

14 Deriving the NS-SEC: self-coded method

14.1 NS-SEC is derived from occupation and employment status information, occupation being ideally coded to the most detailed level of SOC2010. As there are 369 unit groups, this can be time-consuming and costly. The five-class self-coded version is simpler and less expensive.

14.2 The self-coded version is not as accurate as its interviewer-coded counterpart: the agreement level for NS-SEC based on SOC2000 was 75 per cent and the agreement level for the re-based NS-SEC is being calculated using omnibus data (although some disagreement between the two classifications may arise from coder error).

14.3 The five-class version of the self-coded NS-SEC has the following classes:

Class	Label
1	Managerial, administrative and professional occupations
2	Intermediate occupations
3	Small employers and own account workers
4	Lower supervisory and technical occupations
5	Semi-routine and routine occupations

14.4 You derive the self-coded version from a combination of information on:

- occupation (self-classified into eight categories), and
- an employment status variable that captures information on employment status and size of organisation

14.5 The employment status variable means that you will need to know whether an individual is an employer, self-employed or an employee; the size of organisation; and the individual's supervisory status (see 9.2).

14.6 The four questions to include in self-coded questionnaires refer to the respondent's current or last main job and occupation.

14.6.1 Employment status/size of organisation

Ask respondents to tick one box only per question.

Question 1: Employee or self-employed

'Do (did) you work as an employee or are (were) you self-employed?'

Employee

Self-employed with employees

Self-employed/freelance without employees (go to question 4)

Question 2: Number of employees

For employees: 'How many people work (worked) for your employer at the place where you work (worked)?'

For self-employed: 'How many people do (did) you employ?' (Go to question 3 when you have completed this question)

1 to 24

25 or more

Question 3: Supervisory status

'Do (did) you supervise any other employees?' (A supervisor or foreman is responsible for overseeing the work of other employees on a day-to-day basis)

Yes

No

14.6.2 Occupation

Question 4: Occupation

Ask respondents to tick one box to show which best describes the sort of work they do. If they are not working now, ask them to tick a box to show what they did in their last job.

Modern professional occupations such as: teacher – nurse
– physiotherapist – social worker – welfare officer – artist–
musician – police officer (sergeant or above) – software designer

Clerical and intermediate occupations such as: secretary –
personal assistant – clerical worker – office clerk – call centre
agent – nursing auxiliary – nursery nurse

Senior managers or administrators (usually responsible for
planning, organising and co-ordinating work, and for finance)
such as: finance manager – chief executive

Technical and craft occupations such as: motor mechanic
– fitter – inspector – plumber – printer – tool maker –
electrician – gardener – train driver

Semi-routine manual and service occupations such as:
postal worker – machine operative – security guard – caretaker
– farm worker – catering assistant – receptionist – sales
assistant

Routine manual and service occupations such as: HGV
driver – van driver – cleaner – porter – packer – sewing machinist
– messenger – labourer – waiter/waitress – bar staff

Middle or junior managers such as: office manager – retail
manager – bank manager – restaurant manager – warehouse
manager – publican

Traditional professional occupations such as: accountant
– solicitor – medical practitioner – scientist – civil/mechanical
engineer

14.7 There are three steps to derive the five-class self-coded NS-SEC from the answers to questions 1 to 4:

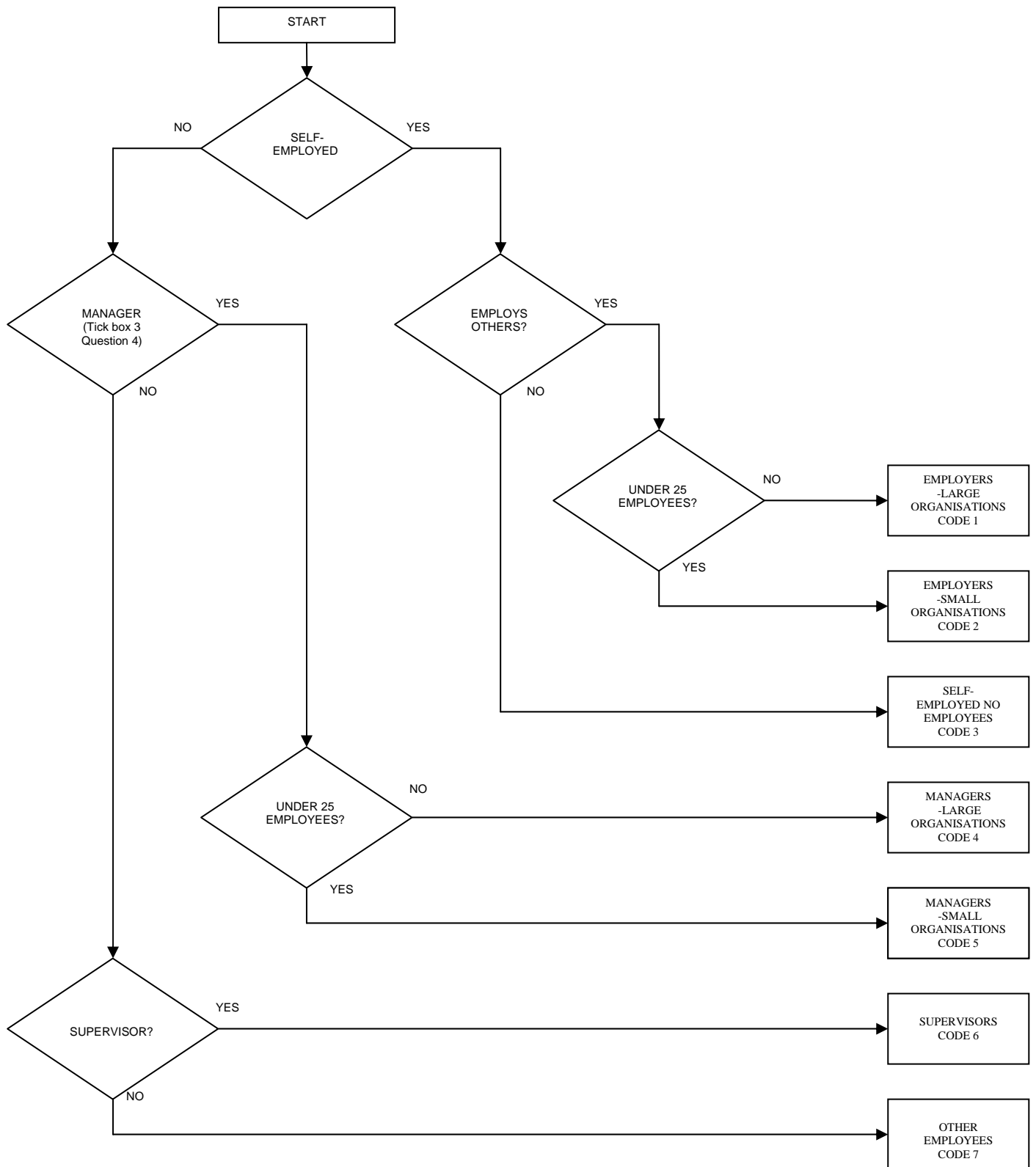
Step 1: Create the employment status variable

The employment status variable has seven codes.

Code	Label
1	Employers- large organisations
2	Employers- small organisations
3	Self-employed, no employees
4	Managers-large organisations
5	Managers-small organisations
6	Supervisors
7	Other employees

Figure 6 illustrates the procedure to follow to derive an employment status variable from the answers to questions 1 to 3.

Figure 6
Deriving the employment status/size of organisation variable, self-coded method



Step 2: Create the self-coded occupation variable

On the basis of respondents' tick-box responses to question 4, create a variable with the following occupational codes:

Code	Label
1	Modern professional occupations
2	Clerical and intermediate occupations
3	Senior managers or administrators
4	Technical and craft occupations
5	Semi-routine manual and service occupations
6	Routine manual and service occupations
7	Middle or junior managers
8	Traditional professional occupations

Step 3: Derive the NS-SEC

Once you have derived the employment status and occupational variables, combine them and assign one of the five NS-SEC class codes to each combination of the two variables using the matrix table (see table 6).

Table 6
NS-SEC self-coded derivation table: five classes

Self-coded occupations	Employment status/size of organisation						
	Employers-large organisations 1	Employers-small organisations 2	Self-employed-no employees 3	Managers-large organisations 4	Managers-small organisations 5	Supervisors 6	Other employees 7
Modern professional occupations 1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Clerical and intermediate occupations 2	1	3	3	1	1	1	2
Senior managers or administrators 3	1	3	3	1	1	1	1
Technical and craft occupations 4	1	3	3	1	1	4	4
Semi-routine manual and service occupations 5	1	3	3	1	1	4	5
Routine manual and service occupations 6	1	3	3	1	1	4	5
Middle or junior managers 7	1	3	3	1	1	1	1
Traditional professional occupations 8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

If there is information missing on employment status or occupation, you can either impute missing values or treat these cases as missing data.
