**The (Un)importance of Geographical Mobility in the Great Recession**

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The file called “shell.do” is the master file which needs to be run to replicate the paper. This file itself is divided into two subparts. The first part can be run using only the datasets provided along with the codes. In order to run this part, the following steps need to be completed:

1. The do-files “shell.do”, “accounting\_params.do”, “accounting\_HO.do”, and “figures\_and\_misc.do” need to be placed in the working directory. Update the path in the “do” global in the shell to point to this directory.
2. Store the provided data files “march\_rec.dta” ,“sipp\_seasonality.dta” and “data\_for\_accounting\_monthly.dta” also in the working directory
3. Generate a subdirectory called “output” in the working folder, and store all other datasets provided with the code in this directory.
4. The code uses some Stata packages that might not be included in a standard installation. But all these packages are available online and can be downloaded easily. These packages include: grc1leg, outreg2, and tabout.

Now running the first part of the file “shell.do”, will generate all the results reported in the paper and save them in the directory pointed by the global “results”. As default, all the tables and graphs will be saved under the folder “/output/results”.

The second part of the master file “shell.do” can be used to generate the datasets which have been provided with the code using raw microdata. We did not upload the raw data files due to their large size. But all these raw data files are publicly available and can be downloaded according to the following steps. All the data files need to be downloaded and placed in the appropriate directories before running the second part of the “shell.do” file:

1. Download CPS March supplement files from 1976 to 2012 from IPUMS CPS including the data flags in STATA format (IPUMS provide the do file to extract the file). Save the stata file with the file name “cps\_variables.dta”. The full list of variables which need to be downloaded from IPUMS CPS can be found in the file “ipums\_var\_list.xls” in the “main download” tab. Note: when downloading from IPUMS CPS, make sure to download also all the variable flags.
2. Download the raw monthly CPS basic files from January 2006 to March 2012 from the NBER: <http://www.nber.org/data/cps_basic.html>. Use the STATA .do and .dct files from <http://www.nber.org/data/cps_basic_progs.html> to read the raw files into STATA format. The file name convention should be “cpsbYYMM.dta”.
3. Download the variables “hrhhid hrhhid2 occurnum yyyymm hetenure hrmonth hryear4” for January 2006 to March 2012 from <http://dataferrett.census.gov/>. as CSV. Rename them as “basic\_cps (1)” to “basic\_cps(75)” (the order does not matter).[[1]](#footnote-1)
4. Download the CPS March supplement files from 2005 to 2012 from NBER: <http://www.nber.org/data/current-population-survey-data.html>. Extract these into STATA format and name the files “cpsmarYY.dta”. [[2]](#footnote-2)
5. Download the replicate weights for March CPS from IPUMS for all years from 2005 to 2012. Save the STATA file with the file name “repwt.dta”. The full list of variables which need to be downloaded from IPUMS CPS can be found in the file “ipums\_var\_list.xls” in the “rep weights” tab. Note: for this download there is no need to download the flags for the variables.
6. Download the PSID for all years from <http://simba.isr.umich.edu/data/data.aspx>, and save it in STATA format.
7. Set the paths in the globals in “shell.do” such that they are pointing to the directories where the extracted data files above were stored:
   1. march\_cps\_data: March Supplement file from IPUMS generated in part 1
   2. cpsm: Monthly CPS files from NBER generated in part 2
   3. cpsdf: Monthly CPS files from dataferrett generated in part 3
   4. nber\_march: March files from NBER generated in part 4
   5. repwt: The replicate weights from IPUMS generated in part 5
   6. psid: PSID files generated in part 6

The do files in the second half of the master file “shell.do” can be run. This will generate all the datasets which have been provided along with the codes.

1. This is requires since the homeownership variable (hetenure) is missing from the NBER data files. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This is required only for the comment in footnote 10 of the web appendix as the IPUMS March files cannot be merged across years to form a household panel. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)