Information for April 2009 – March 2010 and July 2009 – June 2010 IHS Datasets

Questionnaire routing for sexual identity

In July 2009 a questionnaire change in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) resulted in people who joined the survey after Wave 1 not being asked the sexual identity question. This could have lead to an increase in the non-response for the sexual identity estimates and also impacted on the weighting design. It is important to note that this issue on the LFS data has not affected the April 2009 - March 2010 dataset.

The disparity has been resolved by rolling forward missing data from previous quarters on sexual identity, together with the proxy status of the interview at the time of asking the question. A new weight (siwt093 for J09J and siwt092 for A09M) and new variable for proxy status when the sexual identity question was asked (sidproxy) have been added for analysing sexual identity.

[UK Data Archive users should note that the sexual identity variables and weights are only included on the Special Licence datasets.]

Weighting

Both the A09M and J09J datasets contain re-calibrated weights, following concerns about estimates at local levels during quality assurance of the J09J dataset. Previously, un-clustered surveys were scaled at the GOR level. This scaling has been changed to Local Authority level so as treat the un-clustered surveys more equally and to reduce the occurrence of extreme weights. The new weighting methodology may affect sexual identity estimates at a local level, which is explained in the updated User Guide volume 1.

[UK Data Archive users should note that geographies below GOR are only included on the Special Licence datasets.]

Weights
For the Special Licence datasets there are two weights; the household weight (HHWT092 for the A09M dataset and HHWT093 for the J09J dataset) and the sexual identity weight (SIWT092 or SIWT093). The household weight has been provided for all cases on the dataset. The sexual identity weight should be used for Sexual Identity analysis only. Please refer to Annex 1. For the End User Licence datasets, only the household weights are provided.

Variable Changes to the April 2009 to March 2010 Dataset (for second edition):

DVAge   The single year of age variable is now included (and is on J09J)

Variable Changes to the July 2009 to June 2010 Dataset (new):

MF5965   The existing DV wrkage has been renamed to this following LFS practice after the new female state
               pension age came into effect
HeaHead   Applies to all members of household, not just HRP
HeaWife   Applies to all members of household, not just HRP

New DVs
MF1664   Aged between 16 and 64 (was wkage1664 on LFS)

Further details are given in User Guides Volumes 3 and 4.

Experimental Data

In its first year of publication all IHS statistics are designated as experimental. Experimental statistics are new official statistics undergoing evaluation. They are published in order to involve customers and stakeholders in their development and as a mean to build in quality at an early stage. As the data is experimental ONS recommends that any publication of the IHS data should state the experimental branding. Where possible the source of the National Statistic for the estimate being published should also be referenced.

Integrated Household Survey

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Annex 1.

Instructions for Household and Sexual Identity weights

Using the Household Weight for General Analysis.

To turn on household weights in SPSS select Data then Weight Cases, and in the dialog box choose to weight cases by the variable **hhwt093** for J09J and **hhwt092** for A09M.

Switching the household weight on will change results from numbers of cases interviewed to proportions of the population, so that the total number of cases in the dataset will be equal to the estimated UK population total for the mid-point time period.

The household weight is identical for all members of a household. The household weight is always greater than zero, so each case contributes to the total population.

Using the Sexual Identity Weights and Sexual Identity Proxy Variable.

To turn on sexual identity weights in SPSS select Data then Weight Cases, and in the dialog box choose to weight cases by the variable **siwt093** for J09J and **siwt092** for A09M. The sexual identity weight is provided solely for analysis of the Sexual Identity question on the IHS.

The sexual identity weight is calculated for each individual, and is zero for cases when respondents were aged under 16 or were not present in person when the question was being asked. Cases with weights of zero will not count towards analysis of results, so the overall population total will be equal to the adult UK population (i.e. aged 16 and over), with weights for adult responders being correspondingly higher to account for non-respondents.

When running SPSS datasets weighted by the sexual identity weight a warning message will be generated as SPSS has encountered these zero weights – although this will not affect the results of any analysis. In effect SPSS is filtering the dataset for values of the sexual identity weight greater than zero.

However it would be best practice to filter the dataset for ages >=16 (DVAGE) and sexual identity proxy status (SIDPROXY) equal to 1 before turning on the non-proxy weight and running analyses, after which the warning message will not appear.

These new weight and proxy variables have been introduced due to LFS questionnaire changes in April 2010. Previously LFS respondents were asked the sexual identity question on all waves, but the change was made to only ask this on first contact, with sexual identity rolled forward from the previous wave in subsequent interviews. The proxy status for the wave when the question was asked has also been rolled forward and is called **sidproxy**. This will not necessarily be the same as the proxy status for the current interview, so to avoid incorrect numbers of non-responses the sexual identity weight and sexual identity proxy have been introduced.