

Employment
Grade 11, Year 12
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* (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 12 (2002) for cohort 1.

The ERF (year 12) 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 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 = 112) and the normative sample (n = 233) for the twelfth year of the study. The breakdown by site was as follows: of the 112 control sample participants 34 were from Durham, 23 were from Nashville, 31 were from Pennsylvania and 24 were from Washington, and for the 233 normative sample participants, 74 were from Durham, 43 were from Nashville, 65 were from Pennsylvania and 51 were from Washington. One hundred nineteen records were missing for the complete measure.

Compared to employment for Year 11, a larger proportion of respondents reported having done work since the previous summer. Out of 345 respondents, 59% reported having at least one job. A very small percentage, about 3.5%, reported having two or three jobs.

Table 1 summarizes employment sector type and sample 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 C12AVA11. The next most commonly reported employment was retail trade.

Table 1.

Year 12 involvement in the labor force as reported by the first job

Sector Type	Normative (n=233)	Control (n=112)
Manufacturing	6 (2.58%)	4 (3.57%)
Retail Trade	37 (15.88%)	21 (18.75%)
Wholesale Trade	2 (0.86%)	2 (1.79%)
Other	94 (40.34%)	35 (31.25%)
Not working	94 (40.34%)	50 (44.64%)

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 for a selective group of variables corresponding to the first job reported. No significant differences were found between the two groups.

Table 2.

Year 12 income and hours work

Question	Variable	Normative		Control		df	t-value	Pr> t
		Mean	Std Err	Mean	Std Err			
What is your best estimate of your hourly rate of pay?	C12AVA12	7.01	0.33	7.46	0.57	199	.71	0.48
How many hours did you work per week at this job?	C12AVA13	23.82	.97	24.70	1.52	201	.51	0.61
About how much income per week did you usually receive from overtime, tips, etc?	C12AVA16	31.71	5.42	22.94	5.72	44	-1.05	0.29

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=233)	Control (n=112)
C12AVA5 (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	140 (60.09%)	63 (56.25%)
No	93 (39.91%)	49 (43.75%)
Of those working:		
C12AVA17 (Did you work on weekends, weekdays, or both?)		
	(n=138)	(n=62)
Weekdays	9 (6.52%)	1 (1.61%)
Weekends	24 (17.39%)	10 (16.13%)
Both Weekdays and Weekends	105 (76.09%)	51 (82.27%)
Of those working:		
C12AVA13 (How many hours did you work per week at this job?)		
	(n=140)	(n=63)
1 – 10 Hours per Week	22 (15.71%)	10 (15.87%)
11 – 20 Hours per Week	48 (34.29%)	18 (28.57%)
21 + Hours per Week	70 (50.00%)	35 (55.56%)

Note. Percentages represent column proportions. Percentages within each column for question C12AVA17 and question C12AVA13 should total 100%.

V. Recommendations for Use

The Employment instrument 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.