

Collecting Occupation and Industry Data

California Department of Public Health
Vital Records Registration Branch
Birth Data Quality Workshop



Items 20 and 23: Date Last Worked

- Enter the most recent date (month and year) that the parents worked in their usual occupation.
- Items 20 and 23 are optional if the parents or informant refuse to provide the information.
- The dates entered in 20 and 23 may be after the child's date of birth. For example, the child's date of birth may be 7/31/2013 and the date last worked may be 08/2013.



Items 20 and 23: Date Last Worked

If ...	Then enter...
the parent is currently employed	the current month and year.
the parent never worked or is a student	<i>None.</i>
the month is unknown	the year only, e.g. --/2013.
the year is unknown, or if no information is available	<i>Unknown.</i>
the information is refused	<i>Withheld.</i>

Items 20A and 23A: Usual Occupation

- Enter the parents' usual occupation, which is the work they have done for the longest period of time.
- If the parent is retired, unemployed, disabled, or deceased, report their usual occupation when they were working.
- These items are optional if the parents or informant refuse to provide this information.
- These items are self-reported, and for the most part should be listed as the parents report.



Items 20A and 23A: Examples

The table below provides examples of appropriate entries for Items 20A and 23A. For additional information on occupations, refer to Appendix B of the Birth Registration Handbook.

If the parent...	Then specify...
is a doctor	physician, dentist, veterinarian, chiropractor, etc.
works in data processing	computer programmer, keypunch operator, etc.
is a nurse	registered nurse, nurse-midwife, nurse's aide, nurse practitioner, etc.
is a farm worker	farmer, farm hand, farm supervisor, fruit picker, migratory farm hand, etc.
is a homemaker	Homemaker. However, if the parent normally worked outside of the home prior to the delivery then enter that information.

Items 20B and 23B: Kind of Business or Industry

- Enter the parents' kind of business or industry corresponding with Item 20A or 23A.
 - The description should indicate clearly and specifically the kind of business or industry of employment.
 - Do not enter company names.
 - These items are optional if the parents or informant refuse to provide this information.
 - These items are self-reported, and for the most part should be listed as the parents report.
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Items 20B and 23B: Examples

The table below provides examples of appropriate entries for Item 23B. For additional information on business or industry, refer to Appendix C of the Birth Registration Handbook.

If the business is...	Then specify...
restaurant	fast food, casual dining, fine dining, hotel restaurant, etc.
retail	bookstore, clothing store, electronics store, etc.
manufacturing	electronics manufacturing, computer manufacturing, fabric manufacturing, etc.
construction	road construction, housing construction, etc.
oil and gas industry	oil field drilling, petroleum refinery, retail gasoline station, wholesale oil distributor, natural gas pipeline, etc.

What to do if...	The table below provides additional instructions for completing the occupation and industry items.		
	If...	Enter this for occupation...	Enter this for business or industry...
	homemaker	<i>Homemaker</i>	<i>Own Home</i>
	retired	usual occupation while working	usual business or industry while working
	self-employed	functional occupation	the related business or industry
	institutionalized, disabled, and unemployed	usual occupation if individual ever worked	usual business or industry if individual ever worked
	student	<i>Student</i>	<i>High School, Welding School, Medical School, etc.</i>
	never worked	<i>Never Worked</i>	a dash
	unknown	<i>Unknown</i>	a dash
	refused	<i>Withheld</i>	a dash
	NOTE: Unemployed is not an acceptable entry.		

Examples

Less Specific		More Specific	
Occupation	Industry	Occupation	Industry
Technician	Medical	Health Information Management Technician, Radiology Technician, Pharmacy Technician, Laboratory Technician	Hospital, Pharmacy, Medical Clinic, Medical Research
Analyst	Government	Program Analyst	County Public Health Agency
Caregiver	Caregiving	Caregiver	In-Home Care
Driver	Transportation	Delivery Driver, Truck Driver	Trucking Company, Shipping Company
Sergeant	Military	Helicopter Pilot	Air Force
Engineer	Government	Computer Engineer, Civil Engineer, Mechanical Engineer	Federal Defense Agency
Salesman	Sales	Car Salesman	Auto Dealership •

Resources

- The Occupational Information Network (O*NET) is the nation's primary source of occupational information. The O*NET database contains information on hundreds of standardized and occupation-specific descriptors. O*NET OnLine is a free, interactive application for exploring and searching occupations:
<http://www.onetonline.org/>
- Appendices B and C in the Birth Registration Handbook
- Birth and Marriage Registration Section (916) 445-8494



Questions?



OPEN MIC DISCUSSION

