

A Panel Study of Income Dynamics:
1968-1980 Retrospective Occupation-Industry
Files Documentation

(Release 1)

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Section I: Overview

1968-1980 Retrospective Occupation-Industry Files

The set of 1968-1980 Retrospective Occupation-Industry Files is
comprised of thirteen family-level files, one for each wave,

containing three-digit 1970 Census occupation and industry codes for selected PSID Heads and Wives.

The PSID used a one-digit occupation code, and later a two-digit, until 1981 when the three-digit 1970 Census code became standard. The complete history of PSID occupation and industry coding is described in fuller detail below.

Records on these files are short and contain only the relevant identifier for each year's family. In addition to the identifiers, each file has two sets of variables, one pair of three-digit occupation and industry variables for the current Head and a second for the current Wife.

The 1968-1980 Retrospective Occupation-Industry Files are designed to be linked to the relevant 1968 through 1980 Family Files, and family identifiers are compatible with those datasets.

Persons For Whom the Data are Available

The occupations and industries were recoded from original reports for Heads and Wives who met the following criteria:

- a) Original sample Heads and Wives/"Wives still living by 1992 who reported main jobs in at least three waves during the period 1968-1992, with at least one of those reports prior to 1980.
- b) Additionally, original sample Heads and Wives/"Wives" who had reported at least one main job between 1968 and 1980 but were known to have died by 1992.

The selection criteria did not include all Heads and Wives/"Wives" who had worked between 1968 and 1980. Those who were still living but had reported only one or two jobs during the period of interest were excluded, as were all nonsample Heads and Wives/"Wives". Therefore not every Head or Wife/"Wife" has data on these files.

Background for the Retrospective Occupation-Industry Files

The 1968-1980 Retrospective Occupation-Industry Files originated as part of the Working Lives and Mortality in an Aging National Cohort project, funded by the National Institute on Aging and with Benjamin Amick of The Health Institute at the New England Medical Center and David R. Williams of the Survey Research Center here at ISR. This project required three-digit occupation and industry codes throughout the course of the PSID.

Between 1968 and 1980, the PSID had coded occupations and industries using various combinations of one- and two-digit codes. Occupations were coded using the one-digit code from 1968 through 1975. Classic industry questions ("What kind of business or industry is that?") were not asked until 1971, when a two-digit industry code was utilized. Two-digit occupations were coded from 1976 through 1980, and in one wave, 1974, the three-digit Census code was used along with the one-digit.

The table below shows what was coded in which years for whom, depending on employment status and whether the person was a Head or a Wife.

YEAR AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS	QUESTION REFERENCE	NUMBER OF DIGITS FOR OCCUPATION	NUMBER OF DIGITS FOR INDUSTRY
1968		1	Not coded
Head Employed	F2-F3		
Head Unemployed	G1*		
Head Out of Labor Force	H2*		
Wife	I10*		
1969		1	Not coded
Head Employed	D1-D2		
Head Unemployed	**		
Head Out of Labor Force	F2*		
Wife	G3*		

1970			1	Not coded
Head Employed	D2-D3			
Head Unemployed	E6*			
Head Out of Labor				
Force	F3*			
Wife	G3*			
1971			1	2
Head Employed	D2-D3,D3a			
Head Unemployed	E6,E6a*			
Head Out of Labor				
Force	F3,F3a*			
Wife	G3,G3a*			
1972			1	2
Head Employed	D2-D3,D3a			
Head Unemployed	E6,E6a*			
Head Out of Labor				
Force	F3,F3a*			
Wife	G3,G3a*			
1973			1	2
Head Employed	D2-D3,D3a			
Head Unemployed	E6,E6a*			
Head Out of Labor				
Force	F3,F3a*			
Wife	G3,G4*			
1974			1 and 3	2
Head Employed	D2-D3,D4			
Head Unemployed	E6,E7*			
Head Out of Labor				
Force	F3,F4*			
Wife	G3,G4*			
1975			1	2
Head Employed	D2-D3,D4			
Head Unemployed	E6,E7*			
Head Out of Labor				
Force	F3,F4*			
Wife	G3,G4*			
1976			2	2
Head Employed	D2-D3,D4			
Head Unemployed	E12,E13*			
Head Out of Labor				
Force	F4,F5*			
Wife	G3,G4*			
1977			2	2
Head Employed	D2-D3,D4			
Head Unemployed	E15,E16*			
Head Out of Labor				
Force	F6,F7*			
Wife	G6,G7*			
1978			2	2
Head Employed	D2-D3,D4			
Head Unemployed	E27,E28*			
Head Out of Labor				
Force	F16,F17*			
Wife	G6,G7*			
1979			2	2
Head Employed	C6-C7,C8			
Head Unemployed	D13,D14*			
Head Out of Labor				
Force	E4,E5*			
Wife Employed	F7-F8,F9			
Wife Unemployed	G6,G7*			
Wife Out of Labor				
Force	H4,H5*			
1980			2	2
Head Employed	C6-C7,C8			
Head Unemployed	D12,D13*			
Head Out of Labor				
Force	E4,E5*			
Wife Employed	F7-F8,F9			
Wife Unemployed	G6,G7*			
Wife Out of Labor				

Force

H4,H5*

* This question asks what the Head or Wife did on his or her last job or what his or her usual occupation was. This may or may not have been during the prior calendar year. If the prior year's work hours were zero, then this was precoded to zero for the retroactive three-digit recoding.

** Occupation and industry questions were not asked for Heads in this category in this wave.

The retrospective coding was begun in October, 1996 using a custom SAS application. It necessitated accessing paper materials from the PSID archives for the written descriptions of the jobs. To save time and increase reliability, the coder coded all occupations and industries for each person across all required years before moving on to the next case. A table of the number of occupation-industry pairs to be coded per person follows:

NUMBER OF PAIRS PER PERSON	NUMBER OF PERSONS	NUMBER OF PAIRS RECODED
1	628	628
2	553	1,106
3	667	2,001
4	661	2,644
5	643	3,215
6	573	3,438
7	570	3,990
8	515	4,120
9	470	4,230
10	431	4,310
11	473	5,203
12	436	5,232
13	2,166	28,158
TOTAL	8,786	68,275

How to Obtain the Files and Whom to Contact with Questions

The 1968-1980 Retrospective Occupation-Industry Files are available through the internet. The URL (Uniform Resource Locator) or location of the PSID home page is:

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If you have questions that are not answered by this documentation, you can contact PSID staff by e-mail:

psid_staff@isr.umich.edu

Section II: Structure of the File

The Retrospective Occupation-Industry Files are family-level files. That is, data for Heads and Wives are included on the same records, just like other PSID family files.

Numbers of Records and Sort Order

The 1968-1980 Retrospective Occupation-Industry Files contain varying numbers of records, depending on the number of families with either a Head or a Wife who met the criteria outlined above. Hence, not every Head or Wife in a given wave was recoded on these files. Below is a year-by-year summary of case counts:

YEAR	ORIGINAL N FROM FAMILY FILE	TOTAL CASES CODED	NUMBER OF HEADS RECODED	NUMBER OF WIVES RECODED
1968	4802	4802	3394	1193
1969	4460	3596	3378	1301
1970	4645	3870	3644	1408
1971	4840	3976	3670	1416
1972	5060	4070	3698	1415
1973	5285	4177	3737	1383
1974	5517	4345	3823	1445
1975	5725	4435	3869	1467
1976	5862	4485	3839	1526
1977	6007	4595	3903	1514

1978	6154	4712	3959	1551
1979	6373	4939	4059	1673
1980	6533	5148	4165	1768

Each file is sorted, in ascending order, by the yearly Interview Number (e.g., for the 1968 file, ID68; for the 1969 file, ID69, etc.).

Variables on the 1968-1980 Retrospective Occupation-Industry Files

The 1968-1980 Retrospective Occupation-Industry Files contain only five variables per file. For detailed information on codes, refer to the codebooks, but aside from the family identifier, two sets of occupation and industry codes are included on each file. The first set (e.g., on the 1968 file, HDIND68 and HDOCC68) are the three-digit industry and occupation for the Head, if qualified under the criteria described in Section I above, in that wave. The second set (e.g., on the 1968 file, WFIND68 and WFOCC68) are the three-digit industry and occupation for the Wife, if there was one and she qualified for recoding, in that wave.

Section III: Reliability Rates and Cautionary Notes

Occupation and industry coding is a specialized coding task. The coding work was done by SRC's Department of Survey Technologies, and included check-coding at 5% overall with checking more heavily concentrated on new coders and their initial cases. Because of this use of check-coding as further training for new coders, the error rate was 12.7%.

Another reliability test compared independent coding of the same 50 cases by five experienced coders. The 50 test cases were randomly selected. Rates of difference for this phase were 92% for occupation and 86.5% for industry.

As stressed above in Sections I and II, not every Head's or Wife's occupation was recorded. The Head or Wife had to qualify under the selection criteria--he or she had to be living as of 1992, an original sample member, and had to report a minimum of three main jobs between 1968 and 1992 with at least one report during the 1968-1980 period. All original sample members who were known to be deceased as of 1992 and who had at least one report between 1968 and 1980 were also included.

Thus, nonsample Heads and Wives, those who had married into the study, were completely excluded. Also excluded were those who had never worked and those who were living in 1992 but had a total of less than three reports since the beginning of the study.

Section IV: Linking Records

The Retrospective Occupation-Industry Files have an extremely limited, albeit useful, amount of information, and the analyst will want to access the much greater volume of data available for Heads and Wives on the main Family and Individual Files. The main files can provide substantial information for many individuals dating back to 1968, when the PSID began. For others, though, the time span of available data is more limited.

Using the 1968-1980 Retrospective Occupation-Industry Files with the Cross-Year Individual Files

The 1968-1980 Retrospective Occupation-Industry Files can be linked with any cross-year Individual File, since individual identifiers, which can be corrected for subsequent releases of individual data (although this is rare), are not included.

Data processing is required to link records between these two files. To accomplish linkages, match on yearly family identifiers. Note that, as with other family files, the Retrospective Files have variables specific to both Heads and Wives on each record. Matching to individual data must take account of the individual's relationship to Head as surely as matching any family file with individual data. Choose Head's occupation/industry variables for an individual who is the current Head in the wave indicated; similarly, select Wife's occupation/industry variables if the person is Wife in that year.

WAVE OF DATA	MAIN INDIVIDUAL FILE ID	RETROSPECTIVE OCCUPATION/ INDUSTRY FILE ID
1968	V30001	ID68
1969	V30020	ID69
1970	V30043	ID70
1971	V30067	ID71
1972	V30091	ID72
1973	V30117	ID73
1974	V30138	ID74
1975	V30160	ID75
1976	V30188	ID76
1977	V30217	ID77
1978	V30246	ID78
1979	V30283	ID79
1980	V30313	ID80

Note that not all Heads or Wives in a given wave have a match on the corresponding Retrospective Occupation-Industry File. As mentioned above, only certain Heads and Wives were eligible for recoding.

Using the 1968-1980 Retrospective Occupation-Industry Files with the Family Files

Merging information from the single-year Family Files is quite simple. Match a Retrospective Occupation-Industry File with its Family File using the yearly Interview (ID) Number. The table below lists corresponding variables from each file.

WAVE OF DATA	MAIN FAMILY FILE ID	RETROSPECTIVE OCCUPATION/ INDUSTRY FILE ID
1968	V3	ID68
1969	V442	ID69
1970	V1102	ID70
1971	V1802	ID71
1972	V2402	ID72
1973	V3002	ID73
1974	V3402	ID74
1975	V3802	ID75
1976	V4302	ID76
1977	V5202	ID77
1978	V5702	ID78
1979	V6302	ID79
1980	V6902	ID80

Again, we cannot mention too often that not every Head or Wife has a match on the related Retrospective Occupation-Industry File.