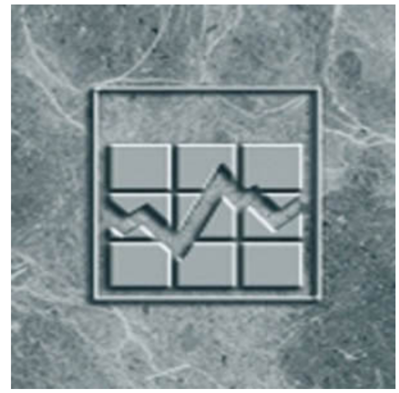
Catalogue no. 75F0002M — No. 1A
ISSN: 1707-2840

Research Paper

Income Research Paper Series

Content of the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics Part A: Demographic and Labour Content



by Garnett Picot, Susan Poulin, Richard Veevers and Brian Biggs

Income Statistics Division
Jean Talon Building, Ottawa, K1A 0T6

Telephone: 1-613-951-7355

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

How to obtain more information

Specific inquiries about this product and related statistics or services should be directed to: Income Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6 (telephone: 613-951-7355; 888-297-7355; income@statcan.gc.ca).

For information about this product or the wide range of services and data available from Statistics Canada, visit our website at www.statcan.gc.ca, e-mail us at infostats@statcan.gc.ca, or telephone us, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the following numbers:

Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre

Toll-free telephone (Canada and United States):

Inquiries line	1-800-263-1136
National telecommunications device for the hearing impaired	1-800-363-7629
Fax line	1-877-287-4369

Local or international calls:

Inquiries line	1-613-951-8116
Fax line	1-613-951-0581

Depository Services Program

Inquiries line	1-800-635-7943
Fax line	1-800-565-7757

To access this product

This product, Catalogue no. 75F0002M, is available free in electronic format. To obtain a single issue, visit our website at www.statcan.gc.ca and select "Publications" > "Free Internet publications."

Standards of service to the public

Statistics Canada is committed to serving its clients in a prompt, reliable and courteous manner. To this end, Statistics Canada has developed standards of service that its employees observe. To obtain a copy of these service standards, please contact Statistics Canada toll-free at 1-800-263-1136. The service standards are also published on www.statcan.gc.ca under "About us" > "Providing services to Canadians."

Statistics Canada
Income Statistics Division

Income Research Paper Series

Content of the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics Part A: Demographic and Labour Content

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

October 2008

Catalogue no. 75F0002M, no. 1A

ISSN: 1707-2840

Frequency: Occasional

Ottawa

La version française de cette publication est disponible sur demande (nº 75F0002M au catalogue).

Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.

Catalogue No. 92-01A

CONTENT OF THE
SURVEY OF LABOUR AND INCOME DYNAMICS
PART A - DEMOGRAPHIC AND LABOUR CONTENT

September 1992

Garnett Picot, Business and Labour Market Analysis Group

Susan Poulin, Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division

Richard Veevers, Household Surveys Division

Brian Biggs, Business and Labour Market Analysis Group

The SLID Research Paper Series is intended to document detailed studies and important decisions for the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics. These research papers are available in English and French, at no charge. To obtain a summary description of available documents or to obtain a copy of any, please contact Philip Giles, Manager, SLID Research Paper Series, by mail at 11-D8 Jean Talon Building, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1A 0T6, by telephone (613) 951-2891, or by fax (613) 951-3253.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Starting in 1994, the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) will follow individuals and families for at least six years, tracking their labour market experiences, changes in income and family circumstances. An initial proposal for the content of SLID, entitled "Content of the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics : Discussion Paper", was distributed in February 1992.
That paper served as a background document for consultation with interested users. The content underwent significant change during this process. Based upon the revised content, a large-scale test of SLID will be conducted in February and May 1993.

This document outlines the current demographic and labour content, leading into the test. A second document outlines the income and wealth content (SLID Research Paper Series 92-01B). This second document is really a continuation of the present one, and is not intended to "stand alone".

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

1. INTRODUCTION

In 1994, Statistics Canada will introduce a large-scale household panel survey. The Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) will follow individuals and families for at least six years, tracking their labour market experiences, changes in income and family circumstances. A preliminary version of the content of SLID was released in an earlier document entitled "Content of the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics : Discussion Paper." That paper served as a background document for a review of the content by interested users. The content underwent significant change during this process.

The present document outlines the demographic and labour content for a large-scale test of SLID which will take place in February and May 1993. Minor changes may still result from this test. The content as it is described here, however, should be viewed as being close to final.

A second document outlining the SLID Income and Wealth content (SLID Research Paper Series 92-01B) is also available. This second document is really a continuation of the present one, and is not intended to "stand alone". Just as these two documents have replaced the February 1992 document, it is expected that these content documents will be replaced with updated versions after the 1993 field tests (although changes should be minor).

2. WHAT IS SLID : BASIC DESIGN FEATURES

The Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics will provide longitudinal information on two major areas: labour market experiences (e.g. employment and unemployment spells, job characteristics and temporary work absences) and income (including earnings and income from all sources).

In addition, the survey will gather data on some topics linked to labour and income -- migration events, demographic changes (e.g. family formation and dissolution), disabilities, education and training, wealth status and language. Unfortunately, the survey can accommodate only a limited amount of detail on most of these topics.

Following is a brief description of SLID.

! The SLID sample will be selected from the non-institutional and non-Reserve population living in the ten provinces. The sample will consist of 40,000 households. The labour and income questions will be asked only of those aged 16 and over (approximately 80,000 individuals).

! The sample will be divided into two overlapping panels of 20,000 households. The first panel will continue for six years, with a second panel added after three years. Hence, during the first three years, the sample will be 20,000; thereafter the sample will remain at 40,000 households, with a new panel replacing an old one every third year.

! Respondents will be contacted twice a year: once in January to collect labour information for the previous year and once in May (just after income tax time) to collect income and wealth data.

! To minimize costs, the respondents to SLID will be "rotates out" from the Labour Force Survey; that is they will have been in the Labour Force survey for 6 months prior to entering SLID. Such a procedure was used in SLID's predecessor, the Labour Market Activity Survey (LMAS).

! A preliminary interview will be carried out to obtain background demographic and "personal history" information. (More detailed information is available in SLID Research Paper 92-07 "Objectives and Content of the Preliminary Interview".) This interview, which will be conducted one year before the annual cycle of labour and income interviews starts, will establish the background and the present demographic situation of respondents, and subsequent interviews will record changes which occur. This interview will also be used to collect current labour market information. When the first annual retrospective labour interview is held, some of the labour market information will be fed back to respondents as a reminder of what they were doing at the beginning of the reference year. This technique will help to reduce recall error, and limit the measurement of spurious change. This feedback approach will also be used in later years to diminish errors and "seam" problems. (For a detailed discussion of "seam" problems, see SLID Research Paper 92-05, "Dealing with the Seam Problem for the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics".) Assuming that the regular labour and income questions are asked for six years, a respondent would be contacted thirteen times in total.

! The individual will be the basic sample unit of the survey. Information on all members of the individual's household will be available, as all household members will answer the same questions. It will be possible to identify families so that individual behaviour can be analyzed with respect to the characteristics of the spouse and other family members.

! SLID will follow individuals selected for the sample who move to a different dwelling. Anyone living with a selected individual at the time of the interview will also complete a questionnaire, thus providing information on all current household members.

! In addition to longitudinal data, the survey will generate annual cross-sectional data, including estimates of the number of people employed or unemployed at some time during the year, annual wage distributions and the like. As planned, cross-sectional annual data will be based on 20,000 households for the first three years of the survey. Thereafter the cross-sectional estimates will be calculated from a sample of 40,000 households.

! To maintain a representative cross-sectional sample in each panel, the population interviewed each year will include a sample of persons who have come into scope since the initial sample was selected, including persons who turn fifteen and persons who immigrate.

3. ANALYTICAL APPLICATIONS OF SLID DATA

Longitudinal data provide information on the same individual over time. This provision of information on the same person through time, and the measurement of changes experienced by that person, are the distinguishing features of longitudinal data and the ones from which the advantages flow.

Cross-sectional data can show the net change in a distribution or in the proportion of a group with a certain characteristic. But they do not capture change at the level of the individual, and this restricts their analytical usefulness. For example, cross-sectional data can show the net change in the percentage of persons living on a low income, but not whether it is the same persons as the previous year. It takes longitudinal data to track the movement into and out of a low-income situation.

The analytical power of longitudinal data is widely recognised and many countries have established panel surveys to supplement their cross-sectional sources.

Longitudinal household surveys have been in existence in the United States since the 1960s. The Panel Study on Income Dynamics (PSID), conducted by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, began following 5,000 families in 1968 and continues to provide valuable information after nearly 25 years of operation. The National Longitudinal Surveys have been in operation for over 25 years. Since 1984, the U.S. Bureau of the Census has conducted the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) to focus on the participation in social programs. The data from these surveys have been analyzed extensively.

The development of longitudinal household surveys has not been confined to North America. In Europe, such surveys are being conducted in Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Most focus on topics similar to those planned for SLID.

The Primary Objective of SLID

SLID is intended for policy analysis and academic research on the economic well-being of individuals and families, and especially on the processes influencing this well-being.

Thus, data on a very broad range of variables are proposed for the survey. The ultimate test of a variable's relevance is its importance as a determinant of labour market and income events. Longitudinal data of the kind proposed for SLID focus on events, in particular on the link between important events (such as movement into employment, unemployment, poverty or social assistance) and the past experience of the individual, as well as the behaviour of other family members. By documenting the income and labour market status of Canadians, and by recording changes in that status, analysis of the causes of change will be possible. Event history analysis can lead to a better understanding of the causal relationships involved, and hence promote the appropriate policy responses to specific issues. One of the areas where such information can be used is in the development of policy simulation models. The policy areas which could make use of SLID data are numerous, including:

- training and education
- pensions and retirement
- minimum wages
- income maintenance/adequacy
- social assistance and poverty
- poverty and employment
- unemployment, labour adjustment and structural change
- competitiveness and labour markets
- free trade and labour markets
- disability and employment opportunities
- employment equity
- tax policy through the use of simulation models

The analyses will naturally centre on the topics covered in the survey: the dynamics of employment and unemployment among Canadian workers and families; and the dynamics of poverty and social assistance. But with questions on migration, demographic change, training, educational attainment, geography and possibly wealth and disability, it will also be possible to examine the relationship between these variables and poverty or labour market behaviour. The following are among the research topics SLID data should help to address:

- determinants of wages and changes in wages
- geographic mobility: causes and effects of individual and family migration
- household adjustment to changes in labour market status of members

- labour supply analysis (on family basis)
- regional differences in labour market and income dynamics
- short-term occupational mobility
- transitions through major life events (school to work; work to retirement)
- family formation and dissolution: relation to labour market events and income
- inequality and gender issues (wage discrimination and mobility)
- disincentive effects of transfers (impact on labour supply)
- dynamics of self-employment (reasons for entering or leaving, wealth and human capital effects)
- transitions into and out of poverty
- disability, labour market activities and income
- language in relation to labour market and income
- demand side impact on employment and wage issues
- determinants of trends in income inequality and polarization
- improvements in projection methods for income distribution data bases used by tax/transfer simulation models
- various event history analyses used to develop micro-simulation models

4. SLID CONTENT OVERVIEW

SLID has a forerunner -- the Labour Market Activity Survey -- which followed respondents for up to three years and provided information on labour market events and earnings. The measurement of labour market events (jobs and job loss, temporary work absences, and so on) in SLID will be closely patterned on LMAS, as the performance and usefulness of these measures is already well established.

Like LMAS, SLID will ask questions about labour market activities over the previous year. These questions will be asked once a year.

The starting point for defining the income content of SLID is the annual Survey of Consumer Finance (SCF) conducted by Statistics Canada. As with other sensitive topics, non-response and under-reporting tend to be relatively high in some components of the income questions. The income questions will also be administered once a year, in May, so as to coincide as closely as possible with the income tax forms completed by Canadians. An outline of the questions to be asked will be mailed to the respondents prior to the telephone interview.

The survey will also include questions on migration, demographic and family events, education and training. Other content areas include wealth (based on Statistics Canada's 1984 Wealth Survey and the PSID wealth survey), disability, visible minorities, language, unpaid care-giving and -receiving, and a block of "personal history" questions in the Preliminary Interview.

The next section of this report describes the feedback received on the content discussion paper released earlier, and the decisions made by the SLID team based on that feedback. Section 6 outlines the content of the Preliminary Interview to be conducted for the first time in January 1993. Section 7 reviews the demographic information to be updated in subsequent interviews and Section 8 looks at the content of the annual Labour Interview. Part B of this report (SLID Research Paper 92-01B) discusses the Income and Wealth Interview.

OVERVIEW OF SLID CONTENT

Demographics and Personal History: First Interview	Demographic Events: Later Interviews	Annual Labour Market Content	Annual Income & Wealth Content
Basic demographics	Change in marital status	Characteristics of jobs held in previous year	Annual earnings
Household relationships	Characteristics of new household members, including relationship	Usual wage or salary	Investment income
Educational attainment	Reason for departure of any former household member	Unpaid work absences of 2 or more weeks	Transfer payments
Work experience	Change in dwelling: reason and date of move	Unemployment spells and receipt of UI	Other income
Geographical information	Geographical information on new dwelling	Disabilities	Taxes paid
		Unpaid care-giving and -receiving	Net income
		Receipt of Social Assistance	Financial assets
		Educational activity	Tangible assets
			Business ownership
			Pension coverage
			Household debts

5. FEEDBACK ON THE DISCUSSION PAPER

A content proposal was distributed in February of 1992. It provided the basis for the discussion of the proposed content for SLID.

The content review process consisted of two parts. First, the content document was distributed to over 160 organizations and individuals from whom comments were requested. These organizations included government departments, academics, special interest groups, and private consultants. Approximately 40 submissions regarding the content were received.

Second, the content team held meetings with a number of users and survey organizations to obtain their direct input on the proposed content. Such meetings were held with:

- Employment and Immigration Canada
- Health and Welfare Canada
- Department of Finance
- National Statistics Council
- Federal-Provincial Committee on Labour Statistics
- Advisory Committee on Labour Statistics
- Advisory Committee on Social Conditions
- Advisory Committee on Statistical Methods
- Advisory committee on demographic statistics and studies
- Users of LMAS in the Economics Dept of Queen's University.
- A consortium of academics developing a related longitudinal survey
- Numerous professionals working on SIPP
- Numerous professionals working on PSID

This consultation provided many good ideas. As a result, the SLID team re-evaluated its approach in a number of areas, both regarding content and methodology.

There are a number of constraints which limit the revisions possible to the content. These include:

(1) methodological constraints limiting the information that can be feasibly collected,
(2) budget constraints limiting the interviewing time available,
(3) response burden constraints limiting the amount of information one seeks from a respondent,
(4) constraints on the range of topics that can be addressed in a single survey to ensure some focus to the survey and to meet priorities (the survey's focus is labour market and income events), and,
(5) constraints related to the fact that the respondents for this survey are rotates out from the Labour Force Survey.

The first four constraints are more or less self-explanatory, and had a very real impact on what changes the team could make to the content. The last constraint relates to the fact that, for budgetary reasons, the Preliminary Interview will be conducted as an LFS supplement, eliminating the need for a personal visit. This reduces costs significantly. However, it also requires that the content of the Preliminary Interview be integrated with the LFS.

The Feedback from the Consultation Process

It is not possible to summarize all the suggestions from the feedback process. Some of the more common or significant themes in the feedback are listed below, along with a brief description of the action taken by the SLID team in response to these suggestions.

The Suggestions	**The Action**
Regarding Design...	
The panel should be continued for as long as is technically feasible, and not stopped at six years.	The decision regarding panel duration could be made as late as 1997, but the SLID team see no reason why the panel should not be continued if response rates and sample representativeness remain good, and if the introduction of the third panel is delayed.
SLID should consider collecting the labour data at two points in time during the year, each with a six month recall period (rather than the planned one year recall), since two interviews per year are planned anyway.	This suggestion was taken very seriously. The pros and cons are reviewed in SLID Research Paper 92-02, entitled "Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics: Possible Interview Dates". The reduction in response errors due to recall problems was felt to be more than offset by higher costs and the likelihood of higher non-response. Therefore, it was decided to carry out only one Labour Interview per year, with a 12 month recall period.

The Suggestions	**The Action**
SLID should examine the operational feasibility and confidentiality concerns of linking SLID with administrative (taxation) data to improve the income data on the SLID output file.	There will be evaluative record linkage work done using administrative (taxation) data after the collection of the first SLID data. There is also a proposal to allow respondents to give Statistics Canada approval to obtain the income data from the tax files rather than answer the questions. This proposal is under review, and is described in more detail in Part B of this report.
Proxy responses present an issue in many of the questions, and consideration should be given to a "non-proxy only" approach.	The interviewing process is designed to reduce proxy responses whenever the interviewer believes it is a problem. If the respondent appears to be having difficulty providing a proxy response for another household member, the interviewer will attempt to contact the person directly to get a non-proxy response. This procedure was used in the LMAS, and it did, in fact, reduce proxy reporting. It would not be feasible to allow only non-proxy response for cost reasons, unless we were prepared to select only one

The Suggestions	**The Action**
	person per household. This alternative would reduce the sample and eliminate much possible research. A compromise would be to have a subset of questions which are answered non-proxy for one person per household. However, this would mean creating two output data sets, and would increase interviewing costs.
Dependent interviewing (feeding back the response from the previous period) should be used whenever possible to reduce recall error and spurious change in the data.	This is being done. This issue is discussed in more detail in SLID Research Paper 92-05, "Dealing with the Seam Problem for the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics".
Health and Welfare Canada is very interested in finding a means to link data from the new Canadian Population Health Survey with the economic data in SLID to enhance the value of both data sets.	For response burden reasons, and to keep sample attrition at a minimum, it is not possible to directly link these surveys (i.e. have the same respondents in both). Efforts will be made to include common variables in the two surveys as much as possible, to facilitate comparisons at an aggregate level. The use of the supplementary capability in SLID or

The Suggestions	The Action
	in the CHPS is another means of integrating these surveys.
There should be the capacity to introduce a few new questions on important topics each year, perhaps by only collecting wealth data every second or third year, and replacing it with other questions in other years.	The wealth data will be collected each year for the first few years to determine if one can reasonably obtain annual change in savings, value of real estate, etc. This will allow savings flows, accrued capital gains, etc., to be estimated. As well, the year to year stability of the wealth data will provide some indication of its reliability.
The relationship among all members of the household should be established, not just relationship with a "reference person".	This could not be accommodated in the Preliminary Interview but will be tested for implementation in 1994.

The Suggestions	**The Action**

Regarding Demographics and Personal History....

There were far too many suggestions on this section to document them here. In the end, the overriding considerations were (1) the need to constrain the average interviewing time to 15 minutes per household for the Preliminary Interview (for reasons of cost), and (2) the impact of recall and possible proxy response on the quality of some of the proposed items. A basic rule was developed to guide the content development process. For any given spell of interest (e.g., employment, unemployment, marriage, common-law union, etc), the goal was to obtain some information on the current spell and on the first spell (e.g., first job, first marriage).

In addition, some summary measures for the intervening years will be available (e.g., years worked full-time). In this way it is hoped that sufficient background data will be available to allow analysts to better interpret current events. Considerable emphasis was placed on obtaining detailed data on educational achievement, due to the importance of this variable. While we will attempt to collect as much information as possible within the constraints mentioned earlier, the advice obtained from other survey managers (PSID and SIPP) was to concentrate on producing good data on current spells, and minimize the background data collected. The detail of the decisions made regarding this content can best be seen in the revised list of variables in the section on the Preliminary Interview (Section 4).

Regarding Current Labour Market Events....

The Suggestions	**The Action**
There was much concern about SLID's treatment of labour force	A detailed procedure for deriving labour force status for SLID has been

status, in particular the classification of respondents as unemployed (U) and not in the labour force (N). It is one of the most difficult issues raised by users, and is the subject of SLID Research Paper 92-04 entitled "The Measurement of Job Search and Unemployment in a Retrospective Setting". The concern centres on the underestimation of unemployment and the survey's ability to accurately track transitions between the U, N and E (employed) states.

developed in consultation with a number of labour economists. This procedure is described in SLID Research Paper 92-06 "Labour Force Classification in SLID".

There is a lot of interest in training, both classroom and on the job. Various suggestions were received regarding this topic.

Surveys which have attempted to measure on-the-job training are being reviewed, although thus far it is seen as very difficult and perhaps not possible. As well, no attempts will be made to capture classroom training offered at the workplace, because it is unlikely that proxy respondents would be aware of such training, resulting in a major under-reporting of these data. However, education or training received from an educational institution will be collected.

The Suggestions	**The Action**
There is a lot of interest in obtaining some information on unpaid care-giving and -receiving as it affects the labour supply of household members.	The approach will be to collect information on (1) unpaid care-giving which limits one's availability for market work, and (2) unpaid care-receiving which increases one's availability for market work (e.g. a child receiving care by a grandparent benefits the parents).
There should be a section collecting data on the incidence of the receipt of Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Social Assistance (SA), by month and amount.	The receipt (yes/no) of both UI and SA by month will be tested in 1993, as part of the January Labour Interview. The annual amount of both UI and SA will be obtained in the May Income Interview.
There should be sufficient information on the employers to allow linkages to other establishment or firm-based data sets.	The feasibility of a link will be tested in 1993.
In the LMAS it was difficult to distinguish "job start" date from "employer start" date. Users were concerned about this ambiguity.	Start and end dates with employers will be clearly identified. Changes in wages and occupation will be collected as attributes of an employer spell, in a way that makes it possible to derive jobs using definitions similar to those used in LMAS.

The Suggestions	**The Action**
More detail is needed on occupations than that provided by the Standard Occupation Classification (SOC). Supplementary information on aspects such as skills required, specific duties, and number of persons supervised is needed.	In addition to the standard industry and occupation codes, respondents will be asked if they supervise or manage others, how many, what percentage of their time they spend on this and whether they are top, upper, middle or lower management. This approach has been used in other surveys, and will shed more light on the type of management job held by a person classified in management or administrative occupations. It will also identify managerial responsibilities of people classified as professionals.
The amount of work done at home while "on the job" should be recorded as this will be an increasingly important phenomenon.	This may be done, divided into "overtime" and "time spent working at home as a replacement for working in an office". However, with an annual reference period, the data provided will be very crude.
The reason for separation (from a job) codes should be altered to include reasons relating to the introduction of new technology. One	It is felt that respondents would not be able to answer such questions, especially through proxy response,

The Suggestions	**The Action**
might also ask about activities undertaken by permanently laid-off persons such as counselling, training, benefits received at separation, etc.	and hence they are not being included.
We can produce two estimates of annual earnings in the survey. It was proposed that we do not try to reconcile annual income estimates based on: (1) hourly wages and hours worked estimates from the Labour Interview, and (2) annual employment earnings from the Income Interview. Obtain independent estimates and live with the differences.	This approach is being used, so that users will find some discrepancy between the two sources of annual earnings. However, this approach will produce the most reliable wage rate and annual earnings data, and the data user can select the most appropriate measure according to the intended use.
It was suggested that we obtain information on types of skills possessed by respondents, including those not used in the present job (e.g. organizing, supervising, interviewing). Also, a basic skill self-assessment and an assessment of difficulties experienced at work could be considered.	It was deemed infeasible to collect such information on this survey. Self-reported information on skills and skill shortcomings would be best carried out in a one-time cross-sectional survey. It involves too many questions for a general purpose longitudinal survey. However, educational attainment will provide some indication of skills.

The Suggestions	**The Action**
Regarding SLID Output ...	
There is a lot of concern that confidentiality restrictions will not allow for any meaningful analysis of SLID data outside of Statistics Canada, since the necessary microdata will not be available externally. This is a concern of many researchers, with far-reaching implications.	Statistics Canada is aware of the effect of confidentiality restrictions on the availability of microdata to users. Confidentiality restrictions obviously cannot be ignored, as they are one of the foundations of the statistical system. Means are being explored, however, to either get lightly-screened microdata to users under special contracts and rules, or alternatively, to provide users with a means of accessing (through Statistics Canada employees) the microdata files for SLID, without the researcher being able to see individual records, but being capable of running jobs on the microdata files. This work is continuing.
Statistics Canada should set up an international data base with PSID, SIPP and European data to facilitate international studies. They could also promote analytical techniques for longitudinal data.	There are currently no plans to maintain other international longitudinal data files in Statistics Canada. To reallocate resources to such a task would reduce the degree of success achievable in SLID itself.

The Suggestions	**The Action**
	As a longer-term objective, this is an interesting proposal to consider.
The output files should be kept as simple as possible, since all longitudinal data are inherently complex, and difficult to use. Anything that can minimize the complexity, even at the cost of efficiency, should be done.	A group has been formed within Statistics Canada to produce recommendations regarding the form of the output files. This group includes users familiar with longitudinal data analysis. Its goal will be to produce the most straightforward files possible, while still providing useful data.

6. PRELIMINARY INTERVIEW

This interview is conducted when respondents first enter SLID. (For most, this is when a new panel is introduced.) However, the questions will also be asked of those persons who move in with a SLID respondent after the panel is introduced (called "cohabitants"). This information is obtained from all persons aged 15 and over on January 1 of the interview year. Its objective is to obtain "background" information on respondents, which will be updated in the subsequent interviews. This includes background information on work experience, demographic and personal history, and educational attainment.

The data elements to be collected in the Preliminary Interview are listed below. In addition to these data elements, information on the person's current labour market activities will be recorded. This information will be fed back as an aid to recall when the annual labour interview is conducted the following January.

6.1 WORK HISTORY

- number of years ago first worked full-time (not counting summer jobs while still in school)
- since then, number of years with at least 6 months of work, by full-time / part-time / some of each
- number of years in which no work was done at a job or business.

6.2 DEMOGRAPHIC AND PERSONAL HISTORY

- date of birth
- gender
- economic family

- household / family relationships
- marital status (married, common-law, separated, divorced, widowed, single and never married)
- date of current or most recent marriage (if married, separated, or divorced)
- date of first marriage (all except single)
- date of separation (if separated or divorced)
- date started living together (if common-law)
- date widowed (if widowed)
- number of children born (if female aged 18 or over)
- year of birth of oldest child (if any children born)
- number of children adopted or raised (excluding birth children)
- mother tongue
- country of birth
- year of immigration (if applicable)
- Registered Indian (yes / no)
- member of visible minority group (yes / no)
- highest level of education of mother and father (choice among 6 categories)

6.3 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

- years of elementary and secondary school completed
- province/territory where most elementary/secondary schooling received
- high school completed (yes/no)
- ever enroled in post-secondary college or CEGEP (yes/no)

  if yes:

  - most recent diploma received
  - type of institution from which most recent diploma was received
  - program length (full-time equivalent)

  - year diploma received
  - field of study
  - total years of post-secondary non-university
- ever enroled in university (yes / no)

  if yes:

  - total years of university
  - degrees, certificates and diplomas (6 categories)
  - year highest degree, certificate or diploma received
  - major field of study of highest degree, certificate or diploma

7. DEMOGRAPHIC CONTENT OF SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEWS

The demographic content of subsequent interviews can be grouped under the following major headings:

! Change in household composition
  - household leavers
  - household joiners
  - household returners

! Change in household relationships

! Change in marital status

! Change in dwelling of entire household (partial change is covered above under "household leavers")

7.1 CHANGE IN HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION - HOUSEHOLD LEAVERS

- date of departure (month and year)

- reason for departure
  - marital disruption
  - to follow a spouse or parent
  - job-related
  - school-related
  - institutionalized (less than six months)
  - institutionalized (six months or more)
  - deceased
  - other

7.2 CHANGE IN HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION - HOUSEHOLD JOINERS

- date of birth
- gender
- marital status
- economic family/household relationships
- date joined household (month and year)
- point of origin
  - a province (institution/non-institution)
  - a territory
  - another country

7.3 CHANGE IN HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION - HOUSEHOLD RETURNERS

- date of return to household (month and year)
  [This applies to longitudinal respondents only; cohabitants joining a household for the second time will, for simplicity, be treated as joiners. The implication is that they will have to complete a Preliminary Interview again.]

7.4 CHANGE IN HOUSEHOLD RELATIONSHIPS

- a change in marital status may entail a change in household relationships even if household composition remains the same

7.5 CHANGE IN MARITAL STATUS

- if there is a joiner or leaver aged 15 or over, marital status will be checked for all household members
- in households where there is no such change in composition, marital status will be checked, and updated where necessary, for:
  - persons who are separated or common-law
  - persons who are married, but no spouse present
  - non-family mixed-sex households
- when changes in marital status are reported in any of the situations above, the date of change to the current status will be recorded

7.6 CHANGE IN DWELLING OF ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD

- new address

- date of move (month and year)
- primary reason for move
    - marital disruption
    - to follow a spouse or parent
    - job-related
    - school-related
    - institutionalized (less than six months)
    - institutionalized (six months or more)
    - deceased
    - other

8. ANNUAL LABOUR MARKET CONTENT

These questions will be asked for those aged 16 and over as of January 1 of the survey year. However, persons aged 70 and over will get only the modules on disability and unpaid care-giving and -receiving.

The identity of up to six employers per year will be collected, along with start and end dates for these employers. Job characteristics and absence from work information will be collected on up to three employers. For each employer, it will be possible to record a change in wage or in duties during the reference year. That is, information on up to two jobs with an employer will be recorded. (This information may be used to define promotions.)

For each respondent, labour force status will be derived for each week in the reference year. Following the classification methods of the LFS where possible, information on the beginning and end of spells of employment (E), unemployment (U) and not-in-the-labour-force (N) will be provided. More details on this classification are given in SLID Research Paper 92-06 "Labour Force Classification in SLID".

The data content is presented in eight modules, which correspond roughly to the flow of questions on the survey.

8.1 DATES

This module will be used to record all employers (to a maximum of six) the respondent has worked for during the reference year. The module will collect information on all employer start and end dates. Jobless spells will be derived from these employer start and end dates. The derived jobless spells will be confirmed with the respondent.

The following classification of employer-types will be used in certain modules:
! Type 1 - an employer for whom the respondent was working at the time of the last labour interview;
! Type 2 - an employer for whom the respondent was not working at the time of the last labour interview but to whom he/she was attached (eg, on temporary layoff or away on an unpaid absence of more than 4 weeks);
! Type 3 - a new employer.

- If the respondent reports no employers during the past year, the respondent skips to SEARCH (Section 8.4)
- The dates worked (start and end) are recorded for each employer
- Employment with each employer is characterized as ended or unended ("unended" meaning that the respondent was still working for the employer at the end of the reference year)

  - If a job ended, the respondent is asked whether he/she expects to return to that job (a "yes" response to this question will be fed back at the next interview to determine whether the person returned)
- if a person reported at the last labour interview that he/she had a job which ended but to which he/she expects to return, and to which he/she had not yet returned, then the person is asked again whether he/she expects to return
  - if Yes, then when?
  - if No, then when did the person realize or when was the person notified that he/she would not be returning?

8.2 SELECTION/SEQUENCING OF EMPLOYERS

- If the respondent reports more than three employers, a priority is assigned to select three employers for whom detailed job characteristics will be collected.
- Priority is given to unended jobs; in selecting between two unended jobs, priority is given to Type 1, then Type 2, then Type 3 jobs.

8.3 JOB CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristics will be collected on an employer basis, but in a way that makes it possible to construct a job file. Information will be collected on:

- up to 3 employers
- a change (during the reference year) in wages, occupations and work schedules for each employer
- up to 2 unpaid absences of 1 week or more per employer

If the employer was identified in the previous labour interview (i.e., a Type 1 or Type 2 employer), some of the characteristics will be fed back, and updated for changes. The following information will be collected for each employer:

- industry
- class of worker
- occupation
- main duties
- (if paid worker) supervisory/managerial responsibilities

  (if yes):

  - number of people supervised
  - is job in top, upper, middle or lower management
- (if paid worker) any promotion or change in occupation since job started?

  (if yes):

  - current or most recent occupation
  - current main duties
  - current supervisory/managerial responsibilities
- number of paid employees at place of work
- (if paid worker) number of employees in Canada
- type of work arrangement
  - if variable work schedules, then the reason is asked
    - allow time for school
    - care for children
    - care for other family members
    - lack of work
    - requirement of job / nature of work
      - if one of last two reasons given, then respondent is asked whether he/she would like additional hours of work

- workers with variable work schedules or a single schedule:
  - weeks usually worked per month
  - hours usually paid to work per week
- workers with two distinct schedules during year:
  - weeks/month and hours/week of first schedule
  - months where first schedule was worked
  - weeks/month and hours/week of second schedule
  - months where second schedule was worked
- work at home:
  - all the time
  - never
  - some of the time (estimate percentage)
- self-employed or unpaid family workers:
  - months worked by full-month/part-month
- paid workers:
  - wage rate
  - union membership (yes/no)
  - pension coverage (yes/no)

paid workers not on call:

  - number of unpaid absences of one week or more during the reference year
  - dates of first unpaid absence (of one week or more)
  - reason for absence
  - (asked depending on the reason for absence) job search/desire for employment/reason for not looking during absence (asked for the entire absence)
  - types of compensation received (UI, Workers' Compensation, group insurance, automobile insurance, Social Assistance, other)

- if more than one unpaid absence, same information as above recorded for the last absence from this employer during the reference year.

8.4 SEARCH (DURING JOBLESS SPELLS)

A jobless spell (derived from employer start and end dates) is a period during the year when the respondent did not have an employer. (Respondents who were not employed throughout the year have a "jobless spell" lasting from January 1 to December 31.) Jobless spells include non-working spells between employers, or before the first job of the year started, or after the last job ended. Unpaid absences (which are dealt with in the previous module) are not counted as jobless spells.

For each jobless spell, this module collects information on:

- Job search (by month) - Yes/No
- Desire for employment (yes/no)
- Reason for not looking for work:
    - Not having enough information
    - Not having the skills or experience
    - Not having enough education
    - Having a long term physical, mental or emotional condition
    - Shortage of jobs
    - Being too old or too young
    - Anything else
- Receipt of UI, Social Assistance and Workers' Compensation during jobless spell (yes/no).

8.5 SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

! Received SA at any time during the year? (yes/no)

! (if yes) In which months?

8.6 TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The purpose of this module is to identify formal education (i.e., taken at an educational institution), employer-sponsored or not, that the respondent took during the previous year. The intention is to feed back the respondent's educational activity as of the previous labour interview as an aid to recall. Also, it should be noted that this information will be used to update the information on educational attainment obtained via the Preliminary Interview.

! Attendance at a school, college or university at some time during the year

- If yes: Months full-time / Months part-time

! Type of institution attended

- primary or high school
- community college or institute of technology
- business or commercial school
- trade or vocational school
- CEGEP
- university

! Received a diploma, certificate or degree during reference year?

If Yes:

- Type of institution granting the diploma, certificate or degree
    - primary or high school
    - community college or institute of technology
    - business or commercial school

- trade or vocational school
- CEGEP
- university

- For university graduate, record level of degree using same categories as in the preliminary interview. If new degree is highest, ask for major field of study.
- For graduates of other post-secondary institutions, ask for the length of the program (if taken full-time) and major subject or field of study.
- Update the "Years of education" variable <u>each year</u>.

8.7 DISABILITY / ACTIVITY LIMITATION

This module is addressed to all respondents aged 16 and over.

- Have a long-term physical condition, mental condition or health problem that limits the kind or amount of activity:
  - at home?
  - at school?
  - at work?
  - in other activities such as travel, sports, or leisure?
- Have any long-term disabilities or handicaps?

If yes to any of these questions:

- Date condition began
- For persons who have worked during the year:
  - Condition make it difficult to change jobs or get a better job?
  - Satisfaction with weeks worked in year (yes / no)
  - If no: wanted more or less work ?

- If more: Did condition prevent working more
- If less: Is it condition that makes you want less

- For persons who did not work during the year (age < 65)
  - does condition completely prevent from working

8.8 UNPAID CARE-GIVING AND -RECEIVING

This module is addressed to all respondents aged 16 and over. It establishes the impact of unpaid care-giving and care-receiving on participation in the labour market.

! Any time spent taking care of:

- people who had trouble taking care of themselves?
- children other than your own?

If yes to either question:

- in which months?
- how many hours per week, on average, was spent in this care-giving activity?
- did this affect the amount of paid work you could do?

! Did you receive unpaid help from other persons with care for your children (other than from the child's other parent)?

If yes:

- in which months did you receive this help?
- for how many hours per week on average did you receive this help?
- did the receipt of this help increase the amount of paid work you could do in the year?