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# GENERAL ASPECTS OF THE SURVEY OF LABOUR INCOME DYNAMICS

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) is a Statistics Canada survey intended for use in research on changes over time in Canadians' labour force activity status and economic well-being. Two major characteristics of the survey design result directly from this objective. First, SLID is a longitudinal survey; each panel participates in the survey for six years. Second, SLID focuses on whole households, and the range of subjects that it covers is broad enough to allow for the collection of data on family situations and major demographic events. This aspect of the survey will enable researchers to examine the links between demographic events, labour force activity patterns and income. The article gives an overview of the main goals of the survey and the methodology used.

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#### 1. Introduction

The Survey of Labour Income Dynamics (SLID) is a longitudinal survey. It supplements existing survey data on labour market activity and income by adding a new dimension: the changes experienced by individuals over a given period. Central to the survey's objectives is the desire to understand the economic well-being of Canadians: what economic shifts do individuals and families live through, and how does economic well-being vary with changes in paid work, family makeup, receipt of government transfer payments and other factors? The survey's longitudinal dimension makes it possible to see such concurrent and often related events. Unlike some longitudinal studies, SLID collects data on all members of households, so as to better identify major family events that occur in the six years. SLID is thus the first household survey conducted by Statistics Canada to provide national data on the income stability of a typical family or individual. It will therefore give greater insight into the nature and extent of poverty in Canada.

## 2. Methodology of SLID

#### 2.1 Selection and characteristics of sample

SLID is a household survey. The sample of individuals for a panel is selected from the sample for the Labour Force Survey (LFS) [1]. The LFS sample is taken randomly according to a probabilistic multistage sample design. The final stage sampling unit is the dwelling. The LFS covers the population of the ten provinces, except for residents of Indian reserves, full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces and institutional residents. The population covered by the initial SLID sample is the same, except for members of the Armed Forces not living in barracks.

When a panel is introduced into the sample, all persons belonging to the households chosen when the panel is selected become members of the SLID longitudinal sample, regardless of their age. These persons remain members of the longitudinal sample for the entire period in which the panel participates in the survey, even if they move away. No other person becomes a "member of the longitudinal sample" during the panel's participation in the survey. Thus, for each panel, the longitudinal sample is constituted when the panel is brought in (that is, in January of the first reference year covered by the panel) and remains unchanged for the entire duration of the panel.

# 2.2 Sample rotation plan

Although annual (cross-sectional) estimates are produced, the main objective of the survey is obviously longitudinal analysis. For longitudinal analysis, the length of the periods during which units are part of the sample should be as long as possible. However, the reliability of cross-sectional estimates would decline each year owing to changes in the population and the loss of units in the sample. It is therefore necessary to rotate the sample in some manner. Several sample rotation plans were considered, and the following was adopted: the first panel began to participate in the survey in January 1993 and the second will be brought into the sample in January 1996 (see Table 1).

These two panels will participate in the survey from 1993 to 1998 and from 1996 to 2001, respectively. Once the second panel is introduced into the sample, the sample will have attained the ultimate size planned for it, namely 30,000 households. In January 1991, another panel will be brought in (for reference years 1994 to 2004), so as replace the first one. According to this plan, one panel will be replaced by another every three years. The size of the first panel is 15,000

households. This number represents approximately 31,000 persons aged 16 and over who have to respond to questions on their labour and income in the previous year. The size of future panels will be approximately 15,000 households.

TABLE 1

| SAMPLE ROTATION PLAN   |         |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|  | Year    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Panel  | 93      | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 00 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 |
| 1  | P       | I  | Ι  | Ι  | I  | I  | Ι  |    |    |    | _  |    |    |    |
| 2  |         |    |    | P  | Ι  | I  | Ι  | Ι  | Ι  | I  |    |    |    |    |
| 3  | P I I   |    |    |    |    |    |    | I  | I  | I  | I  |    |    |    |
| 4  | P I I I |    |    |    |    |    |    | Ι  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| P = Preliminary interviews $I = Interviews$ on labour and income |         |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Each panel initially contains 15,000 households                  |         |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |

#### 2.3 Data collection

In January of the year in which a panel is brought into the sample, each member aged 15 and over of the selected households is given a preliminary interview. For the next six years, beginning with the year following the one in which the panel is brought into the sample, labour and income data are collected. It should be noted that a "longitudinal respondent" will be contacted thirteen times over seven years: the first year for the preliminary interview and each of the following six years for collections of labour and income data. The collection of labour data takes place in January, while income data are collected in May. Labour data are collected as

soon as possible after the end of the reference year so as to reduce the impact of memory errors. The main reason why income data are collected in May is that this allows respondents to refer to their income tax returns, which they will have just filed. However, since the May 1995 collection, respondents have been offered the option of responding to the income interview in May or giving Statistics Canada permission to use their tax return. In the case of people who give us permission to use their tax return, statistical linkage will be carried out in order to search for their data in the tax file, and they will no longer be interviewed in May. A number of variables – surname, given name, date of birth, sex, marital status, address, postal code and given name of spouse – are used to make a statistical match.

For collections of labour and income data, the only persons to be interviewed are those aged 16 and over who are part of the longitudinal sample, as well as household "cohabitants" (that is, persons residing with a member of the longitudinal sample on January 1 of the year of the interview).

The SLID data are collected according to the computer-assisted interview (CAI) method. Data collection is decentralized: interviewers generally work from their home, conduct interviews by telephone and transmit the data by modem to the nearest Statistics Canada regional office. (As a security measure, the survey results are encrypted prior to transmission.) Providing information by proxy is allowed so long as the substitute respondent knows the actual respondent well enough to answer the questions. Otherwise, the interviewer arranges to call the respondent again.

SLID was designed in accordance with the CAI method, and it exploits the latter's possibilities in order to improve data quality. For example, numerous dates must be obtained in the labour interview, including the dates of employment spells,

jobless spells and interruptions of work. With CAI, the information relating to these dates can be checked for consistency at the time the respondent provides it, and clarification can be requested if there seem to be gaps or inconsistencies. This interactive date checking results in higher quality data.

CAI also facilitates the use of dependent interviewing, a technique that consists in reminding respondents of information that they supplied in the previous interview, to assist them in recalling events that have occurred since. A survey such as SLID can give rise to "seam problems," since respondents sometimes have trouble remembering the dates on which they started work, stopped work, experienced an interruption of work, etc. over a one-year period. These memory errors can result in an excessive proportion of periods beginning or ending on the "seam" of two consecutive reference periods. Reminding the respondent of information collected in the previous interview can help reduce these seam problems. This technique is much easier to use in a CAI environment. CAI also serves to detect errors of logical consistency between the information collected in the labour interview and, a few months later, the information collected in the income interview. The interviewer then asks for clarification.

Lastly, the CAI method allows for keeping a list of persons with whom the respondent has resided since the beginning of the panel. If, a few years after the beginning of the panel, the respondent takes up residence with a so-called new cohabitant, the interviewer checks the list of all former household members to see if this cohabitant is not in fact a household member who is back after an absence. (Distinguishing a returning member from an actual new member of the household can sometimes be surprisingly complex, even though it appears to be a mere formality.) Nearly the same approach is used in the labour interview, in order to

distinguish between actual new employers and employers to whom the respondent returns after what seemed to be a permanent termination of employment.

#### 2.4 Following rules

To conduct a longitudinal survey it is necessary to establish rules for determining which individuals must be traced and which must be interviewed over the entire duration of the survey. Depending on the survey's design, objectives and budget, these rules may be either very simple or quite complex. In the case of SLID, the following rules are relatively simple in principle, but fairly complex from an operational standpoint. The rules regarding persons who must be traced and those who must be interviewed gradually increase in complexity in the first interview cycles. They are described below in chronological order.

## First cycle of labour interviews

Between January 1993 and January 1994, some longitudinal respondents will have moved away and some cohabitants will have joined the sample. The cases to be considered are the following:

- Longitudinal respondents aged 16 and over who have moved to another dwelling within the survey field<sup>1</sup> are traced to their new address and interviewed for the collection of labour data.
- Longitudinal respondents aged 16 and over who moved to the
   Territories, a military camp, an Indian reserve or the United States

The term *field* applies to a dwelling that was included in the original frame of the LFS.

(places that are all excluded from the survey field) are traced and interviewed for the collection of labour data like respondents who move to another dwelling in the survey field.

- In the case of longitudinal respondents aged 16 and over who have left to live in an institution (for more than six months) or abroad, their new address is recorded. In subsequent collections, their current address is checked with the resource person or another member of the household with a view to resuming the interviews when they return. (It should be noted that the interviewer must determine whether a person who has left to live in a care facility actually resides in an "institution" although others consider it a rooming house or a specialized boarding house. The rule is as follows: when in doubt, trace and interview.)
- In the case of a deceased longitudinal respondent, no information other than the date of death is collected. From an operational standpoint, the person is eliminated from the sample, but the information concerning him or her is kept in the data file.
- Some longitudinal respondents will begin living with cohabitants. A person who moved in with a longitudinal respondent after January 1993 is a "cohabitant" and is included in the SLID sample so long as he or she is living with a longitudinal respondent. During the first cycle of labour interviews, all cohabitants are necessarily "new members," that is, persons who are interviewed in SLID for the first time. Each new member aged 16 and over is administered a shortened version of the preliminary interview (abridged preliminary

interview), in addition to the interview for the collection of labour data.

- It sometimes happens that a respondent has moved into a non-institutional collective dwelling. The general rule according to which all cohabitants must be interviewed may then pose a problem, where, for example, the person has moved into a monastery inhabited by some fifty other monks. To avoid this problem, only members of the economic family (that is, any person who is related to the respondent by blood, marriage, common-law union or adoption) of a person who has moved into a non-institutional collective dwelling will be considered as cohabitants and included in SLID.
- All persons 15 years of age, whether they are longitudinal respondents or cohabitants, must undergo a preliminary interview in anticipation of their first participation in the labour data collection in 1995.
- Longitudinal respondents who are under 15 years of age and who move away are traced according to the same rules as apply in the case of older persons. Regarding both them and young cohabitants, the information collected is limited to basic demographic characteristics and grade in school.

## First cycle of income interviews

In May 1994, the first series of income data was collected from the first panel. The reason for collecting the information in May was to enable respondents to refer to their tax documents. In fact, that collection was carried out separately from the January one solely for practical reasons; it was not really a separate cycle. Like the labour data, the income data cover the previous year. Consequently the goal is to obtain data on the income of the persons who constituted a household at the time of the collection of labour data in January, *regardless of any moves* that have taken place between January and May. The latter specification has an effect on the following rules concerning cohabitants. The cases to be considered in the first cycle of interviews for the collection of income data are as follows:

- For longitudinal respondents aged 16 and over who moved between January and May, the rules are the same as those observed in January.
- It is during the first cycle of income interviews that we have the opportunity to see for the first time *household members back after* an absence -- that is, longitudinal respondents who left the initial dwelling in 1993 and returned to it after the collection of labour data in January 1994. This category of highly mobile respondents is a source of concern in longitudinal surveys, because if the interviewer is not specifically told of the status of such respondents as members of the household to which they return after an absence, those respondents are likely to be counted twice (and even interviewed twice, in some cases). Furthermore, they would not be treated as longitudinal respondents and would probably not receive

the appropriate questionnaire. To avoid these situations, each time interviewers note the presence of a new member of the household, they check the list of former members of the household (known as "ghosts") to make sure that the person is indeed a new member and not a household member who is back after an absence. Household members back after an absence are asked to provide income data, whereas new members of the household are given a preliminary interview.

- Household members who are back after an absence may be longitudinal respondents who moved to another dwelling within the survey field and who have returned to their initial dwelling.

  Alternatively, they may be individuals who are returning from a stay in an institution or a period abroad. Such persons have either returned to their former dwelling or moved once again. In both cases, the procedure to be followed is the same.
- In the case of cohabitants (who are not new members) aged 16 and over who moved between January and May and who are still living with a longitudinal respondent, the rules are the same as those that apply to longitudinal respondents, meaning that they are traced and interviewed in the process of collecting income data.
- If a longitudinal respondent or a cohabitant died between January and May, out of consideration no data is collected on his or her income from the previous year.

- Cohabitants aged 16 and over who are no longer living with a longitudinal respondent are also interviewed for the collection of income data, but they will not be interviewed subsequently.
   Furthermore, any new persons with whom they are now residing will not be interviewed at all.
- New cohabitants (new members) aged 15 and over whose presence is reported for the first time in May must respond to the preliminary interview, but not to questions on income, since they were not living with a longitudinal respondent in January.
- Basic demographic information is collected on new members under 15 years of age.

## Second cycle of labour interviews and beyond

In January 1995, survey personnel conducted the second cycle of interviews for the collection of labour data. It is at this point that the final details of the following rules come into play. The cases to be considered are the following:

- Longitudinal respondents aged 16 and over who have moved into a dwelling that is either included in the survey field or located in the Territories, in a military camp, on an Indian reserve or in the United States are traced to their new place of residence and are interviewed for the collection of labour data, as in January 1994.

- Longitudinal respondents aged 16 and over who are household members back after an absence are interviewed at the dwelling that they occupy at that time for the collection of labour data.
- In the case of a longitudinal respondent or a cohabitant who has died, the only information collected regarding him or her is the date of death. From an operational standpoint, the person is eliminated from the sample, but the information regarding him or her is retained in the data files.
- For new members aged 16 and over, the procedures to follow are the same as in January 1994.
- Cohabitants who are no longer residing with a longitudinal respondent are interviewed for the same collection year but are then eliminated.
- As in January 1994, a preliminary interview is administered to cohabitants (including new members) and longitudinal respondents 15 years of age and over.

In the third and subsequent labour interview cycles, the procedures will be the same as those described above. As to the procedures to follow in income data collections, they will be the same as for the first cycle.

# 2.5 Tracing with CAI

As noted above, the persons selected to form the SLID sample must be interviewed 13 times: in a preliminary interview and two interviews per year for six years. For this task to be carried out successfully, there must be procedures for tracing respondents who have moved. A general tracing strategy was developed, with various features:

#### < Information gathered at the time of data collection

On the first contact with the respondent, two pieces of information are collected which will, if necessary, be used for tracing: first, the respondent's telephone number at work, and second, the name, address and telephone number of a relative or friend who could be contacted in order to obtain the respondent's new address. This information will be updated as required over the course of the survey.

#### < Tracing by interviewer

Most SLID data will be collected by telephone during a computer-assisted interview (CAI). Where an interviewer finds that a household has moved, the automated collection system offers different ways of tackling the problem. One possibility is to try the respondent's telephone number at work or communicate with the contact person. The other means suggested are to call directory assistance or use the information gathered when the former address was contacted, etc.

## < Tracing at the regional office

If the interviewer cannot resolve the case, he or she sends it by modem to the designated regional office of Statistics Canada using the CAI system, which also retains in memory the measures already taken so that the same steps will not be repeated at the regional office. Tracing "experts" at the regional office have access to reverse directories and the telephone directories for their entire region.

#### < Other methods

Other possibilities are currently being considered (including linkage with a Canada Post file). While many options are viable, the cost-efficiency ratio is the decisive factor in the decision as to whether to implement them.

The results obtained in the 1994 collection (January and May) are presented in Table 2.

TABLE 2

| TRACING RATES    |              |  |  |  |  |
|------------------|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| 1994 Collection  |              |  |  |  |  |
| January (labour) | May (income) |  |  |  |  |
| 92.1%            | 80.7%        |  |  |  |  |

#### 2.6 SLID response rate

Response rates are calculated annually. However, cross-sectional and longitudinal response rates are calculated differently.

## Cross-sectional response rate

Cross-sectional response rates are defined at the level of the household (the collection unit). Although for operational purposes, response rates are calculated for each collection, the cross-sectional response rates for a given year combine information from both collections (January and May) in a single rate. Since the two collections relate to the same reference period and are combined for purposes of dissemination the microdata file, it was decided to combine the response rates for the two collections to generate an annual response rate.

For purposes of calculating cross-sectional response rates, households are defined according to the January household composition (the May interview is generally considered to be a deferred interview in relation to the January one). A response code for the May interview is therefore recalculated on the basis of the January household composition.

Calculation of the response rate at the household level is based on the response codes for the 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 respondent if he or she responded to either the labour or the income interview. Lastly, an interview is considered as having been responded to if a minimum of key questions have been answered.

Respondent households are divided into completely respondent households and partially respondent households. Partially respondent households are weighted. The missing data in these households are imputed (a minimum of fields are imputed, while the others are defined as missing).

## Longitudinal response rates

Longitudinal response rates are defined at the individual level, since it is difficult to define the household as a unit of longitudinal analysis.

The longitudinal response rate is based solely on the longitudinal sample, even though longitudinal information may be available on some cohabitants (since a cohabitant is interviewed for as long as he or she remains with the longitudinal individual).

For longitudinal response rates, an individual is considered respondent if he or she responded in all the survey years (for a given year, the person is defined as respondent if he or she responded to either the labour or the income interview). We are currently considering the possibility of including as respondent those individuals who have only one year of missing data, provided that the missing year is bounded by two response years.

The cross-sectional and longitudinal response rates obtained in the 1993 collection (preliminary interview) and the 1994 collection (labour and income interviews) are shown in Table 3. Since the first year, the cross-sectional response rate has differed from the longitudinal response rate, owing to the fact that the SLID sample was selected from the LFS sample.

TABLE 3

| RESPONSE RATE   |                  |                 |              |  |  |  |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| 1993 Collecti   | on (preliminary) | 1994 Collection |              |  |  |  |
|                 |                  | (labour an      | d income)    |  |  |  |
| Cross-sectional | Longitudinal     | Cross-sectional | Longitudinal |  |  |  |
| %               | %                | %               | %            |  |  |  |
| 88.5            | 84.8             | 90.9            | 77.0         |  |  |  |

# 2.7 Imputation

For numerous social surveys, total non-response is compensated for by weighting, whereas partial non-response is often dealt with by imputation. Since SLID is a longitudinal survey, the time dimension makes it more difficult to develop a strategy. Different points must be taken into account in establishing an imputation strategy, such as the impact of deferred collections. SLID carries out two collections per year that have the same reference period. Furthermore, these two collections are combined to produce only a single microdata file each year. It is therefore tempting to think of a missing collection wave as a case of non-response for a block of items and impute the missing values. To determine what must be imputed, the following general rules have been established:

- Each year, for a person eligible for the survey, imputation is carried out only if the person responded to only one of the two phases (labour or income). This condition applies both to longitudinal persons and to cohabitants.

- Each year, for a person eligible for the survey, imputation is carried out if the person is non-respondent in both phases (labour and income) and his or her household is partially respondent (i.e., at least one member of the household responded). The household is defined in January of each year.
- For a respondent person, imputation is carried out if an item is missing or the data are inconsistent.

However, because SLID is a new longitudinal survey and because this is the first collection year, we are limiting imputation somewhat for the 1993 reference year. Only the demographic variables needed for weighting, such as province, age and sex and the income variables, are imputed. The variables from the labour interview are not imputed for the 1993 reference year. Contributing to this decision was the lack of time and information needed to impute adequately. However, the income variables are imputed, and the strategy is as follows:

- Imputation by the **nearest neighbour** technique for most variables: wages and salaries, net income from farm self-employment, net income from non-farm self-employment, investment income, capital gains, unemployment insurance benefits, social assistance and provincial income supplements, workers' compensation, retirement pension and annuities, withdrawals from an RRSP, alimony and other taxable money income.
- Imputation using a **stepwise regression model** for the variables "federal and provincial income tax paid." The variables used in the model for federal tax are: total taxable income, class of worker,

relationship, marital status, number of dependents and occupations. For provincial tax, only the federal tax variable was used.

 Deterministic imputations for the following variables: child tax benefits, goods and services tax credit, and guaranteed income supplement and spouse's allowance.

In subsequent waves, longitudinal imputation may be considered. This consists in using data from the previous wave to impute the missing and/or inconsistent data in the current wave.

## 2.8 Weighting

SLID is first and foremost a longitudinal survey. A strategy was therefore developed for dealing with longitudinal weighting. However, while the primary goal is longitudinal, there is still a certain demand for the capability to produce cross-sectional estimates. Consequently, each year both longitudinal and cross-sectional weighting is carried out.

#### Longitudinal weighting

Longitudinal weighting is carried out independently for each panel. Eventually, we would like to create a longitudinal file after three years and after six years. There would thus be two longitudinal weightings for a given panel. However, for the first panel, longitudinal weighting will be done each year (there will therefore be six longitudinal files, with six longitudinal weights).

A longitudinal panel is not "updated" after its selection; hence it is representative of the population at the time of its selection. For the first panel, the longitudinal sample was selected (and will thus be weighted) to represent the population of the 10 provinces of Canada, in January 1993, that were included in the survey field. Each year, the weighting is therefore adjusted for this population.

In order to carry out the weighting, criteria determine whether the person is eligible for longitudinal weighting. A person is eligible for longitudinal weighting if he or she is included in the longitudinal sample selected for that panel. Children and persons who move outside the 10 provinces or who go into an institution are eligible for weighting, although survey data are not collected with respect to them.

The longitudinal sample was selected from the LFS sample. At the time of the LFS, respondents were informed that they had been selected to participate in SLID, and they were asked a few supplementary questions (this initial contact is often referred to as being the preliminary interview). The LFS has a 95% response rate. Indeed, 88% of LFS respondents agreed to participate in the preliminary interview. Because of budget constraints, only 84% of respondents to the preliminary interview were subsequently interviewed. A small panel of persons who were respondents to the LFS but non-respondents to the preliminary interview (approximately 200 households) was followed. It will be used in studies for quality purposes; however, it will not be weighted.

For longitudinal weighting, we have a great deal of information on non-respondents (the only exception is for people who did not participate in the LFS, and an adjustment for non-response is made by the LFS to compensate for this non-response).

Different analyses show that the known characteristics of respondents and non-respondents differ: more respondents are to be found among employed persons, persons who have not moved, etc.

It has been shown that the performance of the longitudinal estimator is improved insofar as the balancing factor for non-response explains response behaviour. The adjustment for non-response is therefore based on homogeneous response groups. The variables that form these response groups are determined using logistic regression and interaction detection models. The purpose of these adjustment classes is to try to compensate for a certain bias that would seem to be introduced by the fact that the response process is not uniform.

After correction for non-response, post-stratification is done by province, age group and sex (as noted above, post-strata are defined in relation to the reference period).

## Cross-sectional weighting

Cross-sectional weighting seeks to produce estimates that are representative of the population for a given year. For this purpose, we need to be able to update the sample to take account of new persons who are part of the population.

The primary source of updating the population is the introduction of a new panel every three years. At this point, the cross-sectional sample will combine the data from two panels and thus double the cross-sectional sample size.

There is another source of "updating": each year, persons in the longitudinal sample who move are traced. Because we are interested in the individual's family "variables," we also interview persons living with the longitudinal individual. These cohabitants may belong to the original population (and hence they had a probability of being selected that was different from zero) but they were not sampled. They may also be "new arrivals" within the population. A technique known as the weight share method (developed by Ernst [2]) is used to include cohabitants in cross-sectional weighting, using the probabilities of being selected for the longitudinal sample. In the research conducted by Lavallée [3], it was shown that the estimator thus constructed is unbiased.

Cross-sectional weighting is done on individuals in dwellings with at least one longitudinal individual, in January of each year (the dwelling must be located in one of the 10 provinces of Canada). Following the adjustment for non-response made during longitudinal weighting, weight-sharing is carried out. Lastly, post-stratification is done by province, sex and age group (for the current year).

#### 2.9 Confidentiality

SLID will disseminate microdata files. These files must give the survey results in such a way that a respondent will not be identifiable. The SLID team is developing a strategy to make the risk of linkage with other administrative files a negligible one, so as to deter hackers from using this file to identify individuals or families or to obtain additional information on them. The following methods will be used: suppression (the individual's identity, etc.), groupings of categories (as in the case of year of birth), non-random roundings (income variables), imputation (income variables) and random roundings (income variables).

#### 3. Conclusion

Different studies are currently under way to evaluate the quality of our data. Owing to their complexity, panel surveys pose various interesting problems concerning the measurement of data quality. The established norms and parameters for quality evaluation generally focus on cross-sectional surveys and must therefore be adapted. A major data quality measurement program is currently being developed for SLID. Data quality studies will be developed for evaluating response and response errors as well as the impact of computer-assisted interviewing and dependent interviewing. These studies will enable us to compare the findings with reference data drawn from tax files, the Labour Force Survey and other sources.

The first microdata will be ready in 1995. This file will contain data from the preliminary interview, conducted in January 1993, and the information collected in the first wave of labour and income interviews conducted in January and May 1994. When the microdata file is disseminated, users will be given access to an accompanying document to enable them to use the data. Each year, a new microdata file will be disseminated; it will contain all the data collected thus far, and it will replace the file from the previous year.

## **Bibliography**

Numerous publications have dealt with the development of the survey. The quarterly bulletin Dynamics may be obtained at no charge by contacting Dissemination Unit, at 7-B5 Jean Talon Building, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6, by INTERNET (DYNAMICS@STATCAN.CA), by telephone (613) 951-7355 or toll-free 1-888-297-7355, or by fax (613) 951-3012. There is also a complete series of working papers describing various characteristics and aspects of SLID and the decisions made regarding it since 1992. The research document series is available on either paper or diskette for a moderate price. Each issue of Dynamics contains a summary of recently published working papers.

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