Current Population Survey

The CPS is a monthly survey of about 50,000 households conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The survey has been conducted for more than 50 years. This is all about employment. Estimates obtained from the CPS include employment, unemployment, earnings, hours of work, and other indicators. They are available by a variety of demographic characteristics including age, sex, race, marital status, and educational attainment. They are also available by occupation, industry, and class of worker. Supplemental questions to produce estimates on a variety of topics including school enrollment, income, previous work experience, health, employee benefits, and work schedules are also often added to the regular CPS questionnaire.

National Longitudinal Surveys

The Bureau of Labor Statistics again collects the data. Each survey was different and had different stats about it:

- **National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97)**-- Survey of young men and women born in the years 1980-84; respondents were ages 12-17 when first interviewed in 1997. 9000 youths were surveyed and continue to do so annually. General data includes employment information, education (differentiates schooling and training), income and assets, family demographics, attitudes (very interesting: frequency of relationships, opinion of parents beliefs, crime history, time spent on homework, etc...), health, military, political participation, and environmental variables (moving, etc...)

- **National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79)**-- Survey of men and women born in the years 1957-64; respondents were ages 14-22 when first interviewed in 1979. It is a representative sample of 12,686 young men and women when first surveyed in 1979. It is conducted biennially. Variables include Labor Market Experience, Human Capital and other Socioeconomic Factors, Education, Health, Marital History, Childcare, Attitudes, Military, Environmental Factors, and Financial Characteristics.

- **NLSY79 Children and Young Adults**-- Survey of the biological children of women in the NLSY79. For children aged 10 and older, information has been collected from the children biennially since 1988 on a variety of factors including child-parent interaction, attitudes toward schooling, dating and friendship patterns, religious attendance, health, substance use, and home responsibilities. Very similar variables to above two.

- **National Longitudinal Surveys of Young Women and Mature Women (NLSW)**-- The Young Women's survey includes women who were ages 14-24 when first interviewed in 1968. The Mature Women's survey includes women who were ages 30-44 when first interviewed in 1967. These surveys are now conducted simultaneously in odd-numbered years. The four groups of men and women in the NLS Original Cohorts were first interviewed in the mid-to-late 1960s. These cohorts were selected because each faced important labor market decisions, which were of special concern to policy makers. Respondents in the mature women's and young women's cohorts continue to be interviewed on a biennial basis, and have been interviewed for over three decades. The NLS mature women comprise a group of 5,083 women.
The NLS young women are a cohort of 5,159 women. Surveys of the women's cohorts have collected three basic types of information: (1) Core data on each respondent's work and nonwork experiences, training investments, school, (including a separate survey of respondent's high schools), family income and assets, physical well-being, and geographic residence; (2) Background information on her marital and fertility history; and (3) supplementary data specific to the age, stage of life or labor market attachment of the cohort (for example, household responsibilities, child care arrangements, retirement plans, volunteer work.)

• **National Longitudinal Surveys of Young Men and Older Men**—The Young Men's survey, which was discontinued in 1981, includes men who were ages 14-24 when first interviewed in 1966. The Older Men's survey, which was discontinued in 1990, includes men who were ages 45-59 when first interviewed in 1966. Both were conducted biennially. Interviews began in 1966 for the NLS older men, a group of 5,020 men ages 45-59. Data collection focused on topics such as work and non-work experiences, retirement planning, health conditions, insurance coverage, and the ways in which respondents spent their leisure time. The survey also tracked labor market decisions such as middle-age job changes, retirement expectations and experiences, and reentry to the labor market after initial retirement. Interviews with this cohort ceased in 1981. Interviews also began in 1966 for 5,225 young men, ages 14 to 24. The surveys of the young men traced in detail their educational experiences including a separate survey of respondents' high schools, training investments, and career choices, as well as marital and fertility histories. Their work history is also followed, allowing for research on areas such as returns to schooling, effects of teenage unemployment, the transition from school to work, job search, racial wage differentials, and earnings mobility and inequality. Interviews with this cohort ceased in 1981.

**Panel Study of Income Dynamics**

The PSID started in 1968 with almost 8,000 families. It is a longitudinal study. As a consequence of low attrition rates and the success in following young adults as they form their own families and recontact efforts (of those declining an interview in prior years), the sample size has grown from 4,800 families in 1968 to more than 7,000 families in 2001. At the conclusion of 2003 data collection, the PSID will have collected information about more than 65,000 individuals spanning as much as 36 years of their lives. The study is conducted at the Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan. Data is collected annually. The central focus of the data is economic and demographic, with substantial detail on income sources and amounts, employment, family composition changes, and residential location. Content of a more sociological or psychological nature is also included in some waves of the study.

**Health and Retirement Survey**

The University of Michigan Health and Retirement Study (HRS) surveys more than 22,000 Americans over the age of 50 every two years. This study has many different surveys, all of them biennial. It started in 1992. Data includes Demographics,
Physical Health, Cognition, Family Structure, Housing, Employment and Job History, Health, Wills, Divorce, Widowhood, Disability, and Assets, etc.

Survey of Health, Aging, and Retirement in Europe

SHARE is coordinated centrally at the Mannheim Research Institute for the Economics of Aging. It has been designed after the role models of the U.S. Health and Retirement Study (HRS) and the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). Data collected include health variables (e.g., self-reported health, physical functioning, cognitive functioning, health behavior, use of health care facilities), psychological variables (e.g., psychological health, well-being, life satisfaction), economic variables (current work activity, job characteristics, opportunities to work past retirement age, sources and composition of current income, wealth and consumption, housing, education), and social support variables (e.g., assistance within families, transfers of income and assets, social networks, volunteer activities). Financed by the European Commission's DG Research, the US National Institute on Aging, and several national agencies, SHARE provides data on the life circumstances of more than 30,000 people age 50 and over in 11 European countries, ranging from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean. It is conducted yearly and had been since 2004. Survey of Income and Program Participation

SIPP is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The survey design is a continuous series of national panels, with sample size ranging from approximately 14,000 to 36,700 interviewed households. The duration of each panel ranges from 2 ½ years to 4 years. The survey started in 1983 and the last panel was started in 2004. The 2004 panel began in February 2004 and consists of 46,500 households to be interviewed eight times. The SIPP interviews are conducted using a computer-assisted interview on a laptop computer. The SIPP content is built around a "core" of labor force, program participation, and income questions designed to measure the economic situation of people in the United States. These questions expand the data currently available on the distribution of cash and noncash income and are repeated at each wave of interviewing. The survey uses a 4-month recall period, with approximately the same number of interviews being conducted in each month of the 4-month period for each wave. Interviews are conducted by personal visit and by decentralized telephone.

The survey was designed also to provide a broader context for analysis by adding questions on a variety of topics not covered in the core section. These questions are labeled "topical modules" and are assigned to particular interviewing waves of the survey. Topics covered by the modules include personal history, child care, wealth, program eligibility, child support, utilization and cost of health care, disability, school enrollment, taxes, and annual income.

All household members 15 years old and over are interviewed by self-response, if possible; proxy response is permitted when household members are not available for
interviewing. It is more comprehensive (contains federal tax, state tax, assets holdings data, expenditure data) data than other surveys such as CPS (March Income Supplement) and Panel Study of Income Dynamics.

**Survey of Consumer Finances**

National Organization for Research at the University of Chicago (NORC) collects the SCF. Survey started in 1983 (still continues; last one was 2007) and runs every 3 years. NORC started funding it in 1992. 4,500 families are included in the survey. It is a very “family” targeted survey: all the data is in terms of families/households. The survey collects information on families’ total income before taxes for the calendar year preceding the survey. But the bulk of the data cover the status of families as of the time of the interview, including detailed information on their balance sheets and use of financial services as well as on their pensions, labor force participation, and demographic characteristics. Also I noticed was Saving, and demographics thereof, people’s assets and demographics thereof (money in checking accounts, how many bonds they have, how much their vehicle and house is worth, etc.), and debt information.

**Consumer Expenditure Survey**

The CEX data are collected by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Depending on the data you want, the survey started in either 1980 or 1984: Annual income and expenditures integrated from the Interview and Diary surveys in varying detail, classified by income, age, consumer unit size, and other demographic characteristics of consumer units, since 1984. Annual income and expenditures from the Interview and Diary surveys by selected consumer unit characteristics, since 1980. It is conducted annually. The survey has 118,843,000 (about a third of all US population). Data includes the obvious spending of consumers (food away from home and at home, housing, apparel and services, transportation, healthcare, entertainment, insurance, and other), age, and income. This website has a nice summary and it is very easy to read and use: [http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cesan.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cesan.pdf).