

Background

From 2001 the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification ([NS-SEC](#)) will be used for all official statistics and surveys. It will replace Social Class based on Occupation ([SC](#), formerly Registrar General's Social Class) and Socio-economic Groups ([SEG](#)).

NS-SEC is an occupationally based classification. The information required to create the NS-SEC is occupation coded to the unit groups ([OUG](#)) of the Standard Occupational Classification 2000 ([SOC2000](#)) and details of employment status (whether an employer, self-employed or employee; whether a supervisor; number of employees at the workplace). Similar information was previously required for SC and SEG. NS-SEC may be derived as:

- NSSEC: contains 38 operational categories
- NSSEC8: contains 8 analytical classes (this can also be collapsed into 5 classes or 3 classes)

Both NSSEC and NSSEC8 can be derived in three ways, depending on the detail of the data available in the dataset from which it is derived.

- full derivation: using SOC2000, employment status and number of employees at workplace
- reduced derivation: using SOC2000 and employment status
- simplified derivation: using SOC2000 only

ESDS Government has created some STATA syntax to derive the following variables for the 1991 to 2001 LFS datasets¹ using SOC90 for this period:

SSEC: the 38 operational categories version using the simplified derivation method

SSEC7²: the 8 analytical class version using the simplified derivation method

RSEC: the 38 operational categories version using the reduced derivation method

RSSEC7: the 8 analytical class version using the reduced derivation method

Users are recommended to use the reduced version as it is more accurate (based on more information) than the simplified version.

Files

NSSECdetails.doc: this contains more detailed information on NSSEC (collated from the ONS website) and how to derive it using the full, simplified and reduced derivation:

LFS-NSSECsyntax.doc: this word document contains the STATA syntax to create SSEC, SSEC7, NSSEC and NSSEC7 on the LFS for period 1991-2001. Users can copy and paste the syntax they require into a STATA do file.

¹ SOC90 is not available in the pre-1990 LFS datasets so it has not been possible to derive NSSEC on these datasets

² SSEC7 and RSEC7 contain 7 classes (not 8). It is not possible to derive the 8th class from the LFS so it has been set to missing in STATA.

NSSEC90.dta: this STATA data file is necessary to create NSSEC using reduced method (the size of workforce is not taken into account for employment status). It is a look-up table used in LFS-NSSECsyntax.doc.

Fmwrksz90oc.dta: this STATA data file is necessary to create NSSEC using full method (the size of workforce is taken into account for employment status). It is a look-up table used in LFS-NSSECsyntax.doc.