

Changes between 2003 and 2004 Data Files:
American Time Use Survey (ATUS)

September 2005

Changes between 2003 and 2004 ATUS Data Files

Changes to survey design, sampling, weighting, variable definitions, imputation, and other methodology can have serious implications for interpretation of results. The purpose of this document is to detail any such changes made between the 2003 and 2004 data files.

The most significant changes in the 2004 data are related to a sample reduction, secondary childcare variables, and weighting methodology.

1. Sample Reduction

Beginning with sample introduced in December 2003, the monthly sample was reduced from its 2003 level by 35 percent. Because of this, there were fewer completed interviews: there were 13,973 in 2004 compared to 20,720 in 2003. Since the sample reduction was introduced in December 2003, the first few months in 2004 have a greater number of completed interviews than later months.

2. Questionnaire Changes

Minor changes to survey questions were introduced in ATUS in October 2003. More detailed secondary childcare questions were asked, involving questions about own household children, own non-household children, and non-own household children. Also, a new question about eating was introduced. Respondents who did not report about eating on their diary day are asked, "Did you do any eating or drinking yesterday as your main activity?" More detailed descriptions of these changes can be found in the Questionnaire (<http://www.bls.gov/tus/tuquestionnaire.pdf>).

3. Weighting Changes

The methodology used to weight the 2004 data is different from the one used to weight the 2003 data. In 2003, the ATUS weights added up to the number of person-days in the month (or the number of days in the month times the total population) only for the population as a whole. In 2004, the methodology was changed so that ATUS weights add up to the number of person-days for selected subpopulations as well as for the general population. More information regarding weighting can be found in the User's Guide (<http://www.bls.gov/tus/atususersguide.pdf>).

4. Variable Changes

Most of the variables available on the 2003 public use data files are also available on the 2004 data files. There were some significant changes to the way secondary childcare was calculated, and that resulted in the majority of the new and discontinued variable changes.

a. Discontinued Variables (these variables appear on 2003 public use files and not on 2004 public use files)

File	Variable	Explanation
ATUS-CPS File	TXNEWRACE	This variable is a flag indicating whether PTDTRACE is imputed based on old race/ethnicity variables. It was discontinued because no imputations were made in 2004 based on old race/ethnicity variables.
Respondent File	TUBNCHWGT	This variable is the ATUS Benchmark weight. Weighting methodology was changed, and this weight was replaced by TUBWGT.
Activity File	TR_03CC57	This variable relates to secondary childcare and indicated whether a household or non-household child under 13 was in the respondent's care during an activity. It was replaced by the variables TUCC5, TUCC5B, and TUCC7.

b. New Variables (these variables appear on 2004 public use files but not on 2003 public use files)

File	Variable	Definition
ATUS-CPS File	GTMETSTA	Metropolitan/non-metropolitan status This variable is based on 2000 standards for Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) definitions and is not comparable to the variable GEMETSTA that was dropped for respondents whose households completed their last CPS interview in May 2004 or later
	HRHHID2	Household identifier part 2 (5-digit identifier) This variable contains much of the information that used to be in the variables HRSAMPLE, HRSERSUF, and HUUHNUM
Respondent File	TRTHH	Secondary childcare: total time spent during diary day providing secondary childcare for household children under 13
	TRTNOHH	Secondary childcare: total time spent during diary day providing secondary childcare for non-own household children under 13
	TRTO	Secondary childcare: total time spent during diary day providing secondary childcare for own children under 13
	TRTOHH	Secondary childcare: total time spent during diary day providing secondary childcare for own household children under 13
	TRTONHH	Secondary childcare: total time spent during diary day providing secondary childcare for own non-household children under 13
	TXTHH	Secondary childcare: TRTHH_LN and TRTHH allocation flag
	TXTNOHH	Secondary childcare: TRTNOHH_LN and TRTNOHH allocation flag
	TXTO	Secondary childcare: TRTO_LN and TRTO allocation flag
	TXTOHH	Secondary childcare: TRTOHH_LN and TRTOHH allocation flag
	TXTONHH	Secondary childcare: TRTONHH_LN and TRTONHH allocation flag
	TXTCCTOT	Secondary childcare: TRTCCTOT_LN and TRTCCTOT allocation flag
	TUBWGT	ATUS base weight
Activity File	TUCC5	Secondary childcare: Was at least one of your own household children under 13 in your care during this activity?
	TUCC5B	Secondary childcare: Was at least one of your non-own household children under 13 in your care during this activity?
	TUCC7	Secondary childcare: Was at least one of your own non-household children under 13 in your care during this activity?
	TRTHH_LN	Secondary childcare: Total time spent during activity providing secondary childcare for household children under 13
	TRTNOHH_LN	Secondary childcare: Total time spent during activity providing secondary childcare for non-own household children under 13
	TRTO_LN	Secondary childcare: Total time spent during activity providing secondary childcare for own children under 13
	TRTOHH_LN	Secondary childcare: Total time spent during activity providing secondary childcare for own household children under 13
	TRTONHH_LN	Secondary childcare: Total time spent during activity providing secondary childcare for own non-household children under 13
	TRTCCTOT_LN	Secondary childcare: Total time spent during activity providing secondary childcare for all children under 13

c. Variables with Different Valid Values (different variable definitions on 2003 and 2004 public use data files)

File	Variable	Definition
ATUS-CPS File	PRTAGE	Those respondents in households that were last interviewed for CPS during or after May 2004 had a different topcode or maximum value. Prior to May 2004, the maximum value for PRTAGE was 80. From May 2004 forward, the maximum value for PRTAGE was 85.
Activity File	TEWHERE	Three additional valid values for TEWHERE were added in October 2004: 30 – Bank 31 – Gym/health club 32 – Post Office

d. Variables with Other Changes

Many secondary childcare variables were introduced in 2004, but the ones that previously existed in 2003 (TRTCC_LN, TRTCC, TRTCOC_LN, TRTCOC, and TRTCCTOT) were calculated in a slightly different way in 2004.

TRTCOC_LN	<p>2003: If an activity has TUCC8=1 and the activity code ≠ 0101xx, 0401xx, 0402xx, 0403xx, or 170401, then TRTCOC_LN = TUACTIONDUR24. If the information is incomplete (TUCC8 is 0 for all activities or is -2 or -3 for any activity), TRTCOC_LN is imputed; imputations are based on the amount of time the respondent spent with non-own non-household children.</p> <p>2004: If an activity has TUCC8=1 and the activity code ≠ 0101xx, 0301xx, 0302xx, 0303xx, 0401xx, 0402xx, 0403xx, 170301, or 170401, then TRTCOC_LN = TUACTIONDUR24. If the information is incomplete (TUCC8 is 0 for all activities or is -2 or -3 for any activity), TRTCOC_LN is imputed; imputations are based on the amount of time the respondent spent with non-own non-household children.</p>
TRTCC_LN	<p>2003: If an activity has TR_03CC57 =1 and the activity code ≠ 0101xx, 0301xx, 0302xx, 0303xx, or 170301, then TRTCC_LN = TUACTIONDUR24. If the information is incomplete, TRTCC_LN is imputed; imputations are based on the amount of time the respondent spent with household or own non-household children.</p> <p>2004: TRTCC_LN = max (TRTOHH_LN, TRTNOHH_LN, TRTONHH_LN)</p>
TRTCC	2003 and 2004: TRTCC is equal to the sum of all TRTCC_LN for all of the respondent's activities. Since TRTCC_LN is calculated differently in 2003 and 2004, there are slight differences in TRTCC.
TRTCOC	2003 and 2004: TRTCOC is equal to the sum of all TRTCOC_LN for all of the respondent's activities. Since TRTCOC_LN is calculated differently in 2003 and 2004, there are slight differences in TRTCOC.
TRTCCTOT	2003 and 2004: TRTCCTOT = max (TRTCC, TRTCOC). Since TRTCC and TRTCOC may be different than in 2003, there are slight differences in TRTCCTOT
TRTFAMILY	<p>2003: Total amount of time spent with family members except for own non-household children</p> <p>2004: Total amount of time spent with family members including own non-household children</p>
TUINSTAT1	<p>2003: TUFINALCODE = 19 is classified as TUINSTAT1 = 2 (eligible non-interview)</p> <p>2004: TUFINALCODE = 19 is classified as TUINSTAT1 = 3 (not eligible)</p>
TUINSTAT2	<p>2003: TUFINALCODE = 19 is classified as TUINSTAT2 = 5 (other)</p> <p>2004: TUFINALCODE = 19 is classified as TUINSTAT2 = 6 (not eligible)</p>

5. ATUS Coding Lexicon Changes

There are minor differences between the 2003 and 2004 Coding Lexicons. Some activity codes were added and others deleted. For more information, see <http://www.bls.gov/tus/lexiconchanges04.pdf>.

6. Linking ATUS to CPS

Because of May 2004 changes to the CPS public use file format, the linking methodology is different for part of 2004. For additional details, see the ATUS-CPS 2004 Data Dictionary (<http://www.bls.gov/tus/atuscpscodebk04.pdf>).

7. CPS Changes in May 2004

The CPS public use file format changed in May 2004. Since the ATUS-CPS file contains virtually all of the variables that are on the CPS public use files, this change affects ATUS as well. Because of the change, some variables on the ATUS-CPS file are blank for part of the year.

- a. Discontinued CPS variables:** these variables have missing values (-1) for those respondents whose households had their last CPS interview in May 2004 or later, or those cases with HRMONTH \geq 5 and HRYEAR4 = 2004

GEMETSTA	Metropolitan/non-metropolitan status This variable is based on 1990 standards for Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) definitions and is not comparable to the Metropolitan/non-metropolitan status variable (GTMETSTA) that is available for ATUS respondents whose households completed their last CPS interview in May 2004 or later
HUHHNUM	Household number This was incorporated into the variable HRHHID2
HRSERSUF	Serial suffix (identifies extra units) This was incorporated into the variable HRHHID2
HRSAMPLE	Sample ID This was incorporated into the variable HRHHID2

b. New CPS variables

Two variables, GTMETSTA and HRHHID2, are missing (-1) for those cases whose last CPS interview occurred before May 2004, or those cases with HRYEAR4 < 2004 or (HRMONTH < 5 and HRYEAR4 = 2004). These variables are further defined in the New Variables section above.