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February 01, 2010

Replicating the Gamboa Gibson Worklife Tables

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In September of 2009, Vocational Econometrics, Inc. requested the Center for Labor Market Studies of Northeastern University to replicate the employment/population ratios of working age adults that are used to derive the Gamboa-Gibson Worklife Tables. The Center for Labor Market Studies performed these replications with its own computer code using the public use microdata sample (PUMS) files from the American Community Surveys and several years of the annual March Current Population Survey Supplement public use files.

The worklife expectancies produced in the Gamboa-Gibson Worklife Tables emanate primarily from two U.S. Census Bureau national data sources. These are the Current Population Survey and the American Community Survey. These two separate surveys provide findings on the employment status of individual working-age adults by age, gender, educational attainment, and disability status. Using these data sets, employment probabilities can be tabulated for selected subgroups of the working-age population. These employment probabilities are combined with probabilities of life to produce worklife expectancies. The source for probabilities of life is the U.S. Life Tables produced by the National Center for Health Statistics.

The Gamboa Gibson Worklife Tables produce worklife expectancy values for men and women at various levels of education from the ages of sixteen through seventy-five. Worklife expectancies are specific to the following groups:

• Non-disabled
• All Persons (Non-disabled and Disabled)
• Work Disabled (Non-Severe)
• All Disabled
• Work Disabled (Severe)
• Physically Disabled
• Physically Disabled (Severe)
• Cognitively Disabled
• Cognitively Disabled (Severe)

The various definitions of disability as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau are contained within the worklife expectancy document, and the methods used to compute the worklife values are described. The purpose of our study is to replicate the employment probability data used to estimate worklife expectancies by examining both

the employment rates reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for each of the worklife values as well as the imputations performed by the authors for cells with an insufficient sample size. In addition, the probabilities of life as defined by the National Center for Health Statistics and used by the authors to develop the worklife expectancy values were examined and verified.

The worklife expectancies contained in the tables are the result of computing separate probabilities of life and employment as reported by the National Center for Health Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau. The worklife expectancies contained in the tables are congruent with the data that we examined.

The methodologies employed in our replication of the employment probabilities that underlie the Gamboa Gibson Worklife Tables can be obtained by contacting the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University. The Center for Labor Market Studies' web site is www.clms.neu.edu.