

Understanding Society User Support - Support #2315

Basrate / payu - hourly pay

01/18/2026 09:50 PM - Eleanor Keeble

<b>Status:</b>	Feedback	<b>Start date:</b>	01/18/2026
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	<b>% Done:</b>	50%
<b>Assignee:</b>	Understanding Society User Support Team		
<b>Category:</b>	Data documentation		

**Description**

Hello,

I am trying to investigate hourly pay differences. I wanted to use basrate. However, the min and max look weird?

```
. sum basrate
```

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. dev.	Min	Max
basrate	41,195	9.033313	15.68344	.01	930

Please note this is also after removing any negatives (replace negative with .) and then even after applying survey weights.

I also tried making an hourly pay variable using payu - adjusting it to a weekly using payuwc, and then dividing by jbhhrs - but this produced quite an unstable variable.

Could you please advise me on if basrate is the correct variable and if so how come there are quite such tiny numbers?

History

#1 - 01/19/2026 12:48 PM - 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 Eleanor,

basrate is a direct question from the Employees module questionnaire and is asked of respondents who report being paid an hourly rate. The amount can be recorded in pounds and pence, with values starting from £0.01, so the values you mention are indeed possible.

We do not have an official strategy for deriving an hourly pay measure that I could recommend, as we leave decisions about construction to researchers. However, you may explore the derived variable paygu\_dv in combination with jbhhrs and jbot.

You may also find Issue 1367 useful, as it addressed a similar query:  
<https://iserredex.essex.ac.uk/support/issues/1367>

I hope this information is helpful

Best wishes,  
Roberto Cavazos  
Understanding Society User Support Team