How is Occupation Data Collected and Classified on the American Community Survey?

Occupation data is collected on the ACS through the use of two write-in questions. Respondents are asked to state their main occupation and describe their most important activities or duties. Based on the detail of these responses, each respondent is assigned a 4-digit Census Occupation Code to describe the work they do.

Once all of the occupation data is coded, estimates are calculated and published on data.census.gov.

*In 2012, an industry and occupation autocoder was implemented to decrease clerical coding workload. During processing, approximately 41 percent of cases are assigned an automated occupation code prior to clerical coding.