



Actual number of occasions exceeds the specified number of occasions

The message

“Actual number of occasions exceeds the specified number of occasions”

tends to appear if the indicator variables are not constructed correctly. Say, for example, you have three indicators. The program will expect the set of values for these indicators to be

IND1	IND2	IND3
1	0	0
0	1	0
0	0	1

or a subset thereof, such as

IND1	IND2	IND3
1	0	0
0	0	1

if the second measurement is missing for a respondent. If it finds something like

IND1	IND2	IND3
1	0	0
0	1	0
0	1	0

it will produce the message. Usually, when this message appears, there is at least one level-2 unit with "duplicate" rows. In other words, the value 1 can only appear once in the same column within an unit.

The other side of this coin, which can also trigger this message is when you do not really have all occasions present in the observed data. The number of dummies should be equal to the total number of occasions in the data. Say you had 7 occasions, and some measurements at each. Then you will need 7 indicators. But, if for some reason, there is no measurement at the 5th occasion over all respondents, you really have only 6 occasions recorded in the data and thus need 6 indicators. The total number of indicators should be equal to the total number of occasions over all units in the actual data, as opposed to the theoretical number of occasions.