Frequently Used Variables:

American Time Use Survey (ATUS)

June 2008

Frequently Used ATUS Variables

The ATUS files have many variables and users may sometimes have difficulty determining which variables to use. This document attempts to identify those that are most frequently used. All variables are defined in the ATUS Data Dictionaries, available at: www.bls.gov/tus/dictionaries.htm.

Characteristic	Variables	Location	Notes
Demographic			
Age	TEAGE	Activity Summary file Roster file	
Sex	TESEX	Activity Summary file Roster file	
Race	PTDTRACE	Activity Summary file ATUS-CPS file	Not collected in ATUS but available from CPS interviews (conducted 2-5 months prior to ATUS interview).
Hispanic origin	PEHSPNON	Activity Summary file ATUS-CPS file	Not collected in ATUS but available from CPS interviews (conducted 2-5 months prior to ATUS interview). PEHSPNON identifies whether or not an individual is Hispanic.
Detailed Hispanic origin	PRDTHSP	ATUS-CPS file	Not collected in ATUS but available from CPS interviews (conducted 2-5 months prior to ATUS interview). PRDTHSP identifies the Hispanic origin of individuals (such as Mexican or Cuban).
Relationship to respondent	TERRP	Roster file	
Presence of household children < 18	TRHHCHILD	Respondent file	
Number of children < 18 living in the household	TRCHILDNUM	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Presence of own non-household children < 18	TRNHHCHILD	Respondent file	
Presence of own household children < 18	TROHHCHILD	Respondent file	
Age of youngest household child < 18	TRYHHCHILD	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Job and Income variables			
Labor force status	TELFS	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Weekly earnings	TRERNWA	Activity Summary file Respondent file	This is the most commonly used earnings variable.
Hourly earnings	TRERNHLY	Respondent file	
Job paid hourly	TEERNHRY	Respondent file	

Characteristic	Variables	Location	Notes
Job and Income variables (continued)			
Multiple job status	TEMJOT	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Full time or part time status	TRDPFTPT	Activity summary file Respondent file	
Usual weekly hours of work (total)	TEHRUSLT	Activity Summary file Respondent file	TEHRUSLT identifies usual weekly hours worked at all jobs.
Usual weekly hours of work (main and other jobs)	TEHRUSL1 TEHRUSL2	Respondent file	TEHRUSL1 identifies usual weekly hours worked at main job and TEHRUSL2 identifies usual weekly hours worked at other job(s).
Occupation (main job)	TEIO1OCD TRDTOCC1 TRMJOCC1 TRMJOCGR	Respondent file	These variables have varying levels of detail. TEIO1OCD has the most detailed occupation breakout, TRDTOCC1 has 22 categories, TRMJOCC1 has 10 categories, and TRMJOCGR has 6 categories.

Information on occupation of other job(s) is not collected in ATUS. For this information, analysts may use PEIO2OCD on the ATUS-CPS file. This variable was collected 2 to 5 months prior to the ATUS interview and could be out of date. |
| Class of worker (main job) | TEIO1COW | Respondent file | Identifies whether respondent is self-employed, employed by government, a private firm, etc.

Information on class of worker for other job(s) is not collected in ATUS. For this information, analysts may use PEIO2COW on the ATUS-CPS file. This variable was collected 2 to 5 months prior to the ATUS interview and could be out of date. |
| Industry of employment (main job) | TEIO1ICD TRDTIND1 TRIMIND1 TRMJIND1 | Respondent file | These variables have varying levels of detail. TEIO1ICD has the most detailed industry breakout, TRDTIND1 has 51 categories, TRIMIND1 has 21 categories, and TRMJIND1 has 13 categories.

Information on industry of other job(s) is not collected in ATUS. For this information, analysts may use PEIO2ICD on the ATUS-CPS file. This variable was collected 2 to 5 months prior to the ATUS interview and could be out of date. |

Characteristic	Variables	Location	Notes
Job and Income variables (continued)			
Family income	HUFAMINC	ATUS-CPS file	Not collected in ATUS but available from CPS interviews (conducted 2-5 months prior to ATUS interview and possibly out of date at the time of the ATUS interview). Family income, unlike earnings, includes revenue from sources other than employment and revenue from earnings of other family members.
Activity			
Activity code	TUTIER1CODE, TUTIER2CODE, and TUTIER3CODE TRCODE TRTIER2	Activity file	The six-digit activity code is created by concatenating TUTIER1CODE, TUTIER2CODE, and TUTIER3CODE. The four-level activity code, which is less detailed, is created by concatenating TUTIER1CODE and TUTIER2CODE. Two additional variables are available on the 2007 Activity file only. The variable TRCODE contains the six-digit activity code, and the variable TRTIER2 contains the four-level activity code.
Where	TEWHERE	Activity file	
Activity duration	TUACTDUR24	Activity file	
Activity start time	TUSTARTTIM		
Activity stop time	TUSTOPTIME		
School			
School Enrollment	TESCHENR	Activity Summary file Respondent File	
School Level	TESCHLVL	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Part time or full time school enrollment	TESCHFTPT	Respondent file	
Educational attainment	PEEDUCA	Activity Summary file ATUS-CPS file	Not collected in ATUS but available from CPS interviews (conducted 2-5 months prior to ATUS interview and possibly out of date).
Spouse variables			
Presence of spouse	TRSPPRES	Activity Summary file Respondent file	

Characteristic	Variables	Location	Notes
Spouse variables (continued)			
Marital status	PEMARITL	ATUS-CPS file	ATUS does not collect marital status apart from the presence or absence of a spouse in the household. For additional information (such as whether the respondent is divorced, widowed, or separated), analysts may use the CPS PEMARITL variable. This variable was collected 2 to 5 months prior to the ATUS interview and could be out of date.
Spouse's employment status	TESPEMPNOT	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Spouse's full time or part time employment status	TRSPFTPT	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Spouse's usual hours of work	TESPUHRS	Respondent file	
Respondent variables			
ATUS respondent	TRATUSR	ATUS-CPS file	Identifies those who responded to the ATUS (2006 and 2007 only)
Eating & Health Module respondent	TREMODR	Respondent file	Identifies those who responded to the Eating & Health Module (2006 and 2007 only)
When			
Day of week	TUDIARYDAY	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Month	TUMONTH	Respondent file	
Year	TUYEAR	Respondent file	
Date	TUDIARYDATE	Respondent file	
Holiday	TRHOLIDAY	Activity Summary file Respondent file	
Who			
Who was present during the activity	TUWHO_CODE	Who file	If this person is in the respondent's household, TUCASEID and TULINENO can be used to get more information about this person from the Roster file.
Statistical			
Statistical weight	TUFINLWGT TU06FWGT	Activity Summary file Respondent file	Different methods were used to produce weights for 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 data. Analysts wishing to combine years to increase sample size should use TU06FWGT for 2003, 2004, and 2005 data and TUFINLWGT for 2006 and 2007 data. (Analysts combining only 2003, 2004, and 2005 data may use TU04FWGT for 2003 data and TUFINLWGT for 2004 and 2005 data if they prefer.)

Characteristic	Variables	Location	Notes
Geographic			
State	GESTFIPS	ATUS-CPS file	
Metropolitan status	GEMETSTA or GTMETSTA	Activity Summary file ATUS-CPS file	GEMETSTA is based on 1990 Census definitions, and GTMETSTA is based on 2000 Census definitions. Beginning with cases whose final CPS interview occurred in May 2004, GEMETSTA was discontinued and GTMETSTA was introduced. These variables are not comparable; there is a series break. Neither variable is on the 2004 Activity Summary file.
Region	GEREG	ATUS-CPS file	