Labour Force Survey – How to

The Labour Force Survey is being collected and will be stored on the H:/ drive. The Unix account will have 2 years worth of LFS. The Labour Force Survey is conducted on a monthly basis each year. Section A of this document describes the procedure undertaken to create the SPSS file while section B describes the procedure undertaken to copy the variable properties (variable labels, value labels, missing values) to each new month. Section C will then describe how to create a dictionary in SPSS.

**Section A: Creating an SPSS File**

**Step 1:**

Download the files for the month/year from the DLI FTP site.

**Step 2:**

Create a directory for each year & month.

Ex.

2006\.. 2006-01\, 2006-02\, 2006-03\..

2005\.. 2005-01\, 2005-02\, 2005-03\..

2004\.. 2004-01\, 2004-02\, 2004-03\..

**Step 3:**

Unzip the files that have been downloaded from the FTP site.

The following files should be present for each month for a specific year.

Pub0206.prn = Data for February 2006

Frq0206.prn = Frequency for February 2006 from StatsCan.

*\*The frequency file from StatsCan is used as a reference to doublecheck your frequency file.*

Copy each pub####.prn file to the appropriate directory

***pub0206.prn*** *goes in the directory* ***2006-02\***

**Step 4:**

Obtain/Download the syntax file that corresponds to the reference year.  
The following file was downloaded for the 2006 year.

* ***lfs-rebased2001-2000-2006.sps:*** This syntax file was "rebased" in 2001, and is meant to be used on the datasets for the years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006.

**Step 5:**

Open the syntax file in SPSS. Make the following changes (in red) to the top and bottom sections of the syntax.

**TOP**

*Original:*

*\* NOTE: Replace ## with a the appropriate month and year.*

*\* SIC replaced with NAICS 2002 - see record layout*

*TITLE "Labour Force Survey,2000to2005(2001)"*

*LENGTH=NONE WIDTH=80.*

*FILE HANDLE LFS/NAME='pub####.prn'/LRECL=138.*

*DATA LIST FILE=LFS/*

*REC\_NUM 001 - 007*

*Changes:*

*\* NOTE: Replace ## with a the appropriate month and year.*

*\* SIC replaced with NAICS 2002 - see record layout*

*TITLE "Labour Force Survey,2000to2005(2001)"*

*LENGTH=NONE WIDTH=80.*

*FILE HANDLE LFS/NAME='C:\LFS\2006\2006-02\pub0206.prn'/LRECL=138.*

*DATA LIST FILE=LFS/*

*REC\_NUM 001 - 007*

**BOTTOM**

*Original:*

SAVE OUTFILE='lfs####.sys'.

*Changes:*

SAVE OUTFILE='C:\LFS\2006\2006-02\2006-02.sav'.

Run the syntax.

This will create the SPSS file for that specific year and month.

**Step 6:**

Double check the frequencies from the current file with the frequencies from the StatsCan frequency file (Frq0206.prn). Keep in mind that the StatsCan frequency file shows the weighted frequencies first and then the unweighted frequencies. If there are discrepancies in the frequencies, report the problem to DLI.

**Section B: Copying variable properties from a dataset**

The variable labels, value labels and missing values of the LFS remain almost the same for each dataset (month/year). These properties can be easily copied from a previous SPSS file that has already been fixed up (variable labels, value labels and missing values) using SPSS 17.

1. In SPSS, open the current LFS file (ie.2006-02.sav) that needs to have the file properties copied to.
2. In the menu, select ***Data/Copy Data Properties***.
3. Select ***An External SPSS data file***. Browse and select the previous month file (2006-01.sav) since we know that the labels have been cleaned-up. Click on ***Next***.
4. Make sure that the variables from both datasets line up and correspond to one another. Click on ***Next***.
5. Make sure that all the variable properties are checked. Click on ***Next***.
6. The properties should be automatically selected. Click on ***Next***.
7. Select ***Execute the command*** and click ***Finish***.
8. Make sure that you change the SURVMNTH label to the appropriate month. In this case, you’ll have to change the survey month from ***January*** to ***February***.
9. Save the dataset with the new properties (variable labels, value labels, missing values).

Section C: Creating a dictionary in SPSS

**Step 1:** Ensure that the following components are installed along with SPSS:

1. Install the correct version of python that came with the SPSS CD. For SPSS 17, python 2.5 is used. To see if python is installed, go to the ***C:\*** to see if the ***python25*** folder exists. If it exists, then python 2.5 is installed.
2. Install the python integration plug-in that came with the SPSS CD. The plug-in is also available for download at. Make sure you get the plug-in that corresponds to your version of SPSS. <http://support.spss.com/ProductsExt/SPSS/Documentation/SPSSforWindows/index.html#17>
3. Download the ***spssaux.py*** and the ***DisplayDict.py*** modules and ensure that they’re in the ***C:\Python25\Lib\site-packages\*** folder. The modules are available on the SPSS Developer Central website - <http://www.spss.com/devcentral/>
   1. Display Dictionary Module
   2. Spssaux Module

**Step 2:** Create the dictionary using SPSS syntax:

1. Open the LFS file that was saved in the previous section (2006-02.sav)
2. Go to ***File*** > ***New*** > ***Syntax***.
3. Copy and paste the following syntax:

***Title Labour Force Survey – February 2006.***

***Subtitle Statistics Canada.***

***begin program.***

***import spss, DisplayDict***

***DisplayDict.dictionary()***

***end program.***

1. Run the syntax.
2. The output window should appear with the dictionary.

*\*If a dictionary is not displayed then there’s an issue with the components installed.*

1. To save the dictionary, go to ***File*** > ***Export***.
2. Save the file as a text file – ***2006-02.txt***
3. Once saved, open the text file and remove some of the excess text at the beginning. As seen below, keep only the text that is in red.

Title Labour Force Survey - February 2006.

Labour Force Survey – February 2006

Subtitle Statistics Canada.

Labour Force Survey – February 2006

Statistics Canada

begin program.

import spss, DisplayDict

DisplayDict.dictionary()

end program.

SPSS.Codebook

Notes

|-----------------------------|---------------|

|Output Created |12-May-2010 13:|

| |30:02 |

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|Comments | |

|--------------|--------------|---------------|

|Input |Data |C: |

| | |\LFS\2010- |

| | |04\2006-02.sav |

| |--------------|---------------|

| |Filter |<none> |

| |--------------|---------------|

| |Weight |<none> |

| |--------------|---------------|

| |Split File |<none> |

|--------------|--------------|---------------|

|Syntax |BEGIN PROGRAM |

| |'# '. |

|--------------|--------------|---------------|

|Resources |Processor Time|0:00:00.016 |

| |--------------|---------------|

| |Elapsed Time |0:00:00.078 |

|--------------|--------------|---------------|

C:\LFS\2010-04\2006-02.sav

1. As the dictionary is now all cleaned-up, save it again as a text file.