

Unpaid work and time transfers: results from the American Time Use Survey (ATUS), 2009

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Salient characteristics of the ATUS 2009

- ▶ Federal survey conducted annually since 2003
- ▶ Time diary in which survey respondents are asked how they spent their time over a 24h period.
- ▶ Survey characteristics:
 - ▶ Sampling frame: CPS (60,000 occupied hh every month)→ demographic information;
 - ▶ Universe: noninstitutional population ages 15 and older;
 - ▶ Stratification: race/ethnicity; presence of children; # adults in adults-only hh; hispanics, non-hispanic's black (oversampled); hh with children (oversampled).
- ▶ Time-use data: important element in determining a monetary value for unpaid hh work

Major activity categories in the ATUS coding lexicon

	Activity (ATUS)
1	Personal care (mostly sleep)
2	Household activities
3	Caring for and helping household members
4	Caring for and helping nonhousehold members
5	Work and work related activities
6	Education
7	Consumer services
8	Professional and personal care services
9	Household services
10	Government services and civic obligations
11	Eating and drinking
12	Socializing, Relaxing, And leisure
13	Sports, Exercise, And recreation
14	Religious and spiritual activities
15	Volunteer activities
16	Telephone calls
17	Traveling

Source: (Krantz-Kent, 2009).

Categories in the NSO

	NSO 2001*	Classification
1	Employment in an establishment	Contracted time
2	Primary production activities not conducted for an establishment	
3	Services for income and other production of goods not for an establishment	
4	Household maintenance, management, and shopping for one's own household	Committed time
5	Care for children, the sick, the elderly, and the disabled for one's own household	
6	Community services and help to other households	
7	Learning	Human capital
8	Social, cultural, and recreational activities	Own time
9	Mass media use	
10	Personal care and self-maintenance	Free time

Source: (Phananiramai, forthcoming).

* International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics used by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

ATUS and NSO classifications

	Activity (ATUS)	Classification (Phananiramai, forthcoming) (?)
1	Personal care (mostly sleep)	own
2	Household activities	free/ committed
3	Caring for and helping household members	committed
4	Caring for and helping nonhousehold members	committed /contracted
5	Work and work related activities	contracted
6	Education	education
7	Consumer services	committed /contracted*
8	Professional and personal care services	committed /contracted
9	Household services	committed
10	Government services and civic obligations	committed /contracted*
11	Eating and drinking	free
12	Socializing, Relaxing, And leisure	free
13	Sports, Exercise, And recreation	free
14	Religious and spiritual activities	free
15	Volunteer activities	committed
16	Telephone calls	free/contracted/ committed *
17	Traveling	free/contracted/ committed

Source: (Krantz-Kent, 2009) and (Phananiramai, forthcoming).

Unpaid household work classification

- ▶ Margaret Reid (1934): Non-market output third party criterion:
“is the output in question something that a person could have hired someone else to produce for him?”
- ▶ Four main activity categories of unpaid hh work:
 1. Household activities;
 2. Caring for and helping household members;
 3. Purchasing goods and services;
 4. Travel related to unpaid household work.

Average hours per week spent doing unpaid hh work, 2003-2007 and 2009

Type of work	2003-2007 (Krantz-Kent 2009)			2009 (own)		
	total	men	women	total	men	women
Unpaid household work (total)	21.5	15.9	26.7	19.3	14.3	24.0
1. Household activities	12.4	9.2	15.5	11.9	8.8	14.9
Cleaning	2.6	1.2	4.0	2.8	1.3	4.1
Laundry and sewing	1.5	0.4	2.5	1.3	0.4	2.1
Other housework				0.1	0.1	0.2
Food and drink preparation	3.6	1.9	5.3	3.8	2.0	5.4
Maintenance and repair	1.5	2.4	0.8	1.3	1.9	0.8
Lawn and garden care	1.4	1.9	0.9	1.4	1.9	0.9
Pet care				0.3	0.3	0.4
Household management	1.0	0.8	1.1	0.9	0.8	1.1
Household activities, N.e.c.				0.0	0.0	0.0
2. Caring for and helping household members	3.2	2.0	4.4	3.1	2.1	4.1
Caring for and helping household children	2.9	1.7	4.1	2.9	1.9	3.8
Caring for and helping household adults				0.2	0.2	0.2
Caring for and helping household member, N.e.c.				0.0	0.0	0.0
3. Purchasing goods and services	3.1	2.4	3.7	2.9	2.3	3.4
4. Travel related to unpaid hh work	2.7	2.4	3.1	1.4	1.1	1.6
Caring for and helping nonhousehold members				1.1	1.0	1.1
Caring for and helping nonhousehold children				0.5	0.3	0.6
Caring for and helping nonhousehold adults				0.5	0.5	0.4
Caring for and helping nonhousehold n.e.c.				0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel related to caring for						
& Helping nonhh members				0.1	0.1	0.1
Volunteer activities				0.9	0.9	0.8
Volunteer activities				0.7	0.7	0.7
Travel related to volunteer activities				0.1	0.2	0.1

* n.e.c.: "not elsewhere classified."

Intra/Inter household time transfers

- ▶ Intra-household time transfer outflows: unpaid household work
- ▶ Intra-household time transfer inflows: no information for the demand side. Alternatives:
 1. Proportional allocation using regression method when demand for some categories of household production is dependent on the age distribution of household members; for instance, caring for hh children (Phananiramai forthcoming);
 2. Equally allocated to every hh member (hh maintenance, purchasing goods, etc.)
- ▶ Inter-household time transfer outflows: caring and helping nonhh members, and volunteer activities
- ▶ Inter-household time transfer inflows: no information for the demand side. Alternatives:
 1. Everyone receive an equal share (Phananiramai forthcoming);

References

- ▶ ATUS (2009). "American Time Use Survey User's Guide: understanding ATUS 2003 to 2009 ". BLS and U.S. Census Bureau.
- ▶ Margaret G. Reid (1934). "Economics of household production". J. Wiley & Sons, Inc., Chapman & Hall, Limited in New York, London.
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- ▶ Rachael Krantz-Kent (2009), "Measuring time spent in unpaid household work: results from the ATUS". Monthly Labor Review, July