SPSS: Multiple response tables (via Custom tables)

This document will show how to generate a multiple response table or cross table as shown below. In this document the Custom tables option is.

A video showing the instructions being performed is available at: https://youtu.be/hUW-Cv89sjA

The example used in the instructions uses the data file Film preferences.sav available at the companion website http://PeterStatistics.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visited cinemas</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Column N %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visited Pathé de Munt last year</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>49.0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited The Movies last year</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>36.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited Pathé Tuschinski last year</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>48.9 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited Pathé Arena last year</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>45.9 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1.** Example output of a frequency table of a multiple response set

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visited cinemas</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>Count</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Column N %</td>
<td>Column N %</td>
<td>Column N %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited Pathé de Munt last year</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited The Movies last year</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited Pathé Tuschinski last year</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited Pathé Arena last year</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 2.** Example output of a frequency table of a multiple response set

These are the instructions for SPSS 23 or older. Instructions for version 24 are available at http://PeterStatistics.com, although the differences are minimum.

(by P. Stikker)
Creating a multiple response set

In order to create a frequency table or a cross table from a question with multiple answers, you first need to create a multiple response set.

1. Click in the menubar on **Analyze**
2. Click on **Tables** (or in SPSS 23 on **Custom Tables**)
3. Click on **Multiple Response Sets...**
4. Click on the variables that form the multiple response set (you can use CTRL to select multiple variables)
5. Click on **»** to move them to the Variables in Set section.
6. At Variable Coding, enter the value that you are most interested in. In this example 1 indicated that someone did visit the cinema, and I’m interested in those who did, so at Counted value a 1 is entered in the example.

7. Enter a name for the set. Note that the same rules as for variables apply, so no spaces and cannot start with a number.

8. Enter a label for the set

9. Click on Add

10. Click on OK
### Generating a frequency table from a multiple response set

1. Click in the menubar on **Analyze**
2. Click on
   - SPSS 21 or older: **Tables**
   - SPSS 22 and higher: **Custom Tables**
3. Click on **Custom Tables**...
4. In SPSS version 22 you might be prompted with a message that custom tables work best if the labels for all values have been assigned. If you have done so, you can simply click on OK.

In version 22 & 23 you will get a message about measurement level if any of the variables is still set to 'unknown' as a measurement level. SPSS gives you a few options but you might want to cancel in this case, go to the Variable View and check which variables have Measure set to unknown and change them to the proper measurement level.
5. Click on **Reset**

6. Click on **All Tabs**
7. **Drag** the multiple response set (at the bottom of the variables list) to the **Row** by dragging it there.

If you want to see **percentages**:

8. Click on **Note**: if you cannot click on the **Summary Statistics**, then first click in the table on the multiple response set name or any of the values (the lightly yellow shaded area).

9. Click on **Column N%** (or **Table N%**)

10. Click on **to move Column N% to the Display section.**

(by P. Stikker)
11. Click on **Apply to Selection**

If you want the totals to be shown as well:

12. Click on **Categories and Totals...**

*Note: if you cannot click on the Categories and Totals, then first click in the table on the multiple response set name or any of the values*
13. At the Show section tick the **Total** option.

14. Click on **Apply**

15. Click on **OK**
Generating a cross table with a multiple response set

1. Click in the menubar on **Analyze**

2. Click on
   - SPSS 21 or older: **Tables**
   - SPSS 22 and higher: **Custom Tables**

3. Click on **Custom Tables...**

4. In SPSS version 22 you might be prompted with a message that custom tables work best if the labels for all values have been assigned. If you have done so, you can simply click on OK.

In version 22 & 23 you will get a message about measurement level if any of the variables is still set to ‘unknown’ as a measurement level. SPSS gives you a few options but you might want to cancel in this case, go to the Variable View and check which variables have Measure set to unknown and change them to the proper measurement level.
5. Click on **Reset**

6. Click on **All Tabs**
7. **Drag** the multiple response set to the **Rows**
   (the multiple response set can be found at the bottom of the Variables list)

8. **Drag** the variable you want to cross it with to the **Columns**

In case you want to show percentages:

9. Click on the multiple response set name in the main area (the lightly yellow shaded area)

10. Click on **Summary Statistics...**

Note: by first dragging the multiple response set and then the other variable, you will have the option to also show the percentages based on responses. However most often you want them based on cases, so it does not matter much.
11. Click in the Statistics section on Column Valid N%

12. Click on

13. Click on [Apply to Selection]
In case you also want to add the column totals:

14. Click on the multiple response set name in the main area (the lightly yellow shaded area)

15. Click on Categories and Totals...

16. At the Show section tick the Total option

17. Click on Apply

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In case you also want the row totals:

18. Click on variable of the columns (the lightly yellow shaded area)
19. Click on Categories and Totals...
20. At the Show section tick the Total option
21. Click on Apply
22. Click on OK