

Topcoding

To ensure the confidentiality of the data on the microdata files, all financial characteristics that are not calculated variables have been topcoded. The number of cases that need to be topcoded for each characteristic is equal to either 1 percent of the total universe, or 3 percent of all reporting cases, whichever is less. In addition, age was topcoded to 85 years, stories in structure and floor of unit were topcoded at 21 floors, and units in structure was topcoded at 100 units.

For each characteristic, the value which meets one of the two criteria above was determined and became the topcode value. The mean value for all cases falling above the topcode value was calculated and was then assigned to each individual case. For example, approximately 1 percent of the renter occupied units had a contract rent above \$5,500. The mean contract rent for these cases was calculated to be \$7,999. This rent was assigned to each case falling above the topcode.

For calculated variables such as contract rent per room, contract rent as a percent of income, gross rent per room, and gross rent as a percent of income, cases with values above the topcode amounts are included in the not computed category.

A list of the items topcoded, the topcode amount, and the mean value above the topcode that was assigned are shown on the following pages.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Topcode Value*</u>	<u>Mean Value Above Topcode</u>
Age	85 years	N/A
Asking Rent	\$5,000	\$7,411
Down Payment	\$685,000	\$1,385,935
Home Energy Assistance	\$325	\$696
Interest Rate	7.20	8.76
Monthly Condominium or Co-op Maintenance Fees	\$3,000	N/A
Monthly Contract Rent	\$5,500	\$7,999
Monthly Out of Pocket Rent	\$5,500	\$8,024
Monthly Cost of Electricity	\$485	\$672
Monthly Cost of Gas	\$473	\$694
Monthly Cost of Gas and Electricity Combined	\$597	\$816
Monthly Mortgage Payment	\$4,961	\$10,813
Number of Stories/Floor of Unit	21	N/A
Units in Structure	100	N/A
Person Income From:		
Wages, Salary, Commissions, etc.	\$380,000	\$861,502
Farm or Nonfarm Business, etc.	\$250,000	\$879,679
Interest, Dividends, Royalties, etc.	\$130,000	\$317,094
Social Security or Railroad Retirement	\$27,500	\$33,910
SSI, TANF, Family Assistance, Safety Net, or other Public Assistance Payments	\$16,000	\$19,661

<u>Item</u>	<u>Topcode Value*</u>	<u>Mean Value Above Topcode</u>
Retirement, Survivor, or Disability Pensions	\$78,000	\$112,196
VA Payments, Unemployment, Child Support, Alimony, or Other Income Sources	\$35,000	\$61,299
Value	\$3,400,000	\$5,851,008
Year Built	2000	N/A
Yearly Cost of Other Fuels	\$7,800	\$10,388
Yearly Cost of Water and Sewer	\$3,200	\$4,587
2013 Fire and Liability Insurance	\$3,800	\$7,721
2013 Real Estate Taxes	\$10,000	N/A

* Data represents values above which topcoding begins.