

LIFE Data File: Variable list and specification

Variable	Format	Label
Identifier information:		
COUNTRY	4.0	Country of focus
COMMUN	4.0	Community number
SURVEYPL	4.0	Place of survey
SURVEYYR	4.0	Year of survey
HHNUM	4.0	Household number (within community)
Sample-specific weight:		
WEIGHT	6.2	Weight
Background information (time-constant):		
SEX	4.0	Sex
YRBORN	4.0	Year of birth
STATEBRN	4.0	State of birth
PLACEBRN	4.0	Place of birth
OCC	4.0	Principal occupation at time of survey
U.S. Migration Experience (time-constant):		
USBORN	4.0	Born in the U.S.
USYR1	4.0	First US trip: Year
USDUR1	4.0	First US trip: Duration (in months)
USDOC1	4.0	First US trip: Documentation used
USSTATE1	4.0	First US trip: State of residence
USPLACE1	4.0	First US trip: City of residence
USMAR1	4.0	First US trip: Married
USOCC1	4.0	First US trip: Occupation
USWAGE1	8.2	First US trip: Wage (dollars)
USBY1	4.0	First US trip: Frequency of wages
USYRL	4.0	Last US trip: Year
USDURL	4.0	Last US trip: Duration (in months)
USDOCL	4.0	Last US trip: Documentation used
USSTATEL	4.0	Last US trip: State of residence
USPLACEL	4.0	Last US trip: City of residence
USMARL	4.0	Last US trip: Married
USOCCL	4.0	Last US trip: Occupation
USWAGEL	8.2	Last US trip: Wage (dollars)
USBYL	4.0	Last US trip: Frequency of wages

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Variable	Format	Label
HOWJOB	4.0	Last US trip: How job was obtained
HRWAGE	8.2	Last US trip: Hourly wage
HRWEEK	4.0	Last US trip: Usual hours worked per week
MONSYR	4.0	Last US trip: Usual months worked per year
HOWPAID	4.0	Last US trip: How wages paid
SSTAX	4.0	Last US trip: Social security taxes withheld
FEDTX	4.0	Last US trip: Federal taxes withheld
ROWNER	4.0	Last US trip: Race of employer
RSUPER	4.0	Last US trip: Race of supervisor
USTRIPS	4.0	Total number of US migrations
USEXP	4.0	Total months of US experience
LEGYRAPP	4.0	Legalization: Year applied
LEGYRREC	4.0	Legalization: Year received
LEGSPON	4.0	Legalization: Sponsor
CITYRAPP	4.0	Citizenship: Year applied
CITYRREC	4.0	Citizenship: Year received
<i>Domestic Migration Experience (time-constant):</i>		
DOYR1	4.0	First MX trip: Year
DODUR1	4.0	First MX trip: Duration (in months)
DOSTATE1	4.0	First MX trip: State of residence
DOPLACE1	4.0	First MX trip: City of residence
DOOCC1	4.0	First MX trip: Occupation
DOYRL	4.0	Last MX trip: Year
DODURL	4.0	Last MX trip: Duration (in months)
DOSTATEL	4.0	Last MX trip: State of residence
DOPLACEL	4.0	Last MX trip: City of residence
DOOCCL	4.0	Last MX trip: Occupation
DOWAGEL	8.2	Last MX trip: Wage (pesos)
DOBYL	4.0	Last MX trip: Frequency of wages
DOTRIPS	4.0	Total number of MX migrations
<i>Person-year information (time-specific):</i>		
YEAR	4.0	Year
LIFEYR	4.0	Year in life history
AGE	4.0	Age

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Variable	Format	Label
EDUC	4.0	Educational attainment
<i>Labor force information (time-specific):</i>		
OCCUP	4.0	Occupation
JCHANGE	4.0	Job change
JOBNUM	4.0	Job number
JOB DUR	4.0	Duration (months) in job in PY
JDURTOT	4.0	Total duration (months) in current job
JOBPLACE	4.0	City/place of job
JOBSTATE	4.0	State of job
SOCSEC	4.0	Job offers Social Security or a pension
PENSION	4.0	Social Security or pension type
<i>Migration/duration information (time-specific):</i>		
INUS	4.0	In U.S.
TRIP	4.0	New trip
TRIPNUM	4.0	Estimated trip number
USDOC	4.0	US documentation
GREEN	4.0	Green card?
CITIZEN	4.0	U.S. Citizen?
USDUR	4.0	Months spent in U.S.
USCUMEXP	4.0	Cumulative U.S. experience (months)
<i>Union (marital) information (time-specific):</i>		
CUNION	1.0	In a consensual union during person-year
FLAGCUN	1.0	FLAG variable for CUNION
MARRIED	1.0	Married during person-year
FLAGMAR	1.0	FLAG variable for MARRIED
<i>Family composition (time-specific, except for CEB):</i>		
CEB	2.0	Children: Total ever born (constant)
CEBSOFAR	2.0	Children: Total born prior to or during person-year
MINORS	2.0	Children: Total under 18 years
CHILDREN	2.0	Children: Total living
CHILDBRN	2.0	Children: Total born in person-year
CHILDEAD	2.0	Children: Total dead in person-year

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Variable	Format	Label
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U.S. migration experience among family of origin (time-specific):

FAUSMIG	1.0	Father: Any US migration experience prior to/ during PY
FLAGFAUS	1.0	FLAG variable for FAUSMIG
MOUSMIG	1.0	Mother: Any US migration experience prior to/ during PY
FLAGMOUS	1.0	FLAG variable for MOUSMIG
BROUSMIG	2.0	Brothers: No. with U.S. migration experience prior to/ during PY
FLAGBRUS	1.0	FLAG variable for BROUSMIG
SISUSMIG	2.0	Sisters: No. with U.S. migration experience prior to/ during PY
FLAGSIUS	1.0	FLAG variable for SISUSMIG

Property and Business holdings (time-specific):

LAND	1.0	Number of land parcels owned in person-year
FLAGLAND	1.0	FLAG variable for LAND
HECTARS	6.1	Number of hectares owned in person-year
FLAGHECT	1.0	FLAG variable for HECTARS
PROPERTY	1.0	Number of properties owned in person-year
FLAGPROP	1.0	FLAG variable for PROPERTY
BUSINESS	1.0	Number of businesses owned in person-year
FLAGBUS	1.0	FLAG variable for BUSINESS

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
<i>Identifier Information</i>			
COUNTRY	Country of focus	1	Mexico
COMMUN	Community number		(See Appendix A for codes and descriptions)
SURVEYPL	Place of survey	1 2	Home country US community
SURVEYYR	Year of survey	yyyy	(See Appendix A for survey periods) Year
HHNUM	Household number (within community)	nnnn	Number of household
<i>Sample-Specific Weight:</i>			
WEIGHT	Weight	nnn.nn	Weight
<i>Background Information (time-constant):</i>			
SEX	Sex	1 2	Male Female
YRBORN	Year of birth	yyyy	Year
STATEBRN	State of birth	9999	(See Appendix C for State codes) Unknown
PLACEBRN	Place of birth	9999	(See Appendix B for Place codes) Unknown
OCC	Principal occupation at time of survey		(See Appendix D for occupation codes)

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
		9999	Unknown
U.S. Migration Experience (time-constant):			
USBORN	Born in the U.S.	1	Yes
		2	No
USYR1 - USYRL	First/last US trip: Year	yyyy	Year
		8888	N/A (never migrated to the US)
		9999	Unknown
USDUR1 - USDURL	First/last US trip: Duration (in months)	nnn	Number of months
		8888	N/A (never migrated to the US)
		9999	Unknown
USDOC1 - USDOCL	First/last US trip: Documentation used	1	Legal resident
		2	Contract - Bracero
		3	Contract - H2A (agricultural)
		4	Temporary: Worker
		5	Temporary: Tourist/visitor
		6	Citizen
		7	Silva Letter
		8	Undocumented (includes false documents)
		9	Refugee / asylum
		8888	N/A (never migrated to the US)
		9999	Unknown
USSTATE1 - USSTATEL	First/last US trip: State of residence		(See Appendix C for State codes)
		8888	N/A (never migrated to the US)
USPLACE1 - USPLACEL	First/last US trip: City of residence		(See Appendix B for place codes)
		8888	N/A (never migrated to the US)
		9999	Unknown
USMAR1 - USMARL	First/last US trip: Married	1	Yes
<i>Note: Question introduced in community #72</i>		2	No

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
		8888	N/A (never migrated to the US)
		9999	Unknown
		.	Communities 1 – 71
USOCC1 - USOCCL	First/last US trip: Occupation		
			(See Appendix D for occupation codes)
		8888	N/A (never migrated to the US)
		9999	Unknown
USWAGE1 - USWAGEL	First/last trip: Wage (dollars)		
		nnn.dd	Amount
		8888	N/A (not employed for wages / never migrated)
		9999	Unknown
USBY1 - USBYL	First/last US trip: Frequency of wages		
		1	Hour
		2	Day
		3	Week
		4	Biweekly
		5	Month
		6	Year
		8888	N/A (not employed for wages / never migrated)
		9999	Unknown
HOWJOB	Last US trip: How job was obtained		
		1	Searched by oneself
		2	Recommended by a relative
		3	Recommended by a friend
		4	Recommended by a fellow home-community member
		5	Recommended by a coyote
		6	Contracted
		7	Paid a friend/fellow home-community member
		8	Through an employer agency
		9	“Pick-up” on street corner
		8888	N/A (no job last US visit)
		9999	Unknown
HRWAGE	Last US trip: Hourly wage		
		nnn.dd	Hourly wage (dollars)
		8888	N/A (no job last US visit)
		9999	Unknown

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
HRWEEK	Last US trip: Usual hours worked per week	nnn	Number of hours
		8888	N/A (no job last US visit)
		9999	Unknown
MONSYR	Last US trip: Usual months worked per year	nn	Number of months
		8888	N/A (no job last US visit)
		9999	Unknown
HOWPAID	Last US trip: How wages paid	1	By check
		2	By cash
		8888	N/A (no job last US visit)
		9999	Unknown
SSTAX	Last US trip: Social Security taxes withheld	1	Yes
		2	No
		8888	N/A (no job last US visit)
		9999	Unknown
FEDTX	Last US trip: Federal taxes withheld	1	Yes
		2	No
		8888	N/A (no job last US visit)
		9999	Unknown
ROWNER <i>Note: Question introduced in community #53</i>	Last US trip: Race of head's employer	1	Anglo
		2	African-American
		3	Asian
		4	Chicano
		5	Mexican
		6	Other Latino
		7	Other
		8	Company
		8888	N/A (no job last US visit)
		9999	Unknown
		.	Communities 1 – 52
RSUPER <i>Note: Question introduced in community #53</i>	Last US trip: Race of head's supervisor	1	Anglo

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
		2	African-American
		3	Asian
		4	Chicano
		5	Mexican
		6	Other Latino
		7	Other
		8	Company
		8888	N/A (no job last US visit)
		9999	Unknown
		.	Communities 1 – 52
USTRIPS	Total number of US migrations		
		nnn	Number of visits made to the United States
		8888	N/A (Born in the U.S.)
USEXP	Total months of US experience		
		nnn	Number of months
		8888	See Appendix E
		9999	Unknown
LEGYRAPP	Legalization: Year applied		
<i>Note: Question introduced in community #53</i>		yyyy	Year of application for legal residence
		8888	N/A (never applied for legalization)
		9999	Unknown
		.	Communities 1 - 52
LEGYRREC	Legalization: Year received		
<i>Note: Question introduced in community #53</i>		yyyy	Year legal residence papers received
		8888	N/A (never legalized)
		9999	Unknown
		.	Communities 1 - 52
LEGSPON	Legalization: Sponsor		
<i>Note: Question introduced in community #53</i>		1	Spouse
		2	Child
		3	Parent
		4	Sibling
		5	Amnesty (Rodino/IRCA)
		6	Special Agricultural Worker (SAW/IRCA)
		7	Employer
		8	Other
		8888	N/A (never legalized)
		9999	Unknown

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
		.	Communities 1 - 52
CITYRAPP	Citizenship: Year applied		
<i>Note: Question introduced in community #72</i>		yyyy	Year of application for citizenship
		8888	N/A (never applied for citizenship)
		9999	Unknown
		.	Communities 1 - 71
CITYRREC	Citizenship: Year received		
<i>Note: Question introduced in community #72</i>		yyyy	Year citizenship papers received
		8888	N/A (never applied / hast not received yet)
		9999	Unknown
		.	Communities 1 - 71
Domestic Migration Experience (time-constant):			
DOYR1 - DOYRL	First/last MX trip: Year		
		yyyy	Year
		8888	N/A (never migrated internally)
		9999	Unknown
DODUR1 - DODURL	First/last MX trip: Duration (in months)		
		nnn	Number of months
		8888	N/A (never migrated internally)
		9999	Unknown
DOSTATE1 - DOSTATEL	First/last MX trip: State of residence		
			(See Appendix C for State codes)
		8888	N/A (never migrated internally)
		9999	Unknown
DOPLACE1 - DOPLACEL	First/last MX trip: City of residence		
			(See Appendix B for place codes)
		8888	N/A (never migrated internally)
		9999	Unknown
DOOCC1 - DOOCCL	First/last MX trip: Occupation		
			(See Appendix D for occupation codes)
		8888	N/A (never migrated internally)
		9999	Unknown
DOWAGEL	First/last MX trip: Wage (pesos)		
		nnn.dd	Amount

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
		8888	N/A (never worked for wages/ never migrated)
		9999	Unknown
DOBYL	First/last MX trip: Frequency of wages		
		1	Hour
		2	Day
		3	Week
		4	Biweekly
		5	Month
		6	Year
		8888	N/A (never worked for wages/ never migrated)
		9999	Unknown
DOTRIPS	Total number of MX migrations		
		nnn	Number of domestic trips
<i>Person-year information (time-specific):</i>			
YEAR	Year		
		yyyy	Year
LIFEYR	Year in life history		
		1	First person-year
		2	Intervening person-years
		3	Last person-year
AGE	Age		
		nn	Age
EDUC	Educational Attainment		
		nn	Number of years completed
		9999	Unknown
<i>Labor force information (time-specific):</i>			
OCCUP	Occupation		
			(See Appendix D for Occupation codes)
		0	Prior to labor force entry
		9999	Unknown
JCHANGE	Job change		
		0	No job change during PY
		1	Job change during PY

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
JOBNUM	Job number	nn	(Estimated) job number
JOB DUR	Duration (months) in job in PY	nn 9999	Number of months Unknown
JDURTOT	Total duration (months) in current job	nnn 9999	Number of months Unknown
JOBPLACE	City/place of job	0 9999	(See Appendix B for Place codes) Prior to labor force entry Unknown
JOBSTATE	State of job	0 9999	(See Appendix C for Place codes) Prior to labor force entry Unknown
SOCSEC <i>Note: Question introduced in community #72 and replaced by PENSION starting with community #120</i>	Job offers Social Security or a pension	0 1 9999 . .	No Yes Unknown Communities 1 – 71 Communities 120+
PENSION <i>Note: Question introduced in community #120</i>	Job offers Social Security or a pension	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 9999 .	None IMSS (Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social) ISSSTE (Instituto de Seguridad y Servicios Sociales de los Trabajadores del Estado) Seguro Popular Progres a / Oportunidades Pension U.S. Social Security / U.S. pension Unknown Communities 1 – 119

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
<i>Migration/duration information (time-specific):</i>			
INUS	In U.S.	0	No
		1	Yes
		9999	Unknown
TRIP	New trip	0	No
		1	Yes
TRIPNUM	Estimated trip number	nn	Number
TRIPDUR	Total duration (months) of trip	nnn	Number of months
		9999	Unknown
USDOC	U.S. Documentation	0	N/A (Not in U.S. during person-year)
		1	Legal resident
		2	Contract - Bracero
		3	Contract - H2A (agricultural)
		4	Temporary: Worker
		5	Temporary: Tourist/visitor
		6	Citizen
		7	Silva Letter
		8	Undocumented (includes false documents)
		9	Refugee / asylum
		8888	N/A (never migrated to the US)
		9999	Unknown
GREEN	Green card?	0	No
		1	Yes
		9999	Unknown
CITIZEN <i>Note: Question introduced in community #72</i>	U.S. Citizen	0	No
		1	Yes
		9999	Unknown
		.	Communities 1 – 71

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
USDUR	Months spent in U.S.	nn	Number of months
		9999	Unknown
USCUMEXP	Cumulative U.S. expedience (months)	nn	Number of months
		9999	Unknown
<i>Union (marital) information (time-specific) (1-4):</i>			
CUNION (see Note 1)	In consensual union during person-year	0	Not in a consensual union in person-year
		1	In consensual union in person-year
FLAGCUN (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for CUNION	0	All consensual unions could be located in time
		1	At least one consensual union couldn't be located in time
MARRIED (see Note 1)	Married during person-year	0	Not married in person-year
		1	Married in person-year
FLAGMAR (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for MARRIED	0	All marriages could be located in time
		1	At least one marriage couldn't be located in time
<i>Family composition (time-specific, except for CEB):</i>			
CEB	Children: Total ever born (constant) as of survey year	nn	Number of children
CEBSOFAR (see Note 3)	Children: Total born prior to or during person-year	nn	Number of children
		9999	Unknown
MINORS (see Note 3)	Children: Total under 18 years	nn	Number of children under 18 as of person-year
		9999	Unknown
CHILDREN (see Note 3)	Children: Total living	nn	Number living as of person-year
		9999	Unknown

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Variable	Label	Value	Definition
CHILDBRN (see Note 3)	Children: Total born in person-year	nn	Number born during person-year
		9999	Unknown
CHILDEAD (see Note 3)	Children: Total dead in person-year	nn	Number dead during person-year
		9999	Unknown
<i>U.S. migration experience among family of origin (time-specific):</i>			
FAUSMIG (see Note 1)	Father: Any U.S. migration experience prior to or during PY	0	No
		1	Yes
FLAGFAUS (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for FAUSMIG	0	Father's migration experience (if any) could be located in time
		1	Father is a migrant, but his migration experience could not be located in time
MOUSMIG (see Note 1)	Mother: Any U.S. migration experience prior to or during PY	0	No
		1	Yes
FLAGMOUS (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for MOUSMIG	0	Mother's migration experience (if any) could be located in time
		1	Mother is a migrant, but his migration experience could not be located in time
BROUSMIG (see Note 1)	Brother: No. of brothers with U.S. migration experience prior to or during PY	nn	Number of brothers
FLAGBRUS (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for BRUSMIG	0	Brother's migration experience (if any) could be located in time
		1	Brother is a migrant, but his migration experience could not be located in time
SISUSMIG (see Note 1)	Sister: No. of sisters with U.S. migration experience prior to or during PY	nn	Number of sisters
FLAGSIUS (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for SIUSMIG	0	Mother's migration experience (if any) could be

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Variable	Label	Value	Definition
			located in time
		1	Mother is a migrant, but his migration experience could not be located in time
<i>Current land holdings (time-specific) (1-4):</i>			
LAND (see Note 1)	Number of land parcels owned in person-year	nn	Number of land parcels
FLAGLAND (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for LAND	0	All lands' ownership (if any) could be located in time
		1	At least one land could not be located in time
HECTARS (see Note 1)	Number of hectares owned in person-year	nnnn.n	Number of hectares
FLAGHECT (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for HECTARS	0	All hectares' ownership (if any) could be located in time
		1	At least one hectare could not be located in time
<i>Property and Business holdings (time-specific):</i>			
PROPERTY (see Note 1)	Number of properties owned in person-year	nn	Number of properties
FLAGPROP (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for PROPERTY	0	All properties' ownership (if any) could be located in time
		1	At least one property could not be located in time
BUSINESS (see Note 1)	Number of businesses owned in person-year	nnnn.n	Number of businesses
FLAGBUS (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for BUSINESS	0	All businesses' ownership (if any) could be located in time
		1	At least one business could not be located in time

NOTE 1

Variables CUNION, MARRIED, MOUSMIG, FAUSMIG, SISUSMIG, BROUSMIG, LAND, HECTARS, PROPERTY and BUSINESS were computed from information provided in HOUSE file on union history of the household head, migratory experience of the household head's family of origin, and history of property and business holdings. For each of these, HOUSE file provides event years (e.g., property acquisition year, year of marriage dissolution, etc.)

In order to compute the variables mentioned above, we ignored those unions, marriages, migration experience of siblings, land parcels, hectares owned, properties and businesses that could not be located in time. In other words, the variables presented in LIFE file were built under the following simplifying assumptions:

- (a) unions and marriages which began or ended in unknown years never happened,
- (b) siblings who migrated to the U.S. in an unspecified year were never in the U.S.,
- (c) land, properties or businesses acquired or sold in unspecified years never existed.
- (d) land parcels of unspecified dimensions had zero hectares (provided that years of acquisition and sale were available, these parcels were used in the computation of the LAND variable but ignored in the computation of the HECTARS variable.)

NOTE 2

For each of the following variables we provide a corresponding dichotomous FLAG variable, which is not time-varying:

- CUNION: flag variable FLAGCUN
- MARRIED: flag variable FLAGMAR
- FAUSMIG: flag variable FLAGFAUS
- MOUSMIG: flag variable FLAGMOUS
- BROUSMIG: flag variable FLAGBRUS
- SISUSMIG: flag variable FLAGSIUS
- LAND: flag variable FLAGLAND
- HECTARS: flag variable FLAGHECT
- PROPERTY: flag variable FLAGPROP
- BUSINESS: flag variable FLAGBUS

As it can be seen in the codebook, a value of 1 in the FLAG variable indicates that the event in question did occur, but it is not possible to reliably locate it in time. For example, consider a household head who has been married only once, but for whom the year this marriage started or ended is unknown. In such a case, the value of MARRIED will be zero throughout her/his life history, but the value of FLAGMAR will be one to indicate that the event (marriage) did occur, but at an unspecified time. The same logic can be applied to the other dichotomous variables listed above: CUNION, FAUSMIG and MOUSMIG.

In the case of the non-dichotomous variables BROUSMIG, SISUSMIG, LAND, PROPERTY and BUSINESS, their FLAG variables indicate that at least one event could not be located in time. For example, a value of 3 in BROUSMIG coupled with a value of 1 for FLAGBRUS indicates that it is certain that, as of or during the person-year, three brothers of the household head have been to the United States. However, there is at least one more brother who has been to the United States at an unspecified time, which could have been before that person-year.

Finally, a value of one in FLAGHECT indicates that, either: a) there is at least one plot of land that was acquired or sold at an unspecified time, or b) there is at least one plot of land of unspecified hectares.

NOTE 3

In the construction of the following variables, children born or dead in unknown years were omitted: CEBsofar, MINORS, CHILDREN, CHILDBRN, CHILDEAD. All children ever born are included in variable CEB, which can be used to measure the extent of this omission.