

SOEP Survey Papers

Series D – Variable Descriptions and Coding

SOEP – The German Socio-Economic Panel Study at DIW Berlin

2014

SOEP 2013 – Documentation of the Household-related Meta-dataset HPFAD for SOEP v30

SOEP Group

Running since 1984, the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP) is a wide-ranging representative longitudinal study of private households, located at the German Institute for Economic Research, DIW Berlin.

The aim of the SOEP Survey Papers Series is to thoroughly document the survey's data collection and data processing.

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General information

This dataset is designed to assist in linking data from different waves for the substantive evaluation of household level data. This dataset includes all households that ever had contact with SOEP in any wave up to the present. Thus a household interview does not necessarily have to have taken place; it is enough to simply have appeared once in any one of the “\$HBRUTTO” household datasets. The only sorting key (SORT-ID) is the current household number (HHNRAKT). While “old” households retain their old HHNRAKT in case of a move, “new” panel households (e.g. formed by members of an existing panel HH that have moved into a new HH) receive a different HHNRAKT upon their first interview depending on the particular wave.

The variables AHHNR, BHHNR, CHHNR etc. also contain the current HH number if the HH was also entered in the gross data in the respective wave. In any other case, the variable \$HHNR is “missing”, which then helps to prevent mistakes in linking household level data across time. The variables AHNETTO, BHNETTO etc., also give information on whether it was possible to carry out a HH interview and whether it would pay off to create a link to the corresponding data in that wave’s \$H file.

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\$HHNR

Var Label : \$HHNR **Household number \$\$\$\$**
\$ - Wave : \$=A..Z, BA, BC, BD
\$\$\$\$ - year : \$\$=1984..2013
Var format : \$HHNR (I6)

Comment: current household number = HHNRAKT

Detailed description:

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\$HNETTO

Var Label : \$HNETTO **Wave survey status \$\$\$\$**
Value Label : \$HNETTO (1) successful household interview
(2) HH in Brutto only
Var format : \$HNETTO (I1)
\$ - wave : \$=A.. Z, BA, BC, BD
\$\$\$\$ - year : \$\$=1984..2013

Comment: Wave-specific survey status: for \$HNETTO=1 there is a HH interview in the respective year, i.e. an entry in the file \$H. For \$HNETTO=2 there is only an entry in the file \$HBRUTTO, but the HH could not be interviewed (the reason for which is given by the variable \$HERGS in the file \$HBRUTTO).

Detailed description:

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\$\$SAMPREG

Var Label : \$\$SAMPREG **Current wave sample reason** \$\$\$\$
Value Label : \$\$SAMPREG (1) West Germany (former FRG)'
(2) East Germany (former GDR)'
\$ - Wave : \$=G.. Z, BA, BC, BD
\$\$\$\$ - Jahr : \$\$=1990..2013
Var format : \$\$SAMPREG (I2)

Comment: The first East survey (1990=Wave G) of SOEP led to an expansion of the survey area beyond the West sample that was carried out up to 1984. In connection with the SOEP concept of following SOEP respondents continuously from one year to the next, explicitly reflecting spatial mobility, households that leave the "area" of the original sample (former Federal Republic of Germany, within the borders existing up to 3 October 1990 for Samples A and B, or for the former GDR for Sample C) and continue to take part in SOEP are interviewed at their new address. Because of this interregional mobility between West and East Germany, which has been registered in SOEP since the second East wave (1991=Wave H), using the original sample number (which does not change over time) to distinguish households produces increasingly biased results for analyses differentiating between households in East and West Germany (Variable HSAMPLE; here H for "household" in comparison to PSAMPLE in the file PPFAD for "person"). The wave-specific variable \$\$SAMPREG thus tells whether a HH was living in West or East Germany in the respective year. Starting with wave H (1991) the time-independent variables HSAMPLE and PSAMPLE should **not** be used for differentiating East and West Germany !!!

Detailed description:

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HSAMPLE

Var Label : HSAMPLE **Sample member**
Value Label : HSAMPLE (1) 'A German (West)'
(2) 'B Foreigner (West)'
(3) 'C German (East)'
(4) 'D Immigrant 1984-1993'
(5) 'E Supplementary sample 1998'
(6) 'F Innovation sample 2000'
(7) 'G High-income sample 2002'
(8) 'H Refreshment 2006'
(9) 'I Incentivation sample 2009'
(10) 'J Increase 2011'
(11) 'J Increase 2012'

Var format : HSAMPLE (I2)

Comment: Unchanging sample membership at first contact with SOEP (at the point of selection of the original household into the sample).

Detailed description:

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\$HPOP

Var Label : \$HPOP Sample membership \$\$\$\$'
Value Label : \$HPOP (1) Private HH, German HH-Head
(2) Private HH, Foreign HH-Head
(3) Institutional. HH, German HH-Head
(4) Institutional. HH, Foreign HH-Head
(5) Not Compl. Private HH, German HH-Head
(6) Not Compl. Private HH, Foreign HH-Head
(7) Not Compl. Institutional. HH, German HH-Head
(8) Not Compl. Institutional. HH, Foreign HH-Head

\$ - Wave : \$=A.. Z, BA, BC, BD
\$\$\$\$ - year : \$\$\$\$=1984..2013
Var format : \$HPOP (I2)

Comment: \$POP was derived from \$WUM2 (in \$HBRUTTO differentiating private from institutional households) as well as \$PNAT and \$STELL (nationality and relationship to HH head in \$PBRUTTO). Missing values are imputed taking into account respondent's history. Thus the only admissible missing value is "-2", which means "does not apply". The variable is therefore of particular importance, as it is used to compute cross-sectional weights. The variable corresponds with \$POP in PPFAD.

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