

## How Representative Are Matched Cross-Sections: Evidence from the Current Population Survey

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### Abstract

In this paper we use the CPS to illustrate some problems that arise in analyzing longitudinal data constructed by matching individual records across files of rotating cross-section surveys. We focus on the determinants of attrition from the CPS, the effects of attrition on measures of participation and transition between labor force states, and possible uses of the matched CPS to understand the nature of the measurement error process.

**JEL classification:** C2, C42, C81, J21, J62.

**Keywords:** Attrition bias, labor force participation, labor force transitions, measurement errors, panel data.

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