Changes in ASEC data from 2005 to 2019

A compilation of information from the March Annual Social and Economic Supplement technical documentation

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From 2005 to 2006:

- A-VET (Veteran Status) is split into five variables: PEAFEVER, PEAFWHN1, PEAFWHN2, PEAFWHN3, and PEAFWHN4.

  - PEAFEVER indicates whether a person ever served in the military and the four PEAFWHN variables provide dates for up to four periods of service.

- Variable PRSWKXPNS (work expenses - dollar amount) added and 4 items related to Hurricane Katrina added.

- 5-year migration variables removed.

  - M%G_CBST - MSA status description of residence 5 years ago
  - M5G_DSCP - Recode of CBSA status of residence 5 years ago
  - M5G_SAME - Was ... living in this house 5 years ago on March 1?
  - M5G_REG - Recode - Region of previous residence 5 years ago
  - M5G_ST - Recode - FIPS state code of previous residence 5 years ago
  - M5G_DIV - Recode - Census division of previous residence 5 years ago
  - M5G_MTR1 - Recode migration
  - M5G_MTR3 - Recode migration
  - M5G_MTR4 - Recode migration

- Item PEINUSYR (Year of entry to the US) has a revised description for the value of 18. This value now means 2002-2003, and a new value of 19 appears. This variable is updated every year to have a new value representing the year prior to the year in which the survey was collected.

- Topcode amounts:

  - ERN-VAL $200,000
  - WS-VAL 35,000
  - SE-VAL 50,000
  - FRM-VAL 25,000

From 2006 to 2007:

- Hurricane Katrina items HURHHSCRN, PURKAT1, PURKAT2, and PURKATEL removed.

- Variable MIG-CNT (county of previous residence) removed.

- PECOHAB, PELNMOM, PELNDAD, PEMOMTYP, PEDADTYP, PXCOHAB, PXLNMOM, PXL-NDAD, PXMOMTYP, and PXDADTYP added.

    - PECOHAB - demographics line number of cohabiting partner
    - PELNMOM and PELNDAD - demographics line number of Mother/Father
    - PEMOMTYP and PEDADTYP - demographics type of Mother/Father
    - remaining items are allocation flags for the above variables

- Topcodes are the same as used in 2006.

From 2007 to 2008:

- Variables HCHI, HCHINNO, HCHINO, HCHINRH, HCMCENO, HCMCARE removed. These variables pertain to the number of children in the household that are covered by different kinds of health insurance.

- Topcodes are the same as prior year.

From 2008 to 2009:

- New tax model item STIMULUS indicates dollar amount of federal stimulus payment received by the tax unit.

- New person variables:

    - PEDISEAR, PEDISEYE, PEDISREM, PEDISPHY, PEDISDRS, PEDISOUT, and PRDISFLG are a set of indicators for different types of disabilities (hearing, sight, etc).
    - PXDISEAR, PXDISEYE, PXDISREM, PXDISPHY, PXDISDRS, and PXDISOUT are new allocation flags for the above.

- Topcodes same as prior year.

From 2009 to 2010:

- Person variables removed:

    - SCHOOLYN (GED prep class attendance indicator), JRYN (job readiness training attendance indicator), JCYN (job club attendance), JTYN (specific skill training program attendance), COM-SRVYN (community service work program attendance), TRANYN (transportation assistance received), CCAYN (child care services received), and their respective allocation flags removed.

- Household equivalents to the above variables also removed. Those indicated the number of individuals in a household participating in a program or receiving a particular type of assistance.

- HUFAMINC (family income) replaced by HEFAMINC because variable has been edited for nonresponse.

- CAP-GAIN and CAP-LOSS removed from person record.

- STIMULUS removed from household record.

- Two new tax model variables, ERP-VAL and MWP-VAL, give the dollar amounts for Economic Recovery Payment and Making Work Pay credit, respectively.

- 5-year migration variables added. Last appeared in 2005.

- Topcodes same as prior years.

From 2010 to 2011:

- Variable ERP-VAL (Economic Recovery Payment received, dollar amount) removed.

- 5-year migration variables removed.

- new person variable POV-UNIV (poverty universe indicator) added.

- Topcoding method significantly revised. Old way was to change values above the topcode cutoff to the mean of all values above the cutoff, but now they swap values between sample cases that have values above the cutoff, preserving the distribution. This is called "rank proximal swapping". Swapped amounts are rounded to two significant digits.

- Topcode amounts:

  - ERN-VAL $250,000
  - WS-VAL 47,000
  - SE-VAL 60,000
  - FRM-VAL 30,000
  - DIS-VAL1 48,000
  - RET-VAL1 64,000
  - INT-VAL 24,000
  - DIV-VAL 20,000
  - RNT-VAL 50,000
  - ED-VAL 30,000
  - CSP-VAL (child support received) 21,000
  - ALM-VAL 66,000
  - FIN-VAL 30,000
  - OI-VAL 30,000
  - CHSP-VAL (child support paid) 5,616

From 2011 to 2012:

- Variable MWP-VAL removed. This was the value of Making Work Pay credit received. This credit was only provided in tax years 2009 and 2010.

- New variable HPROP-VAL gives property value estimated. Allocation flag and topcode flag also added for this variable.

- Topcode amounts:

  - ERN-VAL $250,000
  - WS-VAL 50,000
  - SE-VAL 60,000
  - FRM-VAL 30,000
  - DIS-VAL1 44,000
  - RET-VAL1 67,000
  - INT-VAL 22,000

- DIV-VAL 20,000
- RNT-VAL 60,000
- ED-VAL 25,000
- CSP-VAL (child support received) 18,300
- ALM-VAL 96,000
- FIN-VAL 36,000
- OI-VAL 31,200
- CHSP-VAL (child support paid) 5,600

From 2012 to 2013:

- Variable PRDTRACE has new value of 26 for indicating that a person has 4 or 5 racial combinations. Variable PRDASIAN (detailed Asian subgroup) added.

- Updated topcode thresholds:
  - SE-VAL 75,000
  - FRM-VAL 35,000
  - DIS-VAL1 48,000
  - RET-VAL1 63,000
  - INT-VAL 23,800
  - DIV-VAL 25,300
  - RNT-VAL 60,000
  - ED-VAL 30,000
  - CSP-VAL (child support received) 18,400
  - FIN-VAL 50,000
  - OI-VAL 29,000
  - CHSP-VAL (child support paid) 5,400

From 2013 to 2014

- Alimony variables all removed (HALM_YN HALMVAL FINC_ALM FALMVAL ALM_YN ALM_VA I_ALMYN I_ALMVAL TALM_VAL). Now alimony is just part of "other income".

- Updated topcode thresholds. Rank proximal swap procedure still the same.
  - ERN-VAL $250,000
  - WS-VAL 50,000
  - SE-VAL 91,000
  - FRM-VAL 40,000
  - SUR-VAL1 60,000
  - SUR-VAL2 99,999
  - DIS-VAL1 38,388
  - DIS-VAL2 78,000
  - RET-VAL1 60,000
  - RET-VAL2 60,000

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- INT-VAL 69,400
- DIV-VAL 30,000
- RNT-VAL 35,000
- ED-VAL 30,000
- CSP-VAL 16,900
- FIN-VAL 40,000
- OI-VAL 70,000
- CHSP-VAL 25,000

From 2014 to 2015:

- Variable OI_OFF (source of other income) has new value 20 which is the code for alimony

- 5-year migration variables added.

- Variable GESTCEN (Census state code) removed. Now only the state FIPS code is used.

- Variables FFNGCARE and FFNGCAID removed. These held the family-level fungible values of medicare and medicaid, respectively.

- Variables FFOODREQ and FHOUSEREQ removed. These were indicators used in computing the above fungible values.

- Variables P-MVCARE and P-MVCAID (person market value of medicare/medicaid) removed.

- Updated topcode thresholds:

  - ERN-VAL $280,000
  - WS-VAL 56,000
  - SE-VAL 100,000
  - FRM-VAL 40,000
  - SUR-VAL1 67,000
  - SUR-VAL2 80,000
  - DIS-VAL1 48,388
  - DIS-VAL2 n/a
  - RET-VAL1 66,000
  - RET-VAL2 66,000
  - INT-VAL 50,400
  - DIV-VAL 24,000
  - RNT-VAL 60,000
  - ED-VAL 36,000
  - CSP-VAL 17,000
  - FIN-VAL 40,000
  - OI-VAL 40,000
  - CHSP-VAL 20,000

From 2015 to 2016

- 5-year migration variables removed.

- Most current metropolitan area definitions updated.

- Updated topcode thresholds:

  - ERN-VAL $300,000
  - WS-VAL 55,000
  - SE-VAL 75,000
  - FRM-VAL 50,000
  - SUR-VAL1 99,999
  - SUR-VAL2 99,999
  - DIS-VAL1 51,600
  - DIS-VAL2 n/a
  - RET-VAL1 70,000
  - RET-VAL2 70,000
  - INT-VAL 33,873
  - DIV-VAL 24,000
  - RNT-VAL 50,000
  - ED-VAL 30,000
  - CSP-VAL 17,000
  - FIN-VAL 40,000
  - OI-VAL 41,952
  - CHSP-VAL 24,000

From 2016 to 2017:

- Variables PECERT1, PECERT2, PECERT3 added. These contain information on whether a person has professional certifications, whether they are government-issued, and if they are required by the person's job. Allocation flags for these variables are added also.

- Updated topcode thresholds:

  - ERN-VAL $300,000
  - WS-VAL 55,000
  - SE-VAL 100,000
  - FRM-VAL 45,000
  - SUR-VAL1 65,000
  - SUR-VAL2 65,000
  - DIS-VAL1 48,800
  - DIS-VAL2 n/a
  - RET-VAL1 69,600
  - RET-VAL2 69,600
  - INT-VAL 50,827
  - DIV-VAL 34,000

- RNT-VAL 60,000
- ED-VAL 40,000
- CSP-VAL 18,200
- FIN-VAL 42,000
- OI-VAL 50,000
- CHSP-VAL 24,000

From 2017 to 2018:

- Updated topcode thresholds:
  - ERN-VAL $300,000
  - WS-VAL 56,000
  - SE-VAL 85,000
  - FRM-VAL 65,000
  - SUR-VAL1 99,999
  - SUR-VAL2 99,999
  - DIS-VAL1 41,800
  - DIS-VAL2 41,800
  - RET-VAL1 72,600
  - RET-VAL2 72,600
  - INT-VAL 74,243
  - DIV-VAL 30,000
  - RNT-VAL 60,000
  - ED-VAL 40,000
  - CSP-VAL 21,600
  - FIN-VAL 35,000
  - OI-VAL 51,600
  - CHSP-VAL 24,000

Form 2018 to 2019:

- There are MANY differences.

- PERRP (relationship to householder) now divides spouse and unmarried categories into opposite-sex and same-sex groups (i.e., opposite-sex spouse/husband/wife, same-sex spouse/husband/wife, opposite-sex unmarried partner).

- PELNMOM and PELNDAD are now called PEPAR1 and PEPAR2.

- There were changes to the weighting process due to updated demographic groups. These are covered in-depth in technical paper 66.

- Variables were added for defined-benefit pension income and defined-contribution withdrawals (such as from 401(k) plans) to replace the previous variables on retirement income.

  - ANN_VAL - annuities value
  - DST_VAL1 and DST_VAL2 - retirement distributions (non-Social-Security)

- RINT_VAL1 and RINT_VAL2 - value of interest income on retirement sources. Indicators for the type of source are RINT_SC1 and RINT_SC2.
    - TRDINT_VAL - interest amount, excluding retirement account interest.
    - RETCB_VAL - retirement contribution amount.

- Now there is only one household identifier (H_IDNUM). To match to previous files, you must concatenate H_IDNUM1 and H_IDNUM2 to get one H_IDNUM.

- Updated topcode thresholds:

    - ANN_VAL $60,000
    - CAP_VAL $51,500
    - CHSP_VAL $22,500
    - CSP_VAL $20,400
    - DIS_VAL1 $54,000
    - DIS_VAL2 $54,000
    - DIV_VAL $26,000
    - DST_VAL1 $85,000
    - DST_VAL2 $85,000
    - DST_VAL1_YNG $72,000
    - DST_VAL2_YNG $72,000
    - ED_VAL $39,000
    - ERN_VAL $310,000
    - FIN_VAL $50,000
    - FRM_VAL $35,000
    - TRDINT_VAL $9,026
    - RINT_VAL1 $20,000
    - RINT_VAL2 $20,000
    - OI_VAL $40,000
    - RNT_VAL $66,000
    - SE_VAL $100,000
    - SUR_VAL1 $100,000
    - SUR_VAL2 $100,000
    - PEN_VAL1 $80,000
    - PEN_VAL2 $80,000
    - WS_VAL $60,000