

HOW TO GET AND USE DATA FROM  
THE CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY  
MARCH SUPPLEMENT  
(ANNUAL DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY)

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The CPS March supplement has employment and demographic information on almost 60,000 households.

This document gives step by step instructions of how to obtain this data and a simple example of how it may be used.

Instructions to GET DATA:

- 1) Go to the Department of Economics Web page (<http://www.wooster.edu/economics/>)
- 2) Click on "Economics Major" or "Business Economics Major"
- 3) Click on "Data Sources and Statistics" on left-hand side under "Student Research and IS"
- 4) Click on "Annual Demographic Survey" under "Data Links"
- 5) Under "Data", click on year you want data for. Example -- Choose 1997.
- 6) Click on "Microdata and Table Access via Ferret"
- 7) Put in e-mail address -- click "continue"
- 8) You will see a list of different data sources. Click on the circle next to "CPS March Supplement" -- this is the second on the list -- and then click "Continue".
- 9) Mark the choice " I want to create my own tables or extract my own data files." Click "Continue"
- 10) Pick a year and choose whether you want household/family/person variables. For our example, choose "1997", "person" variables, full text search. Choose "edited" for the data types you wish to extract. Type in: earnings age education. Click continue.
- 11) Highlight the following variables:

Total wage & salary earnings	WSAL_VAL (3100)
Demographics, Educational attainment	A_HGA (2586)
Demographics, Age	AGE (2568)

Click continue

HINT: To highlight more than one variable, yet skip variables in between variables that you want, hold down the apple key when you highlight.

- 12) Let's assume we are interested in salary determination for adults. In the age interval, choose only observations greater than or equal to 25 and less than or equal to 64. We do not want children, so just to make sure, highlight all the values under Educational attainment EXCEPT the value A\_HGA = 0 (for children). HINT: To highlight multiple variables that are together, highlight the first variable in the list you want, hold down the "shift" key and highlight the last one. Those variables and all the ones in between will be highlighted. Let's limit the salary between \$250/year to the limit of \$199998. Choose create "ascii" file. Click "continue".
- 13) Choose "Download Resulting File". Type of record format -- choose "tab delimited". Compression "default none". Click on "Get Results"
- 14) It should come back that 51,686 observations have been retrieved. Choose to download "ascii file". Name it cps97.xls.
- 15) Choose "download custom code book". You can use the "save as" option under file and save it as cps97cb.

Example of USING DATA:

- 1) Open up the data file, cps97.xls in Excel. Copy the first line and put it at the end of the observations. Then delete the first line. (When Shazam reads in this data file, we don't want words on the first line).
- 2) Create a command file in Word and save as "text only". An example has been created called, "cps97comm"
- 3) Make sure both the excel and word files are closed.
- 4) Run Shazam.