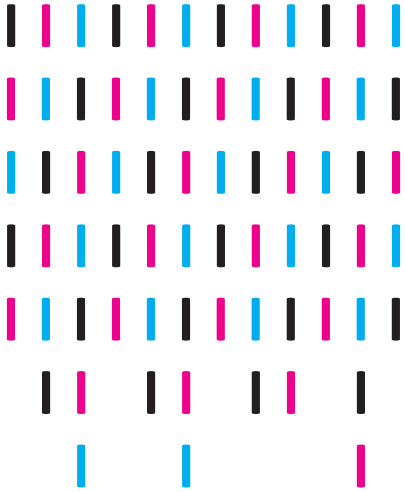

NEPS SURVEY PAPERS

Kai Rompczyk and Corinna Kleinert

EPISODE-SPLIT BIOGRAPHY DATA IN NEPS STARTING COHORT 6: STRUCTURE AND EDITING PROCESS

NEPS Survey Paper No. 28
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Episode-split biography data in NEPS starting cohort 6: structure and editing process

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Episode-split biography data in NEPS starting cohort 6: structure and editing process

Abstract

The National Educational Panel Study (NEPS) aims at collecting and providing longitudinal data on the competence development, educational processes, educational decisions and returns to education in formal, nonformal and informal contexts over the whole life course. The present survey paper describes the structure and the editing process of an episode-split file, which allows data users to generate a simplified biography dataset of NEPS Starting Cohort 6: 'Adult Education and Lifelong Learning'. The dataset provides a revised version of the *Biography* file in which spells are temporally ordered, which helps to identify parallel activities. Additionally, basic variables from the duration spell files were merged to the data. The generated dataset thus is an ideal starting point for examining life courses in adult age, for example by cumulating job episodes over the whole employment history.

Keywords

Episode split, biography data, generated file, starting cohort 6

1. Introduction

In this survey paper we describe the structure and the editing process of an episode-split file which covers the retrospective education and employment histories of respondents of NEPS starting cohort 6: 'Adult Education and Lifelong Learning' (Allmendinger et al., 2011).[1] A downloadable STATA do-file[2] provided together with this paper enables data users to generate a dataset, which is based on the *Biography* file and characterized by a clear temporal and non-overlapping order of spells.

The basic idea of generating and filing this kind of longitudinal data can be traced back to the German Life History Study (GLHS) conducted at Max-Planck-Institute for Human Development in the 1980s.[3] Since then, several studies have adopted this design and developed their own versions of episode-split life-course data (Erhardt & Künster, 2014). The procedure described in this paper follows previous approaches and builds upon the NEPS Starting Cohort 6 *Biography* dataset, which is available as part of the SC6 scientific use file. Combining information of several *spell (sp)* datasets, this file includes data on periods in school, different forms of post-school education and training, military and voluntary services, employment, unemployment, parental leave and periods with other activities, which were collected retrospectively. For single persons, the episodes in the *Biography* dataset are not ordered chronologically, but they often overlap, which poses problems for data analysis. In particular, difficulties arise if users aim at identifying and prioritizing parallel activities or if they want to calculate cumulative time spans, for example respondents' employment experience.

The procedure described here solves this problem by splitting episodes and bringing them into a clear temporal order, as depicted in Figure 1. A detailed example is included in the appendix (Figure 2). The created STATA do-file runs for respondents' entire educational and occupational biographies. Episodes are split every time when (at least) one activity changes within respondents' life courses. These activities are congruent to the retrospectively collected questionnaire modules (filed in the variable *sptype*), which are distinguished in the *Biography* dataset. Furthermore, we enrich the newly generated dataset with additional information. To this end, variables from the *spFiles* with valuable additional information are prepared and merged to the episode-split file. In the following, we describe all the steps of converting the *Biography* dataset into the episode-split file. Subsequently, we explain how we prepared supplementary information data. Furthermore, we shortly describe how the data user can merge additional data to the episode-split dataset.

[1] For generating the episode split, we used different SC6 documentations, in particular the codebook, the data manual and the overview over the survey instruments (https://www.neps-data.de/en-us/datacenter/dataanddocumentation/startingcohortadults/documentation.aspx [last downloaded 2016-12-18]

[2] The do-file is available here:
https://www.neps-data.de/Portals/0/Survey%20Papers/Episodensplit_SP_XXVIII.do

[3] https://www.mpib-berlin.mpg.de/en/research/concluded-areas/sociology-and-the-study-of-the-life-course/the-german-life-history-study [last downloaded 2016-12-20]

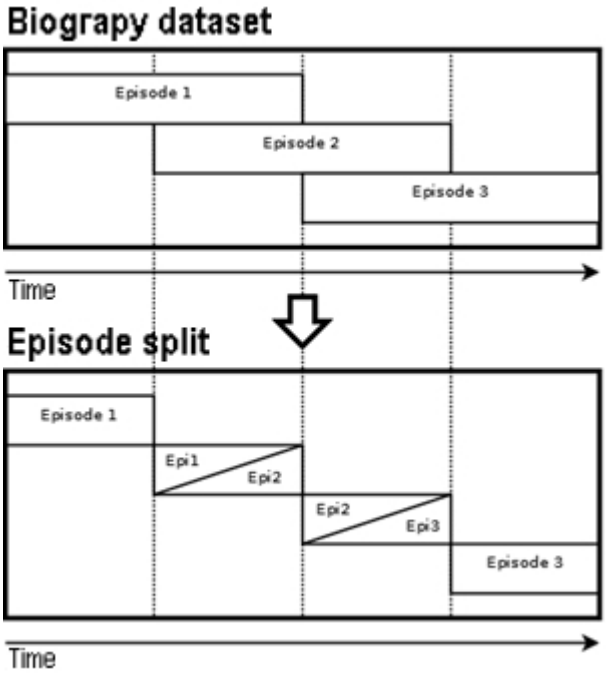

Figure 1: From Biography data to episode-split data

2. From *Biography* dataset to episode split

The origin data for the episode split[4] is the generated *Biography* file in the NEPS SC6 scientific use file, version 6.0.0[5], which combines episodes of the spell files *spSchool*, *spVocPrep*, *spVocTrain*, *spMilitary*, *spEmp*, *spUnemp*, *spParLeave* and *spGap.* Respondents have a record in this dataset if they provided information in at least one of the mentioned spell datasets. The *Biography* file data is more consistent than the *sp-file* data, because it contains edited and consistent date information. Hence, it is an excellent starting point for the episode split.

In a first step, the do-file modifies the date information to increase usability. It collapses starting and ending dates of episodes, which were filed as separate variables for months and years, into a joint numeric variable, which displays the date in months since January 1960 (STATA command *ym*) and is filed in STATA time format *(%tm*). Spells with missing date information are deleted.[6]

After that, we create a data structure that allows identifying overlapping episodes. To this end, the do-file expands spells by their monthly duration (STATA command *expand*). This results in a monthly spell structure, where the number of monthly spells equals the duration of every episode and each spell represents exactly one activity relating to one specific

[4] The do-file was tested with scientific use file (SUF) version 6-0-0 . For other data versions, modifications of the do-file may be necessary.

[5] This paper uses data from the National Educational Panel Study (NEPS): Starting Cohort Adults, doi:10.5157/NEPS:SC6:6.0.0. From 2008 to 2013, NEPS data was collected as part of the Framework Program for the Promotion of Empirical Educational Research funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). As of 2014, NEPS is carried out by the Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories (LIfBi) at the University of Bamberg in cooperation with a nationwide network (Blossfeld et al. 2011).

[6] SUF-version 6-0-0 contains no missing data, but earlier versions do.

month. In order to list simultaneous episodes below each other, they are sorted by person and month.

To improve convenience, the do-file sorts parallel activities in a second step by their 'significance'. The sorting order considers two criteria: a) main activities are ordered prior to side activities, and b) simultaneous main activities are ordered by exclusiveness of occurrence. This means that activity types, which allow no side activities or which take more time in one's life than others, are ordered prior to others. Military service is ranked first, because we assume that respondents are not able to do other activities such as attending school or taking parental leave at the same time. The sorting order is: *[25] Military*, *[22] School*, *[29] ParLeave*, *[24] VocTrain*, *[23] VocPrep*, *[27] UnEmp*, *[29] Gap*, *[26] Emp*, *[99] Data edition gap*.[7]

In the next step, the do-file converts the data from long to wide format, i.e. parallel activities are then filed in several variables next to each other instead of several spells below each other (STATA command *reshape*). The data is now structured in person-month format, in which simultaneous activities within one month are displayed in the same data row. In SUF version 6.0.0, respondents report up to six parallel activities. Thus, the variables *splink* (identification variable for specific episodes in the *spFiles*) and *sptype* (activity type) are available now six times: *splink1-6* and *sptype1-6*.

In a final step, the do-file aggregates the monthly spells again into (sub) episodes in order to save storing capacity (STATA command *collapse)*, i.e. all months without any activity change are collapsed into single episodes. Subsequently, the do-file checks the data for gaps between episodes as well as before the last interview date and fills all gaps with new episodes, called *data edition gaps [99]*. After these steps, the file provides consecutive life course information of each respondent in an unambiguous temporal order.[8]

In a final step, the do-file generates three summative variables containing supplementary information, which increases user-friendliness:

- Monthly duration of episode (*dur*)
- Number of activities per episode (*epicount*)
- Number of main activities per episode (*maincount*)

The latter two variables help to distinguish between main and side activities. Since main activities are always sorted prior to side activities, i.e. they are filed in *splink* and *sptype* variables with lower numbers, the values of the variable *maincount* provide exact information for every episode with parallel activities about which states are main activities and which are side activities. For example, a value of *maincount*=1 and *epicount*=3 means that in this episode three parallel activities take place. The first state (*sptype1, splink1*) is a main activity and the remaining two are side activities. By contrast, if *maincount*=0 all activities of the episode are side activities, regardless of the total number of parallel activities *(epicount)*. Hence, the variables *spms1-spms6* were deleted.

[7] For the data user, this order has no predetermining significance. It is only relevant for the arrangement of the values in the activity variables used later on.

[8] In SUF version 6.0.0 one gap between two episodes was identified for ID_t=8014099 and filled. No gaps were found at the end of the biographies.

Table 1: Episodes in the dataset by number of parallel activities

Number of parallel activities	N	%
1	182,262	77.99
2	44,682	19.07
3	6,424	2.74
4	814	0.35
5	106	0.05
6	14	0.01
Total	**234,302**	**100.00**

Overall, the episode-split dataset contains 234,302 episodes. 78 percent display a single activity, 19 percent two activities, almost three percent three activities and very few more than three parallel activities (Table 1).

3. Additional information

In order to enable data users to generate commonly used time-dependent covariates and cumulative life-course information quick and easily, the do file also prepares additional information from the *sp* datasets and merges them to the basic episode-split file. For this step, we chose central characteristics for seven of the nine state types, which we thought to be highly useful for a broad range of empirical applications. For merging the variables *ID_t*, *splink* and *subspell* are used. The latter is a generated auxiliary variable, which is set to zero, in order to ensure that only harmonized spells in the *spFiles* are merged. [9]

Table 2 provides an overview over the added variables. Subsequently, we describe how we generated and coded these variables. For this purpose, we list each sp dataset with its generated variables. We visualize changes in the provided variables via tables. Missing values of all variables are recoded according to the *nepsmiss* conventions.

Table 2: Merged variables from the sp datasets

	Sp dataset	Variable	Label	Original variable
1	Military [25][10]	*miltype*	'Type of service'	*ts21201*
2	School [22]	*schooltype*	'Type of school'	*ts11204_ha*
		schoolcert	'School-leaving certificate'	*ts11209*
		schoolongoing	'Episode is ongoing'	*ts1112c_g1*
3	ParLeave [29]	---	---	---
4	VocTrain [24]	*traintype*	'Type of post-school education'	*ts15201, ts15201_v1*
		traincert	'Post-school certificate'	*ts15219_ha*
		trainsuccess	'Successful completion'	*ts15218*
		trainongoing	'Episode is ongoing'	*ts1512c_g1*
5	VocPrep [23]	*vocpreptype*	'Type of vocational preparation'	*ts13101*

[9] Without the use of the auxiliary variable merging might cause problems, because *ID_t* and *splink* alone do not allow to uniquely identify spells if there is more than one subspell in the *sp* dataset.
[10] The figure in brackets indicates the *sptype* number as labelled in the *Biography* dataset.

6	UnEmp [27]	*unemptype*	'Registered unemployment'	*ts25201, ts25203*
7	Gap [29]	*gaptype*	'Type of other activity'	*ts29101, ts29101_v1*
8	Emp [26]	*emptype*	'Type of employment'	*ts23203*
		seasonalwork	'Seasonal work'	*ts23217*
		tempwork	'Temporary work'	*ts23216*
		workhours	'Weekly working hours'	*ts23219_g1, ts23218*
9	Data edition gap [99]	---	---	---

3.1 *SpMilitary* dataset

From the *spMilitary* dataset we added the variable 'type of service' (*miltype*). The information provided here is based on variable *ts21201*. The new coding combines all types of voluntary service in one single category (Table 3).

Table 3: Coding of miltype using ts21201

miltype	**ts21201**
[1] (Basic) military service	[1] (Basic) military service (incl. service as a reservist)
[2] Community service	[2] Community service [as alternative to military service]
[3] Other form of service	[3] Other form of service in lieu of military service
[4] Voluntary service	[4] Voluntary year spent performing community or ecological work, or European voluntary year [5] Federal voluntary service [6] Voluntary military service
[.b] Don't know	[-98] Don't know
[.c] Refused	[-97] Refused

3.2 *SpSchool* dataset

We enrich school episodes by additional information on school type (*schooltype*), school leaving certificate (*schoolcert*) and if the school episode is still lasting (*schoolongoing*). All three variables were taken from the original dataset *spSchool* with slight modifications only. For *schooltype* we used the variable *ts11204*_ha and recoded missing information to 'school abroad' [9]. The information for *schoolcert* stems from variable *ts11209*, and missing values are recoded to 'not determinable' *[.a]*. The variable *schoolongoing* is generated by using *ts1112c_g1* without modifications.

3.3 *SpVocTrain* dataset

From the *spVoctrain* dataset we generated four additional variables: type of post-school education (*traintype*), post-school certificate (*traincert*), success (*trainsuccess*) and information on continuation of the episode (*trainongoing*). The variables *traincert* and *trainongoing* were copied from the variables *ts15219_ha* and *ts1512c_g1* without any changes. The variable *trainsuccess* reports if education was successfully completed. Compared with the original variable *ts15218,* we added the category 'No certificate provided' [0], which denotes that the episode consists of an uncertified further education course (*traintype*=5). The variable

traintype offers information about respondents' type of post-school education and combines information from the variables *ts15201* and *ts15201_v1*. Table 4 provides a coding scheme.

Table 4: Coding of traintype using ts25201 and *ts15201_v1*

traintype	**ts15201**	**ts15201_v1**
[1] Dual vocational training	[1] Apprenticeship (skilled worker apprenticeship, dual vocational education and training; commercial, operational, trade-oriented, agricultural)	[1] Apprenticeship certificate (skilled worker, dual vocational education and training)
[2] School-based (full-time) training	[2] Education at a school in the health sector [3] *Berufsfachschule* training program (school-based or full-time school-based vocational training) [4] Training at another college (including technical teacher training) [5] Master craftsman or technician training (also engineering schools) [6] Study at an administration and business academy (VWA) [7] Study at a university of cooperative education, cooperative state university [8] Study at a college of public administration [12] A course to prepare for the civil service examination for a career public administration	[2] Vocational training course at a *Berufsfachschule* / school for health care professions [3] Vocational training course at a *Fachschule* (also *Fachlehrer* teacher training) [4] Apprenticeship to qualify as a master/foreman or as a technician [5] Course at a *Berufsakademie* (university of cooperative education, also *Verwaltungs- und Wirtschaftsakademie*) [11] Civil service examination
[3] University of applied sciences	[9] Study at a university of applied sciences (not college of public administration)	[6] Degree at a university of applied sciences
[4] University	[10] Study at a university [11] Medical residency [15] Doctoral degree [16] Postdoctoral lecturing qualification	[7] Degree at a university [8] Doctorate [9] Habilitation [10] Medical residency (specialist training for physicians, e.g. in dermatology)
[5] Further education	[13] Course at an association or a chamber (IHK course) [14] Course to obtain a license (welders, forklift or taxi driver license, network administrator)	[12] Training course at an association/chamber of commerce (e.g. courses at the IHK (Chamber of Industry and Commerce)) [13] Course leading to the acquisition of a license (e.g. to work as a welder, forklift operator, taxi driver or network administrator) [14] Other course
[6] Another kind of training program	[17] Another kind of training program	---
[.b] Don't know	[-98] Don't know	[-98] Don't know
[.c] Refused	[-97] Refused	[-97] Refused

3.4 *SpUnemp* dataset

The variable *unemptype* denotes at which time of the episode a respondent was registered unemployed. More precisely, information for the beginning and the end of the unemployment episode are found in the *spUnemp* dataset: the status at the beginning is stored in *ts25201*, the status at the end in *ts25203*. This results in four combinations. For example 'Only at the beginning' (*unemptype*=1) means that the respondent was registered unemployment at the beginning of the unemployment episode, but not anymore in the end. In contrast, if a person is not registered unemployed in the beginning, but in the end of the episode, the variable is set to *unemptype*=2. Table 2 shows the conducted coding.

Table 5: Coding of unemptype using ts25201 and ts25203

unemptype	**ts25201**[11]	**ts25203**[12]
[0] Never	[2] No	[2] No
[1] Only in the beginning	[1] Yes	[2] No
[2] Only in the end	[2] No	[1] Yes
[3] From beginning to end	[1] Yes	[1] Yes

3.5 *SpGap* dataset

For additional information from the *spGap* dataset, the variables *ts29101* and *ts29101_v1* are combined into a new variable named *gaptype*. Here, we reducted the existing categories to three main activity types (Table 6).

Table 6: Coding of gaptype using ts29101 and ts29101_v1

gaptype	**ts29101**	**ts29101_v1**
[1] Household/children	[6] Took care of your household or of the children [7] Was on parental leave	[6] Housewife / house husband [if KINR(1003)>1] … or took care of the children [7] On maternity leave/ paternity leave/ parental leave/ Babyjahr [maternity [or paternity] leave (of one-year duration)]
[2] Retirement	[10] Was retired (also disability pension)	---
[3] Other	[9] Was ill/temporarily unable to work [11] Was on vacation [12] Did something else	[8] Ill/temporarily unable to work [9] On holiday/vacation [10] Doing something else

3.6 *SpEmp* dataset

From the *spEmp* dataset we generated four variables: type of employment (*emptype*), seasonal work (*seasonalwork*), temporary work (*tempwork*) and the contractual weekly working

[11] 'Did you register as unemployed or as a job seeker at the beginning of this period of unemployment, i.e. <27107>?'

[12] 'Are you currently registered as unemployed or looking for work?'

hours (*workhours*). We used the variables *seasonalwork* (*ts23217*) and *tempwork* (*ts23216*) without any changes. The variable *emptype* was only slightly modified by adding the category 'Miscellaneous' [7] (*ts23203*=4|6).

The variable *workhours* shows the contractual working hours per week and is composed of information stored in *ts23219_g1* and *ts231218*. For coding the new variable, we started by using the variable 'Contractual/actual working hours upon beginning employment' (*ts23219_g1*). Values of more than 50 hours per week are aggregated in a new category *[54]*. The category 'not contractually defined working hours' is set on *[.a]*. For persons who did not provide information on working hours (*ts23219 = -55* | *-97* | *-98* | *95*), we use information from the variable 'Job volume at begin of occupation' (*ts23218*) to approximate their data. Respondents who state that they work full-time (*ts23218 = 1*) are set to 40 hours per week, respondents who state that they work part-time (*ts23218 = 2*) the working time is set to 20 hours (see Table 7).

Tabelle 7: Coding of workhours using ts23219_g1 and ts23218

workhours	**ts23219_g1**	**ts23218**
0 … 50	0 … 50	[2] Part-time work = 20 hours [1] Full-time work = 40 hours
[54] more than 50 hours	51 – 90 hours [94] more than 90 hours	
[.a] No contractually defined working hours	[95] No contractually defined working hours	
[.b] Don't know	[-98] Don't know	
[.c] Refused	[-97] Refused	

4. References

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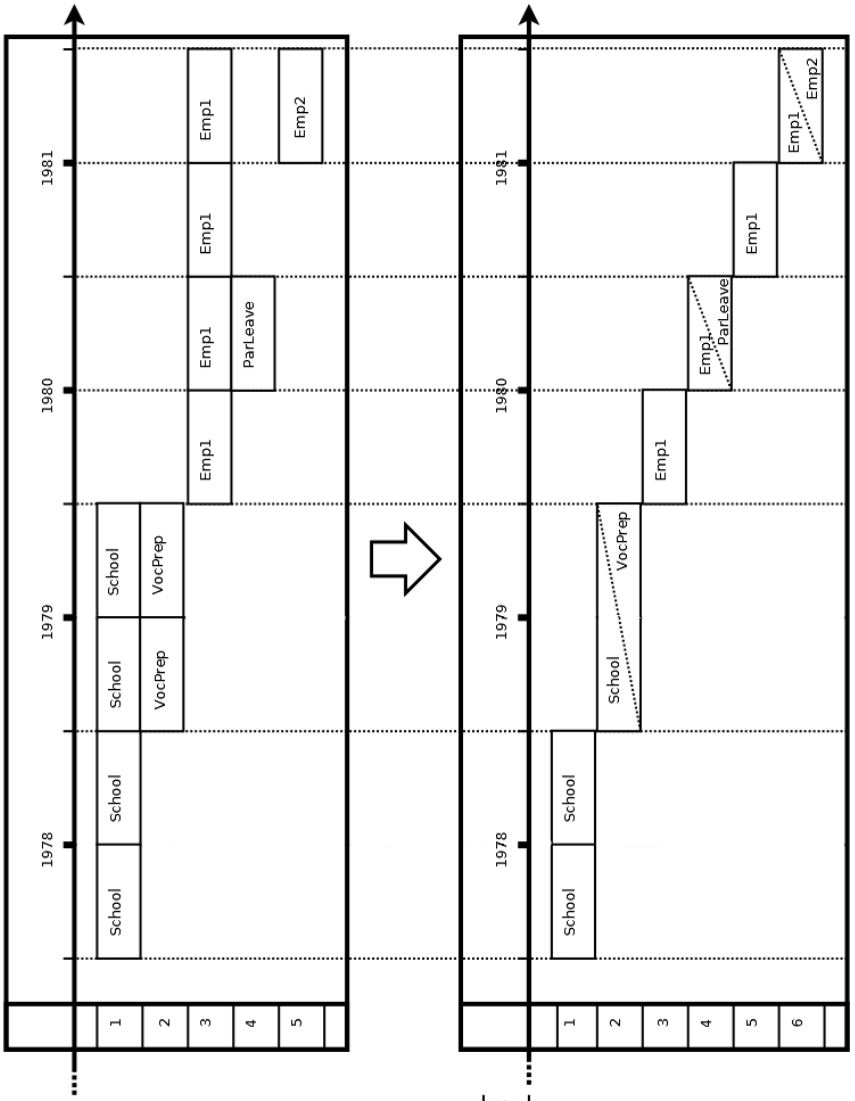
5. Appendix



Biography dataset

ID_t	epinr	splink	sptype	start	end	dur
800025	1	220001	School	1977m7	1979m6	24
800025	2	230001	VocPrep	1978m7	1979m6	12
800025	3	260001	Emp	1979m7	1981m6	24
800025	4	291001	ParLeave	1980m1	1980m6	6
800025	5	260002	Emp	1981m1	1981m6	6

Episode split

ID_t	epinr	start	end	dur	sptype1	sptype2	splink1	splink2
800025	1	1977m6	1978m6	12	School	.	220001	.
800025	2	1978m7	1979m6	12	School	Vocprep	220001	230001
800025	3	1970m7	1979m12	6	Emp	.	260001	.
800025	4	1980m1	1980m6	6	Emp	ParLeave	260001	291001
800025	5	1980m6	1980m12	6	Emp	Emp	260001	260002
800025	6	1981m1	1981m6	6	Emp	Emp	260001	260002

Figure 2: Conversion from Biography dataset to episode split illustrated by a sample biography

CODEBOOK

Variable	*Variable name*
ID_t	ID target
epinr	Episode number
start	Starting month (cm1960)
end	End month (cm1960)
dur	Duration (monthly)
epicount	Number of events
maincount	Number of dominant events
sptype1	Spell type1
sptype2	Spell type2
sptype3	Spell type3
sptype4	Spell type4
sptype5	Spell type5
sptype6	Spell type6
splink1	Link for spell merging 1
splink2	Link for spell merging 2
splink3	Link for spell merging 3
splink4	Link for spell merging 4
splink5	Link for spell merging 5
splink6	Link for spell merging 6
miltype1	Type of service episode
miltype2	Type of service episode
miltype3	Type of service episode
schooltype1	Type of school
schooltype2	Type of school
schooltype3	Type of school
schooltype4	Type of school
schooltype5	Type of school
schoolcert1	School-leaving certificate
schoolcert2	School-leaving certificate
schoolcert3	School-leaving certificate
schoolcert4	School-leaving certificate
schoolcert5	School-leaving certificate
schoolongoing1	Period is ongoing
schoolongoing2	Period is ongoing
schoolongoing3	Period is ongoing
schoolongoing4	Period is ongoing
schoolongoing5	Period is ongoing
traintype1	Type of post-school education
traintype2	Type of post-school education

traintype3	Type of post-school education
traintype4	Type of post-school education
traintype5	Type of post-school education
traintype6	Type of post-school education
traincert1	Post-school certificate
traincert2	Post-school certificate
traincert3	Post-school certificate
traincert4	Post-school certificate
traincert5	Post-school certificate
traincert6	Post-school certificate
trainsuccess1	Successful completion
trainsuccess2	Successful completion
trainsuccess3	Successful completion
trainsuccess4	Successful completion
trainsuccess5	Successful completion
trainsuccess6	Successful completion
trainongoing1	Period is ongoing
trainongoing2	Period is ongoing
trainongoing3	Period is ongoing
trainongoing4	Period is ongoing
trainongoing5	Period is ongoing
trainongoing6	Period is ongoing
vocpreptype1	Type of career preparation
vocpreptype2	Type of career preparation
vocpreptype3	Type of career preparation
vocpreptype4	Type of career preparation
vocpreptype5	Type of career preparation
unemptype1	Registererd unemployment
unemptype2	Registererd unemployment
unemptype3	Registererd unemployment
unemptype4	Registererd unemployment
unemptype5	Registererd unemployment
gaptype1	Type of gap
gaptype2	Type of gap
gaptype3	Type of gap
gaptype4	Type of gap
gaptype5	Type of gap
emptype1	Type of employment
emptype2	Type of employment
emptype3	Type of employment
emptype4	Type of employment
emptype5	Type of employment
emptype6	Type of employment
seasonalwork1	Seasonal work
seasonalwork2	Seasonal work
seasonalwork3	Seasonal work

seasonalwork4	Seasonal work
seasonalwork5	Seasonal work
seasonalwork6	Seasonal work
tempwork1	Temporary work
tempwork2	Temporary work
tempwork3	Temporary work
tempwork4	Temporary work
tempwork5	Temporary work
tempwork6	Temporary work
workhours1	Weekly working hours
workhours2	Weekly working hours
workhours3	Weekly working hours
workhours4	Weekly working hours
workhours5	Weekly working hours
workhours6	Weekly working hours

ID_t *ID target*

Observations	Unique	Min	Max
234302	17138	8000215	8025040

epinr *Episode number*

Observations	Unique	Mean	STD	Min	Max
234302	63	8.451	5.836	1	63

start *Starting month (cm1960)*

Observations	Unique	Mean	STD	Min	Max
234302	768	3.612	1.745	-184	647

end *Ending month (cm1960)*

Observations	Unique	Mean	STD	Min	Max
234302	740	3.973	1.711	-118	647

dur *Duration (monthly)*

Observations	Unique	Mean	STD	Min	Max
234302	549	3.710	5.341	1	690

epicount *Number of events*

Observations	Unique	Mean	STD	Min	Max
234302	6	1.258	0.523	1	6

maincount *Number of dominant events*

Observations	Unique	Mean	STD	Min	Max
234302	7	1.146	0.455	0	6

sptype1 *Spell type1*

Value Value label	Code	Observations
School	22	41243
VocPrep	23	1358
VocTrain	24	45856
Military	25	6965
Emp	26	93399
Unemp	27	17536
ParLeave	29	3989
Gap	30	18133
Data edition gap	99	3143

sptype2 *Spell type2*

Value Value label	Code	Observations
School	22	339
VocPrep	23	271
VocTrain	24	3766
Military	25	1261
Emp	26	29067
Unemp	27	5701
ParLeave	29	6620
Gap	30	4058
Data edition gap	99	339

sptype3 *Spell type3*

Value Value label	Code	Observations
School	22	10
VocPrep	23	20
VocTrain	24	243
Military	25	94
Emp	26	4285
Unemp	27	704
ParLeave	29	1250
Gap	30	651
Data edition gap	99	10

sptype4 *Spell type4*

Value Value label	Code	Observations
School	22	1
VocPrep	23	3
VocTrain	24	36
Military	25	8
Emp	26	589
Unemp	27	64
ParLeave	29	150
Gap	30	89
Data edition gap	99	1

sptype5 *Spell type5*

Value Value label	Code	Observations
School	22	.
VocPrep	23	.
VocTrain	24	8
Military	25	2
Emp	26	74
Unemp	27	14
ParLeave	29	21
Gap	30	11
Data edition gap	99	.

sptype6 *Spell type6*

Value Value label	Code	Observations
School	22	.
VocPrep	23	.
VocTrain	24	2
Military	25	.
Emp	26	12
Unemp	27	2
ParLeave	29	1
Gap	30	3
Data edition gap	99	.

splink1 *Link for spell merging 1*

Observations	Unique	Min	Max
234302	147	220001	990009

splink2 *Link for spell merging 2*

Observations	Unique	Min	Max
52040	112	220001	300010

splink3 *Link for spell merging 3*

Observations	Unique	Min	Max
7358	89	220002	300007

splink4 *Link for spell merging 4*

Observations	Unique	Min	Max
934	54	220002	300006

splink5 *Link for spell merging 5*

Observations	Unique	Min	Max
120	31	220003	300005

splink6 *Link for spell merging 6*

Observations	Unique	Min	Max
14	10	240006	260017

miltype1 *Type of service episode*

Value	Value label	Code	Observations
	(Basic) military service (incl. service as a reservist)	1	5446
	Community service [as alternative to military service]	2	1242
	Other form of service in lieu of military service	3	702
	Voluntary service	4	532
	Refused	a.	21

miltype2 *Type of service episode*

Value	Value label	Code	Observations
	(Basic) military service (incl. service as a reservist)	1	31
	Community service [as alternative to military service]	2	5
	Other form of service in lieu of military service	3	268
	Voluntary service	4	6
	Refused	a.	13

miltype3 *Type of service episode*

Value	Value label	Code	Observations
	(Basic) military service (incl. service as a reservist)	1	1
	Other form of service in lieu of military service	3	38
	Refused	a.	1

schooltype1 *Type of school*

Value	Value label	Code	Observations
	Elementary school or Volksschule (orientation stage)	1	14623
	Haupt, Real-, Sekundar-, Regel-, Mittel-, Oberschule, POS	2	11326
	Comprehensive school (as well as integrated schools)	3	820
	Waldorf school	4	75
	Gymnasium (EOS, vocational gymnasium, Aufbaugymnasium)	5	7125
	Vocational training (to achieve general educational school leaving certificate)	6	2518

Special needs school (as well as Förderzentrum)	7	205
Other school	8	1308
School abroad	9	1820
Don’t know	.b	8

schooltype2 *Type of school*

Value Value label	Code	Observations
Elementary school or Volksschule (orientation stage)	1	51
Haupt, Real-, Sekundar-, Regel-, Mittel-, Oberschule, POS	2	222
Comprehensive school (as well as integrated schools)	3	12
Waldorf school	4	1
Gymnasium (EOS, vocational gymnasium, Aufbaugymnasium)	5	198
Vocational training (to achieve general educational school leaving certificate)	6	359
Special needs school (as well as Förderzentrum)	7	7
Other school	8	387
School abroad	9	90

schooltype3 *Type of school*

Value Value label	Code	Observations
Haupt, Real-, Sekundar-, Regel-, Mittel-, Oberschule, POS	2	18
Gymnasium (EOS, vocational gymnasium, Aufbaugymnasium)	5	13
Vocational training (to achieve general educational school leaving certificate)	6	43
Other school	8	43
School abroad	9	13

schooltype4 *Type of school*

Value Value label	Code	Observations
Haupt, Real-, Sekundar-, Regel-, Mittel-, Oberschule, POS	2	2
Gymnasium (EOS, vocational gymnasium, Aufbaugymnasium)	5	2
Vocational training (to achieve general educational school leaving certificate)	6	1

Other school	8	4

schooltype5 *Type of school*

Value Value label	Code	Observations
Vocational training (to achieve general educational school leaving certificate)	6	1

schoolcert1 *School-leaving certificate*

Value Value label	Code	Observations
Basic leaving certificate of the Hauptschule / entrance qualification for a vocational school, e.g. accompanying an apprenticeship / first general school-leaving certificate	1	4261
Qualifying leaving certificate of the Hauptschule / extended entrance qualification for a vocational school, extended entrance qualification for a vocational school with performance appraisal / lower secondary school-leaving certificate / leaving certificate / leaving certificate of the Hauptschule / leaving certificate of the Hauptschule after grade 10	2	1417
Certificate of intermediate secondary education / leaving certificate of the Realschule / Wirtschaftsschule / Fachschulreife / Fachoberschulreife / extended / qualifying leaving certificate of secondary education / extended / qualifying leaving certificate of the Realschule	3	9501
Fachhochschulreife	4	4095
Other university entrance qualification (Abitur)	5	3102
Special needs school-leaving certificate	6	55
Other school-leaving certificate	7	462
Not determinable	a.	10782
Don’t know	b.	67
There was no qualification intended	x.	3330
Without any qualification	y.	2756

schoolcert2 *School-leaving certificate*

Value label	Code	Observations
Basic leaving certificate of the Hauptschule / entrance qualification for a vocational school, e.g. accompanying an apprenticeship / first general	1	71

school-leaving certificate		
Qualifying leaving certificate of the Hauptschule / extended entrance qualification for a vocational school, extended entrance qualification for a vocational school with performance appraisal / lower secondary school-leaving certificate / leaving certificate of the Hauptschule / leaving certificate of the Hauptschule after grade 10	2	25
Certificate of intermediate secondary education / leaving certificate of the Realschule / Wirtschaftsschule / Fachschulreife / Fachoberschulreife / extended / qualifying leaving certificate of secondary education / extended / qualifying leaving certificate of the Realschule	3	426
Fachhochschulreife	4	284
Other university entrance qualification (Abitur)	5	153
Special needs school-leaving certificate	6	3
Other school-leaving certificate	7	129
Not determinable	a.	50
Don't know	b.	5
There was no qualification intended	x.	52
Without any qualification	y.	129

schoolcert3 — *School-leaving certificate*

Value label	Code	Observations
Basic leaving certificate of the Hauptschule / entrance qualification for a vocational school, e.g. accompanying an apprenticeship / first general school-leaving certificate	1	2
Qualifying leaving certificate of the Hauptschule / extended entrance qualification for a vocational school, extended entrance qualification for a vocational school with performance appraisal / lower secondary school-leaving certificate / leaving certificate / leaving certificate of the Hauptschule / leaving certificate of the Hauptschule after grade 10	2	2
Certificate of intermediate secondary education / leaving certificate of the Realschule / Wirtschaftsschule / Fachschulreife / Fachoberschulreife / extended / qualifying leaving certificate of secondary education / extended / qualifying leaving certificate of the Realschule	3	47
Fachhochschulreife	4	27
Other university entrance qualification (Abitur)	5	13
Other school-leaving certificate	7	19
Not determinable	a.	13
There was no qualification intended	x.	2

Without any qualification	y.	5

schoolcert4 — *School-leaving certificate*

Value label	Code	Observations
Certificate of intermediate secondary education / leaving certificate of the Realschule / Wirtschaftsschule / Fachschulreife / Fachoberschulreife / extended / qualifying leaving certificate of secondary education / extended / qualifying leaving certificate of the Realschule	3	4
Fachhochschulreife	4	2
Other university entrance qualification (Abitur)	5	1
Other school-leaving certificate	7	9

schoolcert5 — *School-leaving certificate*

Value label	Code	Observations
Certificate of intermediate secondary education / leaving certificate of the Realschule / Wirtschaftsschule / Fachschulreife / Fachoberschulreife / extended / qualifying leaving certificate of secondary education / extended / qualifying leaving certificate of the Realschule	3	1

schoolongoing1 — *Period is ongoing*

Value label	Code	Observations
Yes, I still attend this school	1	111
No	2	39717

schoolongoing2 — *Period is ongoing*

Value label	Code	Observations
Yes, I still attend this school	1	17
No	2	1310

schoolongoing3 — *Period is ongoing*

Value label	Code	Observations
Yes, I still attend this school	1	10
No	2	120

schoolongoing4 — *Period is ongoing*

Value label	Code	Observations
No	2	9

schoolongoing5 — *Period is ongoing*

Value label	Code	Observations
No	2	1

trainype1 — *Type of post-school education*

Value label	Code	Observations
Dual training	1	14004
School-based (full-time) training	2	5542
University of applied sciences	3	3461
University	4	9525
Further education	5	2669
Another kind of training program	6	766
Don’t know	b.	22

traintype2 — *Type of post-school education*

Value label	Code	Observations
Dual training	1	1137
School-based (full-time) training	2	2683
University of applied sciences	3	610
University	4	1470
Further education	5	5227
Another kind of training program	6	675
Don’t know	b.	8
Refused	c.	1

traintype3 *Type of post-school education*

Value label	Code	Observations
Dual training	1	90
School-based (full-time) training	2	395
University of applied sciences	3	90
University	4	253
Further education	5	944
Another kind of training program	6	160
Don’t know	b.	4

traintype4 *Type of post-school education*

Value label	Code	Observations
Dual training	1	3
School-based (full-time) training	2	47
University of applied sciences	3	11
University	4	41
Further education	5	133
Another kind of training program	6	42

traintype5 *Type of post-school education*

Value label	Code	Observations
Dual training	1	1
School-based (full-time) training	2	13
University of applied sciences	3	2
University	4	8
Further education	5	22
Another kind of training program	6	4

traintype6 *Type of post-school education*

Value label	Code	Observations
School-based (full-time) training	2	2
Further education	5	1

traincert1 *Post-school certificate*

Value label	Code	Observations
Journeyperson's certificate or assistant's certificate	1	12400
Leaving certificate from a Berufsfachschule or Fachschule for health care professions	2	2188
Leaving certificate from a Fachschule	3	1014
Master's/foreman's certificate	4	594
Technician's certificate	5	495
Certificate from a Berufs-, Verwaltungs-, Wirtschaftsakademie or college of public administration	6	296
Certificate from a university of applied sciences	7	2876
University degree	8	6399
Medical specialist	9	118
Doctorate	10	426
Habilitation (post-doctoral lecturing qualification)	11	10
Civil service examination: ordinary rank	12	24
Civil service examination: middle rank	13	299
Civil service examination: higher rank	14	167
Civil service examination: senior rank	15	33
IHK examination (Chamber of Industry and Commerce)	16	334
Other type of final qualification	17	790
Don't know	.b	561
Refused	.c	8
Implausible value	.e	34
Not determinable	.l	74
Without any qualification	.y	68

traincert2 *Post-school certificate*

Value label	Code	Observations
Journeyperson's certificate or assistant's certificate	1	1152
Leaving certificate from a Berufsfachschule or Fachschule for health care professions	2	558
Leaving certificate from a Fachschule	3	444
Master's/foreman's certificate	4	740
Technician's certificate	5	317
Certificate from a Berufs-, Verwaltungs-, Wirtschaftsakademie or college of public administration	6	183
Certificate from a university of applied sciences	7	527
University degree	8	742
Medical specialist	9	29
Doctorate	10	239
Habilitation (post-doctoral lecturing qualification)	11	11

Civil service examination: ordinary rank	12	8
Civil service examination: middle rank	13	71
Civil service examination: higher rank	14	49
Civil service examination: senior rank	15	13
IHK examination (Chamber of Industry and Commerce)	16	655
Other type of final qualification	17	1488
Don't know	.b	122
Refused	.c	6
Implausible value	.e	16
Not determinable	.l	44
Without any qualification	.y	42

traincert3 *Post-school certificate*

Value label	Code	Observations
Journeyperson's certificate or assistant's certificate	1	92
Leaving certificate from a Berufsfachschule or Fachschule for health care professions	2	92
Leaving certificate from a Fachschule	3	64
Master's/foreman's certificate	4	76
Technician's certificate	5	56
Certificate from a Berufs-, Verwaltungs-, Wirtschaftsakademie or college of public administration	6	34
Certificate from a university of applied sciences	7	66
University degree	8	106
Medical specialist	9	8
Doctorate	10	39
Habilitation (post-doctoral lecturing qualification)	11	3
Civil service examination: ordinary rank	12	4
Civil service examination: middle rank	13	6
Civil service examination: higher rank	14	7
Civil service examination: senior rank	15	2
IHK examination (Chamber of Industry and Commerce)	16	100
Other type of final qualification	17	261
Don't know	.b	29
Refused	.c	1
Implausible value	.e	5
Not determinable	.l	10
Without any qualification	.y	8

traincert4 *Post-school certificate*

Value label	Code	Observations
Journeyperson's certificate or assistant's certificate	1	10
Leaving certificate from a Berufsfachschule or Fachschule for health care professions	2	5
Leaving certificate from a Fachschule	3	9
Master's/foreman's certificate	4	8
Technician's certificate	5	4
Certificate from a Berufs-, Verwaltungs-, Wirtschaftsakademie or college of public administration	6	1
Certificate from a university of applied sciences	7	8
University degree	8	10
Doctorate	10	4
Civil service examination: middle rank	13	1
Civil service examination: senior rank	15	1
IHK examination (Chamber of Industry and Commerce)	16	10
Other type of final qualification	17	36
Don't know	.b	3
Refused	.c	1
Implausible value	.e	5
Not determinable	.l	3

traincert5 *Post-school certificate*

Value label	Code	Observations
Journeyperson's certificate or assistant's certificate	1	2
Leaving certificate from a Berufsfachschule or Fachschule for health care professions	2	1
Leaving certificate from a Fachschule	3	6
Certificate from a university of applied sciences	7	2
University degree	8	2
Other type of final qualification	17	11
Don't know	.b	1
Implausible value	.e	1

traincert6 *Post-school certificate*

Value label	Code	Observations
Other type of final qualification	17	3

trainsuccess1 *Successful completion*

Value label	Code	Observations
No certificate intended	0	2669
Yes	1	26664
No	2	3970
Don’t know	.b	16
Refused	.c	2

trainsuccess2 *Successful completion*

Value label	Code	Observations
No certificate intended	0	5227
Yes	1	5160
No	2	707
Don’t know	.b	5

trainsuccess3 *Successful completion*

Value label	Code	Observations
No certificate intended	0	944
Yes	1	714
No	2	123
Don’t know	.b	3

trainsuccess4 *Successful completion*

Value label	Code	Observations
No certificate intended	0	133
Yes	1	81
No	2	20
Don’t know	.b	2

trainsuccess5 — *Successful completion*

Value label	Code	Observations
No certificate intended	0	22
Yes	1	16
No	2	4
Don’t know	.b	1

trainsuccess6 — *Successful completion*

Value label	Code	Observations
No certificate intended	0	1
Yes	1	2

trainongoing1 — *Period is ongoing*

Value label	Code	Observations
Yes	1	1747
No	2	34242

trainongoing2 — *Period is ongoing*

Value label	Code	Observations
Yes	1	240
No	2	11571

trainongoing3 — *Period is ongoing*

Value label	Code	Observations
Yes	1	71
No	2	1865

trainongoing4 — *Period is ongoing*

Value label	Code	Observations
Yes	1	14
No	2	263

trainongoing5 *Period is ongoing*

Value label	Code	Observations
Yes	1	1
No	2	49

trainongoing6 *Period is ongoing*

Value label	Code	Observations
No	2	3

vocpreptype1 *Type of career preparation*

Value label	Code	Observations
„Berufsvorbereitungsjahr“ (vocational training year)	1	269
„Berufsgrundbildungsjahr“ (vocational training year for school-leavers who have not found a place as an apprentice or trainee)	2	248
One-year vocational training course at a Berufsfachschule (vocational school at upper secondary level providing instruction in general and vocational subjects)	3	260
Vocational training measures provided by the employment agencies (e.g. JUMP, EQJ, AQJ)	4	414
No, participated in no training measures	5	1
Don’t know	.b	7
Refused	.c	1

vocpreptype2 *Type of career preparation*

Value label	Code	Observations
„Berufsvorbereitungsjahr“ (vocational training year)	1	68
„Berufsgrundbildungsjahr“ (vocational training year for school-leavers who have not found a place as an apprentice or trainee)	2	81
One-year vocational training course at a Berufsfachschule (vocational school at upper secondary level providing instruction in general and vocational subjects)	3	153
Vocational training measures provided by the employment agencies (e.g. JUMP, EQJ, AQJ)	4	92
No, participated in no training measures	5	1

Don’t know	.b	4

vocpreptype3 — *Type of career preparation*

Value label	Code	Observations
„Berufsvorbereitungsjahr“ (vocational training year)	1	1
„Berufsgrundbildungsjahr“ (vocational training year for school-leavers who have not found a place as an apprentice or trainee)	2	7
einjährige Berufsfachschule speziell zur Berufsvorbereitung	3	18
Vocational training measures provided by the employment agencies (e.g. JUMP, EQJ, AQJ)	4	12

vocpreptype4 — *Type of career preparation*

Value label	Code	Observations
One-year vocational training course at a Berufsfachschule (vocational school at upper secondary level providing instruction in general and vocational subjects)	3	4
Vocational training measures provided by the employment agencies (e.g. JUMP, EQJ, AQJ)	4	2

vocpreptype5 — *Type of career preparation*

Value label	Code	Observations
Vocational training measures provided by the employment agencies (e.g. JUMP, EQJ, AQJ)	4	1

unemptype1 — *Registered unemployment*

Value label	Code	Observations
Never	0	2000
Only in the beginning	1	3333
Only in the end	2	630
From beginning to end	3	15682

unemptype2 *Registered unemployment*

Value label	Code	Observations
Never	0	1250
Only in the beginning	1	229
Only in the end	2	46
From beginning to end	3	1013

unemptype3 *Registered unemployment*

Value label	Code	Observations
Never	0	167
Only in the beginning	1	10
Only in the end	2	1
From beginning to end	3	47

unemptype4 *Registered unemployment*

Value label	Code	Observations
Never	0	21
From beginning to end	3	1

unemptype5 *Registered unemployment*

Value label	Code	Observations
Never	0	1

gaptype1 *Type of gap*

Value label	Code	Observations
Household/children	1	5893
Retirement	2	2534
Other	3	13259

gaptype2 *Type of gap*

Value label	Code	Observations
Household/children	1	872

Retirement	2	85
Other	3	683

gaptype3 *Type of gap*

Value label	Code	Observations
Household/children	1	75
Retirement	2	4
Other	3	39

gaptype4 *Type of gap*

Value label	Code	Observations
Household/children	1	10
Other	3	3

gaptype5 *Type of gap*

Value label	Code	Observations
Household/children	1	1

emptype1 *Type of employment*

Value label	Code	Observations
Worker	1	23887
Employee	2	53929
Civil servant	3	3706
Self-employed person	4	5808
Freelancer	5	1920
Employment as preparation for a profession	6	1564
Miscellaneous	7	1329
Don’t know	.b	202
Refused	.c	11

emptype2 *Type of employment*

Value label	Code	Observations
Worker	1	6833
Employee	2	14866
Civil servant	3	1160
Self-employed person	4	3777
Freelancer	5	3086
Employment as preparation for a profession	6	1493
Miscellaneous	7	995
Don’t know	.b	236
Refused	.c	10

emptype3 *Type of employment*

Value label	Code	Observations
Worker	1	637
Employee	2	1779
Civil servant	3	98
Self-employed person	4	881
Freelancer	5	807
Employment as preparation for a profession	6	294
Miscellaneous	7	188
Don’t know	.b	52
Refused	.c	1

emptype4 *Type of employment*

Value label	Code	Observations
Worker	1	52
Employee	2	187
Civil servant	3	12
Self-employed person	4	141
Freelancer	5	150
Employment as preparation for a profession	6	33
Miscellaneous	7	13
Don’t know	.b	8

emptype5 *Type of employment*

Value label	Code	Observations
Worker	1	5
Employee	2	24
Civil servant	3	1
Self-employed person	4	14
Freelancer	5	16
Employment as preparation for a profession	6	2
Miscellaneous	7	1
Don’t know	.b	3

emptype6 *Type of employment*

Value label	Code	Observations
Employee	2	3
Self-employed person	4	3
Freelancer	5	4
Don’t know	.b	1

seasonalwork1 *Seasonal work*

Value label	Code	Observations
Yes	1	593
No	2	29667
Don’t know	.b	36
Refused	.c	4
Missing by design	.m	31980

seasonalwork2 *Seasonal work*

Value label	Code	Observations
Yes	1	326
No	2	8306
Don’t know	.b	2
Refused	.c	4
Missing by design	.m	13689

seasonalwork3 *Seasonal work*

Value label	Code	Observations
Yes	1	43
No	2	967
Missing by design	.m	2089

seasonalwork4 *Seasonal work*

Value label	Code	Observations
Yes	1	5
No	2	125
Missing by design	.m	253

seasonalwork5 *Seasonal work*

Value label	Code	Observations
Yes	1	1
No	2	14
Missing by design	.m	23

seasonalwork6 *Seasonal work*

Value label	Code	Observations
No	2	1
Missing by design	.m	1

tempwork1 *Temporary work*

Value label	Code	Observations
Yes	1	1262
No	2	45706
Don’t know	.b	20
Refused	.c	2
Missing by design	.m	32016

tempwork2 *Temporary work*

Value label	Code	Observations
Yes	1	299
No	2	12378
Don’t know	.b	13
Refused	.c	2
Missing by design	.m	13691

tempwork3 *Temporary work*

Value label	Code	Observations
Yes	1	36
No	2	1434
Don’t know	.b	2
Refused	.c	1
Missing by design	.m	2089

tempwork4 *Temporary work*

Value label	Code	Observations
Yes	1	3
No	2	176
Missing by design	.m	253

tempwork5 *Temporary work*

Value label	Code	Observations
No	2	19
Missing by design	.m	23

tempwork6 *Temporary work*

Value label	Code	Observations
No	2	2

Missing by design	.m	1

workhours1 *Weekly working hours*

Observations	Unique	Mean	STD	Min	Max
91587	349	36.539	9.450	0	54

Value label	Code	Observations
more than 50 hours	54	2492
No contractually defined working hours	.a	707
Don’t know	.b	60
Refused	.c	2

workhours2 *Weekly working hours*

Observations	Unique	Mean	STD	Min	Max
31323	264	26.955	14.903	0	54

Value label	Code	Observations
more than 50 hours	54	526
No contractually defined working hours	.a	1030
Don’t know	.b	90
Refused	.c	13

workhours3 *Weekly working hours*

Observations	Unique	Mean	STD	Min	Max
4500	116	19.443	14.792	0	54

Value label	Code	Observations
more than 50 hours	54	61
No contractually defined working hours	.a	207
Don’t know	.b	30

workhours4 *Weekly working hours*

Observations	Unique	Mean	STD	Min	Max
571	61	15.946	14.015	0	54

Value label	Code	Observations
more than 50 hours	54	7
No contractually defined working hours	.a	22
Don’t know	.b	3

workhours5 *Weekly working hours*

Observations	Unique	Mean	STD	Min	Max
65	22	19.335	16.778	0	54

Value label	Code	Observations
more than 50 hours	54	3
No contractually defined working hours	.a	1

workhours6 *Weekly working hours*

Observations	Unique	Mean	STD	Min	Max
11	349	13.3	15.274	1.3	40