

Frequently Used Variables:

American Time Use Survey (ATUS)

June 2025

The American Time Use Survey (ATUS) is sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Frequently Used ATUS Variables

The ATUS files have many variables and users may sometimes have difficulty determining which variables to use. This document attempts to identify those that are most frequently used. Unless noted otherwise, these variables appear on both the single-year and multi-year ATUS data files. All variables are defined in the ATUS Data Dictionaries, available at: www.bls.gov/tus/dictionaries.htm.

Characteristic	Variables	Location	Notes
Demographic			
Age	TEAGE	Activity Summary file Roster file	
Sex	TESEX	Activity Summary file Roster file	
Race	PTDTRACE	Activity Summary file ATUS-CPS file	Not collected in ATUS but available from CPS interviews (conducted 2-5 months prior to ATUS interview).
Hispanic origin	PEHSPNON	Activity Summary file ATUS-CPS file	Not collected in ATUS but available from CPS interviews (conducted 2-5 months prior to ATUS interview). PEHSPNON identifies whether or not an individual is Hispanic.
Detailed Hispanic origin	PRDTHSP	ATUS-CPS file	Not collected in ATUS but available from CPS interviews (conducted 2-5 months prior to ATUS interview). PRDTHSP identifies the Hispanic origin of individuals (such as Mexican or Cuban).
Relationship to respondent	TERRP	Roster file	
Presence of household children < 18	TRHHCHILD	Respondent file	
Number of children < 18 living in the household	TRCHILDNUM	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Presence of own nonhousehold children < 18	TRNHHCHILD	Respondent file	
Presence of own household children < 18	TROHHCHILD	Respondent file	
Age of youngest household child < 18	TRYHHCHILD	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Job and Income variables			
Labor force status	TELFS	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Weekly earnings	TRERNWA	Activity Summary file Respondent file	This is the most commonly used earnings variable.
Hourly earnings	TRERNHLY	Respondent file	
Job paid hourly	TEERNHRY	Respondent file	

Characteristic	Variables	Location	Notes
Job and Income variables (continued)			
Multiple job status	TEMJOT	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Full-time or part-time status	TRDPFTPT	Activity summary file Respondent file	
Usual weekly hours of work (total)	TEHRUSLT	Activity Summary file Respondent file	TEHRUSLT identifies usual weekly hours worked at all jobs.
Usual weekly hours of work (main and other jobs)	TEHRUSL1 TEHRUSL2	Respondent file	TEHRUSL1 identifies usual weekly hours worked at main job and TEHRUSL2 identifies usual weekly hours worked at other job(s).
Occupation (main job)	TEIO1OCD TRDTOCC1 TRMJOCC1 TRMJOCGR	Respondent file	<p>These variables have varying levels of detail. TEIO1OCD has the most detailed occupation breakout, TRDTOCC1 has 22 categories, TRMJOCC1 has 10 categories, and TRMJOCGR has 6 categories. The ATUS occupation classification system was updated in January 2020. See the ATUS changes documentation for more information about changes to the occupation codes over the years: www.bls.gov/tus/other-documentation/changes.pdf.</p> <p>Information on occupation of other job(s) is not collected in ATUS. For this information, analysts may use PEIO2OCD on the ATUS-CPS file. Occupation data in the CPS was also updated in 2020. This variable was collected 2 to 5 months prior to the ATUS interview and could be out of date.</p>
Class of worker (main job)	TEIO1COW	Respondent file	<p>Identifies whether respondent is self-employed, employed by government, a private firm, etc.</p> <p>Information on class of worker for other job(s) is not collected in ATUS. For this information, analysts may use PEIO2COW on the ATUS-CPS file. This variable was collected 2 to 5 months prior to the ATUS interview and could be out of date.</p>

Characteristic	Variables	Location	Notes
Job and Income variables (continued)			
Industry of employment (main job)	TEIO1ICD TRDTIND1 TRIMIND1 TRMJIND1	Respondent file	<p>These variables have varying levels of detail. TEIO1ICD has the most detailed industry breakout, TRDTIND1 has 51 categories, TRIMIND1 has 21 categories, and TRMJIND1 has 13 categories. The ATUS industry classification system changed in January 2020. See the ATUS changes documentation for more information about changes to the industry codes over the years: www.bls.gov/tus/other-documentation/changes.pdf.</p> <p>Information on industry of other job(s) is not collected in ATUS. For this information, analysts may use PEIO2ICD on the ATUS-CPS file. Industry data in the CPS was also updated in 2020. This variable was collected 2 to 5 months prior to the ATUS interview and could be out of date.</p>
Family income	HUFAMINC HEFAMINC	ATUS-CPS file	<p>Not collected in ATUS but available from CPS interviews (conducted 2-5 months prior to ATUS interview and possibly out of date at the time of the ATUS interview).</p> <p>HEFAMINC is an edited version of HUFAMINC that contains some allocated or imputed values. At the time HEFAMINC was added to the ATUS-CPS file, the variable HUFAMINC was dropped. See the ATUS changes documentation for more information: www.bls.gov/tus/other-documentation/changes.pdf.</p> <p>Caution should be used with these variables. Income is a sensitive question and there is a high level of nonresponse. HEFAMINC has an allocation rate of up to 20 percent.</p>
Activity			
Activity code (single-year data files)	TUTIER1CODE TUTIER2CODE TUTIER3CODE TRCODE TRTIER2	Activity file	<p>The six-digit activity code is created by concatenating TUTIER1CODE, TUTIER2CODE, and TUTIER3CODE. The four-digit activity code, which is less detailed, is created by concatenating TUTIER1CODE and TUTIER2CODE.</p> <p>Two additional variables are available starting in 2007. The variable TRCODE contains the six-digit activity code, and the variable TRTIER2 contains the four-digit activity code.</p>

Characteristic	Variables	Location	Notes
Activity (continued)			
Activity code (multi-year data files)	TRCODEP TRTIER1P TRTIER2P	Activity file	TRCODEP contains the six-digit activity code. TRTIER1P contains the two-digit activity code and TRTIER2P contains the four-digit activity code.
Where	TEWHERE	Activity file	
Activity duration	TUACTDUR24	Activity file	
Activity start time	TUSTARTTIM	Activity file	
Activity stop time	TUSTOPTIME	Activity file	
Eldercare			Questions about eldercare were added in January 2011.
Provided eldercare in past 3 to 4 months	TUELDER	Respondent file	TUELDER is available only in 2011 and later years.
Provided eldercare yesterday (diary day)	TUECYTD	Respondent file	TUECYTD is available only in 2011 and later years.
Total time spent providing eldercare during diary day	TRTEC	Activity Summary file Respondent file	TRTEC is available only in 2011 and later years.
Time spent providing eldercare during activity	TRTEC_LN	Activity file	TRTEC_LN is available only in 2011 and later years.
Secondary Childcare			
Total time spent providing secondary childcare for household children during diary day	TRTHH	Activity Summary file Respondent file	TRTHH is available only in 2004 and later years.
Time spent providing secondary childcare for household during activity	TRTHH_LN	Activity file	TRTHH_LN is available only in 2004 and later years.
School			
School enrollment	TESCHENR	Activity Summary file Respondent File	
School level	TESCHLVL	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Part-time or full-time school enrollment	TESCHFT	Respondent file	
Educational attainment	PEEDUCA	Activity Summary file ATUS-CPS file	Not collected in ATUS but available from CPS interviews (conducted 2-5 months prior to ATUS interview and possibly out of date).
Spouse variables			
Presence of spouse	TRSPPRES	Activity Summary file Respondent file	

Characteristic	Variables	Location	Notes
Spouse variables (continued)			
Marital status	PEMARITL	ATUS-CPS file	ATUS does not collect marital status apart from the presence or absence of a spouse in the household. For additional information (such as whether the respondent is divorced, widowed, or separated), analysts may use the CPS PEMARITL variable. This variable was collected 2 to 5 months prior to the ATUS interview and could be out of date.
Spouse's employment status	TESPEMPNOT	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Spouse's full-time or part-time employment status	TRSPFTPT	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Spouse's usual hours of work	TESPUHRS	Respondent file	
Respondent variables			
ATUS respondent	TRATUSR	ATUS-CPS file	Identifies those who responded to the ATUS (On the single-year files, TRATUSR is available only in 2006 and later years.)
Eating & Health Module respondent	TREMODR	Respondent file	Identifies those who responded to the Eating & Health Module (2006, 2007, 2008, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2022, and 2023 only)
Well-Being Module respondent	TRWBMODR	Respondent file	Identifies those who responded to the Well-being Module (2010, 2012, 2013, and 2021 only)
Leave Module respondent	TRLVMODR	Respondent file	Identifies those who responded to the Leave Module (2011, 2017, 2018, and 2024 only)
When			
Day of week	TUDIARYDAY	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Month	TUMONTH	Respondent file	
Year	TUYEAR	Respondent file	
Date	TUDIARYDATE	Respondent file	
Holiday	TRHOLIDAY	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Year of CPS Interview	HRYEAR4	ATUS-CPS	
Month of CPS Interview	HRMONTH	ATUS-CPS	
Who			
Who was present during the activity	TUWHO_CODE	Who file	If this person is in the respondent's household, TUCASEID and TULINENO can be used to get more information about this person from the Roster file.

Characteristic	Variables	Location	Notes
Statistical			
Statistical weight (single-year data files)	TUFINLWGT TU06FWGT TU20FWGT	Activity Summary file Respondent file	Different methods were used to produce weights for 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2020 data. Analysts wishing to combine years to increase sample size should use TU06FWGT for 2003, 2004, and 2005 data and TUFINLWGT for data from 2006-2019 and 2021 and beyond. The weighting variable in 2020 is called TU20FWGT. For information about TU20FWGT and the other weighting variables, see Chapter 7 of the ATUS User's Guide: www.bls.gov/tus/atususersguide.pdf .
Statistical weight (multi-year data files)	TUFNWGTP TU20FWGT	Activity Summary file Respondent file	TUFNWGTP was generated using the 2006 weighting method for all data collected from 2003-2019 and 2021 and beyond. The weighting variable in 2020 is called TU20FWGT. For information about this variable and the other weighting variables, see Chapter 7 of the ATUS User's Guide: www.bls.gov/tus/atususersguide.pdf .
Geographic			
State	GESTFIPS	ATUS-CPS file	
Metropolitan status	GEMETSTA or GTMETSTA	Activity Summary file ATUS-CPS file	GEMETSTA (2003-04 files only) is based on 1990 Census MSA definitions. In 2004, the variable GTMETSTA, based on 2000 Census MSA definitions, was introduced and GEMETSTA was discontinued. The 2004 ATUS-CPS file contains both of these variables, but they are not comparable to each other. There is a series break in the metropolitan identifiers in 2004. From December 2014 through July 2015, GTMETSTA was transitioned from the use of 2000 Census MSA definitions to 2010 definitions. There are minor differences between the 2000 and 2010 Census MSA definitions. Starting in August 2015, all cases on the ATUS files have GTMETSTA based on MSA definitions from the 2010 Decennial Census.
Region	GEREG	ATUS-CPS file	