Understanding Society User Support - Support #1808

nunmpsp_dv variable doesn't seem to aling with employ variable

11/19/2022 12:38 PM - Michael Oldridge

Status:	Resolved	**Start date:**	11/19/2022
Priority:	Normal	**% Done:**	100%
Assignee:			
Category:	Questionnaire content		

Description

Hi,

As far as I understand, the employ variable simply flags if someone is employed or not. And I think the nunmpsp_dv variable is the number of unemployment spells since the last interview. The description for nunmpsp_dc (https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/dataset-documentation/variable/nunmpsp_dv) states that "In this case, when either last year's employment status or current year's employment status was unequal to unemployed, it is assumed that a spell in "unemployment' was completed."

I have ran some code which identifies if someone's 'employ' status changed from one wave to the next, and then cross-tabulated this against the nunmpsp_dv variable. The two variables don't seem to match up at all. There are many observations where someone was unemployed at either the last wave or the current wave according to 'employ', but who have 0 unemployment spells since last wave according to nunmpsp_dv.

The cross tab is below for waves g - h of the usoc. The columns are derived from employ, and the rows are nunmpsp_dv.

move into work	move out of work	remain employed	remain unemployed
-7	0	143	0	1161
-8	350	6	23	287
-9	2	2	12	5
0	1127	1174	17307	11741
1	354	282	123	1195
2	9	1	1	31
3	2	0	2	1

Please could you explain why this might be the case? Let me know if you need me to share any code.

Many thanks,
Mike

History

#1 - 11/21/2022 08:56 AM - Understanding Society User Support Team

- Status changed from New to In Progress

- % Done changed from 0 to 10

- Private changed from Yes to No

Many thanks for your enquiry. The Understanding Society team is looking into it and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

We aim to respond to simple queries within 48 hours and more complex issues within 7 working days.

Best wishes,
Understanding Society User Support Team

#2 - 03/09/2023 04:07 PM - Understanding Society User Support Team

- Category set to Questionnaire content

- Status changed from In Progress to Feedback

- % Done changed from 10 to 80

Hi Michael,

We are terribly sorry that it has taken so long to answer your question.

1) The way you defined the category "unemployed" does not match up with the definition of unemployed used to create nunmpsp_dv. If my understanding is correct, you used the employ variable which takes just two values "yes, in paid employment" and "no, not in paid employment" to create a 4-category variable by crossing g_employ by h_employ. So, in your case unemployed are all people not in paid employment, whilst the definition of this category is nunmpsp_dv counts only spells when someone was in the category "unemployed" as in the variable jbstat (https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/dataset-documentation/variable/jbstat) which is the ONS definition, i.e. people actively looking for work.

2) The other thing is that even if your definition was the same, you would still see some discrepancy. That's because employ is asked in the enumeration grid (so this is basically provided by just one household member about all people in the household) and jbstat is asked in the adult questionnaire (so this information is provided by the respondents themselves).

Please let us know if this answers your question.

Best wishes,
Piotr,
UKHLS User Support

#3 - 11/30/2023 11:13 AM - Understanding Society User Support Team

- Status changed from Feedback to Resolved

- % Done changed from 80 to 100