



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Session for UK Data Service

The Family Resources Survey

October 2022



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Pensions

Using the data and documentation

What are the themes covered by the FRS?

- Questionnaire Instructions document is the best source for identifying themes covered by the FRS.
- If you are not familiar with the dataset, this should be your starting point.
- It lists all questions asked during the interview.
- It also contains detailed guidance and explanation of some concepts.

What variables does the FRS dataset contain?

- All variables are listed on the metadata files.
- Full variable listing is the most comprehensive document – it lists variable names, labels, answer categories.
- It also has additional tabs with the FRS income tree and Benefit table details.
- The dataset contains variables added as a result of the questions asked during the interview and a selection of derived variables.

How is the data structured?

- Data is collected on the following levels:
- Individual (adult and child)
- Family (benefit unit)
- Household

- Additionally, there are record sub-levels within the above levels, for example job, benefit, mortgage.

- FRS data can be accessed as a flatfile or individual tables.

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How to find information you need?

- You can use Question Instructions document or the metadata to identify variables required need for your analysis.
- If you are using the flatfile, all variables will be stored on one table.
- If you are accessing individual tables, you may need to merge some tables together to have all information you need on one dataset.
- Merges should be done by key variables – remember to remove duplicate records if you are merging tables with records on different levels, e.g. Adult and Household.
- Check the metadata to ensure units of analysis are as you require, e.g. most amounts on the FRS are displayed as weekly – you may need annual values.

Practical exercises

1. Using Question Instructions document, find one main theme for your analysis.
 - Add three different characteristics to the population identified via your chosen theme.
 - Find variables associated with the characteristics you chose on the FRS metadata.
2. Using metadata, find five variables where amounts are stored as weekly values and five where amounts are presented as lump sums.
3. Using metadata, identify a variable which provides breakdowns for Employment Support Allowance types.
4. Using metadata, identify five different income related derived variables and five non-income related derived variables.



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Thank you for listening!

Any questions?

