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TIME FOR RENEWAL

\$ *Dynamics* is distributed at no cost to the reader. We must update our mailing list to ensure that only readers who are interested continue to receive the newsletter. If you wish to remain on our mailing list and continue to receive *Dynamics* at no charge, please return the attached Subscription Order Form to us. If you have any questions, please contact Anne Palmer (613-951-2903).

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CHARGE FOR RESEARCH PAPERS

\$ The number of persons now receiving SLID Research Papers has grown to the point where it is necessary to institute a charge for them. This charge has been set to cover the cost of printing and mailing, and will be in effect starting January 1, 1994. We expect that about 15 research papers will be released in 1994, dealing mainly with content and data quality issues. We ask that you complete and return the SLID Subscription Order Form, included with this issue of *Dynamics*, as soon as possible.

The charges have been set as follows:

- \$50 (plus \$3.50 GST) per year for all SLID Research Papers in one language (English or French);

Editor's Note

As 1993 comes to an end, the SLID team can look back at impressive achievements during the year ... collecting the Preliminary Interview data from the first panel of SLID respondents in January, two large field tests in February and in May -- data collection and analysis leading to revisions to the labour and income content, and initial work on survey processing and defining output requirements. However, 1994 offers even greater challenges and interest, particularly to our *Dynamics* readers, as SLID will collect the first wave of labour

and income data, and release a public-use microdata file and analytical publication.

Subscribers should take note of the attached sheet for renewing their subscriptions to *Dynamics* and SLID Research Papers. Please return them immediately before you forget. Also, I and the rest of the SLID team wish you a happy and safe holiday season.

Philip Giles

- \$5 (plus \$0.35 GST) for a single copy in one language;
- \$5 (plus \$0.35 GST) per diskette for WordPerfect versions of user-selected SLID Research Papers -- regardless of the number of documents on the diskette.

(Outside Canada, this cost is in U.S. dollars, with GST not applicable.)

For the remainder of 1993, SLID Research Papers will still be distributed at no charge. To remain on the subscriber list in 1994, the attached sheet must be completed and sent with your payment for an annual subscription (paper or electronic versions). Payment can be by cheque or credit card (Visa / MasterCard).

For readers wishing to obtain the occasional Research Paper, abstracts will continue to be included in *Dynamics*.

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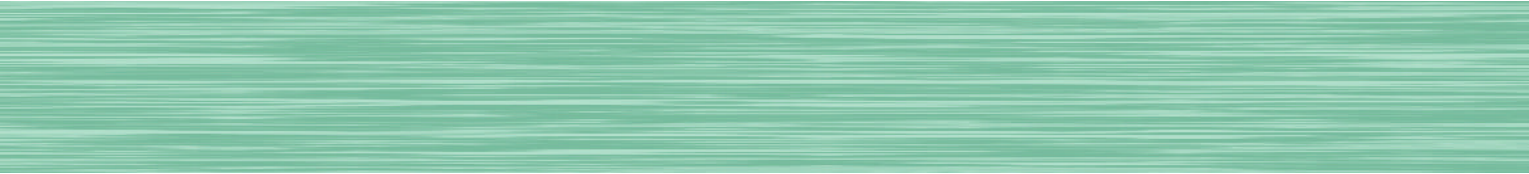
LABOUR SURVEY DEVELOPMENTS

\$ As a result of the field test conducted in January 1993 (Test 3A), modifications have been made to the content of the labour interview.

The questions, responses and flows for the January 1993 field test are listed in SLID Research Paper 93-02 **SLID Labour Interview "Questionnaire" - January 1993**. A similar document containing the final set of questions will be available shortly as part of the SLID Research Paper Series.

Main Content Changes since January 1993 Test

The Support module was dropped. This module contained questions on care given to / received from others and its impact on labour force activity. While the topic had some analytical value, the questions were poorly understood by respondents. To keep the length of the interview to the budgeted time (average of 30 minutes per household), some questions had to be dropped; for quality reasons, this module was a logical choice. Some information on links between labour market activity and family



responsibilities is available from other questions. In particular, "child care" and "care for other family members" have been added to the reasons for working part-time, reasons for absence from work, and reasons for job separation.

The dates of jobless spells during the year (if any) can be automatically derived from the employer start and end dates. In Test 3A, these derived dates were confirmed explicitly with respondents. This was a problem for many respondents since it seemed obvious and repetitive. The confirmation process never resulted in revisions to derived dates. Therefore, the confirmation of dates of jobless spells has been eliminated.

Questions have been added on formal education taken during the year. The questions will be asked of everyone between the ages of 15 and 69, and will be used to recalculate **Years of schooling** and to update information on degrees, certificates and diplomas collected during the Preliminary Interview. This was information planned for inclusion in the labour survey, but not included in Test 3A.

Characteristics associated with particular employers (up to three) have been added. As with the education questions, these were part of the original planned content but not included in Test 3A for various reasons. The added information is:

- wage - one change during the year is recorded, including the date of change (where possible, the wage recorded a year ago will be fed back to respondents);
- work schedule - two changes during the year are recorded, with the intention of accurately determining the total hours of work during the year;
- union membership - yes / no;
- covered by a registered pension plan - yes / no;
- work at home - yes / no, plus number of hours per week;

- firm size - four categories.

In the context of each employer, detailed information on up to two absences of one week or more will be collected. It includes all absences except paid vacation.

The list of reasons for absence from work and for job separation has been augmented by: **Work related illness or injury**.

Questions on **Place of Work** have been dropped. These were very difficult questions to answer, particularly for proxy respondents.

Test 3A asked whether the person had collected benefits from Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Social Assistance in the context of each absence from a job and each jobless spell. Interviewers and respondents found this confusing and repetitive. These questions on compensation have been moved to a separate module, asked of everyone between the ages of 15 and 69. The same level of detail remains; i.e., months in which benefits were received, separately for the three items. The context of an absence or jobless spell is now lost. However, it is not clear that many respondents understood the context anyway.

The basic intent of the Disability module and the Supervisory questions remains. However, questions have been changed to clarify their meaning and streamline the interview process.

September 1993 Mini-test

A small field test was conducted in September to test the revised set of questions, to ensure that questions were clear in both English and French and to get an idea of the length of the labour interview.

The test indicated the need for some fine-tuning of wording, particularly with the French questions. The length of interviews was in line with the targets.

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**RESULTS OF AUGUST 1993
TEST**

§ A short supplementary survey was conducted on the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in August. It was designed to determine the extent to which people would grant permission to Statistics Canada to access their income tax files directly for income data, rather than collecting it from the respondents. The survey is of interest not only to SLID, but to other household surveys collecting income data, most notably the Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF).

The overall results from the sample of 29,582 persons were: Yes (would authorize access) - 49%; No - 34%; Not stated - 17%. If one removes those with no response, approximately 59% of those who responded indicated that they would authorize such access for statistical purposes. A SLID Research Paper containing a detailed analysis will be produced. Some brief results are provided here:

- Approximately half the respondents had been in the sample for SCF in April, and therefore had a good basis for comparing the two options. However, there was almost no difference in preference between the group in SCF and the others who had not been in the SCF sample.
- With the exception of Newfoundland, there were very little observed differences among provinces. In Newfoundland, about 70% said they would allow access to tax data.
- Generally speaking, the younger the person, the more likely he/she would agree to authorize access, although those 70 years of age and over were more likely to respond "Yes" than those between the ages of 35 and 69.
- Females were a little more agreeable to the proposal (60%) than males (58%).
- In general, those with lower incomes would authorize access at a higher rate. Using SCF data, the "Yes" rate was 65% for those with 1992 incomes less than \$20,000; the comparable rate for those with 1992 incomes greater than \$60,000 was 57%.
- Level of education had almost no effect on the results.

Province	Households	Persons (Age as of Jan. 93)			
		0 - 14	15 - 69	70 +	Total
NFLD	749	567	1631	172	2370
PEI	317	226	617	78	921
NS	1061	664	1898	243	2805
NB	914	574	1829	167	2570
QUE	2895	1630	5403	451	7484
ONT	4066	2436	7696	725	10857
MAN	1066	681	1834	266	2781
SASK	1185	715	1961	322	2998
ALTA	1408	979	2605	211	3795
BC	1345	872	2417	285	3574
CANADA	15006	9344	27891	2920	40155

- **No wealth questions in first wave**

SLID will not collect asset and debt data in May 1994. This was necessary for the following reasons:

- The development time was judged to be too short for both income and wealth data. Tight time frames would have resulted in less attention being devoted to income, which is our priority.
- Other longitudinal surveys (such as SIPP, "Survey of Income and Program Participation", in the U.S.) do not collect wealth data in the first year. Respondent attrition is usually high in the first year, then levels off. Keeping

content to a minimum in the first year should reduce the amount of attrition.

- It would be useful to spend more time in determining the data items to be collected. By postponing the collection of wealth data, more time is available to evaluate Test 3B data and undertake user discussions.

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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, by fax (613-951-3253) or by mail at our office location (11-D8 Jean Talon Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa K1A 0T6).

- **93-11 Qualitative Aspects of SLID Test 3B Data Collection**
Sylvie Michaud, Mylène Lavigne,
Jacqueline Pottle

This document is a data quality report for the May 1993 income test. It is similar to SLID Research Paper 93-07, which reported results from the January 1993 labour test. The intent is to produce a data quality report for each period of data collection, following these models.

- **93-12 Summary of Observations: Head Office Observers and Interviewers -- May 1993 Test**
Dahna Deslauriers, Mary Allen

This document is the income-survey counterpart of SLID Research Paper 93-05. It contains detailed reporting of observations made by interviewers and observers from Head Office to the May 1993 income test. Due to its detailed content, its interest is likely limited. Thus, this research paper will be distributed only upon request.

- **93-13 Questions Relating to Social Support: Results from the SLID January 1993 Test**
Yves Saint-Pierre

- **93-14 Labour Force Classification in SLID: Evaluation of Test 3A Results**
Doug Hiemstra, Mylène Lavigne, Maryanne Webber

These two documents represent the last results from the January 1993 labour test, covering different topic areas.

- **93-15 SLID Test 3B Results: Income Sources**
Élaine Fournier, Chantal Grondin, Mary Allen, Jamie Brunet
- **93-16 SLID Test 3B Results: Impact of Notebook**
Élaine Fournier, Debbie Lutz
- **93-17 SLID Test 3B Results: Assets and Debts (Wealth)**
Yves Saint-Pierre, Jamie Brunet

These three reports cover the planned evaluations of the May 1993 income test. The first and third examine the survey content, assessing the quality of the data collected for each item. The second report examines the effectiveness of the collection approach. Detailed survey results are prominent in these reports.