

SLIDRET VERSION 1.7 USER'S MANUAL

SLID Microsoft Visual FoxPro

Query View Restrict Order by Table French Data Directory Help

Restrict Order French ? Data Directory Browse

SLID Data Retrieval System: NEW QUERY

Type of Analysis: ☒ CrossSectional ☐ Longitudinal Submit

Unit of Analysis: Person Year:

Theme:

- ☐ Sample Control
- ☐ Personal Characteristics
- ☐ Labour
- ☐ Income and Wealth
- ☐ Education

Sub Theme:

1993
1994
1995
1996
1997

Tblyear (Systemdb!Tblyear) Record: 2/6 File Locked NUM

March 30, 2000

Introduction

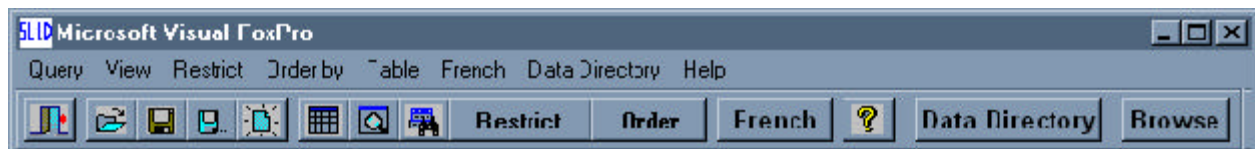
SLIDRET is the SLID (Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics) data RETrieval system. It was developed to simplify access to SLID data; users are able to create a dataset according to their own specifications, without having to understand the internal SLID database structure. Everything is contained in one screen. Windows open to allow users to clarify various selections.

Users are able to create, save and modify cross-sectional and longitudinal datasets containing only the variables selected. The database can be created in two formats: a text (ASCII) flatfile or a Foxpro table. SLIDRET can also generate a data dictionary, a record layout, a file containing the variable labels, and variable codesets. The output data file can then be read into the analytical software preferred by the user.

You can also specify the order in which you want your data stored (e.g. in ascending order of an identification variable) and put restrictions on the content of your database (i.e. persons with a total income greater than 100 000 dollars).

Depending on the user's selections and the type of computer used, the extraction may take some time. We anticipate that this will not be viewed as problematic since SLIDRET is not used frequently. The primary purpose is to create a file which will meet the needs of a specific analytical or research project.

SLIDRET menu and options



Query options

Open: loads a query which has been saved from a previous session.



New: creates a new query.



Save: saves your query (in the directory of your choice).



Save as: saves your query under another name, in the directory of your choice.



Delete: deletes your query. SLIDRET will then delete all files related to the query, including data files, code sets file, etc. This is an important feature and is much more than a convenience. A query name cannot be reused unless it has been deleted using this function.



Exit: closes SLIDRET.

View options

Results: submits the query currently open.



Selected Variables: Displays the variables selected for the query currently open.



Search Data Definition:

finds the word you want to look for in a variable. You can look in short name, long name, or all fields related to variable descriptions. A useful tool for locating variables.



Restrict

Restrict option

restricts your query to a certain sub-sample, according to the conditions you choose to apply. For example you may wish to create a file including only those persons living in a certain province, or those persons in

a certain age group.

Order

OOrder by option

orders the records in your output file using one or more of the query variables.

TTable options

Browse

Browse: browses through a Foxpro table resulting from a query.

Remove: deletes a Foxpro table.

Français

FFrançais option

switches to the French version of the software.

Data Directory

DData Directory option

identifies where the SLID databases are stored.



HHelp option

is an online help for SLIDRET.

Creation of a request

To create a request, first determine:

1. the type of analysis;
2. the reference year(s);
3. the unit of analysis;
4. the variables you want.

You will then be able to submit your query, provided that you have saved it and indicated what you want to produce: a text database or a Foxpro table, a data dictionary, a variable codesets file, a variable labels file. You will also be able to set the weight used for your database (if you do not wish to use the default weight provided).

Since the SLID database contains many variables, the location and selection of those variables of interest may take some time. Fortunately, SLIDRET uses the same variable classification into themes and sub-themes as the SLID Electronic Data Dictionary (available on the Statistics Canada site, www.statcan.ca, Concepts, definitions and methods, SLID Data Dictionary). So, if you are familiar with the data dictionary, you will be able to follow the same path in SLIDRET. Also, SLIDRET allows you to do a search for a variable, and to select it for your query at the same time. To select what you want in SLIDRET, use the computer mouse to point and click on themes and variables of interest.

Type of analysis

The user must choose between cross-sectional and longitudinal. In general, cross-sectional analysis refers to analysis covering only one reference year whereas longitudinal analysis refers to more than one year.

The earliest year possible for cross-sectional analysis is 1993 (the first year for the survey).

While all combinations of years are accepted, users requesting longitudinal analysis should pay attention to the survey design and panel rotation. Starting with 1993, a panel of respondents is introduced every three years and stays in sample for a six-year period. So it is possible to have one panel for analysis for six years with half the total survey sample or two panels for analysis for three years. So it is advisable to choose from among the following time periods:

Three years: 1993 to 1995, 1996 to 1998, 1999 to 2001, etc.

Six years: 1993 to 1998, 1996 to 2001, 1999 to 2004, etc.

In addition, one can also select the year prior to these ranges to expand the data available for analysis. Situational data such as province of residence, marital status and family composition are available

corresponding to the end of the year prior to the start of the panel.

Unit of analysis

The unit of analysis identifies the unit of observation for one record on the output file. Not all choices are available for both cross-sectional and longitudinal analysis. The choices are:

- Person: one record for every person
- Person-job: one record for every job held (Persons with no jobs are not included in this file.)
- Job absence: one record for every job absence (Persons with no jobs or with jobs from which no absence was taken are not included in this file.)
- Jobless spell: one record for every period of joblessness (Persons with no such periods are not included in this file.)
- Marital status spell: one for every marital state held by each person during his/her lifetime (Complete marital history is not collected by SLID for some persons with multiple marriages.)
- Postsecondary degree, diploma or certificate: one record for every postsecondary degree, diploma or certificate received during each person's lifetime, with some exceptions for persons with multiple degrees. (Persons without postsecondary educational attainment are not included in this file.)
- Household: one record for every household
- Household relationships: one record for every pair of persons in every household (Households with only one person are not included in this file. In general, a household with n persons will have $n*(n-1)$ records on this file.)
- Economic family: one record for every economic family
- Census family: one record for every census family
- Monthly receipt of EI/WC/SA: one record for every type of benefit received by all persons. Benefits covered are Employment Insurance, Workers' Compensation and Social Assistance. (Persons without receipt of any of these three benefits are not included on this file.)

Example

We will create a query that will produce a cross-sectional file with several variables from different themes.

Here are the themes and variables we want for this query:

Type of Analysis

- Cross-sectional

Unit of Analysis

- Person

Sample control - Identifiers

- D31FAM26
- D31CF26

Sample control - Weights

- ICSWT26
- ILBWT26

Personal characteristics - Demographics - Year of birth, sex and marital status

- ECYOB26
- ECAGE26
- ECSEX99

Personal characteristics - Demographics - Family situation

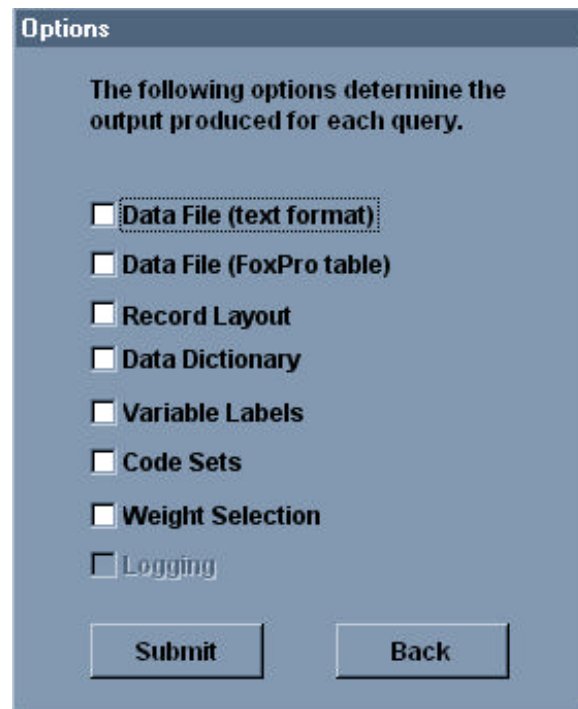
- RMJIG26
- RMJCG26

Personal characteristics - geography - geographical area

- PVREG25
- USZGA25
- CMA2G25

Personal characteristics - Family and household characteristics - Household size and type

- HHSZ25
- HHCOMP25
- DWLTYP25
- DWTENR25



Options

The following options determine the output produced for each query.

- ☐ **Data File (text format)**
- ☐ **Data File (FoxPro table)**
- ☐ **Record Layout**
- ☐ **Data Dictionary**
- ☐ **Variable Labels**
- ☐ **Code Sets**
- ☐ **Weight Selection**
- ☐ **Logging**

Submit **Back**

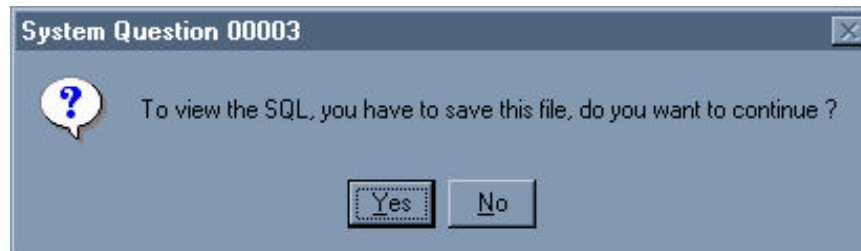
You just have to point and click in the appropriate boxes; then click on the **Submit** button. The following Options box will appear:

Now is the time to choose what SLIDRET will produce for you:

- **Data File (text format)** creates a file with the extension *.dat. It contains the data you want in ASCII format.
- **Data File (Foxpro table)** creates a Foxpro table with the extension *.sqr. It contains the data you want in Foxpro format.
- **Record Layout** creates a file with the extension *.lay. It contains the record layout of your text data file.
- **Data Dictionary** creates the data dictionary that is directly sent to your printer. It is not currently

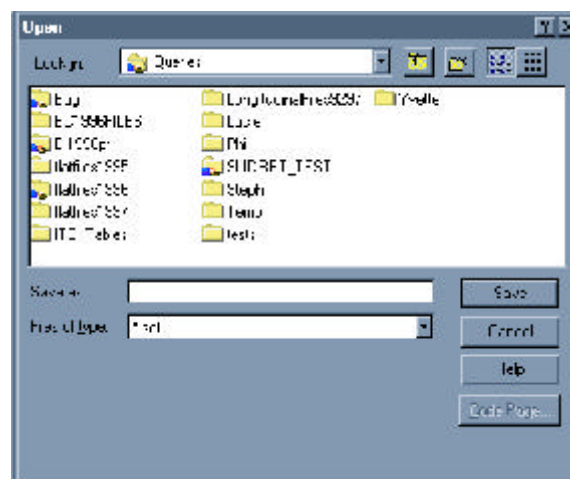
possible to save the data dictionary in electronic format.

- **Variable Labels** creates a file with the extension *.lab. It contains the labels of your variables.
- **Code Sets** creates a file with the extension *.cod. It contains the code sets of your variables.
- **Weight Selection** allows you to overwrite the default weight for SLIDRET to use to produce your database. SLIDRET automatically chooses the weight according to the unit of analysis and the variables selected. Most of the time, this will be the correct weight for your query. For more information on this subject, consult chapter 5 of the *Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics Microdata User's Guide*.



Once you have selected your variables, click on the **Submit** button. SLIDRET will then ask you to give your query

a name (but only if it is a new query or if you have modified an old one). For this example, we have chosen EC1996KE as the query name.



Click on **Yes**. The where you want to save

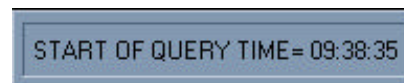
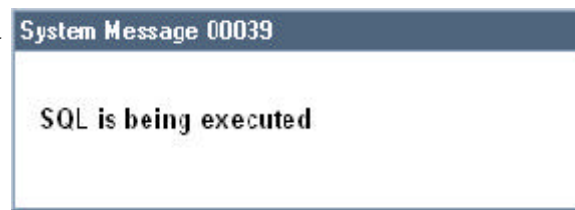
following screen will ask you your query.



SLIDRET automatically goes to the D:\SLIDRET\QUERIES directory. You can (1) save your queries directly in this directory, (2) create

your own sub-directories in which you will save your queries, or (3) save in another directory of your choosing.

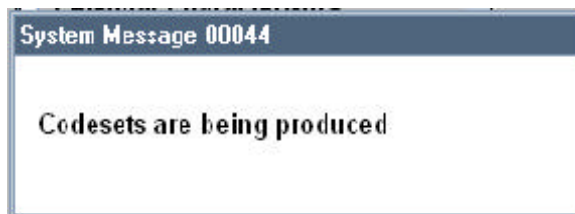
Give a name to your query and click on **Save**. This window will come up:



Click OK. The next window is:

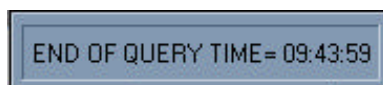
After a while, this box pops up:

Click anywhere inside the SLIDRET window and this box pops up:



Again, click anywhere inside the SLIDRET window. You will then see the result of the query.

To go ahead and create the files you specified in the Options box, close the results window. To do this, click on the X to which the arrow is pointing (it is important to make sure that you are closing the correct window):



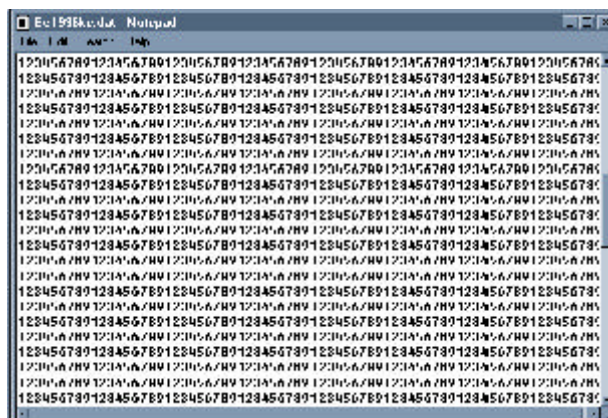
Some messages will appear shortly, such as this one:

The image shows a window titled "Table" with a blue header bar. Below the header are three buttons: "rench", "Data Directory", and "Browse". Below the buttons is a table with five columns: "n26", "Dwltyp25", "Dwtentr25", "Ecage26", and "Ecsexs". The table has three rows of data. An arrow points to the close button (X) in the top right corner of the window.

n26	Dwltyp25	Dwtentr25	Ecage26	Ecsexs
1	2	3	1	
1	1	2	2	
1	1	24	1	

SLIDRET then comes back to its first screen. You will be able to modify your query, save it under another name or in another directory, or create a new

query altogether. For now, let's have a look at the files that SLIDRET has produced:

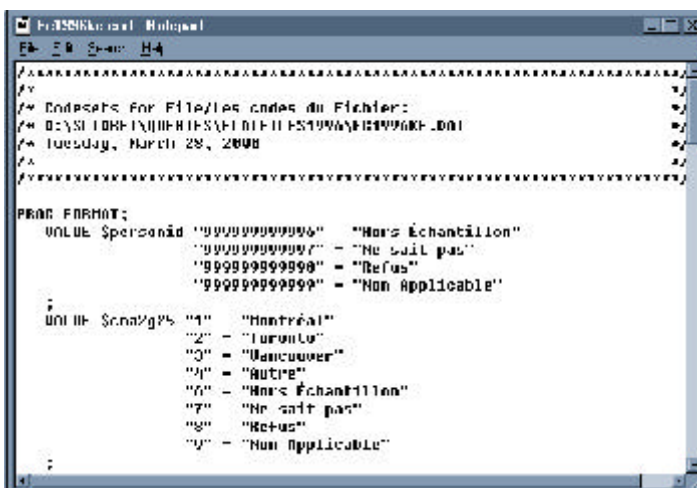


Ec1996ke.cod	10KB	COD File
Ec1996ke.dat	5,802KB	DAT File
Ec1996ke.lab	3KB	LAB File
Ec1996ke.lay	3KB	LAY File
Ec1996ke.spt	1KB	SPT File
Ec1996ke.sql	2KB	SQL File
EC1996KE.sqr	5,803KB	SQR File
Ec1996ke.sqt	9KB	SQT File
Ec1996ke.syt	1KB	SYT File
EC1996KEz.CDX	17KB	Micros...

Ec1996ke.cod contains the code sets of the variables:

Note that the text file appear

Ec1996ke.dat is containing your



name and the location of in the header.

the text file (ASCII) data:

Ec1996ke.lab contains the labels of the variables:

```

*****
/*
/* Labels for File/Les étiquettes du fichier:
/* D:\SLIDRET\QUERIES\FLATFILES1996\EC1996KE.DAT
/* Monday, March 06, 2000
/*
*****

10881 year      "Reference Year"
personid      "Person ID"
jicswL26      "Int cross-sect weight"
cna2g25       "CNA/CA grp 2"
d31c126       "Census family ID"
d31fan26      "Economic family ID"
dwltyp25      "Type of dwelling"
dwtenr25      "Ownership of dwelling"
ecage26       "Ext age refer (cross-sect)"
ecsex99       "Ext sex refer (cross-sect)"
ecygh26       "Ext YGR (cross-sect)"
hhcomp25      "Household type"
hhsz25        "Household size"
ilbwL26       "Int cross-sect lab weight"

```

Ec1996ke.lay contains the

record layout:

```

*****
/*
/* Layout for File/Le format du fichier:
/* D:\SLIDRET\QUERIES\FLATFILES1996\EC1996KE.DAT
/* Monday, March 06, 2000
/*
*****

1  year      4.          /* Reference Year          */
5  personid  $Char12.    /* Person ID              */
17 aicswL26  10.4        /* Int cross sect weight (99999.9999) */
27 cna2g25   $Char1.     /* CNA/CA grp 2           */
28 d31c126   $Char9.      /* Census family ID       */
31 d31fan26  $Char9.      /* Economic family ID     */
32 dwltyp25  $Char1.      /* Type of dwelling       */
33 dwtenr25  $Char1.      /* Ownership of dwelling  */
34 ecage26   3.          /* Ext age refer (cross sect) */
37 ecsex99   $Char1.      /* Ext sex refer (cross-sect) */
38 ecygh26   4.          /* Ext YGR (cross-sect)    */
42 hhcomp25  $Char1.      /* Household type         */
43 hhsz25    2.          /* Household size         */
45 ilbwL26   10.4        /* Int cross sect lab weight (99999.9999) */

```

F i n a l l y
contains the

EC1996ke.sqr
Foxpro file.

Ec1996ke.sql, Ec1996ke.spt, Ec1996ke.syt, Ec1996ke.cdx are all files that SLIDRET created for its own needs. DO NOT DELETE THEM. If you want to delete a query, use the **Delete** option of **Query**.

We will now have a look at certain details of SLIDRET.

For **cross-sectional queries**:

- The year (variable YEAR99) is automatically inserted into the query results, and does not appear in the list of variables available.
- For the reference year selected, SLIDRET automatically inserts the cross-sectional weight associated with the unit of analysis (for PERSON, the associated weight is ICSWT26; for PERSON-JOB, the associated weight is ILBWT26). The weight appears in the record layout with the letter “A” as prefix (AICSWT26 instead of ICSWT26). The automatic or “system” weight will not appear in the data dictionary. To make it appear in the data dictionary, add it to your list of picked variables.

For **longitudinal queries**:

- The weight automatically used by the system is the longitudinal weight of the latest year selected, and will have an “A” as prefix, as for cross-sectional queries.
- The units of analysis *Marital status* and *Education certificates* automatically give you all data in the database up to the latest year selected, regardless of which other years you selected.

For **all queries**:

- The name given to a query must begin with an alphabetic character.
- Do not use hyphens (-) in the name of a query.
- Never delete your queries using *Windows Explorer*. Use instead the **Delete** option from the SLIDRET **Query** menu. The reason is that SLIDRET creates a list of all the names of queries you created for its internal use, and only by deleting your queries with the **Delete** option will it erase the name of those queries from its list. If you delete queries using something else, problems may pop up later.
- SLIDRET gives the query name to all files created for this query. Only the file extensions will change: *.sqr, *.cod, *.dat, etc.
- For performance reasons it is best to run SLIDRET without having too many other applications open.

For more information or if you have comments or suggestions, please contact:

Client Services

Income Statistics Division

1-888-297-7355 or 613-951-7355

Dynamics@statcan.ca

