



LABOUR AND INCOME

Dynamics

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OVERVIEW OF SLID CONTENT

§ This issue of *Dynamics* is devoted, in great part, to a description of the SLID content. For those readers desiring more detailed information, several research papers (as described later in this issue) are available.

Labour Market Content

Labour market content, to be collected each January, includes questions about the number of employers the respondent worked for during the previous year, the dates worked as well as information about the employer. SLID will also collect data on wages and duties. Jobless spells will be derived from the dates worked and confirmed with the respondent. Labour force status will be derived for each week. Information will also be collected about any unpaid absences from work lasting one week or more.

Editor's Note

Packing items in boxes was a common activity for many of our readers in December. Similarly, members of the SLID team busily engaged in packing (in most cases, without bows and ribbons) as we moved our office location. Our mailing address is now 11-D8 Jean Talon Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6. Telephone and fax numbers remain the same -- (613) 951-2891 and (613) 951-3253, respectively.

Please let me know if you have any comments on *Dynamics*, or if you have suggestions for articles.

Philip Giles

Information on job characteristics will be collected for up to three employers in the year. This includes

- industry
- class of worker
- occupation
- main duties
- supervisory responsibilities
- changes in duties during the year
- number of employees at place of work
- usual hours
- reason for working part-time
- work arrangements, including flexible schedules and child care
- work at home
- reason for job separation
- expectation of returning to the job

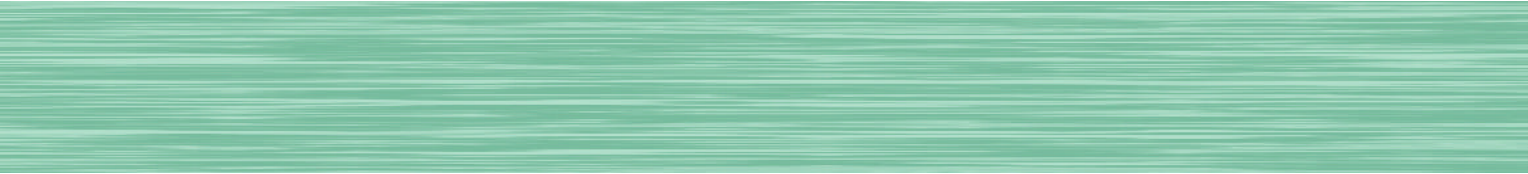
SLID will also collect information about the work patterns of self-employed workers.

For paid workers, SLID will collect data on

- wages
- union membership
- pensions
- unpaid absences of one week or longer (excluding on-call workers)
- the reasons for those absences
- any compensation received during the absences
- how and when the job was obtained

For each jobless spell (i.e., when a respondent did not have an employer), the survey will ask about job search, desire for employment, reasons for not looking for work, and about the receipt of compensation (UI, Social Assistance, and Workers' Compensation) during the jobless spell.

In addition to information on work, SLID will collect data on training and education received during the year. Respondents will be asked whether they received any schooling, what type of



institution it was, and what if any diploma, certificate, or degree they received.

Finally, the survey will request information about:

- any activity restrictions or disabilities that limit the kind or amount of activity respondents can do at home, at school, or at work
- any long-term disabilities or handicaps
- any time they spent caring for people who have trouble caring for themselves or for children other than their own
- whether that care-giving limited the amount of paid work they were able to do
- if they received any unpaid help to care for their children (other than from the other parent)
- whether this increased the amount of paid work they were able to do

Income Content

In May of each year, SLID will collect information about the respondent's income during the previous year. For much of this information, SLID data will correspond to taxation data since respondents will be encouraged to use their T1 tax returns to provide information for the interview.

Information will be available on income from: employment, pensions, government sources, investments, lump sum receipts, transfers from other people (including alimony and child support), and any other income.

Employment income:

- Wages and salaries (including the value of fringe benefits)
- Other employment income such as commissions, tips, royalties, etc.
- Net self-employment earnings (business, professional, commission, farm, and fishing income)

Pension income (government pensions are included with income from government sources):

- Employment pensions or superannuation, including survivors' pensions
- Income from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs)
- Income from pension annuities (including those converted from RRSPs)

Government income (all transfer payments from government):

- Unemployment Insurance benefits
- Workers' Compensation benefits
- Federal and Quebec Family Allowances
- Quebec Newborn and Maternity Allowances
- Social Assistance and Provincial Income Supplements
- Canada and Quebec pension plan benefits
- Old Age Security
- Veterans' Affairs benefits
- GST credits
- Child Tax Credits
- Provincial tax credits
- Other income from government sources, including property tax rebates

Income from investments:

- Interest from all sources (bank deposits, investment certificates, bonds, mutual funds, etc)
- Dividend income
- Capital gains (both net and taxable)
- Income as a limited or non-active partner
- Net rental income
- Other income from investments except for income accrued in RRSPs or RRIFs

Other Income:

- Support payments from individuals not living with you (including alimony and child support)
- Money received from the withdrawal of part of or the cashing in of an RRSP
- Inheritances

- Lump sum receipts such as life insurance payments, death benefits, retirement allowances, lottery winnings, etc.

Income tax summary information:

- Total income
- Total (federal and provincial) income tax paid.

Wealth content

These data will be collected with the income data in May. Although the income data will be collected annually, it is likely that wealth data will be collected less frequently. Reference dates for wealth data are difficult to determine. To ease response burden, respondents will be asked for the value of assets as of the date of the interview. In many cases, we may get evaluations of financial assets as of their most recent statements (Dec 31 for some) and so forth. Data will be collected at the individual level. Those wishing to report wealth data at the family level can do so.

Data will be collected for tangible assets, financial assets, business equity, other assets, and debt. Also some data will be collected on Registered Pension Plans for which the respondent is covered. The aim is to use this information to derive a current value of a person's pension plan.

Tangible assets:

- Family home (if owned) - current market value and the amount remaining to be paid on all mortgages
- Other real estate such as vacation property - current market value and the amount remaining to be paid on all mortgages
- Vehicles (cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, motor homes, trailers, snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles) - current market value

Financial assets (total current value):

- Bank accounts and other deposits with financial institutions
- RRSPs and RRIFs
- Other annuities

- Government investments (Canada Savings Bonds, Treasury bills, and government bonds)
- Mutual funds, and corporate stocks and bonds

Equity in a business, farm, or partnership, including the value of capital equipment

Other wealth not already included:

- Money owed by someone else (loans, mortgages held by respondent)

Debt (mortgages included with tangible assets):

- Personal loans
- Student loans
- Money owed on credit cards, charge accounts, and other consumer credit

Registered Pension Plans:

It is generally accepted that most people do not know much about their RPP. Therefore, the basic information will be collected from income tax information slips:

- Pension adjustment for the previous year
- Contributions to the RPP in the previous year
- Revenue Canada Registration Number of the pension plan

Demographic Information

SLID will collect background information in the preliminary interview. This will include work history, demographic and personal history. In subsequent interviews, SLID will update this information.

Work history includes the number of years since the respondent first worked full-time, the number of years since then with at least 6 months of full-time work, part-time work, or some of each, and the number of years in which the respondent did not work.

Demographic and personal history data for each household member includes:

- date of birth
- gender

- relationship to other household members
- marital status
- marital history
- (for women over 18) number of children born and date of birth of first child
- number of children adopted or raised
- mother tongue
- country of birth and year of immigration
- whether Registered Indian or member of visible minority
- education of parents
- education of respondent including number of years and province of schooling, post-secondary education, diplomas, certificates, degrees received, field of study

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RESEARCH PAPER SERIES

§ Each issue of *Dynamics* contains a short description of new Research Papers. You may request individual documents or you may be placed on the mailing list to receive all, as they become available. For more information contact Anne Palmer at (613) 951-2903, or by fax or by mail at our office location given in the *Editor's Note* on the first page.

- **92-01A** **Content of the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics: Part A - Demographic and Labour Content**
Garnett Picot, Susan Poulin, Richard Veevers, Brian Biggs
- **92-01B** **Content of the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics: Part B - Income and Wealth Content**
Garnett Picot, Susan Poulin, Philip Giles, Mary Allen

A proposal for SLID content was widely distributed in February 1992. These two documents represent an updated version of that one. In essence, they are one document, split due to size and to the different time periods for finalizing SLID content.

- **92-06** **Labour Force Classification in SLID**
Maryanne Webber, Georges Lemaître

Labour force status will be an important analytical variable for many users of SLID data. The document discusses the issues involved in deriving this variable, and details the approach to be adopted.

Briefly, a value will be assigned for every one-week period, with three possibilities: E (employed), U (unemployed) and N (not in the labour force). To a large extent, concepts used in the Canadian Labour Force Survey will be used. Since there are several situations where a straightforward approach to the classification is not possible, additional information will be available to data users who wish to adjust the definitions used.

- **92-07** **Objectives and Content of the Preliminary Interview**
Alison Hale, Debbie Lutz

A Preliminary Interview will be conducted on the first panel of SLID, in January 1993, as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey. The first panel is made up of about 20,000 households that are rotating out of the Labour Force Survey in January and February, 1993.

The purpose of this document is to provide a description of the purpose of the SLID Preliminary Interview and the question wordings to be used.