Make sense of the documentation

Alle Bloom and Jen Buckley, UK Data Service, User Support and Training

Introduction to the Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey

What?

- 11 Volume User Guide!
- Plus
  - Additional data reports
  - Data dictionary

What for?

- Study design, weights and different datasets
  - (Information from previous session)
- Understanding variables
  - What's asked when (waves and quarters)
  - What's changed over time
  - Derived variables
  - Which variables are in which datasets

Where is the documentation?

- Catalogue records
- Data downloads
- User Guide on ONS website (Google 'LFS user guide')

LFS user guide

- LFS User Guide Vol. 2 - Questionnaire 2020
- LFS User Guide Vol. 3 - Details of LFS Variables 2020
- LFS User Guide Vol. 4 - Standard Derived Variables 2016

Volume 2: Questionnaire

Question Name
(IN BOLD, UPPER CASE)

(Italic)

Question Wording
(Regular text)

Information on question coverage, frequency and type (CAPITALS)

JBTP10   **UK**

In what way was the job not permanent, was it…   **EQ**

If respondent says retired you should go back to the previous question   **CODE ALL THAT**

(JOBTYP) and stress the first clause   **APPLY**

    1   Working for an employment agency   **RUNNING**

                                                 PROMPT

    2   Casual type of work

    3   Seasonal work

    4   Done under contract for a fixed period or for a fixed task

    5   Or was there some other way that it was not permanent

ONS ✔   **GOV** ✔   **EUL** ✔

Applies if job is not permanent:

IF JOBTYP=2

Coding Options
(Regular text)

Brief description of routing
(Bold)

Description of routing.

Overview of the variable's inclusion on datasets
(*BOLD ITALIC CAPITALS*)

Volume 2 – contents page

CONTENTS

Volume 3: Variable details

- Includes derived variables
- Includes information about change over time

SHFTWK - Whether shift work done in main job

    (1)   **Usually**
    (2)   **Sometimes**
    (3)   **Never**

FREQUENCY: Spring quarters only from Spring 92 to Spring 98

COVERAGE: Applies to all persons in employment excluding college based schemes.

SHF[T]WK99 – Whether shift work done in respondent's main job

    (1)   **Most of the time**
    (2)   **Occasionally**
    (3)   **Never**

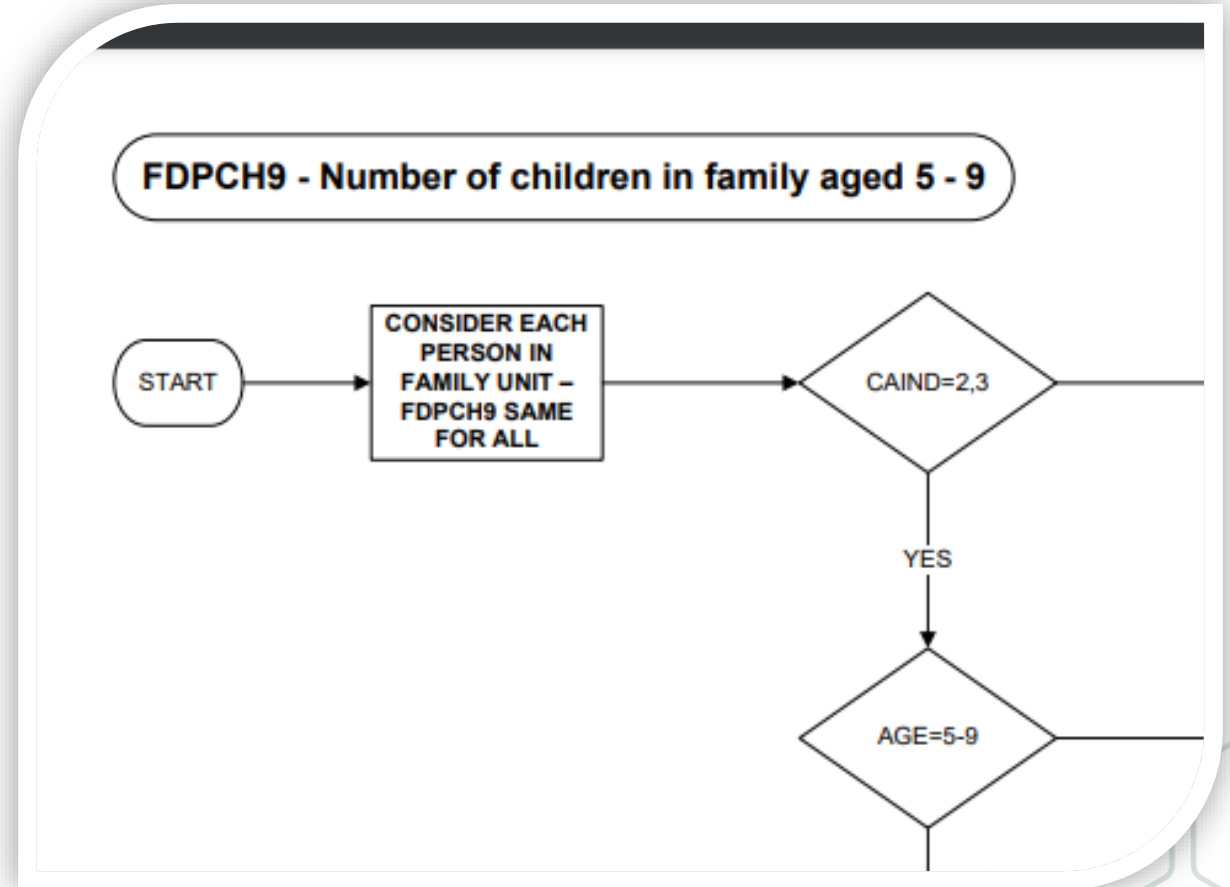**FREQUENCY:** Spring quarters only from Spring 99

COVERAGE: Applies to all persons in employment excluding college based government schemes

NOTES: This variable replaces SHFTWK. The wording of the response categories has be altered in order to obtain better quality data. This variable is called SHFWK99 in Quanvert SHFTWK99 in other formats.

Volume 4: Details of derived variables

- Flow charts detailing how variables are derived

FDPCH9 - Number of children in family aged 5 - 9

START → CONSIDER EACH PERSON IN FAMILY UNIT – FDPCH9 SAME FOR ALL → CAIND=2,3 → YES → AGE=5-9

Data dictionaries

- From UK Data Service for each dataset
- Check if variables are included before downloading
- Useful if not clear from the documentation
- Especially, useful for
  - Annual Population Survey
  - 2 and 5 quarter files

Pos. = 171   Variable = FLEXW7   Variable
This variable is *numeric*, the SPSS measuremen
SPSS user missing values = -8.0 thru -9.0
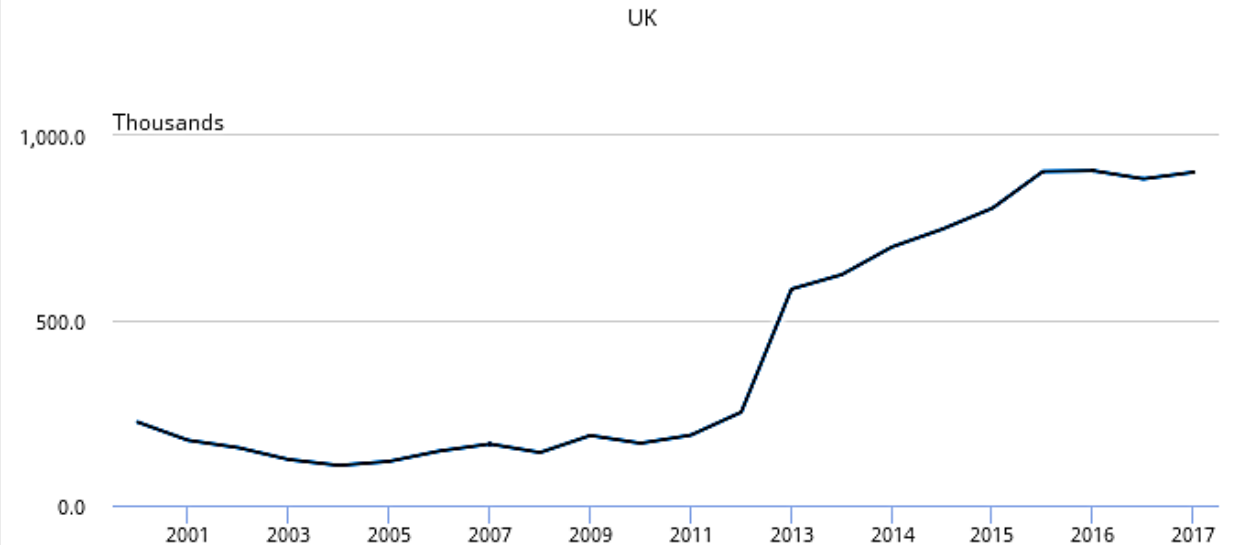Value label information for FLEXW7
Value = 1.0   Label = Yes
Value = 2.0   Label = No
Value = -9.0   Label = Does not apply
Value = -8.0   Label = No answer

Practical exercise: Research on zero-hour contracts

- Explore variables relating to zero-hours contracts
- Use documentation
- Step by step instructions in handout

- Additional:

questions about whether certain analyses are possible

Figure 1: Number (thousands) of people in employment reporting they are on a zero-hours contract, October to December 2000 to October to December 2017

UK

Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS) - Office for National Statistics

UK Data Service

Explore the data

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Quarterly Labour Force Survey, October - December, 2020

- Recreate ONS estimates
    1. [EMP07 Temporary Employees](#)
    2. [EARN04: Gross weekly earnings of full-time employees](#)
- Aim: get familiar with the data
- Format: Code/syntax file + review questions (and answers)
- Ask questions

Recap

- Grossing weight
- Using filter to select relevant population
- Income weight for analyse of income
- Estimates for number of fulltime employees varies of using income weight (so be careful)

Explore the data 2

- Continue Practical 1 and Practical 2

- Also Practical 3: Examining Labour Market Flows
  - [Labour market flows NSA: sheet in dataset X02](#)
  - Two-Quarter Longitudinal Dataset, July - December, 2020