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Current Population Survey (CPS)

Supplemental Surveys

In addition to providing data on the labor force status of the population, the Current Population Survey (CPS) is used to collect data for a variety of studies on the entire U.S. population and specific population subsets. These studies keep the nation informed of the economic and social well-being of its people and are used by federal and state agencies, private foundations, and other organizations. Supplemental inquiries take advantage of several special features of the CPS: large sample size and general purpose design; highly skilled, experienced interviewing and field staff; and generalized processing systems that can easily accommodate the inclusion of additional questions.

Some CPS supplemental inquiries are conducted annually, others every other year, and still others on a one-time basis. The frequency and recurrence of a supplement depend on what best meets the needs of the supplement's sponsor. In addition, any supplemental inquiry must meet strict criteria discussed in the next section.

Producing supplemental data from the CPS involves more than just including additional questions. Separate data processing is required to edit responses for consistency and to impute missing values. An additional weighting method is often necessary because the supplement targets a different universe from that of the basic CPS. A supplement can also engender a different level of response or cooperation from respondents. To see more information concerning criteria for CPS Supplements, refer to Tech Paper 66, Chapter 11.

CPS Supplements 2005 - 2012

Title	Month	Purpose	Sponsor
Housing Vacancy	Monthly	Provide quarterly data on vacancy rates and characteristics of vacant units.	Census
Displaced Workers	January 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012	Provide data on workers who lost a job in the last 5 years due to plant closing, shift elimination, or other work-related reason. Periodicity: Biennial.	BLS
Job Tenure/Occupational Mobility	January 2006, 2008, 2010	Provide data that will measure an individual's tenure with his/her current employer and in his/her current occupation. Periodicity: As requested.	BLS
Contingent Workers	February 2005	Provide information on the type of employment arrangement workers have on their current job and other characteristics of the current job such as earnings, benefits, longevity, etc., along with their satisfaction with and expectations for their current jobs. Periodicity: As requested.	BLS
Annual Social and Economic Supplement	March 2005-2012	Provide data concerning family characteristics, household composition, marital status, education attainment, health insurance coverage, foreign-born population, previous year's income from all sources, work experience, receipt of noncash benefit, poverty, program participation, and geographic mobility. Periodicity: Annual	Census/BLS
Child Support	April 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012	Identify households with absent parents and provide data on child support arrangements, visitation rights of absent parent, amount and frequency of actual versus awarded child support, and health insurance coverage. Data are also provided on why child support was not received or awarded. April data will be matched to March data.	OCSE
Unemployment Insurance	January, May, July, November 2005	Determine how many people have applied, received, and have since used up their unemployment insurance benefits, and to what extent are individuals not applying for unemployment benefits, and their reasons for not doing so.	BLS
Public Participation in the Arts	May 2008, July 2012	To obtain information on type and frequency of adult participation in the arts; training and exposure (particularly while young), and their musical and artistic activity preferences.	NEA
Disability	May 2012	To measure data in specific areas related to the employment of persons with disabilities. Gives labor force participation rates, work history, barriers to employment, and types of workplace accommodations for persons with disabilities.	BLS
Fertility	June 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012	Provide data on the number of children that women aged 15-44 have ever had and the children's characteristics. Periodicity: Biennial.	Census/BLS
Unbanked/Underbanked	January 2009, June 2011	To obtain information about unbanked and underbanked households as part of an effort to bring them into the economic mainstream.	FDIC
Veterans	August, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2012, July 2010	Provide data for veterans of the United States on Vietnam-theater and Persian Gulf-theater status, service-connected income, effect of a service-connected disability on current labor force participation and participation in veterans' programs. Periodicity: Biennial thru 2009, annually thereafter.	BLS
Volunteers	September 2005-2012	Provide a measurement of participation in volunteer service, specifically about frequency of volunteer activity, the kinds of organizations volunteered with, and types of activities chosen. Among nonvolunteers, questions identify what barriers were experienced in volunteering, or what encouragement is needed to increase participation.	BLS, CNCS
School Enrollment	October 2005-2012	Provide information on population 3 years old and older on school enrollment, junior or regular college attendance, and high school graduation. Periodicity: Annual.	BLS/Census/NCES
Voting and Registration	November 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012	Provide demographic information on persons who did and did not register to vote. Also measures number of persons who voted and reasons for not registering. Periodicity: Biennial.	Census
Tobacco Use	May 2006, August 2006, January 2007, May 2010, August 2010, January 2011, May 2011	Provide data for population 15 years and older on current and former use of tobacco products; restrictions of smoking in workplace for employed persons; and personal attitudes toward smoking. Periodicity: As requested.	NCI
Computer and Internet Use	November 2007, October 2009, October 2010, July 2011, October 2012	Provide information about household access to computers and the use of the Internet.	NTIA
International Migration	August 2008	Provide international migration data that will assist the U.S. Census Bureau, other government agencies, and other researchers to improve the quality of international migration estimates and to determine changes in migration patterns that are related to the nation's population composition.	Census
Food Security	December 2005-2012	Provide data that will measure hunger and food security. It will provide data on food expenditure, access to food, and food quality and safety.	FNS