

Understanding Society User Support - Support #2274

Identifying self-employed individuals (jbstat vs. jbsemp)

08/13/2025 08:38 AM - Carolin Heuser

<b>Status:</b>	Feedback	<b>Start date:</b>	08/13/2025
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	<b>% Done:</b>	50%
<b>Assignee:</b>	Understanding Society User Support Team		
<b>Category:</b>	Data documentation		
<b>Description</b>			
<p>Dear members of the support team,</p> <p>I am using the UKHLS to analyse the well-being of self-employed individuals. For my dataset, I need to filter for self-employed people, and I am uncertain whether to use <i>jbsemp</i> or <i>jbstat</i>. I have noticed that filtering on <i>jbsemp</i> (self-employed) results in some cases where <i>jbstat</i> is recorded as “retired”, “paid employment”, “family care”, etc. In my current sample, this mismatch occurs in approximately 10% of observations.</p> <p>Could you kindly clarify how I can interpret cases where <i>jbsemp</i> = self-employed but <i>jbstat</i> is not “self-employed”? For example, if <i>jbstat</i> is "retired" but <i>jbsemp</i> is "self-employed", does this indicate that the person is doing some form of self-employed work while in retirement, or does it reflect their previous employment status before retiring? For research on currently active self-employed individuals, would it be more suitable to filter for both variables or only one of them?</p> <p>I would appreciate your support.</p> <p>Thank you &amp; best regards!</p>			

History

#1 - 08/13/2025 10:33 AM - Understanding Society User Support Team

- Category set to Data documentation
- Status changed from New to Feedback
- % Done changed from 0 to 50
- Private changed from Yes to No

Hello Carolin,

In "jbstat", respondents report their main activity status. For example, someone could select "4 – retired", but may still have had a job (either as an employee or self-employed) in the week before the interview. In that case, they would select *jphas* = 1, which routes them to the question "jbsemp – Are you an employee or self-employed?"

It depends on what you are interested in measuring: *jbsemp* refers to employment status during the interview week, whereas *jbstat* reports their general/main status.

I hope this information is helpful.

Best wishes,  
Roberto Cavazos  
Understanding Society User Support Team

#2 - 08/14/2025 07:38 PM - Carolin Heuser

Hello,

Thank you for the response!

Best,  
Carolin Heuser