



AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY



MEPS-HC Jobs File

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Modification of Employment Variables for Panel 23



- **Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the MEPS in 2020, Panel 23 was extended to include two additional Rounds, Rounds 6 and 7, that collected information about 2020.**
- **In order to have consistent employment measures over time, job rosters and employment status were adjusted so that R5 would represent employment from 1/1/2020 and the R5 interview date and R6 would represent employment from the R5 interview date to the R6 interview date.**
- **See Appendix 4 in the 2020 Consolidated Data File documentation for further details.**

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 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

- **JOBSDX** (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 in 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).**
 - ▶ **See documentation for 2018 Jobs file (page C-2) for further details**
- **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.**

JOBNUM Variable

- **JOBNUM is unique to the reporting unit (RU).**
- **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.

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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