



SPSD/M 

Release 10.2 Update

This guide is designed to provide SPSPD/M users with new information relating to the release of Version 10.2 algorithms and software.



Statistics
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Canada

WARNING

This software is complex. It is designed to be easy to use. However, the institutions and programs it models are themselves complex. **It is thus possible to make subtle mistakes that may result in significant estimation errors.**

To make the best use of the SPSD/M, please read the available documentation. Then if you have any problems or you are unsure of the simulation approach or results, please phone us at (613) 951-3774.

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Overview

This document outlines the modifications that the SPSD/M has undergone subsequent to the version 10.1 release. This current release is called version 10.2 and users will note that the chapter headings in this Addendum correspond to guides in the manuals.

Users experiencing difficulties updating their black-box or glass-box applications to version 10.2 should contact Statistics Canada at (613) 951-3774.

This guide gives instructions pertaining to the installation of the SPSD/M on your system. The SPSD/M program and database files are stored in a compressed format. This means that the files are decompressed as part of the installation process. Be patient, installation time could be up to 15 minutes.

If you are a new SPSD/M user, you should look at the *Introduction and Overview* Manual first, since much of the material here will be incomprehensible without some familiarity with SPSD/M concepts.

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING DOCUMENTATION

This Addendum is a guide to the changes in SPSD/M software between 10.1 and 10.2. This Addendum is intended to be used in conjunction with the other SPSD/M Guides included as part of the 10.2 release. The information in this Addendum supersedes the information in the documentation released with version 10.1.

It is worth noting that the examples in the *Introduction and Overview* will still function. However the screen images and the exact results may vary.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES

Users are reminded that Version 10 of the SPSD/M is the first version to be based on survey data from the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) and not from the Survey of Consumers Finances (SCF). This incremental release includes these major changes.

- The 2005 federal and provincial budgets, presented in the spring of 2005, have been incorporated into the SPSM algorithms and parameter files
- The most recent economic growth projections from Finance Canada are incorporated into the parameter files

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES MODELED

The changes in tax transfer legislation that have been incorporated into the SPSD/M 10.2 are detailed in this section.

Federal Changes

- The 2005 Federal Budget announcement of increases to the basic personal amount, the married amount and the equivalent to married amount.
- The 2005 Federal Budget announcement of the increase in the refundable medical

expense tax credit to \$750.

- CPP pensionable earnings ceiling for 2005 is \$41,100.
- Employment Insurance Premium Reduced to \$1.95 for 2005.
- The 2005 Federal Budget announcement of the increases to Guaranteed Income Supplement and the Spouse's Allowance for 2006 and 2007.

Provincial Changes

Newfoundland

- The provincial Seniors Benefit has been indexed for 2005 to the CPI for the province for 2004. The maximum tax credit will become \$365 per senior, or \$730 per senior couple, while the income phase-out range has increased starting at \$14,608 with benefits being fully phased out at \$20,864.
- Increase of benefits for the Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit. Effective July 1, 2005, the maximum annual amount will be \$250 for the first child, \$326 for the second child, \$350 for the third child and \$375 for each additional child. Partial benefits will be available to families with incomes between \$17,397 and \$22,397.
- A \$250 Home Heating Fuel Rebate Initiative was introduced for low-income recipients (received HST credit, Seniors Benefit, NFLD Child Benefit or income support in 2004) who use home heating fuel as the primary source of heat.

Nova Scotia

- The provincial home heating fuel rebate programs were implemented. Eligible recipients must heat their home with oil or propane and apply for the rebate. In 2001, the Nova Scotia Low Income Fuel Assistance Program provided a rebate of \$50 to families with a net income of \$16,500 or less, single people earning \$9,500 or less, recipients of social assistance and seniors who received the guaranteed income supplement or spouse's allowance. In 2003, the rebate of \$50 was provided to families with a net income of \$17,400 or less, single people earning \$10,000 or less, recipients of social assistance and seniors who received the guaranteed income supplement or spouse's allowance. In 2005, the program was renamed to Keep the Heat and provided a rebate of \$200 for families with incomes less than \$22,000, single people with incomes less than \$13,400, recipients of social assistance and seniors in receipt of the guaranteed income supplement or spouse's allowance.

New Brunswick

- Indexation will be extended to include the Low-Income Tax Reduction as of 2005.

Quebec

- New \$500 deduction for workers. Individuals will be able to deduct, in the

calculation of their income for a given taxation year, an amount equal to 6% of their eligible earned income for the year, up to \$500.

- Increase in the maximum amount for the refundable tax credit for medical expenses to \$750, which will continue to be automatically indexed.
- New refundable natural caregivers tax credit of \$1000 per year. This new credit will replace the refundable tax credit for housing a parent and the transfer to a caregiver of the unused portion of the non-refundable tax credit respecting a severe and prolonged mental or physical impairment.

Ontario

- The Ontario government proposes to increase the income threshold for senior couples in 2005 to ensure that those couples receiving the guaranteed minimum level of income support retain their full Ontario Property and Sales Tax Credits benefit. The actual income threshold will be announced later in the year. A separate parameter for senior couple income threshold has been added for users to change when the amount is announced.

Manitoba

- For eligible political contributions made in 2005 and subsequent years, an individual may claim a tax credit equal to 75% of the first \$400, double the previous threshold of \$200. Contributions above \$400 and up to \$750 continue to be eligible for a 50% credit, and contributions above \$750 are eligible for a 33.33% credit. The maximum credit an individual can claim increases from \$500 to \$650.
- The basic personal amount is increased by \$100 to \$7,734 for 2006.
- The tax rate in the middle bracket is reduced from 14.0% to 13.5% for the 2006 taxation year. This rate applies to taxable incomes between \$30,544 and \$65,000.

Alberta

- As of October 1, 2004, seniors, regardless of their income, will be exempt from paying the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan premium.
- Expansion to the Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit (AFETC). Families will now receive up to \$550 for the first child, \$500 for the second, \$300 for the third and \$100 for the fourth. The employment income threshold is reduced to \$2760. Indexing of benefits and income threshold will begin in July 2006.

British Columbia

- The BC Tax Reduction reduces taxes payable by up to \$360 for individuals with a net income of \$16,000 or less. Individuals with a net income between \$16,000 and \$26,000 are eligible for a reduced credit. The maximum credit amount and the

income threshold will be indexed to the provincial inflation rate, starting in 2006. The maximum non-refundable tax credit is \$360, and is reduced by 3.6% of net income over \$16,000.

- A \$4000 increase in the threshold to qualify for the Medical Services Plan (MSP) Premium Assistance Program. As of August 1, 2005, the adjusted net income thresholds will be: \$20,000 - 100% subsidy, \$22000 - 80% subsidy, \$24000 - 60% subsidy, \$26000 - 40% subsidy, \$28000 - 20% subsidy.

COMTAX

Federal

- Excise Tax on jewelry will be phased-out, 2% per year, by 2009.

Newfoundland

- Tobacco tax increases by 1 cent per cigarette and 5 cents per gram of pre-cut tobacco
- Tobacco tax rebate rates for Labrador west and southern Labrador have been increased

Prince Edward Island

- Gas tax has decreased from 17 cents per litre to 11.5 cents and diesel tax has decreased from 16.5 cents per litre to 11.5 cents

Quebec

- Fuel tax paid on biodiesel purchased by public carriers is fully refunded

Ontario

- Tobacco tax rates for cigarettes and cut tobacco increased from 11.1 cents to 11.725 cents per cigarette and from 11.1 cents to 11.725 cents per gram of cut tobacco
- RST exemption extended for Destination Marketing Fees
- RST exemption for CDs and DVDs used by the non-profit sector for publications

Manitoba

- RST exemption on free distribution magazines

Saskatchewan

- Aviation fuel tax reduction from 3.5 cents per litre to 1.5 cents per litre
- Aviation fuel tax will no longer apply to international flights
- Increase in the ethanol fuel rebate program which rebates a portion of the fuel tax to fuel wholesaler

British Columbia

- PST reduction from 7.5% to 7%
- Temporary RST reduction for qualifying hybrid electric passenger vehicles
- RST exempt on ENERGY STAR boilers, furnaces and heat-pumps
- RST exemption list extended for bona fide farmers purchasing items for farming
- RST exemption on safety helmets
- Threshold for higher tax rates on passenger vehicles has increased

- RST exemption for lodging in industrial camps

FORTHCOMING IMPLEMENTATION

- The details of the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan were not available in time to be included in version 10.2.
- The Ontario government proposes to increase the income threshold for senior couples in 2005 to ensure that those couples receiving the guaranteed minimum level of income support retain their full Ontario Property and Sales Tax Credits benefit. The actual income threshold will be announced later in the year. A separate parameter for senior couple income threshold has been added for users to change when the amount is announced.

PRINTED DOCUMENTATION

Version 10.2 is being shipped with all of its guides in electronic format. All guides can be accessed on-line using the included windows help file. The directory “/Doc” on the CD-ROM contains a printable version of all Guides for those users who wish printed versions of the other guides. These are PDF files and can be read on-line or printed using the Adobe Acrobat reader. The Adobe Acrobat reader can be installed from the /Doc directory on the CD-ROM. The self-extracting installation programs are called ar32e30.exe.

Once you have installed Adobe Acrobat on your system you can simply navigate to the \Doc directory on the CD-ROM using the File Manager or Explorer. Find the guide you wish to view or print and double-click it. Adobe will start up and open the file you selected.

Installation Guide

Release 10.2 is disseminated on one CD-ROM. The CD-ROM contains information for both the SPSD/M 10.2 as well as for the on-line documentation.

Prior to installation of Release 10.2 it is **strongly** recommended that you either remove any existing \spsm directory from your system or rename it to \spsm101. If you wish to keep running the old version of SPSM, you should also rename the \spsd directory to \spsd101. SPSD/M 10.2 should be installed in new \spsm and \spsd directories. Version 10.2 has a \spsm directory structure that allows for ONLY a 32-bit operating system such as Windows NT/2000/XP or Windows 95/98/ME. The executable files are placed in the \spsm\win32 directory.

Install the SPSD/M 10.2 CD-ROM using the same general procedure described in the Installation Guide. Please read the entire installation guide and follow the instructions that apply to your system and the version of the model that you wish to install. The packages contained on the CD-ROM supersede the contents of the 10.1 package and upon installation will overwrite the 10.1 files if left in the default directory. The install.exe program on the CD-ROM should be run to perform the installation of the new version of the model.

Directory names may now be longer than 8 characters as the install.exe program has been converted to a 32-bit environment.

VERSION 10.2 PACKAGE CONTENTS

This section describes each package in the installation kit. The SPSPD/M version 10.2 installation kit contains the following packages:

Package Name	Function	Directory
SPSM	The package contains all the executable programs and language-specific dialogue files. It also contains a directory of example control parameter include files described in the SPSPD/M manuals.	\spsm
SPSD (5%)	This package contains the 5% sub-sample demographic weight files for the years 1988 through 2009.	\spsd
PARAMETERS	This package contains the control, database adjustment, and tax/transfer parameter files. Also included is the factors.txt file that contains the growth factors used to statically age the SPSPD.	\spsd
GLASS_BOX	This package includes all necessary files, including template files for standard and alternate algorithms, for the 'glass box' user. Please see the <i><u>Programmer's Guide</u></i> for information on using SPSM in 'glass box' mode.	\spsm
SPSD (100%)	This package contains demographic weight files for 1988 through 2009.	\spsd
HELP	This package contains on-line documentation. This documentation will only work under Windows NT/2000/XP or Windows 95/98/ME.	\spsm

ON-LINE DOCUMENTATION INSTALLATION

The SPSPD/M documentation is now installed as a package within the main SPSPD/M installation. The documentation will ONLY work for 32-bit operating systems such as Windows NT/2000/XP or Windows 95/98/ME. The English version of the help file is called spsme.hlp and found in the spsm folder. Use the help facilities by navigating to the proper directory (e.g. by using the Explorer) and double clicking on the spsme.hlp file.

User's Guide

There were no changes in this release.

Tools User's Guide

New update parameters have been added to the pupdate facility.

To pupdate tax/transfer parameter files, users must now include 2 additional update factors:

VERSION - SPSPD/M Release Version,
SFILE - Starting tax/transfer parameter file.

To pupdate database adjustment files, users must now include 1 additional update factor:

VERSION - SPSD/M Release Version.

Programmer's Guide

There were no changes in this release.

Please **call** the SPSM hotline at (613) 951-3774 if you have any questions about using SPSM in glass-box mode.

Commodity Tax User's Guide

There were no changes in this release.

Algorithm Guide

The following section titled “Overview of algorithm changes” provides a list of the major changes organized by level of government and tax/transfer program. The following sections present the changes organized by the C++ language functions which were required to implement the programs. (A change in tax/transfer legislation may require changes to multiple functions.)

Note that the conversion from the C language to C++ has meant that the headers of all the files have changed and that the glass box code is now contained in *.cpp files.

OVERVIEW OF ALGORITHM CHANGES

Federal

Additional top up amounts to the personal, married and equivalent to married tax credits, as announced in the Federal 2005 Budget, have been implemented using separate parameters that represent the announced increases to the amounts and income turndowns.

Provincial

The Quebec \$500 deduction for workers has been added.

The Quebec Refundable Natural Caregivers Tax Credit has been added.

The British Columbia Low-Income Tax Reduction is now modeled.

The Nova Scotia Home Heating Fuel Rebate Program and Keep the Heat Program have been added.

The Ontario Seniors Property and Sales Tax Credit income threshold for senior couples has been added.

The Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit has been enhanced to include more eligible children.

The Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan has been revised to allow a phase out of premiums payable by seniors.

CHANGES BY FUNCTION

txalta Compute income tax (Alberta)

The exemption of seniors from the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan has been added to the model.

The Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit has been revised to include more eligible children with varying amounts per child.

txbc Compute income tax (British Columbia)

The British Columbia low income tax reduction has been added to the model.

txcalc Calculate federal income tax

The additional top up amounts to the basic personal amounts and the married amounts have been added to the eligibility tests for the refundable medical expense tax credit calculations.

txccea Compute child care expense allowance

The additional top up amount to the basic personal amount has been added to the eligibility test for the amount of eligible child care expense per child.

txhstr Compute family-related deductions or credits

The additional top up amounts to the married and equivalent to married amounts have been added to the calculation of the married and equivalent to married tax credits.

txitax Compute taxable income and individual credits

The additional top up amount to the basic personal amount has been added to the calculation of the basic personal amount tax credit.

txns Compute income tax (Nova Scotia)

The Nova Scotia home heating fuel rebate programs were added.

txont Compute income tax (Ontario)

A separate parameter for the net income threshold used in the calculation of the Ontario Property and Sales Tax Credits for senior couples was added.

txqcalc Calculate income tax (Quebec)

The refundable natural caregivers tax credit has been added.

txqinet **Compute net income (Quebec)**

The transfer of the unused portion of the non-refundable disability tax credit respecting dependants has been turned off when the refundable natural caregivers tax credit is activated.

txqitax **Compute taxable income and individual credits (Quebec)**

The new deduction for workers has been added to the deductions from net income in the calculation of taxable income.

The transfer of the unused portion of the non-refundable disability tax credit respecting dependants has been turned off when the refundable natural caregivers tax credit is activated.

ui **Compute UI/EI benefits**

The additional top up amount to the basic personal amount has been added to the income test to determine a dependant's eligibility.

Parameter Guide

This section describes new parameters as well as conceptual changes that have occurred to SPSM parameters. Parameters which have been deleted, or whose interpretations have changed, are identified in this section by a preceding asterisk.

CONTROL PARAMETERS

New Parameters

CPRSFIL: Starting Control Parameter File

This parameter contains the Statistics Canada supplied name of the default model control parameter file (.cpr). After modifying a parameter file users typically save the file with a different name. This parameter cannot be edited within the SPSM and is intended to inform the user of the original Statistics Canada supplied .cpr file that their modified cpr file is based on.

CPRVER: SPSD/M Release Version

This parameter contains the SPSD/M release version number of the model control parameter file (.cpr). Every SPSD/M version shipped has a version number and a complete set of parameter files necessary to run the model. If a user has multiple versions of the SPSM installed this parameter will help to identify which Version of the model the original parameter file was shipped with. This parameter cannot be edited within the SPSM.

ADJUSTMENT PARAMETERS

New Parameters

APRSFIL: Starting Adjustment Parameter File

This parameter contains the Statistics Canada supplied name of the default database adjustment parameter file (.apr). After modifying a parameter file users typically save the

file with a different name. This parameter cannot be edited within the SPSM and is intended to inform the user of the original Statistics Canada supplied .apr file that their modified apr file is based on.

APRVER: SPSD/M Release Version

This parameter contains the SPSD/M release version number of the database adjustment parameter file (.apr). Every SPSD/M version shipped has a version number and a complete set of parameter files necessary to run the model. If a user has multiple versions of the SPSM installed this parameter will help to identify which Version of the model the original parameter file was shipped with. This parameter cannot be edited within the SPSM.

TAX/TRANSFER PARAMETERS

New Parameters

AFETCAPC: Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit Amount per Child [number of children]

This parameter represents the maximum amount per child in the family, based on the number of children. The parameter AFETCNC contains the maximum number of children eligible for the credit. These amounts are used to determine maximum family benefits for the Alberta Employment Tax Credit program (imiafetc).

AHCIPSPi: Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan Senior Exemption Phase In

This value is used to scale the phase in of the senior exemption from paying the Alberta provincial health premium. As of October 1, 2004, all seniors, regardless of income, are exempt from paying the premium (imphp).

BXMEXT: Basic Personal Amount Extra Top-Up

This parameter contains the additional amounts to be added to the basic personal amount as announced in the 2005 Federal Budget for the years 2006 to 2008. This amount will be added to BXM and then multiplied by FNTCR, the result is contained in imbtc. The 2005 Budget also announced a personal amount of \$10,000 for 2009, thus this parameter will be set to 0 for 2009.

See also BXM.

CLITR: B.C. Low Income Tax Reduction Credit

This is the maximum amount for the British Columbia low income tax reduction credit. Announced in the 2005 budget, the maximum Low Income Tax Reduction Credit is equal to this amount, and then reduced for net income over CLITRTD at a rate of CLITRRR. The reduction cannot be more than taxes owing. The variable imprtr contains the value of the calculated low income tax reduction.

CLITRRR: B.C. Low Income Tax Reduction Credit Reduction Rate

This is the net income reduction rate for the British Columbia low income tax reduction credit. The maximum Low Income Tax Reduction Credit is equal to CLITR, and then reduced by this rate for net income over CLITRTD.

CLITRTD: B.C. Low Income Tax Reduction Credit Turndown

This is the net income turndown level for the British Columbia low income tax reduction credit. The maximum Low Income Tax Reduction Credit is equal to CLITR, and then reduced for net income over this amount at a rate of CLITRRR.

EMXMEXT: Married Equivalent Amount Extra Top-Up

This parameter contains the additional amounts to be added to the equivalent-to-married amount as announced in the 2005 Federal Budget for the years 2006 to 2008. This amount will be added to EMXM and then multiplied by FNTCR, the result is contained in incemc. The 2005 Budget also announced an equivalent-to-married amount of \$8,500 for 2009, thus this parameter will be set to 0 for 2009.

See also EMXM, EMXMT and EMXMTEXT.

EMXMTEXT: Married Equivalent Amount Turndown Level Extra Top-Up

The equivalent-to-married amount (EMXM + EMXMEXT) begins to be reduced when the spouse's net income exceeds EMXMT plus this amount. This parameter is used in the calculation of incemc. The 2005 Federal Budget announced a married amount income turndown value of \$850 for the year 2009; this parameter is set to 0 for 2009.

See EMXMT

MPRSFILE: Starting Tax/Transfer Parameter File

This parameter contains the Statistics Canada supplied name of the default tax/transfer parameter file (.mpr).

After modifying a parameter file users typically save the file with a different name. This parameter cannot be edited within the SPSM and is intended to inform the user of the original Statistics Canada supplied .mpr file that their modified .mpr file is based on.

MPRVER: SPSD/M Release Version

This parameter contains the SPSD/M release version number of the tax/transfer parameter file (.mr). Every SPSD/M version shipped has a version number and a complete set of parameter files necessary to run the model. If a user has multiple versions of the SPSM installed this parameter will help to identify which Version of the model the original parameter file was shipped with. This parameter cannot be edited within the SPSM.

MXMEXT: Married Amount Extra Top-Up

This parameter contains the additional amounts to be added to the married amount as announced in the 2005 Federal Budget for the years 2006 to 2008. This amount will be added to MXM and then multiplied by FNTCR, the result is contained in immartxc. The 2005 Budget also announced a married amount of \$8,500 for 2009, thus this parameter will be set to 0 for 2009.

See also MXM and MXMTEXT.

MXMTEXT: Married Amount Turndown Level Extra Top-Up

The married amount (MXM + MXMEXT) begins to be reduced when the spouse's net income exceeds this amount plus MXMTEXT. This parameter is used in the calculation of immartxc.

OSTCNIBC: Ontario seniors tax credit net income base amount for couples

This parameter contains the base amount (income exemption) a filer in a senior couple is allowed to deduct from "Total Income" (i.e. family net income) when calculating "Income for Ontario Tax Credits for Seniors".

QEMPDEDM: Quebec Earned Income Deduction for Workers Maximum

Beginning in 2006, individuals will be able to deduct, in the calculation of their taxable income for a given taxation year, an amount equal to QEMPDEDP of their eligible earned income for the year, up to this amount. Eligible income includes wages and salaries as well as self-employment income. The value of the modeled Quebec earned income deduction is saved in imqempdd and added to imqdedfn.

QEMPDEDP: Quebec Earned Income Deduction Percent of Income

Beginning in 2006, individuals will be able to deduct, in the calculation of their taxable income for a given taxation year, an amount equal to this percentage of their eligible earned income for the year, up to QEMPDEDM. Eligible income includes wages and salaries as well as self-employment income. The value of the modeled Quebec earned income deduction is saved in imqempdd and added to imqdedfn.

QRNCGFLG: Quebec Natural Caregivers Tax Credit Activation Flag

The calculation of the Quebec Refundable Natural Caregivers Tax Credit (imqncgtc) is activated by the flag QRNCGFLG. The refundable credit started in 2006. The credit is granted to individuals who are also eligible for the federal caregivers tax credit and it is assumed that only one person is cared for by each filer with the federal amount. The maximum level of the credit is QNCGTC.

QRNCGTC: Quebec Natural Caregivers Tax Credit

This is the maximum credit value for the Quebec Refundable Natural Caregivers Tax Credit (imqncgtc). The calculation is activated by the flag QRNCGFLG.

VHEATFLG: Nova Scotia Home Heating Fuel Rebate activation flag

When VHEATFLG is turned on, families and individuals who heat their homes with oil or propane may receive a home heating fuel rebate from the Nova Scotia government for assistance with heating fuel expenses. The maximum value of the rebate (VHEATREB) will go to families with a net income of VHEATFTD or less, or if single, an income of VHEATSTD or less. Seniors who receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement or Spouse's Allowance and persons receiving social assistance will be eligible for the maximum rebate. The value of the rebate is held in impheatr.

VHEATFRR: Nova Scotia Home Heating Fuel Rebate Reduction Rate for families

This parameter represents the reduction rate for families whose previous year's net income exceeds the turndown level VHEATFTD in the calculation of the home heating fuel rebate.

VHEATFTD: Nova Scotia Home Heating Fuel Rebate Income Turndown for families

When VHEATFLG is turned on, families and individuals who heat their homes with oil or propane may receive a home heating fuel rebate from the Nova Scotia government for assistance with heating fuel expenses. The maximum value of the rebate (VHEATREB) will go to families with a net income of VHEATFTD or less, or if single, an income of VHEATSTD or less. Seniors who receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement or Spouse's Allowance and persons receiving social assistance will be eligible for the maximum rebate. The value of the rebate is held in impheatr.

VHEATREB: Nova Scotia Home Heating Fuel Rebate Amount

This parameter contains the maximum value of the Nova Scotia home heating fuel rebate program. See VHEATFLG for program details.

VHEATSTD: Nova Scotia Home Heating Fuel Rebate Income Turndown for individuals

This parameter represents the previous year's net income turndown for individuals who may be eligible for the home heating fuel rebate when VHEATFLG is activated. Seniors who receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement or Spouse's Allowance and persons receiving social assistance will be eligible for the maximum rebate.

VHEATTU: Nova Scotia Home Heating Fuel Rebate Take Up Rate

This parameter represents the take up rate for the Nova Scotia home heating fuel rebate. Eligible persons and families must apply for the rebate. See VHEATFLG for the rebate program details.

Deleted Parameters

***AFETCBPC: Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit Benefit Per Child**

This parameter was replaced by AFETCAPC, since there are now varying amounts based on the number of children in the family.

Variable Guide

This section includes descriptions of all new variables introduced in version 10.2. Variables which have been deleted, or whose interpretations have changed, are also described and are identified in this section by a preceding asterisk.

ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF VARIABLES

New Variables

imqempdd: Quebec Earned Income Deduction for Workers

Beginning in 2006, individuals will be able to deduct, in the calculation of their taxable income for a given taxation year, an amount equal to QEMPDEDP of their eligible earned income for the year, up to QEMPDEDM. Eligible income includes wages and salaries as well as self-employment income. This variable represents the modeled Quebec earned

income deduction (imqempdd). This deduction is added to imqdedfn.

imqncgtc: Quebec Refundable Natural Caregivers Tax Credit

This is the calculated value of the Quebec Refundable Natural Caregivers tax credit which is activated by a flag (QRNCGFLG) with the maximum credit of QRNCGTC. This amount is granted to a caregiver who also receives the federal caregiver tax credit amount (idcgtc) and it is assumed that only one person is being cared for by each filer with the federal amount.

Growth and Validation Guide

DATABASE

There were no changes to the database in this release.

WEIGHT FILE UPDATES

New weight files have been produced for 2003 to 2009, which are based on updated employment and unemployment to population ratios. This means that the average annual unemployment rate for projected years 2004 to 2009 will have the average annual unemployment rate of 2003, whereas Version 10.1 used the rate of 2002 for those years.

GROWTH UPDATES

The database growth parameters were recalculated for the 10.2 release. From 1988 to 2004, growth parameters were adjusted to reflect the growth rates in the System of National Accounts. These adjustments were done provincially. Canada and Quebec Pension Plan benefits were adjusted using data from Human Resources Development Canada and reflect growth rates by age of recipient.

For 2005 and later, the growth rates of the income parameters reflect forecasted personal income while the growth rates of the expenditure parameters reflect forecasted GDP growth. These growth rates are national and come from an average of private sector forecasts.

Model parameter projection, which occurs when no official estimate is available, was done using Average Industrial Wage and the Consumer Price Index.

Online Documentation

The SPSPD/M online documentation provides quick access to the full Documentation Guides. These online guides will only work with Microsoft Windows 95/98/ME or Windows NT/2000/XP.

The installation is now done as a package within the main SPSPD/M installation. It will result in a file spsme.hlp in the main spsm folder. In order to use the help facility, navigate to the folder and run the file (e.g. using Explorer). You can navigate within the documentation in several ways: you can examine the index, use a full text search to identify which topics contain a given word or phrase or navigate using the hierarchical structure. A help file on using the online documentation is included and can be accessed from the application's help menu.

This product is similar to the standard windows help system and a full text search is supported. If you are having any problems using the online documentation please contact us at (613) 951-3774.