# Canada 2000: Survey Information

## Summary table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generic information</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of survey</strong></td>
<td>Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institution responsible</strong></td>
<td>Statistics Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frequency</strong></td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Survey year / Wave</strong></td>
<td>Reference Year 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collection period</strong></td>
<td>January 2001 for the Preliminary Interview and Labour Interview; no Income Interview in May 2001 due to some “operational problem”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Survey structure</strong></td>
<td>Panel and cross-sectional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coverage</strong></td>
<td>Population of the 10 Canadian provinces with the exception of Indian reserves, residents of institutions and military barracks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geographic information</strong></td>
<td>10 Canadian provinces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Files delivered</strong></td>
<td>4 files: person file at the individual level for adults only, economic family file at the economic family level, census family file at the census file level and key file at the individual level for all persons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Sample size

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Households</strong></td>
<td>28,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Individuals</strong></td>
<td>72,850 (of which 15,409 children under 16 and 57,441 individuals who answered the Labour and Income interviews)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Sampling

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sampling design</strong></td>
<td>The samples for SLID are selected from the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) and thus share the latter’s sample design (stratified, multi-stage design that uses probability sampling). The sample is composed of 6 rotation groups, one of which is replaced every month. The SLID sample is composed of 2 panels, each consisting of 2 LFS rotation groups. A panel is surveyed for a period of 6 consecutive years and a new panel is introduced every 3 years, so that 2 panels are always overlapping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sampling frame</strong></td>
<td>The LFS sample is drawn from an area frame</td>
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</table>

## Questionnaires

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Questionnaires</strong></td>
<td>There are 3 main interview types (and respective questionnaires): the Preliminary Interview for new entrants, the Labour Interview (both held in January) and the Income Interview (held in May, if no use of tax return file is possible, no such interview in May 2001 though). Both the Labour and the Income Interview are preceded by an Entry Exit Component.</td>
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</table>

## Standard classifications

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td>Own classification (12 categories)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Occupation</strong></td>
<td>Grouping # 2 for Standard Occupation Classification - SOC (34)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Industry</strong></td>
<td>Grouping # 3 for North American Industry Classification System - NAICS (16)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Income

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reference period</strong></td>
<td>1 January 2000 to 31 December 2000 (one year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit of collection</strong></td>
<td>Individual for all income sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Period of collection</strong></td>
<td>Yearly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross/net</strong></td>
<td>Incomes are collected from interview / taken from tax records / imputed gross of taxes and contributions, and all taxes and contributions are either taken from tax records or imputed.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Data editing / processing

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consistency checks</strong></td>
<td>Skip patterns and edits are built into the collection software, allowing interviewers to immediately detect and resolve response inconsistencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weighting</strong></td>
<td>Cross-sectional household weight inflating to total population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Imputation</strong></td>
<td>Imputation carried out for income data (use of the previous year’s data, “nearest neighbour” or simulation for government transfers)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This document is based upon the following publications from Statistics Canada:
- Survey Overview – Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics 75F0011XIE
- Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics Microdata User’s Guide 75M0001GIE
- SLID Electronic Data Dictionary 75F0026XIB
- SLID questionnaires 75F0002MIE1999003, 75F0002MIE1999004, 75F0002MIE1999005

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B. Population, sample size and sampling methods
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A. General characteristics

Official name of the survey/data source:
Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID)

Administrative Unit responsible for the survey:
Statistics Canada
Web: http://www.statcan.ca

The Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics is an annual household survey covering the population of the 10 Canadian provinces with the exception of Indian reserves, residents of institutions and military barracks. It began collecting data for reference year 1993. Initially, SLID was designed to be, first and foremost, a longitudinal survey, with primary focus on labour and income and the relationships between them and family composition. Initially, two versions of SLID public-use microdata files were released: the first cross-sectional set covering reference year 1993 and the second longitudinal covering reference years 1993 and 1994. Both cross-sectional and longitudinal public-use files were released.

After the release of the 1993 and 1994 files, the decision was made to extend the objectives of SLID to be the primary source of cross-sectional household income data. The type of income data collected by SLID was identical to that of the former household income survey SCF (Survey of Consumer Finances), with the distinction that SLID respondents had the choice of a traditional income interview and granting permission to Statistics Canada to use their T1 income tax data.
For many years, the Survey of Consumer Finances had provided public-use microdata files (PUMFs) to meet the needs of cross-sectional household income data users. SCF PUMFs were released up to and including reference year 1997. For the purpose of standard publications, Statistics Canada has made the transition from SCF to SLID between 1995 and 1996. Therefore, SLID cross-sectional PUMFs are being made available beginning with reference year 1996. The SLID files have been designed to be analogous to those produced for the SCF.

In order to comply with the strict confidentiality provisions of the Statistics Act, SLID longitudinal data are made available through new modes of dissemination, namely:

- remote access: computer program(s) are written by clients and sent electronically to Statistics Canada, where staff run the program(s) against the data base and apply confidentiality protection measures. If need be, data are suppressed from the output. Survey officers subsequently return results to clients;

- on premise access: researchers under contract with Statistics Canada are given access to Regional Reference Centres across the country, where staff provides data retrieval infrastructure and implements confidentiality procedures;

- research data centres: were opened in 2000 on selected university campuses across the country. These centres will act as extensions of Statistics Canada and provide researchers with access to the data, while protecting confidentiality.

B. Population, sampling size and sampling methods

Population coverage

SLID covers all individuals in Canada, excluding residents of the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut; residents of institutions, military barracks and persons living on Indian reserves. Overall, these exclusions amount to less than 3 percent of the population.

Sample size

In January 20001 data was collected for reference year 2000 from panels 2 and 3, which consisted of approximately 37,000 households and 90,600 people. This resulted in 28,970 households being interviewed (corresponding to 30,212 economic families and 33,616 census families), including 72,850 individuals, 57,441 of which aged 16 or over and thus eligible for individual interview.

Sampling design

The samples for SLID are selected from the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) and thus share the latter’s sample design. The LFS sample is drawn from an area frame and is
based on a stratified, multi-stage design that uses probability sampling. The sample is composed of six independent samples. These samples are called rotation groups because each month one sixth of the sample (or one rotation group) is replaced.

The SLID sample is composed of two panels. Each panel consists of two LFS rotation groups and includes roughly 15,000 households. A panel is surveyed for a period of six consecutive years. A new panel is introduced every three years. Thus two panels are always overlapping.

C. Data collection and acquisition

For each sampled household in SLID, up to 12 interviews are conducted over a six-year period. Every year in January, interviewers collect information regarding respondents’ labour market experiences during the previous calendar year. Information on educational activity and family relationships is also collected at that time. The demographic characteristics of family and household members represent a snapshot of the population as of the end of each calendar year.

Every May, information on income is collected from the same sampled households. The income interview is deferred until May to take advantage of income tax time when respondents are more familiar with their income situation. The reference period for income is the previous calendar year. In May 2001 though, there was no income interview component due to operational problems.

To reduce response burden, respondents can give Statistics Canada permission to use their T1 tax form information for the purposes of SLID. Over 80 percent of SLID’s respondents give their consent to the use of their tax records. They are not contacted in May for the income interview. For the year 2001, where there was no income interview in May, for those persons who did not give permission to use their tax records, or for whom it was impossible to get such information (either because some do not file tax return or it is not possible to wait until the final version of tax file is available) all incomes were imputed (that should amount to about 20% of the sample).

The SLID interviews are conducted over the telephone using computer assisted interviewing (CAI). The interviewer reads the questions as they appear on the computer screen and keys in the reported information. Skip patterns and edits are built into the collection software, allowing interviewers to immediately detect and resolve response inconsistencies. Collection of date-related information (e.g., employment spells, jobless spells, interruption of work) is greatly improved by the use of such an interactive data capture technique. Another advantage of the CAI technology is the feeding back of details from the previous interview assisting the respondents to recall past events.

Proxy response is accepted in SLID. This procedure allows one household member to answer questions on behalf of any or all other members of the household, provided he or she is willing to do so and is knowledgeable.
Questionnaires

There are 3 main interview types: the Preliminary Interview for new entrants (either members of a new panel or new household members of a former panel household, or persons who just turned 16), the Labour Interview and the Income Interview. The Preliminary Interview and the Labour Interview are held in January, while the Labour Interview is held in May (not in May 2001). Both the Labour and the Income Interview are preceded by an Entry Exit Component.

Preliminary Interview – Preliminary interview of background information collected for all respondents aged 16 and over who enter the sample for the SLID, including three sections:

- WORK EXPERIENCE: data on both part- and full-time work;
- FAMILY AND PERSONAL HISTORY: marital history, birth history, mother tongue, place of birth, ethnic origin;
- EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: certificates and degrees, years of schooling, and parent’s level of education.

Entry Exit Component for Labour Interview – It consists of five separate modules:

- ENTRY: it collects the first set of data to update household composition and place of residence;
- DEMOGRAPHICS: it collects (or updates) the person’s name, date of birth, sex and marital status for each person identified in Entry;
- RELATIONSHIPS: it identifies (or updates) the relationship between each respondent and every other household member;
- EXIT: it includes questions on who to contact for the next interview and the names, phone numbers and addresses of two contacts to be used only if future tracing of respondents is required;
- TRACING: cases will be sent to this module as a result of the answers given to certain questions in the Entry module.

Labour Interview – A labour questionnaire is collected for all respondents 16 years and over as identified in the Entry Exit Component. It comprises 8 main modules to which respondents are routed differently. An initial divergence is based on age: those aged 16-69 are asked labour series of questions (module DATES, identifying the job tenure and/or the reasons for leaving job), while those 70 years and over flow to the question on main activity on the DATES module and then the DISABILITY module. For the former, if the respondent worked since the last interview, the characteristics of up to six jobs are asked (module CHARACTERISTICS, including general job characteristics, supervisory/managerial responsibilities, work schedule, wages and fringe benefits, absences from work for 1 or more weeks), followed by identification of jobless spells; if a jobless spell occurred, the respondent is asked the SEARCH series of questions (jobless spells plus job search activities); these are also asked for respondents who have not worked since the last Labour Interview. The COMPENSATION questions are then asked of all respondents (information on receipt of Employment Insurance, Worker’s
Compensation, Social Assistance or Welfare) as are subsequent modules on SPEND (receipt and payment of support payments, payments for child care), EDUCATION (months attended school limitations, type of educational establishment, information on any diplomas, certificates or degrees earned), DISABILITY (identifies disabilities/activity, impact of condition on amount and/or the ability to work) and END-CONTACT (permission to link to income tax).

**Entry Exit Component for Income Interview** – It consists of three separate modules:

- In May, the ENTRY module does not collect/update information on household members. Cohabitants (new members or joiners) identified in the January interview appear on the household member list and are eligible for the Income Interview. New cohabitants are not identified during the May interview, but will be identified and interviewed in the next January Labour Interview. If the entire household has moved, it will be traced (see below).
- The EXIT module confirms the household contact name for the next interview and asks whether the household is planning a future move. If so the new address is recorded. The names, phone numbers and addresses of two friends or relatives, who may be contacted if future tracing of respondents is required, is also collected.
- Cases will be sent to the TRACING module only if contact cannot be made with the household.

**Income Interview** – Respondents go through the Income questionnaire only if it was not possible for Statistics Canada to use information coming from their income tax return (either because no permission was given or because no tax return was filed). The questionnaire asks about income from employment, investment income, income from government sources, income from private pensions and other income, plus an estimate of total income. Furthermore, amounts of employer pension plans contributions, professional membership dues or malpractice liability insurance premiums and union or collective agreement dues are also asked for.

**D. Definition of the survey units**

SLID defines households and families according to the living arrangements on December 31 of the reference year.

**Dwelling**

In general terms, a dwelling is defined as a set of living quarters. A private dwelling is a separate set of living quarters with a private access. A collective dwelling may be institutional, communal or commercial in nature. Of the different types of collective dwellings, only communal dwellings are covered in the SLID.

**Household**

A household is defined as a person or group of persons residing in a dwelling.
Economic family

An economic family is defined as a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption.

Unattached individual

An unattached individual is a person living either alone or with others to whom he or she is unrelated, such as roommates or a lodger.

Census family

The term “census family” corresponds to what is commonly referred to as a "nuclear family" or "immediate family". In general, it consists of a married couple or common-law couple with or without children, or a lone-parent with a child or children; furthermore, each child does not have his or her own spouse or child living in the household. Persons “not in census families” are those living alone, living with unrelated individuals, or living with relatives but not in a husband-wife or parent-unnmaried child (including guardianship child) relationship. By definition, all persons who are members of a census family are also members of the same economic family.

Adults

Adults are defined in SLID as 16 or older as of December 31 of the reference year.

Major income earner

For each household and family, the major income earner is the person with the highest income before tax, with one exception; a child living in the same census family as his/her parent(s) cannot be identified as the major income earner of the census family (this does not apply to economic families). For persons with negative total income before tax, the absolute value of their income is used, to reflect the fact that negative incomes generally arise from losses “earned” in the market place and are not meant to be sustained. In the rare situations where two persons have exactly the same income, the older person is the major income earner.

E. Contents

Themes are organized under the topics of labour, income and wealth, education, and personal characteristics, including selections of the variables they contain. This section provides more detail on the content of SLID by content theme. Variables appearing on the public use file are marked with an asterisk *.

I. Labour
Nature and pattern of labour market activities

- major activity during year *
- spells of employment and unemployment (start and end dates, durations)
- monthly labour force status *
- total weeks of employment, unemployment and inactivity by year *
- multiple job-holding spells
- work absence spells

Work experience

- years of full-time and part-time employment
- years of experience in full-time, full-year equivalents *

Characteristics of jobless spells

- job search during spell
- dates of search spells
- desire for employment
- reason for not looking

Job characteristics (all characteristics updated each year and dates of changes recorded; collected for up to six jobs per year)

- start and end dates, first date ever worked for this employer
- wages *
- work schedule (hours and type) *
- benefits *
- union membership *
- occupation *
- supervisory and managerial responsibilities
- class of worker *
- tenure
- how job was obtained
- reason for job separation

Characteristics of work absences lasting one or more weeks (collected on first and last absence each year, for each employer)

- absence dates
- reason
- paid or unpaid

Employer attributes

- industry *
- firm size *
- public or private sector *
II. Income and wealth

Personal income
- annual information on 15 income sources *
- total income *
- taxes paid *
- after tax income *

Receipt of compensation (whether benefits were received from each source and, if so, in which months)
- Employment Insurance * - yes/no only on PUMF
- Social Assistance * - yes/no only on PUMF
- Workers' Compensation * - yes/no only on PUMF

III. Education

Educational activity
- enrolled in a credit program, months attended
- type of institution *
- full-time or part-time student *
- certificates received (if applicable) *

Educational attainment (updated annually)
- years of schooling *
- degrees and diplomas *
- major field of study

IV. Personal characteristics

Demographics
- year of birth / age *
- sex *
- duration of current marital status
- year/age at first marriage

Ethno-cultural
- ethnic background
- member of an Employment Equity designated group
- mother tongue
- date of immigration*
- country of birth
- parents' schooling and place of birth

Activity limitation
• annual information on activity limitations and their impact on working
• satisfaction with work

Information on person’s children
• number of children born, raised *
• year and person’s age when first child born

Geography and geographic mobility
• economic region or census metropolitan area of current residence
• size of community *
• moved during year
• move dates
• reason for move
• nature of move (full household/household split)

Household and economic family and census family information (annual summary information, e.g., size, type)
• key characteristics of other individuals in household/family (e.g., age, sex, relationship, income, annual hours worked)
• relevant low-income cutoff
• family events (marriage, separation, death, birth)
• dwelling type and tenure *

F. Quality of data

There are two types of errors inherent to sample survey data, namely, sampling errors and non-sampling errors. The reliability of survey estimates depends on the combined impact of sampling and non-sampling errors.

Sampling errors

Sampling errors occur because inferences about the entire population are based on information obtained from only a sample of the population. The results are usually different from those that would be obtained if information were collected from the whole population. Errors due to the extension of conclusions based on the sample to the entire population are known as sampling errors. The sample design, the variability of the population characteristics measured by the survey, and the sample size determine the magnitude of the sampling error. In addition, for a given sample design, different methods of estimation will result in sampling errors of different sizes.

Standard error and coefficient of variation - A common measure of sampling error is the standard error (SE). The standard error measures the degree of variation introduced in estimates by selecting one particular sample rather than another of the same size and design. The standard error may also be used to calculate confidence intervals associated
with an estimate \( Y \). Confidence intervals are used to express the precision of the estimate. It has been demonstrated mathematically that, if the sampling were repeated many times, the true population value would lie within the \( Y \pm 2SE \) confidence interval 95 times out of 100 and within the narrower confidence interval defined by \( Y \pm SE \), 68 times out of 100. Another important measure of sampling error is given by the coefficient of variation, which is computed as the estimated standard error as a percentage of the estimate \( Y \) (i.e. \( 100 \times SE /Y \)).

To illustrate the relationship between the standard error, the confidence intervals and the coefficient of variation, let us take the following example. Suppose that the estimated average income from a given source is $10,000, and that its corresponding standard error is $200. The coefficient of variation is therefore equal to 2%. The 95% confidence interval estimated from this sample ranges from $9,600 to $10,400, i.e. $10,000 ± $400. This means that with a 95% degree of confidence, it can be asserted that the average income of the target population is between $9,600 and $10,400.

The bootstrap approach is used for the calculation of the standard errors of the SLID estimates. For more information on standard errors and coefficients of variation, refer to the Statistics Canada publication Methodology of the Canadian Labour Force Survey (Catalogue 71-526-XPB).

Standard errors and coefficients of variation of the estimates produced from this file are available on request.

**Non-sampling errors**

Non-sampling errors generally result from human errors such as inattention, misunderstanding or misinterpretation. The impact of randomly occurring errors over a large number of observations will be minimal. Errors occurring systematically can, on the other hand, have a major impact on the reliability of estimates. Considerable time and effort is invested into reducing non-sampling errors in SLID.

Non-sampling errors may arise from a variety of sources such as coverage, response, non-response and processing errors.

*Coverage error* arises when sampling frame units do not exactly represent the target population. Units may have been omitted from the sampling frame (undercoverage), or units not in the target population may have been included (overcoverage), or units may have been included more than once (duplicates). Undercoverage represents the most common coverage problem.

Slippage is a measure of survey coverage error. It is defined as the percentage difference between control totals (Census population projections) and weighted sample counts. Slippage rates for household surveys are generally positive because some people who should be enumerated are missed. According to the numbers below, in 2000, SLID covered 87.36% of its target population.
Table
Slippage rates in SLID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada (%)</td>
<td>12.02</td>
<td>12.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rates are also available upon request for sex, province and age groupings.

*Response errors* may be due to many factors, such as faulty questionnaire design, interviewers’ or respondents’ misinterpretation of questions, or respondents’ faulty reporting. Great effort is invested in SLID to reduce the occurrence of response error. Measures undertaken to minimize response errors include the use of highly-skilled and well-trained interviewers, and supervision of interviewers to detect misinterpretation of instructions or problems with the questionnaire design. Response error can also be brought about by respondents who, willingly or not, provide inaccurate responses.

Income data are especially prone to misreporting, as income is a sensitive issue and includes many items with which respondents are not always familiar. To obtain more accurate information, income data for SLID are collected after the income tax “season” when respondents are more familiar with their tax records. Respondents receive information about the income interview prior to the interviewer’s telephone call. This gives them time to consult documents and have information available at the time of the interview. For respondents who grant Statistics Canada permission to access their tax files (the majority of respondents), SLID collects income data directly from administrative files. This procedure reduces misreporting of income in the SLID.

*Non-response errors* occur to some extent in any survey for reasons such as household members being on vacation during the interview period or refusing to supply requested information, despite attempts to obtain complete response from sampled units. For these individuals, the missing data are imputed either explicitly by assigning data to each non-respondent on the basis of a similar respondent record, or implicitly by redistributing the weight of the non-respondent individual to other responding individuals. The bias introduced by non-response increases with the differences between respondent and non-respondent characteristics. Methods employed to compensate for non-response make use of information available for both respondents and non-respondents in an attempt to minimize this bias.

*Processing errors* can occur at various stages in the survey: data capture, editing, coding, weighting or tabulation. The computer-assisted collection method used for SLID reduces the chance of introducing capture errors because checks for consistency and completeness of the data are built into the computer application. To minimize coding, weighting or tabulation errors, diagnostic tests are carried out periodically. These tests include comparisons of results with other data sources.
Cross-sectional representativeness of SLID

Each longitudinal sample, or “panel” in SLID initially constitutes a representative cross-sectional sample of the population. However, because the real population changes each year, whereas by design the longitudinal sample does not, the sample must be modified to properly reflect these changes to the composition of the population. This is done by adding to the sample all new people in the population who are found to be living with the initial respondents (and likewise dropping them from the sample if they leave at later time-points). Conversely, any original respondents who leave the target population (by moving abroad, into institutions, etc.) are given a zero weight for cross-sectional purposes. In this way, the cross-sectional sample, composed of the original respondents minus those who left the target population plus those who have entered it, is virtually fully representative of the population at each subsequent time-point. The missing group is composed of persons who have newly entered the target population and are not living with anyone who was in the target population when the most recent panel was selected. Since SLID introduces a new panel every three years, however, this group is quite small.

Response rates

High response rates are essential for the data quality of any survey and thus considerable effort is invested to encourage effective participation from SLID respondents.

The response rates are relatively high in SLID. SLID’s cross-sectional rate of response varied from a low of 79.2% in reference year 2000 to a high of 86.0% in reference year 1996. The response rate is based on household response in SLID. For purposes of calculating cross-sectional response rates in SLID, households are defined according to the January household composition. The calculation of the response rate at the household level is based on the response codes for individuals in the household, including both longitudinal respondents and cohabitants. A respondent household is defined as a household that has at least one respondent individual. An individual is defined as a respondent if he or she responded to either the labour or the income interview.

Respondent households are divided into completely respondent households and partially respondent households. Partially respondent households are weighted and the missing income data in these households are imputed.

Table
Response rate in and SLID (1996-2000)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response Rate (%)</td>
<td>86.0</td>
<td>84.1</td>
<td>82.8</td>
<td>82.7</td>
<td>79.2</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Imputation for non-response
In some cases, income data are imputed in SLID using a “nearest neighbour” approach. This method involves identifying another individual with certain similar characteristics, who becomes the “donor” for the imputed value.

SLID also uses other imputation techniques. In fact, the primary method employed for imputing income data in this survey is to use the previous year’s data, updated for any changes in circumstances. Only in the absence of such data are income figures imputed using the “nearest neighbour” technique in SLID.

Amounts received through government programs such as the Child Tax Benefits, the Goods and Services/Harmonized Sales Tax Credit, the Guaranteed Income Supplement, are derived from other information collected by the survey. Data obtained from the tax route are considered complete and thus require no imputation.

G. Uses of the survey

SLID was designed to capture changes in the economic well-being of individuals and families over time and the determinants of labour market and income changes. The survey supports analysis on transitions into and out of the labour force associated with the life cycle or with the business cycle; on the impact of family events on labour market activity and remuneration; on the determinants of income instability; on what triggers shifts into and out of low income and on changes in the composition of income through time. Since SLID additionally carries a broad selection of human capital variables, it is also used for studies of such topics as gender wage and earnings gaps.

Publications

Statistics Canada publishes a variety of research and working papers that are made available free of charge on its website (www.statcan.ca). Listed below is a selection of recent papers for readers interested in income trends. Several other reports are also available.

- Effects of Self-Rated Disability and Subjective Health on Job Separation 750002MIE2002001
- Recent Developments in the Low Income Cutoffs 750002MIE2001003
- Should the Low Income Cutoffs be Updated? A Summary of Feedback on Statistics Canada’s Discussion Paper 75F0002MIE2000011
- To What Extent are Canadians Exposed to Low Income? 75F0002MIE1999001
- The Persistent Gap: New Evidence on the Canadian Gender Wage Gap 75F0002MIE1999008
- A Comparison of the Results of the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) and the Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF) 1993-1997: Update 75F002MIE1999007
Poverty and Income Distribution

In the publication “Low Income Cutoffs from 1992 to 2001 and Low Income Measures from 1991 to 200”, by Bernard Paquet (Income Research Paper, N. 005, November 2002), the low income measure (LIM) is reported as a fixed percentage (50%) of median adjusted family income for different family compositions, where the equivalence scale used is the following: the oldest family person receives a factor of 1.0, the second oldest person 0.4, all other family members aged 16 and over 0.4 and all other family members under age 16 0.3. As a result, the after-tax LIMs for the year 2000 are reported in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of adults</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>12,468</td>
<td>17,455</td>
<td>21,196</td>
<td>24,936</td>
<td>28,676</td>
<td>32,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>17,455</td>
<td>21,196</td>
<td>24,936</td>
<td>28,676</td>
<td>32,417</td>
<td>36,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>22,442</td>
<td>26,183</td>
<td>29,923</td>
<td>33,664</td>
<td>37,404</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>27,430</td>
<td>31,170</td>
<td>34,910</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>32,417</td>
<td>36,157</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>37,404</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>