Appendix E: Calculation of Total Internacional Experience

The variable indicating total amount of experience abroad (ABEXP) was calculated for **household heads** and **spouses** by summing the durations of employment periods in the United States.

For non-household heads, ABEXP is calculated as follows:

1)   if ABTRIPS equals 0, ABEXP equals 0;
2)   if ABTRIPS equals 1, ABEXP equals ABDUR1;
3)   if ABTRIPS equals 2, ABEXP equals (ABDUR1 + ABDURL);
4)   if ABTRIPS is greater than 2, ABEXP equals ABTRIPS multiplied by ((ABDUR1 + ABDURL)/2);
5)   if any necessary variable has a missing value, ABEXP equals 9999 (Missing).
6)   if ABBORN=1 then ABEXP=8888 (N/A)

In cases where ABEXP is calculated by this formula to be greater than what is possible (typically because of one trip substantially longer than the others, which affects the mean), ABEXP is recoded to equal the total time possible, where total time possible equals ((ABDURL-ABDUR1)*12)+12+ABDURL.

For example, where:
    ABYR=1985
    ABDUR1=36
    ABYRL=1989
    ABDURL=8
    ABTRIPS=4,
            total time possible = ((1989-1985) * 12) +12 +8
                                = 68
            and estimated ABEXP = 4 * ((36+8)/2)
                                = 88

Thus, because the first trip was substantially longer than the subsequent trips, the average trip length calculated with ABDUR1 and ABDURL is estimated to be higher than what is possible. In this case, then, ABEXP is down coded to equal total time possible, or 68.