

Read-me File for

to accompany Dägg and Janné, "Money, Happiness and the Midlife Crisis"

The data management and analysis for this paper were conducted with Stata SE, 64 bit, version 12.

The command files were written to run on a Windows or Mac operating system.

The documentation in this folder is stored in directories that are organized as illustrated below:

Janne-Dagg Documentation

read-me.pdf [document in the top level of "Janne-Dagg Dcoumentation"]

data-appendix.pdf [document in the top level of "Janne-Dagg Dcoumentation"]

Original data and metadata [sub-directory of "Janne-Dagg Dcoumentation"]

Original data [sub-directory of "Original data and metadata"]

original-wdi.xlsx [document in "Original data"]

original-pew.sav [document in "Original data"]

Metadata [sub-directory of "Original data and metadata"]

metadata-guide.pdf [document in the top level of "Metadata"]

Supplements [sub-directory of "Metadata"]

Pew GAP Survey details 1.1.pdf [document in "Supplements"]

Processing and analysis [sub-directory of "Janne-Dagg Dcoumentation"]

Importable data [sub-directory of "Processing and analysis"]

importable-wdi.csv [document in "Importabale data"]

importable-pew.dta [document in "Importabale data"]

Command files [sub-directory of "Processing and analysis"]

import-wdi.do [document in "Command files"]

import-csv.do [document in "Command files"]

processing.do [document in "Command files"]

analysis.do [document in "Command files"]

data-appendix.do [document in "Command files"]

Notes on the importable data files:

The file *importable-wdi.csv* is a modified version of *original-wdi.xlsx*. The original file was modified in the following ways:

--explanatory notes were deleted from the bottom of the original spreadsheet

--missing values that were represented by two dots in the original spreadsheet were changed to single dots

--the file was saved in comma-separated values (csv) format

The file *importable-pew.dta* is a modified version of *original-pew.sav*. The original data file was stored in the proprietary .sav format of SPSS; it was converted to the proprietary .dta format of Stata using StatTransfer software (version 11).

To reproduce the tables, figures and statistical results reported in the text of the paper:

1) Copy the “Processing and Analysis” directory, and all of its contents, onto the hard disk of the computer you are working on.

2) Launch Stata, and set the working directory to the “Command files” directory (which is inside the “Processing and Analysis” directory).

Note: Throughout the entire process of replicating the results of the paper, Stata’s working directory should remain set to the “Command files” directory. Commands that save or open files specify the path to the directory where the file is to be saved or the file to be opened is located relative to the “Command files” directory.

3) Execute the *import-wdi.do* command file (which is in the “Command files” directory).

This command file:

--creates a new directory, in the top level of the “Processing and Analysis” directory, called “Constructed data” (unless this “Constructed data” directory already exists, in which case it skips this step)

--imports the data in the *importable-wdi.csv* file, makes some modifications, and then saves the modified data in the “Constructed data” directory, with the name *wdi.dta*.

4) Execute the *import-pew.do* command file (which is in the “Command files” directory).

This command file:

--creates a new directory, in the top level of the “Processing and Analysis” directory, called “Constructed data” (unless this “Constructed data” directory already exists)

--opens the data in the *importable-pew.dta* file, makes some modifications, and then saves the modified data in the “Constructed data” directory, with the name *pew.dta*

5) Execute the command file named *processing.do* (which is in the “Command files” directory).

This command file:

--opens the *pew.dta* file (which was created by the *import-pew.do* command file and saved in the “Constructed data” directory)

--merges *pew.dta* with *wdi.dta* (which was created by the *import-wdi.do* command file and saved in the “Constructed data” directory)

--saves the merged data file in the “Constructed data” directory, with the name *individual-analysis.dta*. This is the clean individual-level dataset used for the analysis.

--converts the individual-level data into a country-level dataset, in which the value of each individual-level variable is transformed to the mean value for all individuals in the same country, and saves this converted data file in the “Constructed data” directory, with the name *country-analysis.dta*. This is the clean country-level dataset used for the analysis.

6) The command file *analysis.do* contains commands that generate all the results reported in the paper. Comments in the *analysis.do* command file indicate which commands generate which of the results.

7) The command file *data-appendix.do* contains commands that generate all the summary statistics and figures presented in the data appendix to the paper. Comments in the *data-appendix.do* command file indicate which commands generate which of the summary statistics and figures.