INFORMATION DIRECTORATE

INCOMES MONITORING IM1

FAMILY RESOURCES SURVEY

2007-08

Dataset and Changes

Restricted Release (Full Year)

INDEX

Introduction

This summary report is produced in conjunction with the 2007-08 Family Resources Survey (FRS) and provides users with detailed information on proposed changes to :-

- ➢ Dataset structure
- ➢ Variables
- ➢ Treatment within Processing (validation, editing and derivation of variables)
- ➢ Methodology

The information provided in this report should be used in conjunction with the standard FRS documentation, which can be accessed via the FRS Link Page at : http://asdweb/asd3/web/frs/index.html.

Interviewers guide to changes in metadata

A covering minute, providing information on the FRS 2007-08 processing cycle and user consultation, is available.

A test version of the dataset can be made available upon request and upon completion of a data testing agreement.

If at any point you would like to discuss any issues or require further information or clarification, please contact one of the FRS team in Incomes Monitoring (via email to: team.frs@dwp.gsi.gov.uk).

The FRS data processing team is :

Julie Sullivan	(Team Leader, Data Release Protocols, Publication)
Peter Gibb	(Processing Manager, Methodology, Analysis)
John Snow / Rupesh Vekaria	(Imputation, Derived Variables)
Robert Chung	(Benefit Editing, Data Access)
Chris Lord	(Benefit Editing)

DATA structure

There were no major structural changes made to the Family Resources Survey dataset in 2007-08.

Overview of variable changes

The variable changes are listed below with reference to the relevant page in the *'Interviewers Guide to Changes'* listed in brackets, which will provide further detail.

Changes in the Family Resources Survey (FRS) data can affect three main areas of processing :-

> ➤ Editing
> ➤ Imputation
> ➤ Derived variables

The tables below summarise for each change in the FRS 2007-08 dataset which areas have been affected. Full details on how these changes have been treated within the dataset are provided in the 'Treatment within processing" section of this report.

- *REMOVAL OF ROTATED QUESTIONS BLOCK (2a, page 5)*
  The most significant change to the Family Resources Survey (FRS) 2007-08 is the removal of rotated questions blocks. The questions, asked in alternate years (in the rotated blocks) on vehicle ownership, NHS, and travel to work, have been removed from the questionnaire in order to reduce the questionnaire length.

- *TV QUESTION (3a, page 9)*
  This has now been moved to the Benefit Unit block, after the deprivation questions, because the deprivation questions ask about things people have or don't have and the TV question appears to work more cohesively within this structure that the previous Household block.

  > ➤ Preamble removed
  > ➤ Questions reworded to ask how many TV sets household has

- *CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (3b, page 12)*
  We have amended the instructions with regards to the coding of relationships with 'in-laws' of civil partnerships

- *EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (4a, page 13)*
  A minor routing amendment has been made to the Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) questions so that respondents are not asked the period that their EMA payment covered if they do not know how much their payment was.

- *TAX CREDIT (4b, page 13)*
  FRS data users have found a mismatch between FRS data and administrative records regarding Tax Credit receipt. This discrepancy is believed to be related to different definitions of Tax Credit receipt employed in FRS questions and adopted in analysis of administrative records. FRS asks about Tax Credit receipt in terms of payments received. Administrative records include all those with a positive entitlement to tax credits regardless of whether they receive any payment. In order to account for those with a zero payment for tax credits on the FRS two new questions have been included :-

  ➢ To check whether a respondent has ever received tax credits or

  ➢ Check if they have received tax credits in the 2007-08 financial year

- *LONE PARENT BENEFIT (4c, page 15)*
  Work-related Activity Premium (WRAP), a new benefit for lone parents, has been added to question Ben5Q. The Work-Related Activity Premium (WRAP) provides a £20 per week payment for lone parents for up to six months in addition to Income Support. WRAP will be made available to those in the 7 pilot areas who have been on qualifying benefits (IS, JSA or IB) for at least six months, whose youngest child is aged 11 or over, and who engage in some agreed work-related activity. WRAP will replace the existing Work-search Premium (WSP) in April 2007, but WSP is retained as a category at question Ben5Q as it could be relevant to those receiving this payment in the 6 months prior to April 2007.

- *MATERNITY PAY (4d, page 15)*
  Due to change in the Maternity pay policies, maternity pay is being extended to 39 weeks for women expecting babies on or after 1st April 2007. Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP), Maternity Allowance (MA) and Statutory Adoption Pay (SAP) will be extended from maximum 26 weeks to 39 weeks.

- *PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT (4e, page 16)*
  New questions added to record the month and year the respondent started working for previous employer, if has been with current employer for less than 12 months.

- *CHILDCARE QUESTIONS (4f, page 18)*
  The childcare section has been restructured to improve flow of questions where there is more than one child in the household. Further descriptions of nursery class, and reception class, are provided within the help-screens.

- *BENEFITS IN KIND (4g, page 20)*
  - ➢ Two new categories 'mobile phones' and 'vouchers' added
  - ➢ Description of smart pensions added to show-card and screen
  - ➢ Help-screen information updated to detail what should be included for new categories

- *FOLLOW-UP QUESTION (4i, page 26)*
  The follow-up question has been edited to make it as short as possible, while still saying everything we need to get across to the respondent. The question has been amended again for the new survey year because there was a feeling amongst interviewers that the question was too long and wordy.

- *CHILD TRUST FUND CATEGORIES (not in interviewer guide to changes)*
  The question CFUNDTP has changed its categories –

  From
  - (1) a savings account (Savings)
  - (2) a stakeholder account (Stakehold)
  - (3) an account investing in shares (Shares)

  To
  - (1) a Stakeholder Account
  - (2) a Non-stakeholder Cash Account
  - (3) a Non-Stakeholder Stocks and Shares account

- *INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION (not in interviewer guide to changes)*
  New flag has been added to identify households in the lowest 15% Super Output Areas in England and Wales or Datazones in Scotland.

- *ONS AREA CLASSIFICATION [OAC] (not in interviewer guide to changes)*
  Replaces ACORN. 52 values.

Treatment within processing

Changes in the information collected and the structure of that information needs to be taken into account within the processing of the FRS dataset. Most of these changes can be treated by introducing new systems or through extending our current methodologies, and are detailed in this section across the four processing areas :-

- ➢ Benefit Editing
- ➢ Non-Benefit Editing
- ➢ Imputation
- ➢ Derived Variables

BENEFIT EDITING

Pension Credit (PC)

To ensure that the household income is not overly inflated (or changed dramatically from what was originally reported by the respondent) during the editing process, some changes have been made to the methodology used in assessing entitlement to this benefit.

- ➢ If both the Retirement Pension (RP) and Pension Credit (PC) amounts are unknown and the respondent reports a combined amount (COMBAMT) for these benefits – a standard rate of RP is imputed first and any remainder the of COMBAMT is then allocated to PC

- ➢ If both the RP and PC amounts are unknown and there is no COMBAMT we have used the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) to assess an individual/s or couples entitlement to both benefits - RP is imputed at the standard rate for the person/s age and the remainder is then allocated to PC

- ➢ If the RP amount is available and PC amount is unknown - the 'PC calculator' is used to apportion the correct amount to each benefit

- ➢ If the PC amount is unknown and there is no RP in payment - a value based upon their MIG (Minimum Income Guarantee) entitlement will be imputed

Working Tax Credits (WTC) / Child Tax Credits (CTC)

This process has now been fully automated leaving only a handful that require imputation of income variables, prior to a benefit amount being inserted, and several hundred that need to be assessed using the 'NTC calculator'.

NON-BENEFIT EDITING

No new checks have been added.

Pension Provision

Following consultation with users, the questions on pension provision in the Family Resources Survey were changed in 2006/07 to try to provide more information on the type of private pension scheme and identify increasing participation within older age groups. However, problems were identified during analysis as some respondents reported dormant (closed) pension schemes memberships as if they were live pension scheme memberships with respondents making continuing contributions. More information about the edits made to the dataset and the variables affected can be found in the 'Penprov note'. This will impact on the 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09 datasets.

IMPUTATION

The following changes have been made to the imputation process.

Bulk Edits

Changes to existing edits

TABLE	VARIABLE	LABEL	DESCRIPTION
ADULT	FARE	Cost of journey (where no pass)	Variable dropped
ADULT	MNTUS2	Maintenance via DWP - whether usual amount	This was not imputed last year but should have been; although there were none missing. Corrected for 0708.
ADULT	NITTWMOD	Usual method of travel to work	Variable dropped
ADULT	NTCDAT	Income year for NTC award	Dropped edit as wasn't doing anything worthwhile. Missings are left in the data.
ADULT	ONEWAY	Whether one-way or return fare	Variable dropped
ADULT	TTWCODE1	Respondent is passenger and contributes	Variable dropped
ADULT	TTWCODE2	Respondent is driver and receives money	Variable dropped

TABLE	VARIABLE	LABEL	DESCRIPTION
ADULT	TTWCODE3	Some other arrangement(neither of above)	Variable dropped
ADULT	TTWFAR	Distance travelled to work	Variable dropped
ADULT	TTWMOD	Usual method of travel to work	Variable dropped
ADULT	TTWPAY	Whether pays all/some of travel costs	Variable dropped
ADULT	TTWPSS	Whether has season ticket/travelcard	Variable dropped
HOUSEHOL	CONTV1	Whether household has colour TV set	DROPPED but replaced with NUMTV1, see new edits
HOUSEHOL	CONTV2	Whether household has black/white TV set	DROPPED but replaced with NUMTV2, see new edits

New edits

TABLE	VARIABLE	LABEL	DESCRIPTION
ADULT	BEN5Q9	Rcpt last 6m: any other NI/State benefit	Edited to No (none)
ADULT	TCEVER1	In receipt:Working Tax Credit payments since April 2003	Edited to No (none)
ADULT	TCEVER2	In receipt:Child Tax Credit payments since April 2003	Edited to No (none)
ADULT	TCREPAY1	Non receipt:Repaying overpayment from earlier this year	Edited to Other
ADULT	TCREPAY2	Non receipt:Repaying overpayment from previous year	Edited to Other
ADULT	TCREPAY3	Non receipt:Not completed Tax Cred application/renewal forms	Edited to Other
ADULT	TCREPAY4	Non receipt:Income too high	Edited to Other
ADULT	TCREPAY5	Non receipt:Not eligible for other reason	Edited to Other
ADULT	TCREPAY6	Non receipt:Other	Edited to Other
ADULT	TCTHSYR1	In receipt:Working Tax Credit payments since April 2007	Edited to No (none)
ADULT	TCTHSYR2	In receipt:Child Tax Credit payments since April 2007	Edited to No (none)
HOUSEHOL	NUMTV1	Whether household has colour TV set	Edited to more than one
HOUSEHOL	NUMTV2	Whether household has black/white TV set	Edited to none
JOB	EXPBEN11	Received Vouchers	Edited to No (none)
JOB	EXPBEN12	Received Any other benefits in kind	Edited to No (none)

Algorithms

There were no changes necessary to the algorithms.

Hotdecks

There were no changes necessary to the hotdecks.

DERIVED VARIABLES

Number of Televisions

The dropped CONTV1 / CONTV2 variables with the new NUMTV1 / NUMTV2 variables in the DVs that use them.

Job Churn

Two new DVs have been introduced utilising the existing WORKYR and WORKMTH variables (years and months in current job) and the new variables PREVYR and PREVMTH (years and months since starting previous job to starting current job). These new variables are to help measure 'job churn' (how fast people 'churn' through jobs):

TABLE	VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION
ADULT	CURRJOBM	Number of months in their present job
ADULT	PREVJOBM	Number of months from when they started their previous job to when they started their current job.

Note - respondents are only asked about their previous job if they have been in their present job for less than a year and said they were working immediately prior to that

Total Capital

There was an error in the FRS datasets in 2005-06 and 2006-07 concerning Post Office Card Accounts (POCAs). A decision was made when questions about POCAs were introduced to the questionnaire in 05-06 that respondents would not be asked the value held in them. However, an error at the data conversion stage made it appear that values were held for POCAs. This error has only recently been spotted and so the erroneous POCA values were used in the calculation of TOTCAPBU. The main result of this was that benefit units that only had a POCA should have been recorded as having zero capital, but instead they were recorded as having some capital (typically £25).

In addition, the methodology to calculate total savings and assets has been improved and used to calculate TOTCAPB2. It has been agreed that because TOTCAPB2 is more robust, TOTCAPB2 will be used in preference to TOTCAPBU in all DWP FRS based National Statistics publications from 2007-08; consequently TOTCAPBU will not be included in the FRS dataset from 2008-09.

The impact of both the error and the change in methodology is that more households are shown to have no savings and fewer households are shown to have a small level of savings. The 2005-06 and 2006-07 datasets will be re-released, with corrected versions of TOTCAPBU and TOTCAPB2.