

Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files: 2017 PUMS Top Coded and Bottom Coded Values

The following fourteen housing variables and seven person variables are either top coded only or are top and bottom coded in the Public Use Microdata Sample files:

Variable	Housing Variables (All Top Coded)	Variable	Person Variables (Top Coded)
BDSP	Number of bedrooms	AGEP	Age
CONP	Condo fee (monthly amount)	JWMNP	Travel time to work
ELEP	Electricity (monthly cost)	OIP	All other income past 12 months
FULP	Fuel cost (yearly cost for fuels other than gas and electricity)	RETP	Retirement income past 12 months
GASP	Gas (monthly cost)	WAGP	Wages or salary income past 12 months
INSP	Fire/hazard/flood insurance (yearly amount)		
MHP	Mobile home costs (yearly amount)		
MRGP	First mortgage payment (monthly amount)		
RMSP	Number of Rooms		
RNTP	Monthly rent		
SMP	Total payment on all second and junior mortgages and home equity loans (monthly amount)		
TAXP	Property taxes (yearly amount)		
VALP	Property value		
WATP	Water (yearly cost)		
		Variable	Person Variables (Top and Bottom Coded)
		INTP	Interest, dividends, and net rental income past 12 months (signed)
		SEMP	Self-employment income past 12 months (signed)

The table above shows the variables categorized as either being top coded only or being top coded and bottom coded. These top codes and bottom codes were derived based on the following rules:

1. Age, travel time to work, number of bedrooms, number of rooms and all base dollar amounts except TAXP are top coded using the state mean of all cases greater than or equal to the top-code state threshold value.
2. TAXP uses a top-code threshold equal to the lower bound of the highest TAXP category, which is \$10,000. TAXP is a categorical character variable assigned to one of 68 categories. The top code value for the top category allows for a more accurate estimation of mean or aggregate taxes paid as compared to simply using the open ended category value.
3. Income variables which can have negative values (Self-employment Income, or SEMP, and Interest, Dividends, and Net Rental Income, or INTP) are bottom coded using the state mean of all cases less than or equal to the bottom-code state threshold value.

The top-coded and bottom-coded values may be found at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/pums/documentation.html>.