Current Population Survey
Telework Items Extract Files

Technical Documentation

Starting in October 2022, four questions were added to the Current Population Survey related to telework status of those employed in the labor force, and telework status prior to the onset of the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic. The first 2 questions obtain the telework status as of the current labor force reference period (last week) and the number of hours teleworked. The last 2 questions obtain the telework status prior to the onset of the pandemic in February 2020, and whether or not the hours teleworked differ now compared to then. In December 2023, the last two questions were removed, leaving only the two questions regarding current telework status.

Data processing of the extract file data consisted of a consistency edit and hot-deck allocation for non-response. Apply the person final weight (PWSSWGT) to generate weighted estimates. Nonresponse for the Telework items varies month by month, but in general ranges from one percent to eleven percent.

A separate extract file is created for each month the questions remain in CPS. In order to properly use this extract, it should be used in combination with the regular monthly CPS public use files. Use the first 4 variables on the extract file to match the extract data to the regular public use this file. This will allow the user to access the full set of demographic and labor force characteristics from basic CPS for their analysis.

Telework Items List

December 2023 Forward

Intro

I now have a few questions related to where people work.

Press (1) to Continue

Telework

COVR1 **At any time LAST WEEK, did (you/name) telework or work at home for pay?**

(1) Yes
(2) No

Hours_Telework

COVR2 **LAST WEEK, (you/name) worked (# hours worked last week at all jobs) hours (total/at all jobs). How many of these hours did you telework or work at home for pay?**

Multiple jobholders should include telework hours on all jobs combined.
Enter 97 for workers who teleworked 100 or more hours.

___ (0-97)

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY
TELEWORK EXTRACT FILE
RECORD LAYOUT

December 2023 forward

NAME	SIZE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
QSTNUM	5	Unique Household Identifier Universe = All	1-5
OCCURNUM	2	Unique person Identifier Within a QSTNUM Universe = All	6-7
HRMONTH	2	Month of Interview Universe = All VALID ENTRIES 01-12	8-9
HRYEAR	4	Year of Interview Universe = All VALID ENTRIES 23 2023 24 2024	10-13
PTCOVR1	2	At any time LAST WEEK did (you/name) telework or work at home for pay? Universe: PRTAGE = 16+ and PEMLR = 1 VALID ENTRIES -1 Not in Universe 1 Yes 2 No	14-15
PTCOVR2	3	LAST WEEK, (you/name) worked	16-18

		(# hours worked last week at all jobs) hours (total/at all jobs). How many of these hours did (you/name) telework or work at home for pay? Universe: PTCOVR1 = 1. VALID ENTRIES -1 Not in Universe 0 – 97 Hours (0 hours represent reports of < 30 minutes telework)	
PXCOVR1	2	Allocation flag for PTCOVR1 VALID ENTRIES -1 Not in universe 0 Not allocated 1 Allocated	23-24
PXCOVR2	2	Allocation flag for PTCOVR2 VALID ENTRIES -1 Not in universe 0 Not allocated 1 Allocated	25-26

End of Record

October 2022 thru November 2023

NAME	SIZE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
QSTNUM	5	Unique Household Identifier Universe = All	1-5
OCCURNUM	2	Unique person Identifier Within a QSTNUM Universe = All	6-7
HRMONTH	2	Month of Interview	8-9

		Universe = All VALID ENTRIES 01-12	
HRYEAR	4	Year of Interview Universe = All VALID ENTRIES 2022 2023	10-13
PTCOVR1	2	At any time LAST WEEK did (you/name) telework or work at home for pay? Universe: PRTAGE = 16+ and PEMLR = 1 VALID ENTRIES -1 Not in Universe 1 Yes 2 No	14-15
PTCOVR2	3	LAST WEEK, (you/name) worked (# hours worked last week at all jobs) hours (total/at all jobs). How many of these hours did (you/name) telework or work at home for pay? Universe: PTCOVR1 = 1. VALID ENTRIES -1 Not in Universe 0 – 97 Hours (0 hours represent reports of < 30 minutes telework)	16-18
PTCOVR3	2	Did (you/name) telework or work at home for pay in February 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic started? Universe: PRTAGE = 16+ and PEMLR = 1	19-20

		VALID ENTRIES -1 Not in Universe 1 Yes 2 No	
PTCOVR4	2	LAST WEEK, did (you/name) do more, less, or the same amount of telework or work at home for pay as in February 2020 (before the COVID-19 pandemic)? Universe: PTCOVR1 = 1 and PTCOVR3 = 1 VALID ENTRIES -1 Not in Universe 1 More 2 Less 3 About the same	21-22
PXCOVR1	2	Allocation flag for PTCOVR1 VALID ENTRIES -1 Not in universe 0 Not allocated 1 Allocated	23-24
PXCOVR2	2	Allocation flag for PTCOVR2 VALID ENTRIES -1 Not in universe 0 Not allocated 1 Allocated	25-26
PXCOVR3	2	Allocation flag for PTCOVR3 VALID ENTRIES -1 Not in universe 0 Not allocated 1 Allocated	27-28
PXCOVR4	2	Allocation flag for PTCOVR4 VALID ENTRIES	29-30

-1 Not in universe
0 Not allocated
1 Allocated

End of Record