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SN 5974 -Labour Force Survey Five-Quarter Longitudinal Dataset, April 1999 - June 2000

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Documentation Variable List Keywords Publications Related Studies

Title:
Labour Force Survey **Five**-**Quarter Longitudinal** Dataset, April **1999** - June 2000

Series: (Labour Force Survey Series)

Subject Categories:
Labour Force Survey - Major studies
General - Employment and labour

Depositor(s):
Office for National Statistics. Social and Vital Statistics Division

Principal Investigator(s):
Office for National Statistics. Social and Vital Statistics Division
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. Central Survey Unit

Sponsor(s):
Office for National Statistics
Northern Ireland. Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Abstract:
The *Labour Force Survey* (LFS) has been conducted on a **quarter**ly basis since 1992, with each sample household retained for **five** consecutive **quarter**s, and a fifth of the sample replaced each **quarter**. The main survey was designed to produce cross-sectional data, but the data on each individual have now been linked together to provide **longitudinal** information. The **longitudinal** data consist of two types of linked datasets, created using the weighting method to adjust for non-response bias. The two-**quarter** datasets link data from two consecutive waves, while the **five**-**quarter** datasets link across a whole year (for example January **1999** to March 2000 inclusive) and contain data from all **five** waves. A full series of **longitudinal** data has been produced, going back to winter 1992.

Linking together records to create a **longitudinal** dimension can, for example, provide information on gross flows over time between different labour force categories (employed, unemployed and economically inactive). This will provide detail about people who have moved between the categories. Also, **longitudinal** information is useful in monitoring the effects of government policies and can be used to follow the subsequent activities and circumstances of people affected by specific policy initiatives, and to compare them with other groups in the population. There are however methodological problems which could distort the data resulting from this **longitudinal** linking. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is continuing to research these problems and advises that the presentation of results should be carefully considered, and warnings should be included with

outputs where necessary. See documentation for further details.

LFS Reweighting Project 2007:
In 2007, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) undertook a reweighting project, whereby LFS data were reweighted using population estimates for 2007-2008. As a result, reweighted editions of LFS **five-quarter longitudinal** datasets back to 1997 were deposited at UKDA during 2008 (the 1992-1997 datasets will be updated at a later date). Users should note the following:

- the single year of age variable (AGE) has been reinstated in the reweighted datasets
- only calendar datasets have been reweighted to 2007-2008 figures. The previous seasonal datasets from 1997 onwards are no longer supported by ONS and have been withdrawn from the UKDA catalogue accordingly.

LFS move from seasonal to calendar quarters
In accordance with EU regulations, the LFS moved from seasonal (spring, summer, autumn, winter) **quarter**s to calendar **quarter**s (January-March, April-June, July-September, October-December) in 2006. ONS advise that, because of the method of construction and the weighting factors used in the datasets, comparison cannot be made between datasets of a calendar and seasonal nature. Time series and **longitudinal** analysis should only be conducted on datasets of the same type. Further information on the seasonal to calendar **quarter** change and its impact on LFS data may be found in the following online article:
Madouros, V. (2006) *Impact of the switch from seasonal to calendar **quarter**s in the Labour Force Survey*, London: ONS.

LFS Documentation
The documentation available from the UKDA to accompany LFS datasets largely consists of the latest version of each volume alongside the appropriate questionnaire for the year(s) concerned. However, LFS volumes are updated periodically by ONS, so users are advised to check the ONS LFS User Guide pages before commencing analysis.

This study was deposited in 2008, as a result of the move from seasonal to calendar **quarter**s for the QLFS, and the reweighting process to 2007-2008 population figures. It combines data from previously-available QLFS seasonal **five-quarter longitudinal** datasets. The depositor has advised that small revisions to the data may have been made during this process, but they should not be significant.

Main Topics:
The **five-quarter longitudinal** datasets include a subset of the most commonly used variables from the ***Quarter**ly Labour Force Survey* (QLFS), covering the main areas of the survey.

Coverage:
Dates of Fieldwork: April **1999**-June 2000
Country: United Kingdom
Spatial Units: Government Office Regions (GORs); Standard Regions
Observation Units: Individuals
Kind of Data: Numeric data; Individual (micro) level

Universe Sampled:
*Location of Units of Observation:*National
*Population:*Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59 at any linked **quarter**

Methodology:

Time Dimensions: **Longitudinal**/panel/cohort

Each dataset comprises data from **five** waves of the QLFS.

Sampling Procedures: See documentation for details

Method of Data Collection: Compilation or synthesis of existing material; the datasets were created from existing QLFS data. They do not contain all records, but only those of respondents of working age who have responded to the survey in all the periods being linked. The data therefore comprise approximately one third of all QLFS variables. Cases were linked using the QLFS panel design.

Weighting: New weighting factors have been calculated which adjust for differential attrition in the longitudinal data. See documentation for details.

Data Sources: The **longitudinal** datasets are wholly derived from data collected for the QLFS.

Language(s) of Written Materials:

Study Description: English

Study Documentation: English

Access:

Access Conditions: The depositor has specified that registration is required and standard conditions of use apply. The depositor may be informed about usage. See terms and conditions for further information.

Availability: ESDS Government, UK Data Archive

Contact: Help desk: govsurveys@esds.ac.uk

Date of Release:

First Edition: 28 July 2008

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Documentation:

Format	Name	Size in Kilo Bytes	Description
EXCEL	list_of_files.xls	45	File List for Two- and Five-quarter LFS Longitudinal Datasets
EXCEL	list_of_variables.xls	1138	Variable List for Two- and Five-quarter LFS Longitudinal Datasets
PDF	background.pdf	4450	User Guide Vol.1 - Background and Methodology
PDF	classifications.pdf	2330	User Guide Vol.5 - Classifications
			User Guide Vol.4 - Derived

PDF	derivedvariables2007.pdf	7197	- Derived Variables
PDF	eurostat.pdf	1604	User Guide Vol.9 - Eurostat and Eurostat Derived Variables
PDF	household.pdf	859	User Guide Vol.8 - Household and Family Data
PDF	lfs_2007_reweighting.pdf	253	LFS Reweighting Project 2007 Information
PDF	localarea.pdf	1240	User Guide Vol.6 - Local Area Data
PDF	longitudinal.pdf	984	User Guide for Two- and Five-Quarter LFS Longitudinal Datasets
PDF	questionnaire1999.pdf	379	LFS User Guide Vol.2/2A - Questionnaire 1999
PDF	variabledetails1992-2002.pdf	3320	User Guide Vol.3 - Details of LFS Variables 1992-2002
PDF	variabledetails2007.pdf	2234	User Guide Vol.3 - Details of LFS Variables 2007
PDF	variables1979_1991.pdf	1281	User Guide Vol.7 - LFS Variables 1979-1991
HTML	UKDA_Study_5974_Information.htm	23	Study information and citation

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