

T-2 Income and Transfers in Main Interview: 1999-2017

Domain	Question Text	Waves Available: (Head, Wife, Family Unit Member)
T-2 Total Family Income	R23. What was the total income from all sources (for you and your family living there)?	1999
	R24. Was it about the same as in [PPY-1], much lower, slightly lower, slightly higher, or much higher?	1999-2001
	R24a-c. Would income amount to \$25,000 or more/\$40,000 or more/\$65,000 or more?	2003
T-2 Individual Earnings	R26/R33/R41/(2005-R2). About how much did (you/he) earn altogether from working at [that/those job(s)]?	H, W, FUM 18+: 1999-2007; H, W: 2009-2017
	R2(2005). Accuracy of earnings	H, W: 2005-2017
	R27/R34/R42/ (2005-R12). About how many weeks did (you/he) work [on any jobs]?	H, W: 1999-2001; FUM 18+: 1999-2007; H, W: 2009-2017
	R28/R35/R43/(2005-R13). During which months of [PPY] did you earn that income?	H, W: 1999-2001, 2005-2007; FUM 18+: 1999-2007 ;
	Total months receiving earnings	H, W: 1999-2001; FUM 18+: 1999-2003
	R29/R36/R44/(2005-R14). During the months that you worked, about how many hours did you usually work per week?	H, W: 1999-2001; FUM 18+: 1999-2007; H,W: 2009-2017
	Accuracy of hours/week worked	H, W: 2009-2017
	R30/R37/R45/(2005-R15). Were there any months in which you were unemployed and looking for work at least one week?	H, W: 1999-2001; FUM 18+: 1999-2007 ;
	Weeks Unemployed	H, W: 2009-2017
	Weeks Out of the Labor Force	H, W: 2009-2017
T-2 Asset Income	R4 (2005). Did you receive any income from rent, dividends, interest, trust funds or royalties?	H, W, FUM 18+: 2005-2007
	R4. Type of asset income	H, W: 2005
	R5 (2005). How much did you receive altogether from (all of) these assets?	H, W, FUM 18+: 2005; H, W, FUM 18+: 2007
	R6 (2005). During which months did you receive any of this income?	H, W, FUM 18+: 2005; H, W, FUM 18+: 2007
T-2 Transfer Income	R1/(2005 - R41). At any time, even for one month, did you (or anyone else living with you) receive any public assistance or welfare payments from the state or local welfare office?	1999-2017
	R2/(2005-R42). Who received that public assistance or state or local welfare?	1999 -2007
	R3/(2005-R43). In which state were you living at the time you received that public assistance?	1999 -2007
	R4/(2005-R44). Which type of public assistance did you receive?	1999 -2007
	R5/(2005-R45). How much did you receive altogether from all of the public assistance or welfare program(s) you just mentioned?	1999-2001; 2003-2007
	R6/(2005-R46). During which months did you receive any type of public assistance or welfare?	1999-2001; 2003-2007
	Total months receiving public assistance	1999-2001
	Annualized public assistance amount	1999-2001
	Accuracy of annualized public assistance amount	1999-2001

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T-2 Transfer Income	R7/(2005-R47). At any time did you (or anyone else living with you) receive Supplemental Security Income?	1999-2017
	R8/(2005-R48). Who (in the family) received Supplemental Security Income?	1999-2007
	R9/(2005-R49). How much did you (and your family) receive altogether from Supplemental Security Income?	1999-2007
	R10/(2005-R50). During which months did you receive it?	1999-2007
	R11/(2005-R55). At any time did you (or anyone else living with you) receive income from child support?	1999-2017
	R12/(2005-R56). Who (in the family) received child support?	1999-2007
	R13/(2005-R57). How much did you (and your family) receive altogether from child support?	1999-2007
	R14/(2005-R58). During which months did you receive it?	1999-2007
	R15/(2005-R59). At any time during 1997 did you (or anyone else living with you) receive help from relatives?	1999-2007
	R16/(2005-R60). Who (in the family) received that help?	1999-2007
	R17/(2005-R61). How much help did you (and your family) receive altogether?	1999-2007
	R18/(2005-R62). During which months did you (and your family) receive it?	1999-2007
	R19. At any time, did anyone (else) not living there help you (and your family) out by giving you money?	1999-2003
	R20. Who (in the family) received that help?	1999-2003
	R21. How much help did you (and your family) receive altogether?	1999-2003
	R22. During which months did you receive it?	1999-2003
	R20 (2005). Did you (or anyone else in the family there) receive any income from Social Security?	2005-2017
	R21 (2005). Who received that Social Security?	2005-2007
	R22 (2005). Which type(s) of Social Security did you receive?	2005-2007
	R23 (2005). How much did you receive altogether from all Social Security?	2005-2007
	R24 (2005). During which months did you receive any type of Social Security?	2005-2007
	R25 (2005). At any time did you (or anyone else living with you) receive any pension income from a former employer (not including a veteran's pension)?	2005-2017
	R26 (2005). Who received that pension income?	2005-2007
	R27 (2005). How much did you receive altogether from all pensions?	2005-2007
	R28 (2005). During which months did you receive this pension income?	2005-2007
	R29 (2005). At any time did you (or anyone else living with you) receive any income from the Veterans Administration - such as pension or disability payments?	2005-2017
	R30 (2005). Who received that veteran's income?	2005-2007
	R31 (2005). How much did you receive altogether from the Veterans Administration?	2005-2007
	R32 (2005). During which months did you receive this income?	2005-2007
	R33 (2005). At any time did you (or anyone else living with you) receive income from Unemployment Compensation?	2005-2017
	R34 (2005). Who received that Unemployment Compensation?	2005-2007
	R35 (2005). How much did you receive altogether from Unemployment Compensation?	2005-2007
	R36 (2005). During which months did you receive Unemployment Compensation?	2005-2007

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Domain	Question Text	Waves Available: (Head, Wife, Family Unit Member)	
T-2 Transfer Income	R37 (2005). At any time did you (or anyone else living with you) receive income from Workers Compensation?	2005-2017	
	R38 (2005). Who received that Workers Compensation in?	2005-2007	
	R39 (2005). How much did you receive altogether from Workers Compensation?	2005-2007	
	R40 (2005). During which months did you receive this income?	2005-2007	
	R51 (2005). At any time did you (or anyone else living with you) receive income from any other welfare or assistance program?	2005-2017	
	R52 (2005). Who received that?	2005-2007	
	R53 (2005). How much did you receive altogether from other welfare?	2005-2007	
	R54 (2005). During which months did you receive it?	2005-2007	
	R63 (2007). Did you (or anyone else in your family there) receive any other income from anything else?	2007	
	R64 (2007). Who was that?	2007	
	R65 (2007). What was that other income from?	2007	
	R66 (2007). How much did you get altogether from other income?	2007	
	R67 (2007). During which months did you get this other income?	2007	
	T-2 Use of Assistance Programs	R48. Since January, was there any time when you, or anyone receiving benefits, stopped receiving welfare or public assistance checks for more than one month?	1999-2003
		R48a. Who was that?	1999-2003
R49. The last time that happened, did the welfare office cut you off, or was it your decision to leave welfare?		1999-2003	
R50. Why did you leave welfare?		1999-2003	
R51. Why did the welfare office cut you off?		1999-2003	
R52. Have you ever reapplied for public assistance since then?		1999-2003	
R53. Why didn't you reapply?		1999-2003	
R54. Is anyone in the family receiving public assistance right now?		1999-2003	
R55. Is anyone in the family required to work, go to school, or do anything else to receive these benefits?		1999-2003	
R56. What are you/they required to do?		1999-2003	
R58. Since January, was there any time when you, or anyone receiving food stamps, stopped for more than one month?		1999-2003	
R58a. Who was that?		1999-2003	
R59. The last time that happened, did the food stamp office cut you off or was it your decision to leave the food stamp program?		1999-2003	
R60. Why did you leave the food stamp program?		1999-2003	
R61. Why did the food stamp office cut you off?		1999-2003	
R62. Have you/they ever reapplied for food stamps since then?	1999-2003		
R63. Why didn't you reapply?	1999-2003		
R64. Are you (or anyone else in the family) receiving food stamp benefits right now?	1999-2003		

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Domain	Question Text	Waves Available: (Head, Wife, Family Unit Member)
T-2 Use of Assistance Programs	R65. Are you (or anyone else in the family) required to work, go to school or do anything else in order to receive food stamps?	1999-2003
	R66. What are you required to do?	1999-2003
	R68. Since January, did you (or anyone else in your family living there) complete an application to receive any government assistance because you had income that was too low?	1999-2003
	R69. For which government programs did you complete an applications?	1999-2003
	R69a. Why didn't you apply?	2003
	R70. Has the application for [PROGRAM NAME] been approved, denied or are you waiting to hear?	1999-2003
	R71. If you application was approved, why didn't you receive those benefits?	1999-2003
	R72. What reasons were given for you being denied the assistance?	1999-2003
	R74. Did you (or anyone in your household) receive any of the following types of government assistance because your income was too low:	1999-2003
	a. Transportation	1999-2003
	b. Housing	1999-2003
	c. Child Care	1999-2003
	d. Health Care (not including Medicaid)	1999-2003
	e. Finding a job or getting job training	1999-2003
	f. Food or meals (not including Food Stamps)	1999-2003
	g. Clothing	1999-2003
	h. Paying other expenses	1999-2003
	R75. What about help from anyone else, such as a church, family, or a community group. Did you (or anyone in your household) receive help with any of the following in [PPY] and [PY] from such groups because your income was too low:	1999-2003
	a. Transportation	1999-2003
	b. Housing	1999-2003
c. Child Care	1999-2003	
d. Health Care (not including Medicaid)	1999-2003	
e. Finding a job or getting job training	1999-2003	
f. Food or meals (not including Food Stamps)	1999-2003	
g. Clothing	1999-2003	
h. Paying other expenses	1999-2003	
R76. Was that help from a church, family, community group, or what?	1999-2003	
R78. During [PY], did you (or anyone in your family) receive free or reduced-cost meals for the elderly?	1999-2003	
R80. During [PY], did any child in the family between 5 and 18 years old receive free or reduced-cost lunch at school?	1999-2003	
R81. During [PY], did any child in the family receive free or reduced-cost breakfasts at school?	1999-2003	
R82. During [PY], did anyone in your family get food through the WIC program?	1999-2003	

Summary of T-2 Weeks, Hours and Labor Income in the PSID Data

Overview

When the PSID transitioned to biennial interviewing in 1999, Section R was added to capture information on labor, transfer and asset income in the “off” year (the T-2 year, two years before the year of the interview). Beginning in 2003, we also began collecting employment data for the T-2 year for heads and wives/”wives” in the Employment Event History Calendar (EHC).

T-2 variables are spread over the family and individual files. If only Heads and Wives are asked a particular question, then these variables generally are stored on the Family File. However, if OFUMs (other family unit members) are also asked then by necessity these variables must be stored on the Cross Year Individual File. Sometimes we have replicated the same information in both places. For example, if we have an individual earnings question that includes OFUMs then there will be an individual level variable that has data for Heads/Wives and OFUMs; additionally we may repeat Head’s earnings on the family file under Head’s income and then a second family level variable for Wife’s earnings (*see R26/R33 (ER33727B/ ER23702F2/ ER23702L5) in 2003 as an example*).

Section R, which focuses on T-2 income, weeks, and transfers continued to evolve from 1999 forward. In some waves we ask certain questions about all individuals at the same question (Heads/Wives/”Wives” and OFUMs) but once the EHC was added in 2003 then questions pertaining specifically to heads and wives were moved to that section. From 2003 forward, some questions in Section R that had been asked of Head/Wife and OFUMs were now only asked of OFUMs in section R and then Head and Wife in BC/DE (EHC) module. Users must use great caution when using T-2 variables as the number of observations can fluctuate significantly for the same question because of the shifting universe of individuals being asked a specific series.

Due to concerns about the quality of the T-2 data, much of it was not released as part of the regular Family and Individual releases each wave. In March 2014 and in January 2016, PSID Staff have released all the T-2 variables asked in Section R or derived from the EHC module. Users may find a complete list of these variables [listed here](#). We nevertheless still remind the user to exert caution in analyzing T-2 information that may be subject to significantly higher measurement error (e.g. through recall errors) than the corresponding core PSID variables.

EHC Summary

In the Employment EHC, we ask heads and wives/”wives” about employment as of Jan 1st in the T-2 year. We collect the employer name and the start and stop dates for any employment spells in T-2 (see BC/DE4).

We also ask about unemployment (UNEMP) and out of the labor force (OOLF) time for T-2 (see BC/DE7/8). Respondents may answer these questions using start and stop dates as they do with employment spells, but, in addition, they may answer in days, weeks or months (if the R doesn't know when exactly but they know it was sometime in the T-2 year). For editing purposes we combine the times for the spells and periods of 'Don't Know When' in terms of days, weeks, and months unemployed and out of the labor force.

From the start and stop dates for each job record we can calculate the number of weeks employed. Please note that we cannot calculate the number of weeks worked because for T-2 we do not ask about time away from the job such as vacation, sick time and so forth as we do for T-1. We also determine whether the Head/Wife/"Wife" was employed, unemployed, or out of the labor force, by month.

The January 2016 release updates the family files from 2003-2011 to include the full set of T-2 EHC variables for all years that the EHC was used (2003-2013). The full set of the T-2 EHC variables was only previously included in the 2013 data; the 2011 and 2009 data had a portion of the T-2 EHC data, and no T-2 EHC data had previously been released for 2007, 2005 or 2003.

List of Variables Derived from the EHC module

For 2003-2013, we have generated the following list of variables for T-2 work, unemployment and out of labor force time.

- 1) Whether HD was employed in T-2
- 2) Number of jobs employed at in T-2
- 3) Number of weeks HD was employed in T-2 (BC/DE4)
- 4) Average hours a week HD worked (BC/DE14EE)
- 5) Accuracy code for hours a week worked
- 6) Labor income for T-2 amt (R2)
- 7) Labor income per
- 8) Accuracy code for labor income
- 9) WTR HD was employed in Jan T-2
- 10) WTR HD was employed in Feb T-2
- 11) WTR HD was employed in Mar T-2
- 12) WTR HD was employed in Apr T-2
- 13) WTR HD was employed in May T-2
- 14) WTR HD was employed in Jun T-2
- 15) WTR HD was employed in Jul T-2
- 16) WTR HD was employed in Aug T-2
- 17) WTR HD was employed in Sep T-2
- 18) WTR HD was employed in Oct T-2
- 19) WTR HD was employed in Nov T-2

- 20) WTR HD was employed in Dec T-2
- 21) Whether HD was unemployed in T-2
- 22) Number of weeks HD was unemployed (BC/DE7)
- 23) WTR HD was unemp in Jan T-2
- 24) WTR HD was unemp in Feb T-2
- 25) WTR HD was unemp in Mar T-2
- 26) WTR HD was unemp in Apr T-2
- 27) WTR HD was unemp in May T-2
- 28) WTR HD was unemp in Jun T-2
- 29) WTR HD was unemp in July T-2
- 30) WTR HD was unemp in Aug T-2
- 31) WTR HD was unemp in Sep T-2
- 32) WTR HD was unemp in Oct T-2
- 33) WTR HD was unemp in Nov T-2
- 34) WTR HD was unemp in Dec T-2
- 35) Whether HD was out of the labor force in T-2
- 36) Number of weeks HD was out of the labor force in T-2. (BCDE8)
- 37) WTR HD was oolf in Jan T-2
- 38) WTR HD was oolf in Feb T-2
- 39) WTR HD was oolf in Mar T-2
- 40) WTR HD was oolf in Apr T-2
- 41) WTR HD was oolf in May T-2
- 42) WTR HD was oolf in Jun T-2
- 43) WTR HD was oolf in Jul T-2
- 44) WTR HD was oolf in Aug T-2
- 45) WTR HD was oolf in Sep T-2
- 46) WTR HD was oolf in Oct T-2
- 47) WTR HD was oolf in Nov T-2
- 48) WTR HD was oolf in Dec T-2

A parallel list of variables is available for WF/“WF”.

Variable Generation and Cleaning

If Head or Wife/“Wife” is marked as having at least one job record in T-2 then “whether employed” is coded as ‘yes’. The total number of weeks unemployed and OOLF was constructed by bringing months and days marked to the week level and generating the sum of weeks unemployed and weeks out of the labor force (OOLF), rounded to the nearest whole week.

For T-2 we do not enforce the same types of consistency checks as we do in T-1. Therefore the most efficient way to account for all 52 weeks of the year for those who had at least one job was to subtract the number of weeks unemployed and the number of weeks OOLF from 52.

In Stage 1, we check that for those not reporting any job, they must have all 52 weeks covered by UNEMP or OOLF time. For cases with no job but fewer than 52 weeks reported, we made adjustments based on interviewer notes, the T-1 job and labor force data, and the T-2 data reported. For example, if only part of T-2 was marked unemployed and this person reported no job, then we marked the rest of the year as OOLF. If the person had no job, and had neither UNEMP nor OOLF marked, then we flagged this person as having both UNEMP and OOLF time, but marked the months of each to N/A.

Similarly, if head or wife/"wife" reported 52 weeks of employment but also marked weeks of UNEMP or OOLF time then we corrected the UNEMP /OOLF time so that employed time and UNEMP/OOLF time do not overlap. During Stage 1 cleaning, we also flagged cases where at least one job was mentioned but average hours a week across jobs was zero. If we had enough information from T-1 then we used this to code average hours a week in T-2 with an accuracy code of 1. If we had no information, then we coded average hours a week as N/A.

Stage 2 cleaning involved picking up labor income amounts from Section R. We combined this amount with whether employed and checked that we had a non-zero value for labor income if whether employed was 'yes'. If we had no report for labor income, and we had information for T-1 then we used that information in addition to the weeks employed in T-2 to code labor income with an accuracy code of 1. If we had no information about earnings, then labor income was coded N/A. Conversely, we also checked that we had a zero value for T-2 labor income if the Head or Wife/"Wife" was not employed. During this stage, we also checked and cleaned all cases with labor income amounts coded as \$1.

Limitations

We were not able to generate weeks worked in T-2 due to the lack of information collected about sick time, vacation time and any other time away from work. The weeks reported in the T-2 EHC data are weeks employed, based on the job start and end dates. Without weeks worked, we are not able to generate an hourly rate for HD or WF in T-2. We do not perform extensive checking or cleaning of T-2 labor income.

Weeks employed, weeks OOLF, and weeks unemployed are rounded to the nearest week even though sometimes OOLF and unemployment time are reported in units of days or months. We do not have accuracy codes for weeks employed, weeks unemployed or weeks OOLF. If we were not given an actual report of weeks, we do not make any assignments of weeks. If no weeks were reported then weeks are marked N/A.