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**ANNUAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPLEMENT (ASEC)
MARCH CPS UTILITIES
1962-2005, VERSION 5.5**

General Information:

The 2005 data have been added. Also, in May 2005 patch files to the 1990 and 1993-1995 files resulted in longer record lengths. After installing the new software, it will be necessary to use the new data files for these years. See Section 2 for a history of the changes to the data files.

The complete series currently resides on three CD-roms:

MarA - data files for 1962-1997

MarB - data files for 1998-2005

MarC_5.5 - software and documentation only

or a single DVD:

Mar_5.5

It will be necessary to use MarC_5.5 (CD) or Mar_5.5 (DVD) to update your software and documentation files. The documentation includes complete Census manuals and questionnaires for each year in PDF format. To run extractions, it will be necessary to either copy all data to your hard drive OR use the DVD or MarA and MarB CD's in your reader.

Several of the geographic variables have been redefined identifying Core Based areas. See the Census document 'Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 2004' in the General Documentation Screen of CPS Utilities.

In addition to the regular one-year migration variables (denoted with Unicon names **mig***) there are the five-year migration variables (denoted with Unicon names **m5g***). These occur in years ending in '5' (1985, 1995, and 2005).

As of the March 2005 release, there are now before credit and after credit tax values. The Census notes that the previously presented tax values represent before credit amounts. For this reason, the **fedtax** variable has been renamed **fedtaxbc** and the **sttax** variable has been renamed **sttaxbc**. The new 'after credit' variables are **fedtaxac** and **sttaxac**.

The Census released a revised March 2005 file in February 2006. It contains the tax and noncash benefits items previously withheld from the file. Data is now available for these items: HFDVAL, HOUSRET, PROP-TAX, F-MV-FS, F-MV-SL, FFNGCAID, FFNGCARE, FFOODREQ, FHOUSREQ, FHOUSSUB, ACTC_CRD, AGI, CAP-GAIN, CAP-LOSS, CTC_CRD, DEP-STAT, EITCRED, EMCONTRB, FED-RET, FEDTAX_AC, FEDTAX_BC, FICA, FILESTAT, MARG-TAX, P-MVCAID, P-MVCARE, STATETAX_AC, STATETAX_BC, and TAX-INC." In the Unicon series, the variable names are: **fsval, hmeqty, prptax, fmvfs, fmvsl, ffcuid, ffcare, ffoodr, fhousr, fhssub, acccred, agi, cdcred, cpgain, cploss, dpstat, eitcrd, emcont, fedret, fedtaxac, fedtaxbc, fica, flstat, mrgtax, mvcaid, mvcare, sttaxac, sttaxbc, and taxinc.**

In July 2005, the Census released patches (HH, FAM, and PER level files) for the March 2004 file, but HOURSRET (Unicon variable **hmeqty**) is still set to zero. The Census is aware of this problem and is reviewing how to make another correction. Other changes include revised household, family, and person weights (**hhwgt**, **famwgt**, and **wgt**). These weights were recalculated to provide better estimates of children by single year of age. Finally, the unique person identifier (**peridnum**) has been corrected and lengthened to 22 characters. Unicon has merged the patches into the original file and presents the revised 2004 file.

All the files since the 2001S file are SCHIP (State Child Health Insurance Program) expanded sample. These files include an average of 98,000 households as opposed to the earlier files which number around 65,000 households. For more information on these SCHIP data, refer to Chapter 11 as well as Appendix J both in the Design and Methodology Technical Paper 63 Revised as found in the General Documentation screen, CPS Design and Methodology button on the CPS Utilities.

For more detail on changes to the files, please review Section 2 (Changes since last release) of the data dictionary.

The March files start out in hierarchical format. Some years are three level (Household, Family, Person), some are two level (Family, Person), and some are one level or flat (Person only). The extraction utility produces a flat rectangular file at the Person level. All higher level variable values have been retained and added to each corresponding Person record. **Note: the number of records read in will be more than the records written out in most years.**

The User's Manual as well as the Data Dictionary come with the software. The Dictionary consists of an introduction and six sections available under 'manual' directory of the DVD or the software CD. The appendices referenced in the variable dictionary files are located in Section 5. The glossary file from the Census documentation has also been added. Questionnaires can be found in the 'questionnaires' directory. Some of the early years are scanned in copies of copies. They are somewhat difficult to read. However, the more recent questionnaires came to us as electronic files and are therefore quite legible.

Installation Instructions:

Please note that there are two parts to the installation process, software and documentation. The software is common to all surveys. The documentation is specific to the survey (March, October, etc.) and the years of data included on the CD/DVD.

Even if you have the latest software, if this is a new CD/DVD, you will still need to install the documentation.

If you don't already have the latest software, after you install it from this CD/DVD it will prompt you to continue with the documentation installation. See Software and Documentation Installation below.

If you do already have the latest software, you must still install the documentation. See Documentation Installation Only below.

Software and Documentation Installation:

Insert the DVD or CD with the installation software into your reader. If the series comes on a single CD, then the software is on that CD. If there are multiple CDs for the series, the software will be on the one providing the most recent years of data or on a separate CD. If your computer allows autorun, and if you have not already installed the current software version, a screen message will soon appear, asking you to confirm you want to install this version. Follow the screen instructions until installation of the software and documentation is complete.

If your computer allows autorun and no autorun message appears, you already have the current software version. Go to Documentation Installation Only below.

If your computer does not allow autorun, click Start, click Run, and in the Open box type d:\setup (substitute your CD drive letter for d if necessary). Click OK and follow the screen instructions until installation of the software and documentation is complete.

Documentation Installation Only:

Insert the DVD or CD with the installation software into your reader. Start CPS Utilities. Click 'Change Setup' in the menu bar of the Entry screen. Click the 'Reload' button at the bottom of the left frame. Follow the screen instructions until installation of the documentation is complete.

For more details:

Refer to the User's Manual, Section 4, Installation.