

American Time Use Survey (ATUS) Data Dictionary:
2008 Survey Methodology Data
Variables about ATUS
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The American Time Use Survey (ATUS) is sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics
and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Important Information about the ATUS Survey Methodology Data Dictionary

Introduction

The American Time Use Survey (ATUS) is sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The purpose of this document is to provide information about the variables related to the quality and outcome of the interviews. This data dictionary describes the 2008 Case History file and the 2008 Call History file.

This document lists all the variables available on these two files and their valid values. It also provides directions on how to read the data dictionary. The ATUS User's Guide contains information about the sample selection, survey administration, data collection, and coding process (available on the ATUS Web site at www.bls.gov/tus/atususersguide.pdf).

Three additional data dictionaries describe other 2008 ATUS data files.

- ATUS-CPS Data Dictionary: Describes the variables available on the ATUS-CPS file as well as some variables on the Activity Summary file. The ATUS-CPS file contains data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) for persons selected to be surveyed for the ATUS and for members of their households. (The information on the ATUS-CPS file was collected two to five months before the ATUS interview and in some cases was out of date at the time the ATUS was conducted.)
- ATUS Interview Data Dictionary: Describes the variables that were collected and assigned in the ATUS interview. The variables described are available on the Roster file, Activity file, Activity Summary file, Who file and Respondent file.
- Trips Data Dictionary: Describes the variables available on the Trips file.

These additional data dictionaries are available on the ATUS Web site at www.bls.gov/tus/dictionaries.htm.

Valid Values

Each variable has a number of valid values or a range of valid values. For example, the variable TUINTDQUAL has two valid values: 1 for "Yes, interview should be used" and 2 for "No, interview should not be used." The variable TUAVG DUR, on the other hand, has a range of valid values – any entry between 0 and 1440 is considered valid. Individual valid values or a range of valid values are listed under most variables in the data dictionary.

Many ATUS variables have the following possible valid values:

Value	Description
-1	Blank
-2	Don't know
-3	Refused

Because so many variables have these possible values, they are not shown as valid entries for each variable.

TUCASEID, the primary identifier for ATUS cases, does not have a list either of valid values or a range of valid values. Also, variables that include both alpha and numeric characters (TUHINTID, TUINTID, TUA_ID, TUC_ID, and TUV_ID) do not have a list of either valid values or a range of valid values.

2008 Case History File

This file contains case-specific variables collected in ATUS in 2008 (that is, variables for which there is one value for each person selected to participate in ATUS). These include interviewer identifiers and case level outcome codes. The file also contains two data quality variables, TUINTDQUAL and TUDQUAL2, which include information about the interviewer’s perception of data quality. The file contains information about persons selected to participate in ATUS, including both those who did and did not complete the interview. (Because only one person per household is selected to participate in ATUS, in this file TUCASEID identifies an individual.)

There is one record for each ATUS case.

Below is a simplified example. The TUCASEID identifies each ATUS case, so the example contains information from five cases selected to be in the ATUS sample. Each example case has associated variables listing the final outcome code (TRFNLOUT), the total number of reported activities (TUTOTACTNO), the average duration of reported activities (TUAUSDUR), and an interviewer identification number (TUINTID). Note that two of the cases do not report information for TUTOTACTNO and TUAUSDUR; this is because they were noncontacts, as is indicated by the value of TRFNLOUT. The actual ATUS Case History file contains additional variables and many more lines.

TUCASEID	TRFNLOUT	TUTOTACTNO	TUAUSDUR	TUINTID
20080101020210	001.001	27	42.4	AA01
20080101020211	001.001	16	90	AA02
20080101020212	194.001	-1	-1	BB01
20080101020213	188.001	-1	-1	AA01
20080101020214	001.001	31	46.5	BB01

2008 Call History File

This file contains call-specific variables collected in ATUS in 2008 (that is, variables for which there is one value per interview attempt). These include interviewer identifiers, call level outcome codes, and the date of each call attempt. The file contains information about persons selected to participate in ATUS, including both those who completed the interview and those who did not. (Because only one person per household is selected to participate in ATUS, in this file TUCASEID identifies an individual.)

There is one record for each ATUS call attempt.

Below is a simplified example. The TUCASEID identifies each ATUS case and TUATMPTNO identifies each call attempt. The example contains information from two cases selected for the ATUS sample. The first case (20080101020210) was called twice, and the second call attempt resulted in a complete interview. The second case (20080101020211) was called three times before resulting in a complete interview. The variable TRFNLCLL gives the outcome of each call. An anonymous interviewer identification number (TUHINTID) is associated with each call attempt. In general, the TUHINTID for the final call attempt will match the interviewer identification number for the case (TUINTID) on the Case History file, but not always. In some situations, an ATUS supervisor performs some action on the case after the final interview, causing the TUINTID to be the anonymous identification number of the supervisor rather than the final interviewer.

TUCASEID	TUATMPTNO	TUATMDATE	TRFNLCLL	TUHINTID
20080101020210	1	20080102	188.001	AA01
20080101020210	2	20080102	001.001	BB01
20080101020211	1	20080102	188.001	AA02
20080101020211	2	20080103	188.001	AA01
20080101020211	3	20080110	001.001	BB01

ATUS Naming Conventions and Definitions

ATUS variables are named according to specified rules. All variables on the two survey methodology files begin with “TU” or “TR,” which indicates that the variables were assigned or computed through the ATUS interview process. The characters that follow “TU” or “TR” consist of a descriptive name.

Not all ATUS variables are on the data files. Some variables are omitted to protect the confidentiality of ATUS respondents as required by law.

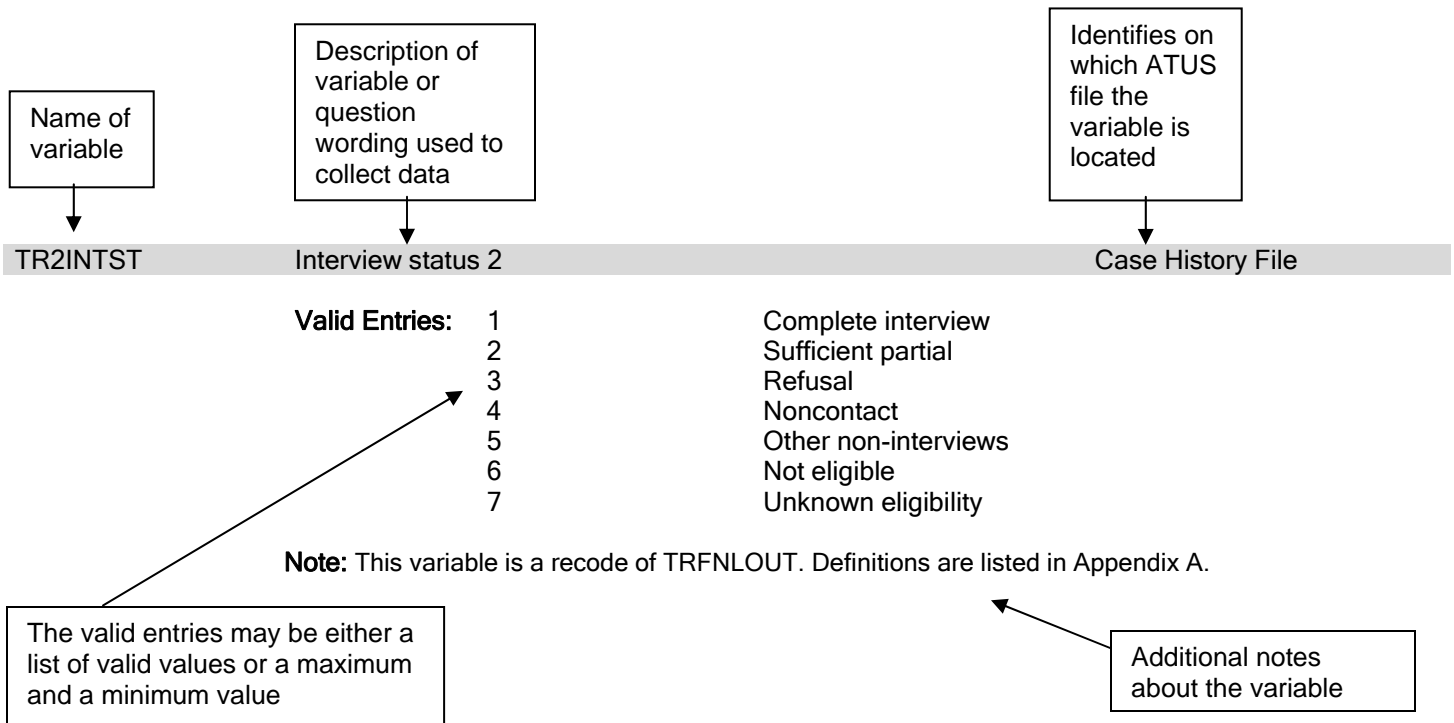
ATUS Interviewers and Coders

Four of the variables available on the Case History file and one of the variables on the Call History file are unique anonymous identification numbers: TUHINTID, TUINTID, TUA_ID, TUC_ID, and TUV_ID. Every person who interviews or codes ATUS data is assigned a unique anonymous identification number, and each person can both interview and code. A case is never interviewed and coded by the same person. All cases are coded twice to ensure accuracy and consistency, and those cases that have been coded differently are resolved by an adjudicator. A person’s unique identification number is always the same, whether that person is coding, interviewing, or adjudicating.

Organization of the Survey Methodology Data Dictionary

Variables are listed in the data dictionary in alphabetical order.

Below is a sample entry from the ATUS survey methodology data dictionary:



Linking ATUS Files

Each of the ATUS files contains useful information, but in order to produce most estimates, the files must be linked. All of the files contain the variable TUCASEID, which is the ATUS identification number. Two other variables that can be used for linking in conjunction with TUCASEID are TULINENO (person line number) and TUACTIONITY_N (activity line number). For more information on linking ATUS data files, please see www.bls.gov/tus/howto.htm#linking.

The ATUS files can also be linked to CPS files by using variables on the ATUS-CPS file. More information about linking to the CPS files is available in Appendix K of the ATUS User's Guide (www.bls.gov/tus/atusersguide.pdf).

2008 ATUS Data Dictionary: Public Survey Methodology Data

Name	Description	File
TR1INTST	Interview status 1	Case History File
	Edited Universe: All cases	
	Valid Entries:	
	1	Complete interview or sufficient partial
	2	Eligible non-interview (refusal, noncontact, other non-interview)
	3	Not eligible
	4	Unknown eligibility
	* Note: This variable is a recode of TRFNLOUT. Definitions are listed in Appendix A.	
TR2INTST	Interview status 2	Case History File
	Edited Universe: All cases	
	Valid Entries:	
	1	Complete interview
	2	Sufficient partial
	3	Refusal
	4	Noncontact
	5	Other non-interview
	6	Not eligible
	7	Unknown eligibility
	* Note: This variable is a recode of TRFNLOUT. Definitions are listed in Appendix A.	
TRFNLCLL	Final call outcome	Call History File
	Edited Universe: All call attempts	
	Valid Entries:	
	001.001	Complete interview
	002.001	Sufficient partial
	020.007	Not eligible: vacant
	020.011	Not eligible: person underage
	020.005	Not eligible: not used as a regular residence
	020.002	Not eligible: other type of living quarters
	020.015	Not eligible: person not a household member
	020.022	Not eligible: person in Armed Forces
	021.001	Other: person institutionalized through closeout
	021.002	Other: person absent, ill, or hospitalized through closeout
	021.003	Not eligible: person moved out
	022.002	Unknown eligibility: sample unit not found/unreached
	024.001	Other: language barrier
	025.001	Other: unconverted hearing barrier
	172.001	Not eligible: removed from sample
	172.002	Other: invalid input
	176.001	Refusal: Congressional case
	179.001	Refusal: hostile breakoff
	181.001	Refusal: refusal by person or gatekeeper
	182.001	Refusal: manual override by supervisor
	183.001	Unknown eligibility: exceeded unproductive call maximum
	185.001	Sufficient partial with planned callback
	186.001	Refusal: pre-refusal based on explicit refusal or hostile breakoff
	188.001	Noncontact: incomplete callbacks
	188.003	Not eligible: temporarily unavailable (institutionalized)
	188.002	Noncontact: temporarily unavailable (absent, ill, or hospitalized)

Name	Description	File
	Edited Universe: All call attempts	
	Valid Entries:	
	191.001 Other: unresolved language barrier	
	192.001 Other: hearing barrier	
	193.001 Unknown eligibility: privacy detectors	
	194.001 Noncontact: never contacted, confirmed number	
	195.001 Unknown eligibility: never contacted, unconfirmed number	
	199.001 Unknown eligibility: never tried, no telephone number household	
	* Note: These are final call outcome codes introduced in 2005 and do not correspond to final call outcomes (TUOUTCOMECODE) from 2004	
TRFNLOUT	Final outcome code	Case History File
	Edited Universe: All cases	
	Valid Entries:	
	001.001 Complete interview	
	002.001 Sufficient partial	
	020.005 Not eligible: not used as a regular residence	
	020.007 Not eligible: vacant	
	020.011 Not eligible: person underage	
	020.015 Not eligible: person not a household member	
	020.022 Not eligible: person in Armed Forces	
	021.001 Other: person institutionalized through closeout	
	021.003 Not eligible: person moved out	
	021.002 Other: person absent, ill, or hospitalized through closeout	
	022.002 Unknown eligibility: sample unit not found/unreached	
	024.001 Other: language barrier	
	025.001 Other: unconverted hearing barrier	
	172.001 Not eligible: removed from sample	
	172.002 Other: invalid input	
	176.001 Refusal: Congressional case	
	179.001 Refusal: hostile breakoff	
	181.001 Refusal: refusal by person or gatekeeper	
	183.001 Unknown eligibility: exceeded unproductive call maximum	
	188.001 Noncontact: incomplete callbacks	
	188.002 Noncontact: temporarily unavailable (absent, ill, or hospitalized)	
	188.003 Not eligible: temporarily unavailable (institutionalized)	
	191.001 Other: unresolved language barrier	
	193.001 Unknown eligibility: privacy detectors	
	194.001 Noncontact: never contacted, confirmed number	
	195.001 Unknown eligibility: never contacted, unconfirmed number	
	199.001 Unknown eligibility: never tried, no telephone number household	
	230.001 Refusal: diary contains less than 5 activities	
	231.001 Refusal: don't know/refuse more than 180 diary minutes	
	232.001 Refusal: diary contains less than 5 activities and don't know/refuse more than 180 diary minutes	
	233.001 Refusal: other data quality issues	
	* Note: These are final outcome codes introduced in 2005 and do not correspond to final outcomes (TUFINALCODE) from 2003 and 2004	
TUA_ID	Unique anonymous adjudicator ID	Case History File

Name	Description	File
	* Note: 1st and 2nd digits AA-ZZ, 3rd and 4th digits 00-99. All cases are coded twice. TUA_ID is the identification number of the adjudicator who reviews cases that were coded differently.	
TUATTMDATE	Date of call attempt	Call History File
	Valid Entries: 20071113 Min Value 20081231 Max Value	
	* Note: Call attempt date is in YYYYMMDD format	
TUATTMPTNO	Call attempt number	Call History File
	Valid Entries: 1 Min Value 999 Max Value	
TUATTMWEEK	Which week (out of 8 weeks in sample) call was made	Call History File
	Valid Entries: 0 Attempt made outside of 8-week period 1 1st week 2 2nd week 3 3rd week 4 4th week 5 5th week 6 6th week 7 7th week 8 8th week	
	* Note: Values of 0 usually reflect administrative changes that did not involve actual telephone contact.	
TUAVGDUR	Average duration of all reported diary activities (in minutes)	Case History File
	Valid Entries: 0 Min Value 1440 Max Value	
TUC_ID	Unique anonymous coder ID	Case History File
	* Note: 1st and 2nd digits AA-ZZ, 3rd and 4th digits 00-99. All cases are coded twice. TUC_ID is the identification number of the first coder.	
TUCASEID	ATUS Case ID (14-digit identifier)	All Files
TUCPSDP	Is the ATUS designated person the same as the CPS respondent?	Case History File
	Valid Entries: 1 Yes, same person 2 No, different person	
	* Note: The CPS respondent does not have to be the same for all eight months of CPS. TUCPSDP identifies whether the ATUS designated person is the same as the CPS respondent for the final (month 8) CPS interview.	
TUDQUAL2	Collected from interviewer after interview: why do you think the data should not be used?	Case History File
	Valid Entries: 1 Respondent intentionally providing wrong answer 2 Respondent trying to provide correct answer, but could not correctly remember his/her activities 3 Respondent deliberately reported very long duration activities 4 Other	
	* Note: The interviewer is asked this question if TUINTQUAL = 1	
TUHINTID	Unique anonymous ATUS interviewer ID for each call attempt	Call History File
	* Note: 1st and 2nd digits AA-ZZ, 3rd and 4th digits 00-99	
TUINCENT	Incentive/non-incentive case	Case History File
	Valid Entries: 0 Non-incentive case 1 Incentive case	

Name	Description	File
TUINDQUAL	Collected from interviewer after interview: is there any reason this interview should not be used? Valid Entries: 1 Yes 2 No	Case History File
TUINTID	Unique anonymous ATUS interviewer ID * Note: 1st and 2nd digits AA-ZZ, 3rd and 4th digits 00-99	Case History File
TUINRODATE	Day of month in which the case was introduced (panel day) Valid Entries: 0 Min Value 31 Max Value	Case History File
TUINTROPANMONTH	Month in which the case was introduced (panel month) Valid Entries: 1 Min Value 12 Max Value	Case History File
TUINTROPANYEAR	Year in which the case was introduced (panel year) Valid Entries: 2007 Min Value 2008 Max Value	Case History File
TULNGSKL	Non-English language Valid Entries: 0 No non-English language assigned 1 Spanish language assigned 2 Other non-English language assigned * Note: This variable is used to assist in assigning interviewers. The language could have been assigned in a previous Current Population Survey interview rather than an ATUS interview. Additionally, it could have been assigned after contact with an individual other than the designated respondent.	Case History File
TUTOTACTNO	Total number of activities reported in diary Valid Entries: 1 Min Value 91 Max Value * Note: New values for TUTOTACTNO were introduced in 2005; For cases in 2005 and later, where total activities numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4, TUTOTACTNO = 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively.	Case History File
TUV_ID	Unique anonymous verifier ID * Note: 1st and 2nd digits AA-ZZ, 3rd and 4th digits 00-99. All cases are coded twice. TUV_ID is the identification number of the second coder.	Case History File

Appendix A

TR1INTST

TR1INTST	TR1INTST Definition	TRFNLOUT CODE Values	
1	Complete and sufficient partial	001.001	002.001
2	Eligible non-interview	021.001 024.001 172.002 179.001 188.001 191.001 230.001 232.001	021.002 025.001 176.001 181.001 188.002 194.001 231.001 233.001
3	Not eligible	020.005 020.011 020.022 172.001	020.007 020.015 021.003 188.003
4	Unknown eligibility	022.002 193.001 199.001	183.001 195.001

TR2INTST

TR2INTST	TR2INTST Definition	TRFNLOUT CODE Values	
1	Complete	001.001	
2	Sufficient partial	002.001	
3	Refusal	176.001 181.001 231.001 233.001	179.001 230.001 232.001
4	Noncontact	188.001 194.001	188.002
5	Other	021.001 024.001 172.002	021.002 025.001 191.001
6	Not eligible	020.005 020.011 020.022 172.001	020.007 020.015 021.003 188.003
7	Unknown eligibility	022.002 193.001 199.001	183.001 195.001