

Understanding Society User Support - Support #2327

Wealth Variable

02/04/2026 04:01 PM - Sarah Frost

Status:	Feedback	Start date:	02/04/2026
Priority:	Normal	% Done:	80%
Assignee:	Sarah Frost		
Category:	Data documentation		
Description Hi, I am an undergraduate who is studying the impact of homeownership on wealth and I have been looking for the best wealth variable to use however I am unsure what i should use. Do you have any recommendations/is there a wealth dataset in waves 4,8,13 which I can merge? How do I access this?			

History

#1 - 02/05/2026 01:48 PM - Understanding Society User Support Team

- Category changed from Derived variables to Data documentation
- Status changed from New to Feedback
- % Done changed from 0 to 80
- Private changed from Yes to No

Hi Sarah,

"Wealth" can mean different things (e.g., housing wealth/home value and mortgage balance, savings and investments, pensions, debts etc.), and Understanding Society (UKHLS) includes variables/modules covering these kinds of assets and liabilities, but there is no single dataset that brings all of this together. You should check the Wave 4 Wealth, Assets and Debt module here:

https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/questionnaire-modules/wealthassetsanddebt_w4

, and also the "Money and finances" variables in the Variable Search here:

<https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/documentation/mainstage/variables/>

More generally, I recommend using the Understanding Society Variable Search to check exactly what's available in each wave (try keywords like wealth, assets, debt, savings, pension, home value, mortgage), then select the variables you need. You can also quickly scan for relevant modules in the main survey long-term content plan here:

<https://understandingsociety.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/documentation/main-survey/6614-main-survey-long-term-content-plan.pdf>

I hope this helps.

Best wishes,
Piotr Marzec
UKHLS User Support