

DAS Variable**Age received bachelor's degree****AGEATBA**

Indicates the respondent's age at the time the bachelor's degree was received. The age categories used in this report are:

- 24 or younger
- 25–29
- 30 or older

Salary in 1994, 1997, and 2003

APRANSAL
SALPCT
B2SALARY
B3CRSAL

For each year, respondents were divided into four categories based on their annual salary, with each group representing one-quarter of the salary distribution. The lowest category includes respondents who were unemployed. In current dollars, the ranges for each group are as follows:

| | 1994 | 1997 | 2003 |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Lowest | \$9,594 or less | \$22,400 or less | \$34,000 or less |
| Lower middle | \$9,595–\$17,992 | \$22,401–\$29,992 | \$34,001–\$48,000 |
| Upper middle | \$17,993–\$25,771 | \$29,993–\$40,888 | \$48,001–\$66,900 |
| Highest | Greater than \$25,771 | Greater than \$40,888 | Greater than \$66,900 |

In 1994, respondents reported the annual salary or rate of pay for the job they held in April 1994 (APRANSAL). Where the salary in 1994 appears as a row variable, it is based on SALPCT, which is the percentile ranking of APRANSAL. Salary in 1997 (B2SALARY) is the respondent's annual salary for the job held in April 1997 (except for teachers, for whom the academic-year salary was used). Salary in 2003 (B3CRSAL) is the respondent's annual salary for his or her current (interview date) or most recent job (including teachers). In 2003, respondents who reported salaries greater than \$500,000 were recoded to \$500,000.

B2SALARY has a weighted item response rate below 85 percent when the entire survey sample is considered (as in table 1), thus requiring a bias analysis according to NCES publication standards; see appendix B for details on how this report's findings might have been biased due to missing data on B2SALARY.

Debt burden in 1997**B2EDPCT**

Monthly loan payment as a percentage of monthly income, created by dividing the monthly student loan payment amount by monthly income and multiplying by 100. The percentages were multiplied by 100 to achieve higher precision—specifically, to be able to show median debt burden to one decimal place rather than an integer. Respondents with unrealistically high values (i.e., a debt burden of more than 50 percent) were excluded from the analysis of debt burden in this report; less than 1 percent were excluded for this reason. This variable includes payments for both undergraduate and graduate loans in 1997. However, when used in this report, the amount refers to payments on undergraduate loans only because only bachelor's degree recipients with no additional degree enrollment were included in the analysis of debt burden.

The monthly income refers to income from all sources in 1996, the year prior to the follow-up survey. Thus, B2EDPCT differs from its counterparts for both 1994 (EDPCTR) and 2003 (B3EDPCT); for the other years, income refers to salary income in the survey year (see details under "EDPCTR" and "B3EDPCT" in this glossary). The impact of this difference on findings in this report is minimal because B2EDPCT was used only in table 12 and was used only as a row variable.