

## Wages from the Current Population Survey

**Context** The Current Population Survey (CPS) is used to supplement census information between census years. These data consist of a random sample of 534 persons from the CPS, with information on wages and other characteristics of the workers, including sex, number of years of education, years of work experience, occupational status, region of residence and union membership. (Quoted from [http://lib.stat.cmu.edu/datasets/CPS\\_85\\_Wages](http://lib.stat.cmu.edu/datasets/CPS_85_Wages).)



Questions:

- Are wages related to these other characteristics?
- Is there a gender gap in wages?

**Variables** Each case is one person.

- educ Number of years of education.
- south Indicator variable for living in a southern region: S=lives in south, NS=doesn't
- sex M or F
- exper Number of years of work experience. This was inferred from age and education
- union Indicator variable for union membership.
- wage Wage (dollars per hour).
- age Age (years).
- race Race: White (W), Nonwhite (NW).
- sector Sector of the economy: clerical, const, management, manufacturing, professional, sales, service, other
- married Marital Status: Married or Single

**Sources** Data are from [http://lib.stat.cmu.edu/datasets/CPS\\_85\\_Wages](http://lib.stat.cmu.edu/datasets/CPS_85_Wages) which sites as the original source, Berndt, ER. *The Practice of Econometrics* 1991. Addison-Wesley. The data file cps.csv is recoded from the original, which had entirely numerical codes.

Data suggested by Prof. Naomi Altman.

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