

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

(Release 1)

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Note: These 1968-1980 Retrospective Occupation-Industry Files have now been merged with each year's family file, 1968-1980, directly following the original occupation and industry variables. In 1968, for example, Head's one-digit occupation was coded in V197, which is now followed by V197_A (formerly available as HDOCC68), Head's three-digit occupation code. As there was no industry coded for Head or Wife/"Wife" in 1968, Head's three-digit industry code follows as V197_B (formerly available as HDIND68). Similarly, 1968 occupation and industry for Wife/"Wife" follow V243, as V243_A and V243_B. This variable naming holds until 1971, when industries were added to the family files: In 1971, Head's one-digit occupation was coded in V1984 (now followed by three-digit V1984_A), while occupation was coded in V1985 (now followed by three-digit V1985_A).

We have noted some discrepancies between the family files and the Occupation-Industry Files. For example in the 1968 family file, we have six cases where the original 1-digit occupation of Head is zero but the retrospective occupation code is not zero. We have not attempted to reconcile these anomalies, we have simply merged the retrospective files the the latest version of the Family Files.

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Section I: Overview

1968-1980 Retrospective Occupation-Industry Data

The 1968-1980 Retrospective Occupation-Industry data contain 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.

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

Section II: Numbers of Records

The 1968-1980 retrospective occupation-industry data contain varying numbers of nonzero occupations and industries, depending on the number of families with either a Head or a Wife/"Wife" who met the criteria outlined above. Hence, not every Head or Wife/"Wife" in a given wave have nonzero retrospective occupation and industry data. 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

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 recoded. 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.

Again, we cannot mention too often that not every Head or Wife/"Wife" has nonzero data in the retrospective occupation-industry variables.