**
 - ▶ **Need complete information on employer sponsored health insurance (ESI)**
- **The Employment section is also designed to collect the following:**
 - ▶ **Indicators of job quality**
 - ▶ **Employment data that relates to earnings**

The Basics

- **Employment data is collected for each person age 16 and older in each round.**
- **Employment status (EMPST31/42/53) categories are as follows:**
 - 1 = “currently employed” if job at interview date;
 - 2 = “has job to return to” if did not work during the reference period but had a job to return to as of the interview date;
 - 3 = “employed during the reference period” if no job at the interview date but did work during the round; and
 - 4 = “not employed with no job to return to” if the person did not have a job at the interview date, did not work during the reference period, and did not have a job to return to.
- **Categories are mutually exclusive.**

The Basics (cont.)

- **Most workers have only one job at time of initial interview.**
- **If more than one job, the respondent designates one as the current main job; the others are current miscellaneous jobs.**
- **Job held in the round that ended before interview date is “former” job.**

Employment Updates

- **Special update module is used in rounds 2–5.**
 - ▶ **If current job continues from prior round, updates are limited.**
 - Change in hours worked?
 - Change in wages?
 - If no ESI last round, ask for current round.
- **If a person was not working in the previous round, he or she is asked in the current round if working.**
 - ▶ **If yes, then complete information is collected.**

Jobs File

- **Each Jobs file covers one calendar year.**
- **All jobs are included in the file.**
 - ▶ **Population/Consolidated files only have current main job**
- **Limited editing is done to Jobs variables.**
- **There are no weights in the file.**
 - ▶ **Must link to file with weights**

Jobs Records

- **Records are at person/round/job level.**
 - ▶ **If same job continues for more than one round, then there is a separate record for each round on file.**
 - ▶ **A person reporting on multiple jobs in round will have one record per job in the file for that round.**

JOBSDX Variable

- JOBSIDX (e.g., **22722011013101**) is a unique identifier for each record.
 - ▶ Person identifier (DUID & PID): **2272201101**
 - ▶ Round (RN): **3**
 - ▶ Job number (JOBNUM): **101**

Changes to JOBSIDX for 2018

- **JOBSIDX changed in 2018 and includes three digits more than prior to 2018:**
 - ▶ **DUID now includes two digits to identify the panel.**
 - ▶ **JOBNUM (three digits) was new for 2018 and replaced JOBSN (two digits).**
- **Use variable JOBSIDX_17 to link 2017 and 2018 Jobs files.**
 - ▶ **Appendices 1 & 2 in the Jobs file documentation include sample SAS & Stata code to link files.**

Changes to JOBSIDX for 2018 (cont.)

Prior to 2018:

JOBSDIX: 72201101301

DUID (72201) + PID (101) + Round (3) + JOBSN (01)
(5 bytes) (3 bytes) (1 byte) (2 bytes)

Beginning in 2018:

JOBSIDX: 22722011013101

DUID (2272201) + PID (101) + Round (3) + JOBNUM (101)
(7 bytes) (3 bytes) (1 byte) (3 bytes)

JOBNUM Variable

- **JOBNUM** is unique to the *reporting unit* (RU); **JOB**SN was not unique to the RU and not always unique to the person.
- **JOBNUM** is assigned using three digits.
 - ▶ The first digit identifies the RU where the job was first reported, with 1 = RU A, 2 = RU B, 3 = RU C, and so on for each RU in the dwelling unit.
 - ▶ The second and third digits count the number of jobs in the RU.
 - ▶ If a new job is reported in a round, then its **JOBNUM** is set to one greater than the highest **JOBNUM** for a job in that RU.
 - ▶ If a job continues for more than one round, the **JOBNUM** does not change.

Example

- There is a two-person dwelling unit with each person in his or her own RU. Person 201 changes jobs in round 5:

DUID	PID	DUPERSID	RU	RN	JOBNUM	JOBSIDX
2272201	101	2272201101	A	3	101	22722011013101
		2272201101	A	4	101	22722011014101
		2272201101	A	5	101	22722011015101
	201	2272201201	B	3	201	22722012013201
		2272201201	B	4	201	22722012014201
		2272201201	B	5	202	22722012015202

Continuing Jobs

- **STILLAT (main) and STILLWRK (misc.) indicate if job continues from prior round.**
- **For jobs that continue from a prior round, many variables are coded as -1 (inapplicable).**
 - ▶ **Look back to prior round's data if -1 in current round.**
 - ▶ **For a current main job (CMJ) continuing into the second year of the panel, RNDFLG31 indicates the round in which the CMJ was first reported.**

Job SUBTYPE Variable

- **SUBTYPE indicates job type.**
 - ▶ **1 = Current Main Job**
 - ▶ **2 = Current Miscellaneous Job**
 - ▶ **3 = Former Main Job**
 - ▶ **4 = Former Miscellaneous Job**
 - ▶ **5 = Last Job Outside Reference Period**
 - ▶ **6 = Retirement Job**

Earnings Data

- Earnings data on file reflect the variety of ways in which people are paid.
- Earnings variables can be reported as gross salary, bonuses, tips, etc.
- Job may have more than one type of earnings associated with it.
 - ▶ Hourly wage plus tips
 - ▶ Annual salary plus commission

Job Quality Indicators

- If person's current main job is not self-employed, questions related to job quality are asked:
 - ▶ Paid leave to visit a doctor (PAYDR31, PAYDR42, PAYDR53)
 - ▶ Paid sick leave (SICPAY31, SICPAY42, SICPAY53)
 - ▶ Paid vacation (PAYVAC31, PAYVAC42, PAYVAC53)
 - ▶ Pension plan (RETPLN31, RETPLN42, RETPLN53)

Thank you!



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