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Subject: Re: Questions about employment

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Wed, 25 Sep 2019 17:55:11 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS Senior Project Manager: Kia Reinis & DHS Senior Technical Director: Trevor Croft:

The best way to understand data variables is to read the questionnaires to see what questions were asked and who was asked them. Questionnaires are printed at the back of final reports in an Appendix. The occupation question is asked of any woman who has worked in the last 7 days, but it is also asked of women who did not work in the last 7 days but have worked in the last 12 months. V717 corresponds to the occupation performed at that time, not the profession.

Coding of occupation categories is done by the implementing agency, which is usually a National Statistical Office, and they usually follow a coding system that includes country-specific occupations, that they may utilize in other data collection efforts, such as censuses. Often times that coding scheme is based on the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08), or an earlier version. The ISCO-08 coding scheme can be found at <https://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/isco08/>. The major groupings are given in <https://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/docs/structure08.docx>. Major category 8 roughly translates to skilled manual, and major category 9 roughly translates to unskilled manual labor, although this can vary depending on the specific coding used in the country. DHS data are intended to provide only the broad categories and not the specifics of the occupations. There are many resources out there that discuss the differences between skilled and unskilled labor. One of the usual differences is that skilled labor is labor that requires training (which may include on-the-job training, or special education), while unskilled labor typically does not require beyond basic education and can be performed without any training

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