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**QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF SLID
TEST 3A DATA COLLECTION**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents a summary evaluation of the quality of the data collected during the SLID field test of labour market activity data, held in January and February 1993. The household response and non-response rates are presented first, as well as results of the tracing operation. These are followed by the figures on the interview time for a household and the number of telephone calls made by the interviewers. Finally, information on the interactive edits and feedback confirmation rates make up the last two sections. Included in the appendices are additional tables on the characteristics of the sample, the response rates by age group and sex, the response rates for households and individuals, and the interview durations for specific sections of the interview. Relevant SLID definitions are provided as well.

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1. OVERVIEW OF THE RESULTS

SLID is a longitudinal survey designed to measure the dynamics among work, income and family characteristics. The data is collected twice a year, with an interview in January to collect information on labour market activity and an interview in May to obtain data on income. Two tests are scheduled in 1993 to simulate the collection process one year before the survey begins. This report covers the data collection for the January test. The collection period was January 30 to February 20, 1993. A sample of 1,329 households was selected from a sample of households that had participated in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) between December 1991 and May 1992. The collection was confined to two regional offices: St. John's and Toronto. In addition to testing content and the procedures developed for computer-assisted collection, one of the objectives of the test was to test tracing procedures and to verify the feasibility of this operation. Another objective was to check the impact on the quality of the data of feeding back information which had been previously collected.

The overall response rate of the test (in terms of households) was 75%. The response rate differs between the two regional offices (St. John's had a response rate of 81% while Toronto's was 72%). This difference between the regional offices has been observed in other surveys also.

The non-responses were divided into various components: refusals, people who could not be traced, and other non-response. A refusal rate of 8% was anticipated, but a higher rate of 11.9% was obtained (8% in St. John's and 13% in Toronto). The primary reasons given for refusal was that they had already participated in the LFS for six months and had had to reply to a number of LFS survey supplements as well. They therefore had the impression that they had done their "duty" and should not have to participate in any further surveys. A number of people who

refused to participate cited the “voluntary” nature of the survey as the reason for their refusal.

The unable-to-trace rate for persons was the same in both regional offices (8%). Not all planned tracing procedures could be implemented for the test; for example, tracing procedures by the regional office could not be implemented because of technical problems with the transfer of data. The next test (in May) should be able to provide an improved evaluation of the tracing process.

The other non-response are principally due to households whose members were temporarily absent or who could not be contacted during the collection.

Non-response, when broken down by size of household, appears to differ between the two regional offices. In St. John's the non-response rate is particularly high among single-person households. More specifically, a high non-response rate was observed among households in which at least one person left the household between the LFS and SLID surveys. In Toronto the non-response rate appears to increase with size of household, particularly for refusals.

There do not appear to be any overall differences in non-response by sex or age group.

For 31% of the interviews, a single contact was required, and 19% were completed after two contacts. On average, 3.1 calls were required to get a complete household response, while partially complete households were contacted 6.2 times. For temporarily absent households, the interviewers made an average of 12 calls.

A number of interactive edits were programmed. First, SLID collected every individual's date of birth instead of their age. The age derived from the date of birth was compared to the age derived from LFS. For 4% of persons, the date of birth failed the edit; in 64% of these cases an error had been made during the capture of the date of birth, while in the other 36% the respondent indicated that the age obtained from the LFS was wrong.

SLID also attempted to determine the relationships between all members of the household. To minimize the number of times the relationship was reversed (for example, recording parent instead of child), a check based on age was performed for particular relationships. The check indicated that 5.3% of the relationships were in error. However, in 47% of these edit failures, the interviewer failed to correct the inconsistency.

Finally, the test provided the respondent with some information collected in LFS, to try to situate certain events in time, and thus, to minimize the recall error. For everyone who had responded to the LFS, the SLID interview began by confirming the name of the person's employer in January 1992 (for persons who were working or were absent from work), occupation, occupational status (in the case of self-employed workers or unpaid family workers), looking for work or not employed. The information was generally confirmed (the lowest confirmation rate, 85%, was for people who had a job from which they were absent). Supplementary studies will make micro-comparisons with the data in order to validate the quality of the information.

2. HOUSEHOLD RESPONSE RATES

CHART 1

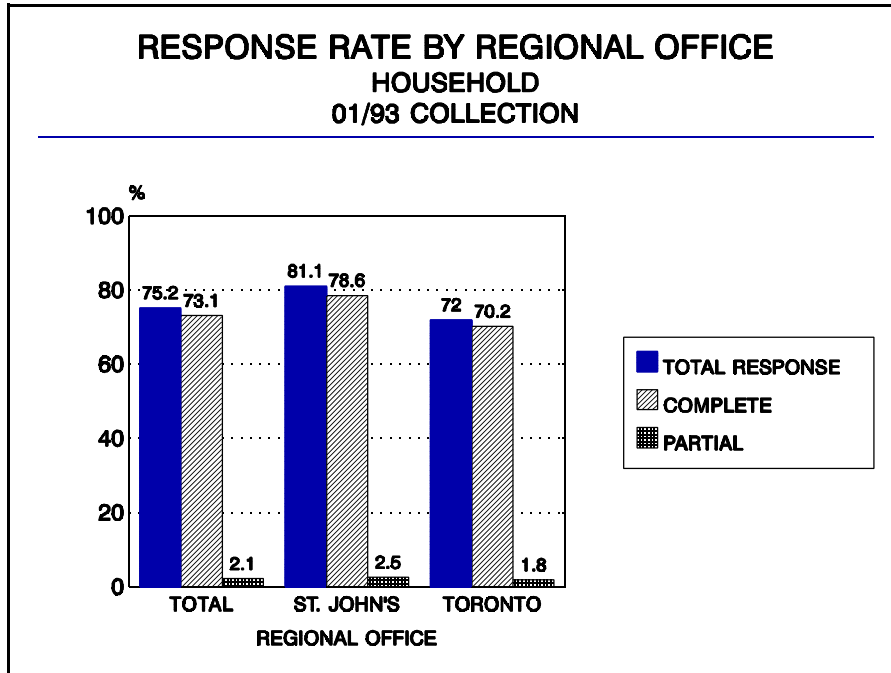


CHART 2

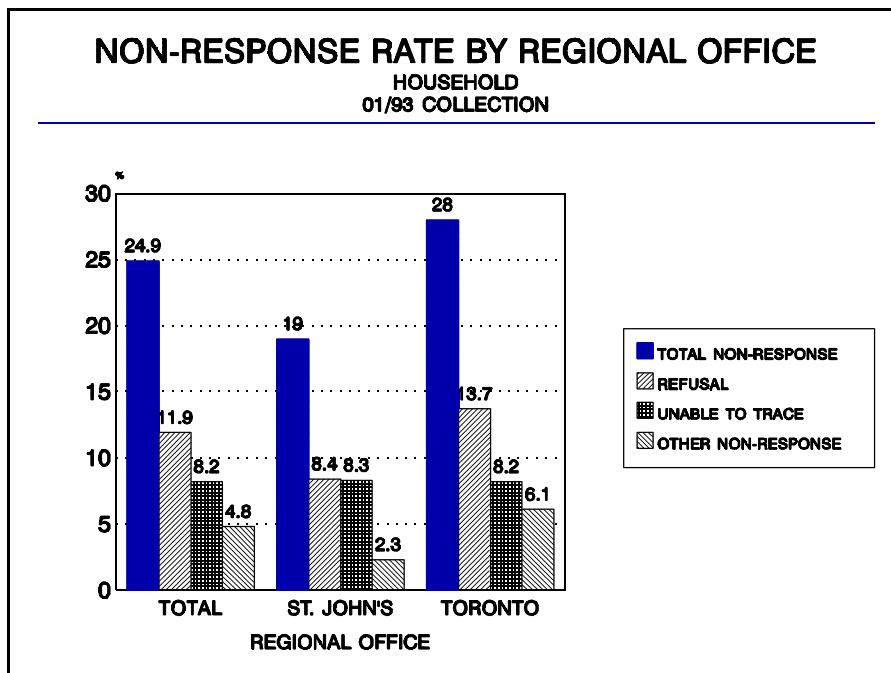


CHART 3

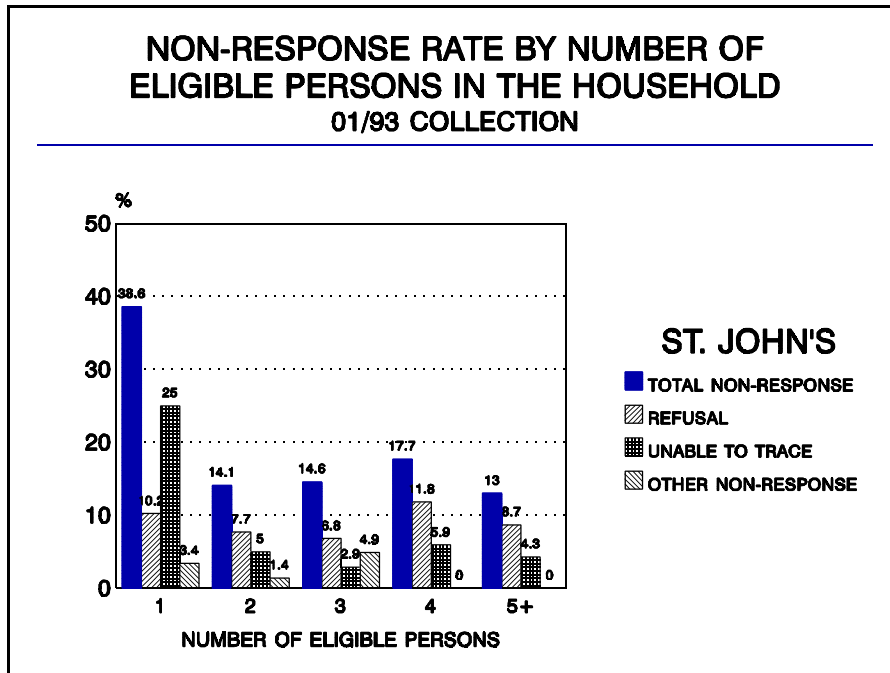
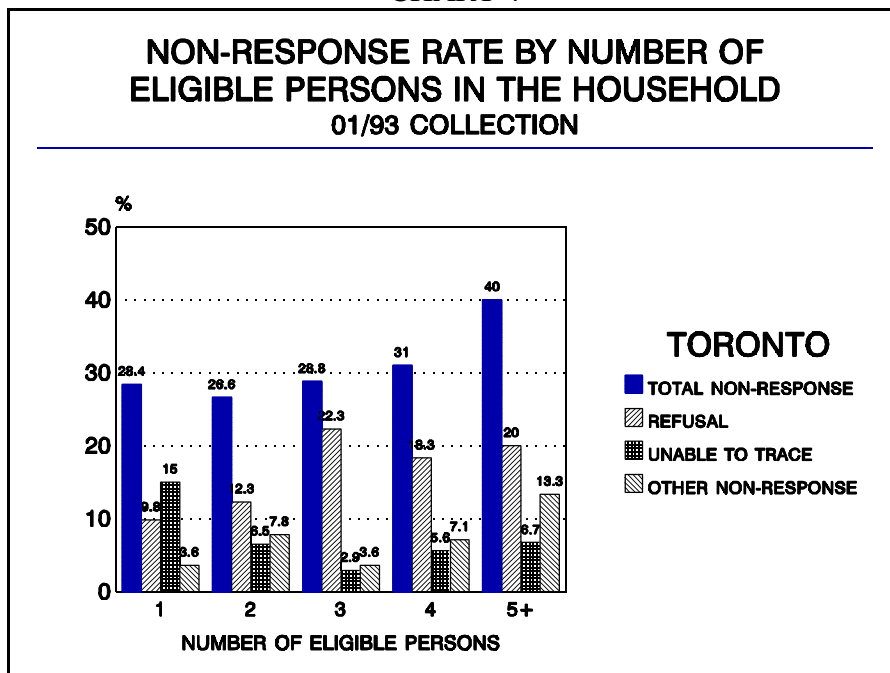


CHART 4



3. TRACING

TABLE 1: OVERVIEW OF TRACING PROCEDURES
01/93 COLLECTION

	NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS TO TRACE	NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS TRACED		AVERAGE NUMBER OF SOURCES USED	AVERAGE NUMBER OF CALLS
		tot	%		
TOTAL	221	105	47.51	1.46	2.62
ST. JOHN'S	79	39	49.37	1.21	2.32
TORONTO	142	66	46.48	1.59	2.78

Owing to some problems in the tracing procedures, the interviewers did not always have access to the available information that might have helped them in tracing households. This may explain the low rate of successful traces.

4. DURATION OF INTERVIEW

All times presented below are in minutes and fractions of minutes.

4.1 INTERVIEW DURATIONS BY HOUSEHOLD

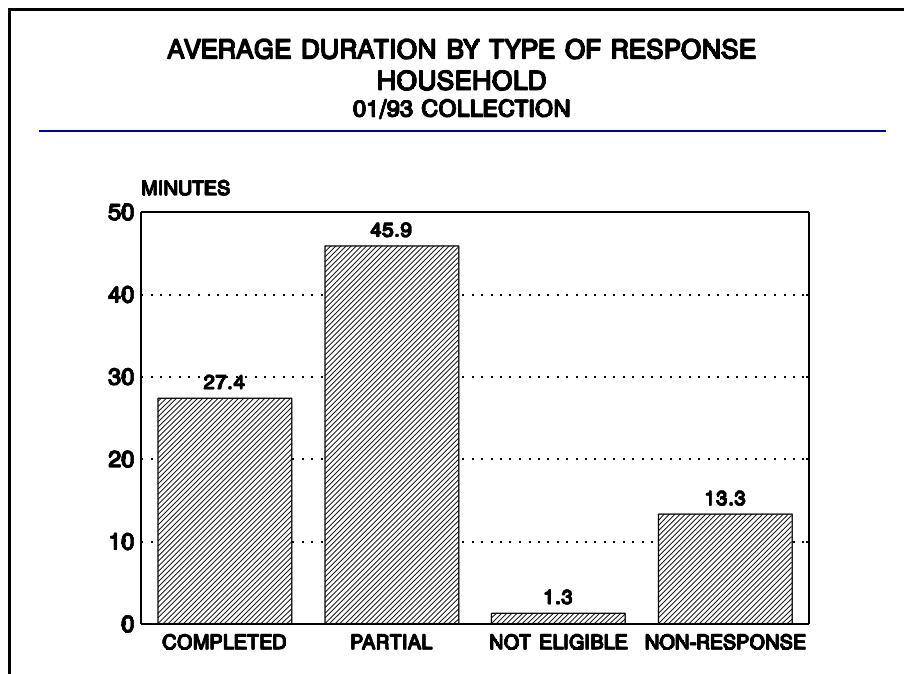
**TABLE 2: TOTAL DURATION
01/93 COLLECTION**

	HOUSEHOLDS			
	AVERAGE	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	STAND DEVIATION
TOTAL	24.3	0	197.6	19.2
ST. JOHN'S	25.4	0	197.6	18.5
TORONTO	23.6	0	160	19.6

NOTE: These data are based on 1,409 households.

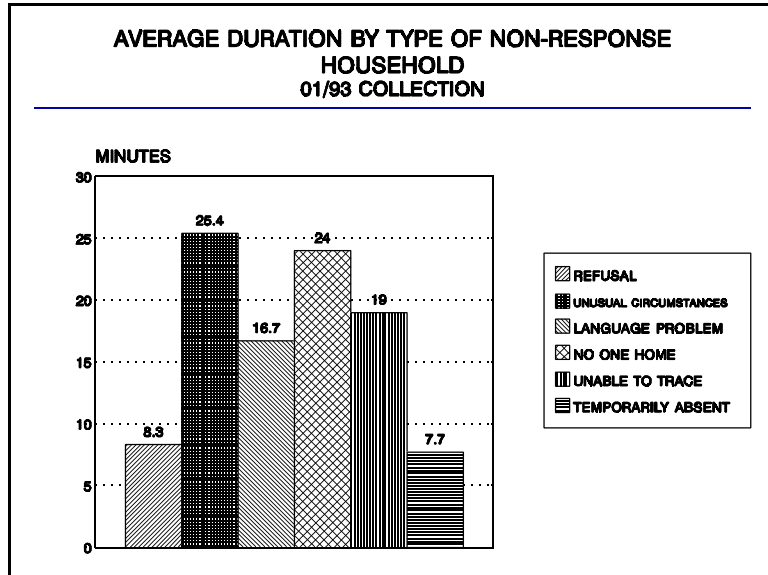
4.2 INTERVIEW DURATION PER HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE OF RESPONSE

CHART 5:



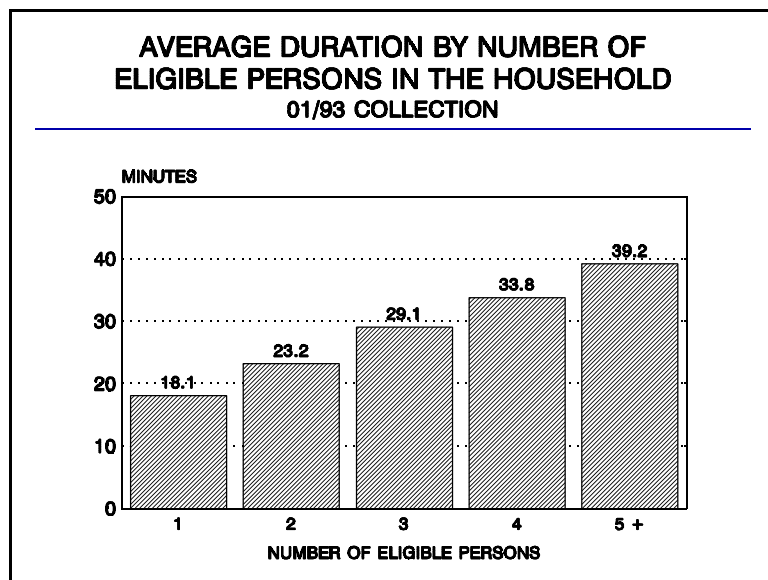
4.3 DURATION PER HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE OF NON-RESPONSE

CHART 6:



4.4 DURATION BY NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PERSONS

CHART 7:



5. NUMBER OF TELEPHONE CALLS

CHART 8

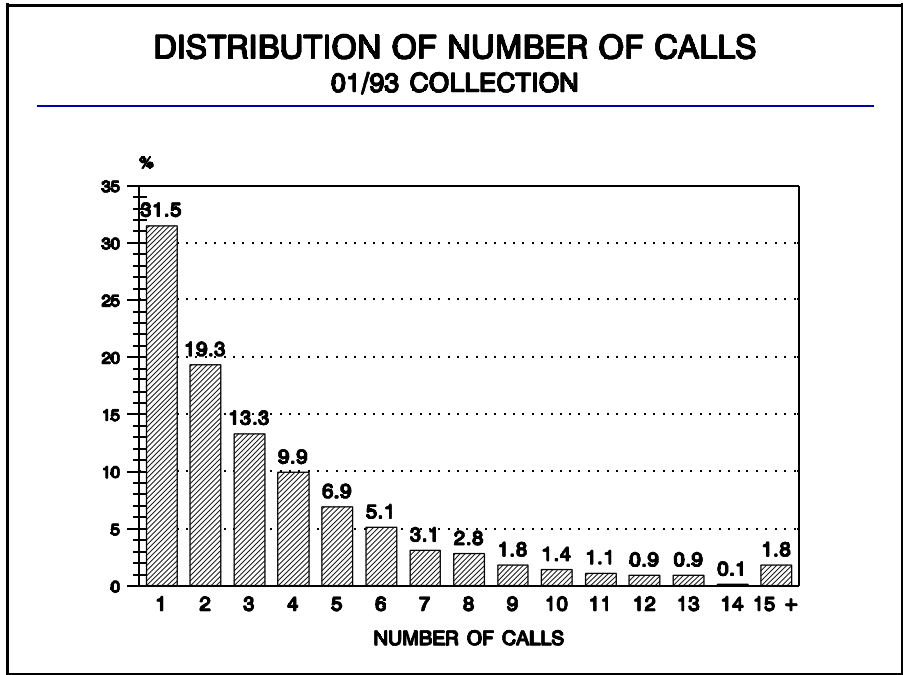
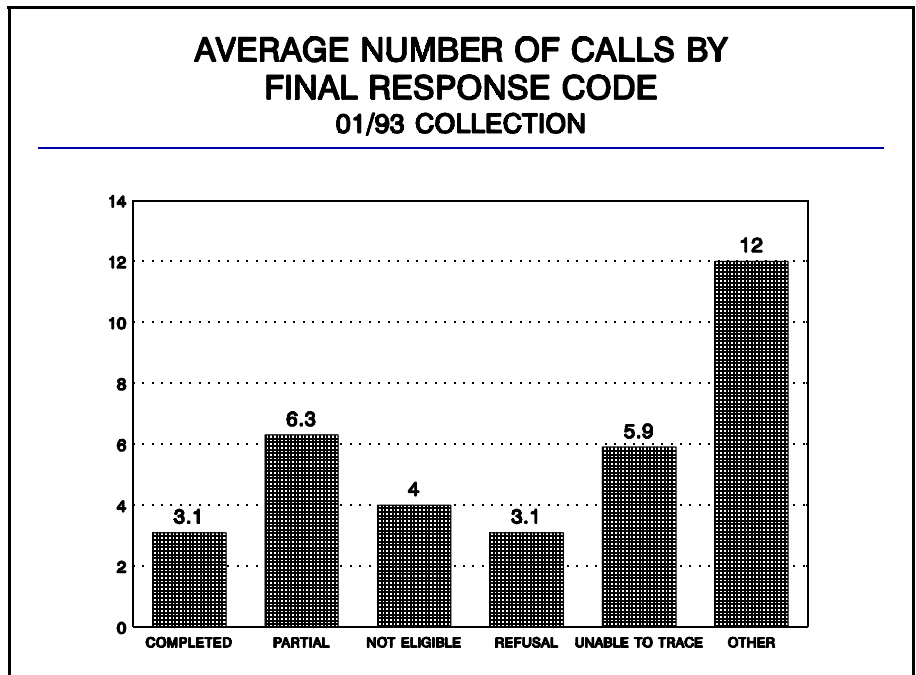


CHART 9



6. DEMOGRAPHIC EDITS

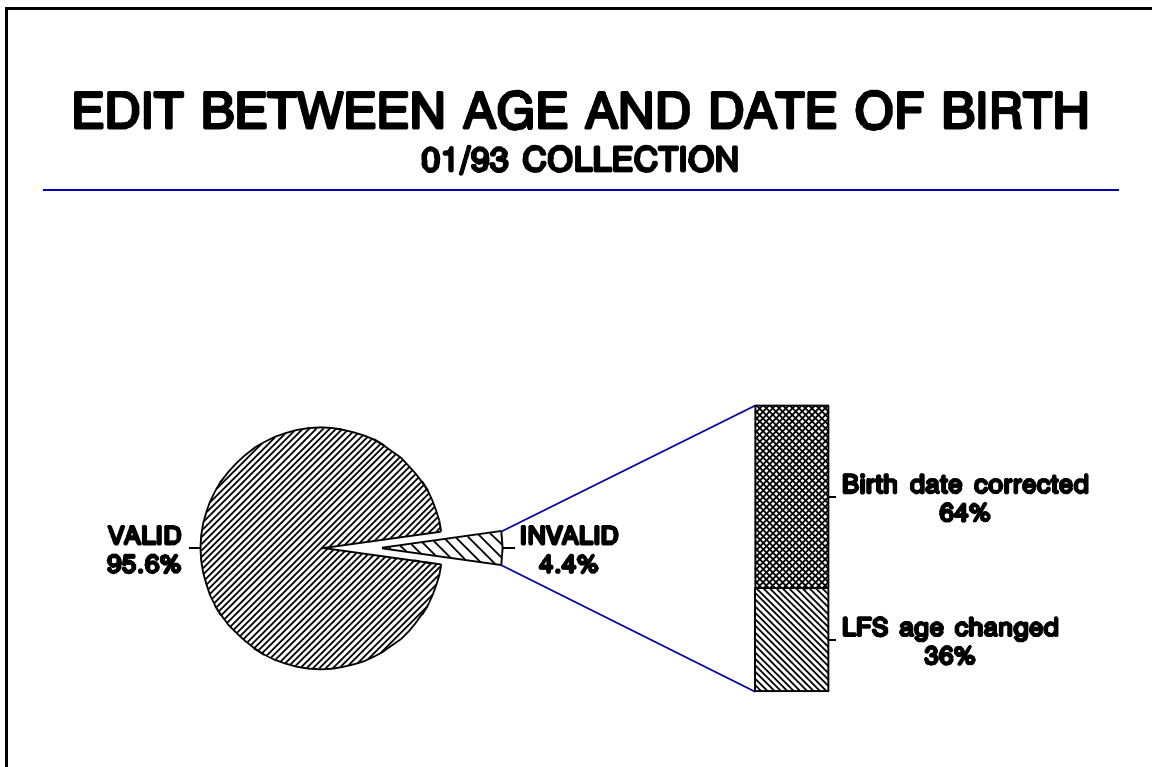
6.1 CONSISTENCY BETWEEN AGE AND DATE OF BIRTH

Description of the edit:

After recording the respondent's date of birth, an interactive edit compared it with the age collected in the Labour Force Survey (LFS). If the difference between the age calculated from the date of birth and the LFS age was greater than two years, an error message was displayed on the screen. The interviewer then could re-enter a new date of birth or confirm the date of birth and thereby amend the age originating from the LFS.

The results of the edit are shown in Chart 10 below.

CHART 10



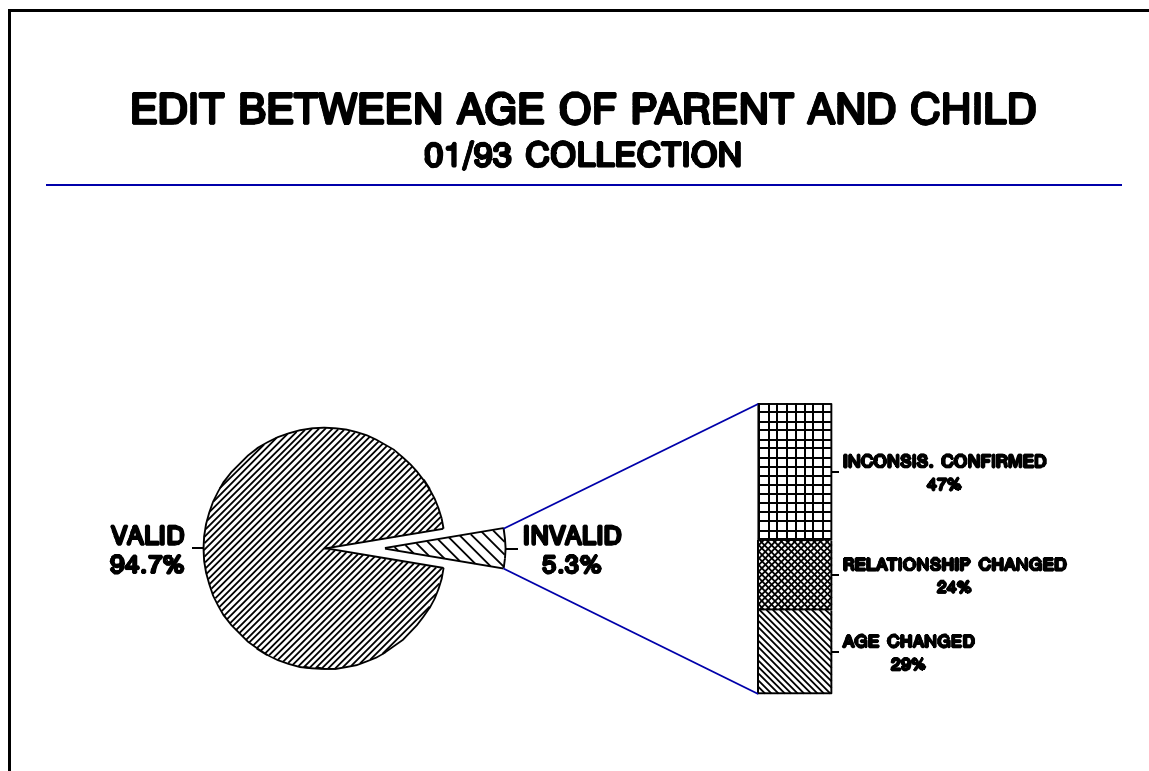
6.2 CONSISTENCY BETWEEN AGE AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

Description of the edit:

When the interviewer established family relationships, whether parental (natural, adoptive, in-law, foster), grandparents, children (natural, adoptive, in-law, foster) or grandchildren, an interactive edit was performed with the age of the two persons. For example, a father must be older than his son. The purpose of this check is to prevent the interviewer from inadvertently choosing the opposite relationship. An error message appeared to flag inconsistencies. The interviewer could then amend the family relationship, correct the ages of the people involved, or confirm the inconsistency.

The results of the check are presented in Chart 11 below.

CHART 11



7. FEEDBACK

Description of information provided to respondent:

The labour market activity of longitudinal persons aged 16 to 69, as collected by the LFS in January 1992, was given at the outset of the interview. The respondent could then confirm or deny the information.

Four pieces of information were fed back:

- Type 1 employer: An employer for whom the respondent was working at the time of the LFS interview in January 1992. The employer's name was given to the respondent for confirmation.
- Type 2 employer: An employer for whom the respondent was not working but who was "attached" (temporary layoff or unpaid absence of more than four weeks). The employer's name was given to the respondent for confirmation.
- Looking for work: Respondents not working but who were looking for work at the time of the LFS in January 1992.
- Not looking for work: Respondents who were not working and not looking for work at the time of the LFS in January 1992.

The confirmation rates of the information fed back are given in the following table.

TABLE 3

**CONFIRMATION OF FEEDBACK
PROVIDED TO RESPONDENT
01/93 COLLECTION**

	PERSON							
	TYPE 1 EMPLOYER		TYPE 2 EMPLOYER		LOOKING FOR WORK		NOT LOOKING FOR WORK	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
CONFIRMED	1092	98.8	40	85.1	167	96.5	578	92.6
DENIED	13	1.2	7	14.9	6	3.5	46	7.4
TOTAL	1105		47		173		624	

APPENDIX A - HOUSEHOLD RESPONSE RATES

TABLE 4: OVERVIEW OF THE SAMPLE
01/93 COLLECTION

	HOUSEHOLD							
	ORIGINAL	CREATED	NOT ELIGIBLE	TOTAL	TOTAL RESPONSE		TOTAL NON-RESPONSE	
					tot	%	tot	%
TOTAL	1,329	86	4	1,411	1,060	75.12	351	24.88
ST. JOHN'S	448	38	1	485	393	81.03	92	18.97
TORONTO	881	48	3	926	667	72.03	259	27.97

NOTE: ORIGINAL: A household from the original January 92 sample.
 CREATED: A household that was created from an original household. For example, two households are created when the three members of the household no longer live together. One of the three retains the identification of the original household and two households are created for the other two persons.
 TOTAL: TOTAL = ORIGINAL + CREATED - NOT ELIGIBLE.

TABLE 5: HOUSEHOLD RESPONSE RATE BY REGIONAL OFFICE
01/93 COLLECTION

	HOUSEHOLD														
	TOTAL	COMPLETED INTERVIEW		PARTIAL INTERVIEW		TOTAL RESPONSE		REFUSAL		UNABLE TO TRACE		OTHER NON-RESPONSE		TOTAL NON-RESPONSE	
		tot	%	tot	%	tot	%	tot	%	tot	%	tot	%	tot	%
TOTAL	1,411	1,031	73.07	29	2.06	1,060	75.12	168	11.91	116	8.22	67	4.75	351	24.88
ST. JOHN'S	485	381	78.56	12	2.47	393	81.03	41	8.45	40	8.25	11	2.27	92	18.97
TORONTO	926	650	70.19	17	1.84	667	72.03	127	13.71	76	8.21	56	6.05	259	27.97

APPENDIX A - HOUSEHOLD RESPONSE RATE

CHART 12

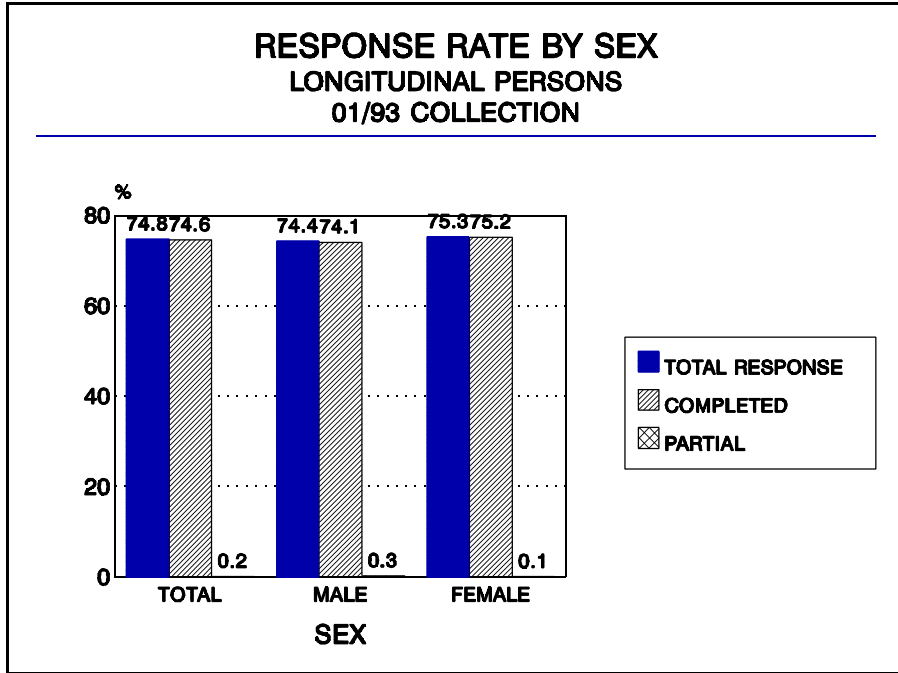
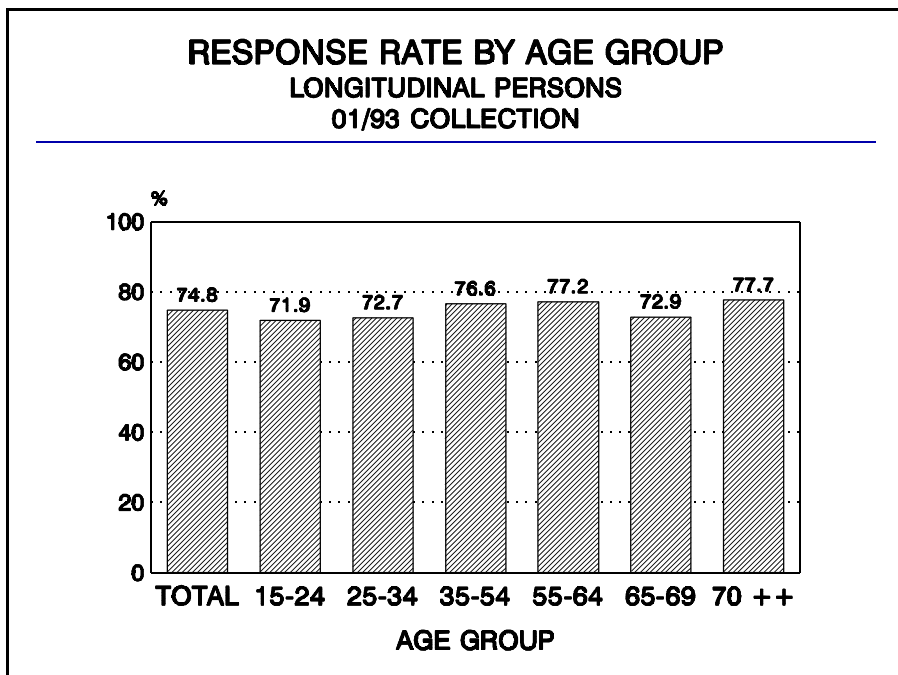


CHART 13



APPENDIX B - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE RATES

TABLE 6: OVERVIEW OF THE SAMPLE

01/93 COLLECTION

	INDIVIDUAL						
	LONGITUDINAL					NON LONGITUDINAL	TOTAL
	ELIGIBLE		NOT ELIGIBLE		TOTAL	TOTAL	
	tot	%	tot	%			
TOTAL	3,026	77.65	871	22.35	3,897	123	4,020
00-14 years							
15-24 years	0	0.00	856	100.00	856	46	902
25-34 years	563	100.00	0	0.00	563	25	588
35-54 years	681	99.70	2	0.30	683	26	709
55-64 years	1,058	99.90	1	0.10	1,059	9	1,068
65-69 years	324	99.69	1	0.31	325	3	328
70 years & over	140	99.29	1	0.71	141	0	141
	260	96.30	10	3.70	270	1	271
Male	1,485	76.04	468	23.96	1,953	53	2,006
00-14 years							
15-24 years	0	0.00	457	100.00	457	20	477
25-34 years	305	100.00	0	0.00	305	12	317
35-54 years	331	99.40	2	0.60	333	16	349
55-64 years	503	99.80	1	0.20	504	4	508
65-69 years	170	99.42	1	0.58	171	1	172
70 years and over	65	98.48	1	1.52	66	0	66
	111	94.87	6	5.13	117	0	117
Female	1,541	79.27	403	20.73	1,944	57	2,001
00-14 years							
15-24 years	0	0.00	399	100.00	399	26	425
25-34 years	258	100.00	0	0.00	258	13	271
35-54 years	350	100.00	0	0.00	350	10	360
55-64 years	555	100.00	0	0.00	555	5	560
65-69 years	154	100.00	0	0.00	154	2	156
70 years & over	75	100.00	0	0.00	75	0	75
	149	38	4	2.62	153	1	154

NOTE: There are 13 non-longitudinal individuals with missing values for sex and age.

APPENDIX B - INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE RATE

**TABLE 7: RESPONSE RATES BY REGIONAL OFFICE (LONGITUDINAL PERSONS)
01/93 COLLECTION**

	TOTAL	COMPLETED INTERVIEW		PARTIAL INTERVIEW		TOTAL RESPONSE		REFUSAL		UNABLE TO TRACE		OTHER NON-RESPONSE		NON-RESPONSE	
		tot	%	tot	%	tot	%	tot	%	tot	%	tot	%	tot	%
TOTAL	3,026	2,257	74.59	7	0.23	2,264	74.82	403	13.32	200	6.61	159	5.25	762	25.18
15-24 years	563	405	71.94	0	0.00	405	71.94	72	12.79	60	10.66	26	4.62	158	28.06
25-34 years	681	490	71.95	5	0.73	495	72.69	78	11.45	64	9.40	44	6.46	186	27.31
35-54 years	1,058	810	76.56	0	0.00	810	76.56	154	14.56	51	4.82	43	4.06	248	23.44
55-64 years	324	248	76.54	2	0.62	250	77.16	37	11.42	15	4.63	22	6.79	74	22.84
65-69 years	140	102	72.86	0	0.00	102	72.86	25	17.86	4	2.86	9	6.43	38	27.14
70 years & over	260	202	77.69	0	0.00	202	77.69	37	14.23	6	2.31	15	5.77	58	22.31
ST. JOHN'S	1,135	931	82.03	3	0.26	934	82.29	102	8.99	70	6.17	29	2.55	201	17.71
15-24 years	242	201	83.06	0	0.00	201	83.06	19	7.85	18	7.44	4	1.65	41	16.94
25-34 years	232	180	77.59	3	1.29	183	78.88	22	9.48	21	9.05	6	2.59	49	21.12
35-54 years	400	339	84.75	0	0.00	339	84.75	31	7.75	24	6.00	6	1.50	61	15.25
55-64 years	127	104	81.89	0	0.00	104	81.89	14	11.02	4	3.15	5	3.94	23	18.11
65-69 years	45	37	82.22	0	0.00	37	82.22	5	11.11	1	2.22	2	4.45	8	17.78
70 years & over	89	70	78.65	0	0.00	70	78.65	11	12.36	2	2.25	6	6.74	19	21.35
TORONTO	1,891	1,326	70.12	4	0.21	1,330	70.33	301	15.93	130	6.87	130	6.87	561	29.67
15-24 years	321	204	63.55	0	0.00	204	63.55	53	16.51	42	13.09	22	6.85	117	36.45
25-34 years	449	310	69.04	2	0.45	312	69.49	56	12.47	43	9.58	38	8.46	137	30.51
35-54 years	658	471	71.58	0	0.00	471	71.58	123	18.69	27	4.11	37	5.62	187	28.42
55-64 years	197	144	73.10	2	1.01	146	74.11	23	11.68	11	5.58	17	8.63	51	25.89
65-69 years	95	65	68.42	0	0.00	65	68.42	20	21.05	3	3.16	7	7.37	30	31.58
70 years & over	171	132	77.19	0	0.00	132	77.19	26	15.21	4	2.34	9	5.26	39	22.81

APPENDIX C - AVERAGE INTERVIEW DURATION OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS

TABLE 8: AVERAGE DURATION BY COMPONENTS

01/93 COLLECTION

	HOUSEHOLD	
	CONTACT / HOUSEHOLD ROSTER	DEMOGRAPHICS
TOTAL	3.66	2.96
ST. JOHN'S	3.69	2.93
TORONTO	3.65	2.98

NOTE: The duration of the demographic portion includes the time spent determining family relationships.

TABLE 7: AVERAGE INTERVIEW DURATION BY COMPONENTS

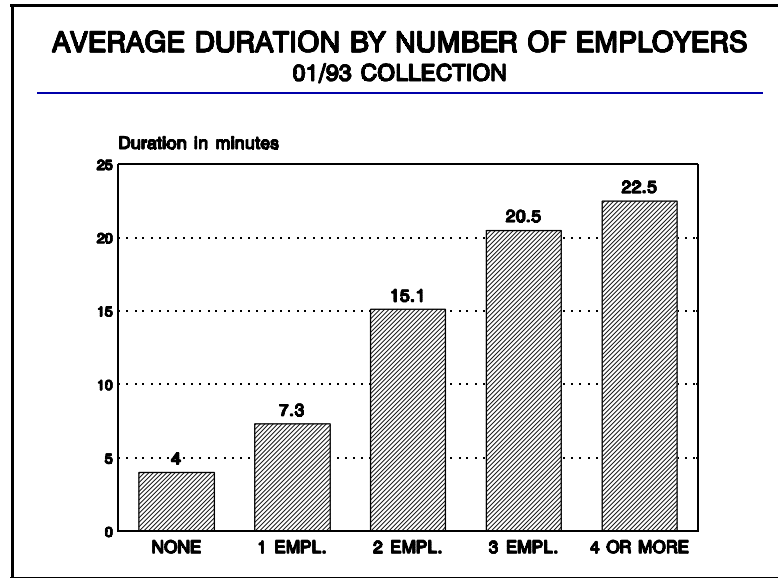
01/93 COLLECTION

	INDIVIDUAL					
	PRELIMINARY LONG		PRELIMINARY SHORT		LABOUR	
	Average duration	Number of interviews	Average duration	Number of interviews	Average duration	Number of interviews
TOTAL	5.11	41	5.38	59	7.00	2273
ST. JOHN'S	4.12	22	5.61	26	6.76	934
TORONTO	6.26	19	5.19	33	7.17	1339

NOTE: These durations are based solely on completed interviews.

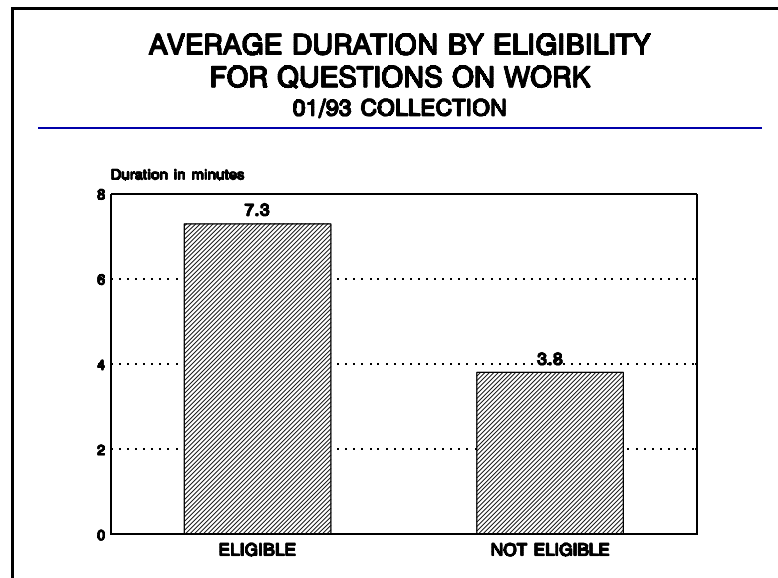
APPENDIX C - AVERAGE INTERVIEW DURATION BY VARIOUS COMPONENTS

CHART 14



NOTE: The above chart includes persons between the ages of 16 and 69 only, i.e. persons who were eligible for the questions on work.

CHART 15



NOTE: Only persons between the ages of 16 and 69 were eligible for the questions on work.

APPENDIX D - SLID DEFINITIONS

SLID cross-sectional sample:

The cross-sectional sample is composed of everyone living in Canada, with the exception of inhabitants of Yukon and the Northwest Territories, residents of an institutional establishment (residing therein for a period of at least six months), persons living on an Indian reservation, full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces and persons without a telephone.

Field of observation:

The field of observation is composed of everyone living in Canada or the United States.

Longitudinal person:

Person who was part of the January 92 initial sample. These persons are also part of the cross-sectional sample.

Non-longitudinal person:

Person living with a longitudinal person. This person might or might not belong to the survey population in January 92.

Person eligible in January 1993 test for:

- Preliminary long questionnaire:

A person aged 15 (longitudinal or non-longitudinal).

- Preliminary short questionnaire:

A non-longitudinal person aged 16 or over.

- Questionnaire on labour market activity:

A person aged 16 or more (longitudinal or non-longitudinal).

For the document, anyone 15 years of age or older is considered eligible if he or she is not deceased or institutionalized and if he or she resides within the field of observation.

Ineligible person:

Anyone aged 14 or less, a deceased person, an institutionalized person, and anyone residing outside the field of observation.

Eligible household:

Household with at least one person in the household eligible.

Ineligible household:

Household with everyone in the household ineligible.