

LONGITUDINAL SURVEYS
OF AUSTRALIAN YOUTH
TECHNICAL REPORT 64

Derived variables

Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY)

Derived variables

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

LONGITUDINAL SURVEYS OF
AUSTRALIAN YOUTH

TECHNICAL REPORT 64

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The views and opinions expressed in this document are those of the author/project team and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government or state and territory governments.

Publisher's note

Date	Version	Update
April 2012	1.0	Version 1.0 of this document corresponds to the following LSAY data files deposited with the Australian Data Archive: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LSAY 1998 cohort version 3.1• LSAY 2003 cohort version 4.0• LSAY 2006 cohort version 4.0 For details about updates made to the LSAY data files and derived variables, please refer to the appendix of the LSAY user guides available at: < http://www.lsay.edu.au/data/21070.html >.

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Purpose

This technical report describes the 24 derived variables developed for users of the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) data. The variables fall into the categories education, employment and social, and help to simplify the complexity of the LSAY data by providing useful indicators for analysis.

To help LSAY data users understand and make effective use of these variables, this report provides descriptions, formats, and additional notes for each variable. Information for the derived variables developed for the 1998, 2003 and 2006 commencing cohorts is presented. The SAS syntax used to derived these variables will be available in the accompanying technical documents for each respective cohort.

This report should be considered in conjunction with the LSAY user guides which are available at: <http://www.lsay.edu.au/publications/21070.html>. Details about updates made to the LSAY data files and derived variables are also contained within the appendix of those user guides.

If you have any feedback or questions about the derived variables, please do not hesitate to contact the LSAY team at NCVER:

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Derived variable naming conventions

Derived variables are denoted by the character X, followed by several characters uniquely identifying the derived variable; this is then followed by four digits for the survey year.

The following table summarises the series of derived variables available on the LSAY data files.

Indicators	Derived variable	Variable name
Education	Current school level	XCSLYYYY
	Highest school level completed	XHSLYYYY
	Current qualification level	XCELYYYY
	Highest qualification level completed	XHELYYYY
	Full-time or part-time study status	XFTSYYYY
	Study status in bachelor degree or higher	XBACYYYY
	Study status in VET	XVETYYYY
	Completed Year 12 or certificate II or higher	X122YYYY
	Completed Year 12 or certificate III or higher	X123YYYY
Employment	Labour force status	XLFSYYYY
	Average weekly hours worked	XHRSYYYY
	Full-time or part-time employment status	XFTPYYYY
	Permanent or casual employment	XEMPYYYY
	Status in apprenticeship/traineeship	XATRYYYY
	Job mobility during last year	XMOBYYYY
	Average weekly pay	XWKPYYYY
	Average hourly pay	XHRPYYYY
	Occupation (1 digit ANZSCO First Edition)	XOCCYYYY
	In full-time employment or full-time education	XFTEYYYY
	Any spell of unemployment during the year	XUNEYYYY
Social	Marital status	XMARYYYY
	Living with parent(s)	XATHYYYY
	Living in own home	XOWNYYYY
	Number of dependent children	XCHIYYYY

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Education

Current school level

Variable details

Variable name	XCSLYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XCSLYYYY Current school level
Topic area	Education
Data type	Numeric

Description

The school year level reported at the time of the interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Year 12
2 = 2 Year 11
3 = 3 Year 10
4 = 4 Year 9 or below
5 = 5 At school - year level unknown
6 = 6 Not at school

Notes

The category 'Year 12' includes respondents attending schools at year levels 12 or 13. Students undertaking school at year level 13 complete an additional year, but not an additional qualification.

Highest school level completed

Variable details

Variable name	XHSLYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XHSLYYYY Highest school level completed
Topic area	Education
Data type	Numeric

Description

The highest school level completed at the time of the interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Year 12
2 = 2 Year 11
3 = 3 Year 10
4 = 4 Year 9 or below
99 = 99 Year level unknown

Notes

The category 'Year 12' includes respondents who have completed year levels 12 or 13. Students completing school at year level 13 complete an additional year, but not an additional qualification.

Current qualification level

Variable details

Variable name	XCELYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XCELYYYY Current qualification level
Topic area	Education
Data type	Numeric

Description

The qualification reported at the time of interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Certificate I
2 = 2 Certificate II
3 = 3 Certificate III
4 = 4 Certificate IV
5 = 5 Certificate - level unknown
6 = 6 Advanced diploma/diploma (incl. associate degree)
7 = 7 Bachelor degree
8 = 8 Graduate diploma/graduate certificate
9 = 9 Postgraduate degree (PhD/Masters)
10 = 10 Not studying for a qualification

Notes

The categories cover certificates through to postgraduate degrees.

The category 'Not studying for a qualification' includes respondents who are: at school, undertaking Year 12 at a TAFE or education provider other than a school, undertaking a short course or recreational course, undertaking a single module/subject only, undertaking some study other than the qualifications listed, or are not undertaking any study. Respondents who do not know whether they are undertaking a qualification are also classified as not studying for a qualification.

Respondents undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship are categorised under the appropriate certificate level.

Highest qualification level completed

Variable details

Variable name	XHELYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XHELYYYY Highest qualification level completed
Topic area	Education
Data type	Numeric

Description

The highest qualification completed at the time of the interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Certificate I
2 = 2 Certificate II
3 = 3 Certificate III
4 = 4 Certificate IV
5 = 5 Certificate - level unknown
6 = 6 Advanced diploma/diploma (incl. associate degree)
7 = 7 Bachelor degree
8 = 8 Graduate diploma/graduate certificate
9 = 9 Postgraduate degree (PhD/Masters)
10 = 10 Did not complete a qualification

Notes

The categories cover certificates through to postgraduate degrees.

The category 'Did not complete qualification' includes respondents who have not completed any post-school qualifications. This category includes Year 12 completed at a TAFE or education provider other than a school, short courses or recreational courses, single modules or single subjects.

Respondents who have completed an apprenticeship or traineeship are categorised under the appropriate certificate level.

Full-time or part-time study status

Variable details

Variable name	XFTSYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XFTSYYYY Full-time or part-time study status
Topic area	Education
Data type	Numeric

Description

The study mode at the time of interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Full-time
2 = 2 Part-time
3 = 3 Unknown
4 = 4 Not studying

Notes

This indicator is derived using responses to questions about whether respondents' study is full-time or part-time. Respondents who are at school are assumed to be studying full-time.

Categories include whether respondents are: studying full-time, studying part-time, not studying, or unknown.

The full-time and part-time study categories include respondents who are at school and those who are studying for a qualification.

The category 'Not studying' includes respondents who are: undertaking Year 12 at a TAFE or education provider other than a school, undertaking a short course or recreational course, undertaking a single module/subject only, undertaking some study other than the qualifications listed, or are not undertaking any study. Respondents who do not know whether they are undertaking a qualification are also classified as not studying.

The category 'Unknown' includes those who are studying for a qualification but their study mode is unknown, and those who stated that their study mode is equally full-time and part-time.

Study status in bachelor degree or higher

Variable details

Variable name	XBACYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XBACYYYY Study status in bachelor degree or higher
Topic area	Education
Data type	Numeric

Description

The study status in a bachelor degree or higher at the time of interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Currently undertaking
2 = 2 Completed
3 = 3 Completed and undertaking further study at bachelor degree or higher
4 = 4 Commenced, but did not complete
5 = 5 Never commenced

Notes

Categories include whether respondents: are currently undertaking a bachelor degree (or higher level qualification), have ever completed a bachelor degree (or higher level qualification), have completed a bachelor degree (or higher level qualification) and are undertaking further study at a bachelor degree (or higher level qualification), have ever commenced but did not complete a bachelor degree (or higher level qualification), or have never commenced a bachelor degree.

Study status in VET

Variable details

Variable name	XVETYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XVETYYYY Study status in VET
Topic area	Education
Data type	Numeric

Description

The study status in vocational education and training (VET) at the time of interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Currently undertaking
2 = 2 Completed
3 = 3 Commenced, but did not complete
4 = 4 Never commenced

Notes

Categories include whether respondents: are currently undertaking a VET qualification, have ever completed a VET qualification, have ever commenced but did not complete a VET qualification, or have never commenced a VET qualification.

'VET qualifications' includes apprenticeships and traineeships and diplomas and advanced diplomas undertaken at university.

'VET qualifications' does not include VET undertaken while at school.

The category 'Currently undertaking' a VET qualification does not include those who have already completed a VET qualification and are undertaking an additional VET qualification.

The category 'Completed' a VET qualification may include those who have completed a VET qualification and are currently undertaking an additional VET qualification.

Completed Year 12 or certificate II or higher

Variable details

Variable name	X122YYYY
Variable label	Derived: X122YYYY Completed Year 12 or certificate II or higher
Topic area	Education
Data type	Numeric

Description

This indicator records whether respondents have completed Year 12 or a certificate II or a higher qualification level at the time of interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Completed Year 12 or certificate II or higher
2 = 2 Did not complete Year 12 or certificate II or higher

Notes

Respondents whose highest qualification is at an unknown certificate level are not recorded as having completed Year 12 or certificate II or higher level qualification.

Completed Year 12 or certificate III or higher

Variable details

Variable name	X123YYYY
Variable label	Derived: X123YYYY Completed Year 12 or certificate III or higher
Topic area	Education
Data type	Numeric

Description

This indicator records whether respondents have completed Year 12 or a certificate III or a higher qualification level at the time of interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Completed Year 12 or certificate III or higher
2 = 2 Did not complete Year 12 or certificate III or higher

Notes

Respondents whose highest qualification is at an unknown certificate level are not recorded as having completed Year 12 or certificate III or higher level qualification.

Employment

Labour force status

Variable details

Variable name	XLFSYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XLFSYYYY Labour force status
Topic area	Employment
Data type	Numeric

Description

The labour force status at the time of the interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Employed
2 = 2 Unemployed
3 = 3 Not in the labour force
99 = 99 Unknown labour force status

Notes

This indicator categorises respondents as: employed, unemployed, not in the labour force or unknown labour force status.

The 'Employed' category includes respondents who reported they are not working but are waiting to start work, or are away from work because of holidays, sickness or some other reason.

Average weekly hours worked

Variable details

Variable name	XHRSYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XHRSYYYY Average weekly hours worked
Topic area	Employment
Data type	Numeric

Description

The average weekly working hours at the time of interview.

Formats

998 = 998 Not applicable
999 = 999 Unknown

Notes

Values can fall within the range of 1 to 997 hours.

No information is provided for respondents who: are waiting to start work or did not provide the number of hours they work each week.

Full-time or part-time employment status

Variable details

Variable name	XFTPYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XFTPYYYY Full-time or part-time employment status
Topic area	Employment
Data type	Numeric

Description

The full-time or part-time employment status at the time of interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Full-time
2 = 2 Part-time
3 = 3 Not working (unemployed or NILF)
99 = 99 Working, but working time unknown

Notes

This indicator categorises respondents as: employed full-time, employed part-time, not working (which includes those who are unemployed or not in the labour force), or working but their working time is unknown.

The category 'Not working (unemployed or NILF)' includes respondents whose labour force status is unknown.

The 'Working, but working time unknown' category includes respondents who reported they are not working but are waiting to start work.

Permanent or casual employment

Variable details

Variable name	XEMPYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XEMPYYYY Permanent or casual employment
Topic area	Employment
Data type	Numeric

Description

The permanent or casual employment status at the time of interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Permanent/ongoing
2 = 2 Casual
3 = 3 Not working (unemployed or NILF)
99 = 99 Working, but employment status unknown

Notes

This indicator categorises respondents as: permanent or ongoing, casual, not working (which includes those who are unemployed or not in the labour force), or working but their permanent or casual employment status is unknown.

The permanent or casual employment status is derived by using responses to questions about whether the respondent is entitled to paid annual or sick leave.

The category 'Permanent/ongoing' includes respondents who are entitled to paid annual or sick leave. The category 'Casual' includes respondents who are not entitled to paid annual or sick leave or who do not know if they are receiving annual or sick leave.

The category 'Working, but employment status unknown' includes respondents who are self-employed or are waiting to start work.

The category 'Not working (unemployed or NILF)' includes respondents whose labour force status is unknown.

Status in apprenticeship/traineeship

Variable details

Variable name	XATRYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XATRYYYY Status in apprenticeship/traineeship
Topic area	Employment
Data type	Numeric

Description

The apprenticeship or traineeship status at the time of interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Currently undertaking
2 = 2 Completed
3 = 3 Commenced, but did not complete
4 = 4 Never commenced

Notes

This indicator categorises respondents as: currently undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship, having ever completed an apprenticeship or traineeship, having ever commenced but did not complete an apprenticeship or traineeship, or having never commenced an apprenticeship or traineeship.

Job mobility during last year

Variable details

Variable name	XMOBYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XMOBYYYY Job mobility during last year
Topic area	Employment
Data type	Numeric

Description

The job mobility at the time of interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Same employer/job as last survey
2 = 2 Different employer/job from last survey
3 = 3 Gained employment since last survey
4 = 4 No longer employed since last survey
99 = 99 Unknown or not in the labour force

Notes

This indicator categorises respondents as: having the same employer or job as reported at the last survey, having a different employer/job from last survey, having gained employment since last survey, no longer employed since last survey, unknown or not in the labour force.

Average weekly pay

Variable details

Variable name	XWKPYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XWKPYYYY Average weekly pay
Topic area	Employment
Data type	Numeric

Description

The average weekly pay at the time of interview.

Formats

99998 = 99998 Not applicable
99999 = 99999 Unknown

Notes

Values can fall within the range of 1 to 99997 dollars.

For the Y98 cohort only

Take-home pay is recorded at waves 1 and 2, while gross weekly pay is recorded for all remaining waves.

For the Y03 and Y06 cohorts only

Take-home pay is recorded at wave 1, while gross weekly pay is recorded for all remaining waves.

For all cohorts

This indicator includes those who are working for wages/salary or self-employed in their own business, and excludes those who are working in some 'other way'.

Gross pay is recorded for those who are working for wages or salary, while weekly business earnings are recorded for those who are self-employed.

No information is provided for respondents who: are working in ways other than for wages/salary or self-employed, are waiting to start work, did not provide a rate of pay, or provided their hourly pay but did not provide their weekly hours worked.

Average hourly pay

Variable details

Variable name	XHRPYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XHRPYYYY Average hourly pay
Topic area	Employment
Data type	Numeric

Description

The average hourly pay at the time of interview.

Formats

9998 = 9998 Not applicable
9999 = 9999 Unknown

Notes

Values can fall within the range of 1 to 9997 dollars.

For the Y98 cohort only

Take-home pay is recorded at waves 1 and 2, while gross weekly pay is recorded for all remaining waves.

For the Y03 and Y06 cohorts only

Take-home pay is recorded at wave 1, while gross weekly pay is recorded for all remaining waves.

For all cohorts

This indicator includes those who are working for wages/salary or self-employed in their own business, and excludes those who are working in some 'other way'.

Gross pay is recorded for those who are working for wages or salary, while weekly business earnings are recorded for those who are self-employed.

No information is provided for respondents who: are working in ways other than for wages/salary or self-employed, are waiting to start work, did not provide a rate of pay, or provided their weekly/fortnightly/annual pay but did not provide their weekly hours worked.

Occupation (1 digit ANZSCO First Edition)

Variable details

Variable name	XOCCYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XOCCYYYY Occupation (1 digit ANZSCO First Edition)
Topic area	Employment
Data type	Numeric

Description

The occupation at the time of interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Managers
2 = 2 Professionals
3 = 3 Technicians and trades workers
4 = 4 Community and personal service workers
5 = 5 Clerical and administrative workers
6 = 6 Sales workers
7 = 7 Machinery operators and drivers
8 = 8 Labourers
9 = 9 Unknown or not classifiable
10 = 10 Not working (unemployed or NILF)

Notes

Occupations are categorised using ANZSCO First Edition major groups.

This indicator uses ANZSCO major groups to classify occupations. The following ANZSCO groups are used: Managers, Professionals, Technicians and trades workers, Community and personal service workers, Clerical and administrative workers, Sales workers, Machinery operators and drivers and Labourers.

The category 'Unknown or not classifiable' is used to code respondents who are working but whose occupation is unknown, or not classifiable using the ANZSCO.

The category 'Not working (unemployed or NILF)' includes respondents whose labour force status is unknown.

In full-time employment or full-time education

Variable details

Variable name	XFTEYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XFTEYYYY In full-time employment or full-time education
Topic area	Employment
Data type	Numeric

Description

The full-time engagement status at the time of interview.

Formats

1 = 1 In full-time employment or full-time education
0 = 0 Not in full-time employment or full-time education
99 = 99 Unknown employment or study status

Notes

This indicator categorises respondents as: in full-time employment or full-time education, not in full-time employment or full-time education, or unknown employment or study status (at the time of interview).

Any spell of unemployment during the year

Variable details

Variable name	XUNEYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XUNEYYYY Any spell of unemployment during the year
Topic area	Employment
Data type	Numeric

Description

The presence of any spell of unemployment since the last interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Had spell of unemployment during the year
0 = 0 Did not have spell of unemployment during the year
99 = 99 Unknown

Notes

This indicator categorises respondents as: had a spell of unemployment during the year, did not have a spell of unemployment during the year, or unknown (at the time of interview).

Social

Marital status

Variable details

Variable name	XMARYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XMARYYYY Marital status
Topic area	Social
Data type	Numeric

Description

The marital status at the time of interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Married
2 = 2 De facto
3 = 3 Single
4 = 4 Separated
5 = 5 Divorced
6 = 6 Widowed
99 = 99 Unknown

Notes

This indicator categorises respondents as: married, de facto, single, separated, divorced, widowed, or unknown.

Living with parent(s)

Variable details

Variable name	XATHYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XATHYYYY Living with parent(s)
Topic area	Social
Data type	Numeric

Description

The living arrangements with respect to whether the respondent is living in their parental home at the time of interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Living at home
0 = 0 Not living at home
99 = 99 Unknown

Notes

This indicator describes whether respondents are living in their parental home or are living away from their parental home at the time of interview. It categorises respondents as: living at home, not living at home, or unknown.

The category 'Living at home' includes respondents who reported they are living with other relatives.

Living in own home

Variable details

Variable name	XOWNYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XOWNYYYY Living in own home
Topic area	Social
Data type	Numeric

Description

The tenure type at the time of interview.

Formats

1 = 1 Currently own or buying
2 = 2 Currently renting
3 = 3 Not living in own home
99 = 99 Unknown

Notes

This indicator describes whether respondents own (or are buying) their home at the time of interview. It categorises respondents as: currently own or buying, currently renting, not living in own home, or unknown.

Number of dependent children

Variable details

Variable name	XCHIYYYY
Variable label	Derived: XCHIYYYY Number of dependent children
Topic area	Social
Data type	Numeric

Description

The number of dependent children at the time of interview.

Formats

1 = 1 0 children
2 = 2 1 child
3 = 3 2 children
4 = 4 3 or more children
99 = 99 Unknown

Notes

This indicator uses the following categories: 0 children, 1 child, 2 children, 3 or more children, or unknown.



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