

SLIDRET VERSION 2.3 USER'S MANUAL

Microsoft Visual FoxPro

Query View Restrict Order by Table Français Data Directory Help

Restrict Order Français ? Data Directory Browse

SLID Data Retrieval System: NEW QUERY

Type of Analysis:

☒ CrossSectional
☐ Longitudinal (year)
☐ Longitudinal (panel)

Unit of Analysis: Person

Theme:

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

Reference years 1992-2003

☐ 2003
☐ 2002
☐ 2001
☐ 2000
☐ 1999
☐ 1998
☐ 1997
☐ 1996
☐ 1995
☐ 1994

Sub Theme:

Submit

Tblyear (Systemdb!Tblyear) Record: 12/12 Exclusive NUM

Table of contents

Introduction	-5-
SLIDRET menu and options	-6-
Query options	-6-
View options	-7-
Restrict option	-8-
Order by option	-8-
Table options	-8-
Français option	-9-
Data Directory option.....	-9-
Help option.....	-9-
Creation of a query	-10-
Type of analysis	-10-
Unit of analysis.....	-11-
Important things to know:.....	-12-
For all queries:.....	-12-
For cross-sectional queries:	-12-
For longitudinal queries:	-14-
Example	-17-
Zippping a query.....	-26-
Unzipping a query	-28-
If the query already exists in that directory	-28-
Import Variables option.....	-30-
Restrict option	-31-
Remote access procedures for researchers using SLID	-33-
System requirements.....	-35-
SLID RETrieval software Installation Instructions	-36-
Internal Users, RDC or Regional Office Users will now need to point SLIDRET to the complete SLID databases	-37-
If you have not installed the SLID "query" database in the C:\SLIDDATA directory.....	-38-
Updates of the SLIDRET metadata files and the SLID "query" database	-39-
Useful Web addresses:.....	-40-
For more information or if you have comments or suggestions, please contact:	-40-

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 specifications to create cross-sectional and longitudinal datasets containing only the variables selected. The database can be created in two formats: a text (ASCII) flat file or a Foxpro table. SLIDRET can also generate a data dictionary, a record layout, a file containing the variable labels, variable codesets, and univariate statistics for each of the variables selected. The output data file can then be read into the analytical software preferred by the user. An additional feature is that the software suggests a weight variable based on the specifications (if desired, this default can be changed by the user).

You can also specify the order in which the data are 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).

To use all features of SLIDRET, one must have access to the internal database (for which access is restricted). However one can create the “query” files from the public version of SLIDRET which contains an empty database structure. These query files can subsequently be used for remote access (more information on remote access in another section of this manual) or when the user has access to the internal database.

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.

Zip: zips your query. SLIDRET only includes the files it needs to run a query: *.SQT, *.SPT, *.SYT, *.z.CDX, *.SRT (if restriction are present) and *.SOT (if ordering is used).

Unzip: Unzips a zipped query.

Import: Allows you to import your variables from a text file. You must be in a new query for this option to work.

Exit: closes SLIDRET.



View options

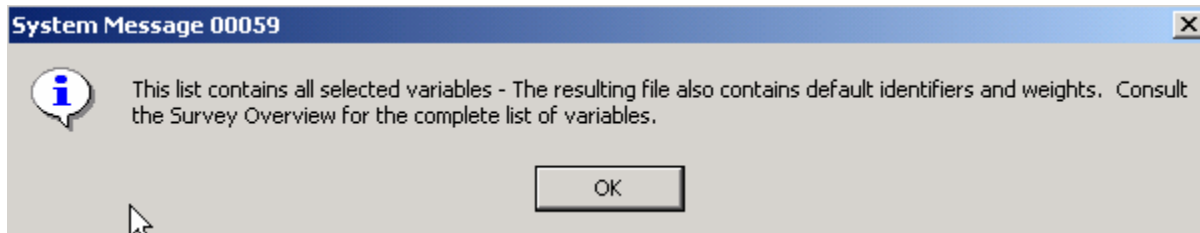
Results: submits the query currently open.



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. Note that you can select most of the ID or weight variables from there.



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



The following identifiers can be selected for any Unit of Analysis:

Weights (icswt26, ilbwt26, ilgwt26, ilwcp26)

Cswtf26

Fanst25

Fanst26

Lgwtf26

Panel21

Phase21

Prox1f26

Prox2f26

Resp99

Respg99

Rootid21

Rplct21

Strat21

Wave21

The following identifiers are not available for any Unit of Analysis:

Personid

Year

Jobid

Abscid

Spellid

Certifid

Stateid

Comptype

The following identifiers are not available for Census Family:

Cfid
D31cf26

The following identifiers are not available for Household:

Cfid
D31cf26
Familyid
D31fam26
D31fam46
D31if26
Hhldid
D31hh26
D31hh27
D31hh29
D31hh46
Dm1hh29
Hh01v29 - Hh12v29

The following identifiers are not available for Economic Family:

Cfid
D31cf26
Familyid
D31fam26
D31fam46
D31if26

Restrict option

Restrict

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. **WARNING:** when using this option, make sure the restriction variables apply to the entire population, such as age, province, sex, etc.

Order by option

Order

sorts the records in your output file using one or more of the query variables, up to three variables.

Table options

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

Browse

Remove: deletes a Foxpro results table for a query.

Français option



switches to the French version of the software. SLIDRET will remember your language preference for your next session.

Data Directory option



identifies where the SLID databases are stored.

Help option



Help topics: is an online help for SLIDRET. This option is still in development, although some information is available.

About SLIDRET: displays system information such as system version number, date released, copyright, contact for inquiries.

Creation of a query

To create a query, 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 record layout, 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. SLIDRET uses the same variable classification into themes and sub-themes as the SLID Electronic Data Dictionary (<http://www.statcan.ca/english/IPS/Data/75F0026XIB.htm>). So, if you are familiar with the data dictionary, you will be able to follow the same path in SLIDRET. SLIDRET also allows you to 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. Alternatively, you can use the import variables option.

Type of analysis

The user must choose between cross-sectional, longitudinal (year) and longitudinal (panel). In general, cross-sectional analysis refers to analysis covering only one reference year (or a series of one reference year analysis) whereas longitudinal analysis spans over several years.

The earliest year possible for cross-sectional analysis is 1993 (the first year for the survey). You may select 1992, but as the weight of these persons is zero, this will not generate any data.

While all combinations of years are accepted, users requesting longitudinal (year) 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 (i.e., 1992) 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.

The longitudinal (panel) choice is new this year. It allows picking all records for six years of a panel or for three years two panels overlap.

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.)

Important things to know:

The information in this section has been added as a result of questions from users.

For all queries:

- The name given to a query must begin with an alphabetic character.
- Do not use hyphens (-) or spaces in the name of a query.
- The weight used to select the sample appears in the record layout with the letter AA@ as prefix (e.g. AICSWT26 instead of ICSWT26 or AILWCP26 instead of ILWCP26, etc.). That automatic or Asystem@ weight will not appear in the data dictionary, unless you add it to your list of selected variables.
- 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: *.dbf, *.cod, *.dat, etc (exception: *.cdx).
- To improve the performance of SLIDRET, close as many other applications as possible.
- You can stop a submitted query at any time by pressing the **escape** key. This may stop the query or crash SLIDRET. You then just need to reopen it again. Since your query has been saved, you can resubmit it.
- There are reserved codes in SLID. The pattern followed by the reserved codes is:
 - ...6 => Interim Processing Code
 - ...7 => Don't know
 - ...8 => Refusal
 - ...9 => Not applicable

You can find the codeset associated to a particular variable in the codeset file (*.cod) produced by SLIDRET, and in the data dictionary.

For cross-sectional queries:

- The year, appropriate weight and identifiers are automatically inserted into the query results, and do not appear in the list of variables available.
- For the reference year(s) selected, SLIDRET automatically inserts the cross-sectional weight associated with the unit of analysis: for PERSON, the associated weight is ICSWT26 (exception: if you select any variable from the theme LABOUR, the labour weight ILBWT26 is automatically selected); for PERSON-JOB, JOB ABSENCE and JOBLESS SPELL, the associated weight is ILBWT26. For all other units of analysis, the default weight is ICSWT26. To know more about the use of the cross-sectional and labour weights, read Chapter 5, pp. 32-35 of the Microdata Users' Guide (www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/75M0001GIE/free.htm).

Note that the labour weight ILBWT26 is a person weight, not a household integrated weight as is the cross-sectional weight ICSWT26: be careful when you use it in estimates of families or households.

- SLIDRET extracts the cross-sectional sample for weights greater than zero for selected year(s).
- After selecting PERSON as the unit of analysis, it is possible to select job characteristics. For persons with more than one job during a particular year, the job characteristics on the output file are those of the main job held during the year (i.e., the one at which the person worked the most hours). Those without a job would have a value of ANot applicable@ for all job variables.
- Similarly, for queries with units of analysis HOUSEHOLD, ECONOMIC FAMILY and CENSUS FAMILY, it is possible to select person-level characteristics. These characteristics on the output file pertain to the Major Income Earner in that group of persons for the year of interest. The MIE is the person in that group of persons who received the greatest income among all group members. Job characteristics of the MIE's main job may also be included.

For longitudinal 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 Longitudinal (year) type of analysis SLIDRET extracts the longitudinal sample for weights greater than zero and response code RESP99 = “01” (longitudinal person in scope) for the latest year selected in the query.
- For Longitudinal (panel) type of analysis SLIDRET extracts data for all the longitudinal persons in the panel(s) selected for the years indicated regardless of the weight values and response code.
- SLIDRET will automatically choose the weight that will allow you to have the largest sample available. ILGWT26 will be used for extractions over 4, 5, or 6 years, or when the panels do not overlap. ILWCP26 will be used to combine two panels and study the behaviour of their population for the years they do overlap.
- SLIDRET users who make longitudinal (year) queries should take account of the panel rotation when selecting the reference years covered by the query. Panel 1 started with reference year 1993, and subsequent panels start every 3 years. The life of each panel is 6 years. In addition to the six full years of data, some baseline information is available for the year prior to the start of the panel (for example, 1992 for panel 1). Those users who select more than 7 years or those users who select a range of years which do not correspond to the sample rotation will get results which may not be very useful. Variables corresponding to years in which the person was not in the SLID sample will have a value of "not applicable" on the data file produced by SLIDRET.

The following chart identifies the years covered by each panel:

Panel	Full data	Baseline data
1	1993 to 1998	1992
2	1996 to 2001	1995
3	1999 to 2004	1998
4	2002 to 2007	2001
...

And the next one illustrates how panels overlap:

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Panel 1											
			Panel 2								
						Panel 3					

Here is a description of the seven different units of analysis for longitudinal (year) queries.

- **PERSON:** all persons selected as a member of the active longitudinal panels who were respondent in the last year included in the query and who were in scope in the last year included in the query. The *Ain scope* part means that those who die, are institutionalized or emigrate would be excluded. There would be one record per person on the file. On a longitudinal extraction for 1993 to 1995, there are 26,875,830 estimated persons in Canada.

Notice that for all the subsequent files the persons included are subsets of the persons on the PERSON file.

- **PERSON-JOB:** one record for every job (up to 6 jobs per year) held by every person on the PERSON file during the years included in the query. A person with no job in any of the years would not be included in the file. On a longitudinal extraction for 1993 to 1995, there are 27,392,244 estimated person-jobs in Canada.
- **JOB ABSENCE:** one record for every absence (up to 2 absences per job per year) taken from every job included on the PERSON-JOB file during the years included in the query. A person with no job would not be included in the file. On a longitudinal extraction for 1993 to 1995, there are 5,477,868 estimated job absences in Canada.
- **JOBLESS SPELL:** one record for every jobless spell experienced by each person included in the PERSON longitudinal file during the years included in the query (up to 7 jobless spells per year). A person without a jobless spell in all years would not be included in the file. On a longitudinal extraction for 1993 to 1995, there are 16,154,065 estimated jobless spells in Canada.
- **MONTHLY RECEIPT OF EI/WC/SA:** one record for each person (up to 3 record per year) included in the PERSON longitudinal file for each program from which benefits were received during the years included in the query. A person who does not receive any of these benefits during any of the years would not be included in the file. On a longitudinal extraction for 1993 to 1995, there are 8,590,762 estimated monthly receipts in Canada.

- **MARITAL STATUS:** one record for every marital spell experienced by every person included in the PERSON longitudinal file. Every person will have at least one marital spell (i.e., single). On a longitudinal extraction for 1992 to 1995, there are 49,544,035 estimated marital status in Canada.
- **EDUCATIONAL CERTIFICATE:** one record for every post-secondary degree, diploma or certificate received by every person in the PERSON longitudinal file. A person without such a certificate would not be included on the file. On a longitudinal extraction for 1992 to 1995, there are 14, 076,174 estimated education certificates in Canada.

For Longitudinal (panel) type of analysis files have the same content as described above but for all the longitudinal persons in the panel(s) selected for the years indicated regardless of the weight values and response code.

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:

Year

- 1993

Type of Analysis

- Cross-sectional

Unit of Analysis

- Person

Sample control - Identifiers - Economic family

- FAMILYID

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

- AGE26
- SEX21

Personal characteristics - Demographics - Family situation

- MJINE26
- RMJIE26

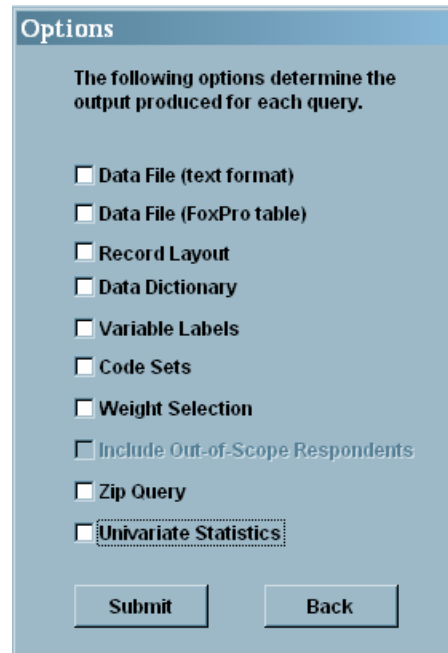
Personal characteristics - geography - geographical area

- PVREG25

Income and Wealth - Income sources

- ATINC42
- EARNG42
- TTINC42

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



The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Options" with a blue header. Below the header, it says "The following options determine the output produced for each query." There is a list of ten options, each with an unchecked checkbox: "Data File (text format)", "Data File (FoxPro table)", "Record Layout", "Data Dictionary", "Variable Labels", "Code Sets", "Weight Selection", "Include Out-of-Scope Respondents" (which is greyed out), "Zip Query", and "Univariate Statistics" (which is highlighted with a dashed border). At the bottom of the dialog are two buttons: "Submit" and "Back".

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 *.dbf. 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 in electronic format with the extension *.dic.
- **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 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.
- **Include Out-of-Scope Respondents** allows you to include longitudinal respondents who are out of scope in the latest reference year selected. This option should be used with caution and is greyed out for cross-sectional queries. The longitudinal population is defined at the time a panel of respondents is introduced into the survey (every three years). This longitudinal population is fixed for the life of the panel. Most of these

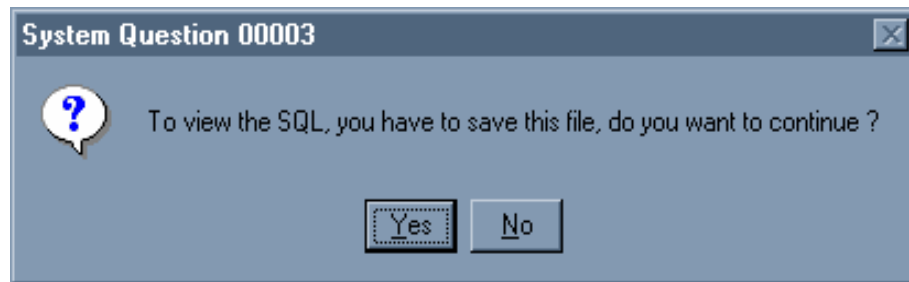
persons will remain in-scope for the survey for the six years that the panel remains active for SLID (i.e., living in one of the ten Canadian provinces excluding institutions, military barracks and Indian Reserves). Some, however, will move out of scope by dying, moving to one of the territories or out of the country, or moving into an institution, military barrack or Indian Reserve. Some who move out of scope will subsequently move back in scope during the life of the panel. SLIDRET users who select a longitudinal query have the choice of selecting the entire longitudinal population or by restricting it to those who are in-scope in the latest year selected for the analysis.

- **Zip Query** will automatically zip the query for you.
- **Univariate Statistics** will create a file *.ust containing univariate statistics for each of the variables selected. For numerical variables, ranges will be established based on the weighted mean of all valid, non-zero values of the variable. The distribution of **valid, positive, non-zero values** of numerical variables follows this pattern:

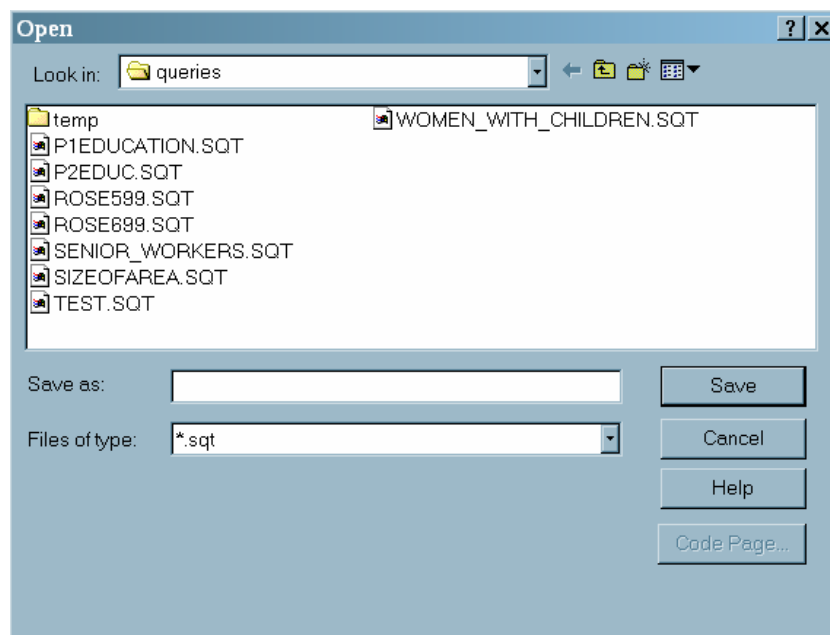
(0, B1 = mean divided by 2.00]
 (B1, B2 = mean divided by 1.50]
 (B2, B3 = mean divided by 1.25]
 (B3, B4 = mean divided by 1.10]
 (B4, B5 = mean]
 (B5, B6 = mean multiplied by 1.10]
 (B6, B7 = mean multiplied by 1.25]
 (B7, B8 = mean multiplied by 1.50]
 (B8, B9 = mean multiplied by 2.00]
 (B9, Maximum valid value of the variable]

Note: Univariate statistics affects the time that SLIDRET takes to produce your final files.

Once you have selected your variables and your outputs, 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 TEST as the query name.



Click on **Yes**. The following screen will ask you where you want to save your query.

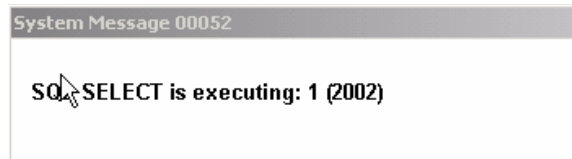


SLIDRET automatically goes to the C:\SLIDRET\QUERIES directory. You can (1) save your queries directly in this directory, (2) create your own sub-directories in which you will save your queries, or (3) save in another directory of your choosing.

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

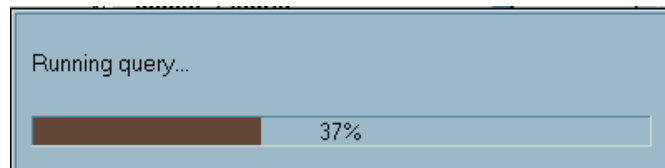


Click OK. The next window is:

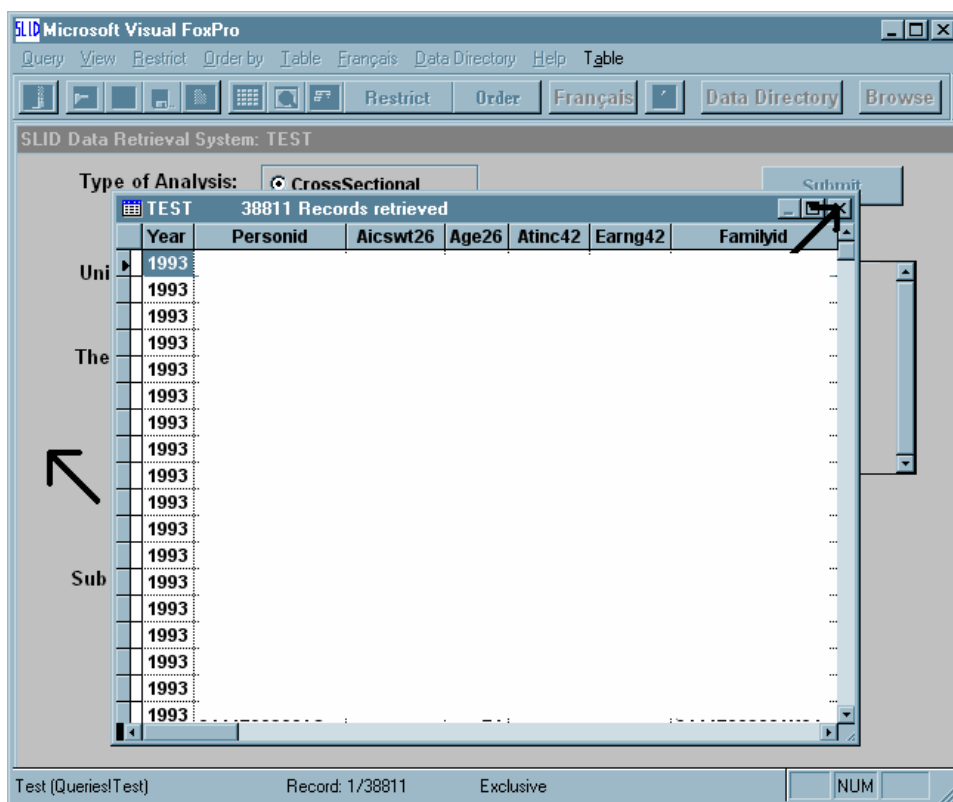


Note that there can be more than one SELECT statement for your query.

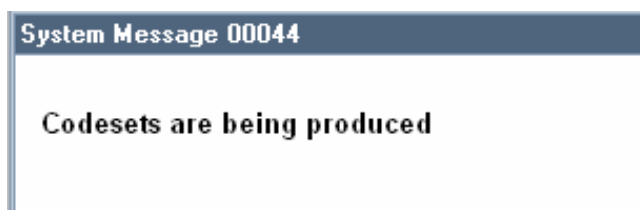
This next window will also appear at times:



After a while, you will then see the results 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 one of the arrows is pointing or outside the results window:



Note: **do not use the Table option** that is activated at this point: you may delete some records by mistake, or else produce a file that does not contain what you expect. Also, if you are using the **Slid "query" database**, all the variable fields will be empty. Some messages will appear shortly, such as this one:

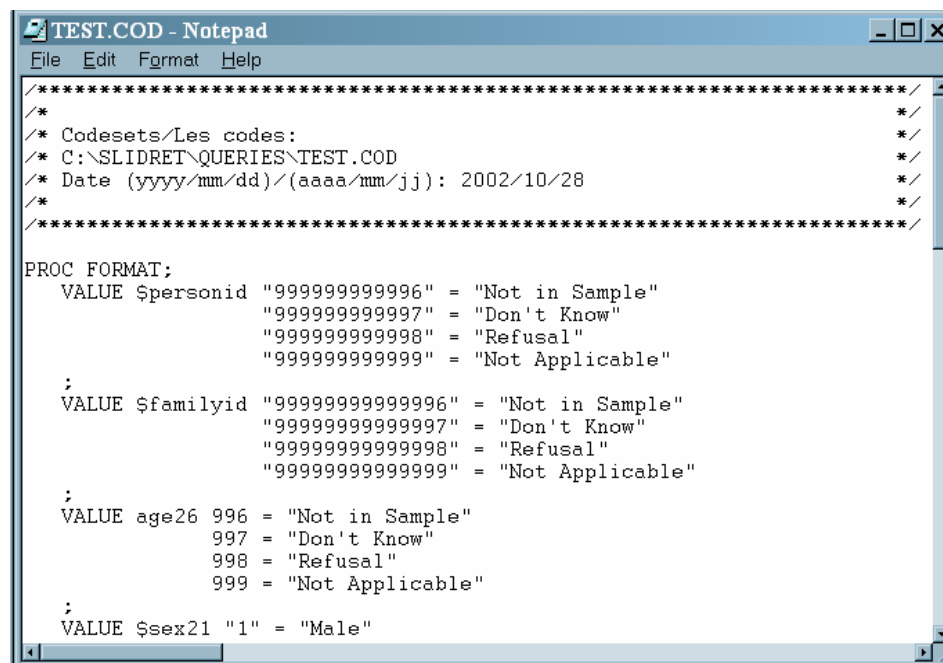


SLIDRET then comes back to its first screen. Your query is complete. At this point, you will be able to modify your query, save it under another name or in another directory, or create a new query altogether.

For now, let's have a look at the files that SLIDRET has produced (we used *NOTEPAD* for this):

TEST.COD	30 KB	COD File
TEST.DAT	2,843 KB	DAT File
TEST.dbf	2,844 KB	Microsoft Visual FoxPro 5.0 Table
TEST.LAB	8 KB	LAB File
TEST.LAY	8 KB	LAY File
TEST.SPT	1 KB	SPT File
TEST.SQL	2 KB	SQL File
TEST.SQT	13 KB	SQT File
TEST.SYT	1 KB	SYT File
TEST.UST	59 KB	UST File
TEST.zip	9 KB	WinZip File
TESTz.CDX	18 KB	Microsoft Visual FoxPro Index

TEST.cod contains the code sets of the variables:



```

TEST.COD - Notepad
File Edit Format Help
/*****
/*
/* Codesets/Les codes:
/* C:\SLIDRET\QUERIES\TEST.COD
/* Date (yyyy/mm/dd)/(aaaa/mm/jj): 2002/10/28
/*
/*
/*****

PROC FORMAT;
    VALUE $personid "999999999996" = "Not in Sample"
                      "999999999997" = "Don't Know"
                      "999999999998" = "Refusal"
                      "999999999999" = "Not Applicable"
    ;
    VALUE $familyid "99999999999996" = "Not in Sample"
                    "99999999999997" = "Don't Know"
                    "99999999999998" = "Refusal"
                    "99999999999999" = "Not Applicable"
    ;
    VALUE age26 996 = "Not in Sample"
              997 = "Don't Know"
              998 = "Refusal"
              999 = "Not Applicable"
    ;
    VALUE $sex21 "1" = "Male"
  
```

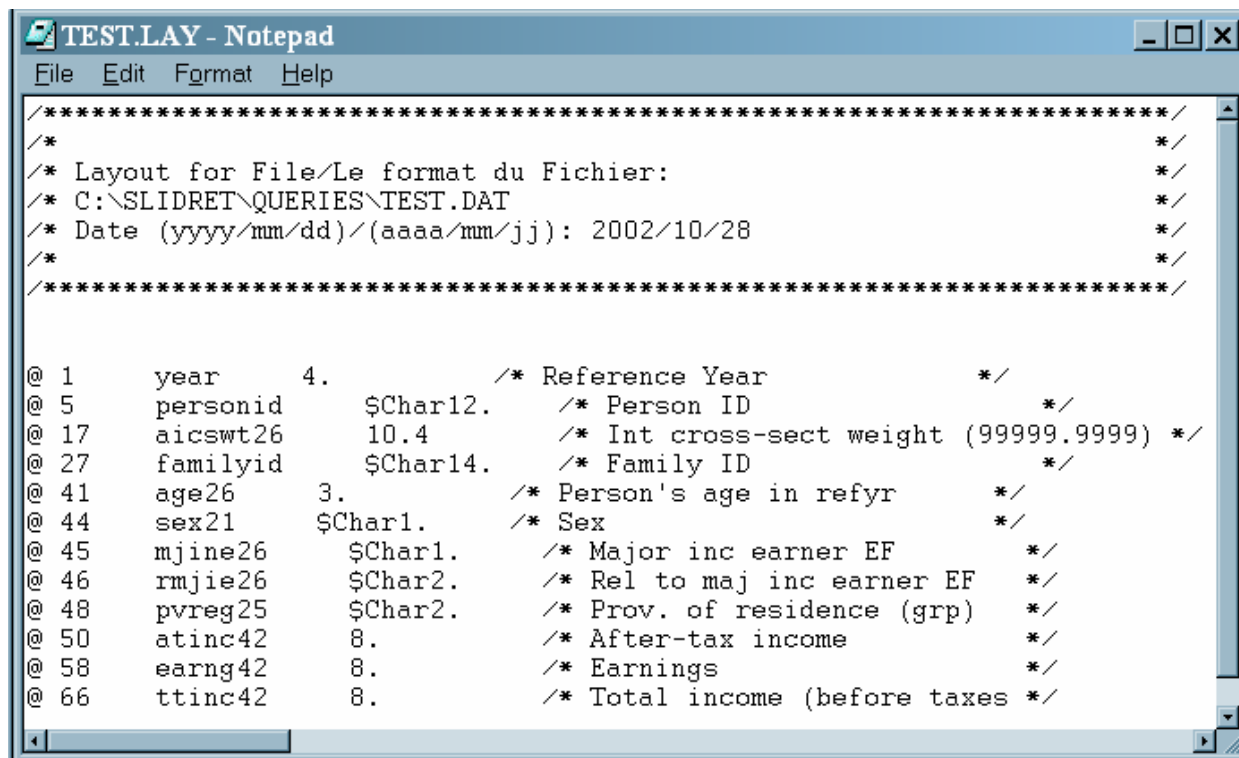
Note that the name and the location of the text file appear in the header.

TEST.dat is the text file (ASCII) containing your data (edited here for confidentiality):

Note: if you are using SLID “query” database, this file will be completely empty.

TEST.lab contains the labels of the variables:

TEST.lay contains the record layout (note that the year, identifier, and weight fields have been included automatically):



```

TEST.LAY - Notepad
File Edit Format Help

/*****
/*
/* Layout for File/Le format du Fichier:
/* C:\SLIDRET\QUERIES\TEST.DAT
/* Date (yyyy/mm/dd)/(aaaa/mm/jj): 2002/10/28
/*
*****/

@ 1      year      4.      /* Reference Year          */
@ 5      personid  $Char12. /* Person ID               */
@ 17     aicswt26   10.4    /* Int cross-sect weight (99999.9999) */
@ 27     familyid  $Char14. /* Family ID               */
@ 41     age26      3.      /* Person's age in refyr    */
@ 44     sex21      $Char1.  /* Sex                     */
@ 45     mjine26    $Char1.  /* Major inc earner EF     */
@ 46     rmjie26    $Char2.  /* Rel to maj inc earner EF */
@ 48     pvreg25    $Char2.  /* Prov. of residence (grp) */
@ 50     atinc42    8.      /* After-tax income        */
@ 58     earn42     8.      /* Earnings                */
@ 66     ttinc42    8.      /* Total income (before taxes) */

```


TEST.ust contains the univariate statistics.

Note: If you are using the SLID “query” database, the file will still be produced, but will only contain the heading and a warning that there is no data available.

```
TEST.UST - Notepad
File Edit Format Help

Note: This flat file will print correctly by using a fixed-width font (e.g. Courier).
      For portrait orientation, use size 8 pts.
      For landscape orientation, you can use 10 pts.

      Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics
      Univariate Statistics for TEST
      Date of retrieval (yyyy/mm/dd): 2002/10/28

      Unit of Analysis: Person
      Type of Analysis: CrossSectional
      Reference year(s) for retrieval: 1993

Number of records on file          =      38,811
Sum of weights for all records on file =    28,113,813

=====

Variable: AGE26 - Person's age in refyr
Reference year 1993  Numeric(3)  Weight field = ICSWT26

                                Unweighted      Weighted      %
                                Frequency      Estimate      Weighted
Valid positive values          38,361      27,789,021      98.8
Valid negative values           0           0           0.0
Valid zero values              450      324,792           1.2
996      Not in Sample          0           0           0.0
997      Don't Know             0           0           0.0
998      Refusal                0           0           0.0
999      Not Applicable         0           0           0.0

Mean value (weighted) of all valid, non-zero values          35

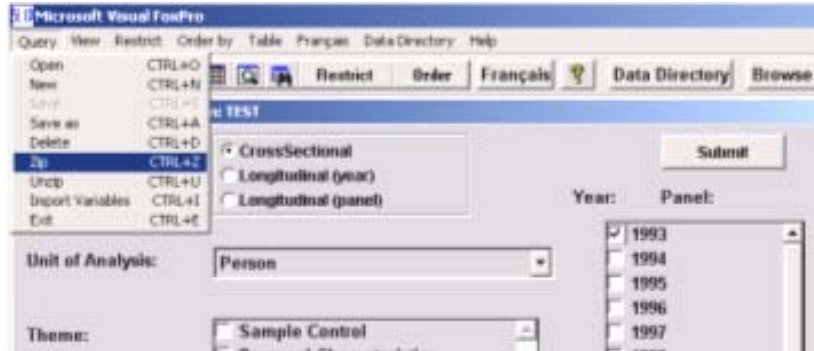
Distribution of valid, positive, non-zero values
(0, 18]          10,388      6,999,603      25.2
(18, 24]         3,251      2,376,469       8.6
(24, 28]         2,216      1,697,479       6.1
(28, 32]         2,614      2,059,574       7.4
(32, 35]         2,038      1,586,127       5.7
(35, 39]         2,690      1,880,377       6.8
(39, 44]         2,878      2,225,663       8.0
(44, 53]         4,192      3,091,458      11.1
(53, 71]         5,651      4,190,934      15.1
(71, 150]        2,443      1,681,336       6.1
=====
```

Finally **TEST.dbf** contains the Foxpro file.

TEST.sqt, **TEST.spt**, **TEST.syt** and **TESTz.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**. Had you asked to order the query, then **TEST.sot** will be created, as will **TEST.srt** if you had put restrictions on the query.

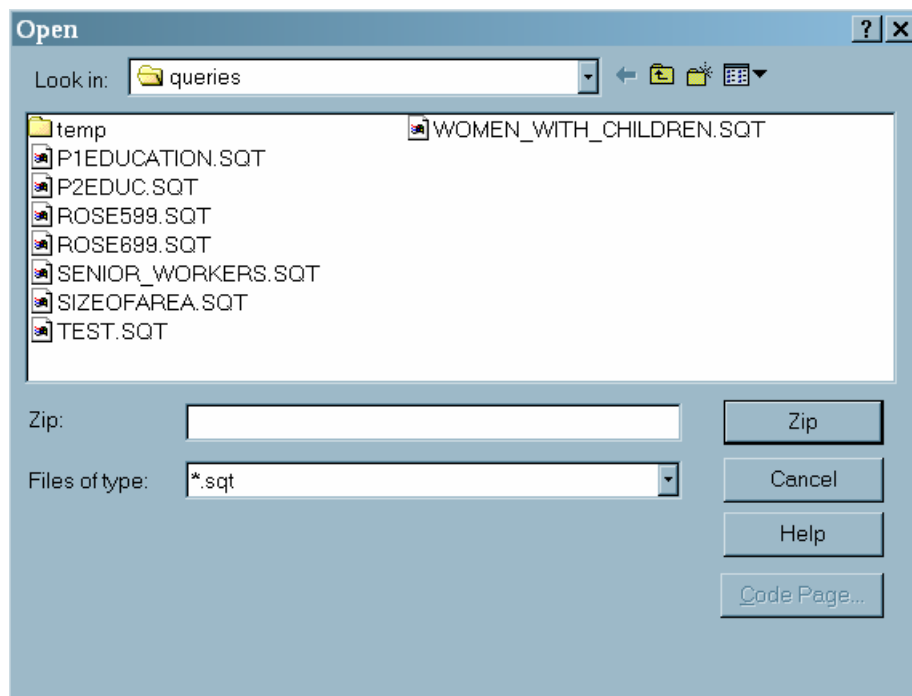
Zipping a query

This option will be useful to e-mail queries and for using the public version of SLIDRET.



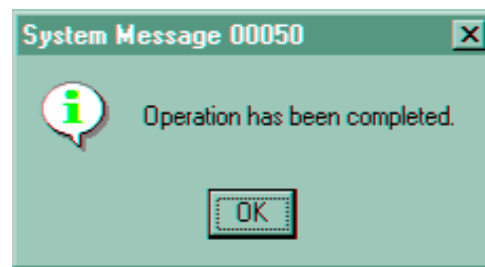
Go into the **Query** menu and select the **Zip** option:

This window will pop up

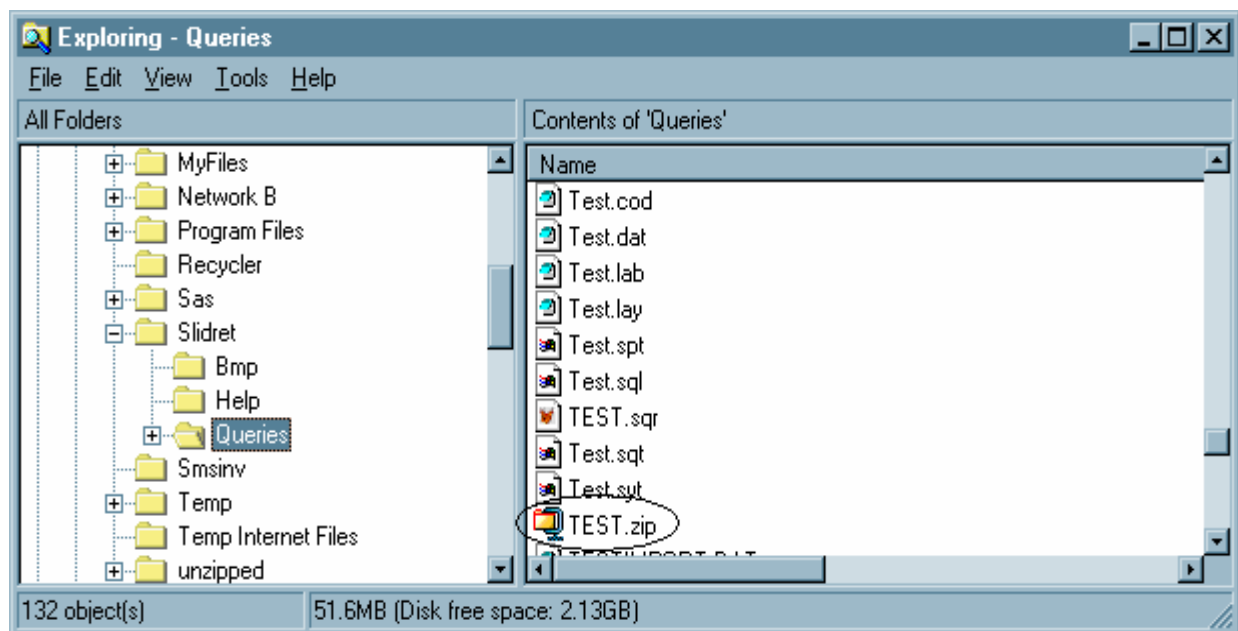


asking you which query you want to zip. Select one and click on Zip. A few DOS windows will

shortly flash and this message will appear:



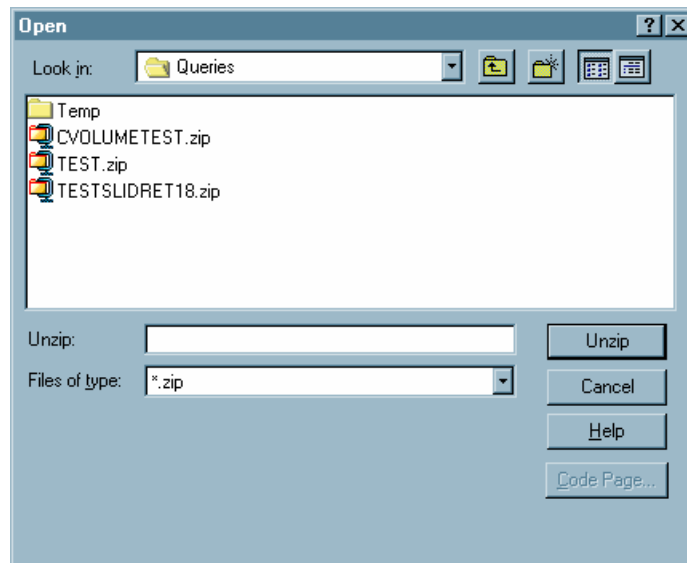
Click OK to finish the operation. Your query has been zipped and now has the extension .zip:



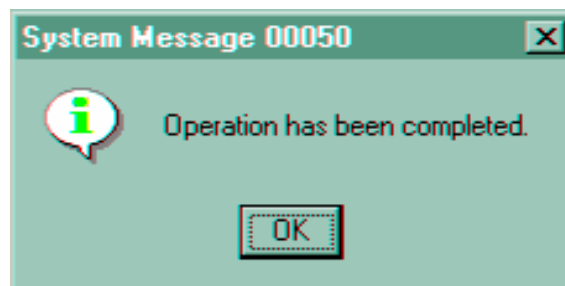
As you can see, SLIDRET didn't erase your query, just zipped the files with these extensions: *.syt, *.sqt, *.z.cdx, *.spt. If your query also has restrictions and a sorting order, then the zip file also includes *.srt and *.sot.

Unzipping a query

Go into the Query menu and select Unzip. This window will pop up:

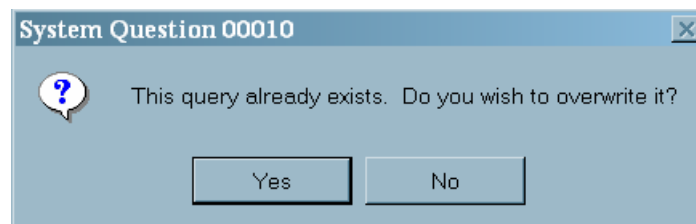


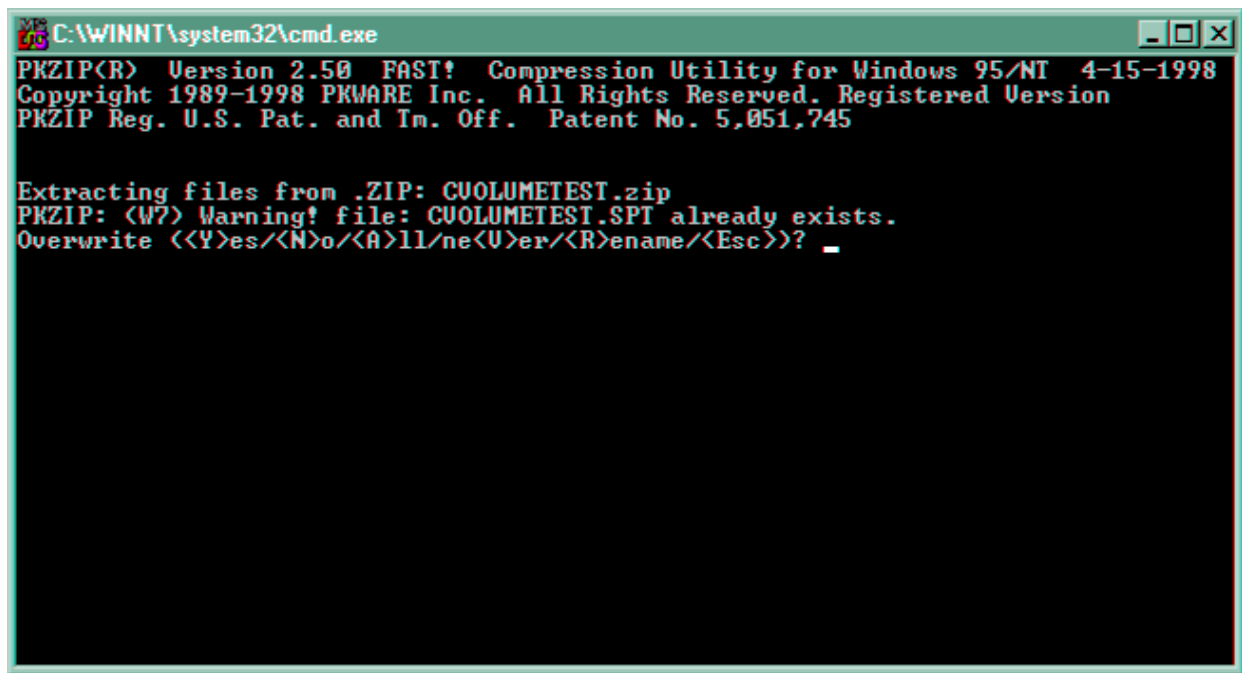
Select the query you want to unzip and click on the Unzip button. A few DOS windows will shortly flash and this message will appear:



Click OK. Your query is now ready to be opened and submitted. Note that the zipped file is still there.

If the query already exists in that directory:





```
C:\WINNT\system32\cmd.exe
PKZIP(R) Version 2.50 FAST! Compression Utility for Windows 95/NT 4-15-1998
Copyright 1989-1998 PKWARE Inc. All Rights Reserved. Registered Version
PKZIP Reg. U.S. Pat. and Im. Off. Patent No. 5,051,745

Extracting files from .ZIP: CUOLUMETEST.zip
PKZIP: (W?) Warning! file: CUOLUMETEST.SPT already exists.
Overwrite <<Y>es/<N>o/<A>ll/ne<U>er/<R>ename/<Esc>>? _
```

Choose Yes or No. If you choose Yes, SLIDRET will overwrite the query that is already there. If you choose No, the operation will be canceled. Let's say you choose **Yes**, then this box will appear:

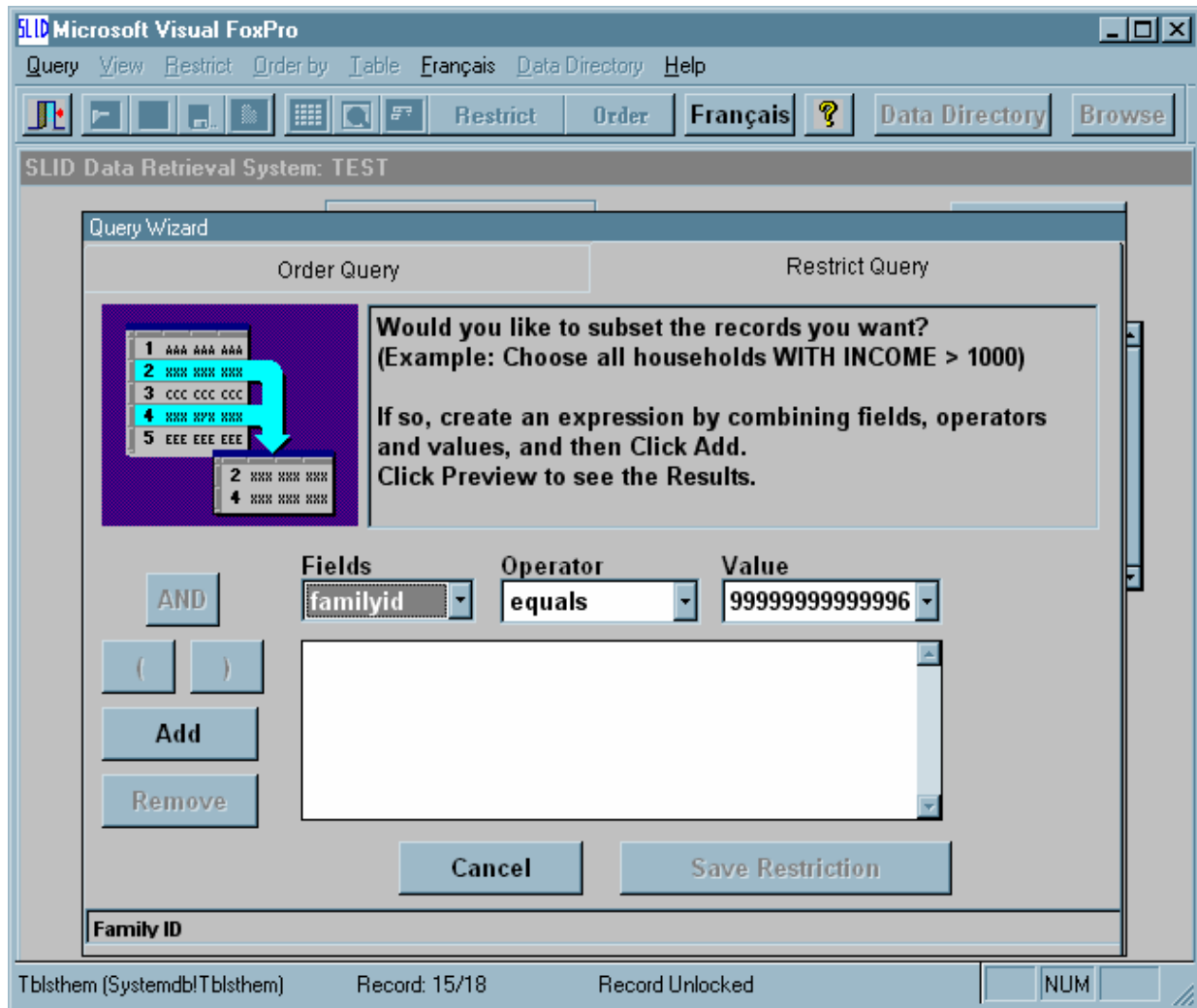
Type **A** for **All** and SLIDRET will overwrite the old query. The box telling you that the operation is complete will appear. Click OK. Your query is ready to be opened and submitted.

Import Variables option

This function allows you to define variables for your new query via a **text file**, rather than having to go through the theme/subtheme/subsubtheme screens. The variables appear on the results file **in the order you enter them** in the text file. Here are the instructions for using this function:

- Prepare a text file (use qualifier *.txt) using *NOTEPAD*. Put **one** variable per line, starting anywhere on the line.
- Select appropriate **Type of Analysis**, **Unit of Analysis**, and **Year(s)** from the main screen before invoking the function.
- You can only invoke this function if 'NEW QUERY' is displayed in the title bar of the main screen. This function is **not** available if you have opened an existing query.
- Select **Import Variables** from the **Query** menu.
- You are prompted for the name of the *.txt file you created.
- For any variables you misspell on your *.txt file, an error message is displayed. Importing of variables fails.
- For any variables that are not valid for the Type of Analysis, and Unit of Analysis you chose, an error message is displayed. Importing of variables fails.
- If you include any key variables, you get back a message, saying that variable is ignored. Key variables are automatically included by the system, and their order cannot be changed.
- Any blank lines encountered on the file are ignored.
- If the import is successful, you can see the variables for your new query by hitting the **Preview Variables** tool button. You will notice that the variables appear in **alphabetical** order, not the order read in from your file. However, on your results file, the variables will appear in the order you defined.
- If, after importing variables from a text file, you use the theme/subtheme/subsubtheme screens to add further variables, these variables will appear before your imported variables.

Restrict option



Fields contains a list of your variables.

Operator contains **equals**, **not equals**, **more than** and **less than**.

Value will either contain the allowed values of a character variable, or will be blank for a numerical variable.

To make a restriction, select the variable, then the operator and either click on the value for a character variable or type it in for a numeric variable followed by an ENTER. Then hit **Add**. You can then use **parenthesis ()** and logical **AND** and **OR** to build more complex restrictions. **Remove** erases the last restriction entered. Once finished, click on **Save Restriction**. If you hit **Cancel**, then the unsaved restrictions will be lost.

If you had chosen to produce the Univariate Statistics file (*.ust), then the restriction applied to

your database will show on the first page of the report:

```

TEST30K.UST - Notepad
File Edit Format Help
Note: This flat file will print correctly by using a fixed-width font (e.g. Courier).
      For portrait orientation, use size 8 pts.
      For landscape orientation, you can use 10 pts.

      Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics
      Univariate Statistics for TEST30K
      Date of retrieval (yyyy/mm/dd): 2002/10/28

      Unit of Analysis: Person
      Type of Analysis: CrossSectional
      Reference year(s) for retrieval: 1993

      Restrictions:
        AND age26 more than 15
        AND atinc42 more than 30000

Number of records on file          =          5,106
Sum of weights for all records on file =      4,287,727

-----

Variable: AGE26 - Person's age in refyr
Reference year 1993  Numeric(3)  Weight field = ICSWT26

                                     Unweighted      Weighted      %
                                     Frequency      Estimate      Weighted
Valid positive values                5,106      4,287,727      100.0
Valid negative values                  0              0          0.0
Valid zero values                     0              0          0.0
996      Not in Sample                 0              0          0.0
997      Don't Know                    0              0          0.0
998      Refusal                       0              0          0.0
999      Not Applicable                 0              0          0.0

Mean value (weighted) of all valid, non-zero values                44

Distribution of valid, positive, non-zero values
(0, 22]                21          13,794          0.3
(22, 30]              470         405,802          9.5
(30, 36]              936         775,807         18.1
(36, 40]              727         608,441         14.2
(40, 44]              706         626,269         14.6
(44, 49]              781         600,342         14.0
(49, 55]              634         544,620         12.7
(55, 67]              603         514,963         12.0
(67, 89]              221         188,083          4.4
(89, 150]              7           9,608          0.2

```

Here we have simply applied the restrictions $ATINC42 > 30000$ and $age26 > 15$ to our example query "Test".

Remote access procedures for researchers using SLID

FIRST CONTACT. The researcher contacts Statistics Canada to indicate an interest in remote access of SLID data. (E-mail address is income@statcan.ca)

ABSTRACT. Before beginning the remote access, researchers will be required to outline the objectives for their research, i.e. provide a short research abstract or proposal.

SLIDRET CD-ROM. Upon approval of their access request, researchers will be provided with a copy of the SLID retrieval software (SLIDRET) as well as the SLID empty database structure.

The first program submitted by a researcher must create an analysis file for the project from the internal SLID relational database. The most common route of remote data analysis is to use the SLID retrieval software (SLIDRET). The software is available at no charge and can be run without the data to create a set of query files. Refer to the detailed instructions accompanying SLIDRET regarding installation and operation.

Remember that SLIDRET is run without data to create a set of query files.

When run correctly following the instructions provided by the Income Statistics staff, the researcher will end up with a series of query files and a data file. The data file will be empty due to the fact that SLIDRET is run without the data to create a set of query files.

CREATION OF SUB-DIRECTORY. Statistics Canada will create a sub-directory for the researcher to store data files, programs and program outputs, and identify the path to this sub-directory.

E-MAIL QUERY FILES TO STATISTICS CANADA. With the exception of the data file, *.dat (which is empty anyway), all of the files created by SLIDRET should be e-mailed to Statistics Canada. In total you should have eight files: 1) *.COD, 2) *.LAB, 3) *.LAY, 4) *.SPT, 5) *.SQL, 6) *.SQT, 7) *.SYT, 8) *.CDX. (E-mail address is slidremote@statcan.ca)

CREATION OF INTERNAL FILE FOR ANALYSIS. The SLIDRET query files will be executed by a member of the Income Statistics Division staff. This will create an ASCII text file which will be stored in the researcher's sub-directory.

SUBMIT PROGRAMS FOR ANALYSIS. The researcher can then submit programs to access this analysis file. The software supported for SLID remote access are: SAS, Stata and SPSS, all with a Windows operating system.

PREPARATION OF ASCII TEXT DATA. After following steps 1 to 6, the researcher is left with one or often a series of internal ASCII text data that requires some initial manipulation in preparation for analysis. For example:

Write the program to first read the ASCII text data (.dat) into the program you will be using for the analysis (i.e., SAS, SPSS, Stata).* This refers to basic data set-up such as reading in: data list, variable and value labels and specification of missing values. To save time, these can be copied and pasted by taking them from the *.cod (code sets of variables), *.lab (labels of variables) and *.lay (record layout) files produced by your SLIDRET query. You can also refer to the Data Dictionary that is directly sent to your printer. (The complete Data Dictionary can also be viewed or downloaded from the following web site: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/IPS/Data/75F0026XIB.htm>).

If you have requested multiple data files, you may need to *match variables from different queries into one analytical file*. For example, you may need some variables from the ‘person’ unit file and others from the ‘person-job’ file. In that case, it is necessary to produce two separate queries. The two files can then be matched in your statistical package of choice by using the appropriate identifier (e.g., personid, jobid).

Submit programs for analysis keeping in mind the limitations of confidentiality (see next point).

EXECUTION OF PROGRAMS AND REVIEW OF OUTPUT. ISD staff will execute submitted programs and review the output. Any outputs which may be used to identify an individual respondent will be deleted. This includes information on individual data records as well as cross-tabulations with sparse cells (based on less than 5 observations) and residuals from regression analysis. If a large proportion of the output requires data suppression, researchers will be notified that their program needs modification in order to comply with confidentiality restrictions. Disclosure control rules will be provided to the researcher. Researchers are asked to output only the information required for the project. Do not automatically output the default information for a given procedure.

RETURN OF OUTPUT TO RESEARCHER. Outputs passing the confidentiality verification step will be sent by e-mail to the analyst. Under normal conditions, this will occur between 2 and 5 working days of receiving the program.

System requirements

The minimum requirements for SLIDRET are:

- WINDOWS 95
- WINDOWS 98
- WINDOWS 2000
- WINDOWS XP
- WINDOWS ME
- WINDOWS NT 3.51 (with Service Pack 5)
- WINDOWS NT 4.0
- 6 MB RAM (more the better)
- VGA or higher resolution monitor
- 486 50MHz processor
- a mouse

SLIDRET needs 40MB of storage at installation time, and of course, enough space to store queries you create.

SLID RETrieval software Installation Instructions

If SLIDRET is open, close it.

You can now install SLIDRET:

1. If you do not have a C:\SLIDRET directory, create one. If the directory already exists, delete all files and subdirectories EXCEPT for the **QUERIES** subdirectory. This subdirectory must be kept if you want to preserve previously built queries.
2. Copy the files **install.bat**, **pkzip25.exe**, **slidret.zip**, and **slidque.zip** to C:\SLIDRET. Also included are the English and French versions of the SLIDRET manual in *.pdf format. You can print these and/or copy them to the same directory.
3. Double click on **install.bat**. This will unzip the files.
NOTE: A new queries subdirectory will be installed only if it does not already exist. This prevents wiping out the client's existing queries.
4. If you do not have a new program item or shortcut for this program from a previous install, create a program item or shortcut with the following steps:
With your mouse, right-click on SLIDretriev.exe, select Send To → Desktop(create shortcut).

Installing the SLID “query” database and the metadata files

5. Create the directory C:\SLIDUPDATES if it does not already exist. Copy the following files in the directory:
 - PKZIP25.EXE
 - metadat.zip
 - sliddata.zip
 - SLIDMETA.bat
6. From C:\SLIDUPDATES, double-click on SLIDMETA.bat:
 - This will create the directory C:\SLIDDATA if it doesn't already exist (you may need to refresh your view in Windows Explorer for C:\SLIDDATA to appear. Press F5 or go into View, then hit Refresh.)
 - install (or update) your new SLID “query” database in the directory c:\sliddata
 - Create the directory C:\SLIDRET if it does not already exist. It will also install 5 files in the directory. Those are the updated SLID metadata files. As you just received a new copy of SLIDRET, we will ask you to delete them in the next step.

Note: the SLID “query” database contains no data.

Now you can use SLIDRET. Double-click on its shortcut. SLIDRET should now open.
SLIDRET is now pointing to the “query” databases, which contains no data.

SLIDRET works fine with those, as they are the databases used by our Remote Access Users.

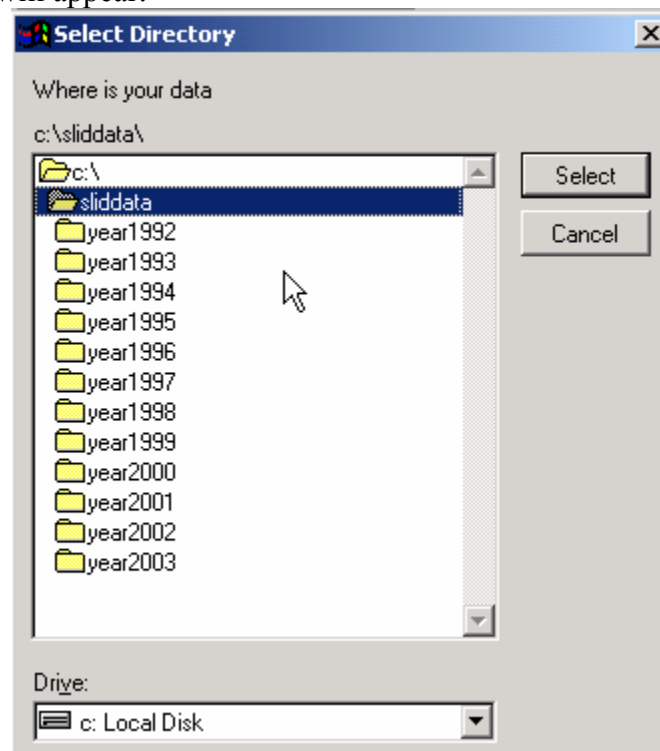
If you are a Remote Access User, you have finished installing SLIDRET.

7. **Internal Users, RDC or Regional Office Users will now need to point SLIDRET to the complete SLID databases in order for them to access it.**

Click on the Data Directory button or menu option:



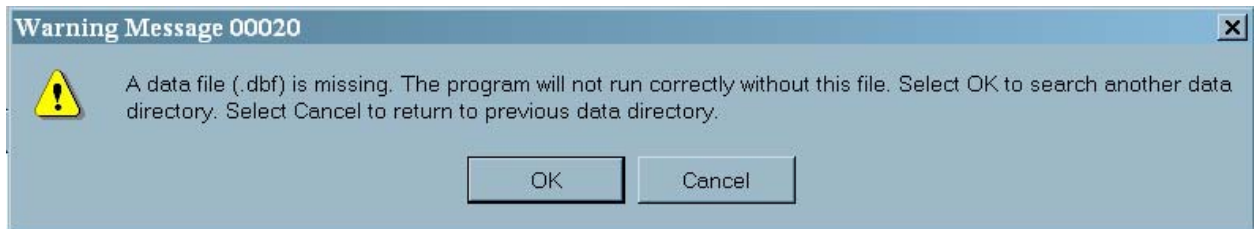
This window will appear:



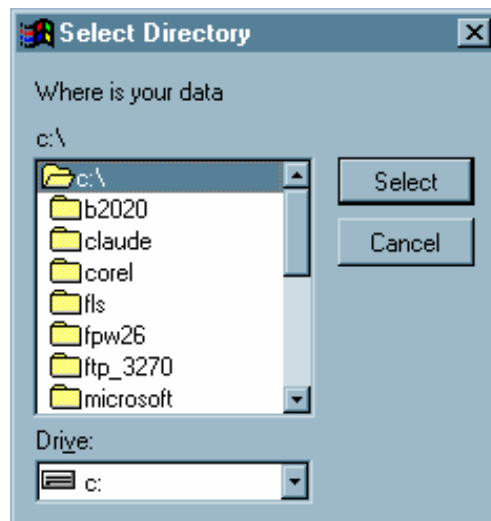
SLIDRET is asking you to point it to the right directory. Point it to [\\Lhs2\SLIDDB_Pub](#) if you are an **Internal User**, or to the link to the SLID complete databases if you are a **RDC or Regional Office User**. Click **Select**.

SLIDRET should now work.

If you have not installed the SLID “query” database in the C:\SLIDDATA directory, a message similar to this one will appear:



This is normal: SLIDRET is not pointing to the right directory to find the SLID databases. Click on OK. After that a new box appears:



SLIDRET is asking you to point it to the right directory. Point it to <\\hs2\clientserv\income\slid\slidcopy> if you are an **Internal user**, or to the link to the SLID complete databases if you are a **RDC or Regional Office user**. Click **Select**.

SLIDRET should now open.

Updates of the SLIDRET metadata files and the SLID “query” database

As the SLID database evolves with time, its content will change, and SLIDRET will need updates to its metadata in order to read the database correctly. So we may ask you to update the metadata used by SLIDRET, even though we do not update SLIDRET itself. Note that we will update the SLID “query” database at the same time.

1. Close SLIDRET.
2. Create the directory C:\SLIDUPDATES if it does not already exist. Copy the following files in the directory C:\SLIDUPDATES:

- PKZIP25.EXE
- metadat.zip
- sliddata.zip
- SLIDMETA.bat

3. From C:\SLIDUPDATES, double-click on **SLIDMETA.bat**

This will install your new SLID “query” database in the C:\SLIDDATA directory and update the metadata files of SLIDRET.

You can now enjoy an updated version of SLIDRET.

Useful Web addresses:

Statistics Canada website

www.statcan.ca

SLID electronic data dictionary

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/IPS/Data/75F0026XIB.htm>

SLID - A Survey overview

www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/75F0011XIE/free.htm

Users' guide

www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/75M0001GIE/free.htm

Income research paper series

www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/downpub/listpub.cgi?catno=75F0002MIE

Analytical studies research papers

[Analytical Studies Branch research paper series](#)

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

income@statcan.ca