

COL14_2016 – LIFE file

Description

LIFE is an event-history file for each household head from the year of birth until the survey year.

LIFE Variables

COL14_2016 – LIFE file contains 163,094 observations and 105 variables. The LIFE file is built using various tables from the Ethnosurvey in order to construct the event-history to describe labor, family, and migration histories of each household head.

Time-specific variables are:

- Labor force information constructed using table Fa.
- International migration information using specific variables from tables D and D2.
- International migration experience among family of origin of household head. These variables are constructed using information from table G.
- Union/marital history from tables B.
- Family composition describing the number of children ever born, number of children and minors in specific person-year. These variables are constructed using information from table A.
- Property, land, and business holdings from tables I, O, and E respectively.

These data are supplemented by various time-constant variables gleaned from other data files, specifically from tables C and D.

Do not forget to download the Ethnosurvey from our page in order to obtain specific tables and questions.

LIFE Data File: Variable list and specification

Variable	Format	Label
Identifier information:		
COUNTRY	4.0	Country of focus
COMMUN	4.0	Community number
SURVEYPL	4.0	Place of survey
SURVEYYR	4.0	Year of survey
HHNUM	4.0	Household number (within community)
Sample-specific weight:		
WEIGHT	6.2	Weight
Background information (time-constant):		
SEX	4.0	Sex
YRBORN	4.0	Year of birth
STATEBRN	4.0	State of birth
PLACEBRN	4.0	Place of birth
OCC	4.0	Principal occupation
International Migration Experience (time-constant):		
ABBORN	4.0	Born abroad
ABYR1	4.0	First INTL mig: Year
ABDUR1	4.0	First INTL mig: Duration (in months)
ABDOC1	4.0	First INTL mig: Documentation used
ABSTATE1	4.0	First INTL mig: State of residence
ABPLACE1	4.0	First INTL mig: City of residence
ABMAR1	4.0	First INTL mig: Married
ABOCC1	4.0	First INTL mig: Occupation
ABWAGE1	14.2	First INTL mig: Wage
ABBY1	4.0	First INTL mig: Frequency of wages
ABCURR1	4.0	First INTL mig: Currency of wages
ABYRL	4.0	Last INTL mig: Year
ABDURL	4.0	Last INTL mig: Duration (in months)
ABDOCL	4.0	Last INTL mig: Documentation used
ABSTATEL	4.0	Last INTL mig: State of residence
ABPLACEL	4.0	Last INTL mig: City of residence
ABMARL	4.0	Last INTL mig: Married
ABOCCL	4.0	Last INTL mig: Occupation
ABWAGEL	14.2	Last INTL mig: Wage
ABBYL	4.0	Last INTL mig: Frequency of wages

LIFE Data File: Variable list and specification

Variable	Format	Label
ABCURRL	4.0	Last INTL mig: Currency of wages
HOWJOB	4.0	Last INTL mig: How job was obtained
HRWAGE	8.2	Last INTL mig: Hourly wage
HRWEEK	4.0	Last INTL mig: Usual hours worked per week
MONSYR	4.0	Last INTL mig: Usual months worked per year
HOWPAID	4.0	Last INTL mig: How wages paid
SSTAX	4.0	Last INTL mig: Social security taxes withheld
ABTRIPS	4.0	Total number of INTL migrations
ABEXP	8.2	Total months of INTL experience
LEGYRAPP	4.0	Legalization: Year applied
LEGYRREC	4.0	Legalization: Year received
LEGSPON	4.0	Legalization: Sponsor
CITYRAPP	4.0	Citizenship: Year applied
CITYRREC	4.0	Citizenship: Year received

Domestic Migration Experience (time-constant):

DOYR1	4.0	First domestic trip: Year
DODUR1	4.0	First domestic trip: Duration (in months)
DOSTATE1	4.0	First domestic trip: State of residence
DOPLACE1	4.0	First domestic trip: City of residence
DOOCC1	4.0	First domestic trip: Occupation
DOYRL	4.0	Last domestic trip: Year
DODURL	4.0	Last domestic trip: Duration (in months)
DOSTATEL	4.0	Last domestic trip: State of residence
DOPLACEL	4.0	Last domestic trip: City of residence
DOOCCL	4.0	Last domestic trip: Occupation
DOWAGEL	8.2	Last domestic trip: Wage (Colombian Pesos)
DOBYL	4.0	Last domestic trip: Frequency of wages
DOTRIPS	4.0	Total number of domestic migrations

Person-year information (time-specific):

YEAR	4.0	Year
LIFEYR	4.0	Year in life history
AGE	4.0	Age
EDUC	4.0	Educational attainment

LIFE Data File: Variable list and specification

Variable	Format	Label
<i>Labor force information (time-specific):</i>		
OCCUP	4.0	Occupation
JCHANGE	4.0	Job change
JOBNUM	4.0	Job number
JOBDUR	4.0	Duration (months) in job in PY
JDURTOT	4.0	Total duration (months) in current job
JOBPLACE	4.0	City/place of job
JOBSTATE	4.0	State of job
PENSION	4.0	Type of Social Security or a pension offered by the job
<i>Migration/duration information (time-specific):</i>		
ABROAD	4.0	Abroad
TRIP	4.0	New trip
TRIPNUM	4.0	Estimated trip number
ABDOC	4.0	Documentation abroad
GREEN	4.0	Residency
CITIZEN	4.0	Citizen
ABDUR	4.0	Months spent abroad
ABCUMEXP	4.0	Cumulative INTL experience (months)
<i>Union (marital) information (time-specific):</i>		
CUNION	1.0	In a consensual union during person-year
FLAGCUN	1.0	FLAG variable for CUNION
MARRIED	1.0	Married during person-year
FLAGMAR	1.0	FLAG variable for MARRIED
<i>Family composition (time-specific, except for CEB):</i>		
CEB	2.0	Children: Total ever born (constant)
CEBSOFAR	2.0	Children: Total born prior to or during person-year
MINORS	2.0	Children: Total under 18 years
CHILDREN	2.0	Children: Total living
CHILDBRN	2.0	Children: Total born in person-year
CHILDEAD	2.0	Children: Total dead in person-year
<i>International migration experience among family of origin (time-specific):</i>		
FAABMIG	1.0	Father: Any INTL migration experience prior to/ during PY
FLAGFAAB	1.0	FLAG variable for FAABMIG

LIFE Data File: Variable list and specification

Variable	Format	Label
MOABMIG	1.0	Mother: Any INTL migration experience prior to/ during PY
FLAGMOAB	1.0	FLAG variable for MOABMIG
BROABMIG	2.0	Brothers: No. with INTL migration experience prior to/during PY
FLAGBRAB	1.0	FLAG variable for BROABMIG
SISABMIG	2.0	Sisters: No. with INTL migration experience prior to/ during PY
FLAGSIAB	1.0	FLAG variable for SISABMIG

Property and Business holdings (time-specific):

LAND	1.0	Number of land parcels owned in person-year
FLAGLAND	1.0	FLAG variable for LAND
HECTARS	6.1	Number of hectares owned in person-year
FLAGHECT	1.0	FLAG variable for HECTARS
PROPERTY	1.0	Number of properties owned in person-year
FLAGPROP	1.0	FLAG variable for PROPERTY
BUSINESS	1.0	Number of businesses owned in person-year
FLAGBUS	1.0	FLAG variable for BUSINESS

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
<i>Identifier Information</i>			
COUNTRY	Country of focus	9	Colombia
COMMUN	Community number		(See Appendix A for codes and descriptions)
SURVEYPL	Place of survey	1 2 3	Home country United States Spain
SURVEYYR	Year of survey	yyyy	(See Appendix A for survey periods) Year
HHNUM	Household number (within community)	nnnn	Number of household
<i>Sample-Specific Weight:</i>			
WEIGHT	Weight	nnn.nn 9999	Weight Unknown
<i>Background Information (time-constant):</i>			
SEX	Sex	1 2	Male Female
YRBORN	Year of birth	yyyy	Year
STATEBRN	State of birth	9999	(See Appendix C for State codes) Unknown
PLACEBRN	Place of birth	9999	(See Appendix B for Place codes) Unknown

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
OCC	Principal occupation		(See Appendix D for occupation codes)
		9999	Unknown
International Migration Experience (time-constant):			
ABBORN	Born abroad		
		1	Yes
		2	No
ABYR1 - ABYRL	First/last INTL mig: Year		
		yyyy	Year
		8888	N/A (never migrated abroad)
		9999	Unknown
ABDUR1 - ABDURL	First/last INTL mig: Duration (in months)		
		nnn	Number of months
		8888	N/A (never migrated abroad)
		9999	Unknown
ABDOC1 - ABDOCL	First/last INTL mig: Documentation used		
		1	Legal resident
		3	Contract - H2A (agricultural)
		4	Temporary: Worker
		5	Temporary: Tourist/visitor
		6	Citizen
		8	Undocumented (includes false documents)
		9	Refugee / asylum
		10	MLTC – Program for Labor, Temporary, and Circular Migration (Colombia - Spain)
		11	Colombian passport
		12	Student Visa
		8888	N/A (never migrated abroad)
		9999	Unknown
ABSTATE1 - ABSTATEL	First/last INTL mig: State of residence		
			(See Appendix C for country codes)
		8888	N/A (never migrated abroad)
ABPLACE1 - ABPLACEL	First/last INTL mig: City of residence		
			(See Appendix B for place codes)
		8888	N/A (never migrated abroad)
		9999	Unknown

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
ABMAR1 - ABMARL	First/last INTL mig: Married	1	Yes
		2	No
		8888	N/A (never migrated abroad)
		9999	Unknown
ABOCC1 - ABOCCL	First/last INTL mig: Occupation		(See Appendix D for occupation codes)
		8888	N/A (never migrated abroad)
		9999	Unknown
ABWAGE1 - ABWAGEL	First/last mig: Wage	nnn.dd	Amount
		8888	N/A (not employed for wages / never migrated)
		9999	Unknown
ABBY1 - ABBYL	First/last INTL mig: Frequency of wages	1	Hour
		2	Day
		3	Week
		4	Biweekly
		5	Month
		6	Year
		8888	N/A (not employed for wages / never migrated)
		9999	Unknown
ABCURR1 - ABCURRL	First/last INTL mig: Currency of wages	1	Dollar – United States
		2	Sol – Peru
		3	Bolivar – Venezuela
		4	Peso – Mexico
		5	Peso – Chile
		6	Peso – Colombia
		7	Peso – Argentina
		8	Sucre – Ecuador
		9	Guarani – Paraguay
		10	Dollar – Canada
		11	Dollar – Australia
		12	Franc - France
		13	Lira – Italy
		14	Pound – England
		15	Peseta – Spain
		16	Yen - Japan

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
		17	Peso – Bolivia
		18	Euro
		19	Florin - Aruba
		20	Real – Brazil
		21	Rand – South Africa
		22	Colon – Costa Rica
		8888	N/A (not employed for wages / never migrated)
		9999	Unknown
HOWJOB	Last INTL mig: How job was obtained		
		1	Searched by oneself
		2	Recommended by a relative
		3	Recommended by a friend
		4	Recommended by a fellow home-community member
		5	Recommended by a coyote
		6	Contracted
		7	Paid a friend/fellow home-community member
		8	Through an employer agency
		9	“Pick-up” on street corner
		8888	N/A (Did not work during last trip)
		9999	Unknown
HRWAGE	Last INTL mig: Hourly wage		
		nnn.dd	Hourly wage
		8888	N/A (Did not work during last trip)
		9999	Unknown
HRWEEK	Last INTL mig: Usual hours worked per week		
		nnn	Number of hours
		8888	N/A (Did not work during last trip)
		9999	Unknown
MONSYR	Last INTL mig: Usual months worked per year		
		nn	Number of months
		8888	N/A (Did not work during last trip)
		9999	Unknown
HOWPAID	Last INTL mig: How wages paid		
		1	By check
		2	By cash
		8888	N/A (Did not work during last trip)
		9999	Unknown

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
SSTAX	Last INTL mig: Social Security taxes withheld	1	Yes
		2	No
		8888	N/A (Did not work during last trip)
		9999	Unknown
ABTRIPS	Total number of international trips	nnn	Number of international trips
ABEXP	Total months of experience abroad	nnn	Number of months
		8888	See Appendix E
LEGYRAPP	Legalization: Year applied	yyyy	Year
		8888	N/A (never applied for legalization)
		.	Surveys done before 2015
<i>Note: Question introduced in 2015</i>			
LEGYRREC	Legalization: Year received	yyyy	Year
		8888	N/A (never applied for legalization)
		9999	Unknown
		.	Surveys done before 2015
<i>Note: Question introduced in 2015</i>			
LEGSPON	Legalization: Sponsor	1	Work offer (Spain)
		2	“Contingente” for international workers ^a
		3	Socially ingrained ^b
		4	Extraordinary regularization ^c
		5	Family reunification
		6	Studies
		7	Other
		8888	N/A (never applied for legalization)
		9999	Unknown
		.	Surveys done before 2015

^a“Contingente” for international workers: This program started in 2000, and it was relevant during the economic boom. However, during the Spanish recession, this program became insignificant. This applies for international workers who do not belong to the EU community.

^bSocially ingrained: This applies to migrants who can prove that they have been in Spain for at least three years, have direct family in Spain, and have a signed work contract for more than a year.

^cExtraordinary regularization: Process not ordinary to obtain residence and work permit. Usually implies a huge proportion of irregular immigrants in Spain. It is specific to those migrants who have an irregular situation in Spain.

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
CITYRAPP	Citizenship: Year applied		
<i>Note: Question introduced in 2015</i>		yyyy	Year
		8888	N/A (never applied for citizenship)
		.	Surveys done before 2015
CITYRREC	Citizenship: Year received		
<i>Note: Question introduced in 2015</i>		yyyy	Year
		8888	N/A (never applied for citizenship)
		.	Surveys done before 2015
Domestic Migration Experience (time-constant):			
DOYR1 - DOYRL	First/last domestic mig: Year		
		yyyy	Year
		8888	N/A (never migrated internally)
		9999	Unknown
DODUR1 - DODURL	First/last domestic mig: Duration (in months)		
		nnn	Number of months
		8888	N/A (never migrated internally)
		9999	Unknown
DOSTATE1 - DOSTATEL	First/last domestic mig: Department of residence		
			(See Appendix C for Department codes)
		8888	N/A (never migrated internally)
		9999	Unknown
DOPLACE1 - DOPLACEL	First/last domestic mig: City of residence		
			(See Appendix B for place codes)
		8888	N/A (never migrated internally)
		9999	Unknown
DOOCC1 - DOOCCL	First/last domestic mig: Occupation		
			(See Appendix D for occupation codes)
		8888	N/A (never migrated internally)
		9999	Unknown
DOWAGEL	First/last domestic mig: Wage (Colombian pesos)		
		nnn.dd	Amount
		8888	N/A (never worked for wages/ never migrated)
		9999	Unknown

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
DOBYL	First/last domestic mig: Frequency of wages	1	Hour
		2	Day
		3	Week
		4	Biweekly
		5	Month
		6	Year
		8888	N/A (never worked for wages/ never migrated)
	9999	Unknown	
DOTRIPS	Total number of domestic migrations	nnn	Number of domestic trips
		9999	Unknown
<i>Person-year information (time-specific):</i>			
YEAR	Year	yyyy	Year
LIFEYR	Year in life history	1	First person-year
		2	Intervening person-years
		3	Last person-year
AGE	Age	nn	Age
EDUC	Educational Attainment	nn	Number of years completed
		9999	Unknown
<i>Labor force information (time-specific):</i>			
OCCUP	Occupation		(See Appendix D for Occupation codes)
		0	Prior to labor force entry
		9999	Unknown
JCHANGE	Job change	0	No job change during PY
		1	Job change during PY

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
JOBNUM	Job number	nn	(Estimated) job number
JOB DUR	Duration (months) in job in PY	nn	Number of months
JDURTOT	Total duration (months) in current job	nnn 9999	Number of months Unknown
JOBPLACE	City/place of job	0 9999	(See Appendix B for Place codes) Prior to labor force entry Unknown
JOBSTATE	State of job	0 9999	(See Appendix C for Place codes) Prior to labor force entry Unknown
PENSION	Type of Social Security or a pension offered by the job	0 1 2 3 9999	None Contributive Pension / Retired Subsidied Unknown
<i>Migration/duration information (time-specific):</i>			
ABROAD	Abroad	0 1	No Yes
TRIP	New trip	0 1	No Yes
TRIPNUM	Estimated trip number	nn	Number
TRIPDUR	Total duration (months) of trip	nnn	Number of months

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
ABDOC	Documentation abroad	0	N/A (Not abroad during person-year)
		1	Legal resident
		3	Contract - H2A (agricultural)
		4	Temporary: Worker
		5	Temporary: Tourist/visitor
		6	Citizen
		8	Undocumented (includes false documents)
		9	Refugee / asylum
		10	MLTC – Program for Labor, Temporary, and Circular Migration (Colombia - Spain)
		11	Colombian passport
		12	Student Visa
9999	Unknown		
GREEN	Residency	0	No
		1	Yes
		9999	Unknown
		.	Surveys done prior to 2015
CITIZEN	Citizen	0	No
		1	Yes
		9999	Unknown
		.	Surveys done prior to 2015
ABDUR	Months spent abroad	nn	Number of months
ABCUMEXP	Cumulative expedience abroad (months)	nn	Number of months
<i>Union (marital) information (time-specific) (1-4):</i>			
CUNION (see Note 1)	In consensual union during person-year	0	Not in a consensual union in person-year
		1	In consensual union in person-year
FLAGCUN (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for CUNION	0	All consensual unions could be located in time At least one consensual union couldn't be located in time
		1	in time

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
MARRIED (see Note 1)	Married during person-year	0	Not married in person-year
		1	Married in person-year
FLAGMAR (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for MARRIED	0	All marriages could be located in time
		1	At least one marriage couldn't be located in time
<i>Family composition (time-specific, except for CEB):</i>			
CEB	Children: Total ever born (constant) as of survey year	nn	Number of children
CEBSOFAR (see Note 3)	Children: Total born prior to or during person-year	nn	Number of children
MINORS (see Note 3)	Children: Total under 18 years	nn	Number of children under 18 as of person-year
CHILDREN (see Note 3)	Children: Total living	nn	Number living as of person-year
CHILDBRN (see Note 3)	Children: Total born in person-year	nn	Number born during person-year
CHILDEAD (see Note 3)	Children: Total dead in person-year	nn	Number dead during person-year
<i>International migration experience among family of origin (time-specific):</i>			
FAABMIG (see Note 1)	Father: Any INTL migration experience prior to or during PY	0	No
		1	Yes
FLAGFAAB (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for FAABMIG	0	Father's migration experience (if any) could be located in time
		1	Father is a migrant, but his migration experience could not be located in time
MOABMIG (see Note 1)	Mother: Any INTL migration experience prior to or during PY	0	No
		1	Yes

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
FLAGMOAB (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for MOABMIG	0	Mother's migration experience (if any) could be located in time
		1	Mother is a migrant, but his migration experience could not be located in time
BROABMIG (see Note 1)	Brother: No. of brothers with INTL migration experience prior to or during PY	nn	Number of brothers
FLAGBRAB (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for BRABMIG	0	Brother's migration experience (if any) could be located in time
		1	Brother is a migrant, but his migration experience could not be located in time
SISABMIG (see Note 1)	Sister: No. of sisters with INTL migration experience prior to or during PY	nn	Number of sisters
FLAGSIAB (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for SIABMIG	0	Sisters' migration experience (if any) could be located in time
		1	Sister is a migrant, but his migration experience could not be located in time
<i>Current land holdings (time-specific) (1-4):</i>			
LAND (see Note 1)	Number of land parcels owned in person-year	nn	Number of land parcels
FLAGLAND (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for LAND	0	All lands' ownership (if any) could be located in time
		1	At least one land could not be located in time
HECTARS (see Note 1)	Number of hectares owned in person-year	nnnn.n	Number of hectares
FLAGHECT (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for HECTARS	0	All hectares' ownership (if any) could be located in time
		1	At least one hectare could not be located in time
<i>Property and Business holdings (time-specific):</i>			
PROPERTY (see Note 1)	Number of properties owned in person-year	nn	Number of properties

LIFE Data File: Variable Codes

Variable	Label	Value	Definition
FLAGPROP (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for PROPERTY		
		0	All properties' ownership (if any) could be located in time
		1	At least one property could not be located in time
BUSINESS (see Note 1)	Number of businesses owned in person-year		
		nnnn.n	Number of businesses
FLAGBUS (see Note 2)	FLAG variable for BUSINESS		
		0	All businesses' ownership (if any) could be located in time
		1	At least one business could not be located in time

NOTE 1

Variables CUNION, MARRIED, MOABMIG, FAABMIG, SISABMIG, BROABMIG, LAND, HECTARS, PROPERTY and BUSINESS were computed from information provided in HOUSE file on union history of the household head, migratory experience of the household head's family of origin, and history of property and business holdings. For each of these, HOUSE file provides event years (e.g., property acquisition year, year of marriage dissolution, etc.)

In order to compute the variables mentioned above, we ignored those unions, marriages, migration experience of siblings, land parcels, hectares owned, properties and businesses that could not be located in time. In other words, the variables presented in LIFE file were built under the following simplifying assumptions:

- (a) unions and marriages which began or ended in unknown years never happened,
- (b) siblings who migrated abroad in an unspecified year were never abroad,
- (c) land, properties or businesses acquired or sold in unspecified years never existed.
- (d) land parcels of unspecified dimensions had zero hectares (provided that years of acquisition and sale were available, these parcels were used in the computation of the LAND variable but ignored in the computation of the HECTARS variable.)

NOTE 2

For each of the following variables we provide a corresponding dichotomous FLAG variable, which is not time-varying:

- CUNION: flag variable FLAGCUN
- MARRIED: flag variable FLAGMAR
- FAABMIG: flag variable FLAGFAAB
- MOABMIG: flag variable FLAGMOAB
- BROABMIG: flag variable FLAGBRAB
- SISABMIG: flag variable FLAGSIAB
- LAND: flag variable FLAGLAND
- HECTARS: flag variable FLAGHECT
- PROPERTY: flag variable FLAGPROP
- BUSINESS: flag variable FLAGBUS

As it can be seen in the codebook, a value of 1 in the FLAG variable indicates that the event in question did occur, but it is not possible to reliably locate it in time. For example, consider a household head who has been married only once, but for whom the year this marriage started or ended is unknown. In such a case, the value of MARRIED will be zero throughout her/his life history, but the value of FLAGMAR will be one to indicate that the event (marriage) did occur, but an unspecified time. The same logic can be applied to the other dichotomous variables listed above: CUNION, FAABMIG and MOABMIG.

In the case of the non-dichotomous variables BROABMIG, SISABMIG, LAND, PROPERTY and BUSINESS, their FLAG variables indicate that at least one event could not be located in time. For example, a value of 3 in BROABMIG coupled with a value of 1 for FLAGBRAB indicates that it is certain that, as of or during the person-year, three brothers of the household head have been abroad. However, there is at least one more brother who has been abroad at an unspecified time, which could have been before that person-year.

Finally, a value of one in FLAGHECT indicates that, either: a) there is at least one plot of land that was acquired or sold at an unspecified time, or b) there is at least one plot of land of unspecified hectares.

NOTE 3

In the construction of the following variables, children born or dead in unknown years were omitted: CEBSOFAR, MINORS, CHILDREN, CHILDBRN, CHILDEAD. All children ever born are included in variable CEB, which can be used to measure the extent of this omission.