

WERS 1998-2004 Panel Survey: 2004 data file

Additions to survey data

December 2007

This note outlines the revision to the 2004 Panel data file made in December 2007 (PS9804_PQ04v3.*). The revision concerns the addition of previously absent employment data for 88 cases.

Details of the revision

The 2004 wave of the WERS 1998-2004 Panel Survey returned to a random selection of the 2,191 workplaces that participated in the 1998 Cross-Section, with the express purpose of investigating the changes that had taken place in those workplaces over the preceding six years. Some 1,479 workplaces from the 1998 Cross-Section were selected to be traced for re-interview in 2004. The survey, with a response rate of 77 per cent, yielded an achieved sample of 956 continuing workplaces. The remaining 712 establishments were contacted by telephone and a short questionnaire was administered to establish whether the establishment had survived over the period and, if it continued in existence, to establish the current number of employees.

The current revision concerns the data that was obtained for the 523 cases that were selected to be traced for re-interview in 2004 but which did not result in a productive interview ($1,479 - 956 = 523$). In the previous version of the deposited 2004 data file (PS9804_PQ04v2.*), 327 of these 523 cases were recorded as being in operation at the time of the survey but in none of these cases was the actual number of employees recorded in the variable XEMPS2004. Instead, 290 cases were recorded with code -7 ("10 or more employees: exact number not known") and 37 cases were recorded with code -6 ("1-9 employees: exact number not known").

It has since been discovered that the actual number of employees had been recorded by interviewers for 88 of these 523 cases. These values have now been added to the variable XEMPS2004.

As a result, XEMPS2004 now holds 2004 employment numbers for 1,528 (80%) of those 1,906 workplaces that participated in the WERS 1998 Cross-Section Survey and which continued in operation to 2004.

WERS Information and Advice Service

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