

Blomquist and Hansson-Brusewitz estimated the standard model on their Swedish data for two specifications of the labor supply function, thereby addressing the question of whether the functional form of the labor supply equation has an effect on the results. In their paper on the United Kingdom, Blundell and Meghir also addressed the question of the flexibility of the functional form of preferences, stressing the importance to the results of allowing maximum flexibility.

Bourguignon and Magnac, the French authors, estimated a family labor supply model taking into account joint household decision-making by husbands and wives, finding that the usual economic model of joint utility maximization does not fit the data well. They also found evidence of demand-side rationing and institutional constraints on hours of work. García, González, and their coauthor Antonio Zabalza, for Spain, and Colombino and del Boca, for Italy, estimated the standard model in a form closely related to that estimated by Hausman and found, interestingly, very similar elasticities in those countries to those found in the United States.

The two U.S. papers addressed a different set of issues. Triest tested the sensitivity of findings to the estimation method used. MaCurdy addressed issues in the specification of preferences.

Although the conference was long on methodological points and short on policy conclusions, considerable progress was made in identifying and clarifying the methodological issues that must be addressed in any study of the effects of income taxes on labor supply. Moreover, the interaction between the participants from the European countries and the United States was extremely fruitful, as many researchers discovered that they had been working on similar issues but with different approaches. As a consequence, the participants took away from the conference a stimulating set of ideas for new methods to use in their future research on what is a critical policy issue here and abroad. ■

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<sup>1</sup>Burtless and Hausman, "The Effect of Taxation on Labor Supply: Evaluating the Gary Income Maintenance Experiment," *Journal of Political Economy*, 86 (December 1978), 1103-1130.

<sup>2</sup>Hausman, "Labor Supply," in *How Taxes Affect Economic Behavior*, ed. Henry Aaron and Joseph Pechman (Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution, 1981). For a review of the literature, see Hausman, "The Econometrics of Nonlinear Budget Sets," *Econometrica*, 53 (1985), 1255-1282; and Robert Moffitt, "The Econometrics of Piecewise-Linear Budget Constraints," *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*, 4 (July 1986), 317-328.

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## PC-SIPPTEST

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is a series of panel surveys conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in the 1980s to monitor short-term changes in the economic situations of persons, households, and families in the United States. The surveys gathered data on family formation and dissolution, job changes, income earned from labor and capital, receipt of government transfers, family characteristics, and many other topics.

The 1984 public use files of SIPP have been available since 1987 in a relational database management system (Ingres) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for use on a VAX/VMS system via remote access. These files consist of data on more than 64,000 people, who were interviewed up to nine times over a three-year period.

Now available is PC-SIPPTEST, a microcomputer version of the VAX database, created by extracting a 2 percent representative sample of survey units. The sample contains all the essential variables for households, families, persons, and their associated employment and income information, as well as supplementary surveys on special topics. Tools for retrieval include

- longitudinal files with information about the duration in the panel, change in marital status, spells of receipt of income, income and asset amounts, demographic characteristics, residential mobility;
- files of target populations, such as those receiving welfare, medical assistance, food stamps, and health insurance;
- new units of analysis—assets jointly held by couples, social security benefits, parent-child and husband-wife pairs.

The database is stored on high-density disks. The package comes with an instructional manual (*Analyzing Complex Data: A DBMS for the 1984 Panel of the Survey of Income and Program Participation*, volume 1, *Exploring PC-SIPPTEST*), two diskettes of data dictionaries for the nine interviews in the files, and the questionnaires.

PC-SIPPTEST provides an unparalleled opportunity to understand the SIPP, determine sample sizes, test hypotheses, and debug command files before undertaking research on the complete panel.

The package costs \$575. To order it or to obtain further information, write to SIPP ACCESS, Institute for Research on Poverty, 3412 Social Science Building, 1180 Observatory Drive, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706. BITNET address: SIPPASSIST@WISCPSL. Phone: (608) 262-6358.

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