

August 2015

DOCUMENTATION OVERVIEW
Current Population Survey
Annual Social and Economic Supplement
Income Consistent Research Data File

Introduction

The 2014 CPS ASEC included redesigned questions for income and health insurance coverage. All of the approximately 98,000 addresses were eligible to receive the redesigned set of health insurance coverage questions. The redesigned income questions were implemented to a subsample of addresses using a probability split panel design. Approximately 68,000 addresses were eligible to receive a set of income questions similar to those used in the 2013 CPS ASEC (traditional), and the remaining 30,000 addresses were eligible to receive the redesigned income questions.

These data files contain labor force data and supplemental data on work experience, income, health insurance, noncash benefits, and migration. Data on employment, income, and health insurance coverage refer to the preceding year, although demographic data refer to the time of the survey.

Full information on the CPS sample is available within the documentation accompanying the annual release of reports and data, released in September 2014.

These research data are contained in three SAS data sets:

1. Hhld – 97,926 records
2. Family – 86,224 records
3. Person – 199,556 records

The Income-Consistent file was created by modeling income sources most affected by the redesign (interest, dividend and retirement income) for the traditional sample to match the conditional distribution of responses in the redesigned sample. The two samples were combined to create a file that contains all of the individuals in both samples with responses that are consistent with the redesigned questionnaire. This modeling process was done 10 times independently, creating 10 separate implicates, to allow researchers to incorporate the imputation uncertainty into their calculations. A single implicate was chosen for further processing, with modeled interest dividend, and retirement income variables from this implicate in the income consistent file for the traditional survey respondents. All recodes on the file use this single implicate. The variables within these data sets mirror those of the redesigned ASEC 2014 public use file, with the addition of variables from the other nine implicates for interest, dividend, and retirement income.

Person: INT_YN_IC2-INT_YN_IC10 – modeled interest reciprocity (implicates 2-10)
INT_VAL_IC2-INT_VAL_IC10 – modeled interest income (implicates 2-10)
DIV_YN_IC2- DIV_YN_IC10 – modeled dividend reciprocity (implicates 2-10)
DIV_VAL_IC2- DIV_VAL_IC10 – modeled dividend income (implicates 2-10)
RET_YN_IC2- RET_YN_IC10 – modeled retirement reciprocity (implicates 2-10)
RET_SC1_IC2- RET_SC1_IC10 – modeled retirement source 1 (implicates 2-10)
RET_SC2_IC2- RET_SC2_IC10 – modeled retirement source 2 (implicates 2-10)
RET_VAL1_IC2- RET_VAL1_IC10 – modeled retirement income from source 1 (implicates 2-10)
RET_VAL2_IC2- RET_VAL2_IC10 – modeled retirement income from source 2 (implicates 2-10)
RTM_VAL_IC2- RTM_VAL_IC10 – total amount of modeled retirement income (implicates 2-10)
ICFlag – flag for observations from traditional sample with modeled income values

Further information regarding creation of the Income Consistent Research file can be found in the following Census Bureau working paper:

Bridging a Survey Redesign Using Multiple Imputation: An Application to the 2014 CPS ASEC, Jonathan Rothbaum <<http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2015/demo/SEHSD-WP2015-15.pdf>>.

Information on working with multiple imputation data can be found in the following paper, among many others:

Schafer, Joseph L. 1999. "Multiple imputation: a primer." *Statistical methods in medical research*, 8(1): 3-15.