

Employment
Grade 10, Year 11
Fast Track Project Technical Report
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Citation

Instrument

Howe, D., & Frazis, D. (1992). *What researchers have learned from the National Longitudinal Surveys about Youth Unemployment* (Report No. 828). U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Report

Sandoval, J. M. (2010). *Employment Report Form* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

I. Survey Description.

The Employment Report Form (ERF) contains a series of questions that measure multiple aspects of employment, including jobs within the last year, work assigned, earnings, training on the job, relations with co-workers, and reasons for termination from employment. The original scoring method was established by Howe and Frazis (1992) at the Bureau of Labor Statistics as part of the National Longitudinal Surveys (NLSY97, Round 3). The NLSY97 was designed to gather information at multiple points in time about the youth labor market. Items used in the Fast Track interviews were adapted from the NLSY97, Round 3 employment section. This measure was added to the Fast Track protocol in year 11 (2001) for cohort 1.

The ERF (year 11) is an electronic survey measuring 23 employment characteristics. If a youth reports having employment within the past year, a series of 23 questions are asked for up to 3 jobs as well as employment activities carried out as a “freelancer” or self-employed individual.

II. Report Sample

These analyses were conducted for the first cohort on the high-risk control sample (n = 110) and the normative sample (n = 234) for the eleventh year of the study. The breakdown of sample sizes by site was as follows: of the 110 control sample participants 31 were from Durham, 28 were from Nashville, 26 were from Pennsylvania, and 25 were from Washington, and for the 234 normative sample participants, 72 were from Durham, 49 were from Nashville, 59 were from Pennsylvania, and 54 were from Washington. One hundred nineteen records were missing for the complete measure.

About half of respondents reported having done work since the previous summer. Out of 344 respondents, 51.5% (N= 167) reported having at least one job. A very small percentage, less than 2%, reported having two or three jobs.

Table 1 summarizes employment sector type for the first job reported. The majority of normative and control participants reported “other” as their sector of employment. This category includes a broad description of jobs such as cashier, bagger or hostess. The user is encouraged to consult variable C11AVA11. The next most commonly reported employment was retail trade.

Table 1.

Year 11 involvement in the labor force as reported by the first job

Sector Type	Normative (n=234)	Control (n=110)
Manufacturing	5 (2.14%)	3 (2.73%)
Retail Trade	26 (11.11%)	19 (17.27%)
Wholesale Trade	0 (0.00%)	1 (0.91%)
Other	88 (37.61%)	35 (31.82%)
Not working	115 (49.15%)	52 (47.27%)

Note. Percentages represent column proportions, indicating the percent of participants within each sample who endorsed each category. Summing within a column should total to 100%.

III. Differences between Groups.

Table 2 shows differences between samples on a select group of questions about the first job reported. No significant differences were found between the two groups. The small sample sizes and the large degree of variability across participants severely limit any definitive conclusions made from these statistical tests.

Table 2.

Year 11 income and hours work

Question	Variable	Normative (n=58)		Control (n=119)		df	t-value	Pr> t
		Mean	Std Err	Mean	Std Err			
What is your best estimate of your hourly rate of pay?	C11AVA12	6.48	0.22	7.06	0.69	175	1.01	0.31
How many hours did you work per week at this job?	C11AVA13	22.81	12.9	23.70	20.44	174	0.43	0.67
About how much income per week did you usually receive from overtime, tips, etc?	C11AVA16	27.87	5.63	99.69	70.78	48	1.35	0.18

IV. Characteristics of Labor Force Participation Outcomes

Table 3 shows the frequencies for selected variables measuring labor force participation outcomes for the first job reported.

Table 3.

Frequencies of labor force participation

Variable	Normative (n=234)	Control (n=110)
C11AVA5 (Since last summer, have you done any work at all as an employee for which you were paid, or in a family business whether or not you were paid?)		
Yes	119 (50.85%)	58 (52.73%)
No	115 (49.15%)	52 (47.27%)
Of those working:		
C11AVA17 (Did you work on weekends, weekdays, or both?)		
	(n=119)	(n=58)
Weekdays	3 (2.52%)	6 (10.34%)
Weekends	26 (21.85%)	11 (18.97%)
Both weekdays and weekends	90 (75.63%)	41 (70.69%)
Of those working:		
C11AVA13 How many hours did you work per week at this job?)		
	(n=119)	(n=57)
1 – 10 hours per week	28 (23.53%)	9 (15.79%)
11 – 20 hours per week	37 (31.09%)	18 (31.58%)
21+ hours per week	54 (45.38%)	30 (52.63%)

Note. Percentages represent column proportions. Percentages within each column for question C11AVA17 and question C11AVA13 should total 100%.

V. Recommendations for Use

The Employment Report Form establishes respondent incorporation into the labor force regarding the previous summer's employment. The survey measures variables related to employment, type of work and earnings. A large group of variables describes work performed, type of work and other descriptive items. The instrument also measures employment outcomes on activities outside the formal labor market, identified as "free lance" or self-employed activities.