

Reconciling 'highest qualification' variables in the BCS70 qualification histories against the BCS70 sweep8 derived variables

This note accompanies the deposit of the BCS70 and NCDS qualifications history datasets (to2008) at the UK Data Archive, by Erzsebet Bukodi .

Prior to the deposit of the datasets at the UKDA, CLS realigned the BCS70 identifiers in accordance with the exercise recently carried out on all BCS70 datasets deposited at the UK Data Archive (see document "realignment_of_bcs70_identifiers_documentation.pdf" found in the mrdoc folder of the bcs70 deposit SN5585 at the UK Data Archive). CLS also undertook an exercise to reconcile the 'highest qualifications' variables, in the BCS70 qualifications history dataset, against the highest qualifications derived variables as deposited with the sweep8 2008 follow-up data (deposit SN6557) at the UK Data Archive.

Within the BCS70 qualifications history dataset, the data for the highest academic qualifications attained to date are held in variables HIEDTYP-12. The data for the highest vocational or occupational qualifications attained to date are held in variables HVQQTYP1-14. Variables HIEDTYPX and HVQQTYPX were computed to be the maximum of each of these variable sets and reconciled against the BCS70 sweep8 derived 'highest qualification' variables: BD8HACHQ 'Highest Academic Qualification up to 2008' and BD8HVNVQ 'Highest NVQ Level from a Vocational Qualification up to 2008'.

This note details the differences in the methods of compiling these 'highest qualifications' variables and offers explanations for cases where these variables do not match.

It is assumed that any explanations for differences found, during this exercise on the BCS70 qualifications history dataset, will also apply to the NCDS qualifications history dataset.

Reconciling 'highest academic qualification' variables HIEDTYPX (BCS70 qualification histories) against BD8HACHQ (BCS70 sweep8 derived variable)

A cross-tabulation of variables HIEDTYPX (highest academic qualification) and BD8HACHQ (BCS8 derived variable highest academic qualification up to 2008) is shown below.

	BD8HACHQ BCS 2008: Highest Academic Qualification – up to 2008 survey									Total	
	0 no academic qualification	1 GCSE D-E	2 CSEs2-5, other Scottish Quals	3 GCSE A-C, good O levels Scot Standards	4 AS Levels or 1 A Level	5 2+ A Levels, Scot Higher/6th	6 Diploma	7 Degree, PGCE, Other Degree Level qual	8 Higher Degree		
-1	2323	0	1	8	3	8	44	37	1	2425	
1 Less than O level	0	8	569	292	1	0	18	4	0	892	
2 Less than 5 O levels	0	29	10	1042	5	1	27	4	2	1120	
3 5+ O levels	0	8	0	1029	22	10	46	14	1	1130	
4 1 A level and less than 5 O levels	0	0	0	4	48	57	6	4	0	119	
HIEDTYPX highest academic qualification	5 1 A level and 5+ O levels	0	0	0	21	90	24	5	4	1	145
6 2+ A levels and less than 5 O levels	0	0	0	0	7	52	2	1	0	62	
7 2+ A levels and 5+ O levels	0	0	0	2	7	213	5	5	0	232	
8 Sub degrees	0	0	0	0	0	0	583	292	4	879	
9 Degree- lower grade	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	732	3	735	
10 Degree- first+upper second grade	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	749	4	753	
11 Higher degree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	382	382	
Total	2323	45	580	2398	183	365	736	1846	398	8874	

It can be seen that there are some discrepancies between the two variables HIEDTYPX and BD8HACHQ. Examining the data, it appears that these discrepancies arise due the following issues.

- Certain academic qualifications ('Other degree level qualifications'; 'Other teaching qualifications'; 'PGCE', 'Scottish school certificate') are included in the construction of the BCS70 derived variable BD8HACHQ (Highest Academic Qualification – up to 2008 survey) but do not appear to be included in the construction of the bcs70 qualifications histories variables HIEDTYP1-12 (highest academic qualification to date), nor are they appear to be included in the bcs70 qualification histories variables EDTYP1-12 (Type of academic qualification).
- Where the year that the qualification was obtained is missing, that qualification is included in the construction of the BCS70 derived variable BD8HACHQ (Highest Academic Qualification – up to 2008 survey) but does not appear to be included in the in the construction of the qualifications histories variables HIEDTYP1-12 (highest academic qualification to date) , nor does it appear to be included in the qualification histories variables EDTYP1-12 (type of academic qualification).

Reconciling 'highest vocational qualification' variables HVQQTYPX (BCS70 qualification histories) against BD8HVNVQ (BCS70 sweep8 derived variable)

A cross-tabulation of variables HVQQTYPX (highest vocational/occupational qualification) and BD8HVNVQ (BCS8 derived variable highest nvq level from a vocational qualification up to 2008) is shown below.

	BD8HVNVQ BCS 2008: Highest NVQ Level from a Vocational Qualification up to 2008							Total
	-1 Not applicable	0 none	1 nvq1 level	2 nvq2 level	3 nvq3 level	4 nvq4 level	5 nvq5 level	
-1	9	2377	522	31	17	139	5	3100
HVQQTYPX highest vocational/occupational qualification								
1 Level 1	0	26	1020	9	2	75	1	1133
2 Level 2	0	57	224	1635	10	91	2	2019
3 Level 3	0	0	6	6	1285	81	1	1379
4 Level 4	0	0	0	5	10	954	0	969
5 Level 5	0	0	2	2	4	4	262	274
Total	9	2460	1774	1688	1328	1344	271	8874

It can be seen that there are some discrepancies between the two variables HVQQTYPX and BD8HVNVQ. Examining the data it appears that these discrepancies arise due the following issues.

- Certain academic qualifications ('Other teaching qualification', 'other vocational qualification') are included in the construction of the BCS70 derived variable BD8HVNVQ (highest NVQ Level from a Vocational Qualification up to 2008) but do not appear to be included in the construction of the BCS70 qualifications histories variables HVQQTYP1 -14 (highest vocational qualification to date), nor do they appear to be included in the BCS70 qualification histories variables OQTYP 1-13 (type of occupational qualification) or VQTYP1 -9 (type of vocational qualification).
- Where the year, that the qualification was obtained, is missing, that qualification is included in the construction of the BCS70 derived variable BD8HVNVQ (highest NVQ Level from a Vocational Qualification up to 2008), but does not appear to be included in the in the construction of the BCS70 qualifications histories variables HVQQTYP1 -14 (highest vocational qualification to date), nor are they appear to be included in the BCS70 qualification histories variables OQTYP 1-13 (type of occupational qualification) and VQTYP1 -9 type of vocational qualification).
- Where the response for the level of a qualification is missing, that qualification is included, with a default level, in the BCS70 qualification histories variables HVQQTYP1 -14 (highest vocational qualification to date). However, that qualification is not included in the construction of the BCS70 derived variable BD8HVNVQ (highest NVQ Level from a Vocational Qualification up to 2008).
- It appears that in the BCS70 qualifications histories dataset, NVQ level 1 has been merged with NVQ level2 for the BTEC and City and Guilds qualifications. In calculating the BCS70 derived variable BD8HVNVQ (highest NVQ Level from a Vocational Qualification up to 2008), level1 and level2 for these qualifications have remained separate.